



29 November 2023

## National and International 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 board of the **Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** 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 registration of Index Providers which 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 dematerialised form.
- Amendments to **SEBI (Real Estate Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014** have been approved.



- A regulatory framework is established for **Small & 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 **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**” with “**Social Impact Assessor**” to provide comfort to **NPOs** and convey a positive approach towards the social sector.

**Air India readies to welcome first A350**



**Context**

- 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.

**India announces phased introduction of Biogas blending**

**Context**

- 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**.

**Ayushman Bharat centers to be now called Ayushman Arogya Mandir**



**Context**

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**.

**Key points**

- 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, oral, breast and cervical cancer.



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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

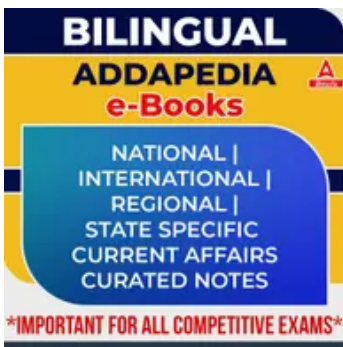
	<p><b>Key facts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If scripts other than <b>Devanagari (Hindi) or English</b> are to be used for branding, then the full and exact title can be translated into the State language(s), but the tagline must be transliterated in the State language(s).</li> </ul>
<p><b>S. Korea, Japan and China to resume leaders' summit.</b></p>  <p>제10차 한일중 외교장관회의 대한민국 부산, 2023.11.26.</p> <p>The Tenth Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting The Republic of Korea, Japan and the People's Republic of China Busan, Korea, November 26, 2023</p>	<p><b>Context</b> Meeting for the first time in about four years, the top diplomats from <b>South Korea, Japan and China</b> agreed to revive cooperation among the Asian neighbours and resume their leaders' trilateral summit</p> <p><b>Key points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the three countries together account for about <b>25% of the global GDP</b></li> <li>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.</li> </ul>



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