

**IACE**

# **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**09<sup>TH</sup> May 2023**

**DESCRIPTIVE**

## ❖ **Wakefit signs Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana as brand ambassador**

- Wakefit, a leading direct-to-consumer home and sleep solutions brand in India, has announced popular Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana as its new brand ambassador.
- The company, known for its off-beat and engaging marketing communications, unveiled the partnership.
- In the campaign, Ayushmann can be seen calmly taking a power nap on the sets and refilling his energy meter. He later appears in a genre format called 'Sleep India Sleep', which addresses the serious problem of sleep deprivation in India and urges people to prioritize their sleep health.
- Ayushmann will be the face of the brand and will lead the upcoming campaigns, creating awareness and education about sleep health and its importance in modern times.
- The objective of the association is to strengthen the brand identity of the company and expand its affiliation across the country.

## ❖ **New Lithium deposits discovered in Rajasthan after J-K**

- After Jammu and Kashmir, lithium reserves have been traced in the Degana district of Rajasthan.
- According to officials, the lithium reserves are higher than the ones recently found in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Officials have also informed, that the quantity of lithium here can meet around 80% of India's demand.

➤ For the first time, lithium reserves were found in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi in February 2023.

➤ Lithium is a key component of batteries used in electric vehicles.

### ❖ **Rocket Lab launches NASA satellites to study tropical storms and hurricanes**

➤ Rocket Lab has launched NASA's two satellites to study tropical storms and hurricanes.

➤ The two CubeSats, the founding members of the agency's TROPICS network, launched atop a Rocket Lab Electron rocket, which was lifted off from New Zealand.

➤ Its aim is to improve forecasting and provide new insights into how tropical storms evolve and intensify

➤ The TROPICS constellation will consist of four CubeSats in low Earth orbit.

### ❖ **Reserve Bank's gold reserves rose 4.5% to 794.64 tonnes in 2022-23**

➤ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) added 34.22 metric tonnes of gold in the fiscal year that ended March 31, 2023, taking the total gold reserves to 794.64 metric tonnes.

➤ RBI held 760.42 metric tonnes as of March 31, 2022, compared to 695.31 metric tonnes as of March 31, 2021.

➤ The gold reserves as of March 31, 2023, included gold deposits of 56.32 metric tonnes, according to the RBI's half-yearly report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves- October 2022 – March 2023.

➤ In value terms (USD), the share of gold in the total foreign exchange reserves increased from about 7 per cent at end-March 2022 to about 7.81 per cent as at end-March 2023. The share of gold reserves to the country's total forex reserves stood at 7.06 per cent as of end-September 2022.

## ❖ Minister Piyush Goyal to attend 6th India - Canada Ministerial Dialogue

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal, and Mary Ng, Minister of International Trade, Canada have co-chaired the discussions for the sixth India-Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment (MDTI) in Ottawa.
- Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment (MDTI) is a bilateral mechanism that provides an institutional mechanism to discuss a broad spectrum of trade and investment-related issues and cooperation areas.
- The Ministers have also reviewed India-Canada CEPA negotiations.

## ❖ India coal imports surge to 162 MT in FY23

- India's coal imports increased by 30% to 162.46 million tonnes in the 2022-23 financial year against 124.99 MT in the year-ago period.
- The import of coking coal rose 5.44% to 54.46 MT over 51.65 MT in FY22, mjunction said in its latest report.
- In March alone, the non-coking coal import stood at 13.88 MT against 12.61 MT in the same month last year. Coking coal imports were 3.96 MT against 4.76 MT imported in March 2022.
- India is among the top five coal-producing countries in the world. However, some parts of its coal requirement are met through imports as the country is also among the major consumers of the dry fuel.
- For coking coal — a key raw material used in steel making — the country remains heavily dependent on imports.
- Along with other varieties of coal like anthracite, pulverised coal injection (PCI coal), met coke and pet coke, the total imports in FY23 were at 249.06 MT, up from 200.71 MT FY22, a rise of over 24%.

## ❖ **Project-SMART for Station Area Development**

- The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Ministry of Railways jointly signed an MoU with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for ‘Station Area Development along Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail’ (Project-SMART).
- MoUs were signed for four high speed rail stations – Sabarmati, Surat in Gujarat and Virar and Thane in Maharashtra.
- Surat, Virar and Thane are green fields while Sabarmati is a brown field development.
- Project-SMART envisages developing areas around Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Railway (MAHSR) stations to enhance accessibility and convenience for commuters and other stakeholders.
- The project will facilitate institutional capacity of state governments, municipal corporations and urban development authorities for planning, development and management of areas around MAHSR stations.

## ❖ **Petersberg Climate Dialogue 2023**

- The Petersberg Dialogue on Climate Change (PCD) - 2023 was held in Berlin.
- PCD was hosted by Germany and the United Arab Emirates, which is hosting the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- Ministers from 40 countries attended the conference to discuss the way forward towards COP28.
- The main topics of discussion at the event were renewable targets, climate finance and global stocktake.
- The conference agreed to focus on phasing out fossil fuel emissions while phasing out viable, affordable zero-carbon alternatives.

➤ It calls for tripling renewable energy capacity by 2030 and then doubling it by 2040.

➤ 2023 is the year of Global Stocktech. The Global Stocktake is essentially a periodic review of global climate action aimed at assessing whether current efforts will enable us to reach the objectives set out in the Paris Agreement.

### ❖ **Indian weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga wins silver in Asian Championships**

➤ Indian weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga won the silver medal in the snatch event at the Asian Weightlifting Championship held in Jinju, Korea.

➤ Jeremy Lalrinnunga, 20, won the silver medal in the snatch event with a lift of 141 kg in the 67 kg category.

➤ He became the only Indian weightlifter to win a medal at the Asian Weightlifting Championship this year.

➤ The gold medal in the 67 kg weight category went to China's He Yuji, who finished the event with a higher weight than Lalrinnunga.

➤ Asian Weightlifting Championship is an event focused on weightlifting and is organised by the Asian Weightlifting Federation.

➤ This championship is specially designed for athletes from Asian countries.

### ❖ **Barbara Kingsolver and Hernan Diaz win Fiction Pulitzer Prize 2023**

➤ Barbara Kingsolver (American Novelist) and Hernan Diaz (Argentina Writer) were awarded the Pulitzer Prize 2023 in the fiction category.

➤ Barbara Kingsolver was awarded for her novel 'Demon Copperhead' and Hernan Diaz won for his novel 'Trust'.

➤ Other categories are: Drama: English, by Sanaz Toossi.

➤ Biography: G-Man: J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century, by Beverly Gage (Viking)

➤ Memoir or Autobiography: Stay True, by Hua Hsu (Doubleday).

❖ **Fitch lowered India's GDP growth forecast to 6% for 2023-24**

➤ Fitch Ratings has predicted India's GDP growth forecast for 2023-24 to 6% from 6.2% and 6.7% in 2024-25.

➤ Still, headwinds from elevated inflation, high interest rates and subdued global demand, along with fading pandemic-induced pent-up demand, will slow growth from our FY23 estimate of 7 per cent before rebounding to 6.7 per cent by FY25.

➤ The rating firm has also reaffirmed India's long-term foreign-currency issuer default rating at 'BBB-' with a stable outlook

➤ 'BBB' issuer default rating indicates that expectations of default risk are currently low and payment capacity to meet financial commitments is considered adequate.

❖ **Renowned Bengali author Samaresh Majumdar passes away**

➤ Renowned Bengali author Samaresh Majumdar passed away at 79.

➤ He was best known for his political trilogy – Uttaradhikar, Kalbela, and Kalpurush.

➤ He has conferred the Sahitya Akademi Award for 'Kalbela', which was set against the backdrop of the Naxalite movement.

➤ He was awarded 'Bangavibhushan' by the West Bengal government in 2018.

➤ His Famous books are Daur, Kalbela, Kalpurush, Garbhadharini, Uttaradhikar, Arjun Samagra, Satkahan etc.,

❖ **Uttar Pradesh becomes first state to make digital health cards for children**

➤ The Urban Development Department and Lucknow Smart City launched the "School Health Program".

- Under the pilot project, the School Health Program has been started by Lucknow Smart City in three schools in Lucknow.
- A digital health report card for the overall physical and mental well-being of 1765 municipal school students is also being prepared under the project. Along with this, the benefit of health insurance worth Rs. 25,000 is also being given to these children.
- The program is likely to be implemented in the state's other 9 smart cities also after the successful completion of the pilot project.
- The team is making digital health cards by doing desk-to-desk examinations of the child. A unique ID card will be made for each child, through which the child's parents, school and administrative officials can download this health card. Follow-up of the Digital Health Report is also done every six months.

#### ❖ **Ban diesel four-wheelers in cities with 10 lakh population: Panel**

- India should by 2027 ban the use of diesel-powered four-wheelers in cities with over 10 lakh population and switch to electric and gas-fuelled vehicles, according to a report commissioned by the oil ministry.
- The report of the committee headed by former Oil Secretary Tarun Kapoor also suggested phasing out motorcycles, scooters, and three-wheelers with internal combustion engines by 2035.
- There should be no diesel city buses addition in urban areas in about 10 years, the panel which submitted its report to the government in February this year, said. The government is yet to accept the report.
- It help India to achieve the goal of cutting emissions to net zero by 2070.

#### ❖ **Kiren Rijiju launched the trailer of the first Tagine language film**

- Union minister Kiren Rijiju said after launching the trailer of the “first ever” movie in Tagin language of his home state Arunachal Pradesh. The film looks at

displaying the culture of the Tagin community before the whole country and the world.

- The film "Love in 90s" will be tax-free and will ask the state government to promote it through other means as well.
- The film looks at displaying the culture of the Tagin community before the whole country and the world.
- Tagin or Ghasi Miri tribe is an indigenous community of the Tawang and West Kameng districts, Arunachal Pradesh.