

## International

### Shigeru Ishiba Set to Become Japan's Next PM

Liberal Democratic Party leader, Shigeru Ishiba, is set to become Japan's next prime minister after winning his party's leadership contest. Mr. Ishiba emerged victorious in the run-off against hardline nationalist Sanae Takaichi, earning 215 votes compared to Mr. Takaichi's 194. Mr. Ishiba will assume office as the next Prime Minister once the parliament convenes in October. The push to replace current Prime Minister Fumio Kishida began in August, following his announcement to step down amid a series of scandals that drove the LDP's approval ratings to record lows.

### Nearly 700 People Dead as Israel Intensifies Strikes Against Hezbollah Targets

Lebanon's Health Ministry has reported that nearly 700 people have lost their lives as Israel increased its strikes against Hezbollah targets. The Israeli military claims to be focusing on Hezbollah's military capacities and senior commanders, but the rising civilian death toll has sparked international concern.

The conflict has forced over 200,000 people to flee their homes in Lebanon.

### S. Jaishankar to Address High-Level Session of 79th UNGA in New York

India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar will address a high-level session of the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York. The theme for the general debate is 'Leaving no one behind: acting together for the advancement of peace, sustainable development, and human dignity for present and future generations.' The External Affairs Minister is in New York to lead the Indian delegation at the 79th UNGA.

### British PM Backs India's Bid for Permanent Seat in UN Security Council

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has joined the leaders of the United States and France in voicing support for India's bid for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Addressing the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, Mr. Starmer called for reforms to make the global multilateral system more representative and responsive. Bhutan's Prime Minister, Tshering Tobgay, also voiced support for India's inclusion as a permanent member of the UNSC.

### India, Uzbekistan Sign Bilateral Investment Treaty

India and Uzbekistan have signed a bilateral investment treaty (BIT) in Tashkent. The treaty was signed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, Khodjayev Jamshid Abdukhakimovich. The BIT between India and Uzbekistan assures appropriate protection to Uzbekistan investors in India and Indian investors in Uzbekistan. The treaty will boost the confidence of investors by assuring a minimum standard of treatment and non-discrimination, while providing for an independent forum for dispute settlement through arbitration.

## National

### India Becomes World's Third Largest Producer and Consumer of Ethanol

Food and Public Distribution Minister Pralhad Joshi has said that India has become the world's third largest producer and consumer of ethanol. The Food Ministry has requested the government think tank NITI Aayog to increase the ethanol blending target for petrol to 25% from the current 20% and develop a comprehensive roadmap. The Ministry had initially set a target of 20% ethanol blending with petrol by 2030 under its

Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme, which was later revised to 2025-26.

### **Over 80 Crore Seedlings Planted Nationwide Under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'**

More than 80 crore seedlings have been planted so far across the country under the mega plantation drive Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam. The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change successfully met its ambitious goal of planting 80 crore seedlings. According to the Ministry, the target was achieved on the 25th of this month, five days before the deadline.

The Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign has achieved nationwide success in afforestation, with Uttar Pradesh leading the way by planting around 26 crore saplings.

The Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 5th June this year on World Environment Day in New Delhi.

### **Indian Army Set to Enhance Its Artillery Firepower With Induction of More Numbers of K9 Vajra, Dhanush, Sarang Gun Systems**

The Indian Army is set to enhance its artillery firepower with the induction of more numbers of K9 Vajra, Dhanush, and Sarang gun systems. The Indian Army is also in the process of inducting 155 mm gun systems to include advanced towed artillery gun system (ATAGS), mounted gun system (MGS), and towed gun system (TGS). Indian Army modernisation and capability development plan is aligned with the 'Atmanirbharta' drive and is based on the principle of 'modernisation through indigenisation.'

### **Tourism Ministry Launches 'Paryatan Mitra' and 'Paryatan Didi' on World Tourism Day**

On the occasion of World Tourism Day (September 27), the Ministry of Tourism has launched a national responsible tourism

initiative titled 'Paryatan Mitra' and 'Paryatan Didi.' The primary aim of this initiative is to elevate the overall experience of tourists in various destinations by having them meet 'tourist-friendly' people who are proud ambassadors and storytellers of their corresponding destination. Under this initiative, special emphasis is being placed on the training of women and youth to enable them to develop new tourism products and experiences like heritage walks, food tours, craft tours, nature treks, homestay experiences, and other innovative tourism products based on the potential of the destination.

### **Business and Economy**

#### **Indonesia, Malaysia Renew Local Currency Bilateral Swap Agreement**

The central banks of Indonesia and Malaysia have renewed their Local Currency Bilateral Swap Agreement (LCBSA) of up to 5.42 billion dollars. According to a joint statement released by Bank Indonesia (BI) and Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM), the agreement renewal is effective for five years. The banks' first agreement was signed in 2019 and was extended in 2022.

#### **Indian Bank Board Approves Raising Additional ₹5,000 Crores via Bonds**

Government-owned Indian Bank board has approved the raising of Rs. 5,000 crore through long-term infrastructure bonds to finance projects. The fundraising would be done in one or more tranches during the current or subsequent financial year based on the requirement for financing/refinancing of infrastructure and affordable housing.

#### **RBI Organizes Conference on Governance in Small Finance Banks in Bengaluru**

The Reserve Bank of India had organized a daylong conference for the Directors of Small Finance Banks, SFBs in Bengaluru.

The theme of the conference was 'Governance in SFBs – Driving Sustainable Growth and Stability.' RBI Deputy Governor Mr. Swaminathan J. encouraged the directors to be vigilant and proactive in identifying and mitigating emerging risks. The conference also included technical sessions conducted by senior officials of the RBI in the areas of 'governance and assurance functions,' 'business risk – regulatory and supervisory expectations' and 'IT systems and cybersecurity.'

### **'Shankh Air' , Uttar Pradesh's First Airline Set to Take Off**

India's aviation sector is preparing for the entry of a new player as Shankh Air, the first scheduled airline from Uttar Pradesh, has received approval from the Civil Aviation Ministry. The no objection certificate (NOC) issued to the airline is valid for three years. With hubs in Lucknow and Noida, Shankh Air plans to operate on interstate and intrastate routes.

## **Sports**

### **70th Nehru Trophy Boat Race to be Held in Alappuzha, Kerala**

In Kerala, the 70th Nehru Trophy Boat Race will be held at the Punnamada lake in Alappuzha. 19 Chundan Valloms or Snake Boats will vie for the coveted silver trophy. 54 smaller boats belonging to different categories are also participating in the event.

### **Macau Open Badminton: Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand Storm Into Semi-finals**

In the Macau Open Badminton, the women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand entered into the semi-finals after defeating Taiwan's Hsu Yin-Hui and Wu Luo Yu 21-12, 21-17. The Indian pair will next face another Taiwanese duo, Hsieh Pei-Shan and Hung En-Tzu, in the semi-final.