

**IACE**

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**15<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**DESCRIPTIVE**

## ❖ India ranked 117<sup>th</sup> among 129 nations in inclusiveness index by US varsity

- India is ranked 117<sup>th</sup> in the list of 129 countries in the world in the inclusiveness index published by the Othering and Belonging Institute (OBI) at California University, United States.
- Smaller countries like Bangladesh (106) and Israel (115) were placed better than India.
- The index examines inclusivity in terms of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and the general population using several measures.
- India was ranked last (129) in religion inclusiveness, 121<sup>st</sup> in gender, 108<sup>th</sup> in disability, 87<sup>th</sup> in race, 40<sup>th</sup> in the general population, and 39<sup>th</sup> in LGBTQ.
- New Zealand finished first in the index for the second consecutive year.
- Portugal recorded its best showing by securing second place in 2022) followed by the Netherlands in the third place.
- Iran was placed at the bottom of the global list.
- OBI has been publishing the inclusiveness index from 2016 ranking the countries by their levels of inclusion using a number of indicators.
- This year for the first time, OBI included an indicator for a country's response to the climate crisis by considering its change in greenhouse gas emissions.

## ❖ **US, South Korea Revise Security Agreement to Deter North Korea Threats**

- United States and South Korea have revised a bilateral security agreement aimed at deterring North Korea's advancing nuclear and missile threat.
- South Korean Defence Minister Shin Won-sik and his US counterpart Lloyd Austin signed the updated agreement at the security talks held in the capital, Seoul.
- The Tailored Deterrence Strategy (TDS) aims to counter the threat of nuclear weapons and other armaments by North Korea.
- Shin and Austin would discuss jointly countering threats by North Korea, including through executing an extended deterrence strategy.
- The strategy, which holds that the US will use strategic military assets, including nuclear forces, to defend its allies, has taken on a greater significance as North Korea pushes ahead with its ballistic missile and nuclear programs.

## ❖ **Prithvi Raj Singh Oberoi passed away**

- Prithvi Raj Singh Oberoi, Chairman Emeritus of the Oberoi Group passed away.
- He was 94 years old.
- He was the Executive Chairman of EIH Limited, the Flagship Company of The Oberoi Group, and the Chairman of Oberoi Hotels Private Limited, the major shareholder of EIH Limited.
- He remained the CEO of EIH limited till 2013.
- Popularly known as the man who changed the outlook of the hotel business in India.

### ❖ **INS Sumedha makes goodwill visit to Namibia**

- The Indian Navy's mission-based deployment to West Africa and the Atlantic, INS Sumedha conducted a port call at Walvis Bay, Namibia.
- INS Sumedha was part of an ongoing extended range **Op Deployment**.
- It added, interaction with Namibian government functionaries, military officials as well as cross deck visit were undertaken.
- The reception on board INS Sumedha was a great success with Indian and Namibian dignitaries in attendance.
- Aim: To bolster maritime security, foster warm relations with Namibia, and demonstrate solidarity with its allies.

### ❖ **ICICI Bank Gets RBI Nod To Make ICICI Securities Wholly Owned Subsidiary**

- ICICI Bank Ltd. has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India for making brokerage firm ICICI Securities Ltd. a wholly owned subsidiary.
- The central bank's nod is subject to certain conditions, while it awaits other required statutory and regulatory approvals.
- In June, the private lender had approved a proposal to delist ICICI Securities and become a wholly owned subsidiary of the bank after delisting.
- ICICI Securities, promoted by ICICI Bank, is the country's leading retail-led equity franchise, distributor of financial products and investment bank.
- As of the quarter ending September, ICICI Bank held 74.79% stake in ICICI Securities.

➤ Shares of ICICI Securities closed 2.91% higher at Rs 659.60 apiece on the BSE, while the parent firm's stock ended 0.30% up at Rs 937.45 per share before the announcement, as compared with a 0.22% fall in the benchmark Sensex.

### ❖ **Ashok Leyland delivers India's first LNG-powered haulage truck**

➤ Ashok Leyland becomes the first Indian Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) to unveil an in-house LNG engine -powered haulage truck - AVTR 1922 compliant with BSVI Stage II emission standards.

➤ The AVTR 1922, powered by Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), is built on the AVTR platform and shares a high degree of commonality with Ashok Leyland's existing diesel truck range.

➤ This ensures that our customers benefit from streamlined service and maintenance processes.

➤ Ashok Leyland further strengthens its extensive product portfolio by venturing into the alternate fuel segment, setting new standards in the Indian commercial vehicle industry.

### ❖ **Meghalaya launches 'Food Security' campaign to achieve zero hunger**

➤ The Department of Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs in Meghalaya has launched the '**Food Security**' Campaign.

➤ The Campaign focuses on sensitising the public about the National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 and strives to achieve **Sustainable Development Goal 2 – 'Zero Hunger'**

➤ The campaign was launched by **Minister-in-Charge Comingone Ymbon** at the Shillong Press Club.

➤ The objectives of the Campaign is to create general awareness about food security being a right of the citizen and calls upon the public at ground zero community level to work together towards 'Zero Hunger' to meet the need of the public at the bottom of the poverty pyramid.

➤ The **One Nation One Ration Card scheme (ONORC)** will also be taken up as one of the salient features of the National Food Security Act.

➤ The campaign also aims to streamline Registration and services by encouraging the public to seed their Aadhaar card and registered mobile number with their ration card.

➤ The **tollfree helpline 1967**, the use of the Electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) and other mandates of the Department.

#### ❖ **New Zealand launches interactive map for biodiversity restoration**

➤ New Zealand launched a new interactive map to restore a minimum of 15 percent local biodiversity within every catchment in the next nearly 100 years.

➤ The interactive map from Eco-index includes information on the type of habitat that existed there historically and targets for restoring 15 percent of biodiversity in each area.

➤ The free, open-access map is designed to assist community groups, businesses, government entities, and land managers in prioritizing restoration efforts in regions with vulnerable local biodiversity.

➤ Aim: To provides a tool for those seeking to make strategically significant investment decisions on biodiversity redress

➤ The Eco-Index program leaders emphasize the severe impact of the biodiversity crisis on human society, suggesting potential consequences more severe than climate change.

### ❖ **Veteran parliamentarian and CPI(M) leader Basudeb Acharia passes away at 82**

➤ Basudeb Acharia, veteran MP, trade union leader and Central Committee member of the Communist party of India passed away. He was 81.

➤ Mr. Acharia represented the Bankura Lok Sabha constituency nine times from 1980 till 2014.

➤ He was born in Bero in Purulia District of West Bengal.

➤ He became a leader of the All Bengal Teacher's Association, the teacher's wing of the CPI(M).

➤ He served as the chairman of the Central Control Commission from 2018 to 2022.

### ❖ **Nepal to ban China's TikTok**

➤ Nepal government has banned social media platform TikTok with immediate effect and decided to regulate other platforms to prevent their misuse.

➤ The government has decided to ban TikTok as it was necessary to regulate the use of the social media platform that was disrupting social harmony, goodwill and flow of indecent materials.

➤ **TikTok ban:** Montana passes law to become the first US state to completely block the platform

➤ The government directives for social media users prohibited use of fake identities and engaging in defamatory activities.

➤ The platforms were also asked to reveal the real identity of the user and cooperate in investigations.

### ❖ **Djokovic top of the world after sinking Rune**

➤ Novak Djokovic will finish the year as world number one for a record-extending eighth time after beating Holger Rune 7-6 (7/4), 6-7 (1/7), 6-3 in his opening match at the ATP Finals.

➤ The 24-time Grand Slam champion needed just one win or a defeat for young rival Carlos Alcaraz in order to secure top spot in the ATP rankings for 2023 and prevailed in a three-hour Green Group clash with spirited debutant Rune.

➤ Djokovic, on a run of 19 straight wins, has had an age-defying year, winning three Slams to become the all-time record winner of major titles.

➤ The 36-year-old came into the Finals in Turin off the back of his seventh triumph at the Paris Masters, his 40<sup>th</sup> victory at a Masters 100 event.

➤ Those are two more records to add to a long and growing list for Djokovic, who is hunting a seventh Finals title which would take him one ahead of retired great Roger Federer.

### ❖ Momota wins first title in two years at Korea Masters

- Former world No. 1 Kento Momota secured a long-awaited win at the Korea Masters 2023, marking a triumphant return after a two-year hiatus from title victories.
- Ranked at No. 52, the two-time world champion displayed dominance in a straight-game victory against compatriot Koki Watanabe, with a 21-16, 21-15 finish in the final.
- The final saw Momota facing Watanabe, who had defeated the number three seed Wang Tzu Wei in the semifinals and put up a strong challenge.
- His last title was in Indonesia in November 2021, Korean top seed Kim Ga-eun defeated Japan's Miyazaki Tomoka 19-21, 21-17, 21-12 to take the women crown.

### ❖ Pramod Bhagat wins gold at Hulis Daihatsu Japan Para Badminton tournament

- Para Asian Games gold medallist shuttler Pramod Bhagat continued his good run, bagging a gold medal in SL3 singles category at the just-concluded Hulis Daihatsu Japan Para Badminton International tournament in Tokyo.
- Bhagat on Sunday defeated compatriot Manoj Sarkar 21-16, 21-19 in the title clash that lasted 38 minutes.
- In mixed doubles, Bhagat and Manisha Ramdass went down to Chinese pair of Yang Jianyuan and Yang Qiu Xia 21-14, 15-21, 21-16, while Sukant Kadam lost to Malaysia's Mohd Amin Burhanuddin in the semifinals to secure a bronze medal in the singles SL4 category.

- Tarun secured a bronze in the same category after going down in the semifinal.
- Nehal Gupta and Naveen Sivakumar also secured a gold medal for India in men's doubles SL3-SL4 category beating compatriots Deep Ranjan Bisoyee and Manoj Sarkar 21-19, 18-21, 21-17 in the final.

### ❖ UoH, TIER Collaborate for enhancing sodium-ion battery capacity

- University of Hyderabad (UoH) in collaboration with the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) has developed electrode materials of Tin antimony alloy based reduced graphene oxide composite which has the potential to enhance energy storage for sodium-ion batteries.
- Sodium-ion batteries offer enhanced energy efficiency, rapid charging capabilities, resilience to extreme temperature and safeguards against overheating or thermal runaway incidents.
- They exhibit reduced toxicity due to their lack of reliance on lithium, cobalt, copper, or nickel, which have the potential to emit environmentally harmful gas in the event of fire.
- These batteries also exhibit a high degree of adaptability across various applications, show resistance to elevated temperatures and humidity levels.
- The density of sodium batteries remains relatively low, ranging from 140 Wh/kg to 160 Wh/kg, in contrast to the higher density of lithium-ion batteries, which typically falls within the range of 180 Wh/kg to 250 Wh/kg.