

**IACE**

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023**

**DESCRIPTIVE**

## ❖ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to enable Card-on-File Tokenization (CoFT)

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to make Card-on-File Tokenization (CoFT) available directly to card-issuing banks/institutions.
- The central bank introduced CoFT in September 2021, with implementation beginning on October 1, 2022.
- According to the central bank, this will provide card holders an extra option to tokenize their cards for numerous merchant sites using a single procedure.
- Previously, a Card-on-File (CoF) token could only be generated via the merchant's application or website.
- **About Card-on-File (CoF):**
  - A CoF transaction occurs when a card holder authorises a merchant to keep the cardholder's Mastercard or Visa payment information.
- **About Card-on-File Tokenization (CoFT):**
  - Tokenization is the process of "replacing the cardholder's original card number with a substitute phrase" known as a '**token.**'
  - Tokenization substitutes a card's 16-digit number with a unique token unique to a user's card and one merchant at a time.
  - Tokenization has increased transaction security and approval rates.
  - CoFT creation is only permitted with express client authorisation and AFA certification.
  - Tokenization applies solely to domestic transactions.

## ➤ **About Reserve Bank of India (RBI):**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is a national institution and a foundation of the thriving Indian economy.
- It belongs to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- The Reserve Bank of India was founded on **April 1, 1935**, in compliance with the requirements of the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.
- **Section 45 ZB** of the amended RBI Act of 1934 calls for the central government to appoint a six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) that decides on the policy interest rate needed to attain the inflation objective.
- **Founded:** 1 April 1935, Kolkata
- **Governor:** Shaktikanta Das
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

## ❖ **Sakshi Malik, The Top Indian Female Wrestler, Quits Wrestling**

- Sakshi Malik (31 years old), a top Indian female wrestler, announced her retirement on 21 December 2023.
- She qualified for the 2016 Rio Olympics and won a bronze medal in her Olympic debut.
- Sakshi Malik's medal was India's first Olympic medal won by a female wrestler.
- Sakshi Malik was born on 3 September 1992 in Rohtak district of Haryana.
- She won a silver medal in 59 kg freestyle at the 2009 Asian Junior World Championships at the age of only 17.
- After this, she won a bronze medal in the 2010 World Junior Championship.
- She won a bronze medal in the 2013 Commonwealth Championships.

➤ Sakshi Malik participated in her first Commonwealth Games in 2014 in Glasgow and won a silver medal in the 58 kg final.

❖ **The 29<sup>th</sup> Kolkata International Film Festival ends, Israeli film 'Children of Nobody' won Best film award**

- The 29<sup>th</sup> Kolkata International Film Festival ended. The prize distribution and closing ceremony were held at Rabindra Sadan.
- 219 films from 39 countries were screened at 23 locations across Kolkata.
- Israeli film '**Children of Nobody**' directed by **Erez Tadmor**, has won the Best Film award under International Competition in Innovation Moving Images.
- The **Best Director** award was bagged by **Carlos Daniel Malave**.
- **Anjan Dutta's 'Chalchitro Ekhon'** bagged the Special Jury Award.
- Director duo Sharmistha Maity and Rajdeep Paul's '**Mon Potongo**' was awarded best film under Bengali Panorama category.
- For the best film '**Royal Bengal Tiger Trophy**' **51 lakh rupees** were given as an award.
- The best short film and documentary were also awarded with Royal Bengal Tiger Trophy.

❖ **NTPC Kanti receives prestigious FICCI Water Award 2023**

- **NTPC Kanti** has won the **11<sup>th</sup> Edition** of the FICCI Water Award 2023 in the category "**Industrial Water Use Efficiency**".
- The award was handed to NTPC Kanti at the FICCI Federation House in New Delhi during the inaugural event of the 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of India Industry Water Conclave.
- **NTPC Kanti's Head of Project -- AK Manohar.**
- **About Award Ceremony:**

➤ The 11<sup>th</sup> Edition of the FICCI Water Award 2023 was awarded by G Asok Kumar, Director General of the Government of India's National Mission for Clean Ganga, and Ms. Naina Lal Kidwai, Chairperson of the FICCI Water Mission.

➤ The award recognises NTPC Kanti for its outstanding water conservation and resource efficiency achievements.

➤ **About FICCI Water Awards:**

➤ The FICCI Water Awards are given out yearly to recognise companies from various industries that have made outstanding water conservation and management efforts.

➤ This awards seek to encourage best practices and enhance long-term water management in India.

➤ **About Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI):**

➤ The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry is an India-based non-governmental trade association and campaigning group.

➤ FICCI is "India's largest and oldest premier business body".

➤ **President:** Subhrakant Panda

➤ **Founder:** Ghanshyam Das Birla

➤ **Founded:** 1927

➤ **Headquarters:** New Delhi

➤ **About Kanti Thermal Power Station (NTPC Kanti):**

➤ NTPC Kanti is also known as the George Fernandes Thermal Power Plant Station.

➤ It is situated at Kanti, Muzaffarpur, Bihar.

➤ It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC, which means the corporation holds 100% stake in NTPC.

### ❖ **CCI appoints Ansuman Pattnaik as Director General (Investigation)**

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has appointed Ansuman Pattnaik, an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, as Director General (Investigation).
- The DG is the independent investigation arm of the competition watchdog.
- This is the first time CCI is appointing a DG after the enactment of Competition (amendment) Act, 2023, which provided the transfer of power of appointment of DG to CCI from the central government.
- In November, a selection committee headed by CCI Chairperson Ravneet Kaur had shortlisted three names for the post.
- The appointment letter has now been handed over by CCI to Pattnaik.
- Pattnaik has been appointed as DG for a tenure of three years.
- Prior to this appointment, Pattnaik was posted as Commissioner of Income Tax at Delhi.

### ❖ **Bengaluru airport wins award at UNESCO's 2023 Prix Versailles**

- Terminal 2 (T2) of Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru has been recognised as one of the world's most beautiful airports and awarded the world special prize for interiors at the UNESCO's 2023 Prix Versailles.
- **The Kempegowda International Airport** also known as **Bengaluru Airport (BLR Airport)**.
- The award recognises innovativeness, creativity, the reflection of local heritage and ecological efficiency.
- Announced each year at UNESCO since 2015, the Prix Versailles is a series of architectural competitions that shine a light on the finest contemporary projects worldwide.
- The Prix Versailles established in 2015.

## ❖ **National Mathematics Day is observed on December 22**

- The National Mathematics Day (NMD) is observed on **December 22** each year.
- It is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of the great Indian mathematician **Srinivasa Ramanujan**.
- December 22 was designated as the National Mathematics Day by the Manmohan Singh government in 2012. Since then, the National Mathematics Day has been celebrated every year.
- Srinivasa Ramanujan was born on **December 22, 1887 in Erode, Tamil Nadu**.
- At a young age of 12, he had gained knowledge in Trigonometry and at the age of 15, he obtained a copy of George Shoobridge Carr's Synopsis of Elementary Results in Pure and Applied Mathematics.
- In 1911, he got his first paper published in the Journal of the Indian Mathematical Society.
- In 1916, he was awarded the B.A. degree by research at the Cambridge University.
- The great Indian mathematician has left behind around 4,000 original theorems.

## ❖ **Brij Bhushan loyalist Sanjay Singh is new WFI president**

- Former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh's loyalist **Sanjay Singh** was elected the new president of the federation as his panel comfortably won most of the posts in the delayed WFI presidential polls.
- Sanjay, who is the vice-president of the Uttar Pradesh wrestling association and hails from Varanasi, pocketed 40 votes while Sheoran - a former CWG gold medallist wrestler and one of the key witnesses who deposed against Brij Bhushan in the sexual harassment case - could manage only seven votes.

### ❖ **Bandhan Bank to transfer housing finance NPAs to ARC**

- The board of private lender Bandhan Bank has approved a proposal to transfer the housing finance NPAs to an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC).
- The bank said the housing finance NPAs will have days past due (DPD) of more than 180 days.
- The outstanding amount that will be transferred to the company is Rs 775.62 crore as on September 30, 2023.
- The lender had received a binding bid of Rs 280.39 crore for the NPA portfolio on outright cash consideration basis.
- It will go for bidding as per the Swiss Challenge Method, and the decision of the sale will be taken based on extant guidelines governing the bidding process and the relevant policy of the bank.
- Bandhan Bank also has signed an MoU with the Assam government, securing the mandate to collect revenue on the accounting portal of the state called GRAS.
- Under the agreement, consumers can pay all kinds of utility taxes of the Assam government as well as examination fees using the portal.

### ❖ **Manipur Health Minister Launches SAANS Campaign 2023-24 to Tackle Pneumonia**

- In Manipur, the State Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh launched the Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS) Campaign 2023-24 at Imphal.
- The Minister also inaugurated the State Newborn Resource Centre at Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS) in Imphal.
- Pneumonia is an instance of lung illness caused by a viral, bacterial, or fungal infection.
- It is an illness that causes the air sacs in one or both lungs to become inflamed.
- By 2025, the government hopes to reduce pneumonia fatalities among children to less than three per 1,000 live births.

## ❖ Dalai Lama inaugurates first International Sangha Forum in Bodh Gaya

- Tibetan Spiritual leader Dalai Lama inaugurated the three-day International Sangha Forum 2023 in Bodh Gaya, Bihar, Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment.
- The event will see discussions among monks, nuns, and Bhikkhu scholars, that delve into the profound teachings of Buddhism.
- Over 2,000 members of the sanghas and invited guests from 33 countries including Thailand, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka, Tibet, Bhutan, Nepal, Vietnam, Taiwan, Japan, and Korea.
- Dalai Lama will lead a world peace prayer session with delegates of the event at Mahabodhi Mahavihara.
- It is aimed at identifying and emphasizing the shared benefits of study and practice across all traditions, while nurturing an appreciation and understanding of the unique strengths of each tradition.

## ❖ Pralhad Joshi launches India's National Geoscience Data Repository portal

- Minister for Mines Pralhad Joshi launched India's National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR) portal.
- NGDR is a comprehensive online platform that will host geospatial data for the entire country.
- The launch of the portal puts India in the league of nations like the US, Australia, and Canada, that are advanced in their mineral mining journey.
- A total of 20 critical & strategic mineral blocks will be auctioned in the 1st tranche, out of which 16 mineral blocks are put up for grant of Composite Licence and four mineral blocks for grant of Mining Lease.
- The minerals include Graphite, Glauconite, Lithium, REE, Molybdenum, Nickel, Potash etc.

- The blocks are spread across the States of Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and UT – Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Key Features of the National Geoscience Data Portal (NGDR):**
- **Centralized Access:** Provides a centralized repository of diverse geoscience datasets, including geological maps, mineral resources, seismic data, and environmental information.
- **User-Friendly Interface:** An intuitive interface designed to cater to a wide range of users, enabling seamless navigation and exploration of data.
- **MERT template:** The Mineral Exploration Reporting Template facilitates all the geoscientific stakeholders to submit their data in the NGDR portal in a standard reporting template.
- **Analytical Tools:** Equipped with state-of-the-art analytical tools to interpret and extract valuable insights from complex geospatial data.
- **Open Access:** Encourages transparency and knowledge sharing by offering open access to a wealth of geoscience information.
- ❖ **Razorpay and Cashfree to Operate as Payment Aggregators**
- Razorpay and Cashfree have received the final authorization from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as Payment Aggregators (PAs).
- Payment Aggregators are entities that facilitate e-commerce sites and merchants in accepting various payment instruments from customers, streamlining the payment process without requiring merchants to create their systems.
- PAs collect payments from customers, pool them, and offering a seamless transaction experience.
- On December 19, 2022, Cashfree announced the receipt of the final authorization to operate as a payment aggregator from RBI.
- Razorpay, in an official statement on December 16, 2022, declared that it is now open to onboarding new businesses on its Payment Gateway platform, having received the final authorization from RBI.

### ❖ **Noma added to WHO list of Neglected Tropical Diseases**

- The World Health Organization (WHO) announced that the gangrenous disease noma has been added to its official list of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs).
- Also known as gangrenous stomatitis or cancrum oris, noma is a rapidly progressive bacterial infection of the face and mouth.
- It begins as inflammation of the gums, and, if not treated early with antibiotics, spreads quickly to destroy facial tissue and bone, frequently leading to death or severe disfigurement.
- Diagnosis and treatment in the early stages of the infection can lead to proper wound healing.
- The official request to have noma added to the NTD list was submitted to the WHO in January on behalf of 32 member states.
- Primarily found in sub-Saharan Africa, noma mainly affects malnourished children between the ages of 2 and 6 years.
- Poor oral hygiene, malnutrition, weakened immune systems, and extreme poverty are among the risk factors.

### ❖ **Gukesh wins, is frontrunner for FIDE Circuit Candidates berth**

- D. Gukesh drew with P. Harikrishna in the seventh and final round and won the Chennai Grand Masters Chess Championship on tie-break at The Leela Palace hotel.
- Gukesh finished joint-first with Arjun Erigaisi, who beat Hungary's Sanan Sjugirov.
- The Sonneborn-Berger score was employed as the tie-break and Gukesh (13.75) edged Arjun (13.50) to the title.

## ❖ Ashok Leyland bags order for 552 buses from TNSTC

- Ashok Leyland has bagged an order to supply 552 buses from Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSTC).
- The ultra-low entry (ULE) buses would be used for public transport.
- Ashok Leyland has been a long-standing supplier of buses to TNSTC, having supplied over 18,477 buses till date.
- This order reinforces our dedication to creating very efficient and technologically advanced products that exceed our customer expectations and contribute to the growth of public transportation.
- Ashok Leyland Managing Director & CEO -- Shenu Agarwal .

## ❖ Hyderabad Ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in food adulteration cases: NCRB

- According to the data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Hyderabad is in first position in India regarding food adulteration cases in 2022. Telangana Stands 2<sup>nd</sup>, closely followed by Andhra Pradesh.
- A total of 291 cases of food adulteration were reported across 19 major cities in India in 2021, surprisingly 246 cases emerging from Hyderabad alone.
- Food adulteration is a critical concern for the health of the public.
- The contaminated food items can cause severe health problems, including illness and allergies.
- The NCRB data shows that there is an urgent need to take strict measures to combat food adulteration.

## ❖ **ISRO Received the 2023 Leif Erikson Lunar Prize for the Chandrayan-3 Mission**

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the national space agency of India based in Bengaluru, Karnataka won the 2023 Leif Erikson Lunar Prize for its Chandrayaan – 3 Mission, the 1<sup>st</sup> spacecraft to softland near Moon's south pole.
- Indian Ambassador Balasubramanian Shyam in the Embassy of India in Reykjavik (Iceland), received the prize on behalf of ISRO.
- The award recognises ISRO's efforts in advancing lunar exploration and contributions to understanding celestial mysteries.
- Chandrayan – 3, the 3<sup>rd</sup> lunar exploration mission of India, was launched on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre.
- Chandrayan – 3 Lander Module successfully landed on the Moon on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 making India the 4<sup>th</sup> nation to softland on lunar surface.
- The Mission consists of lunar lander named Vikram and a lunar rover named Pragyan.
- **Other Winners of 9<sup>th</sup> Leif Erikson Awards (2023):**
- Leif Erikson Award 2023 is awarded to former American astronaut Bill Anders (William Alison Anders) for his iconic “Earthrise” photograph taken during the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s Apollo 8 Mission.
- **About Leif Erikson Award:**
- Lief Erikson awards, also known as Exploration Awards, is an annual award presented by the Exploration Museum in Husavik, Iceland since 2015.
- This award is named after Leif Erikson, a Norse explorer who is considered as the 1<sup>st</sup> European to set foot on continental America.
- It is awarded for achievements in exploration and for work in the field of exploration history.