

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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DESCRIPTIVE

❖ Uttar Pradesh received two awards for its excellent performance in Ayushman Bharat Scheme

- Uttar Pradesh has been honored with two awards for its excellent performance in the Centre's Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-J) and Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).
- Uttar Pradesh has achieved the highest number of health accounts under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).
- The state has created over 4.7 crore Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA), surpassing Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh with 4.19 crore and 4.10 crore accounts respectively.
- Additionally, more than 2.73 crore health records in Uttar Pradesh are linked to ABHA.
- Uttar Pradesh is actively using essential applications like PM-JAY, CoWin, and e-Kavach.
- A total of 535 hospitals in Uttar Pradesh are actively using the Health Management Information System (HMIS).

❖ Chhattisgarh bags three national awards for Ayushman Bharat scheme

- Chhattisgarh received three national awards for its outstanding execution of the Ayushman Bharat Scheme under the 'big states' category, achieving 100 per cent utilisation of allocated funds and ensuring 90 per cent of families possess an Ayushman card.
- Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and deputy CM cum health minister T S Singh Deo, lauded for the achievement and greeted state's officials involved in the scheme's implementation.
- Chhattisgarh has introduced several innovative schemes to enhance access to high-quality healthcare services in the past five years.
- One such initiative is the Mukhyamantri Haat Bazar Clinic Yojana, which extends free healthcare services to residents in remote forest areas of the state.

❖ RBI imposes monetary penalty on State Bank of India, Indian Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank

- The RBI imposed monetary penalties on three banks, State Bank of India, Indian Bank and Punjab & Sind Bank, and Fedbank Financial Services for rule violations.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has, by an order dated September 21, 2023, imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.30 Crore on State Bank of India for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on 'Loans and Advances Statutory and Other Restrictions' and 'Guidelines on Management of Intra-Group Transactions and Exposures'.

➤ The central bank imposed Rs 1.62 crore penalty on Indian Bank, Rs 1 crore on Punjab & Sind Bank, and Rs 8.80 lakh on Fedbank Financial Services.

➤ This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI conferred under the provisions of Section 47A(1)(c) read with Sections 46(4)(i) and 51(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

❖ **RBI clears K N Madhusoodanan as part time chairman of Dhanlaxmi Bank**

➤ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cleared the appointment of K N Madhusoodanan as a part time chairman of Kerala based Dhanlaxmi Bank for a period of three years with effect from September 26, 2023.

➤ This comes after a period of 21 months during which the company was without a chairman, following the resignation of G Subramonia Iyer in December 2021 for personal reasons.

➤ Madhusoodanan has been an independent director with the bank since 2022.

➤ This appointment also follows the RBI's rejection of a proposal to appoint G Rajagopalan Nair as its part time chairman.

➤ Nair has also been an independent director with the bank since August 2020.

❖ **RBI asks banks to display information on borrowers linked to SARFAESI Act**

➤ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that the Regulated Entities (REs) that are secured creditors as per the Securitisation and Reconstruction of

Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002, will display information in respect of the borrowers.

- The SARFAESI Act is a law that allows banks and financial institutions to recover bad loans effectively.
- The bank can recover the loan by taking possession of the security and selling it to recover the dues.
- The REs will upload this information on their website in the format shared by the RBI.
- The first such list shall be displayed on the website of REs within six months from the date of this circular, and the list shall be updated on a monthly basis.

❖ REC partners with Punjab National Bank to finance projects in logistics, power, infra sectors

- Power PSU REC Ltd and public lender Punjab National Bank inked an agreement to co-finance projects in power, infrastructure and logistics projects.
- The two entities will jointly finance loans worth Rs 55,000 crore.
- REC Limited signed an MoU with Punjab National Bank (PNB) to jointly explore the possibility to fund the Power Sector and Infrastructure and Logistics Sector projects under the consortium arrangement.
- REC and PNB will associate with each other to co-finance loans amounting to Rs 55,000 crore over the next three years.

➤ The memorandum of agreement was signed between TSC Bosh, Executive Director (Infra & Logistics), REC, and PNB Chief General Manager Rajeeva in the presence of other senior officials of the two companies.

➤ The company has a loan book of over Rs 4,54,393 crore.

❖ **Katrina Kaif appointed as first Indian brand ambassador of Uniqlo**

➤ Japanese apparel retailer Uniqlo has appointed Bollywood actress Katrina Kaif as its first brand ambassador in India and attempts to woo affluent shoppers and plans to add to more stores.

➤ The 40-year-old actor will be seen in Uniqlo's campaign films across digital and offline channels.

➤ Kaif joins the ranks of tennis star Roger Federer, who was appointed as Uniqlo's global brand ambassador in 2018.

➤ Uniqlo is part of Japan's largest fashion group Fast Retailing.

➤ Uniqlo, which made its India debut in 2019, has 10 stores in the country at present and two more in the pipeline.

➤ Most of them are located in Delhi-NCR, with one each in Lucknow, Chandigarh, and Punjab's Zirakpur. It is set to open stores in Mumbai.

➤ The brand draws consumers across age groups with its casual clothing lines.

❖ Infosys ties with Microsoft for industry-wide adoption of generative artificial intelligence

- IT major Infosys announced that it is collaborating with Microsoft to jointly develop industry leading solutions that leverage Infosys Topaz, Azure OpenAI Service and Azure Cognitive Services.
- Both organizations are bringing together their respective artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities to enhance enterprise functions with AI-enabled solutions across multiple industries.
- The integrated solutions will accelerate rapid democratization of data and intelligence that will help businesses increase productivity and drive new revenue growth.
- Through the collaboration with Microsoft, Infosys Topaz is using Azure OpenAI Service and Azure Cognitive Services to augment its capabilities, in order to help enterprise customers transition from digital to AI solutions.

❖ RBI cancels licence of Mumbai-based 'The Kapol Co-operative Bank'

- The RBI has cancelled the licence of Mumbai-based The Kapol Co-operative Bank Limited as the lender does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.
- Consequent to the cancellation of the licence, the co-operative bank has been prohibited from conducting the business of 'banking' which includes, among other things, acceptance of deposits and repayment of deposits with immediate effect.

➤ The Additional Secretary & Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Ministry of Cooperation, has also been requested to issue an order for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator for the bank.

➤ Every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakh from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).

➤ About 96.09 per cent of the depositors are entitled to receive full amount of their deposits from DICGC.

❖ India's Sift Kaur Samra wins gold in women's 50m Rifle 3-P individual event

➤ India's Sift Kaur Samra won gold in the women's 50m Rifle 3-P individual event at the Asian Games 2023 to give India its fifth gold at Hangzhou.

➤ In women's 25m pistol shooting event, Indian team comprising of Manu Bhaker, Rhythm Sangwan and Esha Singh also claimed gold medal.

➤ This brings the overall medal tally for India to 21 - 5 gold, 6 silver and 10 bronze.

➤ Meanwhile, Esha Singh in an individual women's 25m pistol event won Silver, behind the china's Rui Liu.

➤ In tennis, Rohan Bopanna and Rutuja Bhosale have also won their mixed doubles match.

❖ Indore bags Best Smart City spot at National Smart Cities Conclave 2023

- Indore has bagged the top spot for the 'Best Smart City' in India at the National Smart Cities Conclave 2023 held in the city.
- Gujarat's Surat came in second, while Agra in Uttar Pradesh secured the third position among the smart cities of India.
- Madhya Pradesh was adjudged the Best State in the country, followed by Tamil Nadu.
- Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh together bagged the third position.
- President Droupadi Murmu felicitated the winners of the fourth edition of the India Smart Cities Award Contest (ISAC) 2022.
- The ISAC has been organised under the Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, since 2018.

❖ World Rabies Day is observed on 28th September 2023

- World Rabies Day is celebrated on September 28 to raise awareness of rabies prevention and the progress being made in the fight against this terrible disease.
- Theme 2023: "All for 1, One Health for All".
- Aim: To bring together all groups, organizations, and stakeholders in the fight against rabies.
- A contagious viral disease, rabies is almost always fatal once clinical symptoms appear.
- It is also the anniversary of the death of Louis Pasteur.

❖ RBI Approved Poonawalla Fincorp To Issue Credit Cards With IndusInd Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted its approval for Poonawalla Fincorp's collaboration with IndusInd Bank to issue a co-branded credit card.
- This initiative is expected to have a profound impact on the financial landscape in India.
- Poonawalla Fincorp Limited, under the dynamic leadership of Abhay Bhutada, Managing Director, has consistently strived to innovate and provide cutting edge financial solutions to its customers.
- The company's latest venture involves the introduction of a co-branded credit card in partnership with IndusInd Bank.
- **Aim:** To enable Poonawalla Fincorp to usher in a new age of flexible and versatile retail credit
- The company envisages to launch this credit card within three months.
- The co-branded credit card is primarily designed to cater to customers who possess a favorable credit history.

❖ India slips 4 spots to 56th in 2023 talent ranking

- India has dropped four spots to rank 56th in the 2023 World Talent Ranking, as per an International Institute for Management Development (IMD) report.
- The report highlights the need for India to enhance its talent competitiveness, despite acknowledging improvements in infrastructure and a tech-savvy talent pool.

➤ This decline from its 52nd position in 2022 raises concerns but also highlights areas for potential growth and improvement.

➤ The IMD ranking evaluates various factors, including quality of life, statutory minimum wage, and primary and secondary education.

➤ India ranks 29th in future readiness but struggles with its weak educational system, ranking second to last (63rd) in quality.

➤ Unequal access to education and insufficient investment are cited as primary reasons for this low ranking.

❖ Intel India appoints Gokul Subramaniam as President

➤ Intel has announced Gokul Subramaniam as Intel India President.

➤ He replaced Nivruti Rai, who resigned as the Intel India country head in June 2023.

➤ Subramaniam has been with Intel for over 11 years, and during this period, he held several technical and business leadership positions in product and systems engineering.

➤ Subramaniam is based in Bengaluru and is currently working as vice president in the Client Computing Group (CCG) and serves as general manager of Client Platforms and Systems within Intel.

➤ Subramaniam is taking over this new role of Intel India President in addition to his existing functional responsibility of leading Client Platforms and Systems in CCG.

❖ VOC Port becomes first Indian port to handle green ammonia import

- For the first time, Green Ammonia was imported through the V.O. Chidambaranar Port, Tamil Nadu.
- Grey Ammonia is utilized for soda ash production. As a Go Green initiative, TFL has imported Green ammonia to produce Green soda Ash, on a trial basis.
- The Port successfully handled 3 x 20 ISO Green Ammonia containers, weighing 37.4 tons of Green Ammonia, from Damietta Port, Egypt, for Tuticorin Alkali Chemical and Fertilizers Limited (TFL).

❖ Five villages won gold for best rural tourism project 2023

- Five villages in the country won the 'Gold' award by the Union Government in the category of Best Rural Tourism Projects.
- They are Dawar in Kashmir, Sarmoli in Uttarakhand, Reiek in Mizoram, Kanthalloor village in Kerala, and Mandla in MP.
- The gold medal is a recognition for the 'STREET' (Sustainable, Tangible, Responsible, Experiential, Ethnic, Tourism hubs)
- Overall of 767 projects from around the country, five of them won 'Gold', 10 for 'Silver' and 20 for 'Bronze.'
- State tourism director P B Nooh received the award from the Union ministry of tourism secretary V Vidyavathi at a ceremony held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on the World Tourism Day.

❖ Chhattisgarh government launches own housing scheme for state's homeless families

- The Chhattisgarh government announced 47,000 odd poor people in the state's rural areas will get houses in the first phase of the Mukhyamantri Gramin Awas NYAY Yojan.
- This comes after the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana was to be implemented by the Chhattisgarh government along with the Centre in 2021.
- However, it could not be brought about because the Chhattisgarh government failed to contribute its share of money.
- The survey of 59.79 lakh families was conducted in April 2023 and its update went on until May, according to which 10,76,545 families were found living in kutchha houses.

❖ Bengaluru Tops List Of Cities With Most Green Office Space In India

- The city which has the most green office space in India is Bengaluru, with 104.5 million square feet of green offices, accounting for about 30 per cent of the country's total.
- This is based on a CII-CBRE report on real estate released at the CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) Realty 2023 conclave in New Delhi.
- The report also elaborates that green office spaces grew by 7.1 per cent over the past five years.
- From 2019 to 2023, the area covered by green office buildings in the top six Indian cities increased by over 36 percent to 342 million square feet.

The top Six Indian Cities are:

➤ Bengaluru, National Capital Region, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, Pune.

❖ India maintains 40th rank in the Global Innovation Index 2023

➤ India has maintained its 40th rank in the latest Global Innovation Index (GII) 2023 released by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), making it a leading position holder among the lower middle income country group.

➤ The country ranked first among the 37 lower middle group income and first among the 10 economies in Central and South America.

➤ It holds the record for overperforming on innovation for the 13th consecutive year.

➤ India holds top rankings in key indicators, including ICT services exports (at place 5), VC received (6), graduates in science and engineering (11) and global corporate R&D investors (13),” read a press state from the GII.

➤ The top 4 countries are: Switzerland , Sweden, United States , United Kingdom.

❖ Narendra Modi Celebrates 20th Anniversary of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit

➤ Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently attended a special event in Ahmedabad, Gujarat to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit.

➤ Modi visited a robotics exhibition at Science City and interacted with young people who showcased their robotic creations.

➤ This served as an opportunity for the Prime Minister to witness progress and innovation in the field of robotics, emphasizing the importance of technological advancements and their role in India's future.

➤ It has played a significant role in transforming Gujarat into an attractive investment destination.

➤ Over the past two decades, the summit has attracted numerous national and international companies, creating opportunities for collaboration and strategic partnerships.

❖ **Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launches 'CRIIO 4 GOOD' modules**

➤ Union Minister of Education and Skill Development Dharmendra Pradhan launched 'CRIIO 4 GOOD', a new online, life skills learning module to empower youth and promote gender equality through cricket.

➤ The objective of the program is to promote gender equality among children and youth.

➤ 'CRIIO 4 GOOD' was launched at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad in collaboration with ICC, UNICEF and BCCI.

➤ The launch event was attended by various dignitaries and more than 1000 children.