

**IACE**

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**16<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**DESCRIPTIVE**

## ❖ International Day for Preservation of Ozone layer – September 16

- International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer encourages all nations to pay attention to environmental protection in order to preserve our ozone layer. It is celebrated on September 16 every year, it was designed by the United Nations General Assembly.
- Ozone serves as a kind of shield for the planet and is essential for preserving its ecology.
- In 1994, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 16 September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the date of the signing, in 1987, of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.
- The closure of the hole in the ozone layer was observed 30 years after the protocol was signed.
- The theme for the 2023 International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is “Montreal Protocol: fixing the ozone layer and reducing climate change.”

## ❖ Increase in cash prize of Nobel Prize

- The Nobel Foundation, the steward of the esteemed Nobel Prizes, has revealed an increase in the financial rewards accorded to this year's distinguished laureates.
- Those honoured with the 2023 Nobel Prizes will now receive an additional 1 million crowns (\$43,533). This means that the overall monetary prize will rise to a substantial 11 million Swedish crowns, or an impressive \$986,000.
- This decision underscores the stronger financial position of the Nobel Foundation. Over the years, the prize money has been adjusted up and down.
- Back in 2012, the prize sum witnessed a reduction, declining from 10 million crowns to 8 million as the foundation endeavored to fortify its finances.

➤ In subsequent years, the prize was increased in 2017, the prize value was increased to 9 million crowns, and then in 2020, it was raised to 10 million, thereby reinstating it to its pre-2012 level.

### ❖ **ED appointed Rahul Navin as acting director of law enforcement agency**

➤ The government appointed special director Rahul Navin as the acting director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) till the appointment of a regular Director or until further orders.

➤ Rahul Navin replaced Sanjay Kumar Mishra who stepped down, which was the Supreme Court-mandated deadline for his tenure.

➤ Rahul Navin, a 1993-batch IRS officer is the acting director of the ED until further orders. Previously, Rahul Navin has also served as the chief vigilance officer of the ED headquarters.

### ❖ **Infosys among top 100 companies in the World's Best Companies List**

➤ IT major Infosys is the only Indian company to feature in the top 100 list of the World's Best Companies of 2023 released by TIME Magazine and online data platform Statista.

➤ Microsoft, Apple, and Alphabet (Google owner) are top 3 in the list while India's Infosys was ranked 64th with an overall score of 88.38 out of 100.

➤ Sustainability-wise, Infosys was ranked 135th while in terms of employee satisfaction the company's rank was 103rd.

➤ As per TIME Magazine, the growth rate of the company has been high. Infosys was among the top 3 professional services companies in the world.

### ❖ **Telangana police wins FICCI Smart Police Award 2022**

➤ The Telangana police have been honoured with the Smart Policing award for their initiative 'Worksite School' under the child safety category.

➤ An initiative by the former Rachakonda CP and current ADG CID Mahesh Bhagwat, a Worksite School runs between January and May, for basic education to children rescued from hazardous brick kiln industries.

- Students are given Integration Certificates to ensure that they are able to pursue higher education when they return to their native place.
- The project of the Rachakonda police commissioner was initiated in January 2017 to protect the rights of the children.
- Mahesh Bhagwat received the award at the Homeland Security conference at the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) house in Delhi.

#### ❖ **IET appoints Gopichand Katragadda as President**

- The international professional engineering body, Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) has appointed Gopichand Katragadda as its president.
- Katragadda is the founder and chief executive officer (CEO) of deep-tech firm Myelin Foundry. He is set to be 142nd president of IET and the first Indian to be appointed to the role.
- Katragadda will assume the office from October 1.

#### ❖ **Jamia Millia Islamia Vice Chancellor Professor Najma Akhtar received Lifetime Achievement Award in Academia**

- Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) Vice-Chancellor Professor Najma Akhtar received the 'Lifetime Achievement Award-Academia'.
- The award was presented to Najma Akhtar by Padma Vibhushan awardee Dr. Raghunath Anant Mashelkar during the "Making India Employable" Grand Conference and Awards Ceremony organized by TeamLease EdTech.
- Professor Najma Akhtar was selected for this prestigious award by a jury panel comprising academicians and industry experts.
- Under his leadership, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) achieved the third position in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF 2023) ranking in the university category for two consecutive years.
- A team of engineering students from Jamia won the Kavach 2023, a 36-hour cyber security hackathon organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Education.

## ❖ **Sindhu Gangadharan appointed as Vice-Chairperson of NASSCOM**

- Sindhu Gangadharan, currently Senior Vice-Chairperson and Managing Director at SAP Labs India, was named Vice Chairperson of the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM).
- As the first woman to lead SAP Labs India, which is SAP's largest R&D center globally, Gangadharan is responsible for overseeing product development and innovation across all five centers located in Bangalore, Gurgaon, Pune, Hyderabad, and Mumbai.
- Gangadharan was appointed as the Chairman of the NASSCOM GCC Council for the period 2023-2025.
- She also holds positions on the boards of organizations such as Siemens India and Titan Company Limited.
- Gangadharan is a member of the steering committee of the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce, an industry association promoting bilateral trade and discussion between India and Germany.

## ❖ **Renowned army ophthalmologist Brigadier Sanjay Kumar Mishra awarded the Dr. AM Gokhale Award**

- Renowned Ophthalmologist Brigadier Sanjay Kumar Mishra, working at the research and referral Hospital of the Indian Army, received the prestigious "Dr AM Gokhale Award" in Pune.
- This prestigious award was presented to Dr. Sanjay Kumar Mishra during the Retina Conclave program held in Pune.
- Dr. AM Gokhale, after whom the award is named, was a renowned ophthalmology teacher.
- Brigadier Sanjay Kumar Mishra, during his tenure at Command Hospital Lucknow, he established the State of the Art Retinal Center in 2018, which serves patients from different states.
- He is one of the highest ranking officers in the Indian armed forces medical services.

➤ Notably, he is the only ophthalmologist known to have performed surgery on two Indian Presidents during their service, including Ram Nath Kovind and Draupadi Murmu.

### ❖ **RITES Limited awarded with Safety Innovation Award 2023**

➤ Rail India Technical and Economic Service (RITES) Limited has received the 'Safety Innovation Award 2023' in the 'Construction' category.

➤ The award was given for the implementation of 'Innovative Safety Management System' in RITES operations.

➤ The award was presented by The Institution of Engineers (India) during the 20th Safety Conference at Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi.

➤ RITES is a multi-sector company that consistently prioritizes safety at its workplaces.

### ❖ **Punjab launches "Mission Intensified IndraDhanush" 5.0**

➤ Punjab state Health Minister Balbir Singh launched "Mission Intensified Indra Dhanush" 5.0.

**Aim:** To provide vaccination against 12 Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPD) i.e. diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis, hepatitis B, meningitis and pneumonia.

➤ The main purpose of the launch of this mission is to cover those pregnant women who are partially vaccinated or unvaccinated as well as children left out and drop out in the age group of 0-5 years.

### ❖ **IIT Kanpur partners with ICICI Bank to foster startup innovation**

➤ The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur signed a MoU with private lender ICICI Bank to support the startup ecosystem in the institute.

**Aim:** To empower startups and innovators at its Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC).

➤ SIIC is one of the oldest incubators in the country having been engulfed on its journey in 2000.

➤ Objective: To support incubates by improving their understanding of foreign trade policies by conducting several workshops and seminars.

### ❖ **Max Life Insurance enters health, wellness segment with new plan SEWA**

➤ Max Life Insurance Company made its foray into the health and wellness category with the launch of a flagship offering Secure Earnings & Wellness Advantage Plan (SEWA).

**Aim:** To drive insurance adoption amongst women and transgender customers for financial inclusion, it provides a 5% discount in the 1st year premium to these customer segments.

**Objective:** To integrate health, protection, and holistic wellness benefits to cater to the evolving needs of the modern consumer.

### ❖ **SIDBI partners with Tata Power for MSME solar rooftop financing**

➤ Tata Power company signed a MoU with the Small Industries Development Bank of India to provide accessible financing options to MSMEs looking to adopt solar solutions.

**Aim:** To promote solar energy adoption among MSMEs by providing tailored and innovative financing solutions through SIDBI's 4E Scheme.

➤ Scheme: MSMEs opting for rooftop solar PV plants or associated services from Tata Power or its channel partners across India will receive financial support from SIDBI.

### ❖ **Odisha Government signs MoU with 6 public sector banks to provide banking service**

➤ Odisha government has signed an MoU with six Public Sector Banks for providing banking services in all unbanked Gram Panchayats of the State through CSP Plus banking outlets.

➤ Banks include SBI, PNB, Union Bank, UCO Bank, BOI, BOB

**Aim:** To provide rent free banking space for 5 years and also bear one-time expenses for fixed cost & recurring expenses for a period of 3 years.

➤ Scheme will be implemented in a phased manner to cover all unbanked Gram Pranchayats of the State within the FY23-24.

### ❖ Assam Governor launches 'Sarpanch Samvad' app

➤ Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria unveiled 'Sarpanch Samvaad', a mobile application of the Quality Council of India (QCI) in Raj Bhavan.

**Aim:** To connect approximately 2.5 lakh Sarpanchs across India, which serves as a holistic platform for networking, knowledge dissemination, and collaboration.

➤ Through this initiative, Sarpanchs can spotlight developmental activities in their villages, learn about best practices, and foster connections nationwide.

### ❖ India becomes the 13th nation to issue OIML certificates

➤ India has become the 13th Internationally Accepted OIML (International Organization of Legal Metrology) Certificates Issuing Authority.

**Aim:** To create a facility for international manufacturers to get their equipment tested in here and this, in turn, will generate revenue and employment.

➤ OIML is an intergovernmental organisation and its certificate is internationally accepted for selling weights & measures anywhere in the world.

### ❖ India and Japan hold discussion on bilateral cyber cooperation in Tokyo

➤ India and Japan discussed important areas of bilateral cyber cooperation and reviewed the progress achieved in the areas of cyber security and Information and Communication Technologies.

➤ Japan hosted the fifth India-Japan Cyber Dialogue in Tokyo.

**Aim:** To exchange views on the latest developments in the cyber domain and mutual cooperation at the United Nations and other multilateral and regional fora, including under the Quad framework.

## ❖ Yes Bank and BriskPe partner to enable seamless cross-border payments

➤ Cross-border payments company BriskPe and Yes Bank have partnered to introduce BriskPe A2A, a suite of solutions designed to empower exporters and importers.

**Aim:** To boost the MSME sector and transform India into a global export powerhouse.

**Objective:** To enable BriskPe's customers to collect payments in over 36 foreign currencies, spanning over 180 countries.

➤ The funds can then be converted into INR and settled directly into their local bank accounts in India.