

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

3rd & 4th December 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ International Day of Persons with Disabilities - 3rd December 2023

- International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed on December 3.
- Every year, International Day of Persons with Disabilities is celebrated to raise awareness about the challenges faced by people with disabilities and explore ideas on how we can work together to ensure that equal rights are provided to each of them.
- Integration of people with disabilities is important in every aspect of life, mostly political, social, economic and cultural.
- In 1992, the annual observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons was announced by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3.
- The theme for this year's International Day of Persons with Disabilities is - "United in action to rescue and achieve the SDGs for, with and by persons with disabilities".

❖ India Ranked 49th in World Digital Competitiveness Index 2023

- India has been ranked 49th out of 64 economies in the World Digital Competitiveness Ranking (WDCR) released by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD).
- The WDCR is a comprehensive assessment that provides insight into how nations are navigating the digital landscape amid the rise of artificial intelligence (AI).
- The United States has topped this year's ranking, cementing its position as a "digital nation".

➤ The Netherlands took 2nd place in the ranking, while Singapore, the leader in the technology factor, took 3rd place.

➤ Denmark slipped to 4th place due to a decline in future preparedness and technology factors.

➤ **This report is evaluated based on 3 key factors:**

1. Knowledge, ability to understand and learn new technologies

2. Technology, ability to develop new digital innovations.

3. Preparing for the future.

➤ India has been ranked 49th out of 64 economies, in the Asia-Pacific region, India ranked 12th among 14 countries.

➤ International Institute for Management Development (IMD) is a business education school based in Lausanne, Switzerland. It issues 3 reports they are:

1. World Competitive Ranking

2. World Digital Competitiveness Ranking

3. World talent Ranking.

❖ **India Re-elected to International Maritime Organisation Council**

➤ India has been re-elected to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council in Category B with the highest number of votes in the elections held on 1 december 2023 in London for the 2024-25 biennium Session.

➤ The 33rd Assembly of IMO held in London, The United Kingdom (U.K.). Indian High Commissioner Vikram Doraiswami represented India at the IMO Assembly in London.

➤ India got 157 votes out of 167 which is the highest number of votes among candidates in category B which includes 10 member nations with largest in international seaborne trade.

➤ Category B States are: India, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, UAE (United Arab Emirates).

➤ India was joined in IMO in 1959, till now it has total 175 member countries,

➤ International Maritime Organisation (IMO) is established in 1958.

➤ Headquarters: London, U.K.

➤ Kitack Lim is currently serving as Secretary General of IMO.

❖ **Ashwini Ponnappa-Tanisha Crasto pair finishes runner- up at Syed Modi International Super 300 badminton tournament**

➤ The Indian pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto fought valiantly before succumbing to the third-seeded Japanese duo Rin Iwanaga and Kie Nakanishi in a thrilling three-game women's doubles final at the Syed Modi International Super 300 badminton tournament in Lucknow.

➤ The World No. 32 Indian pair, having secured victories at the Nates International Challenge and Abu Dhabi Masters Super 100 earlier this year, displayed resilience but ultimately lost 14-21, 21-17, 15-21 in a hard-fought 77-minute clash.

➤ Ashwini, 36, and 20-year-old Tanisha, who started playing together only in January this year, roared back into the contest after winning the second game and fought back from 1-8 down in the decider to 13-15 before the World No. 15 Japanese marched ahead.

➤ Tanisha dazzled in the frontcourt, producing some precise placements, as the Indian pair lead 7-4 in the opening game.

❖ **World's first portable hospital 'Aarogya Maitri Aid Cube' unveiled in Gurugram**

➤ The World's first portable hospital, 'Aarogya Maitri Aid Cube' was unveiled in Gurugram.

- Designed indigenously under the Project 'BHISHM', the modular trauma management and aid system is made up of 72 detachable mini-cubes, each being a specialized station for emergency response and humanitarian efforts.
- It can handle bullet injuries, burns, head, spinal and chest injuries, minor surgeries, fractures and major bleeding. It can treat as many as 200 patients.
- These cubes are light and portable, and can be rapidly deployed anywhere, from air drops to ground transportation.

❖ **Pema Khandu and US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti inaugurated 'The Hump WWII Museum'**

- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu and US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti inaugurated '**The Hump WWII Museum**'.
- A museum dedicated to fallen airmen flying for the Allied forces during World War II was inaugurated in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Hump WWII Museum at Pasighat, headquarters of the East Siang district, has been named after a treacherous air route between north-eastern Assam and Yunnan in China.
- Some 650 aircraft crashed from 1942-45 on this route.
- The Hump was a tribute from the people of his State to the fallen heroes of WWII.

❖ **IBBI appoints Jitesh John as new Executive Director**

- Insolvency regulator Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has a new Executive Director, Jitesh John.
- This significant development follows his role as the Economic Advisor in the Ministry of Power, showcasing a seamless transition within the governmental spheres.

➤ John, a 2001 batch Indian Economic Service Officer, previously served as an Economic Advisor in the Ministry of Power.

➤ John has a post-graduate degree in Economics and has completed 21 years in Central Government in various capacities.

➤ He has experience working in financial, Energy, Infrastructure and Small and Medium Enterprises sectors.

❖ **Photojournalist Zaverilal Mehta passes away**

➤ Veteran photojournalist Zaverilal Mehta passed away, at the age of 97.

➤ Mehta was conferred Padma Shri award in 2018 and by then he had contributed to the field of journalism for over four decades.

➤ Mehta worked as a textile artist and photographer with Arvind Mills for 17 years before he became a press photographer in 1972.

➤ A leading local daily, Gujarat Samachar, tasked him to cover the national capital when Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister.

➤ He cultivated the genre of ‘photo story’ in Gujarati journalism by a little longer storyline defining the mood that his photographs captured.

❖ **Aurobindo Pharma gets USFDA nod for HIV drug**

➤ Aurobindo Pharma has received approval from the US health regulator to market a generic medication for the treatment of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV-1) infection.

➤ The company has received final approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) to manufacture and market Darunavir tablets in strengths of 600 mg and 800 mg.

➤ The company's product is therapeutically equivalent to the reference listed drug (RLD), Prezista tablets, 600 mg and 800 mg, of Janssen products, LP.

➤ Darunavir tablets, 600 mg and 800 mg, in combination with other antiretroviral agents, are indicated for the treatment of HIV-1 infection in adult and pediatric patients 3 years of age and older.

➤ As per IQVIA data, the approved product has an estimated market size of USD 274.8 million for the 12 months ended October 2023.

➤ Aurobindo noted that it now has a total of 500 Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) approvals from the USFDA.

❖ **SKOCH Gold Award 2023 was given to PGCIL**

➤ The Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) has been honored with the prestigious SKOCH Gold Award 2023 in recognition of the revolutionary Pugalur Thrissur 2000 MW Voltage Source Converter High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) System that it developed.

➤ PGCIL is a Maharatna Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) under the Ministry of Power.

➤ This award is a notable recognition of the company's achievement in the power sector.

➤ The award ceremony saw the participation of Power Grid's Executive Director B. Anantha Sarma and Chief General Manager (Corporate Planning) Abhinav Verma.

➤ The SKOCH Gold Award 2023 acknowledges the outstanding contributions and technological advancements made by PGCIL in the realm of power transmission and distribution.

➤ This accolade reflects the corporation's commitment to innovation, reliability and sustainable energy solutions.

❖ **Vaishali Rameshbabu is the 84th Chess Grandmaster of India**

- India Chess player Vaishali Rameshbabu (22 years old), has become India's 84th Grandmaster by crossing the 2500 Elo points during the ongoing 4th edition of Llobregat Open Chess Tournament 2023 in Barcelona, Spain.
- She is the 3rd Indian female Grandmaster after Koneru Humpy (2002) and Harika Dronavalli (2011).
- Vaishali Rameshbabu is the sister of Praggnanandhaa, and they became the world's first sister-brother pair to be Grand Masters.
- To become a GM, a player has to secure three GM norms and cross the live ratings of 2,500 Elo points.
- Recently(November 2023), she won FIDE Women's Grand Swiss 2023 title and qualified for the 2024 Women's Candidates, which set to be held in Canada.
- Vaishali Rameshbabu is from Tamil Nadu state, Tamil Nadu is the Indian state with the most number of Grand Master titles.
- Vishwanathan Anand is the first Indian player to become a Chess grandmaster.
- 83rd Grandmaster – Aditya Samant
- 82nd Grandmaster- Vuppula Praneeth
- 81st Grandmaster – Sayantan Das
- 80th Grandmaster – Vignesh NR
- **About FIDE (International Chess Federation):**
- **President** – Arkady Dvorkovich
- **Vice President** – Vishwanath Anand
- **Headquarters** – Lausanne, Switzerland.
- **Established** – 1924

❖ Bihar Launches 'Mission Daksh' To Aid 25 Lakh Academically Weak Students

- Bihar government launched its ambitious scheme to minimize school dropout.
- The scheme, called Mission Daksh (Dynamic Approach for Knowledge and Skill) aims at offering special Hindi, Mathematics and English classes to weak students of classes 3-8 across the state.
- A teacher will teach only five students, who cannot read and write Hindi and English fluently and are not good at basic Mathematics.
- Daksh classes were run successfully between 3.30pm and 4.15 pm in over 60,000-plus schools across the state.
- An estimated 5 Lakh teachers taught over 25 Lakh students. The idea behind this movement is to reduce the school dropout rates.
- The education Department emphasizes that if these students fail, strict departmental action will be taken against headmasters, principals, and teachers.