

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

15TH June 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ U.S. Will Rejoin UNESCO in July

- The United States will rejoin UNESCO, the United Nations cultural organization, in July 2023.
- The move ends Washington's more than ten-year dispute with the UN cultural agency after the US left UNESCO in 2018.
- US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Verma submitted a letter to UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay last week to formalize plans to rejoin.
- In addition, the US will also pay an outstanding balance of over \$600 million.
- UNESCO: Headquarters:- Paris, France
- Director General: -Audrey Azoulay
- Founded:-16 November 1945 in London, United Kingdom
- The organization has -193 members and 11 associate members.

❖ NTPC climbs up 52 positions to 433rd rank in Forbes' "The Global 2000" List

- NTPC Limited, India's largest power generation company, has made significant progress in Forbes' "The Global 2000" List for 2023, climbing 52 positions to reach the 433rd rank.
- This remarkable advancement showcases NTPC's growing influence and presence in the global market.
- It is a testament to the company's consistent expansion, strong financial performance, and unwavering commitment to excellence.
- "The Global 2000" List compiled by Forbes acknowledges the world's largest companies based on four key metrics : sales, profits, assets, and market value.

- NTPC's significant climb in the rankings from the 485th position in 2022 to the 433rd position in 2023 underscores its exceptional performance across these metrics.
- In addition to its global ranking, NTPC has also secured the 10th position among the largest Indian companies on the list, moving up one spot compared to the previous year.

❖ **5 buildings and structures from Telangana selected for International Green Apple Awards**

- Five buildings and structures from Telangana have been selected to receive the 'International Green Apple Awards for Beautiful Buildings' in the Urban and Real Estate Sector category.
- These awards are presented by 'The Green Organisation,' an independent non-profit organization based in London.
- This is the first time any building or structure in India has received these prestigious awards and all five nominated structures from Telangana have been recognised.

Selected buildings and constructions from Telangana:

1. Mozzam-Jahi Market (Heritage category)
2. Durgam Cheruvu Cable Bridge (Bridge category)
3. B R Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat Building (Aesthetically designed office and workspace building category)
4. Integrated Command Control Centre of Telangana Police (Unique office category)
5. Yadadri Temple (Excellent religious structures category)

- The Green Organization, founded in 1994 in London, is an independent non-profit organization that focuses on acknowledging, rewarding, and promoting environmental best practices globally.
- Since 2016, they have been organizing the annual 'Green Apple Awards' in London, UK.

❖ **World Bank launches its first road safety project in South Asia**

- The World Bank (WB) launched its first dedicated road safety project in South Asia with a USD 358 million financing agreement signed in Dhaka with the government of Bangladesh.
- The project seeks to improve road safety and reduce fatalities and injuries from road crashes in selected cities, high-risk highways, and district roads.
- The project will focus on two national highways in Bangladesh: Gazipur-Elenga (N4) and Natore-Nawabganj (N6).
- These highways will serve as the primary sites for implementing various road safety measures.
- The aim is to achieve a substantial reduction of over 30 percent in road traffic deaths on these two highways.

❖ **India to host IAS Annual Conference 2025 at Kochi, Kerala**

- India will host the 2025 International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) Annual Conference at Kochi, Kerala in February 2025.
- Theme: Next Generation Administrative Reforms – Empowering Citizens and Reaching the Last Mile
- The hosting decision has been conveyed to the IIAS's Council of Administration via video conference.
- IIAS was established in 1930; HQ: Brussels
- Aim: To elaborate the public administration solutions to the policy challenges of the day

❖ **UNGA adopts resolution to honor fallen peacekeepers, introduced by India**

- The UNGA has adopted a draft resolution to establish a memorial wall in the UN headquarters to honor fallen peacekeepers.
- Ruchira Kamboj (India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador) has introduced the draft resolution titled 'Memorial wall for fallen United Nations peacekeepers.'

- The resolution was submitted by 18 countries including Bangladesh, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, France, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Nepal, Rwanda, and the US.
- India is currently the 3rd largest contributor of uniformed personnel to UN Peacekeeping with more than 6,000 military and police personnel deployed to Abyei, the Central African Republic, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon, the Middle East and Western Sahara.
- About 177 Indian peacekeepers have made the supreme sacrifice, the highest number by far from any troop-contributing country.

❖ **India's wholesale price inflation falls to -3.48% in May 2023**

- The annual rate of inflation based on all India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) numbers is (-) 3.48% (Provisional) for the month of May 2023, against (-) 0.92% recorded in April 2023.
- Reason: Fall in prices of mineral oils, basic metals, food products, textiles, non-food articles, crude petroleum & natural gas, and chemical & chemical products
- The food index has declined to 1.59%, while fuel and power fell to 9.17%
- Manufactured product prices fell 2.97% in May 2023.

❖ **Minister Dharmendra Pradhan flags off Gabon's first Agri-SEZ Project**

- Union Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan has flagged off the first Agri- SEZ project of Gabon from New Delhi on June 14, 2023.
- This project will be implemented by the AOM group with Centurion University as the technical and knowledge partner.
- In the first phase 30 farmers and 20 B.Sc./M.Sc. Agri and B.Tech/M.Tech Engineering students from Gajapati district, Odisha will be traveling together as agri-technical and technical consultants for the agriculture SEZ.

❖ **Russia's Sberbank launches Indian rupee accounts for individuals**

- Russia's dominant lender, Sberbank has launched Indian rupee accounts for individuals.
- Aim: To expand the range of foreign currencies available to reduce dependency on the U.S. dollar and euro
- Sberbank has more than 100 million retail clients and already offers deposits in China's yuan and UAE dirhams.
- Rupee accounts would also be available to clients.
- Sberbank would also raise rates on dirham deposits by 100 basis points for a six-week period.

❖ **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2023: 15th June**

- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is observed every year on June 15 to raise awareness about the abuse experienced by older adults.
- 2023 theme: Closing the Circle: Addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Older Age - Policy, Law and Evidence-based Responses
- In 2006, this day was started by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA).
- In 2011, the United Nations adopted it as a designated day for the prevention of abuse of older people.

❖ **RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das honoured with 'Governor of the Year' award**

- The Reserve Bank of India's Governor, Shaktikanta Das was honored with the title of 'Governor of the Year 2023' by Central Banking in London.
- Reason: For his role in managing inflation and handling India's banking system during crises like the COVID pandemic and global turmoils
- He is the second RBI governor after Raghuram Rajan, who was honored with this title in 2015.

➤ While the National Bank of Ukraine was presented with the 2023 Central Bank of the Year.

❖ **Tata Steel, Germany's SMS Group join hands for decarbonisation project**

➤ Tata Steel Limited and Germany's SMS group have signed an MoU to collaborate on the decarbonization of steel making process.

➤ Under this MoU, the companies shall undertake further technical discussions and initiate actions for conducting Joint Industrial Demonstration of the EASyMelt technology (developed by SMS group).

➤ The demonstration will be executed at 'E' Blast Furnace in Tata Steel's Jamshedpur plant with an objective to reduce CO2 emission.

❖ **Padma Awardees from Haryana to get Rs. 10000 monthly**

➤ Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar has announced a monthly pension of ₹ 10,000 for the Padma awardees from the state.

➤ Besides the monthly pension, a free travel facility in the 'Volvo bus' service of the state government for Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan awardees from Haryana.

➤ The state government is also giving the benefit of health insurance up to ₹ 5 lakh to families with an annual income of up to ₹ 1.80 lakh.

❖ **IRDAI nod for SBI MF to pick upto 10% in ICICI Lombard**

➤ IRDAI has given its approval to SBI Mutual Fund to acquire up to 10% of the total paid up equity share capital of ICICI Lombard General Insurance through market purchase.

➤ The approval of IRDAI is valid for a period of one year from the date of IrDAI approval letter.

➤ This approval is subject to compliance with applicable provisions of IRDAI (Registration of Indian Insurance Companies) Regulations, 2022, Indian Insurance Companies (Foreign Investment) Rules, 2015.

❖ **Microfinance loan portfolio up 22% to Rs. 3.48 trillion in FY23**

- Microfinance loan portfolio increased by 22% to Rs. 3.48 lakh crore during 2022-23.
- Gross loan portfolio stood at Rs. 2.85 lakh crore as on March 31, 2022.
- Microfinance loan disbursements during FY 2022-23 improved by 23% to Rs. 2,96,423 crores compared to Rs. 2,39,433 crore in the previous financial year.
- About 7.17 crore loans were disbursed during FY 22-23 as against 6.30 crore in the previous year.

❖ **Education loans register 17% growth in FY23**

- According to RBI data, the outstanding portfolio under education loans grew 17% at ₹96,847 crore in the year 2022-23 as against ₹82,723 crore in the previous year.
- For the first time in five years, growth in education loans not only turned positive but also registered a 17% surge in the last financial year ended March, 2023.
- The NPA in education advances stood at 7.82% of a total outstanding portfolio of ₹80,000 crore at the end of the first quarter of FY23.