

### ❖ **HDFC Bank board approves re-appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as chairman**

➤ Private lender HDFC Bank board has recommended the re-appointment of **Atanu Chakraborty** as the part-time non-executive chairman and independent director.

➤ The bank further added that the matter is with the Reserve Bank of India for a second term of three years from May 5, 2024, to May 4, 2027 approval.

➤ Chakraborty, a 1985 batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre, retired as Secretary of Department of Economic Affairs in April 2020.

#### ➤ **About HDFC Bank:**

➤ **CEO:** Sashidhar Jagdishan

➤ **Founded:** August 1994, Mumbai

➤ **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra

### ❖ **Koneru Humpy clinches silver at Women's World Rapid Chess Championships 2023**

➤ Koneru Humpy, India's top-ranked woman chess player, added another feather to her cap by winning the silver medal at the Women's World Rapid Chess Championships 2023 held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan from December 26th to 28th.

➤ The athlete from Andhra Pradesh finished at the top position after 11 rounds with 8.5 points, along with Russia's Anastasia Bodnaruk.

➤ She played a tie-breaker against Bodnaruk for the title but lost 1.5-2.5 to earn the precious silver medal from the event.

➤ This is her third medal from these championships after a gold in 2019 and a bronze in 2012.

➤ **Key Points:**

➤ Humpy was not the only Indian player to shine at the championship, as several others also performed well and improved their ratings.

➤ In the women's section, Varshini finished at 13th place with 7.5 points,

➤ In the men's section, Vidit Gujrathi was the best-placed Indian player, finishing at the fourth position with 9 points in 13 rounds. He missed out on a medal by a whisker, as he lost to China's Yu Yangyi in the final round.

➤ Other notable performances came from R Praganandha who finished in 8th rank.

➤ **About Uzbekistan:**

➤ **Capital:** Tashkent

➤ **Currency:** Sum (also som, soum)

➤ **Prime Minister:** Abdulla Nigmatovich Aripov

❖ **Women account for nearly 49 per cent of beneficiaries of health insurance scheme AB-PMJAY**

➤ The Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) has made a conscious effort to put women at the centre of the national conversation on health which has ensured their equal participation in it.

➤ Union Minister of State for Health S P Singh Baghel said women account for approximately 49 per cent of Ayushman card recipients.

- Further, 141 health benefit packages under the health insurance scheme are exclusively earmarked for women.
- Correspondingly, utilisation of scheme services by women stands at approximately 48 per cent of the total authorised hospital admissions.
- A total of 4.78 crore and 9.22 crore Ayushman cards were created during 2019-20 and 2022-23, respectively.
- Under the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), the government provides a health insurance of Rs 5 lakh per family per year.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- **Launched:** 23 September 2018

### ❖ **Former European Commission President Jacques Delors Dies At 98**

- Former European Commission President Jacques Delors has died at age 98.
- Delors, who is described as the architect of the modern EU, also laid the groundwork for the single European currency, the euro.
- Delors had also served as French finance minister from 1981–84 as a "statesman with a French destiny" and "inexhaustible craftsman of our Europe".

### ❖ **Housing affordability improves across key Indian property markets in 2023**

- According to Knight Frank India's proprietary Affordability Index, home affordability, driven by moderation in inflation and downward trend in interest rates, should improve in 2024.
- The EMI to income ratio for households has improved in 2023 after it saw a decline in 2022.

- Ahmedabad, Kolkata, and Pune have emerged as the most affordable residential markets in 2023.
- Ahmedabad is the most affordable housing market in the country with an affordability ratio of 21 per cent.
- What this indicates is that an average household in Ahmedabad would need to spend 21 per cent of its household income to pay the EMI for housing loans.
- The next most-affordable housing markets are Pune and Kolkata at 24 per cent each.
- Kolkata jumped to the second spot after its ratio levels improved 1 per cent from 2022 and 8 per cent from 2019.
- Residential market of the country, has however seen an improvement of 2% in its affordability index measured at 51% in 2023 from 53% in 2022.
- Looking at the trend from the pre-pandemic period, the city has witnessed a significant improvement of 16% in its affordability levels from 67% in 2019.
- ❖ **Russia, NASA agree to continue joint ISS flights until 2025**
- Russian and U.S. space agencies have agreed to keep working together to deliver crews to the International Space Station (ISS) until at least 2025.
- An agreement was reached to continue cross-flights until 2025 inclusive.
- It also aims "to guarantee the presence of at least one representative of Roscosmos on the Russian segment and the presence of at least one representative of NASA on the American segment."
- The ISS was launched in 1998 at a time of increased U.S.-Russia cooperation following the Cold War "**Space Race.**"

➤ ISS partners — the United States, Russia, Europe, Canada and Japan are for the moment only committed to operate the orbiting laboratory until 2024, though U.S. officials have stated they want to continue until 2030.

➤ **About Russia:**

➤ **Currency:** Ruble or Rouble

➤ **Capital:** Moscow

➤ **President:** Vladimir Putin

➤ **About National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA):**

➤ **Founded:** 29 July 1958, United States

➤ **Founder:** Dwight D. Eisenhower

➤ **Headquarters:** Washington, D.C., United States

❖ **Virat Kohli Becomes First Batter To Cross 2000 Runs In Seven Different Calendar Years**

➤ Veteran Indian batter Virat Kohli became the first batter to amass 2000+ runs in a calendar year for the record seventh time on Day 3 of the first Boxing Day Test at SuperSport Park.

➤ Virat Kohli surpassed Sri Lankan legend Kumar Sangakkara who has the second most (six-time) 2000+ runs in a calendar year.

➤ Virat Kohli (1934) needed 66 runs before the IND vs. SA first Test to reach 2000 runs across formats in 2023.

➤ In the first inning, the right-handed batter knocked 38 runs. The modern-day great broke yet another record as soon as he hit 28 runs in the second innings.

➤ Kohli also became the leading run-getter for India in South Africa across all formats, going past Sachin Tendulkar's tally of 1724 runs including six hundreds, across all formats for India.

➤ Kohli now has 1750 runs in 29 matches including five hundreds over 50 in South Africa across all formats.

➤ The former India captain tops the Indian batting charts in South Africa in ODIs with 898 runs at an average of 74.83.

### ❖ **RBI ups weight of SBI, HDFC Bank in too-big-to-fail list**

➤ The Reserve Bank of India has upgraded the weightage of SBI and HDFC Bank on its list of three Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) for 2023 which includes ICICI Bank as well.

➤ The three D-SIBs are required to set aside more capital to avoid risk because if they fail this could have a disastrous effect on the country's entire economy.

➤ These banks are also classified as "**too-big-to-fail**".

➤ For SBI and HDFC Bank, the increase of 0.2 per cent in D-SIB buffer requirements on account of the bucket increase will be effective from April 1, 2025.

➤ The additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) requirement will be in addition to the capital conservation buffer

➤ ICICI Bank continues to be in the same bucket structure as last year, SBI and HDFC Bank move to higher buckets – SBI shifts from bucket 3 to bucket 4 and HDFC Bank shifts from bucket 1 to bucket 2.

➤ The D-SIB framework requires the RBI to disclose the names of banks designated as D-SIBs starting from 2015 and place these banks in appropriate buckets depending upon their Systemic Importance Scores (SIS).

## ❖ **RBI permits ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund to acquire 9.95% stake in Federal Bank, RBL Bank**

- Federal Bank said the Reserve Bank of India has accorded approval to ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Ltd (ICICI AMC) for acquiring up to 9.95 per cent stake in the bank.
- The approval granted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is subject to the compliance with the relevant provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, RBI's Master Direction and Guidelines on Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights in Banking Companies dated January 16, 2023.
- Meanwhile, RBI also accorded approval to ICICI AMC to acquire 9.95 per cent stake in RBL Bank and Equitas Small Finance Bank.

## ❖ **Missile Cum Ammunition Barge, LSAM 10 was inducted at Naval Dockyards, Mumbai**

- Missile Cum Ammunition Barge, LSAM 10, the fourth Barge of 08 x Missile Cum Ammunition Barge project, built by MSME Shipyard, M/s SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd, Visakhapatnam for Indian Navy, was inducted on 28 Dec 23 at Naval Dockyards, Mumbai for NAD (Karanja).
- The Induction Ceremony was presided over by Cmde MV Raj Krishna, CoY (Mbi).
- The contract for building 08 x Missile Cum Ammunition Barge was signed between MoD and M/s SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd, Visakhapatnam on 19 Feb 21.
- Induction of these Barges would provide impetus to operational commitments of IN by facilitating Transportation, Embarkation Disembarkation of articles/ammunition to IN Ships both alongside jetties and at outer harbours.

- These Barges are indigenously designed and built under relevant Naval Rules and Regulation of Indian Register of Shipping (IRS).
- The model testing of the Barge during design stage was undertaken at Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam.
- These Barges are proud flag bearers of Make in India initiative of Government of India (GoI).

### ❖ **Amit Shah releases a Postal Stamp, Marking 50 Years of Pandit Jasraj's Music Festival**

➤ Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Cooperation, has released a commemorative Postal Stamp to mark 50<sup>th</sup> year of Pandit Jasraj Motiram's music festival 'Pandit Motiram Pandit Maniram Sangeet Samaroha' in New Delhi.

➤ **About Pandit Motiram Pandit Maniram Sangeet Samaroha:** The pandit Motiram Pandit Maniram Sangeet Samaroha is an annual Indian classical music festival held at Chowmahalla palace in Hyderabad, Telangana. It is also the oldest festival of Hyderabad. This festival was first initiated in 1972 by Pandit Jasraj in memory of his father 'Sangeet Ratna Pandit Motiram; and uncle 'Pandit Maniram'.

➤ Recently, 51<sup>st</sup> edition of the musical festival titled 'Jai Ho Pandit Jasraj', was observed from 24<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November by Pandit Jasraj cultural Foundation.

**About Pandit Jasraj Motiram:** Pandit Jasraj is a Hindustan Classical Vocalist, belonging to the 'Mewati Gharana' (a musical apprenticeship tribe of Hindustani Classical Music). He was born in 1930 at Haryana and died in 2020.

➤ He was a recipient of Padma Shri (1975), Padma Bhushan (1990) and Padma Vibhushan (2000) in the field of art. International Astronomical Union (IAU) has named minor planet 2006 VP32 (number-300128), as 'PanditJasraj'. This planet was discovered on November 11,2006. With this honor Pandit Jasraj has become the first Indian musician to join the galaxy of immortal composers like Mozart, Beethoven and Tenor Luciano Pavarotti.

### ❖ **Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi starts First Intra-District Helicopter Service**

➤ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the first inter-district helicopter service on the occasion of the birth anniversary of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. This service will launch from bateshwar and runs between Agra and Mathura.

➤ This is the first inter-state district helicopter service to fly to Govardhan from the helicopter at Etmadpur Mathura, located on the Inner Ring Road. This service will be operated in PPP (Private-Public Partnership) mode.

➤ Based on the PPP model, this service will be run by a private company from Uttarakhand. It will cover a distance of 65Km between Agra and Mathura.

➤ Projects worth Rs 100 crore are also inaugurated which aims at bringing new life to bateshwar, a historical village located amid the ravines of Chambal across the borders of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

### ❖ **India Makes Its 1st-Ever Rupee Payment For Crude Oil Purchase From UAE**

➤ India, the world's third largest energy consumer, has made its first payment in rupees for crude oil purchased from the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This is a historic step taken by India to promote the Indian currency at the global level.

➤ This step by India will not only help diversify oil suppliers but will also reduce transaction costs. Also, India's effort will be helpful in establishing the rupee as a viable trade settlement currency.

➤ The recent agreement with the UAE for Rupee settlements is a step towards achieving this goal. The Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) made payments in rupees for one million barrels of crude oil from Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (Adnoc), marking a historic milestone.

➤ This initiative was taken under the RBI decision on 11 July 2022, allowing importers to make payments in rupees and exporters to receive payments in local currency. The RBI has entered into rupee trading agreements with 22 countries, aiming to globalize the circulation of Indian currency and decrease reliance on the US dollar.

➤ In the Financial year 2022-23 (April 2022 to March 2023), India spent \$157.5 billion on importing 232.7 million tonnes of crude oil. Major Suppliers to India include Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Russia and the United Arab Emirates. In which West Asia contributes 58% to the total supply.

### ❖ **KSRTC Unveils 'Namma Cargo' Logistics In Karnataka**

➤ The **Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC)** marked a significant milestone in its journey by venturing into the logistics business. Minister for Transport **Ramalinga Reddy** inaugurated the initiative under the brand name **"Namma Cargo,"** introducing cargo services on KSRTC route buses.

➤ The launch event saw the **deployment of 20 cargo trucks to kickstart the 'Namma Cargo' services in various districts across the state.**

➤ The 'Namma Cargo' trucks are **equipped with GPS technology**, ensuring secure and efficient goods transportation. This advanced tracking facility not only enhances the safety of transported goods but also enables real-time monitoring, contributing to the overall reliability of KSRTC's cargo services.

➤ Karnataka's Minister of Transport Ramalinga Reddy announced the ambitious plans for the 'Namma Cargo' services, with a goal of induct 100 trucks within the first month of operation and also aims to escalate the number of Cargo trucks to 500 within the year of 2024.