

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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DESCRIPTIVE

❖ Jitendra Singh launched India's First Magnetic Resonance Imaging Scanner

➤ India's first indigenously developed, affordable, lightweight, ultrafast, high field (1.5 Tesla), next generation Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scanner has been launched by the Union Minister of Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh in New Delhi.

➤ It has been developed by the Voxelgrids Innovations Pvt Ltd under the National Biopharma Mission of Department of Biotechnology.

➤ MRI is a type of scan that uses strong magnetic fields and radio waves to produce detailed images of the inside of the body.

➤ It is a milestone achievement for National Biopharma Mission (NBM), Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT).

➤ This new innovation offers a prospect of sharing this success with other nations in global South to help them to have access to an affordable and dependable medical imaging solutions.

❖ Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched the NAPDDR

➤ The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) which is an umbrella scheme under which financial assistance is provided to:

(i) 'State Governments/ Union Territory (UT) Administrations for Preventive Education and Awareness Generation, Capacity Building, Skill development,

vocational training and livelihood support of ex-drug addicts, Programmes for Drug Demand Reduction by States/UTs etc.

(ii) NGOs/VOs for running and maintenance of Integrated Rehabilitation Centers for Addicts (IRCAs), Community based peer Led Intervention (CPLI) for early Drug Use Prevention among Adolescents, Outreach and Drop In Centers (ODIC), District De-Addiction Centers (DDACs);

(iii) Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) in Government hospitals.

➤ Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) was launched on 15th August 2020 in 372 identified most vulnerable districts to reach out to the masses and spread awareness about substance use with focus on higher educational Institutions.

❖ **Brics' New Development Bank elected Thuraiya Alhashmi as a board member**

➤ New Development Bank (NDB) has elected Thuraiya Alhashmi, director of the international financial relations and organisations department at the UAE Ministry of Finance, as a member of its board of directors and a constituency director.

➤ She will become the first Emirati and Arab woman to assume a director's position at the Shanghai based bank.

➤ Her appointment followed an internal voting process during NDB's 8th annual meeting, held recently in Shanghai, China.

➤ Alhashmi will be able to serve the UAE and its global contributions across financial area in her new role.

➤ The UAE joined BRICS' NDB in October 2021 following Cabinet Resolution No. (19)/3 of 2021.

❖ **Karnataka Bank hosted the first edition of 'KBL - FinOne'**

- Karnataka Bank hosted the first edition of 'KBL - FinOne', with the objective of forging collaborations to develop innovative business models, providing seamless banking experience and offering a complete product suite.
- The First edition of KBL – FinOne featured over 30 speakers from various Fintechs, delving into some of the interesting & relevant topics like Emerging Lending models, Neo Banks, Platformization including No Code – Low Code, Embedded Finance, Cards Infrastructure, Payment innovations etc.
- Karnataka Bank is looking forward to co-creating a digital ecosystem with robust and innovative solutions.
- Managing Director & CEO of KBL : Shri Srikrishnan

❖ **Indian-origin author Chetna Maroo's debut novel on Booker Prize longlist**

- A longlist of 13 books was revealed for Booker Prize 2023 which includes Indian-origin debut author Chetna Maroo for her novel 'Western Lane'.
- The Booker Prize is a prestigious award given annually to the best work of fiction published in the UK and Ireland in the previous year.
- Kenya-born Maroo's novel, set within the context of the British Gujarati milieu, has been praised by the Booker judges for its use of the sport of squash as a metaphor for complex human emotions.
- The book revolves around the story of an 11-year-old girl named Gopi and her bonds with her family.

❖ **NHPC and ALIMCO sign MoU for providing aids and assistive devices**

- The National Hydroelectric Power Commission (NHPC) and Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for providing Assistive Aids and Devices to persons with disabilities (PwDs).
- The Aids and Assistive Devices shall be provided to around 2000 Divyangjans (PwDs) at seven locations across the country.
- It includes Bandipora (J&K), West Siang and Kamble (Arunachal Pradesh), Lakhimpur and Dhemaji (Assam), Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand) and Churachandpur (Manipur).
- The MOU has been signed between NHPC and ALIMCO with the aim of empowering divyangjans (PwDs) in order to be at par with mainstream society and also explore newer opportunities in life.
- NHPC in its corporate social responsibility outreach during last 2 years has also provided Skill Development Training to 7000 unemployed youth including divyangjans (PwDs) for vocational purposes across various locations of the country.
- NHPC is also undertaking CSR activities in 3 (three) Aspirational Districts including Baramulla, Chamba in Himachal Pradesh and West Sikkim in Sikkim.

❖ **China, UAE air forces to conduct first joint training FALCON Shield-2023**

- The air forces of China and UAE will conduct their first joint air force exercise called “Falcon Shield 2023” in China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in August.
- This exercise is their first-ever joint fighter jet drill in China, marking a historic step in the two nation’s defense and security ties.
- The move can be seen as another attempt by Beijing to drive a wedge between the United States and Middle Eastern nations following the epoch-making China-brokered Saudi-Iran deal.

➤ It can also be seen as a counter measure against Tokyo, since Japan has been expanding its roster of partners for joint fighter drills.

❖ **Ministry of Social Justice implements "Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana"**

➤ The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing the scheme of "Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)".

➤ It is a scheme for providing physical aids and assisted-living devices for senior citizens (aged above 60 years) belonging to BPL category.

➤ This is a central sector scheme, fully funded by the Central Government.

➤ The expenditure for implementation of the scheme will be met from the "Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund".

➤ The Scheme will be implemented through the sole implementing agency - Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO), a PSU under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

❖ **12 countries responsible for 52% of the world's mismanaged plastic waste**

➤ According to Swiss-based research consultancy Earth Action, earth saw its first Plastic Overshoot Day which means the point at which the amount of plastics exceeds the global waste management capacity.

➤ India is among the 12 countries, along with China, Brazil, Indonesia, Thailand, Russia, Mexico, the United States, Saudia Arabia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iran and Kazakhstan, which are responsible for 52 per cent of the world's mismanaged plastic waste.

➤ These countries have been categorised as 'waste sponges'.

➤ Despite pledges and increased waste management capacity, increased production of plastics will lead to global plastics pollution tripling by 2040.

➤ The global average consumption of plastic per person per year is 20.9 kg.

❖ GST collection rises 11% to Rs 1.65 lakh crore in July

- The gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collected in July 2023 was Rs 1,65,105 crore.
- It is for the fifth time since the rollout of the regime that the gross GST collection crossed the Rs 1.60 lakh crore mark.
- Of the Rs 1.65 lakh crore July mop up, the central GST was Rs. 29,773 crore and state was is Rs 37,623 crore and Integrated GST was Rs 85,930 crore (including Rs 41,239 crore collected on import of goods).
- The total revenue of Centre and the States in the month of July 2023 after regular settlement was Rs 69,558 crore for CGST and Rs 70,811 crore for the SGST.
- Notably, the GST revenues for the month of July 2023 are 11% higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year.

❖ Deepak Shenoy honored with Global Visionary Entrepreneur Award

- Dr. Deepak Shenoy , MD of Medec Dragon Pvt Ltd was honored with Global Visionary Entrepreneur Award.
- Medec Dragon Pvt Ltd, India's fastest growing research-driven Pharmaceutical API intermediates Contract Manufacturing Company was awarded the most prestigious "Best Managed Pharmaceutical Sustainable Organizations 2023".
- The awards were presented at the 6th edition of South Asia Pacific Healthcare Summit & Business Award 2023 held in Mumbai.
- Earlier this year, Medec Dragon Pvt Ltd was awarded the most prestigious and coveted "Most Promising Company in Corporate Governance 2023".
- It also received the Golden Pinnacle Award for "Most Promising Company in Corporate Governance and Sustainability Vision Award 2023".

❖ **Diego Godin announced retirement from football**

- Former Uruguay defender Diego Godin retired from professional soccer, ending a 20-year career at the age of 37.
- Godin played in four World Cups and spent much of his club career in Spain, notably at Atletico Madrid from 2010 to 2019.
- Godin played more than 600 professional matches and scored 38 goals in his career.
- He lifted 10 titles, including two at the Europa League.

❖ **Bhutan's success in increasing its tiger population**

- Bhutan's tiger population has increased to 131, which increased 27% since the first systematic survey in 2015 according to the National Tiger Survey Report 2021–2022.
- This conservation success is a result of increased law enforcement, community-based tiger conservation programs, and habitat improvement.
- Bhutan will host a conference on Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes in 2024 in collaboration with a coalition of major tiger conservation NGOs and IGOs.

❖ **President of India inaugurated 'UNMESHA' and 'UTKARSH' festivals in Bhopal**

- President Draupadi Murmu inaugurated the national festival of India's folk and tribal expressions "Utkarsh" and the international literature festival "Unmesh" in Bhopal.
- Culture Department of Madhya Pradesh along with Sangeet Natak Akademi and Sahitya Akademi of the Union Ministry of Culture is organizing this event from 3rd to 5th August.
- Utkarsh means progress and the progress of the tribal group will lead to the progress of the country.

❖ Manoj Bajpayee's 'Joram' wins awards at Durban International Film Festival

- Manoj Bajpayee makes history at Durban International Film Festival and becomes the 1st Indian star to win the Best Actor Award.
- While Manoj bagged the 'Best Actor' trophy, the film's cinematographer Piyush Puty won the award for 'Best Cinematography'.
- It's a story of a tribal man being chased by powerful forces who want him dead. He has to stay on the run to keep his infant daughter alive.
- The film also deals with issues such as social inequalities, injustice with the tribal communities and deforestation.

❖ Lok sabha passes bill on birth registration

- The Lok Sabha passed the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023 which will now enable digital birth certificates.
- This bill allows the use of a birth certificate as a single document for admission to an educational institution, issuance of driving licence, preparation of voter list, Aadhaar number, registration of marriage or appointment to a government job.
- The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023 will also help create a national and state-level database of registered births and deaths which eventually would ensure efficient and transparent delivery of public services, social benefits and digital registration.
- The bill provides for issuance of a passport and any other purpose as may be determined by the central government in order to enhance the public convenience and to avoid multiplicity of documents to prove date and place of birth in the country.