

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **Karnataka's Hoysala Temples join UNESCO's World Heritage list, making it India's 42nd site**

- The famous Hoysala temples of Belur, Halebid and Somananthpura in Karnataka have been added to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage list.
- This inclusion marks the 42nd UNESCO World Heritage Site in India and comes just a day after Rabindranath Tagore's Santiniketan also received this distinguished recognition.
- The temples were finalised as India's nomination for consideration as World Heritage for the year 2022-2023.
- The 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala' have been on UNESCO's tentative list since April 15, 2014.
- All these three Hoysala temples are already protected monuments of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

❖ **First ever Miss Universe from Pakistan**

- Erica Robin won the crown at the inaugural Miss Universe Pakistan pageant held in Maldives recently. Pakistan has got its first Miss Pakistan Universe with this achievement.
- While it's quite a milestone for the 24-year-old, she has been facing criticism in her home country, from religious leaders to the caretaker Prime Minister, everyone has criticised the competition and Robin's participation.
- Erica Robin competed against Hira Inam (24), Jessica Wilson (28), Malika Alvi (19) and Sabrina Wasim (26) for the title.

❖ Unified Portal for Agricultural Statistics

- The Unified Portal for Agricultural Statistics (UPAg Portal – www.upag.gov.in) was officially launched recently.
- This innovative platform is designed to revolutionize data management in India's agriculture sector, addressing complex governance challenges.
- The portal aims to provide real-time, reliable, and standardized information, empowering stakeholders and facilitating more responsive and efficient agricultural policies.
- The UPAg Portal addresses key challenges in agriculture data, including lack of standardization, verification, dispersion, and different update frequencies.
- It offers data standardization, advanced analytics, granular production estimates, commodity profile reports, and flexibility for users to prepare their own reports.
- This portal is a part of the Digital Public Infrastructure for Agriculture, focusing on harnessing data for growth, transparency, and agility in India's agriculture sector.
- This initiative aligns with e-governance principles and aims to enhance data-driven decision-making for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders in the agriculture domain.

❖ 10th meeting of India-Malaysia Joint Sub-Committee on Defence Science

- The 10th meeting of the India-Malaysia Joint Sub-Committee on Defence Science, Technology and Industry Cooperation was held in New Delhi.
- During the meeting, the existing defence cooperation between the two countries was reviewed and wide-ranging discussions were held on issues of mutual interest.
- Both sides explored effective and practical initiatives to further expand the bilateral defence engagements.

❖ **Dhananjay Joshi Appointed Chairman of Telecom Industry Body DIPA**

- Dhananjay Joshi was appointed as the Chairman of the Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA).
- He currently serves as the Managing Director and CEO of Summit Digital, a leading Indian telecommunications company.
- He succeeds Akhil Gupta, who has served as Chairman of Bharti Enterprises and Chairman of DIPA since 2011.
- Sandeep Girotra, CEO of American Tower India, was appointed as the new Vice President of DIPA.
- These leadership changes will be effective from October 1, 2023.
- The new leadership for the term 2023-24 was announced at the DIPA Annual General Meeting 2022-23.

❖ **Indian Oil becomes title sponsor of MotoGP Bharat**

- MotoGP Bharat is set to host the Indian Oil Grand Prix of India at the Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida.
- It is the first time Moto E (electric race) is organizing a Grand Prix outside Europe and MotoGP Bharat will raise the curtains for Asia region.
- It is scheduled to take place at the Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida from 22 to 24 September.
- MotoGP Bharat announced Indian Oil as its title sponsor for the top-tier international Bike riders event.

❖ India, Russia agree to train Indian seafarers in polar and arctic waters

➤ India and Russia agreed to train Indian seafarers in polar and arctic waters in this far-eastern Russian port

Aim: To widen maritime cooperation including the possibility of usage of new transport corridors like the Northern Sea Route as well as the Eastern Maritime Corridor.

➤ The two sides also agreed to train Indian seafarers in Polar and Arctic waters at the Russian Maritime Training Institute, named after GI Admiral Nevelsky.

❖ 2nd Edition of Indian Navy's Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Seminar

➤ The 2nd Edition of the Indian Navy's Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Seminar – 'Swavlamban 2023' is scheduled to be conducted on 04 – 05 Oct 2023.

➤ In the maiden edition, PM launched the 75 challenges for the start-ups/ MSMEs as a part of the 'SPRINT' initiative.

Aim: To give a boost to the usage of indigenous technology in the Indian Navy, and the Navy is committed to developing at least 75 technologies/ products as part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

❖ IREDA signs MoUs with Bank of Maharashtra for Financing Renewable Energy Projects

➤ IREDA (Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency) and the Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) entered into a partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the renewable energy sector.

➤ The primary goal is to promote and facilitate co-lending and loan syndication for various renewable energy projects across India.

➤ The initiative supports India's efforts to reduce carbon emissions and transition to clean energy sources.

➤ The MoU was formally signed by Bharat Singh Rajput, General Manager of Technical Services), IREDA, and Rajesh Singh, General Manager (Retail and MSME Credit), Bank of Maharashtra, at IREDA's Business Center in New Delhi.

❖ **UN WFP, IIT Bombay sign MoU for contributing toward improving food security**

➤ United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay have signed a MoU for contributing towards improving food security, nutrition, climate resilience, and livelihoods.

Objective: To focus on ecosystem development for technology and innovations to bolster government food safety net programs.

➤ It will involve identifying and analyzing relevant data, research, and evidence generation related to food and nutrition security.

❖ **Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur railway station officially named 'Captain Tushar Mahajan Railway Station'**

➤ The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir formally renamed Udhampur railway station after local hero martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan.

➤ The naming ceremony took place at Udhampur railway station, in which Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh participated.

➤ This station is now officially known as "Captain Tushar Mahajan Railway Station"

➤ Captain Tushar Mahajan, a native of Udhampur, served in 9 PARA, a special forces unit of the Indian Army. He sacrificed his life while protecting the country during the terrorist attack on the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute building in the Pulwama district of South Kashmir in February 2016.

❖ Indian shooter Elavenil Valarivan wins Gold medal in ISSF World Cup 2023

- Indian Olympian and shooter Elavenil Valarivan secured a gold medal in the women's 10 m air rifle event at the ongoing International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Cup being held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- She secured a gold by firing 252.2 points in the final of the event. This is India's first medal in the tournament.
- In the second place was France's Oceanne Muller. She scored 251.9 points, falling just short of the Indian.
- The third position was grabbed by China's Jiale Zhang, scoring 229 points.
- The Rio event will be the last ISSF World Cup for rifles and pistol shooters in 2023 before the finals in Doha, Qatar, from November 18 to 27.
- The Indian shooters chosen for the Asian Games 2023, which begin on September 23 in Hangzhou, China, have chosen to skip the Rio World Cup.
- At the ISSF World Cups staged so far in 2023, Indian shooters have won a total of 23 medals – seven gold, four silver, and 12 bronze.
- The Indians are presently fourth in the medal standings.

❖ Indian-origin Nihar Malaviya appointed as CEO of Penguin Random House

- Nihar Malaviya, an Indian-origin publishing executive, has been named permanent CEO of New York-based international publishing group Penguin Random House, nine months after he was appointed the interim chief executive.
- He replaces former CEO Marcus Dohle, who stepped down following a federal judge's decision to reject Penguin Random House's merger with Simon & Schuster.
- Prior to his appointment as CEO, Malviya served as Chief Operating Officer (COO) and President of Penguin Random House in the United States.

➤ Penguin Random House is the largest publisher of consumer books in the world, with a wide presence in more than 20 countries and over 300 exclusive imprints and publishing houses.

❖ **Apurva Chandra unveils 'People's G20' eBook on India's G20 Presidency**

➤ Apurva Chandra, serving as Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, presented the eBook titled "People's G20" in New Delhi.

➤ The "People's G20" eBook is a comprehensive resource highlighting India's G20 Presidency.

➤ It is structured into three main sections, each focusing on different aspects:

Part 1: G20 Summit:

➤ This section gives details of the mega G20 summit which was held in New Delhi on September 9-10, 2023.

➤ It clarifies the structure and functioning of the G20 and provides information on the initiatives taken during India's Chairmanship of this international grouping.

Part 2: Working Groups and Meetings:

➤ The second part presents a brief summary of the meetings held by the various working groups under the Sherpa and Finance tracks.

➤ It includes engagement group gatherings held across the country during the year after India became the G20 Chair.

Part 3: Public Participation Photo Essay:

➤ The concluding part of the eBook consists of a visual narrative through a photo essay.

➤ It reflects the mass participation events that took place across the country over the past year, effectively turning India's G20 Presidency into a people-powered movement.

❖ **Jio launched Air Fiber Services**

- To provide last-mile internet connectivity to every India, Reliance Jio, launched its Jio Air Fiber services.
- In its initial stage, the service will be live in eight cities including Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Pune.
- Jio Air Fiber, is to address market to rapidly cover every home in our country with similar quality of service.
- It will enable millions of homes with world-class digital entertainment, smart home services and broadband, through its solutions across education, health, surveillance and smart home.
- With Jio AirFiber, Reliance aims to provide a one stop solution to cater all the digital needs of people, be it smart TV, or Cloud PC.

❖ **Biotech firm appoints Peter Bains as CEO**

- Biotechnology major Biocon Ltd, appointed its Board of Director member, Peter Bains, as its new group Chief Executive Officer.
- Peter Bains, stepped down from his role as non-executive independent director from the Board of Biocon Ltd with with immediate effect to takeover this position.

❖ **WHO released report on global impact of High BP**

- The World Health Organization (WHO) released its first-ever report on the devastating global impact of high blood pressure, along with recommendations on the ways to win the race against this silent killer.
- The report shows approximately 4 out of every 5 people with hypertension are not adequately treated, but if countries can scale up coverage, 76 million deaths could be averted between 2023 and 2050.

- Hypertension affects 1 in 3 adults worldwide. This common, deadly condition leads to stroke, heart attack, heart failure, kidney damage and many other health problems.
- The number of people living with hypertension (blood pressure of 140/90 mmHg or higher or taking medication for hypertension) doubled between 1990 and 2019, from 650 million to 1.3 billion.
- Nearly half of people with hypertension globally are currently unaware of their condition. More than three-quarters of adults with hypertension live in low- and middle-income countries.
- Lifestyle changes like eating a healthier diet, quitting tobacco and being more active can help lower blood pressure.

❖ **SCR gets 3 awards for energy efficiency**

- The South Central Railway has bagged three Energy Efficient Unit Awards for three administrative units of the zone from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- These awards that render the best energy management practices were given at the 24th National Awards for Excellence in Energy Management- 2023.
- Representatives of the respective units along with the chief advisor to the government of Telangana, Somesh Kumar received the award during the function.
- While Lekha Bhavan (SCR Accounts Building) at Secunderabad has been awarded Excellent Energy Efficient Unit in the Building sector, Rail Nilayam (SCR Headquarters Building) at Secunderabad and Zonal Railway Training Institute (ZRTI) at Moula Ali were awarded as Energy Efficient units in the buildings sector.
- SCR has been consistently receiving the Energy Conservation Awards both at the National level and state level for several years.

❖ Eco crusader Captain J.Rama Rao passes away

- Noted city-based environmentalist, Capt. Rama Rao passed away at the age of 94 years.
- The Forum for a Better Hyderabad (FBH) expressed condolences on the demise of Capt Rama Rao.
- He was a retired Indian Naval Officer and was awarded Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM) during his tenure in the Indian Navy in 1992 and retired in the rank of captain.
- Capt. Rama Rao engaged in social and community activities highlighting propagation of sustainable development and resource conservation.