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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **World Basketball Day 2023 : 21 December**

➤ World Basketball Day is celebrated annually on December 21 to commemorate the growth of a sport that has inspired millions of people World-wide with its athleticism, joy, and camaraderie.

➤ Basketball has developed into one of the most well-liked and extensively practiced sports in the world today.

➤ According to estimates from FIBA, the agency that oversees basketball, there are currently at least 450 million basketball players worldwide.

➤ **About Basketball:**

➤ Basketball was played for the first time on December 21, 1891 at the International YMCA Training School in Springfield, Massachusetts, USA, after

Dr. James Naismith, a Canadian physical education instructor, developed the game to keep his students active during the winter months.

➤ Basketball has also been a part of the Olympic program since its introduction at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

❖ **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports announced National Sports Award 2023**

➤ Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports announced the National Sports Awards 2023, The awardees will receive their awards from the President of India

at a specially organized function at Rashtrapathi Bhavan on 09th January, 2024.

➤ The National Sports Awards includes various awards in their respective fields. Based on the recommendations of the Committee and after due scrutiny, Government has decided to confer awards upon the following sports persons, coaches and entities.

➤ Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2023 The award is conferred for the most outstanding performance in the area of sports by a sportsperson over the time period of the last 4 years.

➤ **This year the award is conferred to 2 Badminton players on account of Team performance.**

1. Chirag Chandrashekhar Shetty – Badminton

2. Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy – Badminton

➤ This is the highest sporting honour award of India, at first this award was known as Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award instituted in 1991-92, in 2021 this award name has been changed in honour of Hockey wizard Major Dhyan Chand as Major Dhan Chand Khel Ratna Award.

➤ The first recipient of the award was Chess Grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand.

➤ **Arjuna Awards for Outstanding Performance in Sports and Games 2023**

➤ This year a total of 26 sportspersons are going to receive the Arjuna Awards for their outstanding performance in Sports and Games 2023. These 26 persons includes;

➤ Mohammed Shami (Bowler) in Cricket, Ramesh Babu Vaishali (rd Indian female Grandmaster) in Chess, Murali Sreeshankar (Long Jump) in Athletics.

➤ Dronacharya Award for Outstanding Coaches in sports and Games 2023 The award is conferred to coaches for demonstrating outstanding work consistently and for making it possible for sportspersons to ace in International events.

➤ In regular category these awards were given to 5 coaches and in life time category this was given to a total 3 coaches for their contribution in respective sports

➤ **Recipients of Dronacharya award for Lifetime category 2023:**

1. Shri Jaskrit Singh Grewal – Golf
2. Shri Bhaskaran E – Kabaddi
3. Shri Jayanta Kumar Pushilal – Table Tennis

➤ **Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement in Sports and Games 2023**

➤ The award is conferred to honour the sportspersons who have actually contributed to the field of sports through their performance, and who contribute to sports even post- retirement.

➤ **This year this award conferred to 3 persons Recipients of Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Lifetime Achievement Award 2023:**

1. Ms Manjusha Kanwar – Badminton
2. Shri Vineet Kumar Sharma – Hockey
3. Ms Kavitha Selvaraj – Kabaddi

➤ **Maulana Abul Kala Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2023**

➤ This award is given to the overall high-performing university in inter university tournaments.

1. Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar – Overall winner University
2. Lovely professional University, Punjab – 1st Runner Up
3. Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra – 3 Runner Up

➤ These awardees were selected by Selection Committee Panel chaired by retired Supreme Court Judge Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, ensures the recognition of deserving talent across the sporting spectrum.

❖ Indian economy to grow 6.3% in FY24 and FY25: IMF

- The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Executive Board recently announced that the Indian economy is anticipated to achieve a growth rate of 6.3% in both FY24 and FY25, supported by macroeconomic and financial stability.
- The IMF praised the government's macroeconomic policies and reforms, suggesting that India could achieve even higher growth with increased contributions from labour and human capital through structural reforms.
- The foundational digital public infrastructure and a robust government infrastructure program were acknowledged as factors that would sustain growth.
- However, the IMF's growth projection is notably lower than the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee's forecast of 7% for FY24.
- The Indian economy averaged 7.7% growth in the first two quarters due to robust consumption demand and rising investment.
- The multilateral body expects investment to rise to 31.9% of GDP by FY25, with savings increasing to 30%.
- However, it cautioned that a sharp global slowdown could impact growth, and weather shocks could affect inflation.
- Regarding inflation, India experienced a rise to 5.6% in November, following a decline to 4.9% in the previous month.
- The IMF anticipates inflation to decrease to 5.4% in FY24 from 6.7% in the last year, further falling to 4.6% in FY25.
- The government aims to reduce the fiscal deficit to 4.5% of GDP by FY26, with the IMF projecting achievement of the fiscal deficit target of 5.9% in FY24 and a marginal decline to 5.6% in FY25.

➤ Regarding climate resilience, the IMF supported the government's efforts to design and implement climate policies, emphasising their critical role in achieving the net-zero emissions target by 2070.

❖ **Suzlon and REC Ltd Collaborate On Non-Fund Based Working Capital**

➤ Suzlon Group announced the finalisation of definitive agreements to secure working capital facilities with REC.

➤ The partnership is aimed at enhancing the company's capacity to meet its working capital needs, pivotal for executing its extensive current order book and prospective future projects.

➤ The renewable energy solutions provider anticipates that these facilities will accelerate its operational activities and optimize the use of its existing capacities.

➤ Suzlon Group boasts an impressive 20.3 gigawatts (GW) of wind energy capacity across 17 countries, and operates 14 manufacturing facilities in India, seeks to expand its reach and efficiency.

➤ The new financial arrangement with REC Ltd is viewed as a significant relief and a reflection of Suzlon's enhanced financial stability.

➤ REC Ltd, classified as a 'Maharatna' company and under the administrative purview of the Ministry of Power, specializes in providing long-term financial solutions, including loans, to entities in the country's infrastructure sector.

➤ **Headquarters:** National Capital Region

➤ **Founded:** 25 July 1969

❖ English author Neelum Saran Gaur, Hindi writer Sanjeev among recipients of Sahitya Akademi Awards

➤ English writer Neelum Saran Gaur and Hindi novelist Sanjeev are among the 24 recipients of Sahitya Akademi Awards 2023.

➤ The awards, recommended by jury members in 24 Indian languages, were approved by the executive board of the Sahitya Akademi that met on Wednesday under the chairmanship of its president Madhav Kaushik.

➤ The list includes nine books of poetry, six novels, five of short stories, three essays and one literary study.

➤ Sanjeev for his novel "Mujhe Pehchaano" and Gaur for her book "Requiem in Raga Janki" have been selected for the prestigious award.

➤ Sadiqua Nawab Saher will receive the award for her book "Rajdev Ki Amrai" in Urdu, while Swarnjit Savi has been selected for his book of poetry "Mann Di Chip" in Punjabi.

➤ **About Sahitya Akademi Award:**

➤ The Sahitya Akademi Award is a literary honour in India, which the Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters, annually confers on

writers of the most outstanding books of literary merit published in any of the 22 languages of the 8th Schedule to the Indian constitution as well as in English and Rajasthani language

➤ Established in 1954, the award comprises a plaque and a cash prize of ₹ 1,00,000.

❖ **Prominent activist V Mohini Giri passes away**

- Dr. V. Mohini Giri, the icon of women's movement and former chairperson of National Commission of Women, has died after a brief illness.
- Born in Lucknow, Mohini Giri, a Padma Bhushan laureate, had dedicated her life to women's rights, human rights, rights of widows, and was connected with several national, international women's and social organisations for more than half a century.
- Mohini Giri founded the War Widows Association in 1972, the Women's Initiative for Peace in South Asia, was a board member of The Hunger Project, New York, served as the NCW Chairperson from 1995-1998 as well as Chairperson of Central Social Welfare Board, and was conferred the Padma Bhushan in 2007.

❖ **World Bank group sets up task force to study IEG suggestions**

- The World Bank Group has set up a task force to study recommendations of the Independent Expert Group (IEG) on reform of multilateral development banks, set up under India's G20 presidency.
- This was conveyed by World Bank president Ajay Banga to Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- The World Bank has identified eight unique global challenges to focus on in the next few years as they affect many countries and the finance minister expressed India's support for it.
- **About World Bank:**
- **Headquarters:** Washington, D.C., United States
- **Founded:** July 1944
- **President:** Ajay Banga
- **Founders:** John Maynard Keynes, Harry Dexter White

❖ **IndiGo becomes first Indian airline to touch 100 million passengers in a year**

- Private airliner IndiGo announced that it had made history by 'becoming the first Indian airline to carry 100 million passengers in a single calendar year'.
- With this achievement, it has joined a select club of global carriers to operate on such a scale.
- This development further cement IndiGo's standing among the 10 largest airlines in the world by passenger traffic
- IndiGo has expanded its global presence by incorporating over 20 additional international routes into its network in the past half-year.
- The achievement is attributed to the trust and loyalty of IndiGo's customers, as well as the dedication and hard work of the airline's staff, Pieter Elbers, the Chief Executive Officer of IndiGo, expressed gratitude for reaching this landmark figure.

➤ **About IndiGo:**

- **CFO:** Gaurav M. Negi
- **CEO:** Pieter Elbers
- **Founders:** Rahul Bhatia, Rakesh Gangwal
- **Founded:** 2006

❖ **Gaja Capital Business Book Prize 2023 announced**

- The Gaja Capital Business Book Prize, a prestigious annual recognition, has crowned two exceptional narratives in its 2023 edition.
- "**Against All Odds: The IT Story of India** and **Winning Middle India: The Story of India's New-Age Entrepreneurs** emerged as joint winners", capturing the essence of India's dynamic business landscape.

➤ This article delves into the winning books and the insights they offer into the insights they offer into the realms of technology, entrepreneurship and the evolving consumer sphere.

➤ "Against All odds" written by S 'Kris' Gopalakrishnan and N Dayasindhu and Krishnan Narayanan, and "Winning Middle India" by TN Hari and Bala Srinivasa were selected from a diverse and compelling shortlist of five books including "Capture the Dream" and "Essentially Mira", "The Tech Phoenix".

➤ The Gaja Capital Business Book Prize was instituted in 2019, to encourage Indian entrepreneurs, writers, and journalists to tell their stories to the world.

➤ The award, now in its fourth edition, offers a prize money of Rs 15 lakhs.

❖ **Government inks ₹1614-crore pact with Mazagon Dockyard Shipbuilders for 6 offshore patrol vessels**

➤ The Defence Ministry signed a Rs 1,614-crore contract with Mazagon Dockyard Shipbuilders Ltd. for procurement of six next generation offshore patrol vessels for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).

➤ The contract was signed under the Buy (Indian-IDDMM) category.

➤ Out of the six vessels being procured, four will replace the existing aging OPVs and the other two would augment the ICG fleet.

➤ The acquisition of these major ICG platforms is aimed to boost the ICG's capability and reinforces the increased focus of the Centre towards maritime security.

➤ These modern and high-tech Ships will play a critical role in enhancing surveillance, law enforcement, search and rescue, maritime pollution response, and other important capabilities including humanitarian assistance by the ICG.

➤ The state-of-the-art vessels will be indigenously designed, developed, and manufactured by MDL, Mumbai, and will be delivered within 6 years.

❖ **Karur Vysya Bank, HDFC Life enter into corporate agency tie-up**

- Private sector Karur Vysya Bank and HDFC Life have entered into a corporate agency agreement to offer life insurance products to their respective customers.
- This corporate agency arrangement would enable customers of Karur Vysya Bank to avail HDFC Life's wide range of life insurance products which include solutions for protection, savings and investment, retirement and critical illness.
- Our corporate tie-up with HDFC Life will provide one more option to our customers while charting their insurance plans.
- Since HDFC Life offers claim intimation process online, our customers can avail the services without stepping out of their homes.
- Karur Vysya Bank has 827 branches across 20 states and three union territories.

• ➤ **About Karur Vysya Bank:**

- **Headquarters:** Karur, Tamil Nadu
- **Founders:** M. A. Venkatarama Chettiar, Athi Krishna Chettiar

➤ **Founded:** 1916

➤ **About HDFC Life:**

➤ **Founded:** 2000

➤ **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra

➤ **MD & CEO:** Vibha Padalkar

❖ **Govt. Reports a Decline In Agriculture's GDP Share To 15% In FY23**

- Share of agriculture in India's GDP declined to 15 per cent last fiscal year from 35 per cent in 1990-91 due to rapid growth in the industrial and service sector.
- The share of agriculture in total Gross Value Added (GVA) of economy has declined from 35% in 1990-91 to 15% in 2022-23.

- The decline is brought out not by the decline in agricultural GVA but a rapid expansion in industrial and service sector GVA.
- In growth terms, agriculture and allied sector has registered an average annual growth of 4 per cent during last five years.
- The government has adopted/implemented several developmental programmes, schemes, reforms and policies towards increasing agricultural productivity, enhancing resource use efficiency, promoting sustainable agriculture, strengthening infrastructure and ensuring remunerative prices to farmers.
- The PM-KISAN scheme was launched in 2019. It is an income support scheme providing Rs 6,000 per year in three equal instalments.
- "More than Rs 2.81 lakh crore has been released so far to more than 11 crore farmers as on November 30, 2023,".

❖ **Hardik Singh and Xan de Waard named FIH Players of the year 2023**

- Indian Hockey player Hardik Singh is named as the male FIH player of the year 2023 and Netherland's Xan de Waard has been elected woman FIH Player of the year 2023.
- Indian Women's Hockey team captain and goalkeeper Savita Punia has been nominated for the 3rd consecutive time for the FIH Women Goalkeeper of the Year award 2023, Savita won the FIH Goalkeeper of the Year Award in 2021 and 2022.
- Hardik Singh hailed from Punjab is a key pillar of the Indian hockey team as well as being vice-captain of it, Hardik Singh has performed in a total 114 international matches.
- Hardik played a key role in India's bronze medal win at the 2020 Olympic.
- Savita Punia hailed from Haryana, she helped India emerge as the champions of the Asian Champions Trophy held in October 2023 in India.

➤ She led the Indian team to Bronze medal win at the Hangzhou Asian Games held in 2023.

➤ **International Hockey Federation (FIH):**

➤ **Established:** 1924

➤ **Headquarters:** Lausanne, Switzerland

❖ **Amitabh Bachchan becomes owner of Mumbai Team in India Street Premier League**

➤ Legendary actor Amitabh Bachchan revealed his ownership of the Mumbai team in the upcoming Indian Street Premier League (ISPL).

➤ The ISPL, India's first tennis ball T10 cricket tournament played within a stadium, is set to kick off its inaugural edition from March 2 to March 9 in Mumbai.

➤ The Indian Street Premier League (ISPL) is set to transform the landscape of street cricket, offering a unique platform for budding cricketers across six major cities in India.

➤ ISPL boasts 6 teams, each meticulously owned by a franchise hailing from prominent cities.

➤ Those 6 cities that participate in ISPL are Mumbai (Maharashtra), Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh & Telengana), Bengaluru (Karnataka), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Kolkata (West Bengal) and Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir).

➤ Recently, actors Akshay Kumar and Hrithik Roshan were announced as the team owners of Srinagar and Bengaluru, respectively.

❖ **International Gita Mahotsav Commenced in Kurukshetra, Haryana**

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the International Gita Seminar and Geeta Mahotsav at Brahma Sarovar, Kurukshetra, Haryana.
- The theme of the seminar is – **“Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: Srimad Bhagavad Gita and Universal Unity”**.
- This year, International Geeta Mahotsav programs will be held from 7th December to 24th December.
- The main event will be organized from December 17 to December 24.
- Assam is the main partner state in this programme.
- International Gita Mahotsav was started in the year 1989.
- It was given the status of national festival in the year 2002. From the year 2019, it started being organized in the country as well as abroad.
- The festival will be held in the United States in the year 2024.