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Friday, 07 June 2024

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**DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR**



Friday, 07 June 2024

## Indian-American Astronaut Sunita Williams Becomes First Woman To Pilot New Spacecraft On Maiden Crewed Test Flight

- Indian-Origin NASA astronaut Sunita Williams, along with Butch Wilmore, has become the first to fly to space aboard the Boeing Starliner's in the first-ever crewed mission.
- The 59-year-old Williams created history by becoming the first woman to fly on the maiden mission of a new human-rated spacecraft.
- The crew was launched to fly aboard the United Launch Alliance's Atlas V rocket from the Space Launch Complex-41 at the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida. The flight comes after several delays over the years.
- The first human flight was slated on May 7, but was delayed over a helium leak and later due to an issue with the ground power supply at the ULA.
- This was the third attempt and the weather was 90 per cent favourable for the launch. Butch, 61, was commanding the flight, and Williams, was piloting the flight.
- The duo will stay at the International Space Station for about a week before returning to Earth aboard the reusable crew capsule. The Starliner mission aims to carry astronauts and cargo for future NASA missions to low Earth orbit, and beyond.

**Q.** Who has become the first to fly to space aboard the Boeing Starliner's in the first-ever crewed mission? **Sunita Williams**



# SURAKSHA REALTY

Friday, 07 June 2024

## **Suraksha Group finally takes over Jaypee Infratech**

- Suraksha Group has taken control of the debt-ridden realty firm Jaypee Infratech by constituting a three-member board and will soon infuse Rs 125 crore equity fund to start construction of stalled housing projects across Delhi-NCR.
- The takeover follows insolvency appellate tribunal NCLAT decision, upholding Suraksha Realty's bid to acquire Jaypee Infratech while directing it to pay an additional Rs 1,334 crore as farmers' compensation.
- The IMC approved the appointment of Sudhir V Valia, who is promoter of Suraksha Group, as a Non-Executive Director. It approved the appointment of Aalok Champak Dave as Executive Director and Usha Anil Kadam as independent director. Dave has also been appointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.
- According to the filing, Valia was an Executive Director in Sun Pharmaceuticals Industries Ltd. He is a co-founder of Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, one of the leading pharmaceutical companies and world's fifth largest generic pharmaceutical company.

**Q.** Suraksha Group has taken control of which debt-ridden realty firm by forming a three-member board?  
**Jaypee Infratech**



Friday, 07 June 2024

## **MoD inks MoUs with 4 banks to onboard them as SPARSH service centres**

- The Defence Accounts Department (DAD) of the Ministry of Defence has signed MoUs with four banks to onboard them as SPARSH service centres across 1,128 branches of these banks in the country.
- The System for Pension Administration (RAKSHA) or SPARSH is a web-based system for processing pension claims and crediting the pension directly into the bank accounts of defence pensioners without any external intermediary.
- DAD has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the Bank of India, Canara Bank, Central Bank of India and Utkarsh Small Finance Bank in New Delhi to onboard them as SPARSH service centres across 1,128 branches of the four banks, the defence ministry said in a statement.
- The MoUs will provide last-mile connectivity to pensioners, especially in remote areas where they do not have the technical wherewithal to log on to SPARSH.

**Q.** Defence Ministry has signed MoU with which 4 banks to incorporate them as SPARSH service centres? **Bank of India, Canara Bank, Central Bank of India and Utkarsh Small Finance Bank**



Friday, 07 June 2024

## **NPCI International signs partnership with Reserve Bank of Peru to enable UPI payments**

- NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) and the Reserve Bank of Peru have announced a partnership to enable UPI-like real-time payments system in the Latin American country.
- This collaboration marks a significant milestone, making Peru the first country in South America to adopt the globally renowned Unified Payment Interface (UPI) technology.
- NPCI International Payments Limited and the Central Reserve Bank of Peru (BCRP) have announced a partnership to enable the deployment of a UPI-like real-time payments system in Peru.
- This strategic partnership empowers the BCRP to establish an efficient real-time payments platform within the country and facilitates instant payments between individuals and businesses.
- This partnership aims to strengthen Peru's financial infrastructure, to foster economic growth. NIPL is a wholly owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India.

**Q.** Name the first country in South America to adopt the globally renowned Unified Payment Interface (UPI) technology? **Peru**



Friday, 07 June 2024

## SEBI Forms Committee To Review Clearing Corporations

- SEBI has formed an ad-hoc Committee under Usha Thorat, to review the ownership and economic structure of clearing corporations, and to suggest measures to ensure that clearing corporations function as resilient, independent, and neutral risk managers.
- The 2018 report of the Committee on review of regulations and relevant circulars pertaining to Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs), headed by R Gandhi (referred to as Gandhi Committee), had noted that the ownership of MIIs should be dispersed and should be widely held.
- With respect to clearing corporations, the committee has specifically noted that while most clearing corporations in India were 100 per cent owned by a single exchange, given that clearing corporations are risk bearing MIIs, it is highly desirable that they should be widely held.
- Further, the Gandhi Committee had also noted that with the clearing corporations being sensitive and high risk-bearing and risk managing entities, listing of clearing corporations should not be permitted.

**Q.** Recently SEBI Forms Committee to review the ownership and economic structure of clearing corporations which is headed by whom? **Usha Thorat**



Friday, 07 June 2024

## **India, S.Korea, US, Japan, EU launch biopharmaceutical alliance**

- India, South Korea, Japan, the US, and the European Union launched an alliance to put joint efforts to build a resilient supply chain in the biopharmaceutical sector.
- The announcement was made at the inaugural meeting of the Biopharmaceutical Alliance, held in San Diego, California, during the Bio International Convention 2024, the world's largest biopharmaceutical exhibition.
- The participants emphasised the importance of a reliable and sustainable supply chain and agreed to coordinate the respective countries' bio policies, regulations, and research and development support measures.
- They recognised the production of essential raw materials and ingredients is concentrated in a few countries and agreed to work together to build a detailed pharmaceutical supply chain map.
- The alliance was launched in response to the drug supply shortages experienced during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Q.** Which Countries along with India launched an alliance to put joint efforts to build a resilient supply chain in the biopharmaceutical sector? **South Korea, Japan, the US, and the European Union**



**Friday, 07 June 2024**

## SpaceX's Starship gets US FAA nod, to launch 4th test flight

- SpaceX has received approval from the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to launch the fourth test flight of the Starship vehicle.
- With the licence issued, the 400-foot-tall Starship rocket along with the Heavy booster is expected to fly from SpaceX's Starbase facility near Boca Chica Beach in South Texas.
- The fourth flight test looks to achieve orbit to demonstrate the ability to return and reuse Starship and Super Heavy.
- While Boeing launched its maiden flight, SpaceX's Dragon capsules have been launching astronauts to space on its Falcon 9 rockets since 2020.
- Both Boeing's Starliner and SpaceX's Dragon will be used to carry astronauts and cargo for NASA missions to the low Earth orbit, Moon, Mars, and beyond.

### US Federal Aviation Administration

- Formed: August 23, 1958
- Preceding agency: Civil Aeronautics Administration
- Annual budget: US\$19.807 billion (FY2024)
- Administrator: Michael Whitaker

**Q.** The SpaceX's Starship gets US FAA nod to launch the fourth test flight of the Starship vehicle. In context to same the US FAA is headed by whom? **Michael Whitaker**





Friday, 07 June 2024

## Google parent Alphabet appoints Anat Ashkenazi as new CFO

- Google parent Alphabet announced the appointment of Anat Ashkenazi as the company's new Chief Financial Officer (CFO).
- Ashkenazi has had a 23-year career at Eli Lilly, including three years as the CFO.
- Google parent Alphabet Inc announced that Anat Ashkenazi will join its management team as Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President of Google and Alphabet, effective July 31, 2024.
- The company had previously announced in July 2023 that Ruth Porat was commencing a new role as President & Chief Investment Officer of Alphabet and Google.

### Alphabet Inc.

- CEO: Sundar Pichai
- Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin
- Subsidiaries: Google, Waymo, X Development, Verily, Google Fiber, etc.
- Founded: 2 October 2015
- Headquarters: California, United States

**Q.** Google parent Alphabet announced the appointment of whom as the company's new Chief Financial Officer (CFO)?

**Anat Ashkenazi**



## Sameer Bansal

Managing Director and CEO



*Milkar life aage badhaein*

Friday, 07 June 2024

### **PNB MetLife appoints Sameer Bansal as MD, CEO**

- Private life insurer, PNB MetLife India Insurance appointed Sameer Bansal as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company effective from July 1, 2024. The appointment is subject to regulatory approvals.
- He joined the firm in 2007 and is currently serving as the Chief Distribution Officer.
- He will succeed Ashish Srivastava, who has been appointed MD for MetLife Inc.'s Global Shared Services team in India.
- Bansal has over 25 years of experience in financial services, including extensive and successful experience in leading Distribution through Bancassurance, Agency, Digital, Employee Benefits and Direct marketing business models.
- Note: PNB MetLife Insurance is a joint venture between MetLife International Holdings LLC which has around 46 per cent stake and Punjab National Bank, which has 30 per cent stake in the company.

**Q.** Private life insurer, PNB MetLife India Insurance has appointed whom as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company?

**Sameer Bansal**



Friday, 07 June 2024

## **New Zealand, Fiji to strengthen partnership**

- New Zealand and Fiji leaders met to discuss how to further strengthen their partnership and canvass a range of issues including defense and regional security, trade, and people-to-people links.
- According to a joint statement, the two leaders which set ambitious goals for future cooperation, the two sides have joint aspiration to grow the trade and investment opportunities between New Zealand and Fiji, with a goal of lifting two-way trade to 2 billion NZ dollars (1.24 billion U.S. dollars) by 2030.
- The two-way trade currently worth nearly 1.4 billion NZ dollars (870 million U.S. dollars), which remains a significant opportunity for growth that will benefit both countries.
- The New Zealand government will remove the requirement for Fijian nationals transiting through New Zealand to have a transit visa, which is expected to have a positive economic impact for the region, said the New Zealand prime minister.
- New Zealand also announced readiness to fund climate, sustainability, and economic resilience initiatives in Fiji through New Zealand's International Development Cooperation program.

**Q.** Name the island countries in the southwestern Pacific Ocean, which have partnered with each other to strengthen defense and regional security, trade, and people-to-people links? **New Zealand & Fiji**



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