

**IACE**

# **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

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**DESCRIPTIVE**

## ❖ **President Droupadi Murmu to inaugurate 'Festival of Libraries 2023'**

- President of India, Droupadi Murmu would inaugurate the 'Festival of Libraries 2023', to be held on 5th - 6th August 2023 in New Delhi.
- Aims: To facilitate the formulation of action-oriented policies for the development of Model Libraries in India, right down to the village and community levels
- The launch of a crowd-sourced Directory of Libraries, the signing of a Tripartite MoU between 3 libraries, and the release of Cursive Writing Books in the 22 vernacular languages.
- Vice President of India, Sh. Jagdeep Dhankhar will grace the Valedictory Ceremony of the event.
- The festival will also highlight iconic libraries from across the world in order to initiate a conversation on the modernization and digitization of libraries in India.

## ❖ **Harmehar, Sanjana win silver in skeet mixed team at ISSF Junior World**

- Harmehar Singh Lally and Sanjana Sood won a silver medal in the skeet mixed team event at ISSF Junior World Championships, in Korea.
- Indian duo lost their match with the Italian duo of Andrea Galardini and Sara Bongini.
- China is at the top with six gold, eight silver, and four bronze medals.
- India stayed in second place on the medals table with four gold, four silver and three bronze medals.

➤ Italy is in the third spot with two gold, one silver and three bronze medals.

❖ **Regional Office of Universal Postal Union gets inaugurated in New Delhi**

➤ Devusinh Chauhan and Masahiko Metoki inaugurated the Regional Office of UPU in New Delhi.

➤ India would undertake UPU's technical assistance activities in the South Asia region.

➤ India announced a contribution of USD 2,00,000 for four years towards the UPU's Development and Technical Assistance activities.

➤ Aims: To support capacity building, infrastructure development, and other essential activities to strengthen the postal sector in the region.

❖ **Culture Ministry and Indian Navy sign an MoU to revive shipbuilding method**

➤ To revive the 'stitched shipbuilding method', the Ministry of Culture and the Indian Navy signed an MoU.

➤ Aims: To revive the maritime memory and instill a sense of pride in India's rich maritime heritage among its citizens and to promote cultural memories among the Indian Ocean littoral countries.

➤ Construction: By stitching wooden planks together rather than using nails, offered flexibility and durability, making them less susceptible to damage from shoals and sandbars.

➤ The Indian Navy will oversee the implementation and execution of the entire project.

➤ As custodians of maritime security and experts in the field, the Indian Navy's involvement ensures seamless project management and adherence to the highest standards of safety and precision.

➤ Their invaluable experience and technical knowledge will play a pivotal role in the successful revival of the ancient stitching method and the construction of the stitched ship.

### ❖ **Union Minister Parshottam Rupala inaugurates International Symposium**

➤ Parshottam Rupala, UM of Fisheries,(AH&D) inaugurated an International Symposium on Sustainable Livestock Transformation at NDDB, Anand under the Agriculture Working Group of G20.

➤ Aims: To promote insightful discussions and collaborations to ensure a more efficient and sustainable future for the global livestock sector.

➤ “Vasudaiva Kutumbakam” is the signature theme of India’s G20 Presidency.

### ❖ **Meta collaborates with Microsoft to launch Llama 2 AI language model**

➤ Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg said, the company is partnering with Microsoft to introduce AI large language model’s next generation and make technology known as Llama 2.

➤ It will be available for research and commercial use, enabling developers and businesses to hold the next generation of generative AI tools.

➤ Meta had already released the first iteration of Llama (Large Language Model Meta) in February 2023.

### ❖ **RBI cancels banking license of United India Co-operative Bank Bijnor**

➤ The license of United India Co-operative Bank Limited, Bijnor has been revoked by the Reserve Bank of India.

➤ The bank is not allowed to continue its banking operations, which include taking deposits and returning deposits.

➤ Result: The bank will stop functioning, and all depositors will be eligible to receive up to Rs 5 lakh as a deposit insurance claim from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation.

## ❖ Cognizant, Max Life Insurance to launch innovation and development centre

- Cognizant Technology Solutions in collaboration with Max Life Insurance Co. Ltd launched an innovation and development centre in Chennai.
- Aims: To drive product innovations, enhance customer experiences, and lead operational excellence for Max Life.
- Cognizant will use expertise in consulting and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, automation, and cloud transformation to further enhance the digital experience for customers, as per a release.

## ❖ Indian Team won bronze medal at Asian Surfing Championship 2023

- At the Asian Surfing Championship 2023 held in Maldives, the Indian Surf Team earned the bronze medal.
- In this championship, 18 countries from Asia participated.
- The Surfing Federation of India sent a team consisting of 4 senior male surfers and 2 surfers in the Under 18 category. 5 out of the 6 surfers representing India were from Tamil Nadu.
- Arun Vasu: The President of the Surfing Federation of India

## ❖ Tata to set up EV battery factory in UK for £4 billion

- The Tata group has announced setting up a factory in the United Kingdom with an investment of four billion pounds (Rs. 42,500 crore) to make batteries.
- In Britain, the Tata group is working on plans to make batteries for Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) as well as other vehicle companies.
- The factory will be located in Bridgwater, Somerset, England.
- Tata Sons has chosen the Bridgwater area of Somerset in south-west England for the factory instead of Spain.

## **Europe's largest plant:**

- The 40 GWh gigafactory will be the largest in Europe and Tata's first outside India.
- It will be one of the largest investments in the UK automotive industry.
- This Tata investment will not only create thousands of jobs for Britons, but will strengthen the UK's lead in the global transition to electric vehicles, helping to power our economy in the clean industries of the future.

## **❖ UN report: Only 1% of women live in countries with high gender equality, women empowerment**

- A new global report launched by UN Women and UNDP at the Women Deliver conference highlights the challenges in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment around the world.
- The report introduces two important indices to assess progress in women's human development: the Women's Empowerment Index (WEI) and the Global Gender Equality Index (GGPI).

## **Women Empowerment Index (WEI):**

- It measures the power and independence of women in various dimensions including health, education, inclusion, decision making and violence against women.
- Globally, women achieve only 60% of their full potential, as measured by the WEI.

## **Global Gender Parity Index (GGPI):**

- It evaluates the position of women relative to men in key dimensions of human development, such as health, education, inclusion and decision-making.
- On average, women achieve 72% more than men, reflecting a 28% gender gap.

➤ A worrying finding is that less than 1% of women and girls live in countries with high levels of female empowerment and gender equality, while more than 90% of the female population live in countries with significant empowerment deficits and gender gaps.

### ❖ **DPIIT and Government of Gujarat jointly launch 'One District One Product' wall**

➤ One District One Product (ODOP) programme, an initiative of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry collaborated with the Government of Gujarat to promote indigenous crafts and artisans of the state.

➤ The ODOP Wall was jointly inaugurated by Manmeet Nanda, Joint Secretary, DPIIT and Aarti Kanwar, Resident Commissioner and Secretary (Economic Affairs), Government of Gujarat, at Garvi Gujarat Bhawan, New Delhi.

➤ Gujarat, with its 33 districts, offers a wide range of unique products, including traditional crafts such as Gamathi block prints and Mata-ni-Pachedi, as well as agricultural goods such as groundnut and cumin.

➤ The collaboration between ODOP and the Government of Gujarat includes product tagging and story cards to enhance the promotion and recognition of Gujarat's unique products.

➤ The partnership aims to increase the visibility of Gujarat products at the national level and drive consumers towards the emporia, thereby boosting sales.

➤ Specific interventions have been made to enhance the market presence of certain products in Gujarat.

**About Gujarat:** Formation - 1 May 1960, Capital -Gandhinagar, Chief Minister - Bhupendra Bhai Patel

➤ Governor - Acharya Devvrat, District - 33, Rajya Sabha-11 seats, Lok Sabha - 26 seats

## ❖ **Ground water law implemented in 21 states and union territories**

- The Union Ministry of Jal Shakti informed the Parliament that 21 states and union territories have implemented the Ground Water Act.
- In this law, provision has been made for rain water harvesting.
- In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti Bishweshwar Tudu informed that the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti has prepared a model bill to enable all states and union territories to enact appropriate groundwater laws.

### **States implementing rain water harvesting model:**

- According to the ministry, the 21 states/UTs which have so far implemented groundwater laws on the lines of the Model Bill include Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Bengal, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Lakshadweep and Puducherry.

### **Tap water to 60% rural households in SC areas:**

- Under this, tap water has been provided to 60 percent rural households in Scheduled Caste (SC) dominated areas.
- Out of 2,18,06,280 rural households in SC-concentrated/dominated habitations, 1,32,64,760 have been given tap water connections.

## ❖ **Japan becomes second Quad partner to sign semiconductor agreement with India**

- India and Japan recently signed an agreement to jointly develop the semiconductor ecosystem, strengthening their partnership and resilience in the global supply chain.

- The memorandum signed by Union Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav and Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Yasutoshi Nishimura covers various areas of cooperation.
- This marks Japan as the second Quad partner after the United States to collaborate with India to enhance the semiconductor industry.
- The agreement covers various areas of cooperation, including semiconductor design, manufacturing, device research and talent development, with the aim of ensuring a robust and reliable semiconductor supply chain.
- To facilitate efficient cooperation, the two countries will set up an "implementing organisation" to promote government-to-government and industry-to-industry partnerships.

### ❖ **Hacker Kevin Mitnick passed away at the age of 59**

- Renowned hacker Kevin Mitnick in the history of cyber security has died at the age of 59 after battling pancreatic cancer for over a year.
- Mitnick gained notoriety for his hacking exploits, which inspired several films, including "WarGames".
- Some claimed that as a teenager he had successfully hacked the North American Aerospace Defense Command's computer systems, but Mitnick denied the allegation.
- In 1988, Mitnick was arrested for stealing \$1 million in proprietary software from Digital Equipment Corporation.
- He received a one-year prison sentence and three years' probation, but a new arrest warrant was issued in 1995 for violating probation.
- After his release in 2000, Mitnick became a white-hat hacker, and legally used his expertise to help businesses protect their systems.

➤ He became the chief hacking officer and partial owner of the tech security firm KnowBe4, which was founded by his close friend and business partner, Stu Sjouverman.

➤ In 2011, Mitnick published a memoir detailing his hacking career titled "Ghost in the Wires: My Adventures as the World's Most Wanted Hacker".

### ❖ **Anshuman Jhingran: Youngest person to cross the North Channel**

➤ Anshuman Jhingran, an 18-year-old open water swimmer from Navi Mumbai, achieved a remarkable feat by becoming the youngest person to cross the North Channel.

➤ The North Channel is a challenging strait located between the northeast coast of Northern Ireland and the southwest coast of Scotland, which serves as the end of the Irish Sea and flows northwest into the Atlantic Ocean.

➤ Anshuman accomplished this incredible feat in just 125 days, earning him a place in the prestigious Guinness World Records.

➤ His successful crossing was the 114th of its kind since 1947, showing the difficulty of swimming the North Channel.