

**IACE**

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**21<sup>st</sup> April 2023**

**DESCRIPTIVE**

## ❖ Asha Bhosle to be honoured with Lata Dinanath Mangeshkar Award

- Legendary singer Asha Bhosle will be honoured with the Lata Dinanath Mangeshkar Award on April 24 and the award ceremony will coincide with her father's death anniversary.
- The award was instituted by the Mangeshkar family and trust in the memory of Lata Mangeshkar, and is given to a person who has made a significant contribution to the nation, its people and society.
- Veteran ghazal singer Pankaj Udhas will be honoured with the Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Award for his contribution to Indian music.
- Gauri Theaters of Prashant Damle Fan Foundation will be given the Best Drama of the Year award for their play “Niyam Va Ati Lagoo”.
- Sadguru Seva Sangh Trust will be honoured for his social service.
- Granthali Prakashan will receive the Vag Vilasini Award for his contribution to literature.
- Actor-director Prasad Oak and actor Vidya Balan will both be presented with special awards for their contribution to cinema and theatre.

## ❖ Chennai ranks among top 5 in digital payment transactions

- Chennai has emerged as one of the top digital payment transaction cities in the country in 2022, according to a report by payment services firm Worldline India.
- In terms of volume, according to Worldline India, Chennai has done 14.3 million transactions with a value of USD 35.5 billion. It is at number five.

- Bengaluru tops with 29 million transactions worth USD 65 billion, followed by New Delhi 19.6 million transactions worth USD 50 billion, Mumbai(18.7 million transactions worth USD 49.5 billion), Pune (15 million transactions worth USD 32.8 billion).
- In 2022, frequently visited physical merchant categories like grocery stores, restaurants, clothing and apparel, pharmacy, household appliances together accounted for over 43 per cent in terms of volume and about 40 per cent in terms of value, across the country.
- E-commerce space, gaming, utility and financial services contributed to over 85 per cent of transactions and 25 per cent in terms of value.
- Education, travel and hospitality sector accounted for 15 per cent in volume and 75 per cent in terms of value.

### ❖ **Hurun's Global Unicorn Index 2023**

- According to the report India continues to be the world's third-largest country with the highest number of unicorns, following the US and China.
- Ed-tech BYJU'S worth \$22 billion topped the list of Indian Unicorns, followed by on-demand delivery start-up Swiggy and fantasy sports platform travel- stay finder Dream11 (\$8 billion each).
- BYJU'S is the only Indian Unicorn among the list of the top 10 biggest rises in valuation since pre-Covid.
- As per reports the number of Indian unicorns established outside India is more than the number of unicorns based within India.
- India has a total of 138 unicorns, out of which 70 were established by Indian co-founders but have their headquarters located outside India, while 68 are based in India.
- The United States of America topped the index with 666 unicorns, up 179 compared to 2022, followed by China in 2nd position with 316 unicorns (up 15).

➤ In terms of unicorn investors, Sequoia Capital, Tiger Global Management, and Soft Bank are the top three, having invested in 238, 179, and 168 unicorn startups, respectively.

### ❖ **Exercise INIOCHOS-23**

➤ The Indian Air Force (IAF) will be participating in Exercise INIOCHOS-23, a multi-national air exercise hosted by the Hellenic Air Force, the air force of Greece.

➤ The exercise will be conducted at the Andravida Air Base in Greece from 24 Apr 2023 to 4 May 2023.

➤ The Indian Air Force will be participating with four Su-30 MKI and two C-17 aircraft.

➤ The exercise will be conducted in a realistic combat scenario involving a wide variety of air and surface assets.

➤ It will also enable participating parties to engage in professional interactions, providing valuable insight into each other's best practices.

➤ The exercise aims to enhance international cooperation, synergy and interoperability among the participating air forces.

➤ Many countries like France, Italy are participating in this. The Indian Air Force will participate in this exercise for the first time.

➤ The exercise will see participation of air assets from countries like France, USA, Italy, Saudi Arabia and Jordan apart from India's Su-30MKIs.

### ❖ **RBI allows AU SFB, Equitas Bank to deal with foreign exchange**

➤ RBI has approved the AU Small Finance Bank and Equitas Bank to deal in foreign exchange.

➤ AU SFB informed that RBI has granted the Licence to act as Authorized Dealer Category-I (AD-I) under section 10 of FEMA, 1999 to deal in foreign exchange.

➤ The permission is subject to compliance with applicable regulations.

➤ Equitas Small Finance Bank has also received Authorized Dealer Category-I (AD-I) License from RBI.

➤ AU Small Finance Bank CEO: Sanjay Agarwal

### ❖ **South Indian Bank debuts 2 flexible savings accounts for NRIs**

➤ South Indian Bank has introduced SIB SEAFARER and SIB PULSE, two flexible saving accounts, for NRI customers.

➤ Flexibility to maintain a minimum balance of Rs.10,000/- in linked accounts

➤ No minimum balance is required for the maintenance of the NRI Term Deposit of Rs.2 lakh and above

➤ Flexibility to maintain a minimum balance of Rs.10,000/- in linked accounts

➤ NR Term Deposit above Rs.2 Lakh or RD with minimum monthly installment above Rs.20,000/-

➤ Healthcare personnel and mariners both now have access to flexible savings accounts, which proves that South Indian Bank has been working to streamline banking requirements and offer top-notch customer service.

### ❖ **Civil Services Day: 21 April**

➤ Every year, on 21st April, National Civil Services Day is celebrated in India as a mark of appreciation to all the officers engaged in various public departments of the country, who work tirelessly to run the administrative machinery of India.

➤ The theme of Civil Services Day for the year 2023 is Viksit Bharat aimed at 'Empowering Citizens and Reaching the Last Mile'.

➤ The theme underlines the resolve and unwavering commitment of the government to achieve a more equitable and prosperous India for all its citizens by engaging in inclusive growth.

- The purpose of Civil Services Day is to remind civil servants to work cooperatively and prioritise the welfare of citizens while managing government affairs.
- On this day, the Indian Prime Minister honours civil servants of both the central and state governments for their outstanding contribution to public administration.
- The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions organises the event in association with the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).

### ❖ **Federal Bank sign with KiVi as Banking Correspondent**

- Federal Bank has entered into a Banking Correspondent agreement with Chennai-based KiVi, an agri fintech start-up operated by Agrosperity Tech Solutions, with a view to scaling and expanding its agri lending portfolio in Tamil Nadu.
- Federal Bank launched the instant KCC platform in September 2022. Claimed to be the first of its kind in agriculture lending, it offers farmers convenience and turnaround time.
- It aims at providing small-value loans to small and marginal farmers, and is designed to facilitate efficient credit flow to underserved rural populations.
- KiVi employs a phygital model that combines features of the lending technology platform and the last-mile channel to serve farmer households and MSMEs such as input retailers, output aggregators or other village entrepreneurs.
- Under the agreement, KiVi will acquire, service and augment Federal Bank's underwriting capability.
- Federal Bank MD & CEO: **Shyam Srinivasan**
- Federal Bank HQ: **Aluva, Kerala**

## ❖ **Royal Sundaram launches add-on covers for vehicle insurance policies**

- Royal Sundaram General Insurance Co. Ltd has introduced three add-on covers for its vehicle insurance policies.
- It has announced a 'Smart Save' add-on cover for private cars. This comes at a zero cost and will help the customer to get an upfront discount in Own Damage (OD) insurance premium, for repairing their vehicles at Royal Sundaram's identified repair shops and garages in the event of a claim.
- It has also introduced two add-on covers for two-wheeler policies. The add-on 'Roadside Assistance' will cover 11 emergency services, which can rescue an immobilised two-wheeler. The services can be requested for electrical, mechanical, or accidental breakdown.
- 'Return to Invoice' add-on cover comes with two plans which will seek to protect the two-wheeler insurance customers to get their invoice value of the vehicle in case of a total loss, including theft of the vehicle.

## ❖ **Kerala launches 'One Panchayat, One Playground'**

- The Kerala government launched a project for reviving the sports culture in the State by opening quality playgrounds in every panchayat of the southern state.
- The 'One Panchayat, One Playground' project was inaugurated by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan at Kallikkad here where he said that a good sports culture was essential for building a healthy and happy society.
- The project will address the lack of quality playgrounds in around 450 local bodies in the State.
- Within three years, the playgrounds will be built and for the first phase of the project, a list of 113 panchayats has been prepared.
- Each playground would cost around Rs. one crore, half of which would be footed by the Sports department and the rest would be raised from the MLA and local body funds, through CSR, public private partnerships.

➤ Kerala Governor: **Arif Mohammad Khan**

➤ Kerala Capital: **Thiruvananthapuram**

### ❖ **IIT Madras to set up its first international campus in Tanzania**

➤ The first Indian Institute of Technology to be set up in Africa will come up in October in Tanzania. IIT Madras will set up its first International campus in Zanzibar, Tanzania, with plans to start the classes by October 2023, said its Director V Kamakoti in his presidential address at IIT Madras' 64th Institute Day.

➤ In February, a team of five professors from IIT Madras visited Tanzania and held discussions with various officials on starting the campus.

➤ Sridhar Vembu, Founder of Zoho Corporation, was the chief guest of the event. He is an alumnus of the 1989 batch of BTech in Electrical Engineering and a distinguished alumnus of IIT Madras.

➤ IIT Madras has designed a clear path for transformation of idea to design to prototype to start-up to unicorn. IIT Madras is creating an environment to enable students to become employers rather than employees.

### ❖ **Tier 2, 3 Indian cities saw 162% growth in loan applications in 2022**

➤ According to Prodigy Finance's Study Abroad Insights Report 2022, its services have received significant growth in Tier 2 and Tier 3 regions in India, where they saw an uptick of 162%.

➤ Cities like Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Delhi, and Chennai have the highest number of loan applications in 2022.

➤ In Tier 1 cities, Delhi saw a massive increase of 237% followed by Hyderabad.

➤ Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities witnessed a growth of an average of 53% and 109% respectively.

➤ In Tier 1 cities, Delhi saw a massive increase of 237% followed by Hyderabad which saw a spike in the number of registrations with a growth of 193%. Mumbai witnessed a spike of 142%, followed by Bengaluru with a growth of 82%.

➤ Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities witnessed a growth of average 53% and 109% respectively in the number of applications. Vijayawada and Lucknow contributed largely to this uptick with 185% and 91% growth respectively.

### ❖ **AIM, NITI Aayog, and UNCDF Team Up to Make India a Global Agri-tech leader**

➤ Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) jointly launched a whitepaper aimed at making India a global leader in Agri-Tech innovation and expanding these innovations to the least developed countries in Asia and Africa.

➤ The whitepaper outlines the significant observations and recommendations required to tackle challenges in the agriculture sector and promote sustainable practices that support smallholder farmers across developing economies.

➤ Agri-tech innovations will help address food security, supply chain inefficiencies, and climate change concerns.

➤ With over 70% of the agricultural workforce in India comprising smallholder farmers, Agri-tech start-ups have emerged as the solution to the challenges faced by farmers.

➤ AIM, in partnership with UNCDF, aims to create a south-south collaboration environment where start-ups from Asia and Africa can exchange ideas and generate opportunities in their respective countries.

### ❖ **ISRO, Moon Village Association tie up for Chandrayaan-3 outreach**

➤ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has joined hands with Vienna-based NGO Moon Village Association (MVA) to host global outreach activities in connection with ISRO's upcoming lunar mission Chandrayaan-3.

- The partnership is aimed at increasing the impact of ISRO's lunar programme at a global level and ensuring further international cooperation. It will focus on the global aspect of lunar exploration and "identify, communicate, and encourage the youth to focus on the benefits every lunar mission brings to the world.
- Sudheer Kumar N, director, Capacity Building and Public Outreach, Isro headquarters, said Chandrayaan-3 will be an important milestone in India's space programme and demonstrate critical technologies to land the spacecraft on the south pole of the moon.

### ❖ Haryana CM Khattar launches 3 online services

- Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced three services on the government's ongoing IT platform initiatives — Pro-active Divyang Pension Service, 'Tau se pucho' WhatsApp chatbot and online room booking facility at PWD (B&R) rest houses.
- The Pro-active Divyang Pension Service for the physically challenged is committed to delivering all services for them at their doorsteps.
- The Haryana Parivar Pehchan Authority has created a WhatsApp Chatbot Tau Se Poochho. Making a digital shift, the Haryana Parivar Pehchan Authority has created a WhatsApp bot called 'Tau Se Pucho' along with web-based chatbot solution.
- Tau Se Pucho' bilingual chatbot is integrated with WhatsApp and is designed to give quick responses to the queries raised by the citizens.
- This IT platform will be easily accessible to everyone and the user will be able to communicate easily on this platform while sitting at their home only and without any extra effort or cost. Along with citizens, this platform will also save the government's time.