

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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DESCRIPTIVE

❖ Shell announces New India chairman

- Shell India has appointed Mansi as the Country Chair, who will oversee Shell Group of companies in India, in addition to her role as Vice President, Shell Lubricants for Asia Pacific.
- She will relocate from Singapore to New Delhi, her home city, to take up the role.
- She graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Technology from the National Institute of Technology Kurukshetra and has a MBA in Marketing from S.P. Jain Institute of Management and Research.
- Prior to commencement as Country Chair, Mansi was Vice President of Shell Lubricants Asia Pacific, and has held other roles in Shell including Managing Director of Shell Lubricants India and Country Marketing Officer.
- Mansi joined Shell from Procter & Gamble in 2012, where she held several regional and global Director-level positions.

❖ International Young Eco-Hero award

- The awards, presented by US-based non-profit Action for Nature, recognises youngsters between the age of 8 to 16 years, for raising awareness of environmental issues and finding innovative solutions to tough environmental problems.
- Nine youngsters from India and the US are among 17 environmental activists who will be honoured with the 2023 International Young Eco-Hero Award for their creative initiatives to tackle the world's most pressing environmental challenges.
- The five eco-warriors from India include, Eiha Dixit from Meerut, Manya Harsha from Bengaluru, Nirvaan Somany and Mannat Kaur from New Delhi and Karnav Rastogi from Mumbai.

➤ The Indian-American winners include Satvika Iyer from California, Rahul Vijayan and Anushka Godambe from Texas and Nitya Jakka from Illinois.

❖ **Center nod to railway projects worth 83,543 crores**

➤ The Central government has decided to take up 30 railway projects including 15 new railway lines in Telangana.

➤ This would involve a total outlay of Rs 83,543 crore, as stated by Union Tourism and Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy.

➤ Also, the state government support is being sought for projects such as Phase-II of multi-modal transport system (MMTS) in Hyderabad.

➤ Recently, the Railways granted approval for modernisation and redevelopment of 40 railway stations in Telangana, for which the Central government has released Rs 2,300 crore.

➤ Besides, 30 projects approved by the Modi Government includes laying of 5,239 km of new railway lines in the state.

❖ **Anti Polygamy Law to be implemented in Assam**

➤ The Assam government has constituted a three-member committee to draft the proposed anti-polygamy law.

➤ It has been constituted with Advocate General, Legal Remembrancer and Director General of Police.

➤ The state government had earlier constituted a committee to examine the 'legislative competence of the state legislature' to enact a law to end polygamy.

➤ The government had sought the views of the public on the law. Altogether, 149 individuals and organisations responded and of them, 146 supported it while the remaining objected it.

❖ **Aditya L1 successfully placed in new orbit**

➤ A day after it launched the Aditya-L1 spacecraft, the country's first mission to study the Sun, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) carried out the first orbit-raising manoeuvre.

➤ Stating that the satellite is “healthy and operating nominally”, the ISRO said the first Earth-bound manoeuvre has been “performed successfully” from ISTRAC, Bengaluru.

➤ The Aditya-L1 mission was launched from the Sriharikota spaceport and placed in an Earth orbit, 235 km x 19,500 km, an hour later.

➤ Over the next few days, the spacecraft will continue to move around the Earth, progressively raising its orbit and gaining momentum, before embarking on its four-month journey to the Lagrange-1 point of the Earth-Sun system.

❖ **Heath Streak, Zimbabwean cricketer passes away**

➤ Heath Hilton Streak (16 March 1974 – 3 September 2023) was a Zimbabwean cricketer and cricket coach who played for and captained the Zimbabwe national cricket team.

➤ He was the all time leading wicket taker for Zimbabwe in Test cricket with 216 wickets and in ODI cricket with 239 wickets.

➤ Streak remains the only Zimbabwean cricketer to have taken over 100 Test wickets and completed the double of 2000 runs and 200 wickets in ODIs.

➤ He was also one of only four Zimbabwean bowlers to have taken over 100 ODI wickets.

➤ He holds the record for the most five wicket hauls by a Zimbabwean in Tests, with seven.

❖ **Piloo reporter international umpire passes away**

➤ Piloo Reporter, a former international umpire, passed away at the age of 84 years old.

➤ He is known for his jovial nature and vigorous style of signaling boundaries, stood in 14 Tests and 22 ODIs.

➤ His unique way of signaling boundaries earned him the affectionate nickname “PD” in the cricketing fraternity.

➤ His remarkable skills as an umpire came into the spotlight when he stood in seven matches during the 1992 Cricket World Cup held in Australia and New Zealand.

➤ His contributions to the game were celebrated not only in India but on the international stage as well.

❖ **Study Australia Fair in Chandigarh**

➤ The 'Study Australia Fair', an annual event to attract Indian students to Australia, began in Chandigarh. Being organised by the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade), the Australian Government's agency for international trade promotion and attracting investment, the fair will also be held in Delhi, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Chennai.

➤ About 25 educational institutions across from the country will participate in the fair.

➤ As of June, 98,000 Indian students are studying in Australia. India is Australia's second largest source of international students.

➤ The Australian government is also working on a programme for scholarships for Indian students.

❖ **Diksha e-education platform to offer AI help**

➤ The National e-Governance Division (NeGD) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in India is planning to integrate Personalised Adaptive Learning (PAL) into its existing Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) platform.

➤ PAL is a software-based approach that aims to provide each student with an individualized learning experience based on their unique needs and abilities.

➤ DIKSHA is an online platform and mobile application under the Education Ministry that offers e-content for schools.

➤ While it already includes assistive technologies for learners with visual or hearing challenges, it primarily serves as a static content repository.

➤ The integration of PAL into DIKSHA is expected to revolutionize the platform by leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) to cater to the specific learning needs of students.

➤ For example, if a student makes a mistake while learning a concept, the AI system will flag it and guide the student back to a basic video explaining the correct approach.

❖ **Bank credit outstanding to real estate at record high**

➤ Bank credit to housing as well as commercial real estate witnessed nearly 38 per cent annual growth in July, taking the loan outstanding to the realty sector to a record Rs 28 lakh crore, as per the latest RBI data.

➤ It is evident from the Reserve Bank's loan outstanding data as well as property consultants data on housing sales and new launches across major cities that activities in the real estate sector are moving at a fast pace.

➤ The credit outstanding in housing (including priority sector housing) rose 37.4 per cent annually in July crossing Rs 24.28 lakh crore, showed the RBI's data on 'Sectoral Deployment of Bank Credit – July 2023'.

➤ The credit outstanding to the commercial real estate increased by 38.1 per cent to Rs 4.07 lakh crore.

❖ **P V Satyanarayana receives Dr. M.S.Swaminathan Award**

➤ Dr. PV Satyanarayana, Principal Scientist, Agricultural Research Station, Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU), Ragolu, has been awarded the prestigious Dr.MS Swaminathan award for his contributions in the field of agriculture during the period 2021-2022.

➤ The biennial award, constituted by the Retired Indian Council of Agricultural Research Employees Association (RICAREA) and Nuziveedu Seeds Limited (NSL), includes a cash prize of Rs. 2 lakh and a gold medal, was presented to Dr Satyanarayana at an event at Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR).

➤ He received this award in recognition of his contribution to the development of high-yielding rice varieties that exhibit resilience against pests and environmental changes.

➤ He has also contributed to fine grain varieties and hybrid rice that have revolutionized agriculture across India.

➤ Some of the notable achievements of Dr. Satyanarayana include the national award as Team Leader for the Best Golden Jubilee AICIP Centre Award in 2015, the Best Scientist Award by the Seedman Association in 2021.

❖ **Uday Kotak resigns as CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank**

➤ The founder of Kotak Mahindra Bank Uday Kotak has stepped down as the Managing Director (MD) and CEO with effect from September 1, 2023.

➤ The resignation comes four months ahead of the end of his current tenure, which is December 31, 2023.

➤ Dipak Gupta, currently the joint managing director, will carry out the chief executive duties until Dec. 31.