

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

01ST June 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ PM Modi flags off Assam's first Vande Bharat Express

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Northeast's first and India's 18th Vande Bharat Express, connecting Guwahati to New Jalpaiguri in West Bengal.
- The Prime Minister also dedicated to the nation the newly electrified sections of New Bongaigaon-Dudhnoi-Mendipathar and Guwahati-Chaparmukh.
- He also inaugurated the new DEMU/MEMU (workshop for trains) shed at Lumding.
- This new service will cover the distance of 411 km between Guwahati and New Jalpaiguri in 5 hrs 30 mins. The Vande Bharat Express train service will operate six days a week.

❖ PM Modi to chair SCO Summit virtually

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair the 22nd Summit of the SCO Council of Heads of State.
- It will be held in the virtual format. India assumed the rotating Chairmanship of SCO at the Samarkand Summit on 16 September last year.
- All the SCO Member States, China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have been invited to attend the Summit.
- In addition, Iran, Belarus and Mongolia have been invited as observer states. As per SCO tradition, Turkmenistan has also been invited as the Guest of the Chair.
- The theme of the summit is 'Towards a Secure SCO'.

➤ The SECURE acronym was given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 2018 SCO summit which refers to security, economy and trade, connectivity, unity, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and environment.

❖ Sri Lanka's National Poson Week begins

- In Sri Lanka, the National Poson Week began on 31 May.
- The Posan festival will be held till June 6 and will be centered around the holy city of Mihinthale, Thanthirimale and Anuradhapura.
- The festival celebrates the introduction of Buddhism to Sri Lanka in 236 BCE by Arhat Mahinda, the son of Emperor Ashoka.
- A large number of devotees are expected to visit Anuradhapura for the festival this year and steps have been taken to provide all facilities to the devotees.
- Due to economic crisis and lockdown in the last few years the festival could not be celebrated on a large scale.
- Apart from this, the traffic police have implemented a special traffic plan to make travel easier in Anuradhapura.
- Posan, also known as Poson Poya, is an annual festival held by Sri Lankan Buddhists celebrating the arrival of Buddhism in Sri Lanka in the 3rd century BCE.
- The festival is the most important Poya (full moon) holiday of the year and the second most important Buddhist holiday of the year.

❖ J&K Govt. makes 'life saving jackets' mandatory for Shikara boats in Dal and Nigeen Lakes

- The Jammu and Kashmir government has announced making 'life jackets' mandatory for shikara boats in Dal and Nigeen lakes, besides other water bodies in the region.

- These instructions have been issued to ensure the safety of tourists riding shikaras in Dal and Nigeen lakes and other water bodies and to prevent any untoward incident due to inclement weather conditions or any other reasons.
- Ordered that as per the guidelines of J&K Tourism Policy, every Shikara boat registered under J&K Tourism Trade Act, 1978 shall maintain availability of minimum three life saving jackets of recommended quality and specifications in the boat at all times .
- Life saving jackets are designed to stay afloat in water. This helps prevent the risk of drowning.

❖ **Sakhalin-1 Project**

- ONGC Videsh, a subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, recently said that oil production from the Sakhalin-1 project in Russia is back from zero to a high of around 200,000 barrels per day (bpd).
- ONGC expressed confidence that it would be able to retain its 20 per cent stake in the Sakhalin-1 project.
- ONGC last year applied to the new Russian operator of Sakhalin-1 to retain its stake in the oil and gas project in the country's Far East.
- ONGC Videsh also has a 26% stake in Russia's Vankorneft, a company that owns Vankor Field and the North Vankor licence.
- ONGC, which has set a net zero target by 2038, is expecting gas production from its Mozambique project to begin by 2026-27.

❖ **India, Vietnam hold 3rd Maritime Security Dialogue**

- India and Vietnamese officials held the third Maritime Security Dialogue in New Delhi.
- Both sides discussed ways to better maintain the marine environment which is helpful for the inclusive development of both the countries.

- Senior officials from ministries and services dealing with maritime affairs participated in the dialogue.
- The two sides also reviewed initiatives for maritime cooperation and ways to strengthen international and regional mechanisms for comprehensive maritime security.
- The second India-Vietnam Maritime Security Dialogue was to be held in virtual format in April 2021 after the first round was held in Hanoi in March 2019.

❖ **Edinburgh University launches Hindi course**

- The University of Edinburgh and the Indian Consulate in the UK collaborated to create the first open access course in the Hindi language.
- The course, entitled "Climate Solutions", was developed with the help of translators and in partnership with the Edinburgh Climate Change Institute and the Government of India.
- Professor Dave Ray, Executive Director of the Edinburgh Climate Change Institute, and other climate change experts collaborated to design and deliver the course.
- The Climate Solutions Course syllabus is available in Hindi, English and Arabic. It focuses on the causes, implications and solutions related to climate change in India.

❖ **World Milk Day - 1 June**

- World Milk Day is observed annually on 1 June and was created by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) in 2001.
- World Milk Day aims to promote the consumption and benefits of milk around the world. The day aims to raise awareness and support initiatives related to the dairy industry.
- The theme for World Milk Day 2023 is "Showcasing how dairy is reducing its environmental footprint, while also providing nutritious foods and livelihoods."

- The theme highlights the dairy industry's efforts to reduce environmental impact and its contribution to nutrition and livelihoods.
- Dairy products are consumed by more than six billion people worldwide.
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):
- Establishment - 16 October 1945: Headquarters - Rome, Italy: Director General - Qu Dongyu

❖ **Shashi Tharoor releases Vijay Darda's book Ringside**

- Congress MP Dr. Shashi Tharoor released the book "Ringside" written by Lokmat Media Group Editorial Board Chairman and former MP Dr. Vijay Darda.
- "Ringside" is a compilation of Dr Darda's weekly articles published between 2011 and 2016 in Lokmat Media Group newspapers and other leading national and regional dailies.
- The book serves as a follow-up to Dr. Darda's previous work, "Straight Thoughts" and provides readers with a wide range of topics covering a variety of topics such as science, environment, economy, security, social development, sports, arts, culture, foreign policy Provides an intellectual journey, and national and international affairs.

❖ **Recep Tayyip Erdogan becomes the President of Türkiye**

- Justice and Development Party (AK Party) leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan became the President of Turkey.
- In the parliamentary elections, the AK Party and its allies won 323 out of 600 seats.
- Erdogan has been in power for two decades after becoming prime minister in March 2003.
- Erdogan won the presidential election, defeating Kemal Kilikdaroglu, the opposition leader of the Republican People's Party (CHP).

➤ Erdogan's government aims to prioritise fighting inflation and dealing with the aftermath of the devastating February 6 earthquake.

❖ **Justice Augustine George Masih sworn in as Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court**

➤ Justice Augustine George Masih was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court.

➤ Governor Kalraj Mishra administered the oath of office at a function held at Raj Bhavan.

➤ Justice Masih's appointment as Chief Justice comes after the previous Chief Justice, Justice Pankaj Mithal, was appointed as a Supreme Court judge in February 2023.

➤ Prior to his appointment as the Chief Justice, Justice MM Srivastava was serving as the Acting Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court.

➤ Justice Masih was sworn in as an Additional Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on July 10, 2008 and became a permanent Judge on January 14, 2011.

➤ Recently, Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra and senior advocate KV Vishwanathan were also sworn in as judges of the Supreme Court.

❖ **South Korea offers KSS-III batch-II submarine to India**

➤ Recently South Korea has made an exclusive offer to provide its advanced KSS-III Batch-II submarines to India.

➤ The proposal comes at a time when Germany is about to complete India's submarine acquisition programme, Project 75I.

➤ The KSS-III is the largest submarine to ever be built by South Korea, is being developed in two phases, Batch-I and Batch-II.

➤ It is part of the Korean Attack Submarine program and represents a significant advancement in the country's naval capabilities.

- The KSS-III Batch-II submarine is an advanced version of its predecessor submarine in terms of combat management system, firepower and sonar capabilities.
- It is jointly developed by Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering (DSME) and Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI).
- The KSS-III submarine is a series of diesel-electric attack submarines.