

**IACE**

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**DESCRIPTIVE**

## ❖ Women's reservation bill cleared at Cabinet meeting chaired by PM Modi

- The women's reservation bill seeks to reserve 33% of seats in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies for women.
- According to the bill, one-third of the number of seats reserved for SCs and STs will be reserved for women from those groups.
- While the bill was passed in the upper house of the parliament in 2010, it was not tabled in the lower house until today.
- The bill says that the reservation of seats for women shall cease to exist 15 years after the commencement of the amendment act.

## ❖ India's historic Santiniketan received World Heritage status by UNESCO

- Santiniketan, located in West Bengal, has achieved the prestigious status of being recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- This significant achievement was officially confirmed during the 45th World Heritage Committee meeting held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, marking Santiniketan as the 41st World Heritage Property in India.
- Shantiniketan was founded as an ashram by Rabindranath Tagore in 1863.
- In 1901, Rabindranath Tagore converted it into a school and art centre, following the traditional Gurukul system of education.
- Shantiniketan has been part of the UNESCO tentative list since 2010, reflecting its potential cultural and historical importance.

➤ The official nomination document for UNESCO inscription was submitted to the World Heritage Center in January 2021.

### **About Rabindranath Tagore**

➤ He was an Indian poet, writer, playwright, musician, philosopher, social reformer and painter.

➤ He reshaped Bengali literature, music and Indian art with contemporary modernism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

➤ Tagore won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913, becoming the first non-European and the first lyricist to win the honour.

➤ His notable works include "Gitanjali," "Ghare-Baire," "Bharto Bhagyo Bidhata," "Gora," "Jana Gana Mana," "Ravindra Sangeet," and "Amar Shonar Bangla."

➤ He was often called the "Bard of Bengal" and was known by nicknames such as Gurudev, Kobiguru and Biswokobi.

### **❖ Madhya Pradesh government unveils 108 feet statue of Adi Shankaracharya in Omkareshwar**

➤ Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan unveiled a massive 108-foot-tall statue of 8th century philosopher Adi Shankaracharya in Mandhata town (also known as Omkareshwar) in Khandwa district, about 80 km from Indore.

➤ This event has been named 'Ekatmata Ki Pratima' or 'Statue of Oneness'.

➤ This statue is located on Mandhata mountain near the holy Omkareshwar temple, one of the 12 Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva.

➤ The statue is a tribute to Adi Shankaracharya, an eminent philosopher who visited Omkareshwar at the age of 12 to attain enlightenment on Advaita Vedanta philosophy.

### ❖ Neeraj Chopra scored second in men's event at Diamond League Final 2023

- Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra finished second in the men's event at the Diamond League Final 2023 in USA.
- The Indian's best throw of 83.80 meter came in his second attempt.
- However, Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch, won his third title with a best throw of 84.24 meter.
- Oliver Helander of Finland scored third position while Andrian Mardare of Moldovan scored fourth position and Curtis Thompson of USA scored fifth position in this event.

### ❖ World Bamboo Day – 18th September

- World Bamboo Day is observed on September 18 every year to raise awareness about bamboo worldwide.
- In 2009, during the 8th World Bamboo Congress held in Bangkok, the World Bamboo Organisation (WBO) officially designated September 18 as World Bamboo Day.
- World Bamboo Organisation headquarters: Antwerp, Belgium
- Mizoram is called 'Bamboo Queen' of India.
- Bamboo is a type of grass which belongs to the grass family of Poaceae.

### ❖ Yes Bank partners Juspay to offer merchant in-app UPI payments

- Juspay, India's leading payments company, has partnered with Yes Bank to launch HyperUPI, NPCI's plug-in SDK that enables in-app UPI payments in merchant apps.
- Merchants can now offer simple "1-click UPI experiences" in their Android and iOS apps without having to become an official UPI app.
- Customers will no longer need to depend on another apps to make UPI transactions as these payments can now be made on the merchant's app.

### ❖ IndusInd Bank launches 'Virtual Commercial Credit Card'

- IndusInd Bank launched the 'Virtual Commercial Card' to redefine cross-border transactions for corporates and travel agents.
- In a tie-up with Visa, this has additional layers of security that grant the users control over their international expenses, making it a safe and hassle-free experience for the customers
- Users can generate virtual cards in foreign-denominated currencies as well, safeguarding the parent card number, ensuring utmost security for transactions.

### ❖ Haryana CM launches new e-Bhoomi portal

- Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar launched a new e-Bhoomi portal that promises to further ease the process of purchasing land for the development of government projects with the consent of landowners.
- Its objective is to extend benefits to landowners whose names are recorded in the revenue estate of villages Kasan, Kukrola and Sahrawan in Manesar tehsil of Gurugram district
- Farmers can offer their land independently or through listed aggregators.

### ❖ Indian Bank unveils 'IB SAATHI' to enhance banking services

- Indian Bank launched a new initiative called 'IB Saathi' (Sustainable Access and Aligned Technology for Holistic Inclusion) with an aim to strengthen its efforts towards financial inclusion.
- As part of this initiative, Indian Bank is committed to providing basic banking services for at least four hours every day through fixed outlets at all its centres.
- This move aims to ensure wider access to banking services.
- Apart from the fixed outlets, the Bank's Business Correspondent (BC) agents will also provide their services directly at the doorstep of customers.

## ❖ Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Speaker Om Birla launch 'Skills on Wheels' initiative

- Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan and Speaker, Om Birla launched 'Skills on Wheels' initiative with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and IndusInd Bank.
- Under the partnership, 60,000 youth will be empowered over a period of five years with the objective of improving livelihood of rural households by providing relevant skills training to its youth population.
- Under the collaboration, a customized bus with retrofitted tools will promote the 'Skill India Mission' initiative through 'Skills on Wheels' and will travel across the length and breadth of aspirational and backward districts.

## ❖ Mishra awarded with the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres

- Famous Indian fashion designer Rahul Mishra was awarded the prestigious "Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres" (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) by the Government of France.
- This prestigious award was given to Rahul Mishra for his outstanding achievements in the field of art and design, especially for his dedication in promoting Indian craftsmanship and expertise on a global scale.
- Additionally, the award serves as a tribute to his significant contribution to promoting cultural relations and cooperation between France and India.
- This prestigious award presented by the French Government is the highest recognition in the field of arts and culture.
- It is awarded to individuals who have made significant contributions to music, art, literature, and the cultural and artistic relations between France and India.

### ❖ Ferrari's Carlos Sainz wins F1 Singapore Grand Prix to end Red Bull's run

- Ferrari's Carlos Sainz ended Max Verstappen's 10-win and won the 2023 Singapore Grand Prix.
- Lando Norris of McLaren took second place in the race and Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton took third place on the podium.
- It was the first time since the Brazilian Grand Prix in November last year that Red Bull failed to achieve a podium finish.

### ❖ Srinivasan K Swamy elected as Chairman of Audit Bureau of Circulation

- RK Swamy Hansa Group Executive Chairman Srinivasan K Swamy was elected as the Chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for 2023-2024.
- Srinivasan K Swamy is currently the Chairman of the Asian Federation of Advertising Associations.
- He held leadership roles in various organizations including the International Advertising Association (IAA) and the Advertising Agencies Association of India.
- He was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI).

### ❖ Writer and filmmaker Geeta Mehta passes away at the age of 80

- Famous writer and filmmaker Geeta Mehta passed away at the age of 80.
- She wrote several acclaimed books, including "Karma Cola", "Snakes and Ladders", "A River Sutra", "Raj" and "Eternal Ganesha."
- Her literary works have been translated into 21 languages and achieved bestseller status in Europe, America and India.
- Her notable documentary, "Dateline Bangladesh" featured the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971 and was screened internationally, including in India.

## ❖ Maharashtra to implement 'NaMo 11 Point Programme'

➤ On the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 73rd birthday, the Maharashtra cabinet has announced its plans to launch the 'Namo 11' programme across the state.

➤ It will feature a series of initiatives incorporating Namo, representing the prime minister's name and utilising the number 73 to symbolise his age.

➤ The initiatives of this programme are:

1. Benefit of government scheme for women: 73 lakh women to benefit from government schemes through 'Namo women empowerment campaign.

2. Safety kits to 73,000 construction workers through 'Namo Kamgar Kalyan' campaign.

3. Development of 73,000 farms through 'Namo Shetali' campaign.

4. 73 villages will be self-sufficient through 'Namo self-sufficient and solar energy village' campaign.

5. To develop comprehensively through the 'Namo Garib and Backward Class dignity' campaign.

6. Establishment of 73 gram panchayat offices in each district through the 'Namo Gram Sachivalaya' campaign.

7. Construction of smart schools through the 'Namo Adivasi Smart Schools' campaign.

8. To set up a rehabilitation centre for the disabled through the 'Namo Divyang Shakti' campaign.

9. Construction of well-equipped sports grounds and parks through the 'Namo sports grounds and udyan' campaign.

10. City beautification projects will be implemented in 73 cities under the 'Namo city beautification' campaign.

11. Upgradation of 73 sacred and historical religious places through the 'Namo pilgrimage places protection' campaign.

## ❖ Indian Army likely to induct 114 Dhanush guns by 2026

➤ The Army which has ordered 114 Dhanush artillery guns, and has one regiment operational already, is expecting to receive all the guns by 2026.

### **About Dhanush Guns:**

➤ It is a 155-mm, 45-calibre towed artillery gun with a range of 36 km, and has demonstrated a range of 38 km with specialised ammunition.

➤ It is an upgrade of the existing 155-mm, 39-calibre Bofors FH 77 gun.

➤ The Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Ltd., carved after corporatisation of the Ordnance Factory Board, that is now manufacturing the Dhanush guns, has a team on site and is working with the Army.

➤ It is the first indigenously built long-range artillery gun.

### **Features:**

➤ It is equipped with an inertial navigation-based sighting system, and auto-laying facility. An advanced day-night direct firing system. Self-propulsion unit allows the gun to deploy itself in the field.

## ❖ PM unveils Rs.13000 crore scheme of PMVY

➤ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched ₹13,000 crore Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana (PMVY), to equip craftspeople with the technology to augment their skills for the modern market.

➤ It is a central sector scheme to support traditional artisans and crafts people of rural and urban India.

➤ Financial outlay of Rs.13,000 crore is to be provided for 18 traditional trades which are to be covered in the first phase.

- Artisans and Crafts people will be provided recognition with PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card.
- Credit support upto Rs. 1 lakh in the 1st tranche and Rs.2 lakh in the 2nd tranche with concessional interest rate of 5% will be provided.
- The 18 traditional trades to be covered in the 1st instance are Carpenter, Boat maker, Armourer, Blacksmith, Hammer and toolkit maker, Locksmith, Goldsmith, Potter, Sculptor, Stone breaker, Cobbler, Mason, Basket/mat/broom maker/coir weaver, Doll/Toy maker, Barber, Garland maker, Washerman, Tailor and Fishing net maker.

### ❖ India wins Asia Cup 2023

- India defeated Sri Lanka in a final to win the Asia Cup for the 8th time.
- India last won the tournament in 2018. Mohammed Siraj took 6 for 21 as Sri Lanka were bowled out for 50, the lowest ODI team total against India.
- India chased down a paltry target of 51 against Sri Lanka to win the Asia Cup.
- India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Bangladesh are the six teams which participated in the 2023 Asia Cup.
- This year's Asia Cup was played in Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

### ❖ Modi inaugurates Yasho Bhoomi Convention Center in Dwarka

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation the ₹ 5,400-crore Phase 1 of the state-of-the art India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC) 'Yashobhoomi' at Dwarka in New Delhi.
- With a total project area of over 8.9 lakh square metres and built-up area of more than 1.8 lakh square metres, 'Yashobhoomi' will find its place among the world's largest MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) facilities.

➤ 'Yashobhoomi' boasts of a magnificent convention centre, multiple exhibition halls and other facilities. It comprises 15 convention rooms, including the main auditorium, the grand ballroom and 13 meeting rooms with a total capacity of holding 11,000 delegates.

❖ **DAC gives nod to buy 12 Su30 jets, other military equipment**

➤ The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved the purchase of 12 Su-30MKI fighter jets for the Indian Air Force (IAF).

➤ These aircraft would be constructed under license by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) and are likely to cost less than Rs. 11,000 crore.

➤ Additional Sukhois and MiG-29s: The IAF has advocated for the purchase of additional Sukhoi Su-30MKI planes as well as 21 MiG-29 fighter aircraft.

➤ The DAC is the apex body to approve acquisition proposals by the three Services.