

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

16TH June 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **First Janjatiya Khel Mahotsav**

- Recently, the first Janjatiya Khel Mahotsav was organized at the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, Bhubaneswar, in a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Culture, the Odisha Government, and KIIT University.
- The event brought together 5,000 tribal athletes and 1,000 officials from 26 states, showcasing the diversity and richness of indigenous sports in India.
- By organizing such events and supporting the promotion of indigenous sports, the government aims to preserve and revive these traditional games, ensuring their continued relevance and encouraging the younger generation to participate and excel in them.
- This scheme includes a specific component dedicated to the development and promotion of rural and indigenous/tribal games across the country.
- It provided an opportunity for athletes from different states to come together, compete, and exchange their experiences, thereby promoting cultural exchange and unity.
- Under this scheme, certain indigenous games have been identified for promotion, such as Mallakhamb, Kalaripayattu, Gatka, Thang-Ta, Yogasana, and Silambam.

❖ **Akashvani and Doordarshan emerge as most trusted electronic media organization in country**

- According to Reuters Institute's Digital News Report 2023, DD India and All India Radio have been recognized as the most trusted electronic media organizations in the country.
- The report highlights that although overall trust in news has decreased marginally by 3 percentage points, public broadcasters and print brands have managed to maintain a relatively high level of trust among the public.

- DD India and All India Radio have been specifically described as electronic media organizations with the highest degree of trust.
- Their longstanding presence in the media landscape as well as their commitment to providing accurate and unbiased news coverage has contributed to their strong reputation as reliable sources of information.
- The Digital News Report of the Reuters Institute is an annual publication.
- It provides valuable insight into the evolving landscape of digital news around the world.

❖ **Guwahati becomes first railway station in Northeast to get FSSAI's 'Eat Right Station' certification**

- The Guwahati Railway Station located in Assam under the North East Frontier Railway recently received the prestigious 'Eat Right Station' certification from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- As the first railway station within the North East Frontier Railway to receive this certification, Guwahati Railway Station has successfully met the stringent guidelines laid down by FSSAI.
- The 'Eat Right Station' certification is a testament to the station's compliance with FSSAI's established standards for food storage and hygiene practices.
- This certification is an acknowledgment of the station's efforts in maintaining the benchmark in serving safe and wholesome food to the passengers.
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.
- FSSAI was established as per the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

❖ **Third ASW SWC class ship 'Anjadeep' launched at Chennai**

- The third ship of the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) project 'Anjadeep' was launched on June 13, 2023 at M/s L&T, Kattupalli.
- Kattupalli is a suburb located north of Chennai, a metropolitan city in Tamil Nadu, India.

- The ship has been named 'Anjadeep' to reflect the strategic maritime importance of Anjadeep Island.
- The ASW SWC ships are being built by M/s GRSE for the Indian Navy.
- The contract for construction of eight ASW SWC ships was signed between MoD and GRSE on April 29, 2019.
- Four ships are being built at GRSE, Kolkata, while the remaining four ships are being built by M/s L&T Shipbuilding, Kattupalli.
- The ASW SWC ships are designed to replace the in-service Abhay class ASW corvettes and are meant for anti-submarine operations in coastal waters, low intensity maritime operations (LIMO), mine laying operations and subsurface surveillance in coastal waters.
- The ASW SWC ships have a length of 77 metres, a displacement of 900 tonnes, a maximum speed of 25 knots and an endurance of 1800 nautical miles.

❖ **Indian Navy's Outreach Program "Julley Ladakh" (Hello Ladakh)**

- The Indian Navy recently has launched an outreach program called "Julley Ladakh" (Hello Ladakh) to increase awareness about the Navy and engage with the youth and civil society in the pristine state of Ladakh.
- As part of this initiative, a 5000 km Motorcycle Expedition was flagged off from the National War Memorial on June 15, 2023, by Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh, the Vice Chief of Naval Staff.
- Key objectives of the "Julley Ladakh" initiative:
 - Celebrate Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, which marks 75 years of Indian Independence.
 - Conduct awareness drives at schools and colleges in Ladakh to highlight the career opportunities offered by the Indian Navy, including the Agnipath Scheme.
 - Motivate the youth to consider joining the Indian Navy.
 - Showcase "Nari Shakti," an initiative of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, by including women officers and spouses in the program.
- Interact with naval veterans and Veer Naris (war widows) in the region.

❖ Defence Ministry approves MQ-9 Reaper drone deal with US

- The Defence Ministry has approved the deal for acquiring the Predator (MQ-9 Reaper) drones from America for which the final decision would be taken by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS).
- The deal for the Predator drones was approved by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) meeting.
- The DAC is the highest body in the Defence Ministry to take decisions on acquisitions.
- The Reaper comes with nine hard-points, capable of carrying sensors and laser-guided bombs besides air-to-ground missiles.
- It has an endurance of over 27 hours and can operate up to 50,000 ft. with a 3,850 pound (1,746 kg) payload capacity that includes 3,000 pounds (1,361 kg) of external stores.
- It is capable of carrying multiple mission payloads to include Electro-optical/Infrared (EO/IR), Lynx, Multi-mode Radar, multi-mode maritime surveillance radar, Electronic Support Measures (ESM), laser designators, and various weapons and payload packages.

❖ Google and MeitY join hands for 'G20-Stay Safe Online'

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Google have joined hands to drive citizen awareness 'G20-Stay Safe Online' campaign on online cyber safety in the country.
- Aim: To foster citizen awareness about online safety and security.
- Google will raise awareness on the fundamentals of online safety through the 'Be Internet Awesome' programme.
- Both are working to enhance user awareness on cyber fraud and helping people identify common types of online scams.
- Youtube's digital literacy programme 'Hit Pause' empowers users to critically evaluate online content.
- As India leaps towards a trillion-dollar digital economy, MeitY's 'Stay Safe Online' initiative, boosted by industry-wide collaboration, aims to provide users with the knowledge to safely navigate and fully enjoy their internet experience.

❖ **India to overtake China in oil demand growth by 2027: IEA report**

- According to a report by the International Energy Agency (IEA), the growth in demand for oil in India will overtake that in China by 2027.
- 'Oil 2023', the multilateral agency's outlook highlighted that China's demand will fall consistently from 2024 after a massive rise this year.
- The United States, China, and India are the world's three largest oil consumers in that order.
- IEA also raised its forecast for world oil growth demand to 2.4 million barrels per day in 2023.

❖ **Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) 2023 released**

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) released the Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) 2023, which covered 85% of the global population.
- The index has revealed that close to 9 out of 10 men and women hold fundamental biases against women.
- It tracked people's attitudes towards women in four dimensions: political, educational, economic and physical integrity.
- Nearly 90% of people still hold at least one bias against women and 25 per cent of people believe it is justified for a man to beat his wife.
- Countries with greater bias in gender social norms also show a lower presence of women in parliament.
- Indigenous women, migrant women and women with disabilities have meagre political representation, demonstrating how overlapping biases can further reduce opportunities for women.
- The recent increase in education achievements has not translated into better economic outcomes and opportunities for women.

❖ **Two-day conference of Science-20 in Bhopal**

- The two-day conference of Science-20 under G-20 is being organized from 16th-17th June 2023 at the Taj Hotel in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

- The theme of the conference is "Connecting Science to Society and Culture".
- The conference will be chaired by Professor Ashutosh Sharma, President of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA).
- The conference will be attended by representatives of G-20 countries, invited states and international organisations. In the conference, detailed discussions will be held regarding connecting science with society and culture, which will lead to ease of decision making on scientific literacy, innovation and known information.
- Science-20, a science engagement vertical of the G-20, was established in 2017 during the presidency of Germany. It includes the scientific academies of all G-20 countries.
- The main objective of the Science-20 Engagement Group is to provide science-driven recommendations based on consensus to policy makers.

❖ **CBIC releases National Time Release Study (NTRS) report -2023**

- Chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Vivek Johri has released the National Time Release Study 2023 report.
- Time Release Study is a performance measurement tool to present quantitative measure of the cargo release time.
- Import Release Time: Arithmetic mean of the period between 'arrival of Goods' and the Customs' granting of 'Out of Charge'
- Export Release Time: Arithmetic mean of the time between cargo's arrival at the port and its physical departure from the port/Customs station
- The ports included in the study represent seaports, air cargo complexes (ACCs), inland container depot (ICDs) and integrated check posts (ICPs) which account for approximately 80 percent of bills of entry and 70 percent of shipping bills filed in the country.

❖ **UK appoints Jane Marriott as first woman envoy to Pakistan**

- The United Kingdom government has appointed its senior diplomat Jane Marriott as the next British High Commissioner to Pakistan.

➤ She would be replacing Dr. Christian Turner, who left Pakistan in January after serving as the envoy since December 2019.

➤ She also became the first female British envoy to Islamabad.

➤ Prior to this role, she was the high commissioner to Kenya since September 2019.

➤ She has also completed two diplomatic postings to Iraq and one to Afghanistan.

❖ **MoD signs a contract to strengthen Indian Army communication system**

➤ Ministry of Defence (MoD) has inked a contract with ICOMM Tele Limited, Hyderabad for the procurement of 1,035 numbers of 5/7.5 Ton Radio Relay Communication equipment containers.

➤ The value of the contract under Buy (Indian) Category is nearly Rs 500 crore.

➤ The delivery of the containers is scheduled to commence from the current Financial Year 2023-24.

➤ Aim: To boost the indigenous manufacturing of defence equipment and incentivize the private sector

➤ The Radio Relay Containers will address a long overdue requirement of mobile communication detachments of the Indian Army.

➤ These containers will be utilized to provide a protected environment for communication equipment to function in a failsafe and reliable manner.

➤ The containers would be mounted on authorized specialist vehicles and moved as per operational requirements.

❖ **IIT Madras team develops IoT-based method for mobile pollution monitoring**

➤ IIT Madras researchers have recently developed a low-cost Internet of Things (IoT)- mobile air pollution monitoring framework.

➤ The pollution sensors mounted on public vehicles can dynamically monitor the air quality of an extended area at high spatial and temporal resolution.

- Named Project Kaatru (air in Tamil), it leverages IoT, big data, and data science to provide pan-India hyperlocal air quality map.
- IoT based mobile monitoring network, coupled with data science principles offers unprecedented advantage in gathering hyperlocal insights into air quality.
- Traditionally, ambient air quality is measured in monitoring stations and reported by the Air Quality Index (AQI). Since these stations are at fixed locations, they only measure the air quality of a small geographic area.
- The new IoT-based mobile air pollution monitoring technology can map an entire city at high resolution for the cost of a single reference monitoring station.

❖ **Vice President to confer 4th National Water Awards**

- The VP Jagdeep Dhankhar will confer the 4th National Water Awards on June 17, 2023 in New Delhi.
- The Department Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation has announced a total of 41 winners including joint winners, for the 4th National Water Awards, 2022, covering 11 categories.
- Each award winner will be conferred with a citation and a trophy as well as cash prizes in certain categories.
- The Best State award will be conferred to Madhya Pradesh, while the Best District will be conferred on Ganjam District, Odisha.
- Best Village Panchayat: Jagannadhapuram Village Panchayat, Bhadradri Kothagudem district, Telangana.
- Best Urban Local Body: Chandigarh Municipal Corporation.