

**IACE**

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**24<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**DESCRIPTIVE**

## ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi participates in Sant Mirabai Janmotsav at Mathura

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi participated in Sant Mirabai Janmotsav, a program to celebrate the 525<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Sant Mirabai in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.
- Prime Minister Modi released a commemorative stamp and coin in honour of Sant Mira Bai.
- The occasion marks the initiation of year-long programs in the memory of Sant Mirabai.
- Highlighting the works done for the redevelopment of various religious sites across the country.
- The 525<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Sant Mirabai is not merely a birth anniversary but “a celebration of the entire culture and tradition of love in India.”
- A celebration of the thought that considers Nar and Narayan, Jeev and Shiv, devotee and the god as one.

## ❖ L&T Finance gets \$125 million loan to support MSMEs

- Non-banking financial company L&T Finance has signed a USD 125 million loan pact with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to support financing in rural and peri-urban areas in India, particularly for women borrowers.

- The funding comprises a loan of up to USD 125 million from ADB, and an agreement to syndicate an additional USD 125 million co-financing from other development partners.
- At least 40 per cent of the proceeds is allocated for women borrowers, while the rest will support farmers, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), and loans to purchase new two-wheelers.
- By focusing on lending in rural and peri-urban areas of lagging states in India, the project is strategically aligned with the goals of the Ministry of Rural Development.

#### ❖ **Telangana unveils world's first 3D-printed temple**

- Telangana has unveiled the world's first 3D-printed temple in Burugupally, Siddipet district.
- This innovative construction, achieved through a three-month 3D printing process, marks a significant technological milestone.
- The temple spans 4,000 square feet and stands at a height of 35.5 feet. It comprises three distinct parts, each dedicated to a different deity.
- These sanctums include a modak dedicated to Lord Ganesha, a square Shivalay devoted to Lord Shankar, and a lotus-shaped sanctuary for Goddess Parvati.
- The sanctums were meticulously crafted using an in-house system, along with materials and software developed locally.
- The pioneering temple not only meets the structural prerequisites and design principles inherent in temple architecture but also addresses the intricacies of 3D printing requirements.

➤ It successfully navigates the challenges associated with in-situ construction, marking a significant milestone in the convergence of ancient traditions and futuristic technology.

❖ **HSBC India and UK Export Finance partnered to support Indian MSMEs**

➤ HSBC India and UK Export Finance (UKEF), the United Kingdom's export credit agency, intend to establish a financing programme of up to £100 million to support Indian Micro, Small and Medium enterprises (MSMEs) and corporates for financing their imports from the UK.

➤ This partnership is expected to enhance the availability of credit for Indian MSMEs and boost trade ties between the two countries.

➤ HSBC India and UKEF signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) to enable them to work together on opportunities relating to UKEF's guarantee-backed structures.

➤ HSBC India and UKEF will work closely to originate, structure and extend financing and credit facilities to Indian MSMEs.

➤ The partnership with UKEF will help leverage our inherent synergies and boost trade and economic ties between India and UK.

❖ **Justice M. Fathima Beevi, the first female Judge of Supreme Court of India, passed away**

➤ Justice M. Fathima Beevi, the first female Judge to be appointed to the Supreme Court of India, passed away at the age of 96 in Kollam in Kerala.

➤ She was also the first Muslim woman to be appointed to the higher judiciary in the country.

➤ She was born in Kerala in 1927 and her father encouraged her to study law.

➤ In 1950, she topped the Bar Council exam, becoming the first woman to receive a Bar Council gold medal.

➤ After retiring in 1993, she served as a member of the National Human Rights Commission and then as Governor of Tamil Nadu.

➤ She resigned from the post of Governor of Tamil Nadu after rejecting the mercy petitions filed by four condemned prisoners in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case.

#### ❖ **Indian Mission to ASEAN Hosting ASEAN-India Millet Festival in Jakarta**

➤ The Indian Mission to ASEAN, along with the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, is hosting the ASEAN-India Millet Festival in Indonesia's capital Jakarta, as part of the 'International Year of Millets 2023'.

➤ The food festival showcasing culinary skills through innovative millet dishes and featuring participation from Millet-based Food Producer Organisations, and start-ups.

➤ Addressing the inauguration, Jayant Khobragade, Indian Ambassador to ASEAN, highlighted the importance of the ASEAN-India Millet Festival and strengthening India-ASEAN relations.

#### ❖ **Mohammad Kaif joins hands for free with CABI as brand ambassador of Nagesh trophy**

➤ The Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) in association with the Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled has announced former Indian cricketer Mohammad Kaif as the Brand Ambassador of the 6th edition of the Men's National T20 Cricket Tournament for the Blind 2023-24 also known as Nagesh Trophy.

➤ As a Brand and Good will Ambassador Kaif aims to bat for the cause of Blind Cricket in India and highlight the unwavering strength shown by the visually impaired players.

➤ This association between Mohammad Kaif and the Nagesh Trophy is a momentous step towards promoting inclusivity and highlighting the achievements of visually impaired cricketers in India.

➤ The Nagesh Trophy will be held from November 23 to January 30, 2024. The League stage will be played till December 29, whereas Super 8 stage matches will be played at Nagpur, Maharashtra in January 2024.

### ❖ **Anahat Singh becomes second youngest to win National Squash Championship title**

➤ 15-year-old Anahat Singh won the women's title at the Senior National Squash Championships in Chennai.

➤ Anahat emerged victorious against Tanvi Khanna, who had to retire due to an injury, with the match concluding 9-11, 11-4 (retired).

➤ Local favorite Velavan Senthilkumar clinched the men's title by defeating Abhay Singh in the final with a scoreline of 12-10, 11-3, 12-10.

➤ It's noteworthy that Anahat is now the second youngest player to win the women's title in the Senior National Squash Championship.

➤ Joshna Chinappa, who won her first title at the age of 14 in 2000, holds the record as the youngest winner with 19 titles to her name.

## ❖ Former West Indies all-rounder Marlon Samuels banned from all cricket for 6 years

- Former West Indies star Marlon Samuels has been handed a six-year ban from all cricket by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for breaching the Emirates Cricket Board's Anti-Corruption Code.
- The charges stem from his participation in the T10 league in the United Arab Emirates in 2019, despite having retired from all cricket in 2020.
- The 42-year-old, who played a crucial role in West Indies' T20 World Cup victories in 2012 and 2016, was found guilty by an independent tribunal of four breaches, including failure to disclose gifts, payments, hospitality, or benefits that could bring him or the sport into disrepute.
- The ban of six years will act as a strong deterrent to any participant who intends to break the rules.

## ❖ Karnataka Bank to distribute Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance products

- Karnataka Bank has announced a corporate tie-up with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Co Ltd to distribute life insurance products to its customers.
- This collaboration is designed to leverage the strength of Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance's product capabilities and Karnataka Bank's large customer base with a wide distribution of over 900 branches across India.
- These offerings will cater to various life stages and financial needs, ensuring that customers receive structured insurance solutions aligned with their requirements.
- Karnataka Bank is consistently working towards offering them the right products and opportunities.

### ❖ **Saffron of Kishtwar in Jammu & Kashmir received GI tag**

- In Jammu and Kashmir, the Saffron of the mountainous Kishtwar district, which is cultivated and harvested in the higher reaches, has been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry.
- The spice is grown in some parts of the Kishtwar region of Jammu, along with parts of Kashmir.
- The legendary most expensive harvest of saffron, popularly known as Kumkum, is also a key cash crop in Jammu's isolated mountainous district of Kishtwar.
- Saffron cultivation is a cultural heritage that represents freshness and purity. Kishtwar's saffron production area is called locally as Mandal.

### ❖ **Nippon Life AIF to raise Rs 1,000 cr for private credit**

- Nippon Life India Asset Management has joined the likes of Centrum and Avendus to capitalise on the demand for private credit amid the tightening of norms by regulated entities such as banks and mutual funds pulling out of promoter funding.
- Nippon Life India Alternative Investment Fund, which is set to raise ₹1,000 crore, has already deployed ₹100 crore in two strategic deals and aims to secure an additional ₹1,000 crore through a green shoe option.
- As credit mutual funds withdraw from the space, Nippon sees an opportunity in growth capital, catering to equity-starved promoters seeking expansion.
- Nippon Life India AIF is looking at investments ranging between ₹50 crore and ₹100 crore per deal at an average maturity of 2.5 to 3 years.