

❖ Centre approves Rs 56,415 crore for 16 states under capex scheme

➤ The Finance Ministry has approved an investment of worth Rs 56,415 crore in 16 states as part of the 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment 2023-24' scheme.

➤ Aim: To boost capital spending by states

➤ The Department of Expenditure has approved investment projects in several sectors including health, education, roads, and railways among others.

➤ It has also included the state share of two projects - Jal Jeevan Mission and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

➤ The maximum amount, of Rs 9,640 crore, has been allocated to Bihar, followed by Rs 7,850 crore to Madhya Pradesh, Rs 7,523 crore to West

Bengal, Rs 6,026 crore to Rajasthan and Rs 4,528 crore to Odisha.

❖ Ministry of Agriculture signed an MOU with Pixxel Space India

➤ Ministry of Agriculture has signed an MOU with Pixxel Space India Pvt. Limited to develop various geospatial solutions on a pro bono basis for the Indian Agriculture Ecosystem, with the help of Pixxel's hyperspectral dataset.

➤ This project focuses on leveraging sample hyperspectral data from Pixxel's pathfinder satellites.

➤ It will develop analytics models focused on crop mapping, crop stage discrimination, crop health monitoring, and soil organic carbon assessments.

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➤ This will enable the Government to develop use cases with hyperspectral data provided by PIXXEL. MNCFC on behalf of the DA&FW will associate with Pixel team for developing and implementing the suitable methodologies.

❖ **Bengaluru airport launches BLR Pulse app for passengers**

➤ Bangalore International Airport Limited has created a personalised digital travel buddy named BLR Pulse to cater to the needs of flyers.

➤ It is an omnichannel platform, developed in collaboration with GrayMatter Software Services.

➤ It will allow passengers to navigate within the terminal buildings and provide essential information about the airport in real-time.

➤ The interactive chatbot feature in the app will enable a self-sufficient mode of finding answers.

❖ **Historian David Hardiman's new book released**

➤ Historian David Hardiman has released his new book 'Non-Cooperation in India: Non-Violent Strategy and Protest'.

➤ It is published by Westland Books.

➤ The non-cooperation movement by the Indian National Congress (INC) was the first mass movement organized nationwide during India's struggle for freedom, which was organized and led by Gandhi Ji.

➤ The book is comprising seven chapters and is a detailed account of India's first mass movement.

❖ **FIFA U-17 World Cup to be hosted by Indonesia**

- The International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) has confirmed that the 2023 U-17 World Cup will be hosted by Indonesia.
- Initially, the host of the youngest World Cup event was Peru.
- This announcement was made after the FIFA Council meeting in Zurich, Switzerland.
- FIFA also announced Colombia as the host of the 2024 U-20 Women's World Cup and Dominica as the host of the U-17 Women's World Cup.
- FIFA President: Gianni Infantino.

❖ **Alappuzha doctor, K. Venugopal bags Indian Medical Association (IMA) award**

- A Chief Consultant in Respiratory Medicine at General Hospital, Alappuzha, Dr. K. Venugopal has been selected for an award instituted by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) to commemorate National Doctors' Day on July 1.
- He was selected under the category of community service.
- He will receive the award at a function to be held at IMA headquarters in New Delhi on July 1.
- Indian Medical Association was Formed in 1928 & is Headquartered in New Delhi.

❖ **Indian author Rupa Pai wrote a new book called "The Yoga Sutras for Children"**

- A new book titled "The Yoga Sutras for Children" by Indian author Roopa Pai was published by Hachette India.
- Roopa Pai's book, "The Gita for Children" was an award-winning bestseller.

- "Yoga Sutras for Children" focuses on uncovering the secrets of Patanjali's 2,000-year-old treatise on yoga.
- It aims to bring out the best in children by connecting yoga to their everyday experiences.
- This book explores Maharishi Patanjali's techniques for nurturing energy and attitude.
- The book includes black-and-white artwork by painter Sayan Mukherjee.
- The book aims to instil positivity and confidence in young readers.

❖ Sarbananda Sonowal launches New CSR guidelines 'Sagar Samajik Sahayog'

- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal, has introduced a set of new corporate social responsibility (CSR) guidelines called 'Sagar Samajik Sahayog' by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways.
- The purpose of these guidelines is to enable ports to effectively address local community issues in a collaborative and efficient manner.
- The renewed guidelines for CSR activities allows our ports to initiate, undertake and expedite projects for community welfare through a framework where local communities can also become partners of development & change.
- CSR has the ability to become a major agent of change in a location or on an activity to bring positive change in the lives of the people.
- Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji, we are striving towards empowering our people, our institutions in a way that it caters to the needs of the community as well as make community a partner in the process of change & progress India to become Atmanirbhar", the Minister added.

❖ CCI approves acquisition of TCNS Clothing by Aditya Birla Fashion

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of TCNS Clothing Co Limited by Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Limited.
- ABFRL is a listed company and a part of the Aditya Birla group of companies.
- It operates in the retail industry, specifically in the apparel, footwear, and accessories segments.
- TCNS Clothing is another listed company that specializes in the manufacturing, distribution, and sale of women's apparel, jewelry, footwear, and beauty products. It owns several brands such as W, Aurelia, Wishful, Elleven, and Folk Song.
- In May of the current year, ABFRL announced its plan to acquire a 51% stake in TCNS Clothing.
- The deal involved a combination of cash and equity and valued the promoter stake at approximately Rs 1,650 crore.
- ABFRL reported a loss of Rs 186.94 crore in the fiscal fourth quarter of FY 2022-23, compared to a profit of Rs 43.59 crore in the same quarter of the previous year.

❖ World Hepatitis Day - 28 July

- World Hepatitis Day is observed globally on 28 July.
- Its main objective is to raise awareness and drive meaningful change about the global burden of viral hepatitis, which causes liver inflammation, chronic disease and liver cancer.
- The theme for World Hepatitis Day 2023 is 'We are not waiting'.
- On July 28, World Hepatitis Day urges people around the world to take immediate action because hepatitis cannot wait.
- Its ultimate goal is to bring about a real change in policies, practices and public perception about hepatitis.

❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off five new Vande Bharat trains of the country

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off five new Vande Bharat trains from Rani Kamlapati Railway Station in Bhopal.
- Trains include Ranchi-Patna, Dharwad-KSR Bengaluru, Goa (Madgaon)-Mumbai, Bhopal-Indore and Bhopal-Jabalpur.
- These trains were virtually launched by the Prime Minister.
- Two Vande Bharat trains, Bhopal-Indore and Bhopal-Jabalpur were also flagged off in Madhya Pradesh.
- The trains aim to improve connectivity in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa, Bihar and Jharkhand.

❖ India end Special Olympics World Games campaign with whopping 202 medals

- The 194-member Indian team ended its campaign on a high note in the Special Olympics after bagging a whopping 202 medals in the tournament.
- The Special Olympics were played in Berlin across nine days
- India bagged 76 gold, 75 silver and 51 bronze medals in this global multi-sport event.
- The Indian contingent comprised 198 athletes and unified partners, along with 57 coaches, who competed across 16 different sports, representing the nation with passion and dedication.
- The Indian athletes concluded their exceptional performance at the Special Olympics with a remarkable tally of six medals in track events on the final day.
- Aanchal Goyal and Ravimathi Arumugam secured gold medals in the 400m race, while Saket Kundu achieved a silver medal in mini javelin and a bronze in the Level B 400m race, showcasing their talent.

❖ Amara Raja group firm bags \$130 million solar project in Bangladesh

- Amara Raja Infra Pvt. Ltd. (ARIPL), an engineering, procurement and construction firm specialising in power and civil projects, in collaboration with solar modules manufacturer Premier Solar Powertech, has secured a solar project valued at \$130 million in Bangladesh.
- EXIM Bank of India will be funding the project which consists of engineering, design, supply, installation and commissioning of a 100 MW (AC) solar PV power plant, the Amara Raja Group entity.
- ARIPL, in collaboration with Premier Solar of Hyderabad, secured the project from Rural Power Company Ltd (RPCL) in Bangladesh.
- The project spans 326 acres at Madarganj in Jamalpur District and will be completed in the next 18 months.
- After the project is commissioned, ARIPL will also provide comprehensive operation and maintenance services for two years, along with warranty spares and consumables.

❖ Yogi Adityanath launched "Operation Conviction" in Uttar Pradesh

- Yogi Adityanath launches 'Operation Conviction' for cow slaughter in Uttar Pradesh.
- The program aims to convict 20 cases in each district within 30 days of framing of charges.
- It focuses on crimes such as rape, murder, cow slaughter, religious conversion and offenses under the POCSO Act.
- The initiative is aimed at expediting the conviction process and ensuring speedy punishment for criminals.
- The emphasis is on immediate arrest to prevent suspects from evading legal process.

- Strong evidence collection is a priority to strengthen the prosecution's case.
- A thorough investigation will be conducted, including the examination of witnesses and the uncovering of organized crime networks.
- Effective representation in courts for cases related to cow slaughter will be ensured.

❖ **Federal Bank receives RBI approval to appoint AP Hota as part-time Chairman**

- The Reserve Bank of India has given its approval to the Federal Bank for the appointment of AP Hota as part-time chairman, with effect from June 29, 2023, till January 14, 2026.
- In 2018, he was appointed as an Independent Director of Federal Bank Limited.
- He has also worked at RBI as a nominee director to the Board of Vijaya Bank and Andhra Bank.
- He was the architect of NPCI and served as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer between 2009- 2017.

❖ **IIT Bombay ranks 149th in the QS world ranking 2023**

- According to the 20th QS World University Rankings 2023, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has climbed 23 positions to secure the 149th rank globally.
- While in the overall ranking, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), United States topped the rankings for the twelfth consecutive year.
- UK's Cambridge University ranked second followed by Oxford University.
- India is the seventh most represented country globally, with 45 universities ranked.

❖ **RBI cancels Mahalaxmi Cooperative Bank Dharwad's banking license**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the banking license of the Karnataka-based Mahalaxmi Cooperative Bank, Dharwad, and allowed function only as a non-banking institution.
- The cancellation of the license is with effect from the close of business on June 27, 2023.
- RBI has also been instructed to repay unpaid and unclaimed deposits of non-members held by it, whenever demanded, even after being notified as a non-banking Institution.

❖ **Seven products from Uttar Pradesh get Geographical Indication tag**

- The seven products of Uttar Pradesh have been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai.
- Seven products are: Amroha Dholak, Mahoba Gaura Patthar Hastashlip, Mainpuri Tarkashi, Sambhal Horn Craft, Baghpat Home Furnishings, Barabanki Handloom Product, and Kalpi Handmade Paper
- The Amroha Dholak is a musical instrument made of natural wood.
- Mango, jackfruit, and teakwood are preferred for making the dholak.