

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

9th December 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ International Anti-Corruption Day-9th December

- International Day Against Corruption or International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) is celebrated on December 9, every year, to raise awareness among the general public on the impact of the prevailing malice in many countries.
- It also raises concern on the harmful effects of corruption on the progress, development and the society at large.
- Corruption is such a malpractice that threatens the social and economic development of societies across the world.
- All countries are affected by corruption, which is considered to be a complex social, political, and economic phenomenon.

❖ MoD inks contract worth Rs. 588.68 Cr with Telecommunications Consultants India Limited for DCG project

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a contract with Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL), at a total cost of Rs 588.68 crore, for the acquisition of Digital Coast Guard (DCG) project, under the Buy (Indian) category.
- The DCG Project will unfold a comprehensive narrative of technological progression, encompassing the construction of an advanced Data Centre.
- The establishment of a robust Disaster Recovery Data Centre, amplification of connectivity across ICG sites, and the development of the ERP system.
- The project also leverages secured MPLS/VSAT connectivity, propelling itself to the forefront of cutting-edge defence technology.

➤ The DCG project marks the establishment of a Tier-III standard Data Centre, armed with the latest technological capabilities.

❖ **Union Cabinet Allocates Rs 2,500 Crore for Extended Interest Equalisation Scheme**

➤ The Union Cabinet has approved additional Rs 2,500 crore for the continuation of interest equalisation scheme on rupee export credit until June 30 next year.

➤ The move will help exporters from identified sectors and all MSME manufacturer exporters to avail pre and post shipment Rupee export credit at competitive rates amid global uncertainty.

➤ The additional outlay of Rs 2,500 crore, over and above the current outlay of Rs 9,538 crore under the scheme, is made available to bridge the funding gap to continue the scheme upto June 2024, according to a statement issued by the commerce and industry ministry.

➤ Manufacturer and merchant exporters exporting specified 410 products will get 2% subsidy and all the MSME exporters will get 3% subsidy.

❖ **Lahore Leads in Global Pollution Ranking**

➤ Lahore is the second-largest city in Pakistan, is grappling with a severe smog crisis that poses significant threats to the health and well-being of its residents.

➤ According to IQAir, an organization that monitors global air quality, Lahore recently earned the dubious distinction of having the worst air quality in the world, with a hazardous Air Quality Index (AQI) of 400 in the morning.

➤ This alarming revelation underscores the urgent need to address the underlying causes of the city's deteriorating air quality.

➤ AQI levels provide valuable insights into the severity of air pollution.

➤ An AQI between 151 and 200 is considered unhealthy, while a rating between 201 and 300 is more harmful.

- When the AQI surpasses 300, the air quality is deemed extremely hazardous.
- In Lahore's case, the AQI of 400 reflects an alarming level of pollution, posing serious risks to the health of the city's residents.

❖ **Roger Binny to head BCCI Women's Premier League Committee**

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) formed an eight-member committee led by its president Roger Binny to accentuate the growth of the Women's Premier League (WPL).
- Binny will be the chairperson of the panel while BCCI secretary Jay Shah has been named as its convenor.
- **Other members of the committee are:** Arun Dhumal (IPL chairperson), Rajeev Shukla (BCCI vice-president), Ashish Shelar (BCCI treasurer), Devajit Saikia (BCCI joint secretary), Madhumati Lele and Prabhtej Bhatia.
- The WPL committee may be the first opportunity for Roger Binny, who was a key part of the 1983 World Cup-winning team, to play a bigger role since taking over from Sourav Ganguly last year.

❖ **Mohammed Shami among nominees for ICC Men's Player of the Month award**

- Experienced India speedster Mohammed Shami, who had a phenomenal ODI World Cup has been nominated for ICC Men's Player of the Month award for November.
- Along with Shami, Australia's World Cup winning duo of Travis Head and Glenn Maxwell have also been shortlisted for the monthly award.
- Shami topped the bowling charts at the World Cup, where India finished runners-up, losing to Aussies in the final in Ahmedabad.
- The 33-year-old pacer picked up a total of 24 wickets in the tournament in which 15 of them came in November at an average of 12.06 and with an economy rate of 5.68.

❖ **Cash-strapped Pakistan secures USD 658 ADB package**

- Cash-strapped Pakistan has secured USD 658 million financing package, including an expensive USD 300 million loan at market rates, from the Asian Development Bank, days after Finance Minister Shamshad Akhtar declared the country's public debt as “unsustainable”.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved this week three projects totaling USD 658.8 million to help Pakistan achieve its goal of more inclusive and sustainable growth and development.
- The ADB approved the financing package under three different loans.
- These include USD 300 million for improving domestic resource mobilisation.
- USD 275 million for rehabilitating schools damaged by the devastating August 2022 floods.
- USD 80 million for enhancing agricultural productivity to improve food security.

❖ **British Poet And 'Peaky Blinders' Actor Benjamin Zephaniah Dies At 65**

- British poet Benjamin Zephaniah, who famously rejected an honour from Queen Elizabeth II over Britain's empire and links to slavery, died at the age of 65.
- The Rastafarian poet and writer, whose work was greatly influenced by the music and poetry of Jamaica, also turned his hand to acting when he appeared in series six of the hit show "Peaky Blinders" as the character Jeremiah Jesus.
- In 2003 he snubbed an Order of the British Empire (OBE) award from Queen Elizabeth for services to literature.
- His first writings used dub poetry, a Jamaican style of work, and after moving to London in his twenties he began to establish himself as a poet.
- His first book of poetry, "Pen Rhythm", was published in 1980.

❖ Federal Bank Titled “Bank of the Year 2023” in India

- Federal Bank, a prominent financial institution, has been awarded the prestigious title of “Bank of the Year (India)” by The Banker.
- This accolade, one of the few global awards recognizing banks on a worldwide scale, reflects Federal Bank’s exceptional commitment to innovation, customer-centric services, and its outstanding contributions to the banking industry in the past year.
- A standout initiative that caught the industry’s attention was the introduction of the Digital Personal Loan by Federal Bank.
- This innovative product allows customers to seamlessly apply for and receive loans entirely online.
- **About Federal Bank:**
- **Headquarters:** Aluva
- **CEO:** Shyam Srinivasan
- **Founded:** 23 April 1931
- **Founder:** K. P. Hormis

❖ International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide

- Every 9 December holds profound significance as the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide marks the adoption of the Genocide Convention, a pivotal global commitment made at the inception of the United Nations.
- This day also recognized as the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide, highlights the importance of preventing this heinous crime.

➤ As we approach the 75th anniversary of the Genocide Convention, it remains a beacon in the fight against genocide, emphasizing international cooperation and a commitment to “never again.”

➤ This year’s commemorative event centers on the theme “A Living Force in World Society: The Legacy of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.”

➤ It aims to showcase the Convention’s achievements, its lasting legacy, and the challenges that persist in its effective implementation.

➤ The event will serve as a reflection on the tireless efforts that led to the Convention’s drafting and adoption.

❖ **RBI keeps policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5 percent**

➤ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has kept the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5 percent in its latest monetary review meeting.

➤ This is for the fifth time in a row that the MPC has maintained the status quo.

➤ The Governor said, real GDP growth for the current year 2023-24 is projected at 7% - with Quarter 3 at 6.5% and Quarter 4 at 6%.

➤ Real GDP growth for Quarter one of 2024-25 is projected at 6.7% for Quarter 2 at 6.5% and for Quarter 3 at 6.4%.

❖ **Ajit Doval participates in 6th NSA-level Meeting of Colombo Security Conclave in Port Louis, Mauritius**

➤ National Security Adviser Ajit Doval participated in the 6th NSA-level Meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave in Port Louis, Mauritius.

➤ The National Security Advisers of Member Countries participated in the meeting along with senior delegates from Bangladesh and Seychelles.

➤ Member States reviewed the progress of the decisions taken at the 5th NSA-level Meeting and agreed on a Roadmap of Activities for 2024.

➤ They reiterated the role and responsibility of the CSC in ensuring the safety, security and stability of the Indian Ocean Region from traditional, non-traditional and emerging hybrid challenges.

❖ **ICC unveils vibrant logo for men's and women's T20 World**

➤ The International Cricket Council (ICC) unveiled a vibrant makeover of the ICC T20 World Cup's new brand identity.

➤ The logo seamlessly transforms the 'T20' text into a battling stance enclosed within a kinetic sphere, embodying the drama of each delivery.

➤ The transformation aims to encapsulate the inherent drama, fast-paced action and high-octane moments that define T20 cricket – a format celebrated for its relentless energy.

❖ **World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 appoints UAE Mohammed Al Ramsi as Chairman**

➤ United Arab Emirates Mohammed Al Ramsi has been appointed Chairman of World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC 23).

➤ The event is being held in Dubai, UAE, from November 20th to December 15th, 2023.

➤ World Radiocommunication Conference is organised by International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for every 4 years to revise the global use of radio-frequency spectrum, geostationary-satellite and non-geostationary- satellite orbits.

➤ This year, more than 4,000 government officials and 900 international organisations from 193 countries are attending the conference

➤ The Last Session of The World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 was held at Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt.

❖ SAARC Charter Day: Celebrating 39 Years of Regional Cooperation

- The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) celebrates its Charter Day on December 8th, Marking 39 years of fostering regional collaboration among member nations.
- This commemoration highlights the organization's founding principles and its ongoing commitment to fostering cooperation and development across South Asia.
- SAARC was established in 1985 December 8th.
- SARRC aimed to promote economic growth, social progress, and cultural development among its eight member states, Namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- The First SAARC Summit took place in Dhaka in 1985, where the member nations signed the charter, outlining the objectives and principles of the organization.
- Since then, SAARC has served as a platform for dialogue and collaboration in various fields, including agriculture, trade education, and healthcare.
- SAARC headquarters located at Kathmandu, Nepal.

❖ RBI enhances UPI payment Limits, Change in rules for e-mandates for recurring payments

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das announced that the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transaction limits for certain transactions has been hiked.
- The Central Bank also announced new limits for e-mandates for recurring payments.
- According to the new UPI transaction limit rules, individuals can make payments through UPI up to Rs 5 lakh instead of the earlier Rs 1 lakh for specific payments.

- This payment categories include hospitals and educational institutes, This significant move addresses the evolving needs of these sectors.
- The present limit above which additional factor authentication is required is Rs 15,000 This limit has now been enhanced to Rs 1 Lakh for mutual funds subscriptions, insurance premium subscriptions and credit card repayments.
- RBI also proposed for the creation of Fintech Repository by April 2024, in an aim to get a better grip on the growing incidence of banks and non-banking finance companies partnering with fintechs.
- UPI(Unified Payment Interface) it is a instant inter-bank payment system, introduced in 11th April 2016, this was owned by NPCI (National Payment Corporation of India).