

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

5th December 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **World Soil Day observed on 5th December**

- 10th edition of World Soil Day is celebrated every year on 5th December.
- The goal of World Soil Day (WSD) 2023 and its campaign is to increase public awareness of the role that soil and water play in creating resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.
- World Soil Day 2023 theme: **‘Soil and water, a source of life.’**
- WSD is a unique global platform that not only celebrates soils but also empowers and engages citizens around the world to improve soil health.
- The day was first considered by the International Union of Soil Sciences in 2002, but was not officially endorsed by FAO until 2013.

❖ **ReNew Signs MoU with Asian Development Bank for US\$ 5.3 billion**

- ReNew Energy Global Plc, India’s leading renewable energy company and a preferred decarbonization partner, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to collaborate on climate change mitigation and adaptation projects.
- The MoU covers projects with an investment value of more than US\$ 5.3 billion between 2023 and 2028.
- The MOU identified potential investments in renewable energy projects, manufacturing, carbon offset projects, green hydrogen, with the aim of jointly supporting sustainable energy transition.
- In addition, it will help ADB achieve its funding ambition of \$100 billion in green energy projects by 2030.

➤ **About Asian Development Bank (ADB):**

➤ **Headquarters:** Mandaluyong, Philippines

➤ **Founded:** 19 December, 1966

➤ **President:** Masatsugu Asakawa

➤ **Membership:** 68 countries

➤ **About ReNew**

➤ **CEO:** Sumant Sinha

➤ **Founder:** Sumant Sinha

➤ **Founded:** January 2011

➤ **Headquarters:** Gurugram

➤ **Subsidiaries:** ReNew Private Limited, Diamond II Limited, MORE

❖ **Kanchan Devi becomes first woman officer to be appointed as DG of ICFRE**

➤ Indian Forest Service Officer (1991-batch) of Madhya Pradesh cadre Kanchan Devi has been appointed as the Director General (DG) of the Indian Council of Forestry Research Education (ICFRE).

➤ Kanchan is the first woman officer to hold this post of the premier council under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.

➤ The new DG Kanchan has more than 30 years of experience in different areas of forestry, including forest management, forest administration, education, HRD, research and extension in Madhya Pradesh.

➤ Besides, she has also served as a faculty member at Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), Dehradun.

➤ She has worked for upliftment of rural communities by implementing, analysing, and recommending updation of existing forest policies.

➤ **ICFRE Founded: 1986**

❖ **Indian Navy Day - 4th December**

➤ India celebrates Navy Day every year on December 4th to honour the unwavering dedication and selfless service of the Indian Navy.

➤ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended the program marking 'Navy Day 2023' celebrations at Sindhudurg, Maharashtra on December 04, 2023.

➤ He also witnessed the 'Operational Demonstrations' by Indian Navy's ships, submarines, aircraft and special forces from Tarkarli beach, Sindhudurg.

➤ The day marks the audacious attack carried out by the Indian Navy on Karachi harbour during the 1971 Indo-Pak War, also known as 'Operation Trident.

➤ This decisive strike crippled Pakistan's naval forces and played a pivotal role in India's ultimate victory in the war.

➤ It's a momentous occasion that pays tribute to the brave men and women of the Indian Navy who have risked their lives in service to their country.

❖ **Indian Railways develop AI-based software 'Gajraj' to avoid collisions, to roll out in all elephant corridors**

➤ The Indian Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced the development of 'Gajraj', an indigenous software utilising optical fibre cable (OFC) to alert the locomotive pilot of any suspicious activity on or near rail tracks.

➤ The AI-based 'Gajraj' software, successfully tested in Assam, is set to be deployed across 700 km of elephant corridors in multiple states within the next eight months, at an estimated cost of Rs 181 crore.

➤ The software triggers alerts upon detecting any questionable movement within 200 metres of the tracks.

➤ Vibrations caused by elephant movement alongside the rails create variations in the optical signals carried by the OFC, signalling a potential threat.

➤ The software identifies these signal disruptions as signs of movement, specifically detecting the presence and distinguishing between elephants, other animals, and humans.

❖ **Former President's secretary Christy Fernandez passes away in Kochi**

➤ Christy Fernandez, who served as secretary to former President Pratibha Patil, passed away in Kochi. He was 73.

➤ Fernandez, a native of Clappana in Kollam, also worked under PM Narendra Modi while the latter was serving as the Gujarat chief minister.

➤ A 1973-batch Gujarat cadre IAS officer, Fernandez served as the principal secretary of urban development in Gujarat, special secretary in the Union Commerce Ministry, and secretary in the Tourism Ministry.

➤ He was also chairman and MD of several public sector companies.

➤ Fernandez served as chairman of the KSIDC (Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation) and SIDBI.

❖ **ESIC bags “ISSA Vision Zero 2023” Award at the 23rd World Congress on Safety and Health at Work in Sydney, Australia**

➤ The Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) bagged the “ISSA Vision Zero 2023” Award in the recently held 23rd World Congress on Safety and Health at Work in Sydney, Australia.

➤ “Vision Zero” is a transformational approach for prevention of accidents at work places integrating the three dimensions of safety, health and well-being at all levels of work.

➤ ESIC was awarded with “ISSA Vision Zero 2023” as it had great success in outreach in the field of safety and health at work places by aligning the prevention strategy besides post-accidental mechanism for medical care and cash benefits to the workers and their dependents.

➤ The award also underlines the improvements that have been made in the service delivery of the ESI Corporation as well as increase in its administrative and operational efficiency using IT enabled initiatives.

❖ **India Internet Governance Forum IIGF’23 to be held in New Delhi**

➤ The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is a multi-stakeholder platform bringing together representatives from various groups, considering all to be at par to discuss public policy issues related to the Internet.

➤ After successfully convening the first two edition of the IIGF in 2021 and 2022, the third edition of the IIGF is being conducted under the overarching theme “**Moving Forward - Calibrating Bharat’s Digital Agenda**”.

➤ The event is being held at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

➤ **About IIGF:**

➤ The India Internet Governance Forum, associated with the UN Internet Governance Forum (UN IGF), was established in 2021.

➤ Supported by a 14-member multi-stakeholder committee representing government, civil society, industries, technical community, think tanks, and industry associations, IIGF aims to foster discussions on public policy issues related to the Internet.

❖ **'Rizz' has been declared as the Oxford word of the year for 2023**

➤ Every year Oxford University chooses and declares a ‘Word of the Year,’ and it is typically something that reflects the linguistic and cultural trends of the twelve months of the year.

➤ Gen Z, born between 1997 and 2012, are ruling the internet and it was their slang and terminologies that dominated the year.

➤ Oxford University has declared 'Rizz' as the word of the year.

➤ This Gen Z slang was used extensively on social media and became a common catchphrase for the younger generation.

➤ Oxford Dictionary defines 'Rizz' as, "pertaining to someone's ability to attract another person through style, charm, or attractiveness."

❖ **Indonesia's Marapi volcano erupts, spewing ash 3 km high**

➤ Indonesia's Marapi volcano in West Sumatra province erupted, spewing volcanic ash as high as 3,000 metres into the air.

➤ According to the country's disaster management agency BNPB, the 2,891-metre-high volcano erupted at 2.54 p.m.

➤ Volcanic ash was dispersed at high intensity to nearby districts.

➤ Pictures from BNPB showed cars and roads covered with ash.

➤ **About Indonesia:**

➤ **Capital:** Jakarta

➤ **Currency:** Rupiah

➤ **President:** Joko Widodo

❖ **President of Kenya, William Samoei Ruto arrives in New Delhi**

➤ President of Kenya, William Samoei Ruto arrived in New Delhi on a three-day visit to India.

➤ He is being accompanied by a high-level official delegation.

➤ He will be accorded a ceremonial welcome at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhawan.

➤ President Ruto will hold detailed discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

➤ The visit is expected to strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries.

➤ **About Kenya:**

➤ **Capital:** Nairobi

➤ **Currency:** Shilling

➤ **President:** William Ruto

❖ **Tap water supply reaches around 13.69 crore households under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**

➤ Tap water supply has reached around 13.69 Crore households under the Jal Jeevan Mission - Har Ghar Jal.

➤ This covers 71 percent of total rural households, up from 17 per cent in 2019.

➤ According to a data released by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, nine states and union territories including Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana, Puducherry, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

➤ **About Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM):**

➤ Launched in 2019, it envisages supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024.

➤ JJM looks to create a jan andolan for water, thereby making it everyone's priority.

➤ It comes under Jal Shakti Ministry.

❖ **IT Services' revenue growth to halve to 3-5% in FY24: ICRA**

- According to the ICRA report, macroeconomic uncertainty in key markets for the IT services sector will drag down growth to 3-5% in fiscal 2024.
- This compares to 9.2% growth reported in the previous fiscal.
- Indian IT companies witnessed a sharp moderation in growth momentum over Q3 FY23 – Q1 FY24 (October 2023- June 2024) owing to the evolving macroeconomic headwinds in key markets of the US and Europe.
- In the first quarter of FY24, ICRA's sample set recorded a revenue growth of around 3.8% on a year-on-year (YoY) basis in dollar terms, the lowest in the last 10 quarters.

❖ **INS Sandhayak inducted into fleet on Navy Day**

- The INS Sandhayak has been built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd in India.
- The GRSE officials said that INS Sandhayak was completed in record time in less than two years.
- INS Sandhayak's induction in the fleet is of particular significance as Indian Navy Day is celebrated on December 4 every year.
- The INS Sandhayak is the 71st warship to be delivered by GRSE to the Indian Navy over last 62 years.
- The relationship between the Indian Navy and the Defence Shipyard began in 1961 with the delivery of India's first indigenously-built warship INS Ajay.
- The INS Sandhayak is reincarnation of another ship by the same name which was also a survey vessel.
- It was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1981 and decommissioned in 2021.