



## CURRENT AFFAIRS 26th April 2023

### National News

#### 1. Shreekant Bhandiwad named as Chairman of KVGB.



- Shreekant M Bhandiwad has become the new Chairman of Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB), taking over the position from his predecessor.
- Prior to his appointment, Bhandiwad served as the head of the Patna circle of Canara Bank, and also gained experience working in the CMD's Secretariat at the bank's head office.
- With a postgraduate degree in agriculture, Bhandiwad began his career as an Agricultural Extension Officer at Canara Bank's rural branches. He also served as a consultant in the Agricultural Consultancy Services of Canara Bank's Head Office.
- Having worked in Canara Bank for 29 years, Bhandiwad has gained experience working in different states such as Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar, and Karnataka, holding various positions including branch in-charge, regional head, and circle head.

- In addition, he worked as the Deputy Managing Director of Canfin Homes Ltd for three years.
- Bhandiwad, a native of Dharwad, brings his wealth of experience to his new role as the Chairman of Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank.

## 2. Shahabuddin Chuppu takes oath as Bangladesh's 22nd president.



- Mohammed Shahabuddin Chuppu has become the 22nd president of Bangladesh, taking over from Abdul Hamid, in a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, politicians, judges, and senior officials.
- The event was held at the historic Durbar Hall of Bangabhaban, where Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury administered the oath to Shahabuddin.
- He was elected unopposed in February this year as the candidate of the ruling party, and after the ceremony, he signed the documents for the office of the president.
- There are growing disputes between the ruling Awami League and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) regarding the electoral system as Bangladesh prepares for general elections.
- The elections are scheduled for December or January next year.

### 3. Japan's health ministry approves first abortion pill in its history.



- A panel in Japan's health ministry has approved the country's first abortion pill, in a major step for reproductive rights decades after other countries made abortion medication widely available.
- The ministry's pharmaceutical board granted approval to the Meego Pack, an abortion pill manufactured by British pharmaceutical Linepharma, according to a spokesperson from the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.
- The medication consists of two types of pill, and can be used within nine weeks of pregnancy, according to Japanese public broadcaster NHK.
- In a clinical trial in Japan, 93% of participants had a complete abortion within 24 hours.
- The medication combines mifepristone and misoprostol, which the World Health Organization has included in its Essential Medicines List, described as safe and effective for pregnant people.
- It would provide an alternative to a surgical procedure amid calls for progress in women's reproductive rights and gender equality. In Japan, abortions have been usually performed with metal instruments. As this procedure is

invasive, medical experts and others are calling for introduction of abortion pills in Japan.

- Under Japan's existing laws, women can only receive an abortion if a pregnancy "may significantly damage the person's physical health due to bodily or economic reasons" or if they became pregnant due to rape.

#### 4. IIT Madras to set up its first international campus in Tanzania.



- IIT Madras is set to establish the first Indian Institute of Technology in Africa in Tanzania, with classes scheduled to begin in October.
- The new campus will be located in Zanzibar, and marks IIT Madras' first international campus.
- V Kamakoti, the institute's director, announced the plans during his address at IIT Madras' 64th Institute Day.
- A team of five IIT Madras professors visited Tanzania in February to hold discussions with officials about setting up the new campus.
- Strengthening India-Africa relations: The establishment of IIT in Tanzania marks a significant step in strengthening the ties between India and Africa. It reflects India's growing interest in the African continent and its commitment to promoting education and human resource development in Africa.
- Promoting technical education: IITs are renowned for their quality technical education, and the establishment of IIT in Tanzania will provide African students with access to world-class technical education, which will help them build

their careers and contribute to the development of their countries.

- **Bridging the skill gap:** There is a significant skill gap in Africa, and the establishment of IIT in Tanzania will help bridge this gap by providing African students with the technical skills and knowledge required to meet the demands of the industry.
- **Encouraging innovation and research:** IITs are known for their research and innovation, and the establishment of IIT in Tanzania will encourage research and innovation in the African continent, which will help drive economic growth and development.

#### **5. Belgium firm to launch biodiesel project in Ayodhya soon.**



- The city of Ayodhya has been chosen for a two-year pilot project aimed at producing biodiesel from waste.
- Belgium-based company Vito is expected to launch the project in Ayodhya soon.
- The company, which focuses on clean technology and sustainable development, has already started working on the project, according to officials.
- Belgium-based company Vito is set to launch a two-year pilot project aimed at producing biodiesel from waste in Ayodhya, India.
- The project will initially use one tonne of plastic waste to generate biodiesel.
- Vito officials have held meetings with Ayodhya administration officials and organised a workshop for the Ayodhya Municipal Corporation officials.

- The company will use the corporation's material recovery facility for waste segregation before setting up its own facility.
- Ayodhya was selected for the pilot project due to the expected increase in waste generated by the surge in devotees' footfall after the opening of the Ram temple in January 2022.
- The Sri Ram Janmabhoomi Tirath Kshetra Trust has estimated a turnout of several lakhs of devotees every month, which will generate more waste and create a major garbage disposal issue for the corporation.

#### 6. Neobank Jupiter secures NBFC license.



- Jupiter, a neobanking startup, has obtained a non-banking finance company (NBFC) license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), enabling the company to provide credit from its own resources.
- According to Jitendra Gupta, the founder of Amica Financial Technologies Ltd., which operates Jupiter, the company will appoint a professional chief executive officer to manage the NBFC operations.
- This is a significant development for Jupiter as the company has been expanding its lending operations through partnerships with NBFCs.
- With the NBFC license, Jupiter will have more control over its lending operations and will be able to offer credit

**directly from its own books, providing greater flexibility and control over the lending process.**

- **Jupiter is a neobank, a type of digital bank that operates entirely online without any physical branches. It was founded in 2019 by Jitendra Gupta, who previously co-founded Citrus Pay, a payment gateway company that was acquired by PayU in 2016.**

PLUTUS ACADEMY