

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOVEMBER 30, 2022

### STATES

- On November 29, Uttarakhand government - tabled the Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2022
- ✓ The bill seeks to make unlawful conversion a cognisable and non-bailable offence punishable with imprisonment of at least two years to a maximum of 10 years.
- ✓ The offender can also be fined Rs. 25,000 and up to Rs.10 lakh.
- ✓ Earlier, there was a provision of jail term of one to seven years.

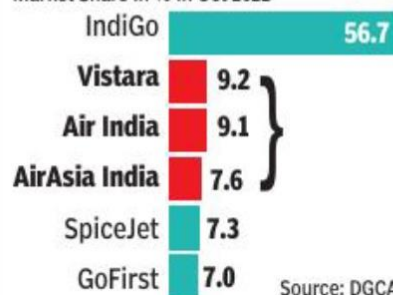
### NATIONAL

- On November 29, Singapore Airlines (SIA) and Tata Sons - announced that they have agreed to merge Air India and Vistara

#### 2ND IN DOMESTIC MKT SHARE, FLEET

The three airlines in which Tata has stakes account for 25.9% of the domestic market share. IndiGo is the biggest player

Market Share In % In Oct 2022



The 219 aircraft of the 4 Tata Group airlines serve 38 international & 52 domestic destinations

No. Of Aircraft



- ✓ The combined entity will be India's largest international carrier and second-largest domestic airline, behind IndiGo, in terms of market share and aircraft fleet.
- ✓ As part of the deal, Tata Sons will hold 74.9% in the combined entity, while Singapore Airlines (SIA) will own 25.1%.

- ✓ Currently, Tata Sons owns 100% in Air India and 51% in Vistara, with SIA holding the balance 49%.
  - ✓ SIA announced it will be investing Rs 2,058.5 crore (\$250 million) in the combined entity as part of the transaction.
  - ✓ After the merger is concluded, SIA would continue to be the only international carrier to hold a sizeable stake in an Indian airline
  - ✓ The pair hopes to conclude the merger, subject to approvals from company law tribunal, anti-competition agencies from India and international jurisdictions, and other regulatory bodies, by March 2024.
  - ✓ Till then, both Air India and Vistara will continue to function independently.
  - ✓ The integration will give the enlarged Air India a domestic market share of 26% and international market share of over 50% from the current 37.8%
  - ✓ The Tata group has four airlines under its fold - Air India, Air India Express, AirAsia India and Vistara.
  - ✓ Tata Sons acquired a 100% stake in Air India on January 27, 2022, through its fully-owned subsidiary, Talace Private Limited
  - ✓ Vistara, which is a 51%-49% joint venture between Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines, is a full-service carrier with international operations to the Middle East, Asia and Europe.
- **Adani Group - has won the bid for the redevelopment of Mumbai's Dharavi area, one of the largest slum clusters in Asia**



- ✓ With its Rs.5,069 crore bid, the Adani group has bagged the Rs.23,000 crore Dharavi redevelopment project which has been stuck for almost two decades.
- ✓ Three companies namely Adani Realty, DLF and Naman Group had submitted bids for the redevelopment of Dharavi and rehabilitation of slum dwellers.
- ✓ On November 29, Adani Properties Pvt Ltd of the Adani group emerged the highest bidder.
- ✓ There were two other bidders - Gurugram-based DLF bid Rs.2,025 crore, while Shree Naman Group was disqualified in the technical round and its financial bid was not opened.

- ✓ In 2018, Adani Infrastructure had bid Rs.4,529 crore for the project but had lost out to Dubai-based SecLink Group which bid Rs.7,500 crore, which was cancelled later.
  - ✓ The proposed project will be implemented across 178 hectares identified as Dharavi Notified Area, besides another 62 hectares.
  - ✓ The bid winner will have to form a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) with the Slum Rehabilitation Authority, the special planning authority for the Dharavi Notified Area, and the Dharavi Redevelopment Authority (DRA).
  - ✓ The SPV will prepare the master plan for redevelopment and carry out a fresh survey of the slum dwellers to determine their eligibility for free housing.
  - ✓ It is estimated that Dharavi has 58,000 eligible slum dwellers.
  - ✓ The Maharashtra government aims to finish the project in the next 17 years and complete rehabilitation in the next seven years.
  - ✓ In the last 15 years, the Maharashtra government has made at least four attempts by floating bids for the redevelopment, which did not materialise
  - ✓ The Maharashtra government in February 2004 decided to redevelop Dharavi as an integrated planned township and an action plan for implementation of Dharavi Redevelopment was approved.
  - ✓ Dharavi, spread across 300 acres, is known to be a hub for several small-scale, unorganised industries that manufacture medicines, leather, footwear, and clothes
- **The National Rural Livelihood Mission's 'Nai Chetna' gender campaign - was recently launched on November 25 on the eve of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**



- ✓ The nationwide campaign aims to enable women to acknowledge gender-based violence, prepare them to raise their voices against it, and provide them with knowledge about their rights.

- ✓ The activities as part of the campaign will be based on Gender Equality and Gender-based Violence.
- ✓ Specially prepared leaflets, posters, short films, and pamphlets issued by the National Rural Livelihood Mission will be used for the awareness campaign
- ✓ The theme for this year's campaign is Gender Based Violence and the campaign will be organized from November 25 to December 23 this year.
- ✓ This nationwide campaign aims to sensitise women, especially those in rural regions, about gender-based violence and help them address such violence.
- ✓ The Nai Chetana Campaign is being implemented by the state governments in collaboration with the civil society organizations (CSOs).

## **INTERNATIONAL**

- **Twitter - will be removing the 140-character limit on private messages sent between users.**
- ✓ The move will allow people to send longer private messages to their friends using the microblogging platform
- ✓ The limit will be lifted in July, though the restriction will still apply to public tweets.
- ✓ Direct messages in other rival social networks like Facebook and LinkedIn do not have such length limits.
- ✓ In April this year, Twitter had started giving users the option of receiving private direct messages from people they do not “follow” on the website
- ✓ Earlier only individuals that followed each other on twitter were able to exchange direct messages.
- ✓ Twitter has 300 million active users, while its rival Facebook has 1.4 billion.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **The World Health Organization (WHO) - has decided to use a new term ‘mpox’ as a synonym for monkeypox.**
- ✓ Both names will be used simultaneously for one year while “monkeypox” is phased out.
- ✓ The decision follows a series of consultations with global experts.
- ✓ Monkeypox is a disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus.
- ✓ It spreads by direct contact with the infectious rash, scabs, or body fluids, respiratory secretions during prolonged, face-to-face contact, or during intimate physical contact.
- ✓ The name for the disease was given before the WHO published the best practices for naming diseases in 2015
- ✓ The first identified case of monkeypox in humans was reported in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in a nine-year-old boy.
- ✓ In 2003, the first monkeypox outbreak outside of Africa was in the US and was linked to contact with infected pet prairie dogs imported from Ghana.

- ✓ Over the last few months, cases have surged further in several parts of the world, including sporadic incidences in India.

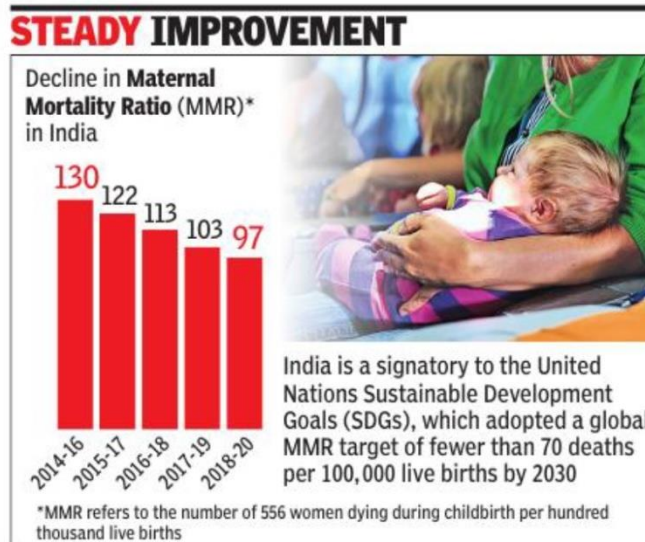
## ECONOMY

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - has said that the retail digital rupee (e-R) pilot will launch on December 1 with four banks — State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, IDFC First Bank and Yes Bank.**
- ✓ The pilot project will be run in Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru, and Bhubaneswar.
- ✓ The pilot would cover select locations in closed user group (CUG) comprising participating customers and merchants.
- ✓ The digital rupee is the RBI's digital currency, which the central bank launched earlier this month for wholesale transactions in government securities.
- ✓ The e-R would be in the form of a digital token that represents legal tender.
- ✓ It would be issued in the same denominations that paper currency and coins are currently issued.
- ✓ Like in the case of paper currency, the digital rupee would be distributed through banks.
- ✓ Users must use a digital wallet through a participating bank and store it on their mobile phone or device.
- ✓ Payments to merchants can be made using QR codes displayed at merchant locations.
- ✓ With the RBI giving the green light, the four banks are expected to individually invite merchants and customers to be part of the pilot in the coming days.
- ✓ In the second phase, four more banks — Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, HDFC Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank — will join this pilot.
- ✓ It will also be extended to nine more cities — Ahmedabad, Gangtok, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Indore, Kochi, Lucknow, Patna and Shimla.
- ✓ According to the RBI, the pilot will test the robustness of digital rupee creation, distribution and retail usage in real time.
- ✓ Different features and applications of the e-R token and architecture will be tested in future pilots based on the learnings from this pilot.

## DECLINE IN MMR – A REPORT

- **The number of women dying from pregnancy-related issues in India - has declined from 130 per lakh live births in 2014-16 to 97 per lakh in 2018-20**
- ✓ This was announced in a special health ministry bulletin released on November 29.
- ✓ The finding is based on a sample survey of maternal mortality recorded between 2018 and 2020 across the country.
- ✓ According to the bulletin, Assam had the highest maternal mortality ratio (MMR) — maternal deaths per lakh live births — of 195 in 2018-20.

- ✓ Madhya Pradesh was second with an MMR of 173, followed by UP (167). Kerala witnessed the lowest MMR (19), followed by Maharashtra (33) and Telangana (43).



- ✓ The death of a woman while she is pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes, is taken into account while recording maternal mortality as per the guidelines of the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- ✓ Some of the recent interventions made by the government to reduce MMR in India include the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) that came into effect in 2017.
  - ✓ It is a direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme under which cash benefits are provided to pregnant women in their bank accounts to meet enhanced nutritional needs and partially compensate for wage loss.
- ✓ The government also launched the Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative (LaQshya) in 2017
  - ✓ This initiative seeks to improve the quality of care in labour room and maternity operation theatres to ensure that pregnant women receive respectful and quality care during delivery and immediate postpartum period.
- ✓ The government is implementing POSHAN Abhiyaan from 2018 with a goal to achieve improvement in nutritional status of children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- ✓ India is a signatory to the United Nations sustainable development goals (SDGs), which adopted a global MMR target of fewer than 70 deaths per 1,00,000 live births by 2030.