

8th SEPTEMBER CURRENT AFFAIRS

Japan's Remarkable Achievement: Successful Launch of 'Moon Sniper' Lunar Lander

- Japan Successfully Launches 'Moon Sniper' Lunar Lander On September 7, 2023, Japan accomplished a significant milestone by launching a lunar lander, marking their pursuit to become the fifth nation to achieve a gentle touchdown on the moon's surface, following India's successful mission.
- Named the Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM), this compact spacecraft embarked on its journey aboard an H-IIA rocket.
- SLIM, a small yet sophisticated spacecraft developed by Mitsubishi Electric, carries a pivotal mission goal – to showcase cutting-edge precision landing technology. The mission anticipates a remarkable feat as the spacecraft is expected to land within an astonishing 100 meters of its designated target site.

Indian Men's Table Tennis Team Secures Bronze at Asian Championships 2023

- Indian Men's Table Tennis Team Clinches Bronze at Asian Championships 2023 In a thrilling competition at the Asian Table Tennis Championships 2023 in Pyeongchang, the Republic of Korea, the Indian men's table tennis team secured a commendable bronze medal.
- Comprising top talents like Sharath Kamal, Harmeet Desai, and Sathiyam Gnanasekaran, the Indian squad displayed remarkable skill and determination throughout the championship. Their journey was marked by a semifinal clash against the formidable Chinese Taipei team, resulting in their valiant effort being rewarded with bronze medals.
- This championship held even greater significance as it served as a qualifier for the prestigious Paris 2024 Olympics.

Empowering MSMEs: SBI Card Introduces 'Simply SAVE Merchant SBI Card

- SBI Card Introduces 'Simply SAVE Merchant SBI Card' to Support MSMEs Recognizing the crucial role that Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) play in driving economic growth and job creation, credit card issuer SBI Card has unveiled a new financial tool – the 'Simply SAVE Merchant SBI Card.' This card is designed to cater to the short-term credit needs of MSMEs, offering them greater financial flexibility.
- Operating on the RuPay network, this innovative card can be seamlessly linked to the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), enabling MSMEs to make payments conveniently through various UPI-enabled third-party apps. This strategic move aims to empower MSMEs by providing them with interest-free short-term credit.

"Celebrating International Literacy Day: Building a Foundation for Progress"

- International Literacy Day: Empowering Minds, Transforming Societies September 8th marks a day of global significance – International Literacy Day. This day serves as a poignant reminder of the indispensable role that literacy and education play in shaping individuals and societies.

- The theme for 2023, 'Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies,' underscores the critical role of literacy in fostering personal development and societal progress.
- International Literacy Day emphasizes that literacy is not a privilege but a fundamental human right, essential for upholding human dignity.

Bengaluru's Milestone: Unveiling India's First Underground Transformer

- Bangalore Unveils India's First Underground Transformer for a Safer Tomorrow In a momentous achievement for Bengaluru, the city unveiled its first underground electric transformer in the Malleshwaram area.
- This groundbreaking initiative, a collaborative effort between the city's civic body and electricity board, has far-reaching benefits.
- The primary aim is to enhance safety for the city's residents while preserving the aesthetic charm of India's garden city.
- This innovative approach contributes significantly to environmental safety, encouraging citizens to utilize footpaths without interruption during maintenance work on overhead cables and related equipment. It's a stride towards a more secure and beautiful urban landscape.

Mastercard and KredX Partner to Enhance B2B Payments

- Mastercard teams up with KredX, a supply chain finance platform.
- Goal: Streamline B2B digital payments for enterprises and vendors.
- Integration of commercial card service with KredX platform.
- Features include dynamic discounting, early payment, and price discovery.
- Aims to boost cash flow for both enterprises and vendors.

Ahmedabad Implements Emission Trading Scheme

- Gujarat government announces the implementation of an emission trading scheme (ETS) in Ahmedabad.
- Objective: Regulate industrial emissions and reduce PM2.5 and PM10 particulate pollutants.
- Balancing economic development with environmental preservation.
- The scheme encompasses 118 industries in Ahmedabad.

Jharkhand Cabinet Approves Pension for Transgender Community

- Jharkhand Cabinet approves a monthly pension of Rs 1,000 for transgender individuals under the State Social Security Scheme.
- Transgender individuals are categorized as OBC.
- Proposals include recognizing transgender persons as a third gender and including those not covered under other reservation categories in the OBC list at serial number 46.

Telangana Partners with Tabreed for Cooling Infrastructure

- Tabreed, a UAE-based cooling utility firm, signs an MoU with the Government of Telangana.
- Aim: Construct 1.25 lakh refrigeration tonnes (RT) of district cooling plants and networks.

- Expected benefits: Saving 6,800 GWh of power, 41,600 megalitres of water, and reducing over 200 MW of peak electricity demand.
- Telangana to host Asia's largest district cooling system for industrial parks.

SBI Card Enhances AURUM Super Premium Credit Card

- SBI Card introduces new features for its super-premium 'AURUM' credit card, targeting C-suite executives and high net-worth individuals.
- Improvements include annual spending-based milestones, welcome benefits, and additional international lounge benefits.
- AURUM cardholders can now enjoy benefits worth up to ₹2 lakh annually based on their spending.

Amazon Collaborates with Five Indian States for Disability Empowerment

- Amazon India signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with five state governments: Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.
- Objective: Train and employ Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) to integrate them into the mainstream workforce.
- Focus on providing skills and job opportunities for PwD candidates within Amazon India's Operations network over three years.

World Physiotherapy Day: Celebrating Health and Healing

- World Physiotherapy Day is observed on September 8 to honor the invaluable contributions of physical therapists and physiotherapists in promoting health and well-being.
- The theme for 2023 is "prevention and management of arthritis."
- This day provides an opportunity to raise awareness about the vital role these professionals play in aiding people's recovery from injuries, managing chronic conditions, and enhancing their overall physical function and quality of life.

NPCI Introduces New Payment Options on UPI Platform

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has rolled out Credit Line and Voice-Enabled Payments on the widely used UPI payment platforms.
- Goal: Foster an inclusive, robust, and sustainable digital payments ecosystem, with the aim of achieving 100 billion transactions per month on UPI.
- NPCI has partnered with AI4Bharat at IIT Madras to collaboratively develop payment language models in Hindi and English for enhanced accessibility and convenience.

Sports

Coco Gauff Clinches US Open Women's Singles Title

- American tennis sensation Coco Gauff secured her first Grand Slam title by winning the US Open 2023.
- She triumphed in a hard-fought battle against Belarusian Aryna Sabalenka.
- This final marked the debut U.S. Open final appearance for both players.
- Gauff's previous Grand Slam final appearance was at the 2022 French Open, where she finished as the runner-up.
- In August 2023, she also made history by becoming the youngest player to win the Western & Southern Open in Cincinnati.

Britain's Salisbury and Ram: US Open Doubles Champions

- British tennis player Joe Salisbury and American Rajeev Ram teamed up to secure their third consecutive U.S. Open men's doubles title in 2023.
- They came from behind to defeat the duo of Rohan Bopanna from India and Matthew Ebden from Australia.
- This remarkable achievement matched the Open-era record set by Tom Bundy and Maurice McLoughlin.
- Salisbury and Ram's victory marked their fourth Grand Slam title together, including a previous win at the 2020 Australian Open.

Agreement

MoU Between Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya Vadodara and Airbus

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV), Vadodara, and Airbus in New Delhi, in the presence of Union Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnav.
- Objective: Co-develop and co-deliver sector-relevant skilling, courses, and programs for regular students and working professionals, along with scholarship programs.
- Aims to become the primary source of talent for the entire transportation industry in India and globally.

Defense

INS Sumedha Participates in 'Exercise Bright Star-23' in Egypt

- The Indian Navy's INS Sumedha arrived at Port Alexandria, Egypt, to take part in 'Exercise Bright Star-23.'
- This exercise involves participation from 34 countries, making it the largest joint military exercise in the Middle East and North Africa region.
- The Harbor Phase includes various activities focused on planning and executing the Sea Phase.

21st Edition of India-France Bilateral Naval Exercise 'Varuna' – 2023

- Phase II of the 21st edition of the Varuna bilateral exercise between the Indian and French Navy was conducted in the Arabian Sea.
- The exercise featured guided missile frigates, tankers, Maritime Patrol Aircraft, and integral helicopters from both sides.
- Aim: Enhance warfighting skills, improve interoperability, and demonstrate the ability to promote peace, security, and stability in the region.

National Affairs

PM Modi Launches Global Biofuels Alliance at G20 Summit

- India introduced the Global Biofuel Alliance during a G20 summit held in New Delhi.
- The Global Biofuel Alliance, led by India, aims to create an alliance involving governments, international organizations, and industry to promote the adoption of biofuels.
- Goal: Position biofuels as a key element of the energy transition, contributing to job creation and economic growth through collaboration.

Goa Governor Launches 'Mashaal' for the 37th National Games

- Goa Governor P.S. Sreedharan Pillai launched 'Mashaal' for the 37th National Games 2023 at a ceremony held at Durbar Hall Raj Bhavan, Donapaula.
- The 37th National Games are scheduled to take place in Goa from October 25 to November 9, 2023.
- The Governor also unveiled the anthem (theme song) of the National Games, featuring the voice of actor Amitabh Bachchan.
- The event is expected to witness widespread participation and positively impact Goa's tourism sector.

PM Modi Leads 'One Future' Session at G20 Summit

- During the 18th G20 Summit, India's G-20 presidency achieved a significant milestone with the unanimous adoption of the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration.
- On the first day of the summit, PM Modi announced the adoption of the declaration during the 'One Family' session.
- Key themes include inclusive growth, accelerated action on climate change, and increased medical supplies readiness for future health emergencies.

India-Brazil-SA-US Commitment to Address Global Challenges

- Leaders from India, Brazil, South Africa, and the United States convened on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit in New Delhi.
- Aim: Reaffirm their shared commitment to the G20 as the primary forum for international economic cooperation to address global challenges.
- Focus on enhancing multilateral development banks in collaboration with the World Bank President, aiming for better and more effective development solutions.

Honours & Awards

Indore Tops Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2023 for Clean Air

- Indore secured the top position in the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2023 (Clean Air Survey), as announced by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav in Bhopal.
- Agra and Thane followed closely in the rankings for the cleanest air in India.
- Bhopal ranked fifth, while Delhi secured the ninth spot.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision aims to enhance air quality in over 100 cities through a comprehensive approach.

Important Dates

World Suicide Prevention Day: Creating Hope Through Action

- World Suicide Prevention Day is observed on September 10, 2023.
- The theme for World Suicide Prevention Day from 2021-2023 is "Creating Hope Through Action."
- This theme underscores the importance of taking action to offer alternatives to suicide and promote hope through collective efforts.
- Suicide poses significant public health challenges with profound social, emotional, and economic implications.

Banking & Finance

HSBC India Launches 'ONDC in a Box' - A First Among Foreign Banks

- The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC) became the first foreign bank in India to introduce 'ONDC in a Box,' offering a comprehensive solution for seamless ONDC enablement for corporates.
- Goal: Foster inclusivity, competitiveness, and an open network, expanding its impact across businesses.
- ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) aims to establish an open and interoperable network for transactions between buyers and sellers without the need for a single platform.

AU Small Finance Bank Launches Zenith Metal Credit Card

- AU Small Finance Bank Ltd. has unveiled the Zenith and Super Premium Metal Credit Card, broadening its range of banking solutions.
- This credit card includes premium features such as access to premium lounges, personalized concierge services, and a welcome offer featuring Premium Brand vouchers or Reward Points worth Rs 5,000.
- A noteworthy feature is the Forex markup of just 0.99 percent for international travel, making it advantageous for global transactions.

National & International Organizations

Google Cloud Collaborates with MeitY for Cybersecurity Training

- Google Cloud announced a partnership with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Computer Emergency Response Team - India (CERT-In) to train 1,000 government officials.
- CERT-In, part of MeitY, specializes in addressing cybersecurity threats and related issues.
- This collaboration aims to train government officials in cyber defense best practices, including the use of generative AI, and offers 1 lakh cybersecurity certificate scholarships.

International Affairs

Switzerland Tops World's Best Countries Report 2023

- Switzerland has claimed the top spot in the 2023 World's Best Countries Report, securing this position for the second consecutive year and the sixth time overall.
- The rankings feature Canada at No. 2, Sweden at No. 3, Australia at No. 4, the United States at No. 5, and India at No. 30.
- Notably, the United States has slipped one spot compared to its 2022 ranking.

National Affairs

Transnational Grid Interconnections for 'One Sun, One World, One Grid'

- During the 18th G20 Summit, a one-day conference with the theme "Transnational Grid Interconnections for One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG)" convened in New Delhi.
- Goal: Enable nations to harness abundant solar energy resources as the world transitions to renewable energy sources.
- This initiative aims to make round-the-clock renewable energy more cost-effective, reduce the need for energy reserves, and lower electricity costs.

WTO to Establish Fully Functional Dispute Settlement System by 2024

- The G20 leadership summit pledged to work toward implementing a fully functional dispute settlement system at the World Trade Organization (WTO) by 2024.
- Dispute resolution in the WTO involves mutual agreement solutions, especially during bilateral consultations, or adjudication, which includes rulings by a panel and potential challenges to those rulings at the appellate body.

India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor: Modern-Day Spice Route

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of the India-Middle East-Europe economic corridor during the annual Group of 20 summit.
- Objective: Boost trade, transportation of energy resources, and enhance digital connectivity.
- This unique economic corridor initiative involves collaboration between India, UAE, Saudi Arabia, EU, France, Italy, Germany, and the United States.

Summits & Conferences

'Bharat: The Mother of Democracy' Portal Launched at G20 Exhibition

- The Ministry of Culture launched a portal for the mega exhibition, 'Bharat: The Mother of Democracy,' to be held at Bharat Mandapam for global leaders attending the conference.
- The portal features five sections and 22 sub-sections, encompassing topics ranging from the Sindhu-Saraswati Civilization and Mahajanapada to the Constitution of India and Elections in Modern India.

11th September Current Affairs

Sports

Novak Djokovic Clinches US Open 2023 Men's Singles Title

- Novak Djokovic made history by securing his 24th Grand Slam title at the US Open 2023 Men's Singles final.
- He emerged victorious against Russia's Daniil Medvedev.
- Djokovic, already the oldest French Open singles champion, became the oldest US Open singles champion in the pro era.
- In the Women's Doubles category, the 16th seed duo of Erin Routliffe from New Zealand and Gabriela Dabrowski from Canada defeated the 12th seed pair consisting of Laura Siegemund from Germany and Vera Zvonareva from Russia to claim the US Open 2023 title.

Prathamesh Jawkar Clinches Silver in the 2023 Archery World Cup

- Indian compound archer Prathamesh Jawkar secured a silver medal in the 'World Cup Final' after losing to Denmark's Mathias Fullerton.
- Ranked 14th globally, Jawkar faced a significant challenge against Denmark's 10th-ranked Mathias Fullerton in the gold medal match.
- Jawkar's journey included defeating world No. 1 Mike Schloesser of the Netherlands by a single point, earning him a spot in the final.

Alexander Grischuk Secures Open Blitz Title at Tata Steel Chess India

- World champion Alexander Grischuk claimed the Open Blitz title at the Tata Steel Chess India 2023 held in Kolkata.
- India's R Praggnanandhaa, the World Cup runner-up, achieved an overall third-place finish.
- Erigaisi emerged as the second-best Indian with an overall fourth-place finish, amassing 10 and a half points.
- India's top-ranked D Gukesh faced six defeats, concluding with a disappointing eighth-place finish.

National Affairs

India Passes G20 Presidency Baton to Brazil

- The 18th G20 Summit concluded successfully in New Delhi as India handed over the Presidency to Brazil.
- President of Brazil, Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva, expressed appreciation for India's leadership in the G20 presidency, highlighting India's focus on issues important to emerging countries.
- Prime Minister Modi emphasized the need for reforms in the United Nations Security Council, emphasizing the importance of a new global structure.

Indian Coast Guard Participates in 19th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting

- The Indian Coast Guard took part in the 19th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) held in Istanbul, Turkey.
- The aim was to promote a focused and goal-oriented approach to addressing common maritime issues.
- The objective was to discuss vital matters such as maritime law enforcement, safety and security at sea, marine environment protection, and combating illicit trafficking at sea.

Agreement

IIM Indore Partners with NSDC for Skill Development Transformation

- IIM Indore has established a transformative partnership with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- The goal is to foster excellence and innovation in critical domains.
- The objective is to provide professional support to underserved regions, communities, individuals, and MSMEs, nurturing a skilled ecosystem poised for market success.
- IIM Indore envisions elevating livelihood opportunities and income levels across the nation's families and households.

US and Vietnam Sign Semiconductor Supply Chain Deal

- The United States and Vietnam have signed an agreement to enhance the capacity of the semiconductor ecosystem in Hanoi, supporting the US industry.
- Both countries have also announced comprehensive workforce development initiatives in Vietnam.
- These initiatives include the development of hands-on teaching labs and training courses focused on semiconductor assembly, testing, and packaging.

Important Dates

National Forest Martyrs Day: Honoring Sacrifices for Nature

- National Forest Martyrs Day is observed on September 11.
- The aim is to pay tribute to those who gave their lives while protecting nature in India.
- The theme for 2023 is 'forests and health.'
- This day commemorates individuals who have dedicated themselves, and in some cases, sacrificed their lives to preserve India's precious natural resources.

Banking & Finance

ICICI Bank to Establish Wholly-Owned Subsidiary - I-Process Services

- ICICI Bank has received regulatory approval from the Reserve Bank to transform I-Process Services (India) Private Ltd into a wholly-owned subsidiary.
- Established in 2005, I-Process Services (India) Private Ltd was initially set up to offer staffing solutions services for leading financial institutions in India.
- With comprehensive expertise spanning recruitment, HR operations, payroll, compliance, and training, I-Process is well-equipped to navigate market challenges.

Honours & Awards

Scientists Honoured with Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar Awards for 2022

- The prestigious Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar Awards, the country's top annual science prizes, have been announced after a two-year gap.
- In 2023, 12 scientists will receive awards across seven categories.
- Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Director General of CSIR, revealed the awards for 2022 in the presence of Union Minister Jitendra Singh.
- These awards encompass seven scientific disciplines, including physics, biology, engineering, mathematics, medicine, chemistry, and earth sciences.

12th September Current Affairs

Sports

Germany Secures Historic Win at FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023

- Germany celebrated their first-ever FIBA Basketball World Cup victory in 2023 by defeating Serbia in Manila.
- This 19th edition of FIBA's flagship event, co-hosted by the Philippines, Indonesia, and Japan, was a grand success for Germany.
- While Serbia had previously faced heartbreak in the 2014 final against the United States, they finished stronger than their 2019 quarter-final exit.
- In an earlier event, Canada secured their first World Cup 2022 podium finish, outperforming a short-handed United States team.

Thomas Cook India Partners with National Payments Corporation of India

- Thomas Cook (India) Limited has joined hands with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to introduce a RuPay prepaid forex card specially designed for Indian travelers heading to the UAE.
- The goal is to ensure accessibility for customers by leveraging India's forex network with over 4000 touchpoints, including retail outlets, airport counters, online platforms, and mobile applications.
- This initiative, known as "Ghar pe Forex," guarantees doorstep delivery within 2 hours.

Virat Kohli Achieves Record as Fastest ODI Player to Reach 13,000 Runs

- Virat Kohli has set a remarkable record by becoming the fastest player in One Day Internationals (ODIs) to reach 13,000 runs.
- He surpassed Sachin Tendulkar's record, achieving this milestone in just 267 innings compared to Tendulkar's 321 innings.
- This century also marks Kohli's fourth consecutive century at a single venue, joining the likes of South African greats.
- He has now secured his place as the quickest batter to reach this milestone, surpassing legends like Ponting and Sangakkara.

Agreement

India and Saudi Arabia Sign Comprehensive Energy Cooperation Agreement

- India and Saudi Arabia have signed a groundbreaking comprehensive cooperation agreement in the energy sector.

- The agreement aims to strengthen ties between the two countries in areas such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, hydrogen, electricity and grid interconnections, petroleum, natural gas, strategic petroleum reserves, and energy security.
- It also seeks to encourage bilateral investment in renewable energy, electricity, hydrogen, storage, oil, and gas.

NTPC Green Energy Limited Collaborates with Nayara Energy

- NTPC Green Energy Ltd (NGEL) is set to collaborate with Nayara Energy, an oil refining and marketing company, to produce green hydrogen for Nayara Energy's internal use.
- The collaboration's objectives include accelerating decarbonization, reducing the carbon footprint, and exploring advanced technologies for green hydrogen production.
- This partnership aligns with the goal of creating a cleaner and more sustainable energy landscape.

India and Bangladesh Sign Three Key MoUs Ahead of G20 Summit

- India and Bangladesh have signed three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) to enhance bilateral cooperation. The agreements include:
- A MoU between the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Bangladesh Bank to cooperate in digital payment mechanisms.
- Renewal of the Cultural Exchange Program for 2023-2025.
- A MoU between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council.

Dhaka and Paris Sign Bilateral Instruments on Infrastructure and Satellite Systems

- Dhaka and Paris have signed two bilateral instruments to enhance cooperation in various fields, including infrastructure and satellite systems.
- The agreements include an agreement between the Economic Relations Division of Bangladesh and the French Development Agency on improving urban governance and infrastructure programs.
- The Letter of Intent (LOI) on cooperation has been signed between Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited and Airbus Defence and Space SAS, France, related to the Bangabandhu-2 earth observation satellite system.

National & International Appointments

AIBI Appoints Mr. Mahavir Lunawat of Pantomath Capital as Chairman

- The Association of Investment Bankers of India (AIBI) has appointed Mahavir Lunawat, Managing Director of Pantomath Capital Advisors Pvt Ltd., as its Chairman.
- The AIBI Chairperson represents Investment Bankers on the Primary Market Advisory Committee (PMAC) of SEBI and has actively represented members' views and comments.
- Mahavir Lunawat has led significant M&As and corporate restructuring projects and has managed over 100 IPOs.

NVIDIA Collaborates with Reliance to Advance AI in India

- NVIDIA, a renowned US chip company, has announced an AI partnership with Reliance Industries to develop cloud infrastructure, language models, and generative applications.
- The goal is to deepen NVIDIA's presence in India's emerging AI ecosystem, overcoming export restrictions to certain countries, including China, and expanding its AI footprint.
- Reliance will create AI applications and services for its 450 million Jio customers.

Defense

India's First Manned Ocean Mission, "Samudrayaan," Announced

- India's Minister of Earth Sciences, Kiren Rijju, has unveiled "Samudrayaan Mission" (MATSYA 6000), the country's inaugural manned mission to explore the deep ocean.
- The mission's primary aims are to sustainably harness marine resources for economic growth, employment generation, and marine ecosystem preservation.
- Samudrayaan is designed for deep-sea resource exploration and biodiversity assessment.

Banking & Finance

AU Small Finance Bank Forms Bancassurance Partnerships with Star Health and Bajaj Allianz

- AU Small Finance Bank has entered into bancassurance tie-ups with Star Health and Allied Insurance Company and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company.
- The collaboration aims to provide a wide range of insurance products from Star Health and Bajaj Allianz to customers of AU Small Finance Bank.
- AU Small Finance Bank, previously a prominent retail-focused non-banking financial company, has transitioned to serving low and middle-income individuals and businesses.

Obituaries

Dennis Austin, Co-Creator Of PowerPoint, Passes Away At 76

- Dennis Austin, one of the co-creators of PowerPoint, has passed away at the age of 76.
- He pursued engineering studies at several universities, including MIT and UC Santa Barbara.
- Dennis Austin joined the software company Forethought, where he co-developed PowerPoint. Microsoft acquired Forethought just a few months after releasing the software in 1987.
- He served as PowerPoint's primary developer from 1985 to 1996 when he retired.

13th September Current Affairs

National Affairs

Fourth G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group Meeting Begins in Varanasi

- The 4th G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group Meeting is currently underway in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, with the primary goal of finalizing the 2023 G20 Sustainable Finance Report.
- The focus is on concluding the 2023 G20 Sustainable Finance Report and evaluating the progress made by jurisdictions, international organizations, and relevant stakeholders in accomplishing the outlined actions.
- The session features presentations on "Scaling up Social Impact Investment in India" to share experiences.

Vijayawada Railway Station Earns IGBC's 'Green Railway Station' Certification

- Vijayawada Railway Station has been honored with the 'Green Railway Station' certification, receiving the highest rating of Platinum from the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).
- This recognition acknowledges the station's efforts in elevating environmental standards and providing eco-friendly services to passengers.
- Vijayawada Railway Station has upgraded its rating from gold in 2019 to platinum in 2023, securing the second position in the South Central Railway zone after Secunderabad to achieve a platinum rating.

State Affairs

Tamil Nadu Government Launches 'Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam' for Women

- The Tamil Nadu government is set to introduce the largest social welfare initiative, the 'Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam,' providing monthly financial assistance of Rs 1,000 to 1.06 crore eligible women families.
- Beneficiaries will receive direct bank transfers and ATM cards for convenient access to the funds.
- Disbursements under this scheme will commence from September 15, aiming to empower women across the state.

Madhya Pradesh Cabinet Approves Mob Lynching Victim Compensation Scheme 2023

- The Madhya Pradesh government has sanctioned compensation of Rs 10 lakh for the families of individuals killed in mob lynching incidents.
- Provision has been made for compensation ranging from Rs 4 to Rs 6 lakh for those injured in such incidents, irrespective of the motive, whether religious, caste-based, linguistic, or otherwise.
- The scheme encompasses mob lynching cases involving five or more accused.

International Affairs

India and UK Collaborate on Infrastructure Financing Bridge

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced a collaborative initiative between India and the UK to launch an infrastructure financing bridge, facilitating the planning and execution of major infrastructure projects.
- Both nations have also agreed to conduct investment negotiations concurrently with goods negotiations to conclude their free trade agreement (FTA) talks.
- Additionally, the Indian government is considering allowing Indian companies to list on overseas exchanges in partnership with the UK.

National & International Appointments

RBI Approves Reappointment of Sandeep Bakhshi as ICICI Bank MD & CEO

- The Reserve Bank of India has reappointed Sandeep Bakhshi as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD and CEO) of ICICI Bank.
- With 36 years of experience within the ICICI Group, Sandeep Bakhshi has held various roles across the organization, including ICICI Limited, ICICI Lombard General Insurance, ICICI Bank, and ICICI Prudential Life Insurance.
- Before taking on the role of MD and CEO, he served as the Wholtime Director and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the bank.

IIT Delhi Accomplishes India's First Soil Erodibility Mapping

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has successfully conducted the country's first national-scale soil erodibility mapping project.
- This groundbreaking effort aims to identify specific regions where soil erosion is most likely to occur, a task previously limited to specific regions or catchments.
- Soil erodibility assesses the vulnerability of soil particles to detachment and accounts for factors such as rainfall, infiltration, and runoff.

Banking & Finance

Cashfree Payments Collaborates with NPCI to Launch 'AutoPay on QR'

- Cashfree Payments has introduced 'AutoPay on QR' in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- This initiative is designed to empower subscription-based businesses by enhancing customer acquisition, supporting retention, and fueling rapid growth.
- 'AutoPay on QR' by Cashfree Payments streamlines the process of mandate creation in just two clicks, allowing subscription-based businesses to maximize return on investment (ROI).

Bharti AXA Life Insurance Introduces 'Income Laabh'

- Bharti AXA Life Insurance has unveiled a new product, 'Bharti AXA Life Income Laabh,' designed to simplify insurance and offer maximum protection to consumers.
- This product provides financial protection and a steady income stream to policyholders, commencing with an initial income payout equivalent to 100 percent of the annual premium.
- After 5 years, for those opting for a 10-year policy term, the income increases to 150 percent.

Sports

Kiran George Secures Indonesian Masters 2023 Badminton Title

- Indian badminton player Kiran George emerged victorious in the men's singles category at the Indonesia Masters 2023 in Medan, North Sumatra.
- Ranked 50th in badminton, Kiran George defeated Japan's Koo Takahashi, who holds the 82nd world ranking, to claim his second BWF World Tour Super 100 badminton title.
- His previous victory was at the Odisha Open 2022, where he defeated compatriot Priyanshu Rawat in the final.
- Kiran George was the sole Indian finalist at the Indonesia Masters 2023.

China's Ruoning Yin, 20, Attains Top Spot in Women's World Golf Rankings 2023

- Ruoning Yin from China has ascended to the coveted No. 1 position in the Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings for 2023.
- She is only the second Chinese player, following Shanshan Feng in 2017-18, to reach this pinnacle since the rankings were established in 2006.
- Yin also joins the ranks of Atthaya Thitikul (2022) and Lydia Ko (2015) as the third player aged 20 or younger to achieve No. 1 status.
- At 20 years old, Yin becomes the 18th different player to secure the top spot and the fifth player to do so in the current year, setting a record.

Defense

Indian Air Force to Receive First Airbus C-295 Transport Aircraft

- The Indian Air Force is on the verge of acquiring its first Airbus C-295 aircraft.
- The acquisition of 56 Airbus C-295 aircraft has been formalized to replace the Indian Air Force's AVRO fleet.
- Sixteen of these military aircraft will be manufactured in Spain, with the remaining units produced in India at the manufacturing facility in Vadodara, Gujarat.
- The new aircraft is poised to play a crucial role as a tactical military transport aircraft for the forces.

Agreement

India and Mongolia Review Bilateral Ties

- India and Mongolia have reviewed their cooperation in various domains, including education, information technology, and skills, during the visit of Saurabh Kumar, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs, to Ulaanbaatar.
- The discussions centered around bilateral projects and collaborations related to education, IT, skilling, and capacity building.
- Both nations witnessed the signing of a contract for the construction of the India-Mongolia Friendship Secondary School.

14th September Current Affairs

Sports

Maharashtra Triumphs in 5th National Wheelchair Rugby Championship 2023

- Maharashtra emerged as the champions in the 5th National Wheelchair Rugby Championship 2023 with a resounding victory over Karnataka.
- Objective: To foster and expand the sport of wheelchair rugby across the nation.
- The event was organized by The Indian Rugby Football Union (Rugby India), the governing body for rugby in India.
- It was conducted in collaboration with the Wheelchair Rugby Federation of India and received support from Mitsubishi Corporation.

National & International Appointments

Tharman Shanmugaratnam Assumes Office as Singapore's President

- Tharman Shanmugaratnam, an Indian-origin economist born in Singapore, has been appointed as the ninth president of the city-state.
- He has dedicated his entire life to serving Singapore in various public service roles.
- Prior to becoming president-elect, he held positions such as senior minister and Deputy Prime Minister from May 2011 to May 2019.

- He also serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of the World Economic Forum.
- This marked the first contested presidential election in Singapore since 2011.

Important Dates

Hindi Diwas 2023 Celebrated on 14th September

- On 14th September, Indians celebrate National 'Hindi Diwas'.
- On this day in 1949, the Hindi language was officially adopted as one of the Republic of India's official languages.
- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister, formally declared 14th September as Hindi Diwas.
- Currently, 425 million people consider Hindi their first language, and approximately 120 million speak it as their second language.

Banking & Finance

RBI Issues Guidelines for Loan Account Settlement

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines instructing all banks, non-banking finance companies (NBFCs), and asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) to release all original movable and immovable property documents and remove charges registered with any registry within 30 days after full repayment or settlement of a loan account.
- In cases where the delay is attributable to the lending institution, it will be required to compensate the borrower at the rate of ₹5,000 for each day of delay.

State Affairs

PM Modi Embarks on a Day-Long Visit to Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

- In Chhattisgarh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated significant rail sector projects to the nation.
- The Prime Minister's focus on enhancing connectivity throughout the country received a boost with the inauguration of important rail sector projects worth over Rs. 6,000 crores during a public program in Raigarh.
- Objective: To stimulate socio-economic development by facilitating the movement of both passengers and freight traffic in the region.

VP Jagdeep Dhankhar Inaugurates International Conference on Dam Safety

- VP Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the International Conference on Dam Safety in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- According to the Jal Shakti Ministry, India is home to over 6,000 dams, ranking third globally in terms of large dams.
- Goal: To provide a significant platform for experts to convene and discuss cutting-edge topics in dam safety and management.
- Dams have played a crucial role in civilization's development and have contributed to meeting the demand for drinking water, irrigation, and hydropower.

DMRC and BEL Collaborate to Develop Communication-Based Train Control System

- Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop an indigenous Communication-Based Train Control (CBTC) system.
- Purpose: To revolutionize rail transportation in India, fostering innovation, reducing costs, and promoting self-reliance in train control signaling systems.
- The CBTC system will optimize train operations and enhance passenger services while efficiently utilizing rail infrastructure.

Defense

NASA's Discovery: Distant Planet May Host Water Ocean and Potential Life

- NASA has made an intriguing discovery, suggesting the presence of a rare water ocean on a distant exoplanet located many light years away. Additionally, there are chemical hints of potential life.
- NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, while studying K2-18 b, an exoplanet, detected the presence of carbon dioxide and methane.
- This discovery raises the possibility that K2-18b could be a Hycean exoplanet, potentially featuring a hydrogen-rich atmosphere and a surface covered by a water ocean.

Amazon's AWS Collaborates with ISRO to Advance AI Capabilities

- Cloud giant Amazon Web Services (AWS) has entered into a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) and the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) to support space-tech innovations through cloud computing.
- Goal: To empower the space industry to make faster, more informed decisions and push the boundaries of what's possible.
- AWS is committed to assisting startups in identifying use cases and expediting solution development.

Schemes

Cabinet Greenlights Expansion of Ujjwala Yojana

- The Cabinet has approved the expansion of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), allocating an additional 7.5 million new LPG connections over a three-year period until FY26.
- This expansion, costing Rs 1,650 crore, will raise the total number of PMUY beneficiaries to 103.5 million.
- The government's decision to extend the scheme followed a recent reduction of cooking gas prices by Rs 200 across all markets last month.
- Data indicates that LPG penetration reached 99.9 percent in 2022.

Honors & Awards

Bloomberg's Annual B-School Rankings 2023-24 Unveiled

- The Bloomberg Businessweek Best B-School Rankings 2023-24 features Indian B-schools among the top five ranks.
- Hong Kong HKUST secured the top position in the Asia Pacific B-School rankings category.
- Shanghai University of Finance and Economics claimed the second position, followed by CIEBS in third place.
- In the overall Asia Pacific B-school rankings category, IIM Bangalore secured the fourth position, while the Indian School of Business (ISB) secured the fifth position.

National & International Appointments

S.R. Batliboi Appointed as Paytm's Statutory Auditor

- Digital payment services provider Paytm has appointed S.R. Batliboi & Associates LLP as its new statutory auditor for a five-year term.
- The previous statutory auditor, Price Waterhouse Chartered Accountants LLP, concluded its term at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- Price Waterhouse Chartered Accountants LLP had announced its resignation as the auditor of Paytm Payments Services Limited on August 7, 2023.

Agreement

Cabinet Approves MoU Between India and Armenia

- The Government has granted approval for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (E&IT) of India and the Ministry of High-Tech Industry of Armenia.
- Objective: To encourage closer cooperation and exchange of experiences and digital technology-based solutions for implementing digital transformation initiatives in both countries.

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