

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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DESCRIPTIVE

❖ Dallas, Florida, New York to host 2024 T20 World Cup matches

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced that Dallas, Florida, and New York in the US will stage matches during next year's Men's T20 World Cup.
- The US is set to host the tournament for the first time alongside the West Indies from June 4 to 30 in what will be the biggest World Cup in ICC history, with 20 teams competing.
- Grand Prairie in Dallas, Broward County in Florida, and Nassau County in New York have been earmarked as host venues.
- Nassau County matches will be played at a 34,000 seat modular stadium to be built in Eisenhower Park, while the games in Grand Prairie and Broward County will be staged in existing venues, which will be expanded.

❖ BCCI signs SBI Life as 'Official Partner' for a three-year period

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has tied up with insurance company SBI Life as its official partner for the 2023-2026 domestic and international season.
- The three-year deal will come into effect from the upcoming India-Australia ODI series, which begins on September 22.
- BCCI President Roger Binny noted that the two entities are looking to 'build a solid partnership' to take Indian cricket forward.

❖ Siraj reclaims No. 1 spot in ODI bowling rankings

- Mohammed Siraj is back as the No. 1 ODI bowler in the world following his spectacular show in the Asia Cup final against Sri Lanka.
- This is the second time Siraj has been at the top of the table, having previously held the position between January and March 2023 before being displaced by Josh Hazlewood.
- Siraj has climbed eight positions to the summit of the rankings following his Asia Cup haul of ten wickets at an average of 12.20.
- The highlight of that performance was the spell of 6 for 21 that dismantled Sri Lanka for 50 all out in the final.

❖ ADB lowers India's GDP projection for FY23 to 6.3%, FY24 retained at 6.7%

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) lowered India's gross domestic product (GDP) projection by one percentage point for fiscal 2022-2023 to 6.3 per cent from 6.4 per cent.
- The economic growth estimate was revised down on account of slowing exports and the likely impact of erratic rainfall on agriculture output.
- The GDP projection for current fiscal (2023-2024) however, was retained at 6.7 per cent, when rising private investment and industrial output are expected to drive growth.
- Indian growth in the rest of this fiscal year and next will be propelled by robust domestic consumption as consumer confidence improves, and by investment, including large increases in government capital expenditure, according to the Asian Development Outlook September 2023.

❖ Excellence Award for Midhani Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)

➤ Midhani (Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited) chairman and Managing Director S.K. Jha has been conferred with 'Excellence Award' on the occasion of Engineers' Day at a programme jointly organised by Lions International, District 320-B and Leaf Association recently.

➤ Dr. Jha was felicitated for his contribution in the field of metallurgy.

➤ An Engineering doctorate from Homi Bhabha National Institute, he is a metallurgical engineering graduate from NIT Jamshedpur and has had long research career developing new grades of metals and alloys.

❖ India jumps seven places in Digital Quality of Life Index survey, holds 52nd place

➤ India has been ranked 52nd out of 121 countries in Digital Quality of Life Index survey.

➤ The survey has been carried out by cybersecurity firm Surfshark.

➤ The annual survey by the Netherlands-based firm has ranked 121 countries on five factors: internet quality, internet affordability, e-infrastructure, e-government and e-security.

➤ India was ranked 59th last year. This means that it has jumped seven places this time.

➤ India ranks 52nd in Digital Quality of Life survey as country's phone internet speed goes up by 297%.

➤ In terms of e-infrastructure, India is placed at 91st position.

➤ In terms of factors like internet affordability, e-governance and e-security, India was placed on 28th, 25th and 66th positions respectively.

➤ The survey has placed Singapore and Saudi Arabia in top positions when average internet speed is considered. It stands at 300 Mbps and 310 Mbps respectively.

❖ Nischal wins silver with new national record at Shooting World Cup in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

- The 16-member Indian shooting team finished its campaign with two medals, a Gold and a Silver, at the ISSF World Cup in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- 19-year-old Nischal gave India its second medal when she won the silver in women's 50m rifle 3 positions on the final day of the tournament.
- Elavenil Valarivan won the gold medal in the 10m air rifle event.
- 2018 Asian Games champion Saurabh Chaudhary returned empty-handed after failing to qualify for the final in the men's 10m air pistol event.
- Nischal, who made her senior ISSF World Cup debut in Baku earlier this year, scored 458.0 in the final at Rio across kneeling, prone and standing positions to finish behind Norway's Jeanette Hegg Duestad, who won gold with a score of 461.5.
- Jeanette Hegg Duestad is a three-time world champion and an Olympian.
- Stephanie Grundsoe of Denmark won the bronze in Rio with 447.6 points.

❖ Centre launches three game-changing initiatives for farmers focusing on agri-credit and crop insurance

- The government will launch a series of transformative initiatives, aimed at revolutionizing agriculture in the country in New Delhi.
- The transformative initiatives, include Kisan Rin Portal (KRP), Door to Door KCC Campaign, and Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) Manual.
- These initiatives are launched by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar.

- According to the Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, these initiatives aim to amplify financial inclusion, streamline data utilization, harness technology, and enhance the livelihoods of the agricultural community.
- The Kisan Rin Portal (KRP), developed in collaboration with multiple government departments, is poised to revolutionize access to credit services under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC).
- The Ghar Ghar Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Abhiyaan is an ambitious campaign to extend the benefits of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme to every farmer across India.
- Total number of operative KCC accounts as of March 2023 is 7.35 Crores with total sanctioned limit of 8.85 lakh crores rupees.

❖ **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank introduces Maxima Savings Account, Business Maxima Current Account**

- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (Ujjivan SFB) , September 15, announced the introduction of the Maxima Savings Account and Business Maxima Current Account for the premium customer segment.
- The annual interest rate on the Maxima Savings Account is up to 7.5 percent and customers can open the account with Rs 1 lakh.
- Customers also have the flexibility to maintain Rs 15 lakh or more in fixed deposits to meet the balance eligibility criteria of the Maxima Savings Account.
- Other services offered by Maxima Savings Account include higher transaction limits, free cheque and DD Issuances.
- A complimentary health prime benefit is also offered with the Maxima Savings Account to applicable customers.

❖ **Indonesia kicks off ASEAN joint military drills amid South China Sea tension**

- Indonesia kicked off the first joint military drills by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) bloc on Batam island amid rising maritime tension with China in the South China Sea region.
- The five-day ASEAN Solidarity Exercise-01 Natuna (ASEX-01N) exercise, will be held at Indonesia's Natuna Islands near the South China Sea.
- Military personnel from all ASEAN member countries, including East Timor will participate.
- The non-combat drills are aimed at cooperation and strengthening strategic partnership among the member countries, Indonesia military chief Yudo Margono told reporters at the opening ceremony.

❖ **Defence ministry clears proposal to buy Pralay ballistic missiles for Army**

- The Defence Ministry has cleared the proposal of buying a regiment of Pralay tactical ballistic missiles for the Indian Army which can strike targets at 150–500 km.
- It is the first time that a ballistic missile will be inducted into the services for conventional operations, according to senior defence officials.
- The Pralay missiles, propelled by a solid-propellant rocket motor and other novel technologies, are expected to provide a substantial boost to the Indian Army's offensive capabilities.
- The Pralay missiles are currently being mass produced and are expected to be ready for operational service soon.

❖ Sashidhar Jagdishan's re-appointment as HDFC Bank MD and CEO gets RBI approval

➤ The Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as HDFC Bank MD & CEO for a period of three more years and he will remain at the post till 26 October 2026.

➤ He joined the Bank in 1996 as a Manager in the Finance function.

➤ He became Business Head of finance in 1999 and was appointed as CFO in 2008.

➤ He played a critical role in supporting the growth trajectory of the Bank, and led the finance function with a pivotal role in achieving the strategic objectives.

❖ OECD raises India's FY24 GDP growth projection to 6.3%

➤ The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has raised India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth projection for financial year 2024 to 6.3 per cent, up from the previous estimate of 6 percent.

➤ India, which is listed among the G20 emerging market economies, has experienced mostly positive growth surprises, attributed in part to favourable weather related agricultural outcomes.

➤ The global economy, however, is expected to grow at a rate of 3 per cent in 2023, before slowing down to 2.7 per cent in 2024, according to the report.

➤ The OECD has also revised India's inflation projection to 5.3 per cent, up from the previous estimate of 4.8 per cent in June.

➤ The report observed that while headline inflation had decreased in many countries due to declining food and energy prices in the first half of 2023, core inflation had not experienced a significant slowdown.

❖ ICGS Samudra Prahari's ASEAN Deployment for Marine Pollution Response

- The Indian Coast Guard Ship Samudra Prahari, a specialized Pollution Control Vessel, is currently on an overseas deployment to ASEAN countries.
- This deployment is part of India's ASEAN initiatives for Marine Pollution Response, showcasing the Pollution Response capabilities of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and its commitment to addressing marine pollution issues and enhancing capacity in the region.
- The ship is equipped with a Chetak Helicopter in Pollution Response configuration, enhancing its capabilities in this area.
- This initiative was announced by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh during the ASEAN Defence Minister Meeting Plus meeting in Cambodia in November 2022.
- As part of an overseas exchange program, the ship has embarked 13 NCC cadets to participate in "Puneet Sagar Abhiyan," an international outreach program focused on beach clean-ups and similar activities in coordination with partner nations.
- The visit of ICGS Samudra Prahari to ASEAN countries reinforces India's continuous efforts to foster friendly relations through maritime cooperation.

❖ ACKO launches campaign 'Health Insurance ki Subah ho Gayi Mamu' for its newly introduced ACKO Platinum Health Plan

- ACKO has launched its health insurance product 'ACKO Platinum Health Plan'.
- As per the company, the plan has features including 100% bill payment, no room rent capping, zero waiting period, among others.
- To launch its Health Insurance product, ACKO has brought back two characters of Munna Bhai and Circuit in its campaign titled 'Health Insurance ki Subah ho Gayi Mamu'.
- The company claims that the series of ad films focuses on educating the audience on zero waiting period, 100% bill payment, benefits of providing full disclosures of ailments for a stress-free claim process, and ease of filing claims.

Aim: To focus on simplifying health insurance and removing all the pain points that customers have to face.

❖ CM launches Griha Adhar scheme to empower Goan homemakers

- Goa CM Pramod Sawant, distributed Griha Adhar sanction orders to numerous beneficiaries to support homemakers financially, fostering their independence and improving their quality of life.
- Apart from the sanction orders, which are a result of the initiative of the Directorate of Women and Child Development, the CM also launched the Chavath-e-Bazaar.
- It is aimed at empowering Goan entrepreneurs and self-help groups, a digital initiative under the Swayampura Goa Programme organised by the Directorate of Planning, Statistics and Evaluation.
- He also flagged off the Chavath-e-Bazaar vehicle, symbolizing a new era of empowerment for rural artisans and entrepreneurs in Goa.

❖ RBI imposes monetary penalty on 4 co-operative banks for rule violation

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty on four co-operative banks for rule violations.
- These banks include Lalbaug Co-operative Bank, The Co-operative Bank of Mehsana, The Harij Nagrik Sahakari Bank, and The National Co-operative Bank, a release issued by the central bank.
- RBI imposed Rs 1 lakh penalty on The National Co-operative Bank, Rs 3 lakh on The Harij Nagrik Sahakari Bank, Rs 3.50 lakh on The Co-operative Bank of Mehsana and Rs 5 lakh penalty on the Lalbaug Co-operative Bank.

❖ International Day of Peace - 21 September

- The International Day of Peace (IDP) is observed every year on 21 September.
- The IDP was established by the United Nations (UN) to emphasize the global commitment to peace, non-violence, and conflict resolution.
- The theme of the 2023 IDP is "**Action for Peace : Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals**".
- This theme emphasizes both individual and collective responsibilities in promoting peace.
- To ensure the success of these goals, it calls for the participation of various actors, including the world's 1.2 billion youth.

The topic focuses on three key areas:

- Fighting inequality
- Taking action on climate change
- Promote and protect human rights

❖ Nuakhai Festival 2023

- Nuakhai festival is traditionally celebrated on the next day of Ganesh Chaturthi.
- Nuakhai is celebrated throughout the state of Odisha.
- This festival holds special significance in western Odisha and neighboring areas like Simdega of Jharkhand.
- The word 'Nuakhai' is taken from the Oriya language.
- 'Nua' means new, and 'khai' means food.
- This festival marks the celebration of the new rice harvest, symbolizing the possession of new rice in the granary.

About Odisha:

- Capital - Bhubaneswar
- Governor - Ganeshi Lal, Chief Minister - Naveen Patnaik
- Rajya Sabha - 10 seats, Lok Sabha - 21 seats

❖ President inaugurates first Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show

- President Draupadi Murmu inaugurated the first Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show at the India Expo Center and Mart in Greater Noida.
- Prominent personalities including Governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and Industries Minister Nand Gopal Nandi attended the inauguration ceremony.
- The trade show will run from September 21 to 25 and will include over 2000 exhibitors from various sectors such as automobile, handicrafts, healthcare, food processing, pharmaceuticals, dairy, electronics and e-commerce.
- State government departments, institutions, and Mumbai Dabbawala Services will organize informative sessions on business activities.
- The event will showcase 108 new startups.
- It is expected to attract more than five lakh visitors, including international attendees.

❖ Women's Reservation Bill passed in Lok Sabha

- The Lok Sabha has given its assent to the Constitution (128th Amendment) Bill, commonly known as the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam.
- The Women's Reservation Bill has a provision to reserve one-third of the total seats for women in the Lower House and State Legislative Assemblies.
- The bill was passed with overwhelming support, as 454 Members of Parliament voted in favor of it, while only two MPs opposed it.
- Speaker Om Birla formally announced the passage of the bill in the lower house.
- The bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on the first day of proceedings in the new parliamentary building.
- Additionally, the old Parliament House in the Lok Sabha was renamed the Samvidhan Sadan.