

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

27th & 28th September 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ PM to dedicated 800-MW NTPC power plant on October 3

➤ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be participating in dedicating the ₹6,000 crore 800MW NTPC power plant at Ramagundam virtually to the nation and laying the foundation stone for 30 odd railway stations' development work besides other projects during his October trip to Telangana.

➤ Union Minister for Tourism, Culture and Development of Northeast Region G. Kishan Reddy announced that the PM will also be involved in other development programmes apart from addressing two public meetings, in Mahabubnagar on October 1 and in Nizamabad on October 2.

➤ Mr. Reddy, also the BJP Telangana president said the visit of Mr. Modi and earlier one of union Home Minister Amit Shah has given sufficient impetus for the party to strengthen itself for the Assembly elections ahead.

❖ Cipla launches drone delivery of critical medicines in Himachal Pradesh

➤ Drugmaker Cipla has launched drone based deliveries of its critical medicines for hospitals in Himachal Pradesh, in partnership with Skye Air Mobility. The medicines included cardiac, respiratory, and other essential chronic therapies.

➤ The use of drones will support on time delivery of the company's medicines to chemists and clinics in remote areas, while minimising risks including temperature-linked issues affecting cold chain products, it explained.

➤ Cipla is a forerunner among large Indian pharma companies to adopt drone-based deliveries to facilitate supply to stockists in remote areas.

➤ Further, the company aims to extend this service to inaccessible and hilly terrains such as Uttarakhand and the Northeastern regions of the country, it added.

➤ Its inaugural phase of the drone deliveries covered approximately 50 kilometres distance in under 25 minutes.

❖ **Govt extends export benefits under RoDTEP scheme till June 2024**

➤ The Scheme for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) support has been extended till June 20, 2024 from earlier September 30, 2023 deadline, at the same rates to the existing export items, a statement issued by the Commerce Ministry.

➤ The extension comes at a time when the country's exports face global headwinds due to slowdown in several major economies of the world.

➤ In December 2022, the government had extended the benefits under the scheme to chemicals, pharmaceuticals and products of iron and steel till September 30 this year.

➤ This will help our exporting community to negotiate export contracts in the present international environment on better terms.

❖ **NABARD raises more than ₹1000 crore via social bonds**

➤ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) announced it has issued its first rupee denominated AAA rated social bonds with a total size of ₹1040.50 crore.

➤ The bonds issued privately to eligible institutional investors will be listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) on September 29, 2023.

➤ The face value of each bond is ₹1 lakh. The base issue size is ₹1,000 crore, with an option to retain oversubscription up to ₹2000 crore.

➤ NABARD said the issue received an overwhelming response from institutional investors, resulting in total bids of ₹8590.50 crore but ₹1040.50 crore was accepted at a coupon rate of 7.63%.

➤ The five year term bonds can be redeemed on 27 September 2028 with coupon payment taking place annually.

❖ **PFRDA picks 11th fund manager for NPS**

➤ The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is in the process of appointing DSP Pension Fund Managers as the 11th fund manager permitted to manage retirement savings under the National Pension System (NPS).

➤ It is looking to tap regional rural banks (RRBs) to enhance its reach to citizens across the country.

➤ Pension regulator PFRDA granted the certificate of registration to DSP Pensions, making it the country's 11th pension fund manager of NPS.

➤ DSP is very good brand name in the industry and we want to build on that and become a household name through National Pension System (NPS).

➤ Last year, PFRDA gave the DSP Investment Managers a licence to undertake pension fund management business.

➤ This licence had been given to DSP Investment Managers as a Sponsor of a pension fund.

❖ **Biswanath Ghat in Assam named 'Best Tourism Village of India 2023**

➤ Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday announced that Biswanath Ghat has been selected as the Best Tourism Village of India 2023 by the Ministry of Tourism.

➤ Selected from amongst 791 applications from 31 States and UTs, Biswanath Ghat's selection reflects the huge efforts that our Govt has taken in promoting rural tourism in Assam.

➤ Located on the banks of the Brahmaputra River, Biswanath Ghat is also popularly known as 'Gupta Kashi' and is named after the ancient Biswanath Mandir.

➤ The village is located towards the south of Biswanath Chariali Town.

➤ The ghat boasts a cluster of temples of different gods. Additionally, a Shiva temple was also situated at the confluence of Bridhaganga (Burigonga) River with the Brahmaputra.

❖ **Legendary actor Waheeda Rehman to receive Dadasaheb Phalke Award**

➤ Veteran actor Waheeda Rehman will be honoured with this year's Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award.

➤ The legendary actor has worked in films such as Guide and Reshma Aur Shera.

➤ Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur shared the decision by the I and B Ministry on his social media handle.

➤ Mr. Thakur wrote, "I feel an immense sense of happiness and honour in announcing that Waheeda Rehman ji is being bestowed with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award this year for her stellar contribution to Indian Cinema.

❖ **India Women's Cricket Team Wins Gold Medal By Defeating Sri Lanka**

➤ Indian women's cricket team won their maiden gold medal in Asian Games 2023 by defeating Sri Lanka by 19 runs in final.

➤ This is a historic feat achieved by the Indian Women's cricket team.

➤ India, in a dazzling display of skill and prowess, achieved a remarkable feat by securing a new world record and capturing the gold medal in the men's 10 air rifle team event during the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China.

➤ The Indian contingent participating in the men's four rowing final displayed their mettle, securing a well-deserved bronze medal.

❖ **Madhya Pradesh notifies 'Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve'**

➤ Madhya Pradesh, which is home to the most tigers in the country, has got a new protected area for the big cats named 'Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve', the seventh in the state and 54th in the country.

➤ Veerangana Durgavati Sanctuary, recognized for their ecological significance in preserving biodiversity, including flora, fauna, geology, and zoology

➤ Until now, M.P. was home to six tiger reserves – Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Satpura, Pench, Panna and Sanjay-Dubri.

❖ **Madhya Pradesh Announced Hike Retirement Benefits For Kotwars**

➤ Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced an increase in honorariums and retirement benefits for kotwars.

➤ The chief minister announced that the government would provide Rs 1 lakh to kotwars at the time of their retirement.

➤ Kotwars are appointed at the village level to assist revenue officials and provide them with information.

➤ kotwars, who do not own land, will get Rs 8,000 per month instead of the earlier Rs 4,000, while those with less than 3 acres of land will get Rs 2,000.

❖ **Banmali Agarwal appointed as the new chairman of Tata Advanced Systems**

- Tata Sons has appointed Banmali Agarwal as the new chairman of the group's aerospace and defense solutions unit Tata Advanced Systems (TASL).
- Banmali Agarwal has been appointed in place of Vijay Singh, Who have retired.
- Aggarwal is also a senior advisor to Tata Sons and chairman of Tata Electronics.
- Vijay Singh is the Vice Chairman of Tata Trust. Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Sons, is the strategic aerospace and defense arm of the Tata Group. TASL is both an operating and holding company.
- By 2018, Tata Sons had brought some of the group's entities under a single defense vertical.
- Group companies like Tata Power SED, TAL Manufacturing, Tata Advanced Materials and the defense division of Tata Motors were consolidated into TASL.

❖ **Global investment in Indian banks to continue on robust finances**

- Indian banks will continue attracting global investment from investors looking for better returns as credit growth, improved margins and stable asset quality boost the country's lenders, S&P Global Market Intelligence.
- The total market value of foreign institutional investors' holdings in Indian banks has increased to Rs 8.36 trillion as on June 30 from Rs 7.71 trillion the year before.
- Holdings were worth Rs 6.734 trillion in June 2020.
- Top lenders that attracted foreign institutional investors include ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, and Kotak Mahindra Bank.

❖ **95% of space components in Indian rockets are indigenous: Somanath**

- 95% of the components used in the rockets, including those used in Chandrayaan 3 mission, were made in India and were a result of several years of development involving the Indian Space Research Organisation and Indian industries, S Somanath, Chairman, ISRO announced at the Foundation Day celebrations of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in New Delhi.
- These have not come about just like that and have come over several years and is a result of collaborations with various agencies, including Indian laboratories, national labs, defence labs, and CSIR labs, focusing on material indigenisation, technology capabilities, and research.
- At the Foundation Day of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar awards were also distributed to 12 young scientists.