

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **Tejas of Maharashtra sets new Games record in Men's 110M Hurdles**

- Tejas Ashok Shirse of Maharashtra achieved an incredible feat, setting a new National Games record in Men's 110M hurdles by finishing it in 13.80 minutes.
- Priyanka Goswami of Uttar Pradesh has also set a new National Games record in the women's 20km Race Walk with an impressive time of 1:36:35.
- Gold medal of Women's 3M Spring board bagged by Palak Sharma of Madhya Pradesh and that of Men's won by H London Singh of Services.
- The gold medal in women's modern pentathlon was won by Adhya Singh of Madhya Pradesh and the Gold medal in men's modern pentathlon was won by Mayank Chaphekar of Maharashtra.
- Maharashtra is leading the medal table in the National Games 2023 with 114 medals including 47 gold.
- Haryana was on second spot with 50 medals, while defending champion Services Sports Control Board is placed in the third place with 33 medals.

❖ **Fincare SFB to merge with AU Small Finance Bank**

- Fincare Small Finance Bank (Fincare SFB) is set to merge with AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) from February 1, 2024.
- The merger is subject to all necessary approvals. AU SFB announced its approval of the amalgamation.
- As per the terms of the merger, shareholders of Fincare SFB will receive 579 shares in AU SFB for every 2,000 shares they hold in Fincare SFB.
- Following the transaction, it is expected that existing shareholders of Fincare SFB will maintain approximately 9.9% ownership in AU SFB.
- A capital infusion of Rs. 700 crores by the promoters of Fincare SFB.
- Fincare Small Finance Bank, a digitally enabled small finance bank, offers a broad range of deposit and asset solutions to its customers, with a total customer base of approximately 54 lakh.

❖ **BigBasket tops Fairwork index 2023 for gig workers**

- Tata owned BigBasket scored the overall highest score of 6 out of 10 points according to research firm Fairwork India 2023.
- BigBasket, BluSmart, Zomato, Urban Company, and Swiggy scored the highest points in the Fairwork India Report 2023.
- **Fairwork assessed platforms against five principles:** fair pay, fair conditions, fair contracts, fair management, and fair representation.

➤ Ride-hailing majors Uber and Ola, along with Porter, are the worst platforms for gig workers.

➤ The Fairwork India Team was spearheaded by the Centre for IT and Public Policy (CITAPP), International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B), in association with Oxford University.

❖ **Norway To Support India's 'Hunger Project' In Uttarakhand**

➤ Norway will help fund India's 'Hunger Project' and help strengthen women leaders to protect the environment and promote food security in Uttarakhand.

➤ The duration of the project would be three years, until September 2026 with a budget of ₹44.7 million.

➤ Aim: To strengthen elected women's leadership in gram panchayats so that they can play a pivotal role in conserving forests and natural resources and adopt strategies.

➤ Objective: To promote sustainable living, and food security and collaborate with members of van panchayats and the local community, especially women.

➤ The project will be implemented in 3 districts, 9 blocks, 172 gram panchayats and 145 van panchayats of Uttarakhand involving 900 EWRs for the protection of standing forests and nurturing their immediate environment that is crucial to the community's livelihoods and food security.

❖ **Indian Navy Launches 25T Bollard Pull Tug 'MAHABALI' In Gujarat**

- The Indian Navy has reached another milestone with the launch of the 25T Bollard Pull Tug, named 'Mahabali,' in Gujarat.
- This remarkable addition to the naval fleet not only symbolizes the Navy's commitment to modernization but also enhances its operational capabilities.
- "Mahabali" is a testament to the Navy's dedication to safeguarding the nation's maritime interests.
- The Indian Navy's expansion and modernization efforts are essential to maintain its superiority in the Indian Ocean Region.
- The addition of 'Mahabali' is a testament to the Navy's relentless pursuit of advanced technology and capabilities to secure the nation's vast maritime boundaries.

❖ **Nita Ambani receives 2023 Global Leadership Award for philanthropy from USISPF**

- The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) recognised Nita Ambani, Founder and Chairperson of Reliance Foundation, with the 2023 Global Leadership Award for Philanthropy and Corporate Social Responsibility.
- USISPF Chairman John Chambers and the Board of Directors presented the award.
- She is a businesswoman, has impacted millions of lives in India through Reliance Foundation's initiatives in education, arts, sports, and healthcare.

➤ She champions women's and children's causes, contributing significantly to bridging the gender divide and enhancing women's roles in India's economy.

❖ **Katrina kaif joins Rado as its global brand ambassador**

➤ Bollywood actress Katrina Kaif has become the global face of the Swiss watch making brand, Rado.

➤ Rado released the new Centrix models marking the partnership and on boarding of its new global brand ambassador.

➤ Centrix was first launched in 2010, the model took cues from the sand dunes.

➤ The partnership between the two transpired in which Katrina Kaif personifies confidence and grace, while walking out in a desert landscape with a Rado Centrix donning her wrist.

❖ **Manipur Chief Minister emphasises 'unity' at Mera Houchongba celebrations**

➤ Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh sent a powerful message of unity and harmony as he participated in the Mera Houchongba 2023 celebrations in Imphal.

➤ He made this remark while addressing the audience at the state's annual cultural event, Mera Houchongba.

➤ He also spoke about the uniqueness and importance of Mera Houchongba.

➤ The event was turned into a state-level celebration in 2017.

➤ N Biren Singh further stressed the various steps taken to bring unity in the state and the discussions with historians and cultural experts from different communities.

❖ NMC to launch 'one nation, one registration platform' for doctors

- The National Medical Commission (NMC) has embarked on a mission to assign a unique identification number to every doctor in the country by the end of 2024.
- The cornerstone of this initiative is the creation of the National Medical Register (NMR), which will serve as a centralized repository for doctors practicing in India.
- This move is expected to streamline the healthcare sector and enhance transparency.
- A pilot project for the National Medical Register (NMR) is set to be launched within the next six months, and the full-scale implementation is slated for completion by the end of 2024.
- Dr. Yogendra Malik, a member of the Ethics and Medical Registration Board of the NMC, provided insights into this ambitious project.
- The NMR will replace the Indian Medical Register (IMR) and will be made available to the public and placed on the NMC website.
- It shall display the information of a doctor such as his/her UID, registration number, name, place of work, qualifications, speciality and name of the Institute/University from where the qualifications were obtained among other key details.
- Presently, nearly 14 lakh doctors are registered with the IMR.

❖ **Army's LCH Prachand carries out inaugural firing of 70mm rocket**

- The Indian Army's Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) 'Prachand' successfully carried out the firing of 70mm rockets in both day and night conditions.
- The firing was carried out at a firing range near Likabali in Assam.
- The inaugural firing of 70mm rocket and 20mm turret guns of Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Prachand, was successfully executed, both by day and night.
- Both the Army and the Air Force have inducted the indigenous LCH in small numbers and a bigger deal for 156 LCH is awaiting the government approval.
- The contract for 156 indigenous LCH, 90 for Army and 66 for the Air Force, is estimated to cost 45,000 crore.

❖ **Bellingham wins Kopa Trophy for best young player at Ballon d'Or gala**

- Real Madrid and England star Jude Bellingham won the Kopa Trophy for the best player of last season aged under 21 at the Ballon d'Or ceremony in Paris.
- In his final campaign with Borussia Dortmund, Bellingham scored 14 times in 42 games as it came second in the Bundesliga.
- He also helped England reach the quarterfinals of the World Cup in Qatar.
- He succeeds Barcelona and Spain midfielder Gavi as the winner of the trophy named after former Real Madrid and France star Raymond Kopa.
- Kylian Mbappe and Matthijs de Ligt are also former winners of the award, which is voted for by former winners of the men's Ballon d'Or.
- Bellingham also ranked 18th in the voting for this year's Ballon d'Or, recognised as the most prestigious individual prize in football.