

**IACE**

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

**DESCRIPTIVE**

## ❖ **PESB recommends Parminder Chopra for PFC Chairman, Managing Director post**

- Parminder Chopra is set to head Power Finance Corporation (PFC), with Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) recommending her name for the post of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the state-owned non-banking financial institution.
- Chopra currently serving as Director (Finance), will be the first woman CMD of the NBFC, under the Ministry of Power. She is also on the board of the company.
- The official holds a bachelor's degree in Commerce and is a qualified Cost Accountant. She has over 35 years of experience in the power sector, including work experience at NHPC and the Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL).
- Power Finance Corporation is India's largest NBFC by net worth (all reserves). It was incorporated on July 16th, 1986. Its Registered office is in New Delhi.

## ❖ **IIT Madras, DRDO develop sensor technology for underwater communications**

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras and scientists of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have developed a cutting-edge sensor technology for underwater communications that the Navy can apply.
- The indigenous technology will enable the fabrication of devices at a relatively lower cost as compared to international foundries, where not only is the cost of fabrication high but also the number of foundries is limited.

- The country celebrates National Technology Day on May 11 and acknowledges the achievements of scientists, engineers and researchers.
- Known as the piezoelectric MEMS technology it is needed to develop high-performance thin films and convert 'piezo thin film', which are a vital component of piezo MEMS devices and are considered for acoustics and vibration-sensing applications.
- The piezo MEMS process recipe has been successfully developed jointly with DRDO team for the complete fabrication of an acoustic sensor, without degrading the functionality of the piezo thin film.

### ❖ **Fakhar Zaman, Naruemol Chaiwai named ICC Players of the Month for April**

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the winners of the ICC Player of the Month awards for April 2023.
- Fakhar Zaman of Pakistan wins the ICC Men's Player of the Month award, and Thailand skipper Naruemol Chaiwai secures the ICC Women's Player of the Month after both produced dominant match-winning performances for their countries in the One-Day International (ODI) format.
- Fakhar overcame fellow nominees Mark Chapman (New Zealand) and Prabath Jayasuriya (Sri Lanka) in the global vote, and commenting on his success in April.
- Chaiwai emerged victorious from Kavisha Egodage of UAE, and Kelis Ndhlovu of Zimbabwe in the voting process, and becomes the first Thai player to be named ICC Player of the Month.
- ICC Chairman: Greg Barclay;
- ICC Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

### ❖ **Argentina's Lionel Messi wins Laureus Sportsman of the Year 2023**

- Lionel Messi, who led Argentina to victory in the 2022 World Cup as their captain, was honored with the Laureus Sportsman of the Year award at a ceremony held in Paris.

➤ In addition to that, Messi accepted the World Team of the Year award on behalf of the Argentina men's football team, who won the championship in Qatar. Messi also became the first athlete to scoop both the World Sportsman of the Year Award and the World Team of the Year Award in the same year.

Award	Winner
World Sportsman of the Year Award	Lionel Messi
World Sportswoman of the Year Award	Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce
World Team of the Year Award	Argentina Men's Football Team
World Breakthrough of the Year Award	Carlos Alcaraz
World Comeback of the Year Award	Christian Eriksen
World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability Award	Catherine Debrunner
World Action Sports person of the Year Award	Eileen Gu
Laureus Sport for Good Award	TeamUp

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

- RBI has 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.
- A recent World Gold Council (WGC) report showed that the RBI added 7 metric tonnes of gold in January-March 2023.
- The latest WGC report showed that the Monetary Authority of Singapore was the largest single buyer of gold (69 metric tonnes) during January-March 2023.
- While 437.22 tonne of gold is held overseas in safe custody with the Bank of England and the Bank of International Settlements (BIS), 301.10 tonne of gold is held domestically.

### ❖ **AU Small Finance Bank launches RuPay credit card for self-employed customers**

➤ AU Small Finance Bank has partnered RuPay to roll out the Business Cashback RuPay credit card, an innovative solution tailored to meet the financial requirements of self-employed customers.

➤ This latest offering is aimed at providing a diverse range of benefits to small businesses.

➤ The credit card was launched in the presence of Dilip Asbe, CEO of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Sanjay Agarwal, MD & CEO of AU Small Finance Bank.

➤ AU Small Finance Bank's Business Cashback RuPay Credit Card simplifies financial operations for businesses with benefits like upto 2 per cent cashback, 48 days interest-free credit, and instant loans.

➤ It also offers fire insurance, burglary, and housebreaking coverage, making it a one-stop solution for businesses.

### ❖ **Telangana Government Launches First-of-its-Kind State Robotics Framework**

➤ Telangana government launches State Robotics Framework to establish self-sustaining robotics ecosystem and position the state as a leader in robotics in India.

➤ This includes setting up a Robo Park with testing facilities and co-working spaces as well as a world-class robotics accelerator for startups.

➤ It aims to support research and development, promote collaboration between academia and industry, and promote the adoption of robotics technology.

➤ The framework focuses on leveraging robotics in agriculture, healthcare, industrial automation and consumer robotics to drive growth and development.

### ❖ **Badminton Asia appoints Umar Rashid as chairman of the Technical Officials Committee**

➤ Badminton Asia appointed Umar Rasheed, joint secretary of the Badminton Association of India (BAI), as the chairman of the Technical Officials Committee.

- As chairman of the technical officials' committee, Rasheed will oversee the development and implementation of rules and regulations to elevate officiating standards in badminton tournaments across the country.
- Rashid is committed to strengthening the governance of badminton in India and the region, by upholding the integrity of the game and ensuring high quality officiating in all tournaments.
- Rashid also serves as the General Secretary of the Assam Badminton Association, contributing significantly to the development of badminton in Assam and the Northeast region of India.
- ❖ **Rukart ties up with SBI for easy loans to customers buying cold storage system 'Subjee Cooler'**
- Agritech firm Rukart, which sells 'Subjee Cooler' to enhance shelf life of fruits and vegetables, has tied up with SBI to help potential customers in getting easy loan options to buy the product.
- Founded in May 2019, Rukart manufactures Subjee Cooler, a cold chain storage system that requires only 20 liters of water a day to function. It increases the shelf life of fruits, flowers and vegetables by 4-6 days.
- The cost of the product is Rs 50,000 each and one Subjee Cooler has a storage capacity of 100 kg.
- Rukart is mentored by the Powering Livelihoods program, jointly run by Council On Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) and Villgro Innovations Foundation.
- Farmers and retailers can now buy Rukart's Subjee Cooler with ease through SBI's affordable EMIs, it added.
- In the past four years, RuKart said it has deployed more than 1,000 Subjee Coolers across 10 states in the country including Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Telangana.

## ❖ Union Health Ministry launched SAKSHAM, a learning management information system

- On 10 May the Union Health Ministry launched the SAKSHAM Learning Management Information System and it was launched by Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan.
- SAKSHAM stands for Stimulating Advanced Knowledge for Sustainable Health Management.
- It aims to provide online training and medical education to all health professionals across the country. This digital learning platform will facilitate comprehensive capacity building among health professionals.
- Currently, it offers over 200 public health and 100 clinical courses in an online format.
- Health professionals can register for these courses by visiting the website [lmis.nihfw.ac.in](http://lmis.nihfw.ac.in).
- After completing the required training and meeting the evaluation criteria, participants will receive certification.
- SAKSHAM was developed by the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare in New Delhi.

## ❖ 50% villages are ODF Plus Under Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen Phase II

- In a significant achievement, India's Ministry of Jal Shakti announced that half of the nation's villages have attained ODF Plus status under the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G) Phase II.
- Over 2.96 lakh villages have declared themselves ODF Plus, putting the country on track to reach its SBM-G Phase II targets by 2024-25.
- An ODF Plus village not only maintains its Open Defecation Free (ODF) status but also implements either solid or liquid waste management systems.



- Among the top-performing states are Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh, with Goa and Sikkim leading the way among smaller states.
- All Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra Nagar Havelli & Daman Diu, and Lakshadweep boast 100% ODF Plus Model villages.
- The central government has dedicated a total of Rs. 83,938 crore to Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen between 2014-15 and 2021-22, with an allocation of Rs. 52,137 crore for 2023-24.

#### ❖ **President Droupadi Murmu confers 37 Gallantry awards**

- President Droupadi Murmu has conferred 37 Gallantry awards to the personnel of the Armed Forces, CAPF, and State or Union Territory Police during the Defence Investiture Ceremony (Phase-1) in New Delhi.
- The 37 Gallantry awards include eight Kirti Chakras (including five posthumous) and 29 Shaurya Chakras (including five posthumous).
- The Gallantry awards were given to the personnel for displaying conspicuous gallantry, indomitable courage, and extreme devotion to duty.

#### ❖ **Max Life, IIA join hands to offer life insurance**

- Max Life Insurance Company (Max Life), a private life insurer, has entered into a strategic partnership with the Indian Industries Association (IIA) to provide life insurance plans to the MSME sector's workforce in Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- Under the recently announced IRDAI's State insurance plan, Max Life aims to enhance accessibility and drive affordable insurance penetration across UP.
- Max Life is the appointed lead insurer for the state of Uttar Pradesh under IRDAI's State insurance plan
- IIA has an extensive network across industrialized districts, and this partnership positions Max Life as IIA's preferred partner, thus providing an opportunity to offer life insurance access to more than 11 lakh MSME workforce affiliated with IIA and their families in the State.
- These activities will be undertaken with Sana Insurance Brokers Pvt. Ltd. as the enrolment partner to engage with the MSME workforce.