

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **Georgi Gospodinov wins the International Booker Prize 2023 for Time Shelter**

➤ ‘Time Shelter’ penned by Bulgarian author Georgi Gospodinov and translated by Angela Rodel, has become the first book, written in Bulgarian to bag the prestigious International Booker Prize.

➤ The £50,000 prize is awarded yearly to any outstanding work of fiction (novel or short story collection) that has been translated into English. It is split equally between the author and the translator.

➤ The International Booker Prize is awarded every year to a translated work of fiction published in the U.K. or Ireland. It is run alongside the Booker Prize for English-language fiction, which will be handed out in the autumn.

➤ The prize was set up to boost the profile of fiction in other languages — which accounts for only a small share of books published in Britain — and to salute the underappreciated work of literary translators.

❖ **RBI approved the reappointment of Vijay Shekhar as part-time chairman**

➤ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given its approval to Paytm Payments Bank for the re-appointment of Paytm CEO, Vijay Shekhar Sharma as part-time chairman for a year, effective from May 23, 2023.

➤ At present, One97 Communications owns a 49% stake in Paytm Payments Bank and Vijay Shekhar Sharma holds the remaining stakes in the entity.

➤ Vijay Shekhar Sharma is the promoter of Paytm Payments Bank.

➤ Paytm Payments Bank: It was founded in 2017 and is headquartered in Noida.

❖ **Google Pay launches RuPay credit cards**

- Google Pay, in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has announced the integration of RuPay credit cards onto the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform.
- This new feature allows users to link their RuPay credit cards with Google Pay, enabling them to make payments at both online and offline merchants that accept RuPay credit cards.
- With this development, Google Pay aims to provide users with greater flexibility and choice in their payment options, ultimately driving the adoption of digital payments in India.
- This integration is currently available to RuPay credit card holders from several prominent banks, including Axis Bank, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, HDFC Bank, Indian Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Punjab National Bank, and Union Bank of India.

❖ **Govt. to cut FAME-II subsidy on electric 2-wheelers from June 2023**

- The government has reduced the subsidy provided under FAME-II (Faster Adoption of Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India) scheme applicable on electric two-wheelers registered on or after June 1, 2023, according to a notification by the ministry of heavy industries.
- For the electric two-wheelers, the demand incentive will be ₹10,000 per kWh.
- The cap on incentives for electric two-wheelers will be 15 per cent of the ex factory price of vehicles from the current rate of 40 per cent.
- Earlier this month, a stakeholders' meeting with 24 electric two-wheeler OEMs registered under FAME-II was called and the consultation reached a consensus that the demand incentive may be kept at ₹10,000 per kWh of battery capacity, along with the 15 per cent price cap.

➤ The FAME India scheme commenced on April 1, 2019, for a period of three years, which was further extended for two years up to March 31, 2024.

❖ **India and Australia sign agreement in the field of Green Hydrogen**

➤ During the final leg of PM Modi's three-nation tour (Japan, Papua New Guinea, and Australia), he was accorded a Ceremonial Guard of Honour at the Admiralty House in Sydney, Australia.

➤ During his visit, India and Australia signed agreements in the field of migration and mobility partnership and on the Green Hydrogen task force.

➤ The MoUs were exchanged after a bilateral meeting between PM Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese.

➤ India and Australia also signed agreements in the field of migration and mobility partnership and on the Green Hydrogen task force. The Memorandum of Understandings were exchanged after the bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart.

❖ **WHO appoints Renée Fleming and Pretty Yende as Goodwill Ambassadors**

➤ The World Health Organization (WHO) has appointed Renée Fleming and Pretty Yende as the Goodwill Ambassadors for Arts and Health.

➤ Renée Fleming is one of the most celebrated singers and Pretty Yende is an extraordinary soprano known for her dazzling performances.

➤ They would join other distinguished WHO Goodwill Ambassadors such as Alisson, Natalia Becker, Didier Drogba, Michael Bloomberg, Cynthia Germanotta, Gordon Brown, and James Chau, among others.

➤ Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, said, "WHO is honoured to have Renée Fleming and Pretty Yende join as Goodwill Ambassadors for Arts and Health. Their unparalleled talent, dedication to the arts, and commitment to advancing health and well-being make them ideal ambassadors for this important cause.

❖ Commonwealth Day 2023: 24th May

- Commonwealth Day is a worldwide celebration that takes place every year on March 13, although India and certain other countries mark it on May 24.
- The theme for this year's Commonwealth Day is "Forging a Sustainable and Peaceful Common Future."
- Commonly known as Empire Day, the occasion aims to bring together 2.5 billion citizens of the Commonwealth to recognize their shared values and principles. It also emphasizes the importance of working together towards a sustainable and peaceful future for all.
- Commonwealth Day provides an opportunity to promote understanding and acknowledge the accomplishments of the 54 Commonwealth nations across various domains, including efforts to address climate change and promote gender equality.

❖ Adidas to become new kit sponsor of Indian cricket team

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced that Adidas will be the new kit sponsor of the Indian team.
- Adidas will replace Kewal Kiran Clothing Ltd, maker of Killer Jeans, which came in as interim sponsor after the then-sponsor Mobile Premier League Sports (MPL Sports) pulled out of the deal midway.
- Adidas is a German multinational corporation that designs and manufactures athletic shoes, apparel, and equipment. The company is headquartered in Herzogenaurach, Germany, and is the largest sportswear manufacturer in the world.
- The current sponsor, Killer Jeans, will have its contract expire on May 31, after which the Adidas deal will take effect. Prior to Killer Jeans, MPL was India's kit sponsor. Killer, a clothing brand, took over the kit sponsorship from MPL, which wanted to end its contract, which was set to expire in 2023. For a three-year deal, MPL paid the Indian board 6.5 lakh per match and 9 crores in royalties.

❖ **RBI bought net \$750 mn in spot forex market in March 2023**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) bought \$750 million on a net basis in the spot foreign exchange market in March, data released as part of the central bank's monthly bulletin showed.
- The RBI purchased \$6.91 billion and sold \$6.16 billion. In February, the central bank had bought \$254 million on a net basis in the spot market.
- The Indian rupee appreciated by 0.6% against the dollar in March. The unit traded in a range of 81.6150 to 82.80.
- The RBI's net outstanding forward purchase stood at \$23.6 billion as of end-March, compared with a net purchase of \$20.47 billion at the end of the previous month.
- The central bank intervenes in the spot and forwards market to curb exchange rate volatility.

❖ **Kilo-class submarine INS Sindhuratna reaches India**

- INS Sindhuratna, a Sindhughosh class submarine, returned to Mumbai after undergoing a major refit at Naval Dockyard in Russia.
- The submarine undertook a gruelling 97 days return passage through Norwegian Sea, English Channel and Mediterranean Sea, and arrived Mumbai.
- The crew was received by Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, COS Western Naval Command and families. The submarine with its modernised weapon and sensor suite will enhance force level in Western Seaboard, opening a new and exciting chapter in submarine operations in IOR.
- It had gone for an upgrade in Severodvinsk after a major accident in February 2014.
- INS Sindhuratna is a Russian Type 877EKM diesel-electric submarine. It is popularly called a NATO-defined Kilo-class sub.

❖ **Sourav Ganguly appointed brand ambassador of Tripura tourism**

- Former India cricket captain and ex-BCCI Chief Sourav Ganguly was roped in as the brand ambassador for Tripura Tourism.
- Ganguly expressed his willingness to be the brand ambassador for Tripura tourism after the state's Tourism Minister Sushanta Chowdhury met him at his residence in Kolkata.
- Ganguly's selection as the brand ambassador for Tripura Tourism is expected to draw significant attention to the state's unexplored tourist destinations.
- The Tripura government is confident that Ganguly will be a successful brand ambassador for the state. They believe that his popularity and charisma will help to attract more visitors to Tripura and boost the tourism industry.
- Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha, who had earlier spoken to the former ace cricketer, expressed his confidence that Ganguly's involvement will greatly benefit the tourism sector.

❖ **IIT Kanpur, YES Bank collaborate to offer support to Incubated Startups**

- The Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) at the IIT Kanpur joined hands with YES Bank by signing an MoU that seeks to provide crucial support to the startups incubated at SIIC.
- Its aim is to identify innovative startups and extend them the necessary financial backing. It bolsters the startup ecosystem in India by granting these ventures access to a wide range of resources through YES Bank's specialized startup-focused program called YES Head Startup.
- In addition, the launch event witnessed the presence of Nikhil Agrawal, the CEO of SIIC and CPE of AIIDE, Piyush Mishra, the COO and CFO of SIIC at IIT Kanpur, Himanshu Malik, the zonal business head of affluent banking, and Sourabh Lodha, the business head of retail trade, forex, and retail CMS at Yes Bank.

❖ YES BANK Collaborates with Red Hat to Redefine Mobile Banking Experience

- As per the announcement of Red Hat, Inc., YES BANK has adopted Azure Red Hat Open Shift to transform its next-generation mobile banking applications for an efficient mobile banking experience for its customers.
- It will enable YES BANK to improve customer experience and provide innovative banking solutions.
- It will have the agility and flexibility to increase the demand and also support creating a seamless customer experience across multiple banking solutions.
- YES BANK is a full-service commercial bank providing a complete range of products, services, and technology-driven digital offerings.
- Azure Red Hat Open Shift will empower the bank's pursuits to remain ahead of the curve and help them to create next-gen mobile applications.