

# NEWS TODAY

## SOLAR ULTRAVIOLET IMAGING TELESCOPE (SUIT) DELIVERED TO INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO) FOR ADITYA L1 MISSION

• SUIT, developed by Pune's Inter-University Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), is set to be integrated with **ADITYA-L1 mission along with its 6 other payloads (refer image).**

• SUIT is **one of the main payloads on Aditya-L1.**

➤ It will **provide full disk images of Sun in 2000 - 4000 Å wavelength range.**

- Full disk images in entire wavelength range have never been obtained.

➤ It will answer fundamental questions like:

- **Existence of a higher temperature atmosphere above cooler surface.**
- **Origin and variation of near-ultraviolet radiation** from Sun.
- **High energy explosions** such as solar flares observed in solar atmosphere, etc.

Type	Sl. No.	Payload	Capability
Remote Sensing Payloads	1	Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC)	Corona/Imaging & Spectroscopy
	2	Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT)	Photosphere and Chromosphere Imaging-Narrow & Broadband
	3	Solar Low Energy X-ray Spectrometer (SoLEXS)	Soft X-ray spectrometer: Sun-as-a-star observation
	4	High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer (HEL1OS)	Hard X-ray spectrometer: Sun-as-a-star observation
In-situ Payloads	5	Aditya Solar wind Particle Experiment (ASPEX)	Solar wind/Particle Analyzer Protons & Heavier Ions with directions
	6	Plasma Analyser Package For Aditya (PAPA)	Solar wind/Particle Analyzer Electrons & Heavier Ions with directions
	7	Advanced Tri-axial High Resolution Digital Magnetometers	In-situ magnetic field (Bx, By and Bz).

• Aditya-L1, **propelled by Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) XL, is first Indian space mission to observe Sun and solar corona.**

➤ It'll be inserted in a **halo orbit around Lagrangian point 1 (L1) of Sun-Earth system**, which is about 1.5 million km from Earth.

• **Other solar missions:** NASA's **Parker Solar Probe**, European Space Agency's **Solar and Heliospheric Observatory**, China's **Kuafu-1 solar probe** etc.

## GENERIC DRUGS SALES RISE MORE THAN 170 TIMES OVER LAST NINE YEARS AT JAN AUSHADHI KENDRAS

• Medicines to treat gastric issues, diabetes, cardiovascular ailments, and pain have seen the highest sales at Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKs), under **Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana scheme (PMBJP).**

• **PMBJP was launched by Department of Pharmaceuticals** in 2008 with objective of **making quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to people.**

➤ **Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI)**, erstwhile Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) is **implementing agency** of PMBJP.

➤ Medicines available under scheme are **priced 50-90% less than branded medicines.**

• **Generic drug has exactly same active ingredient** as the **brand name drug** and yields same **therapeutic effect.**

➤ They are sold at a **cheaper price** because the manufacturers **does not have to work on R&D or conduct clinical trials.**

• **Generic drugs provisions under Patents Act, 2005:** Generic versions of **patented drugs will be permitted to be manufactured and exported under a Compulsory License (CL)** to meet major health needs of underdeveloped countries.

• **Concerns: Delaying tactics by originator companies** like strategic patenting and litigations on generic manufacturers, **quality concerns** associated with use of the generic products; *doctor-pharma nexus* to promote branded drug.

# CHILD TRAFFICKING IN INDIA

- United Nations World Day against Child Labour 2023 has been observed with theme **“Social Justice for All. End Child Labour!”**
  - **160 million children work to earn a living**, i.e., almost **one in every 10 children**, instead of going to school.
- Child trafficking manifests in form of **domestic labour, forced child labour across industries, and illegal activities** such as begging, organ trade and commercial sex purposes.
  - As per NCRB, eight children were **trafficked every day in India in 2021 for labour, begging and sexual exploitation**.
- **Causes of child trafficking:** Poverty, hunger, lack of work, caste and community-based discrimination, unfair treatment in rural areas and externalities such as COVID-19 pandemic, climate change etc.
- **Laws governing Anti-Trafficking Crimes:**
  - **Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956** stop immoral trafficking and sex work.
  - **Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976** abolishes bonded labour system to prevent economic and physical exploitation of weaker sections of people.
  - **Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act 1994** makes commercial dealing in human organs a punishable offence.
  - **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012** prevents commercial sexual exploitation of children.

# MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE CONSTITUTES EXPERT COMMITTEE FOR REFORMS IN ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATION ACT

- Amid a push for **making India a hub for international arbitration**, expert panel led by former law secretary (T K Vishwanathan) of Department of Legal Affairs has constituted to **recommend reforms in Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996** with an aim to **reduce the burden on courts**.

## FIVE TYPES OF ADR



### NEGOTIATION

Traditionally occurs directly between the parties and their counsel and does not involve a neutral third party



### MEDIATION

A very flexible process that can be effectively used at any time during the course of the dispute



### COLLABORATE LAW

Both parties are represented by a collaborative attorney and both parties agree not to litigate



### ARBITRATION

A neutral arbitration arbitrator renders a decision, called an award, after there has been a presentation of evidence



### CONCILIATION

Neutral third party to communicate with the parties in the exchange of information and settlement options

- It will recommend a **framework of model arbitration system**, which is efficient, effective, economical and caters to requirements of users.
- **Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996**
  - It **consolidates law relating to domestic arbitration, international commercial arbitration, enforcement of foreign arbitral awards** and rules regarding conciliation.
  - It **derives authority** from United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (**UNCITRAL Model law on International Commercial Arbitration, 1985** and **UNCITRAL rules on conciliation, 1980**).
  - It was consecutively **amended in 2015, 2019 and 2021**.
- **2021 Act added two new features**
  - **Stay on arbitral award can be granted by Court** (even during the pendency of setting aside application), if court is satisfied that relevant arbitration agreement was **induced by fraud or corruption**.
  - **Qualifications, experience, and norms for accreditation** of arbitrations will be specified under regulations by Arbitration Council of India.

# REMITTANCES INFLOW TO SLOW DOWN TO JUST 0.2% IN 2023

- **World Bank** in its latest **‘Migration and Development Brief report** has highlighted the slowdown of remittances flow across the globe.
- **Key findings**
  - **Remittances to India** which grew by more than **24%** to reach a record-high \$111 billion, **is projected to grow a mere 0.2% in 2023**.
  - Almost **36% of India’s remittances are from US, United Kingdom, and Singapore**.
  - Remittances to **Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMIC)** are expected to grow only by **1.4% in 2023**, against a growth of 8% in 2022.
  - Remittance growth is expected to be the **lowest in South Asia (0.3%)** because of **high base in 2022** along with **slowing demand for highly skilled IT workers** in US and Europe.
- Remittance refers to the **transfer of money by individuals**, typically migrant workers, to **family members in their home countries**.
- **Importance of remittances**
  - Vital source of **household income** in LMICs.
  - **Alleviate poverty**, improve nutritional outcomes and are associated with **increased birth weight and higher school enrolment rates**.
- **Impact of remittance**
  - **Important source of foreign exchange** to a country and **strengthen value of local currency**.
  - Remittances account for a significant chunk of **nearly 3% of India’s GDP**.
  - Increase **consumers demand** for goods and services.



# SEBI ISSUES GUIDELINES ON PRODUCT OFFERINGS BY ONLINE BOND PLATFORM PROVIDERS (OBPPs)

- SEBI restricted OBPPs from offering products other than listed debt securities on their platforms.
  - It allowed them to offer securities such as **government securities, Treasury Bills, listed sovereign gold bonds etc.**
  - OBPPs need to **register themselves as stock brokers** in the debt segment of the stock exchange.
  - Holding company, subsidiary, or **associate of OBPPs will not utilise brand name** and offer unregulated products.
- SEBI has defined Online Bond Platform (OBP) as any electronic system, other than a recognised stock exchange, on which debt securities which are listed or proposed to be listed, are offered and transacted. E.g., BondsIndia, GoldenPi etc.
  - An individual who **provides or operates such a platform is called OBPPs.**
- **Bond**, provide **long term borrowing**, is a **debt instrument** in which an **investor loans money typically to a corporate or government** which borrows the funds for a **defined period of time at a variable or fixed interest rate.**
  - Bonds are used by **companies, municipalities, states and sovereign governments** to raise money.

## Types of Bonds

- **Fixed-rate bonds:** Interest remains fixed throughout the tenure of bond.
- **Floating-rate bonds:** They have a **fluctuating interest rate (coupons)** as per current market reference rate.
- **Zero-coupon bonds:** **Does not pay any regular interest to investors and issuers.** Only pay principal amount to bondholders.

## ALSO IN NEWS



### Dugdh Sankalan Sathi Mobile App

- **Ministry of Heavy Industries** has unveiled "**Dugdh Sanakalan Sathi Mobile App**".
- **About App**
  - It aims to **improve quality of milk, foster transparency among stakeholders, and streamline operations** at the grassroots village level, including Milk Cooperative Societies.
  - It will help in realizing the commitment of Government to **digitize the process and facilitate Direct Beneficiary Transfer** to milk producers.



### Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)

- Centre has empowered itself to **recover assets, properties, royalties and cancel leases** of certain companies **engaged in oil sector** even when **they are undergoing IBC process.**
  - **Moratorium protections till now available under IBC Section 14(1) will not be applicable** for certain companies having agreements under **Oilfields (regulation and development) Act 1948.**
  - **Section 14 of IBC, 2016** comes into operation when an application against a **corporate debtor is admitted for initiation of insolvency resolution process** under Code.
- IBC, 2016 provides for a **time-bound process to resolve insolvency.**
  - IBC establishes an **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** as a regulatory body for insolvency and bankruptcy.



### Government of India - United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (GoI- UNSDCF) 2023-27

- **NITI Aayog and UN** have signed **GoI -UNSDCF 2023-2027.**
- **GoI-UNSDCF 2023-2027 is built on four strategic pillars** derived from the 2030 Agenda – **People, Prosperity, Planet and Participation.**
  - **Four interlinked pillars have six outcome areas** focusing on Health and Well Being; Nutrition and Food Security; Quality Education; Economic Growth and Decent Work; Environment, Climate, WASH and Resilience; and Empowering People, Communities, and Institutions.
  - **GoI -UNSDCF** represents **UN development system's collective offer** to India for **achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.**
  - UNSDCF has been **designated as principal planning and implementation instrument** for UN Development System at country level.



### Cyclone in Arabian Sea

- **Climate change has increased the frequency of cyclones in Arabian Sea** and IMD data suggest that **it takes more time to forecast trajectory of storms in Arabian Sea** as
  - **Steering winds** which influence direction of a cyclone **are always difficult to predict in Arabian sea** due to fewer events and data.
  - **Heat within ocean layer** which determines strength and duration of cyclones **is at least 40 metres more in Arabian Sea as compared to Bay of Bengal,** resulting in much stronger cyclones.



### Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- FAO released **Food outlook (biannual report)** that **contained forecasts of production, trade, utilisation and stock levels** across the world's major basic foodstuffs.

## Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)



Rome, Italy



**Genesis:** Founded in 1945, a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.



### Goals

- **Eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition;**
- **Elimination of poverty** and driving forward of economic and social progress for all; and
- **Sustainable management and utilization of natural resources**, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources.



**Members:** 194 countries (including India) and European Union.



### Indian Skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*)

- **Habitat:** Favours slow-moving rivers with sandbars, on which this species forms noisy colonies, often in association with terns.
- **Distribution:** Found in the coastal estuaries of western and eastern India.
  - **Chambal River is an important nesting site** for Indian Skimmer.
- **IUCN status:** Endangered.
- **Major Threats:** Habitat degradation, Excessive and widespread increases in disturbance, Predation by corvids like House crows etc.



### Geminid Meteor Shower

- Parker Solar Probe reveals mysterious origin of Geminid meteor shower on Earth.
  - Meteor shower happens when **Earth passes through the path of a comet**. When this happens, the **bits of comet debris create streaks of light in night sky** as they burn up in Earth's atmosphere.
- Geminid meteors are created by **tiny bits of rocky debris** shed from a small asteroid named 3200 Phaethon, which was discovered in 1983.
  - **Phaethon is small, only about 3 miles across, and it loops around the Sun every 1.4 years in an orbit** that approaches the Sun closer than any other known asteroid.



### Menhirs of Mudumal

- Mudumal village in Telangana is **the home for South East Asia's largest cluster of Menhirs** and locals have been demanding a UNESCO tag for site.
- **Menhirs are large, upright standing stones that were erected prehistorically to chart the movement of sun, which could have been used as a clock or calendar.**
  - Menhirs helped locals to **understand the seasons and grow crops** accordingly.
  - They are **referred to as 'Niluvu Rallu'** by locals and **there are around 80 such menhirs in village.**



### Sundargarh Natural Arch

- **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** has proposed to declare the **'Natural Arch' in Kanika range of Sundargarh forest division in Odisha as a Geo Heritage site.**
- Arch is **oval in shape and approximately 12 metres in height** which dates back to **lower-middle Jurassic age.**
  - It is **considered to be the largest natural arch in India**, while the **other two natural arches are found in Tirumala hills in Tirupati and Andaman and Nicobar Island.**



### Places in news

#### Nagorno-Karabakh

- Armenia accuses Azerbaijan of 'ethnic cleansing' in Nagorno-Karabakh.
- Nagorno-Karabakh, **known as Artsakh by Armenians, is a landlocked mountainous area in South Caucasus.**
  - It was **claimed by both Azerbaijan and Armenia after the fall of Russian Empire in 1917** and has remained a point of tension ever since.
  - **Territory is internationally recognised as part of oil-rich Azerbaijan, but its inhabitants are predominantly ethnic Armenians.**

