

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

10th & 11th September 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ Pragganandhaa secures 3rd place in Tata Steel Chess India 2023 Open Blitz

- World Cup runner-up R Pragganandhaa finished third at the Tata Steel Chess India 2023 Open Blitz tournament, as world champion Alexander Grischuk clinched the title.
- World Champion Alexander Grischuk clinched the Open Blitz title of Tata Steel Chess India 2023 in Kolkata.
- Pragganandha initially led the competition by remaining unbeaten in four games.
- He suffered significant defeats against Nodirbek Abdusattorov (13th round), Alexander Grishuk (15th round), and Vidit Gujrathi (16th round).

❖ Coco Gauff won US Open women's singles final 2023

- American Coco Gauff, won her first Grand Slam title at the age of 19 years, after taking the U.S. Open women's singles title in three sets against Aryna Sabalenka from Belarus.
- Gauff won 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 to become only the third American teen to win the final grand slam of the year, joining the ranks of Serena Williams and Tracy Austin.
- The last time an American woman won the tournament was in 2017 when Sloane Stephens bested fellow American Madison Keys.

Britain's Salisbury and partner Ram won third straight US Open double title

- Britain's Joe Salisbury made US Open history alongside his American partner, Rajeev Ram, with victory in the men's doubles final.
- Salisbury, and Ram became the first team to win the Flushing Meadows title three years in a row in the Open era by beating India's Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden of Australia 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.

➤ It was a fourth grand slam crown for the duo and denied Bopanna a first major title at the age of 43.

❖ **World Suicide Prevention Day – 10th September**

➤ World Suicide Prevention Day is observed every year on 10th September.

➤ Suicide is a significant public health concern with wide-ranging social, emotional, and economic impacts.

➤ Globally, there are more than 700,000 suicides each year, and the impact of each suicide spreads to many others.

➤ The triennial theme of World Suicide Prevention Day, running from 2021 to 2023, is "Creating Hope Through Action".

➤ The theme serves as a compelling call to action and emphasizes that alternatives to suicide exist.

➤ Through our actions, we can create hope and strengthen suicide prevention efforts.

❖ **21st Edition of India and France Bilateral Naval Exercise 'VARUNA' – 2023**

➤ The second phase of the 21st edition of the India-France bilateral naval exercise 'Varuna' concluded successfully in the Arabian Sea.

➤ Exercise 'Varuna' involved the participation of guided missile frigates, tankers, maritime patrol aircraft, and integral helicopters from both the Indian and French navies.

➤ This phase of the exercise lasted for three days and included joint operations, underway replenishment, and various tactical maneuvers.

➤ The primary objectives were to enhance and refine war-fighting skills, improve interoperability, and demonstrate the ability to promote peace, security, and stability in the region

❖ Goa Governor launches 'Mashaal'(torch) for 37th National Games

- Goa Governor P.S. Sreedharan Pillai launched the Mashaal for the 37th National Games.
- The launch took place at the Durbar Hall, Raj Bhavan, Donapaula, in collaboration with the Sports Authority of Goa and the Department of Sports and Youth Affairs.
- The 'Mashaal' or the torch, will travel through Goa and other states for four days, especially in rural areas to encourage enthusiasm and participation.
- Sports Minister Govind Goude encouraged all Goans to participate and support the success of the Games.
- Governor Pillai presented the National Games anthem, sung by legendary actor Amitabh Bachchan.
- The anthem featured the traditional Goan instrument, the Ghumat, and featured a collaboration between Goan singers and other talented artists.

❖ SBI launches 'Nation First Transit Card'

- State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest bank, launched the 'Nation First Transit Card' to improve commuting experiences and encourage the use of digital payments.
- The innovative 'Nation First Transit Card' aims to simplify digital ticket fare payments within a single card for various transport modes including metro, buses, water ferries, parking, and more.
- Apart from transport payments, the card can also be used for retail and e-commerce transactions.
- The 'Nation First Transit Card' is powered by RuPay and National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) technology, making it a potential game-changer for millions of Indians in their daily commute.

❖ "Fire on the Ganges: Life among the Dead in Banaras" a book written by Radhika Iyengar

- Radhika Iyengar wrote the book "Fire on the Ganges: Life among the Dead in Banaras", published by HarperCollins.
- The book highlights the city of Banaras, also known as Varanasi, in India, with a particular emphasis on the relationship between death and the afterlife.
- "Fire on the Ganges" represents the first attempt to document the daily experiences of Doms in Banaras.
- It provides an insight into the historical background of Banaras by taking a look at some of the resilient individuals of the Dom community.

❖ PM Modi launches global biofuels alliance at G20 summit in New Delhi

- India launched the Global Biofuel Alliance at a G20 summit in New Delhi.
- It is an Initiative to develop an alliance of Governments, International organizations, and Industry to facilitate the adoption of biofuels.
- The launch of the Global Biofuels Alliance marks a watershed moment in our quest towards sustainability and clean energy.
- The launch of the Global Biofuels Alliance showcases the action-oriented nature of India's positive agenda as G20 President and representing the Voice of the Global South.
- The initiative aims to position biofuels as a key to energy transition and contribute to jobs and economic growth.

❖ PM Modi to chair a session on the theme - One Future in G20 Summit

- The member nations have unanimously adopted the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration in a significant victory for India's G-20 presidency.
- On the first day of 18th G-20 Summit in New Delhi yesterday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the adoption of the declaration by the bloc of world-leading economies during the second session of the G20 summit, titled One Family.
- Inclusive growth, accelerating actions to deal with climate change and increasing medical supplies to be future ready for health emergencies among others are the focus areas of the G-20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration.
- The member countries have expressed commitment to accelerate action to address the issue of climate challenges by pursuing low carbon emissions, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable development pathways.
- At the inaugural session, Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited the Head of the African Union, Azali Assoumani, to take his seat as a permanent member of the G20.
- On the second and final day of the G20 Leaders' Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the session based on the theme- One Future.
- Apart from the bilateral and G20 Summit meeting the world leaders and delegates are scheduled to visit Rajghat to pay homage to the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi.

❖ India-Brazil-SA-US commit to address global challenges

- Leaders of India, Brazil, South Africa, and the United States met on the margins of the G20 Leaders' Summit in New Delhi.
- The aim of this meeting is to reaffirm their shared commitment to the G20 as the premier forum for international economic cooperation to deliver solutions for shared world.

➤ The G20's current and next three Presidencies, will build on the historic progress of India's G20 Presidency to address global challenges.

➤ In this spirit, together with the World Bank President, they welcome the G20's commitment to build better, bigger, and more effective multilateral development banks.

❖ **National Forest Martyrs' Day - September 11th**

➤ National Forest Martyrs Day, observed on September 11th, pays tribute to those who sacrificed their lives to protect India's forests and wildlife.

➤ This day honours the sacrifices made by individuals for the preservation of forests and wildlife. It also aims to raise awareness about the importance of conserving our forests, wildlife, and natural resources.

➤ The day's history can be traced back to the Khejarli Massacre in 1730.

➤ In 1730, the historic Khejarli massacre occurred within the Marwar Kingdom when Maharaja Abhai Singh of Rajasthan ordered the cutting of trees in the Bishnoi village of Khejarli to obtain timber for a new palace.

➤ The Bishnoi community opposed this action and were willing to lay down their lives to protect the forest. Ultimately, in response to these events, the orders were revoked.

In remembrance of the sacrifices made by the Bishnoi community, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change selected September 11th to be observed as National Forest Martyrs Day in 2013.

➤ The observance of this day typically includes organising plantation drives, educational workshops, awareness campaigns, and, most importantly, honoring the green heroes and conservators who have made significant contributions to this cause.

❖ **Novak Djokovic wins 24th Grand Slam title at US Open 2023**

- Novak Djokovic achieved a historic feat in tennis by winning his 24th Grand Slam title at the 2023 US Open.
- Serbian tennis star Djokovic defeated Russia's Daniil Medvedev by 6-3, 7-6, 6-3 in the men's singles final at the Arthur Ashe Stadium.
- With this win, 36-year-old Novak Djokovic is now tied with Margaret Court for the most Grand Slam tennis titles in history, with 24 titles to her name.
- Djokovic's achievement also marked him as the oldest singles champion in the pro era of the US Open, adding to his status as the oldest French Open singles champion.

❖ **Kiran George wins his 2nd super 100 title**

- Indian badminton player Kiran George clinched the men's singles title at the Indonesia Masters 2023 in Medan, North Sumatra.
- He defeated Koo Takahashi of Japan in straight games for his career's second BWF World Tour Super 100 title.
- Kiran George, 50th in the badminton rankings, beat world No. 82 Koo Takahashi of Japan 21-19, 22-20 in 56 minutes to claim his second BWF World Tour Super 100 badminton title.
- He won the Odisha Open last year, beating compatriot Priyanshu Rawat in the final.

❖ **Warner breaks Tendulkar's record of most centuries as opener**

- Australian opening batsman David Warner went past legendary Indian batter Sachin Tendulkar to become the opener with the most number of centuries in international cricket.
- He accomplished this milestone against South Africa in the second ODI.
- This is Warner's 46th international century, the most by an opener. He has 20 centuries in ODIs, 25 in Tests and one in T20Is.

➤ He has gone past Tendulkar, who has scored 45 centuries in international cricket as an opener. All of his centuries as an opener have come in ODIs.

➤ Also, David Warner now has levelled with England's Joe Root to have the second-highest number of centuries among active players. Both players have 46 international centuries.

➤ At the top is star Indian batsman Virat Kohli, who has a total of 76 international centuries, which is the second-highest number of international centuries overall too.

➤ Virat has scored 46 ODI centuries, 29 Test centuries and one T20I century.

❖ **Germany won its first FIBA Basketball World Cup title**

➤ Germany won their first-ever FIBA Basketball World Cup title by beating undermanned Serbia 83-77 in a slugfest of the two European powerhouses in Manila.

➤ Germany became the first team to win a FIBA World Cup crown in their final debut since Spain in 2006.

➤ Germany leaned on a 22-10 surge in the third quarter, orchestrated by brothers Franz and Moritz Wagner, to build a cushion and never let go of the lead to win the World Cup's first all-European final since 2006.

➤ The two teams, who boast strong teamwork and chemistry, traded baskets in the first half, entered the break at 47 apiece. But Germany built up a 12-point lead late on in the third quarter and never looked back.