

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

17th October 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ International Day for the Eradication of Poverty - October 17th

➤ The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, celebrated annually on October 17th.

➤ **Aims:** To promote understanding and dialogue between people living in poverty and the wider society.

➤ This year's theme draws on first-hand testimonials showing that those trapped in extreme poverty often work long, grueling hours in dangerous, unregulated conditions but still cannot earn enough income to adequately support themselves and their families.

➤ The ultimate goal is to eliminate poverty entirely by creating the conditions for everyone to live with dignity.

➤ Persons living in poverty experience many interrelated and mutually reinforcing deprivations that prevent them from realizing their rights and perpetuate their poverty, **including:**

➤ Dangerous work conditions

➤ Unsafe housing

➤ Lack of nutritious food

➤ Unequal access to justice

➤ Lack of political power

➤ Limited access to health care

❖ **Canada's Leylah Fernandez won her third WTA title**

- Leylah Fernandez rallied from a set down to defeat Katerina Siniakova 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 and won the Hong Kong Open for her first tennis title in 19 months.
- It is the third title of the 21-year-old Canadian's career and first since winning at Monterrey in March 2022.
- It was a nervy start by Fernandez and No. 85-ranked Siniakova earned two breaks to claim the opening set.
- Fernandez, the Laval, Que. native who's ranked 60th, responded by building a 4-0 lead in the second before the Czech player took an off-court medical timeout and returned with her left upper leg taped.
- The break appeared to help Siniakova as she worked her way back to 3-4 but Fernandez saved six break points in a 10-deuce game to hold and then took the set in her next service game.

➤ **About Canada:**

- **Prime minister:** Justin Trudeau Trending
- **Capital:** Ottawa
- **Currency:** Canadian Dollar

❖ **Railways develops anti-freeze flushes and fuel tanks for journeys in J&K**

- The Indian Railways is facing unique challenges in maintaining water and fuel in liquid form in subzero temperatures during the harsh winters in regions like Jammu and Kashmir.
- Engineers at the Rail Coach Factory (RCF) in Kapurthala have designed and implemented indigenous innovations to overcome these challenges.

- In the Jammu and Kashmir region, winter temperatures can drop to minus eight to minus 12 degrees Celsius.
- Freezing water in toilets and fuel tanks poses challenges, including toilets not functioning, supply taps not working, and the risk of tank cracks and bursts due to ice expansion.
- The RCF has created double-walled composite insulated water tanks, available in capacities from 450 to 685 litres, which effectively keep water in its liquid state for a duration of 16 to 20 hours even in subzero conditions.
- The tanks mimic thermoplastic bottles with two walls and an insulation layer of foam in the middle, preventing freezing.
- The RCF is using heated pipes with a distributed heating system and insulation to prevent water in supply pipelines from freezing.
- ❖ **Centre likely to raise age of retirement of scientists to 65**
- A proposal to raise the retirement age of scientists to 65 is being developed by the Science and Technology Ministry.
- The Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) is debating raising the existing 60-year-old retirement age for scientists employed by various government agencies and independent organizations to 65 years old.
- The main goal of this suggestion is to stop senior scientists from leaving for universities and Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), where the retirement age is already established at 65.
- There is a worry about this 'brain drain' of seasoned scientists.

➤ Scientists employed at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) retire at age 62, while scientists in most government ministries retire at age 60.

❖ **Justice Siddharth Mridul appointed chief justice of Manipur High Court**

➤ Justice Siddharth Mridul was appointed as the chief justice of the Manipur High Court, more than three months after his name was recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium.

➤ A Supreme Court bench had noted that the appointment of the chief justice of the Manipur High Court had finally received the Centre's attention and would be notified 'shortly'.

➤ The top court collegium headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud had recommended the appointment of Delhi High Court judge Justice Siddharth Mridul as the chief justice of the Manipur High Court, amid the ethnic turmoil in the border state.

➤ **About Manipur:**

➤ **Chief Minister:** N. Biren Singh

➤ **Capital:** Imphal

➤ **Governor:** Anusuiya Uikey

❖ **The study estimates the count of UAVs required for the three Services**

➤ The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan recently ordered two studies to be conducted on major military platforms used by all three services.

➤ According to defence sources these platforms are Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) and armoured helicopters.

- The study on UAVs has since been completed with a recommendation to acquire 31 MQ-9B High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) UAVs and 155 Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) UAVs.
- The studies, undertaken by triservice teams, are meant to optimise the number of platforms required as well as the resources and avoid duplication, a defence source with knowledge of the matter explained.
- The first study was conducted in August-September and the report has been finalised.
- For the second study, the Terms of Reference are currently being finalised and the study is expected to begin in a month of two, two sources independently confirmed.
- ❖ **India and UK hold first 2+2 dialogue of senior officials**
- India and the UK discussed the possibilities for collaboration in trade, investment, defence, critical technologies and civil aviation during their maiden 2+2 foreign affairs and defence dialogue in New Delhi.
- India has a 2+2 dialogue, either at the level of senior officials or ministers, with close strategic partners such as the US, Japan, Australia and Russia.
- The dialogue between India and the UK featured senior defence and foreign policy officials of the two sides.
- Focus was placed on critical and emerging technologies, emphasizing the need for joint efforts in areas like cyber security and advanced technologies.
- The dialogue included talks on civil aviation, aiming to improve connectivity between the two countries.

- Discussions also centered around collaborative efforts in infrastructure development.
- India and the UK emphasized their shared vision for a 'free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.'
- Discussions on recent international developments, especially in the Indo-Pacific region, were undertaken with an aim for peace, stability, and prosperity.

➤ **About United Kingdom:**

- **Capital:** London
- **Currency:** Pound Sterling
- **Prime Minister:** Rishi Sunak

❖ **Asian Development Bank Invests \$181 Million to Improve Ahmedabad's Peri-urban Areas**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 181 million loan to build quality infrastructure and services toward improving urban livability and mobility in the peri-urban areas of Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- The Ahmedabad Peri-urban Livability Improvement Project will construct 166 kilometer (km) of water distribution network, 126 km of climate-resilient stormwater drainage, 300 km of sewerage systems, and four sewage treatment plants.
- The project is also supporting 10 junction improvements along the existing Sardar Patel Ring Road to improve connectivity of peri-urban areas to Ahmedabad city.
- **The Ahmedabad Peri-urban Livability Improvement Project will involve several critical infrastructure improvements:**

- **Water Distribution:** 166 kilometers of water distribution network will be constructed.
- **Stormwater Drainage:** 126 kilometers of climate-resilient stormwater drainage systems will be built.
- **Sewerage:** 300 kilometers of sewerage systems will be developed.
- **Sewage Treatment:** Four sewage treatment plants will be established.
- ❖ **Bhopal's Mahila Thana become country's first women police station to get ISO certification**
 - Bhopal's mahila Thana has become the country's first women-centric police station to be certified by the ISO (International Organization for Standardization).
 - The Bhopal Mahila Thana worked on its infrastructure in the last three years to be the city's second ISO-certified police station, the first being the Misrod police station.
 - The International Organisation of Standardization presented its certificate to the police station.
 - Moreover, the place was revamped to make sure there was zero risk for the staff in the police station while conducting meetings.
 - Separate rooms and computers were provided for the investigating officers and staff.
 - CCTV cameras were also installed at the police station.
 - ISO is an independent organization with membership of about 160 countries.
 - The organization issues certificates to businesses after checking their products or services for quality, safety and efficiency.
 - The ISO certificate is issued for three years.

❖ INCOIS ocean state forecast services for Sri Lanka

- Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) housing the Indian Tsunami Warning Centre here, has not only been giving alerts about the potential tsunamis for about 25 countries across the Indian Ocean Rim but also been providing Sri Lanka down under with daily ocean state forecast services such as wind, wave, swell, currents, sea surface temperatures and others with the help of a dedicated webpage
- The forecast is available to the users three days in advance in the form of a map for the region and these are updated daily while location specific forecast products are available for 22 locations most of which are fishing harbours.
- The institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), which also provides 'algal bloom information services' shares the data generated with Sri Lanka by monitoring four hot spots in the Indian Ocean.

❖ Armenia will be the 124th member state for International Criminal Court (ICC)

- Armenia's President Vahagn khachaturya signed the Rome statute, the treaty that created and governs the International Criminal Court.
- Armenia will now become the 124th member state of the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- Established in 2002 pursuant to the multilateral Rome Statute, The International Criminal Court (ICC) is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal seated in **The Hague, Netherlands**. 123 states are parties to the Statute of the court.

- The ICC has four principal organs: the Presidency, the Judicial Divisions, the Office of the Prosecutor and the Registry.
- On 17 March 2023, ICC judges issued arrest warrants for Russian leader Vladimir Putin for child abductions in the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- **About Armenia:**
- **Capital:** Yerevan
- **Currency:** Armenian Dram
- **President:** Vahagn Khachaturyan
- **Prime Minister:** Nikol Pashinyan