

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

1st September 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **Jaya Verma becomes the first woman to head railway board**

- The appointment of Jaya Verma Sinha as the Chairman and CEO of the Railway Board was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, making her the first woman to hold the coveted position in the Indian Railways.
- She assumed the post of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in Railway Board, Ministry of Railways on 1st September, 2023 at Rail Bhavan.
- Her journey in the Indian Railways began in 1988 when she joined the Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS).
- Prior to becoming the Chairperson and CEO, Sinha served as Member (Operations and Business Development), Railway Board.

❖ **Ravi Kannan wins 2023 Ramon Magsaysay award**

- Dr. Ravi Kannan, a distinguished oncologist based in Assam, has been announced as one of the four laureates of the esteemed 2023 Ramon Magsaysay Award.
- Currently he is serving as the director of the Cachar Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (CCHRC) situated in Silchar, Assam.
- Dr. Kannan's efforts have revolutionized cancer care in the region.
- He has been honored previously with India's esteemed Padma Shri award, a testament to his commitment and excellence in the medical field.
- He became the first medical practitioner from the northeastern region of India to be bestowed with the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award, often referred to as the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

❖ **Geetika Srivastava becomes the first woman Charge d'Affaires (CDA) in Pakistan**

- Geetika Srivastava, a 2005 batch IFS officer, was named as the first woman Charge d'Affaires (CDA) at the Indian High Commission in Islamabad, Pakistan.
- She is currently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and looks after the Indo-Pacific Division. She will replace Dr. M Suresh Kumar who worked in the Indian Embassy in China from 2007 to 2009.
- Geetika also held the position of Director in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) Division of the Ministry of External Affairs and served as the Regional Passport Officer in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Diplomatic relations between India and Pakistan were downgraded in August 2019, following India's decision to abrogate Article 370 that granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir. As a result, the Indian and Pakistani High Commissions in Islamabad and Delhi are managed by their respective charge d'affaires.

❖ **P V Raja Ram takes charge as the Director of BDL**

- PV Raja Ram has assumed charge as Director (Production) of Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Defence.
- He is a Mechanical Engineer from Osmania University and has rich experience spanning 34 years in various capacities for production of Missiles like Prithvi, Akash and M R SAM (Medium Range Surface to Air Missile).
- Prior to his new assignment, he served as Executive Director and Unit Head of Kanchanbagh Unit, Hyderabad of BDL.

❖ **India's new warship Mahendragiri to be launched in Mumbai**

- The warship 'Mahendragiri', built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, will be launched on 1 September 2023 in Mumbai.
- It is named after Mahendragiri, a mountain peak in the Eastern Ghats, located in the state of Odisha.

➤ It is a technologically advanced warship and is also a symbol of India's determination to embrace its rich naval heritage.

➤ Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) located in Mumbai, is a Public Sector Undertaking managed by the Ministry of Defence, The Government of India holds an 84.83% stake in MDL.

❖ **Viacom 18 to sponsor BCCI World Cup**

➤ The media conglomerate, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries, won BCCI's linear and digital rights in an e-auction.

➤ This means that all bilateral games involving India, played in the country, along with domestic cricket, will now be on Viacom 18.

➤ The network already has the digital rights for the world's most lucrative tournament, the Indian Premier League (IPL), and is the monopoly broadcaster of the Women's Premier League (WPL).

➤ Viacom 18 bid the highest in both spheres, beating Disney Star and Sony, and acquired the rights for approximately Rs 5,963 crore.

❖ **Former CJI N.V Ramana was appointed as a member of the Singapore International Mediator Panel**

➤ Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana was appointed as a member of the prestigious International Mediator Panel of the Singapore International Mediation Centre (SIMC).

➤ He participated in the 'Singapore Convention Week', an annual conference organized by Singapore's Ministry of Law, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), and over 20 partner organizations.

➤ SIMC is an independent non-profit organization in Singapore, which specializes in providing arbitration services for cross-border commercial disputes.

❖ India will host 1st edition of 'Global IndiaAI 2023' in October 2023

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology will be organizing the Global IndiaAI 2023, scheduled for October this year.
- The conference will attract leading figures in the field of AI, such as key players, researchers, startups, and investors from India and around the world.
- A variety of topics will be covered during the program, ranging from next-generation learning and foundational AI models to applications of AI in healthcare, governance and the advancement of electric vehicles.
- The conference will also discuss future trends in AI research, AI computing systems, investment prospects and strategies to promote AI talent.
- The proceedings of the conference are being monitored by Rajiv Chandrashekhar, Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Electronics and IT.

❖ NASA to test end-to-end laser communication in space

- NASA is set to demonstrate a new end-to-end communication system in space that it claims to be more efficient than conventional systems currently in use at the International Space Station.
- It is to test its space internet that uses lasers to send and receive data at gigabit speeds.
- The space agency will launch a new device called the Integrated LCRD Low Earth Orbit User Modem and Amplifier Terminal (ILLUMA-T) to the International Space Station (ISS) in 2023, which will connect with a laser relay satellite called LCRD that was launched in 2021.
- ILLUMA-T will transmit information to another satellite at the rate of a respectable Earth-based internet connection.
- This will be NASA's first two-way, end-to-end laser communication system.

❖ Chandrayaan-3 shows 50°C difference between moon's surface and 10 cm below the surface of moon

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has released the first temperature profile of the lunar south pole after Chandrayaan-3 successfully landed on the Moon on August 23.
- It was measured by an instrument named Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE), one of the payloads onboard the Vikram lander.
- The graph shared by ISRO showed the temperature variations on the Moon at various depths.
- ChaSTE measures the temperature profile of the lunar topsoil around the pole, to understand the thermal behaviour of the Moon's surface.
- It has a temperature probe equipped with a controlled penetration mechanism capable of reaching a depth of 10 cm beneath the surface. The probe is fitted with 10 individual temperature sensors.
- Space scientists so far have expected the temperature of the Moon to be around 20-30 degrees Celsius, but the data recorded by ChaSTE shows the difference by a huge margin on the south pole as it reaches up to 60 degrees Celsius.

❖ Centre announces up to Rs 50 lakh grant for technical textiles startups

- The central government said it will provide a grant-in-aid of up to Rs 50 lakh for startups and individuals to promote innovation in the niche technical textiles segment.
- The Startup Guidelines for Technical Textiles - Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT) will provide a grant-in-aid of up to Rs 50 lakh for up to a period of 18 months.
- Under the GREAT scheme, the ministry envisages the research, which has already been conducted and some prototypes have been developed, to be made commercial.
- With a strong emphasis on developing the Startup Ecosystem in Technical Textiles, the guidelines focus on supporting individuals and companies to translate prototypes to technologies & products, including commercialization.

❖ **Chef Sanjeev Kapoor signs in as the brand ambassador of Indian Oil**

- Indian Oil announced its collaboration with renowned Celebrity Chef Sanjeev Kapoor as the brand ambassador for its innovative Indane XTRATEJ LPG brand.
- Sailendra, Executive Director at Indian Oil, revealed that the company has experienced remarkable year-on-year growth in the market volume of Indane XTRATEJ LPG.
- This new offering aims to provide a cost-efficient solution that not only meets the requirements of various segments such as hotels and hospitality but also addresses the growing expectations of customers in an era of rapid change.

❖ **Govt to set up 1,000 Khelo India Centres in country within a year**

- Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur has announced that 1000 Khelo India Centres will be established within a year in the country.
- The initiative will not only provide employment opportunities to former athletes but also give budding sportspersons a chance to take guidance from the veterans.
- Each player will receive five lakh rupees to procure equipments for their centres and per year another five lakh rupees for operational expenses.
- The Minister launched the third edition of the Fit India Quiz and a National Sports Federations portal.

❖ **Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched Comic Book developed by NCERT & UNESCO**

- Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, launched a novel comic book titled "Let's Move Forward."
- This comic book is a collaborative effort between the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and UNESCO.
- This book will motivate students to prioritize holistic well-being while entertaining them through storytelling, with key focus on good health and wellness.

➤ This book imparts health education, prevent diseases, and enhance access to health services through wellness centres within educational institutions and will motivate students to prioritise holistic well-being while entertaining them through storytelling

➤ The book will be accessible in 11 languages.

➤ It signifies a significant stride towards augmenting the goals of the School Health and Wellness Programme (SHWP).

❖ **Telangana CIO receives World Innovation Award**

➤ Telangana's Chief Innovation Officer (CIO) Shanta Thoutam has received the World Innovation Award at the first BRICS Innovation Forum held in Moscow.

➤ The award is given for outstanding contribution to the Sustainable Development Goal-4 that ensures inclusive and equitable quality education and promotes lifelong opportunities for all.

➤ The Award is organized by World Organisation for Development, an international NGO with special consultative status with United Nations Economic & Social Council.

➤ It honors leaders from the developing world that have made an outstanding personal contribution to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals through a systematic effort to implement innovative solutions.

➤ Shanta Thoutam completed 7 years of her service in the innovation ecosystem of Telangana starting with the role of Vice President at T-Hub, then Officer on Special Duty (OSD) for State Handlooms and Textiles Department, and currently serving as the first woman CIO.