

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

4th July 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ HM Amit Shah inaugurates 'Akshar River Cruise' on Sabarmati Riverfront

- Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Amit Shah has virtually launched the 'Akshar River Cruise' on Sabarmati Riverfront.
- This cruise was developed by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) and Sabarmati Riverfront Development Corporation Limited.
- It is the first passenger catamaran built in the country under Make in India at a cost of Rs 15 crore with twin engines where 165 passengers can travel safely for one-and-a-half hours
- Impact: It will boost Gujarat's tourism.

❖ SBI gives ₹22 crore to IIT-Bombay for data analytics, AI capabilities

- The State Bank of India (SBI), through its CSR arm SBI Foundation, has pledged a grant of ₹22.5 crore to the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B).
- Reason: To establish a Banking Data and Analytics Hub at IIT-B
- The focus of the Hub will be to address the unique challenges faced by the Indian banking and financial services sector.
- The collaboration aims to leverage SBI's extensive experience in banking and IIT Bombay's research expertise.

❖ ICG, Indian Navy, and Indian Port Rail & Ropeway Corporation signed MoU

- Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy signed an MoU with Indian Port Rail & Ropeway Corporation Ltd for the planning, development, construction, and commissioning of a gallery on the theme “Evolution of Indian Navy & Indian Coast Guard”.
- The Government of India is building the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at the historic Indus Valley civilization region of Lothal (Gujarat) under the aegis of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways.
- The signing of the MoU took place in the presence of Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Bhupendra Patel, Chief Minister of Gujarat, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemical & Fertilizers, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways & Tourism and Shri Shantanu Thakur, Minister of State for Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways.
- The Government of India is building the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at the historic Indus Valley civilization region of Lothal (Gujarat) under the aegis of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. The foundation stone for the NMHC project was laid by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in March 2019.

❖ International Plastic Bag Free Day 2023: 3rd July

- International Plastic Bag Free Day is observed annually on July 3 to raise awareness about the harmful impacts of single-use plastic bags on the environment.
- The initiative was started by the Bag Free World campaign, a global movement.
- Aim: To reduce the use of single-use plastic bags that inspired other parts of the world to participate in Plastic Bag Free Day
- There is no specific theme for International Plastic Bag Free Day 2023.

❖ Release of ₹6,194 crore disaster relief fund to 19 States

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah approved the release of Rs 6,194.40 crore to 19 states under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).
- The amount includes Rs 1,209.60 crore as a central share of the SDRF to four states (Chhattisgarh, Meghalaya, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh) for 2022-23.
- Rs 4,984.80 crore will also be given to 15 states (Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, TN, and Tripura)

❖ Nine Nano Urea plants to be set up across the country by 2025

- Chemical Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has said that the country is aiming to manufacture 44 crore bottles of Nano Urea annually by the year 2025.
- He highlighted the merits of Nano Urea saying that the urea absorption rate by crops is 80% in the case of Nano Urea whereas the traditional urea absorption rate is only 30%.
- Nano Urea is cost-effective and demonstrated an increase in crop yield.
- America and several other countries have evinced interest in Nano Urea.

❖ India's External Debt reaches \$624.7 billion in End-March 2023

- India's external debt has increased marginally to \$624.7 billion annually in end-March 2023, although the debt-GDP ratio declined
- The external debt increased by \$5.6 billion from \$619.1 billion at end-March 2022.
- Valuation gains due to the appreciation of the US dollar compared to the Indian rupee and major currencies were placed at \$20.6 billion.
- Excluding the valuation effect, external debt would have increased by \$26.2 billion instead of \$5.6 billion in March 2023.

❖ Alan Arkin, Oscar-winning 'Little Miss Sunshine' actor, dies

➤ Alan Arkin, the wry character actor who demonstrated his versatility in comedy and drama as he received four Academy Award nominations and won an Oscar in 2007 for "Little Miss Sunshine," has died.

➤ In recent years he starred opposite Michael Douglas in the Netflix comedy series "The Kominsky Method," a role that earned him two Emmy nominations.

➤ He also directed the film version of Jules Feiffer's 1971 dark comedy "Little Murder".

❖ Indian wins Gold and Bronze medals at the Asian Squash Mixed Doubles 2023

➤ India's squash players, Dipika Pallikal Karthik and Harinderpal Singh Sandhu, showcased their excellence by clinching the gold medal at the Asian Squash Mixed Doubles Championships in Huangzhou.

➤ India's campaign at the championship saw another shining moment as Anahat Singh and Abhay Singh partnered together to claim a bronze medal.

➤ They faced a tough semifinal battle against Malaysia's Ivan Yuen and Rachel Arnold.

❖ Coal India Limited (CIL) appoints PM Prasad as CMD

➤ P M Prasad has been appointed as the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Coal India Limited (CIL).

➤ P M Prasad, is currently serving as the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL).

➤ CIL is a Schedule 'A' Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).

➤ He started his career in Coal India in 1984 as a Management Trainee in Western Coalfields Limited.

➤ Prasad served as Executive Director (Coal Mining) in NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation) for three years.

➤ Pramod Agarwal, former chairman-cum-managing director of Coal India, retired on June 30.

❖ YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launches the 4th edition of 'Jagananna Amma Vodi' scheme

- YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the 'Jagananna Amma Vodi' scheme to promote education and empower mothers.
- Jagananna Amma Vodi was inaugurated on 9 January 2020 by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. was launched by Jagan Mohan Reddy.
- The financial assistance provided under the 'Jagananna Amma Vodi' scheme is Rs 6,392 crore.
- The primary objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to around 42 lakh mothers.
- The financial assistance provided to mothers is in the form of an annual gift of ₹15,000.
- Mothers receive this gift for sending their children to school and thus encouraging education.

❖ Yuki Bhambri wins maiden ATP doubles title in Spain

- Indian tennis player Yuki Bhambri won his maiden ATP doubles title at the Mallorca Championships in Spain.
- Yuki Bhambri stitched a partnership with South African player Lloyd Harris to seal the victory in the final match.
- The pair won 6 - 3, 6 - 4 over the Dutch-Austrian pair of Robin Hasse and Philipp Oswald.
- The tournament took place on grass courts.
- The 30-year-old Indian Bhambri, who has reached the 58th spot in the ATP doubles tennis rankings.

❖ Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated International Hostel - Madhumaas at IARI

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated an International Hostel named “Madhumaas” at ICAR-IARI.
- The inauguration ceremony was held on 3rd July on Guru Purnima and was attended by Union Minister of State Kailash Choudhary and Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Director General and Secretary, DARE.
- The government is supporting the creation of student-centric hostels with high-quality facilities and international standards due to the Institute's international education and growing student enrollment.

About "Madhumaas" International Hostel

- It can accommodate 504 students and offers facilities like single bedded rooms, rooms with attached bathroom and kitchen and family apartments.
- The hostel complex has a food court, gymnasium, restaurant, solar power system, rain water harvesting system, generator-based power backup, Wi-Fi network and R.O facilities.

❖ India hosts 23rd Summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organization virtually

- PM Narendra Modi hosted the 23rd edition of the SCO Summit virtually on July 4, 2023.
- Theme 2023: Towards a SECURE SCO
- SECURE stands for Security, Economic development, Connectivity, Unity, Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and Environmental protection.
- The summit was attended by SCO Members China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- Observer States: Iran, Belarus, and Mongolia
- Guest of the Chair: Turkmenistan

❖ NADA India, SARADO signs MoU in New Delhi

- National Anti-Doping Agency, India (NADA India) has signed an MoU with South Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organization (SARADO) to increase Regional Cooperation in anti-doping in sports.
- The MoU was signed between Ritu Sain (DG & CEO, NADA India) and Mohamed Mahid Shareef (DG, SARADO), in the presence of Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur.
- SARADO members include anti-doping organizations from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

❖ G-20 Research & Innovation Initiative Gathering Summit begins in Mumbai

- The G-20 Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) Summit and Research Ministers' Meeting started in Mumbai on July 4, 2023.
- In 2023, a total of 5 RIIG meetings were hosted by India under the theme "Research and Innovation for Equitable Society".
- More than 100 foreign delegates including Research Ministers from 29 G-20 members, invited guest countries and international organizations to participate in the meeting.

❖ The World famous Shravani Mela inaugurated in Deoghar

- Shravani Mela 2023 was inaugurated by Jharkhand's Agriculture Minister Badal Patralekh by offering prayers at Baba Baidyanathdham temple in Deoghar, Jharkhand.
- He informed that the state government has made adequate arrangements for Kanwariyas to perform the Jal Abhishek puja of Baba Baidyanath.
- Shravani Mela is being organized from the 3rd of July to the 7th of September 2023.
- Baba Baidyanathdham Temple is one of the 12 Jyotirlingas in the country.

❖ DAY-NRLM launches Mobile App to Market products made by SHGs women

➤ Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) launched a mobile App named 'eSARAS', which will add to eCommerce initiatives for products made by the SHGs.

➤ Aim: To strengthen the marketing support for products made by women of SHGs

➤ The eSARAS fulfillment center will be managed by the Foundation for Development of Rural Value Chains (a Not for Profit Company constituted jointly by the Ministry of Rural Development and Tata Trust).

❖ Tamil Nadu regains top spot in electronic exports in India

➤ According to the Exports data, released by the government for FY23 shows that Tamil Nadu (\$5.37 billion) has emerged as the top exporter of electronics in India.

➤ As per the data, TN overtook UP and Karnataka to emerge as India's top electronics exporter in March 2023.

➤ Reason: The global giants Foxconn and Pegatron accelerated iPhone exports last year

➤ In FY23, UP placed second in electronics exports, exporting \$4.90 billion, and Karnataka third with \$4.52 billion.

❖ Meta to launch Twitter-like app 'Threads'

➤ Meta Platforms, the parent company of the social media platform Facebook, is planning to launch a microblogging app 'Threads', Instagram's text-based conversation app.

➤ It is expected to be released soon and will allow users to follow the accounts they follow on the photo-sharing platform and keep the same username.

➤ The launch comes after Twitter announced a slate of restrictions on the app, including the need to be verified in order to use TweetDeck.