

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **G20 to become G21 with the addition of African Union**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has written to the leaders of the G-20 nations proposing that the African Union be given full membership of the grouping at its upcoming summit in India.
- India is hosting the G-20 summit in Delhi on September 9th & 10th as the current chair of the grouping.
- This move, proposed by India, reflects a growing recognition of the importance of representing the global south.
- The AU is an intergovernmental organization consisting of the 55 member states that make up the countries of the African Continent.
- Basically, it is a continental union with a wide range of goals aimed at strengthening its member states both individually and collectively.
- It was officially launched in 2002 as a successor to the Organisation of African Unity (OAU, 1963-1999).
- The AU's headquarters are in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

❖ **Himachal Pradesh government launches SABAL Yojna to empower specially-abled children**

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched the Mukhya Mantri Sporting Abilities, Rebuilding Aspirations and Livelihood Scheme (SABAL), to improve the lives of specially-abled children in the state.
- The SABAL scheme intends to take care of specially-abled children in around 400 schools across Hamirpur, Solan and Shimla districts.

➤ The chief minister also announced to set up a 'Rajya Chayan Aayog' in place of the now-dissolved Himachal Pradesh Staff Selection Commission in Hamirpur within the next two months to ensure fairness in the selection criteria of candidates.

❖ **Mukesh Ambani, Gautam Adani top the Fortune India Rich List for 2023**

➤ Mukesh Ambani, the patriarch of Reliance Industries (RIL), and Gautam Adani, the chairman of Adani Group of companies, have secured the top positions on the Fortune India Rich List 2023, created in partnership with Waterfield Advisors, with respective wealth of \$99.7 billion and \$63.71 billion.

➤ With a wealth of \$34.6 billion, the Mistry family of Shapoorji Pallonji Group holds the third position on the list, while the Poonawalla family, owners of vaccine maker Serum Institute, with a wealth of \$32.9 billion, stands fourth.

➤ Stockbroker and founder of D-Mart-branded grocery stores, Radhakishan Damani, claims the fifth spot on the India Rich List with a wealth of \$23.4 billion.

➤ The Who's Who of India Inc, including the Shiv Nadar family, Azim Premji, Godrejs, Bajajs, and Kumar Mangalam Birla, have made it to the top 10 rich list.

❖ **Hitachi Payment Services launches India's first-ever UPI-ATM**

➤ Hitachi Payment Services, a subsidiary of Japan-based Hitachi Ltd, announced the launch of India's first-ever UPI-ATM as a White Label ATM (WLA) named Hitachi Money Spot UPI ATM, with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

➤ The ATM will offer cardless cash withdrawals, eliminating the need for physical cards.

➤ A UPI-ATM allows users to withdraw cash from multiple accounts using the United Payments Interface (UPI) app.

➤ WLAs are operated by non-banking entities.

- This new introduction will drive financial inclusion by facilitating easy access to banking services in areas where traditional banking infrastructure and card penetration is limited.
- Hitachi has over 65,500 ATMs (including 27,500 cash recycling machines) and 9,500 WLAs under management. In addition, it caters to over 3 million merchant touchpoints and processes over 7 million digital transactions daily.

❖ **Bharat Electronics signs pact with Israel Aerospace**

- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Israel's leading aerospace and defence company, have inked an MoU for co-operation in addressing India's requirements in the domain of Short Range Air Defence Systems.
- BEL and IAI have previously worked together on joint development, production and product support programs for the Indian Defense Forces.
- The MoU aims at leveraging IAI and BEL's capabilities and is in sync with the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India' policies of the Government of India.
- BEL and IAI aim to contribute to these national objectives through their collaboration.

❖ **India secured 3rd position with 14 medals at the ISSF World Championships 2023**

- India produced a remarkable performance at the ISSF World Championships 2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan from August 14 to September 1, finishing third with a total of 14 medals including 6 gold medals and 8 bronze medals.
- Leading the medal count at the ISSF World Championships 2023 was China, which finished first with 28 medals, including 15 gold medals, 7 silver medals, and 6 bronze medals.
- Ukraine finished second in the medal tally with a total of 12 medals, including 6 gold medals, 4 silver medals, and 2 bronze medals.
- The ISSF World Championship 2023 holds vital importance as it serves as a qualifying event for athletes aiming to participate in the Paris 2024 Olympics.

➤ Four athletes from India successfully qualified for the Paris 2024 Olympics through their exceptional performances in the event.

➤ These athletes include Rajeshwari Kumari in women's trap, Sift Kaur Samra in women's 50m rifle 3 positions, Akhil Sheoran in men's 50m rifle 3 positions, and Mehuli Ghosh in women's 10m air rifle.

❖ **Divya Deshmukh won the 2023 Tata Steel Chess India Women's Rapid Tournament**

➤ Divya Deshmukh, a 17-year-old female chess grandmaster from Nagpur, Maharashtra, India, won the women's rapid category of the Tata Steel Chess India Tournament.

➤ Divya won all three rounds of the tournament held at the National Library, Kolkata.

➤ She outperformed her competitors and stood first with a remarkable score of 7 points.

➤ The defending world champion, Ju Wenjun of China finished second with 6.5 points.

➤ Russia's Polina Shuvalova finished third with 5.5 points.

❖ **'Gujarat Declaration' outlining the outcome of the first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2023 released**

➤ The World Health Organization (WHO) released the outcome document of the first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2023 as the "Gujarat Declaration".

➤ The "Gujarat Manifesto" reaffirms the global commitment to traditional medicine for health and wellness.

➤ This emphasizes the need for rigorous scientific methods to understand and implement holistic and context-specific healthcare approaches.

➤ India, as the host of the WHO Global Center for Traditional Medicine in Gujarat, plays an important role in supporting Member States and taking forward the work agenda of the summit.

- Key objectives include enhancing evidence-based traditional complementary integrative medicine (TCIM), promoting standardized documentation, and establishing a global network of TCIM reference clinical centers.
- The declaration emphasizes leveraging digital health technologies, especially artificial intelligence, for digital resources related to TCIM.
- The summit was organized by WHO and co-hosted by the Ministry of AYUSH in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 17 - 18 August 2023.

❖ **Praveena Anjana - Miss International India 2023**

- Praveena Anjana, 23, from Udaipur, won the Miss International India 2023 title and secured her place to represent India at the Miss International pageant to be held in Japan this October 2023.
- She started her modeling career at a young age and recently won the Miss Divine Beauty 2023 pageant in August.
- She is a staunch supporter of women empowerment, who uses her platform to raise awareness on important issues such as gender equality and education.
- The Miss International pageant, a prestigious global beauty pageant, is held every year in Japan with the mission of promoting world peace and understanding through beauty.
- It is organized by the International Culture Association.
- It is considered to be the fourth largest beauty pageant globally based on the participation of national winners in the international pageant.

❖ **Kaloji Narayana Rao Award for Jayaraj**

- Noted lyricist and singer Jayaraj has been selected for the Kaloji Narayana Rao Award for the year 2003.
- The award instituted by the State government in honor of the famous Indian poet, freedom fighter and political activist from Telangana, Padma Vibhushan Kaloji Narayana Rao is presented every year.
- Jayaraj was selected by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao for the award, on the recommendations of a committee appointed by the State government, in recognition of his contribution to the fields of literature and culture.
- He will be presented with the award at an official function to be organized on the occasion of Kaloji Narayana Rao's birth anniversary on September 9.
- The award carries cash prize of Rs.1,01,116.

❖ **Tanvi Khanna ranks No.1 in the latest PSA World Rankings**

- Tanvi Khanna has replaced Joshna Chinappa as the new Indian No. 1 in the latest PSA World Squash Rankings.
- The 29-year-old has moved a few places to World No. 69, a spot ahead of Joshna Chinappa. Joshna, who was India's No.1 for more than four years, is currently at 70th position.
- Tanvi, who first broke into the top 100 during the 2019-20 PSA World Tour, has been a consistent performer this year, especially, in the second quarter. She reached the Qualifying Final of the World Championships in May. In the Asian Championships, she made it to the Round of 16.
- She won the North Coast Open in August 2023, where she was the sixth seed. Notably, this was her first PSA Tour title and on her way to the win, Tanvi defeated several top names, including Joshna Chinappa.

❖ **"International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies" - September 7**

- The International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies is observed annually on 7th September.
- The day is dedicated to recognizing the vital importance of clean air for people's well-being and daily life.
- The theme of the fourth annual International Day of Clean Air for blue skies in 2023 is "Together for Clean Air".
- This theme serves multiple objectives: strengthening partnerships, increasing investment, shared responsibility, impacts on health and ecosystems, protecting the environment, ensuring healthy air for all.

❖ **The 48th Toronto International Film Festival begins in Canada**

- The 48th Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) began on 7th September in Canada.
- India will actively participate in the 48th TIFF, which will run from September 7 to September 17, and highlight its talent, content, and entertainment industry.
- The official Indian delegation participating in TIFF will be led by Prithul Kumar, Joint Secretary (Films), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- India has a comprehensive plan for participation with the intention of showcasing its creative and technological strengths. The country aims to attract international collaboration to co-produce films in India and use Indian locations for shooting.
- This year TIFF has selected six Indian films to be part of its official selection. These films include "Dear Jassi" directed by Tarsem Singh Dhandhwar, "Kill" directed by Nikhil Nagesh Bhatt, and "Thank You for Coming" directed by Karan Boolani.

❖ **Japan's 'Moon Sniper' Lander SLIM Launched Successfully**

- Japan has successfully launched its lunar exploration spacecraft, known as the "Moon Sniper", using the domestically developed H-IIA rocket.

- The achievement puts Japan in contention to become the world's fifth country to land on the moon, with the landing is planned for early next year.
- The rocket's launch from the Tanegashima Space Center in southern Japan went as scheduled. It also successfully deployed the lunar lander, Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM).
- Japan's ambitious goal is to land SLIM on the lunar surface within 100 meters of its intended target site. The \$100 million mission is expected to reach the moon by February.
- Notably, the launch follows India's recent achievement of becoming the fourth nation to successfully land a spacecraft on the Moon through its Chandrayaan-3 mission, which specifically aimed to explore the uncharted lunar South Pole.
- This achievement by Japan comes after two previous lunar landing attempts by the country failed within the last year.

❖ **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launches the 'Malaviya Mission'**

- Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, the Union Minister for Education, introduced the Malaviya Mission – Teacher Training Program at Kaushal Bhawan in New Delhi as a crucial step in improving the standard of education in India.
- This ambitious project, spearheaded by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in partnership with the Ministry of Education, seeks to transform faculty capacity building and teacher preparation programs across the country's higher education institutions.
- One of the primary objectives of the Malaviya Mission is to provide specialized and tailored training programs for teachers.
- Recognizing that teaching methods and educational requirements have evolved, the program seeks to equip educators with the latest knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to excel in their roles.
- This emphasis on tailored training ensures that teachers can adapt to the changing dynamics of education effectively.