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# 30th September

#### **NATIONAL**

# 1) 15- point winter action plan to combat air pollution

- Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal, has unveiled a comprehensive 15-point winter action plan.
- The plan aims to control air pollution. This initiative is a response to the pressing need for cleaner air in Delhi, which has seen some improvements in air quality metrics, including reductions in PM 2.5 and PM 10 levels.
- Kejriwal highlighted the decrease in PM 2.5 levels from 149 in 2014 to 103 in 2023.

# 2) "Digital Transformation through 5G Ecosystem"

- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released a consultation paper titled "Digital Transformation through 5G Ecosystem."
- The document aims to address policy challenges and establish an effective policy framework for the accelerated adoption and efficient utilization of new technologies, ultimately fostering holistic and sustainable development in India powered by the 5G ecosystem.

# 3) Sale of Electoral Bonds

- The government announced the sale of the 28th tranche of electoral bonds from October 4 to 13 at all authorised branches of the State Bank of India.
- As per the scheme, the bonds are made available for 10 days each in January, April, July, and October, and on dates specified by the Union government and an additional 30-day period in the year of the Lok Sabha election.















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#### **BUSINESS AND ECONOMY**

# 1) Returns on five-year recurring deposits hiked

- The government has raised the returns on five-year recurring deposits from 6.5% to 6.7% for the October to December 2023 quarter.
- For the previous quar ter, the government had raised interest rates on three of 12 small savings schemes by 10 to 30 basis points.
- The Senior Citizens Savings Scheme, the Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme and the National Savings Certificate will continue to yield the highest returns among small savings instruments, at 8.2%, 8% and 7.7%, respectively.

# 2) Oil refinery project in Mongolia

- Hyderabad based Megha Engineering and Infrastructures (MEIL) has bagged a \$648 million oil refinery project in Mongolia from Mongol Refinery State Owned LLC.
- A government to government initiative, the EPC contract for the 1.5 million tonne refinery is the third project MEIL has secured in the Central Asian country.

#### AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

### 1) 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize

- Mathematician Ruixiang Zhang has been selected as the recipient of the prestigious 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize.
- He is an Assistant Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, USA.
- The prize, which includes a cash award of \$10,000 and the award recognizes his remarkable contributions to the field of mathematics.
- The SASTRA Ramanujan Prize maintains an age limit of 32 years for its recipients.















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#### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

### 1) K.N. Shanth Kumar

- K.N. Shanth Kumar has been elected as the Chairman of the Press Trust of India's Board of Directors for a one-year term.
- Praveen Someshwar, the Chief Executive Officer of Hindustan Times, has been elected as the Vice-Chairman of PTI's Board of Directors.

### 2) Dr. Dinesh Dasa

- Dr. Dinesh Dasa, an eminent scholar with a rich background in forestry and public service, took the oath of office and secrecy as a Member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- The oath was administered by UPSC Chairman Dr. Manoj Soni.

# 3) Saugata Gupta

- Saugata Gupta, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Marico Ltd, has been appointed new Chairman of the Advertising Standards Council of India.
- The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) was established in 1985. Headquarters: Mumbai.















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#### **SPORTS**

### 1) Asian Games 2023

- India has won a gold medal in men's squash team event after beating Pakistan 2-1 at the Asian Games.
- The team led by Abhav Singh outperformed their rivals in the final round. The best-of-three tie started with Mahesh M losing to Nasir Igbal in straight games -8-11, 3-11, 2-11.
- This was India's second-ever gold medal in squash at the Asian Games. The previous one was also won by the men's team – at Incheon 2014.

### 2) Asian Games - Tennis

- Rohan Bopanna and Rutuja Bhosale claimed mixed doubles gold with a 2-6 6-3 10-4 win over Chinese Taipei's Yu-hsiou Hsu and Hao-ching Chan.
- It was India's second medal in tennis at the continental event after Ramkumar Ramanathan and Saketh Myneni had won a silver in men's doubles.















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