

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

10th & 11th December 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **Telangana rolls out free bus travel scheme for women, transgenders**

- The Congress government in Telangana launched the 'Maha Lakshmi scheme' which provides free travel for women, girls and transgender persons.
- The Transport Department of the Government of Telangana has announced the launch of the '6 Guarantees-Maha Lakshmi' scheme.
- The Congress party will provide ₹2500 to women every month under the Mahalaxmi Yojana Scheme.
- The scheme is specifically designed for the benefit of girls, women of all age groups, and transgender persons who are domiciled in Telangana.
- They can travel anywhere within the borders of Telangana State in Palle Velugu and Express buses.

❖ **World Human Rights Day - 10th December 2023**

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1948, Human Rights Day is celebrated on December 10 every year.
- Human Rights Day 2023 theme is "**Equality, Reducing inequalities, advancing human rights.**"
- The primary focus of this day is on the fundamental rights and liberties to which every individual, regardless of location, is inherently entitled by virtue of society.
- It celebrates and promotes rights that are inalienable to any nationality, gender, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, or religion.

- This year is both the 73rd Human Rights Day and the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights' adoption.
- After UNGA Resolution 423 (V) was passed in 1950, Human Rights Day was formally established.

❖ **International Mountain Day - 11th December 2023**

- International Mountain Day is observed on December 11 every year to raise awareness about the importance of mountain ecosystems.
- The day focuses on building alliances that will bring positive change to the lives of people across the globe by highlighting opportunities and roadblocks in mountain development.
- The International Mountain Day is observed to promote a healthy development in the mountains and preserve the wildlife of the region.
- The day aims to raise awareness on preserving the biodiversity on the mountains from pollution, over-exploitation as well as climate change.
- International Mountain Day 2023 theme is "**Restoring Mountain Ecosystems**".

❖ **Tribal leader Vishnu Deo Sai will be new Chhattisgarh CM**

- The BJP picked up a prominent tribal leader and former union minister, Vishnu Deo Sai, to become the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh after he was elected as leader of the legislative party during a meeting of 54 newly-elected MLAs.
- The move to put Sai, 59, on the saddle assumes importance ahead of Lok Sabha elections as Scheduled Tribes (ST) constitute approximately 8.6 per cent of the country's population, numbering around 10.4 crore.
- Tribals, or Adivasis, account for nearly 32 per cent of the State's population and are socially dominant after the OBCs.
- The party also intends to capitalise on Sai's elevation in adjoining states, especially Jharkhand, which too has a sizeable ST population.

❖ **Men's Volleyball Club World Championship was held in Bengaluru**

➤ FIVB (Fédération Internationale de Volleyball) Men's Volleyball Club World Championship 2023 will commence at the Koramangala Indoor Stadium in Bengaluru.

➤ This prestigious tournament is being organised in India for the first time. This was the 18th edition tournament.

➤ A total 6 teams are participating in this five-day competition. 'Ahmedabad Defenders', which won the 2nd edition of prime Volleyball League, becomes the first Indian team to participate in this tournament.

➤ This team was led by Muthusamy Appav.

➤ **A total 6 teams are participating in this competition:**

1. Sir Sicoma Perugia- Italy

2. Halkbank Spor Kulubu- Turkiye

3. Sada Cruzeiro Volei

4. Itambe Minas – Brazil

5. Suntory Sunbirds – Japan

6. Ahmedabad Defenders- India

➤ In the finals held on December 10th Sir Sicoma Perugia (Italy team) won the world champion title by defeating Itambe Minas (Brazil team) in Koramangala stadium.

➤ **FVIB – International Volleyball Federation**

➤ Founded: 20 April 1947

➤ Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland

➤ President: Ary Graca

❖ **CDS General Anil Chauhan to leave tonight on official visit to Japan**

- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan will leave tonight on an official visit to Japan.
- This visit aims to further reinforce the robust defence ties between the two nations.
- Gen Anil Chauhan is scheduled to interact with senior military leadership of Japan and will visit defence formations and establishments.
- India and Japan are celebrating 71 years of diplomatic ties this year.
- This visit underscores the commitment of both nations to strengthen the special Strategic and Global Partnership.

❖ **Ashwini-Tanisha pair wins women's doubles title at Guwahati Masters**

- India's Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanish Crasto won the women's doubles title of the Guwahati Masters 2023 badminton tournament, beating Chinese Taipei's Sung Shuo Yun and Yu Chien Hui 21-13, 21-19 in the final.
- This was Ashwini and Tanisha's second title as a pair, having previously won the Abu Dhabi Masters Super 100 this year.
- The Indian shuttlers dominated the first game.
- After tying at 1-1, Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto took charge, steadily extending their lead and confidently securing the opener for a lead.
- **Guwahati Masters winners:**
- Men's singles: Yohanes Saut Marcellyno (Indonesia)
- Women's singles: Lalinrat Chaiwan (Thailand)
- Men's doubles: Choong Jian/Muhammad Haikal (Malaysia)
- Women's doubles: Ashwini Ponnappa/Tanisha Crasto (India)

➤ Mixed doubles: Hee Kai Terry/Tan Wei Han Jessica (Singapore)

❖ **India ranks 7th on climate change performance index**

➤ India has ascended to the 7th position in this year's Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), showcasing a commendable improvement from its previous ranking.

➤ The announcement came during the global COP-28 held in Dubai, where India reaffirmed its status among the top performers for the fifth consecutive year.

➤ Monitoring Climate Mitigation Efforts of 63 Countries plus the EU – covering more than 90 per cent of the Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

➤ India has received a high ranking in the greenhouse gas Emissions and Energy Use categories, but a medium in Climate Policy and Renewable Energy, as in the previous year.

➤ While India is the world's most populous country, it has relatively low per capita emissions.

➤ India's growing energy needs are still being met by its heavy reliance on coal, along with oil and gas.

➤ The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) country experts reported that India is trying to meet its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), with clear long-term policies in place that focus on promoting renewable energy and providing financial support for domestic manufacturing of renewable energy components.

❖ **India to host 27th WAIPA World Investment Conference in New Delhi**

➤ India will host the four-day 27th WAIPA World Investment Conference in New Delhi.

➤ National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of the Government of India, and World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies are organizing the conference at the India International Convention & Expo Centre - Yashobhoomi, New Delhi.

- Under the aegis of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, it will be the largest World Investment Conference ever.
- Mr Goyal will also launch the Experience India Centre (EIC), showcasing the best of India's offerings across services, technology, and products through a variety of technologies, including virtual reality, augmented reality, interactive touch screens, and projection mapping.
- **World Investment Conference is being held in India for the first time.**
- Over 1000 attendees, 50 Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) and various multilateral agencies will attend the conference.
- ❖ **India slips to 4th spot in global ranking after dismal 2023**
- India slipped to fourth position in the global ranking among the highest-funded geographies in 2023, as it recorded lowest funding in five years.
- After grabbing the third spot globally in 2021 as well as in 2022, India ranked fourth behind the US, the UK and China this year, receiving only \$7 billion in total funding, according to data compiled by global market intelligence platform Tracxn.
- In the third quarter (Q3) this year, India even slipped to fifth position among the highest-funded countries - behind the US, the UK, China and France.
- Q3 2023 raised a total of \$1.5 billion, which is a 30 per cent drop from Q2 2023 and a 54 per cent drop as compared to Q3 2022.
- The last quarter (Q4) this year recorded the lowest funding of \$957 million to date, marking it the lowest-funded quarter since Q3 2016.
- The decline is primarily due to the biggest drop in late-stage funding, by over 73 per cent to \$4.2 billion in 2023 from \$15.6 billion in 2022.
- The number of \$100 million+ rounds recorded were only 17, dropping by 69 per cent compared to last year.

❖ **IDFC FIRST Bank Unveils Youth-Centric “FIRST SWYP” Credit Card in Collaboration with Mastercard**

- IDFC FIRST Bank has introduced youth-centric “FIRST SWYP” credit card in partnership with Mastercard.
- This card can be used as a no-interest charge card and has curated features - flexible bill repayments through EMIs, a benefit-laden referral program, and exclusive and relevant merchant partnerships, per a Bank statement.
- The card will address demands of new-age customers, blending benefits across their favorite categories of spends and lifestyle-related offers and innovative propositions.
- The new card is the Bank’s second youth-focused credit card.
- It had earlier launched “FIRST Millennia Credit Cards”.

❖ **Former West Indies Test cricketer Joe Solomon died. He was 93**

- Former West Indies cricketer Joe Solomon dies at the age of 93.
- He was famous for the run out which led to the famous tied Test in 1960 at the Gabba.
- In his career, he played 27 Tests for the Caribbean side between 1958 and 1965 and scored 1326 runs with an average of 34.
- He started his first-class cricket and made his debut at the age of 26 and made his place in the squad quickly.

❖ **Anish Shah takes over as FICCI President for 2023-24**

- Industry body FICCI has a new President in Anish Shah, who is currently Group CEO of Mahindra Group and the Managing Director of M&M.
- Shah took over as FICCI President from Subhrakant Panda at the apex chamber’s recently concluded 96th Annual Convention in the capital.

- Shah's "focus is on nurturing a purpose-driven organisation, establishing tech leadership in each industry, and enabling value creation across businesses.
- It is a global leader in farm equipment, technology services and India's largest SUV, light commercial vehicle and electric three-wheeler manufacturer.
- Shah is also a member of the UK Investment Council and chair of the automotive governors council (World Economic Forum).
- Harsha Vardhan Agarwal, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Emami Limited has been elevated as Senior Vice President at FICCI.

❖ **Indian Navy conducted a bi-annual exercise 'Prasthan' of the Mumbai coast**

- The Indian Navy conducted a bi-annual exercise called Prasthan in the Western Offshore Development Area off Mumbai.
- The exercise is conducted under the Western Naval Command and is conducted every six months to validate measures and procedures to address various contingencies that may arise in the oil production platforms.
- The current exercise was conducted on the R12A (Ratna) platform of ONGC, located about 45 nm West of Mumbai Harbour.
- The exercise was conducted in two phases. The first phase saw security emergencies such as attacks by terrorists and bomb threats from IEDs.
- The second phase which witnessed action against contingencies such as fire in the oil platform and assisting a disabled vessel in the offshore development area.

❖ **WPL Auction 2024: India's all-rounder Kashvee Gautam becomes most expensive uncapped player**

- India's all-rounder Kashvee Gautam became the most expensive uncapped player in the WPL 2024 auctions.

➤ Gujarat Giants, RCB, and UP Warriorz engaged in some intense bidding war for the player, but in the end, Gujarat Giants was successful in getting the player for ₹2 crore.

➤ India's all-rounder Kashvee Gautam became the most expensive uncapped player in the WPL 2024 auctions.

➤ The WPL auction 2024 displayed some intense bids from the representatives of 5 teams in the women's cricket league- Gujarat Titans, Mumbai Indians, Royal Challengers Bangalore, Delhi Capitals and UP Warriorz.

❖ **Vice Admiral Dinesh Tripathi to become India's New Vice Chief of Naval Staff.**

➤ The Government of India has approved several high-profile appointments, including the elevation of Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi to the position of Vice Chief of the Naval Staff.

➤ Vice Admiral Tripathi, currently serving as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command, is set to take on the crucial role of Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, effective early January 2024.

➤ The present 37th Vice Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh, will be stepping into the role of the new Western Naval Commanders.

❖ **Nikhil Dey named 'Global Anti-Corruption Champion' by US**

➤ Nikhil Dey was honored with the International Anti-Corruption Champion award by the United States of America.

➤ Nikhil Dey was among 11 persons that the US government recently recognised as International Anti-Corruption Champions for 2023, citing his decades-long work to build peasant and worker empowerment campaigns and exposing corruption in the delivery of government services.

- Nikhil Dey s show.
- The highest number of applications had from Karnataka (6.28 Lakh), followed by West Bengal (4.04 Lakh), Assam (1.83 Lakh).
- **About Vishwakarma Scheme:**
- The scheme is designed to uplift traditional artisans and craftspeople engaged in various occupations like blacksmithing, goldsmithing, pottery, carpentry, and sculpting, with a focus on preserving cultural heritage and integrating them into the formal economy and global value chains
- It will be implemented as a Central Sector Scheme, fully funded by the Government of India.
- Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME) is the Nodal Ministry for the Scheme.
- The Scheme will be jointly implemented by the MoMSME, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- The budget envisaged for the scheme from financial year 2023-24 to 2027-28 is Rs.13,000 crore.
- This scheme offers a stipend of Rs 500 for skill training per day and Rs 15,000 grant for the purchase of modern tools.
- The scheme encompasses 18 traditional trades across the both rural and urban areas.