

**IACE**

# **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**22<sup>ND</sup> AUG. 2023**

**DESCRIPTIVE**

## ❖ **India secures 2nd rank at 16th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics**

- India has secured second rank with four Gold and one Silver Medals, at the 16th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) in Chorzów, Poland held from the 10 to the 20 of August 2023.
- The United Kingdom stood in the first position with five Gold medals.
- A total of 236 students from 50 nations participated at the Olympiad, collectively earning 27 gold, 41 silver, and 50 bronze medals across all categories.
- Rajdeep Mishra from Kota, Rajasthan, Koduru Tejeswar from Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, Md. Sahil Akhtar from Kolkata, West Bengal, Akarsh Raj Sahay from Nagpur, Maharashtra were awarded Gold medals.
- Sainavaneet Mukund from Bangalore was awarded a silver medal.

## ❖ **Axis Bank launches KCCs and MSME loans in partnership with RBI innovation hub**

- Axis Bank, one of the largest private sector banks in India launched two lending products powered by the Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit(PTPFC), introduced by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub(RBIH), a wholly owned subsidiary of the RBI.
- It will offer Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and unsecured MSME loans to small business customers, powered by the platform. Both the products will be offered in a completely digital manner and require no submission of documents by customers.
- On a pilot basis, Kisan Credit Cards will be offered in Madhya Pradesh and will be available to customers for upto Rs. 1.6 lakh.

- MSME loans will be available across the country and will offer loans upto Rs. 10 lakh to customers.
- As part of the pilot, Axis Bank will leverage the PTPFC for accessing data for customers in a consented and secure manner.
- These include PAN validation, AAdhaar e KYC, Account Aggregator data, verification of the land records and penny drop service to validate bank accounts.

### ❖ **INS Vagir reached Australia**

- India's Scorpene class submarine INS Vagir has successfully completed its longest deployment ever by covering a remarkable distance of nearly 7,000 km to reach Australia.
- This deployment began in June 2023, and had been operational without interruption, except for one port call in Sri Lanka for the International Day of Yoga.
- INS Vagir belongs to the Kalvari class submarines.
- It will participate in exercises, MALABAR (11-21 August) and AUSINDEX (22-24 August) off the east coast of Australia with units of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN).
- The objective of these exercises is to enhance cooperation and interoperability between the two naval forces.
- The visit of INS Vagir is the first instance of an extended-distance deployment to Australia by an Indian submarine.

### ❖ **R Praggnanandhaa reached semifinals of FIDE 2023**

- R Praggnanandhaa beat Arjun Erigaisi and became the first Indian after Viswanathan Anand, to reach the semifinals of a Chess World Cup.
- Praggnanandhaa, an 18-year-old from Chennai, beat his compatriot after the tie-breaker turned into a series of interminable draws after the two classical games.
- He will now face American Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana, in the semifinals of the 2023 FIDE Chess World Cup quarterfinals in Baku, Azerbaijan.

➤ No Indian had reached the last four stages of the FIDE World Cup since Viswanathan Anand won the first two editions of the tournament in 2000 and 2002.

### ❖ **Indian shooter Mehuli bagged bronze at ISSF World Championship 2023**

➤ Indian shooter Mehuli Ghosh secured bronze medal in the women's 10 meter air rifle event at the ISSF World Championship 2023 conducted in Baku, Azerbaijan.

➤ She qualified for Paris 2024 Olympics quota in shooting with her victory in this event.

➤ She scored 229.8 to finish with a bronze medal behind the People's Republic of China's Jiayu Han and Zhilin Hang. India's Tilottama Sen finished a credible fourth with 208.4.

➤ A total of 48 Olympic quotas are on offer with the top four finishers (one per country) in each of the 12 Olympic individual shooting events.

➤ This was India's fourth Paris 2024 quota in shooting.

### ❖ **Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat are among top 5 states in new investments**

➤ Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat are among the top 5 states in India in terms of new investments in 2022-23.

➤ According to a study by the Reserve Bank of India, these two states together accounted for 57.2% of the total investment proposals made during the year 2022-23.

➤ UP attracted the highest share of new investments, with a total project cost of Rs. 43,180 crore. This was followed by Gujarat (Rs. 37,317 crore), Odisha (Rs. 11,810 crore), Maharashtra (Rs. 7,900 crore) and Karnataka (Rs. 7,300 crore).

➤ The other states in the top 10 were Tamil Nadu (Rs. 6,100 crore), Telangana (Rs. 5,300 crore), Andhra Pradesh (Rs. 4,900 crore) and Madhya Pradesh (Rs. 4,500 crore).

➤ A number of factors contributed for the surge in new investments in these states, including their focus on improving the ease of doing business, their large and growing markets, and their strategic location.

➤ The surge in new investments in these states is a positive development for the Indian economy. It is expected to create new jobs and boost economic growth.

### ❖ **Nitin Gadkari launched the Bharat NCAP**

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari launched the India New Car Assessment Program (Bharat NCAP).
- The primary focus of this programme is to raise safety standards for motor vehicles weighing up to 3.5 tonnes across India.
- The central goal of the program is to equip car customers with a valuable tool to compare the crash safety features of various motor vehicles available in the market.
- Car manufacturers have the option of voluntarily submitting their vehicles for testing as per the Automotive Industry Standard (AIS) 197.
- The test results will determine star ratings in two categories: Adult Occupant (AOP) and Child Occupant (COP).
- Potential car buyers can refer to these star ratings to measure and compare the safety standards of different vehicles.
- This information will play a vital role in helping customers make an informed decision before purchasing a vehicle.

### ❖ **Rahul Dravid became new brand ambassador of Bharat Petroleum**

- Bharat Petroleum has announced the former Indian cricketer and current coach of the Indian cricket team, Rahul Dravid as its new brand ambassador.
- Dravid will endorse the company's 'Pure for Sure' initiative and its range of MAK lubricants in this arrangement.
- The 50-year-old's trustworthiness, dependability, integrity and status, resonate the determination to quality, excellence and authenticity of BPCL.
- Bharat Petroleum was founded in 1952, headquartered in Mumbai, and is owned by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- Chairman and Managing Director of BPCL: Shri G. Krishna Kumar.

## ❖ **Lakhpati Didi Scheme**

- The 'Lakhpati Didi' scheme is designed to empower women by equipping them with essential skills that pave the way for the establishment of micro-enterprises.
- The government's goal is to create two crore "lakhpati didis" (prosperous sisters) in villages.
- This scheme aligns with the broader mission of poverty alleviation and economic empowerment.
- Under this scheme, women will be provided skill training so that they can earn over Rs 1 lakh per year.
- Drones will be provided to women SHGs for agricultural activities.
- This initiative aims to leverage technology to transform the agricultural landscape while empowering women in rural communities.
- Around 15,000 women's SHGs will be given training in operating and repairing drones.
- This training will not only create new avenues for income generation but also equip women with cutting-edge skills.
- Drones have the potential to revolutionize agriculture by enabling precision farming, crop monitoring, and pest control.
- Under the scheme, women will be trained in skills like LED bulb making, plumbing, among others.

## ❖ **UoH & EMRI green health services ink MoU**

- University of Hyderabad (UoH) through its School of Medical Sciences as the nodal centre, signs a memorandum of understanding with EMRI Green Health Services, Hyderabad for a period of three years.
- The activities under the MoU would broadly be in the area of capacity building and training, collaborative research, student and faculty exchange in the domain of emergency health care services.

➤ As part of this and as an initial offering, University of Hyderabad, and EMRI GHS, a pioneer and professional emergency care not-for-profit organisation, have jointly designed and developed a unique 3-credit educational module that is blended to ensure enhancement of relevant knowledge, acquisition of life support skills to individual participants.

### ❖ **TMB ties up with Jocata to offer digital lending products**

➤ Private sector lender Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank (TMB) has partnered with financial advisory and technology company Jocata to provide digital-first lending solutions to its customers.

➤ TMB said it will leverage Jocata's low-code Digital Lending Platform (DLP) to drive its digital transformation strategy, providing MSMEs with an end-to-end digital, personalized, and experience-led value proposition.

➤ MD & CEO of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank : S. Krishnan

### ❖ **India & ASEAN agree to review goods trade pact by 2025**

➤ India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have agreed to review their trade pact by 2025.

➤ The decision came at a meeting of economic ministers from the two sides in Indonesia.

➤ The ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) was signed in 2009.

➤ The review of AITIGA is expected to enhance and diversify trade while addressing the current asymmetry in the bilateral trade.

➤ India's Trade Minister Piyush Goyal had termed the pact "ill-conceived" and unfair to Indian industry.