

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **South Korea's An Se-young wins Thailand Open final**

- World No. 2 An Se-young of South Korea claimed her fourth title in 2023 by defeating China's He Bingjiao in the women's singles final of the Thailand Open badminton tournament.
- Thailand Open Badminton was played in Bangkok. 21-year-old An Si-young won 21-10, 21-19.
- The South Korean player has been able to make the finals of every tournament he has played this year, winning titles at the All England Open, India and Indonesia.
- She will be eyeing his fifth title at the Singapore Badminton Open, which begins at the Indoor Stadium.
- In the men's final, Thailand's Kunlavut Witidson won the first gold medal by defeating Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk Yiu 21-12, 21-10 in just 38 minutes. He became the fourth Thai man to win the tournament.

❖ **IRDAI issues draft Bima Vahaks guidelines**

- IRDAI recently came out with draft guidelines for 'Bima Vahaks (BV)'.
- It seeks to establish a dedicated distribution channel at the level of Gram Panchayats.
- The guidelines propose Corporate Bima Vahaks and Individual Bima Vahaks for the distribution channel.
- Corporate Bima Vahak would be legal persons registered in accordance with the respective laws and engaged by an insurer. Individual Bima Vahak could be any individual appointed by an insurer or appointed by a Corporate Bima Vahak.

➤ The BVs, both corporate and individual, would be authorised to undertake activities like the collection of proposal information, and KYC documents and coordinate claims-related services.

➤ As per the draft, every insurer will have to provide alternative mode for payment of premium by prospects or policyholders.

❖ **J&K's Kishtwar will become north India's major 'power hub'**

➤ Union Minister of State for Personnel, Jitendra Singh, announced that Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar will become North India's major "power hub" generating approximately 6,000 MW of power upon the completion of ongoing power projects.

➤ The minister held a meeting to review the progress of various hydroelectric power projects in the Kishtwar and Doda districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

➤ NHPC chairman Rajiv Vishnoi, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Devansh Yadav, and officials provided updates on the projects during the meeting.

➤ The surplus power generated in Kishtwar will not only be utilized within the Union Territory but can also be availed by other states.

➤ He assured 100% reservation for locals in unskilled jobs and pledged to prioritize local talent for skilled manpower requirements in these projects.

❖ **Bishkek Ranking Series 2023: Manisha wins gold**

➤ Manisha, an Asian championships bronze medallist in women's 65kg, won India's first gold medal at the Bishkek Ranking Series 2023 in Kyrgyzstan.

➤ Reetika, who also won a bronze at the Asian championships, settled for silver in the women's 72kg event.

➤ Sarita Mor, a former Asian champion and 2021 world championships bronze medallist, clinched a bronze in women's 59kg.

➤ With the three medals from Indian women wrestlers, India's tally at the ongoing Ranking Series reached four. Greco-Roman wrestler Manjeet (55kg) won bronze earlier.

- Manisha competed in the nordic round system and remained unbeaten in her four matches, defeating opponents from Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and Ukraine to secure gold.
- Reetika won her bout against Italy's Dalma Caneva but lost to Kazakhstan's Zhamila Bakbergenova, settling for silver in the women's 72kg event.

❖ **BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Cape Town**

- BRICS countries kicked off its foreign ministers meeting in Cape Town, the legislative capital of South Africa.
- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar participated in the meeting of foreign ministers of BRICS countries.
- South Africa, which currently holds the chair of the bloc, hosted the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Cape Town.
- The foreign ministers' meeting will finalise the agenda for the 15th BRICS summit scheduled to be held in South Africa in August.
- It is believed that 19 countries are in line to join BRICS.
- The full form of BRICS is Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

❖ **Odisha becomes the first state to notify a committee for conservation of seeds preserved by tribal farmers**

- The Odisha government has established a committee called the Landrace Varietal Release Committee (LVRC) to release traditional millet varieties in accordance with standard operating protocols (SoP) for seed systems.
- Odisha is the first state in India to develop a protocol for releasing indigenous millet varieties conserved by tribal farmers for centuries.
- Landraces refer to ecotypes that have been cultivated for a long time in their original habitats. It is crucial to preserve these landraces before they become extinct.
- The initiative aims to preserve traditional landraces, promote agrobiodiversity, and empower custodian farmers in Odisha while supporting sustainable agricultural practices.

➤ The objective of the committee is to recognize the efforts of custodian farmers, particularly tribals, in conserving traditional millet landraces.

❖ **Shalini Singh becomes first woman NCC cadet to complete mountaineering course**

➤ 20-year-old Shalini Singh from Lucknow has become the first woman NCC cadet in India to complete a mountaineering course in the Himalayan region of Uttarakhand.

➤ Shalini Singh scaled the 15,400 ft peak in Dring Valley in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand as part of the course.

➤ The training course took place at Tekla, Uttarkashi. The training was conducted under tough conditions, with subzero (-14°C) temperatures.

➤ Shalini was the only woman cadet in the team of 45 NCC cadets.

➤ This included training in rock climbing, rappelling, snow and ice climbing and camping.

➤ Shalini Singh was admitted as Senior Wing NCC Cadet in 67 UP Battalion.

❖ **MoU signed between the Indian Navy and the Indian Maritime University**

➤ The Indian Navy and Indian Maritime University have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for technical collaboration

➤ The MoU outlines the procedure for collaboration in various areas, including training, joint research and development, collaborative courses, and resolution of field level issues.

➤ The collaboration will involve teams from the Centre of Excellence (Marine Engineering) at INS Shivaji, Lonavala, and the Indian Maritime University.

➤ Vice Admiral Sandeep Naithani, Chief of Materiel, and Dr. Malini V Shankar, IAS (Retd), Vice Chancellor of Indian Maritime University, signed the MoU.

➤ The agreement aims to enhance cooperation between the Indian Navy and Indian Maritime University in areas related to maritime education, research, and resolving practical challenges faced in the field.

➤ Through this collaboration, the Indian Navy and Indian Maritime University will work together to develop and implement training programs, conduct joint research projects, and address issues specific to the maritime sector.

❖ **Karnataka becomes the latest state to join the DBT bandwagon**

➤ The Congress-led government in Karnataka formally approved the implementation of two Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) schemes, Griha Lakshmi and Yuvanidhi.

➤ The Griha Lakshmi scheme aims to transfer Rs 2,000 per month to all women heads of households, while Yuva Nidhi provides an unemployment allowance of Rs 3,000 per month for graduates and Rs 1,500 per month for diploma holders.

➤ Griha Lakshmi is inspired by Tamil Nadu's Magalir Urimai Thogai scheme, but differs as it covers all female heads of households, not just eligible women.

❖ **Araku coffee and black pepper get organic certification**

➤ Araku Valley coffee and black pepper from Andhra Pradesh have received organic certification.

➤ The organic certification was granted by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), a central government sector organisation.

➤ Tribal Cooperative Societies Girijan Sahakari Nigam gets organic certification for coffee.

➤ Organic certification was provided to over 1300 tribal farmers from Gondiparla, Lambasingi and Kappalu clusters in Chintapalli division of Visakha Agency.

➤ The organic certification covers coffee and pepper crops grown in about 21,104 acres of land.

➤ The process of obtaining an NPOP certificate started four years back.

➤ Organic certification will enable tribal farmers to command higher prices for their coffee and black pepper.

❖ CSIR-CCMB joins global research group for algorithm of genetics

- Hyderabad-based CSIR - Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) has joined a global research group in the development of an algorithm along the lines of ChatGPT for genetics.
- This algorithm uses genome sequencing data instead of human language to predict disease-causing genetic mutations in patients.
- The group has generated a huge catalogue of genomic information for primates that have been ever produced.

❖ UAE to host world's largest Conservation Conference in 2025

- United Arab Emirates (UAE) will host the 2025 World Conservation Congress (WCC) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Abu Dhabi from October 10-21, 2025.
- WCC: It is the world's largest and most important gathering of conservationists, and it is expected to draw more than 10,000 delegates from over 160 countries.
- It is expected to bring an estimated 10,000-15,000 delegates from over 160 countries across the globe.

❖ 3rd Khelo India University games conclude in Varanasi

- Third khelo India University games has been concluded at IIT BHU campus in Varanasi.
- Punjab University, Chandigarh regain champions crown as Guru Nanak Dev University fall short despite Fencing sweep on final day, after a gap of one edition of the Khelo India University Games.
- PUC finished with an overall tally of 69 medals including 26 gold, 17 silver and 26 bronze medals
- As many as 131 of the 203 Universities who finally participated at the Games.

❖ **India beat Great Britain by 4-2 on penalty shootout in FIH Pro League**

- India beat Great Britain by 4-2 after a penalty shootout in the FIH Pro League in London.
- This shootout triumph, courtesy of misses from Britain's Rupert Shipperly and Phil Roper, handed India the bonus point after an exhilarating 4 - 4 draw.
- Abhishek Upadhyay, Lalit Kumar, Singh Harmanpreet Singh and Manpreet scored goal in shootout.
- The bonus point ensured India cut the gap to Great Britain at the top of the FIH Pro League.

❖ **Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan releases UGC Regulations, 2023**

- Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has released the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2023 in New Delhi.
- These regulations will facilitate the creation of many more quality-focused deemed to be universities in an objective and transparent manner.
- It will encourage universities to focus on quality and excellence and strengthen the research ecosystem and have a long-term impact in transforming the higher education landscape.

❖ **Abdulla Al Mandous elected as the President of WMO**

- Meteorologist of United Arab Emirates (UAE), Abdulla Al Mandous has been elected as the new President of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for a 4-year term from 2023 to 2027.
- He emerged as the official candidate of the UAE and secured 95 votes out of the representatives from WMO's 193 member states and territories.
- He succeeded Prof Gerhard Adrian.
- WMO is an authoritative body within the UN system that focuses on weather, climate, environment, etc.

❖ **Indian American Ajay Banga assumes charge as World Bank President**

- Indian American, Ajay Banga has assumed charge as the President of the World Bank, after replacing David Malpass, who stepped down.
- He has been appointed as the 14th President of the World Bank for a five-year term.
- In February 2023, US President Joe Biden nominated Ajay Banga to lead the World Bank.
- He has become the first-ever Indian-American to head the World Bank.
- Prior to this role, he served as Vice Chairman at General Atlantic.

❖ **Noted theatre actor Amir Raza Husain passes away**

- A noted theatre actor and director, Amir Raza Husain has passed away at 66.
- He was known for his large outdoor stage productions such as "The Fifty Day War" based on the Kargil War and "The Legend of Ram".
- He was also the Creative Director of the Stagedoor Theatre Company, established in 1974, which has presented over 91 productions and more than 1,100 performances.
- He was honoured with the Padma Shri (2001) by the government for his contribution to theatre.

❖ **RBI fines Indian Overseas Bank Rs 2.2 crore for multiple violations**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 2.2 crore on Indian Overseas Bank for violating various norms.
- The RBI said it fined the bank under the powers vested by the Banking Regulation Act 1949.
- The RBI imposed this monetary penalty after finding contraventions of banking regulations and non-compliance with specific RBI directions related to income recognition, asset classification, provisioning, interest rates on deposits, and ATM security.