



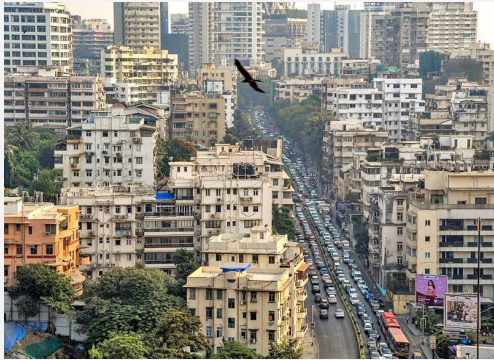
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29 November 2023

International & National News

Urban Affairs Ministry starts data portal on cities for policy-making



Context

The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is making raw data from Indian cities available on a single platform for academics, researchers, and stakeholders to help data-driven policymaking

Key points

- The **Amplifi 2.0 (Assessment and Monitoring Platform for Liveable, Inclusive and Future-ready urban India)** portal was launched recently.
- All 3,739 municipal corporations will eventually be made available on the portal.
- The **website provides data on a range of information** for several cities, including total consumption; number of samples tested for water quality; average annual expenditure on healthcare; number of slum dwellers; and road accident fatalities.

SEBI approves rules for Index providers

Context

- The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) board approved a regulatory framework for Index Providers.
- **Objective:** fostering transparency and accountability in governance and administration of financial benchmarks in the securities market.

Who are Index Providers?



- Index Providers are **companies** that create, calculate and manage indexes to support all types of investment needs.
- They have the responsibility of **setting the rules** that determine which securities to include in each index, **how the index will be managed, and how securities will be added or removed** from that index over time creating a benchmark for those that track and follow it.
- The most prominent indices in India are the **Nifty50** by NSE Indices and **Sensex** provided by a venture of S&P Dow Jones Indices and BSE Lied.

Key points

- The regulations will provide a framework for the registration of Index Providers that license '**Significant Indices**' that shall be notified by SEBI based on objective criteria.
- SEBI stipulated that any fresh investment made by an **AIF(Alternative Investment funds)** beyond September 2024 would be held in dematerialized form.
- Amendments to **SEBI (Real Estate Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014** have been approved.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A regulatory framework is established for Small and medium REITs (SM REITs) with a minimum asset value of ₹50 crore, contrasting with the ₹500 crore requirement for existing REITs.• The board also approved flexibility in the framework for the Social Stock Exchange (SSE) to provide impetus to fundraising by Not for Profit Organisations (NPOs) on the Social Stock Exchange.• The board approved changing the nomenclature of “Social Auditor” to “Social Impact Assessor” to comfort NPOs and convey a positive approach towards the social sector.
<p>Air India readies to welcome first A350</p> 	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Air India is set to become the first Indian airline to add an Airbus A350 aircraft to its fleet, a move that will enable it to compete better with its West Asian rivals by flying more Indian passengers non-stop on long-haul international routes.• The A350-900ULR has a maximum take-off weight of 280 tonnes and can fly more than 20 hours non-stop.• The A350 can carry up to 325 passengers in a three-class configuration, and fly up to 15,000 km without refueling.• The A350 also offers a more comfortable and quieter cabin, with larger windows, mood lighting and lower cabin altitude.
<p>India announces phased introduction of Biogas blending</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• India will start blending compressed biogas with natural gas to boost domestic demand and cut reliance on natural gas imports.• The mandatory phased introduction will start at 1% for use in automobiles and households from April 2025• The share of mandatory blending will then be increased to about 5% by 2028.
<p>Ayushman Bharat centres to be now called Ayushman Arogya Mandir</p> 	<p>Context</p> <p>The Union government has decided to rename the existing Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) as ‘Ayushman Arogya Mandir’ with the tagline Arogyam Parmam Dhanam.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The funds required for renaming the existing facilities have been proposed at ₹3,000 per facility.• India currently has more than 1.6 lakh AB-HWCs.• Aim: to provide comprehensive primary healthcare, including both maternal and child health services, and free essential drugs and diagnostic services close to people’s homes through AB-HWCs.• The Centre offers screenings for hypertension, diabetes, and oral, breast and cervical cancer.



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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

Key facts:

- If scripts other than **Devanagari (Hindi) or English** are to be used for branding, then the full and exact title can be translated into the State language(s), but the tagline must be transliterated into the State language(s).

S. Korea, Japan and China to resume leaders' summit.



Context

Meeting for the first time in about four years, the top diplomats from **South Korea, Japan, and China** agreed to revive cooperation among the Asian neighbours and resume their leaders' trilateral summit

Key points

- the three countries together account for about **25% of the global GDP**
- The three also agreed to push for diverse cooperation projects in areas such as people-to-people exchange, trade, technology, public health, sustainable development and security.

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