

❖ **National Engineers' Day – September 15**

- National Engineers' Day in India is celebrated on September 15 annually. The day celebrates the contribution of the first civil engineer of India, Sir M. Visvesvaraya.
- National Engineer's Day in India was first celebrated in the year 1968, after the demise of Sir MV in 1962. The idea was to remember the rich legacy and contribution of the foremost engineer of the country.
- On the occasion of Engineer's Day, the work of professionals engaged in various engineering disciplines of the country and their contribution in nation building is appreciated.
- The 2023 theme, 'Engineering for a Sustainable Future,' highlights engineers' role in addressing global challenges.

❖ **Salem Sago got GI tag from Tamil Nadu**

- Recently, the Salem Starch and Sago Manufacturers Service Industrial Cooperative Society Ltd. (popularly called SAGOSERVE) received a Geographical Indication Tag, or GI Tag, for Salem sago.
- Sago is derived from raw tapioca.
- It is in the form of small hard globules, or pearls, and is pearl white in colour.
- It is manufactured from the wet starch powder crushed from tapioca roots.
- The wet starch powder is used for producing sago, and the dry powder has been used as a raw material for industrial purposes.

- Tapioca is a major horticulture crop cultivated on nearly 3 lakh hectares in Tamil Nadu, producing 60 lakh tonnes of the crop.
- It grows in well-drained soil, preferably red lateritic loamy soil.
- It thrives best in a tropical, warm, humid climate.
- Rainfall: Well-distributed rainfall of over 100 cm per annum.
- This crop can be cultivated upto an elevation of 1000 m.

❖ **Tharman Shanmugaratnam is appointed as Singapore's President**

- Indian-origin Singapore-born economist Tharman Shanmugaratnam appointed as the ninth president of the city-state.
- He has served Singapore all his life in public service.
- Prior to being president-elect, he served as a senior minister and Deputy Prime Minister from May 2011 to May 2019.
- He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the World Economic Forum.
- This was the first contested presidential election since 2011.

❖ **India & US agree to resolve last outstanding WTO dispute**

- India and the US have settled the last trade dispute at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) over poultry products.
- With this, the two countries have mutually resolved all the seven pending trade disputes at the WTO.
- The poultry case was filed by the US against India in the WTO in 2012. India has lost the dispute both at the panel as well as the appellate body levels. It was ruled against India that New Delhi's ban on imports of poultry products from the US was inconsistent with global norms.
- As India was not able to implement the decision within the stipulated time frame, the US had demanded compensation. After that, both countries were discussing ways to resolve the case mutually.

❖ **RBI released direction for the settlement of loan account**

- The RBI has asked all banks, non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) to release all the original movable/immovable property documents and remove charges registered with any registry within a period of 30 days after full repayment/settlement of the loan account.
- In case where the delay is attributable to the RE, it shall compensate the borrower at the rate of ₹5,000 for each day of delay.
- Personal loans refer to loans given to individuals and include consumer credit, education loan, loans given for creation or enhancement of immovable assets (such as housing), and loans given for investment in financial assets like shares and debentures.
- The new directives will be applicable to all these loan categories.

❖ **Vice President inaugurated International Conference on dam safety**

- VP Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the International Conference on Dam Safety at Jaipur in Rajasthan.
- According to the Jal Shakti Ministry, there are over 6000 dams in India and it is ranked third globally in terms of large dams.
- Aim: To provide a major platform for experts to come together and debate cutting-edge topics in dam safety and management.
- It has been essential to civilization's development, have role in meeting demand for drinking water, irrigation, hydropower

❖ **DMRC, BEL sign MoU to develop Communication Based Train Control system**

- Delhi Metro Rail Corporation and Bharat Electronics Limited signed a MoU to develop an indigenous Communication Based Train Control system.
- Aim: To transform rail transportation in India, driving innovation, reducing costs, and fostering self-reliance in the field of train control signaling systems.
- The Communication-Based Train Control System will optimize train operations, and enhance passenger services while efficiently utilizing rail infrastructure.

❖ **Cabinet approved the expansion of Ujjwala Yojana**

- The Cabinet approved the expansion of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) allocating 7,500,000 new LPG connections over a three-year period until the FY26.
- Costing Rs 1,650 crore, this expansion will elevate the total number of PMUY beneficiaries to 103.5 million.
- The government announced this extension after reducing the price of cooking gas by Rs 200 across all markets last month.
- Data indicate that LPG penetration reached 99.9 per cent in 2022.

❖ **Bloomberg annual ranking of Business schools 2023-24 released**

- The Bloomberg Businessweek Best B-Schools Ranking 2023-24 which was released includes India B-schools among the top five ranks.
- Hong Kong HKUST bagged the top rank in the Asia Pacific B-School rankings category,
- Shanghai University of Finance and Economics secured second position and CIEBS at third rank.
- In the overall Asia Pacific B-school rankings category, IIM Bangalore clinched 4th position followed by the Indian School of Business (ISB) at 5th position.

❖ **S.R. Batliboi is appointed as a Paytm auditor**

- Digital payment services provider Paytm has appointed a new statutory auditor, S.R. Batliboi & Associates LLP, for five years.
- The previous statutory auditor, Price Waterhouse Chartered Accountants LLP, completed its term at the conclusion of the AGM.
- Price Waterhouse Chartered Accountants LLP on August 7 had announced its resignation as auditor of Paytm Payments Services Limited with immediate effect.

❖ **Amazon's AWS ties up with ISRO to advance its AI capabilities**

- Amazon Web Services has signed a strategic MoU with the ISRO and Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACE) to support space-tech innovations through cloud computing.
- Aim: To enable the space industry to make better decisions, faster – pushing the boundaries of possibilities, and AWS is committed to help startups identify use cases and accelerate solution development.

❖ **International Day of Democracy – September 15th**

- The International Day of Democracy is celebrated around the world on 15th September each year.
- It was established through a resolution passed by the UN General Assembly in 2007, encouraging governments to strengthen and consolidate democracy.
- The International Day is an opportunity to review the state of democracy around the world.
- Each year highlights a specific theme. This year's theme is, “Empowering the next generation,” which focuses on young people's essential role in advancing democracy and ensuring that their voices are included in the decisions that have a profound impact on their world.

❖ Government inaugurates Vidya Samiksha Kendras in Dehradun

- Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan along with Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK) and laid the foundation stone of 141 PM Shri Schools and 40 BED Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose residential schools.
- The Shri Schools in the state work as a model for the existing schools to achieve excellence.
- Vidhya Samiksha Kendra, a technology-based and modern data-driven model will be an effective step towards improving the learning outcomes of 23.50 lakh school students of Uttarakhand.
- Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose residential school will cater to underprivileged children.

❖ RBI imposes monetary penalty on four co-operative banks

- The Reserve Bank has imposed monetary penalties on four co-operative banks for deficiencies in regulatory compliance.
- These co-operative banks are: The Becharaji Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd., The Waghodia Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, The Viramgam Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd and The Baramati Sahakari Bank Ltd.
- The Reserve Bank imposed a monetary penalty of ₹2.00 lakh on The Becharaji Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd., Mehsana of Gujarat for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on 'Placement of Deposits with Other Banks by Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs)'. The bank had breached prudential inter-bank counter-party exposure limit.

➤ The Waghodia Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Vadodara of Gujarat is penalised of ₹5.00 lakh for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on ‘Loans and advances to directors, relatives and firms or concerns in which they are interested.

➤ The Reserve Bank imposed a monetary penalty of ₹5.00 Lakh on The Viramgam Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd., Ahmedabad, Gujarat for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on ‘Loans and Advances to directors etc. – directors as surety or guarantors – Clarification’, ‘Placement of Deposits with Other Banks by Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs)’ and specific directions issued by RBI under the Supervisory Action Framework (SAF).

❖ **Rajnish Kumar appointed as the Chairman of Mastercard India**

➤ Mastercard, a global technology company in the payments industry, has announced the appointment of Rajnish Kumar, former Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI), as the Chairman of Mastercard India.

➤ In this non-executive advisory role, Kumar will guide Mastercard’s South Asia executive leadership team, led by Gautam Aggarwal, Division President for South Asia and Country Corporate Officer, India, in navigating the vibrant domestic payments landscape.

➤ Widely recognised for his expertise in corporate credit and project finance, Kumar also holds several directorships, including seats on the boards of many prestigious institutions and corporates like HSBC Asia Pacific, L&T, and Brookfield Property Management.

➤ He also chairs the Board of BharatPe and Board of Governors of leading management institute MDI, Gurgaon.

❖ **Shrimp Farmers Conclave 2023 held in Gujarat**

- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala inaugurated Second Edition of ICAR-CIBA's (ICAR-Central Institute of Brackish water Aquaculture) Shrimp Farmers Conclave-2023 at the Navsari Agricultural University Campus in Gujarat.
- About 410 aqua farmers across the coastal districts of Gujarat participated in the conclave.
- This paved the way for developing a project implemented by ICAR-CIBA on "Genetic improvement program of *Penaeus indicus* (Indian white shrimp)-Phase-I" with an outlay of Rs.25 crores under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) to establish a National Genetic Improvement Facility for shrimp breeding.
- Two Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) were signed between CIBA and National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) for implementing the crop insurance for aquaculture with premium subsidy offered by the NFDB and technology support for the FFPO.

❖ **Syngene to invest Rs.788 crore to scale up operations in Hyderabad**

- Syngene, a global contract research, development, and manufacturing services company, is investing up to Rs 788 crore for expanding its Genome Valley operations near Hyderabad.
- They have acquired 17 acres for new research facilities, primarily labs for drug discovery, totaling 16.5 lakh sq. ft. Construction begins in 2024, aiming to create 1,000 science jobs in five years.
- This expansion aims to boost life science R&D, fostering innovation and economic growth in the region of Telangana.

➤ Their existing facility houses over 900 scientists and focuses on discovery chemistry and biology for the global pharmaceutical industry.

❖ **Odisha unveils special subsidy to attract investment in steel**

➤ The Odisha Government launched a 'special investment scheme for priority - stainless steel' to offer investors a 20 per cent subsidy on capital investment.

➤ Odisha Principal Secretary, Industries, Hemant Sharma launched the scheme at the Global Stainless-Steel Expo 2023 (GSSE 2023) in Mumbai.

➤ Under this scheme, businesses investing in the stainless steel downstream sector in Odisha will receive a substantial 20 per cent capital investment subsidy on their investments. This lucrative incentive is designed to stimulate growth and innovation within the sector.

➤ The state government will provide the subsidy over a period of 5 years and there is no cap on the investment limit.

➤ The scheme also provides for businesses operating in the stainless steel downstream sector a power tariff subsidy of Rs 2/unit and a 100 per cent exemption on electricity duty.

❖ **SC joins National Judicial Data Grid**

➤ Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud that the Supreme Court has on boarded the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), a repository of data on pendency and disposal of cases right from taluka to the national level.

➤ The NJDG is a database of orders, judgements, and case details from 18,735 district and subordinate courts and high courts created as an online platform under the eCourts Project. The data is updated on a near-real-time basis by the connected district and taluka courts.

- It is a unique and informative platform that was developed by the NIC and the in-house team of the Supreme Court.
- At the click of a button, you can see real-time information on pendency and disposal of cases, year-wise, total pendency of registered and unregistered cases, and number of cases decided quorum-wise.
- As per the data uploaded on the NJDG, a total of 80,501 cases, including 62,946 civil and 17,555 criminal matters, are pending in the top court to date.

❖ **KCR Inaugurates 9 Government Medical Colleges**

- Telangana CM Chandrasekhar Rao inaugurated nine new government medical colleges in the state.
- The nine colleges are present in Karimnagar, Kamareddy, Khammam, Bhupalapally, Asifabad, Nirmal, Sircilla, Vikarabad, and Jangaon.
- 26 government medical colleges are functioning in Telangana and eight more are ready to come up in the next academic year.

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