

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

22ND June 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **NHAI launches 'Knowledge Sharing Platform'**

- National Highways Authority of India has launched a 'Knowledge Sharing' platform.
- This platform will help the authority to join hands with experts and citizens who want to share knowledge and insights related to topics such as road design, environmental sustainability, and related fields.
- Aim: To encourage sharing of best practices from around the world
- This platform will also contribute towards the holistic development of NH infrastructure in the country.
- It will serve as a hub for experts and individuals who wish to share their expertise, experiences, and ideas.
- Best practices from around the world can be uploaded on the NHAI web portal (<https://ksp.nhai.org/kb/>) in various formats such as video clips, PowerPoint presentations, and PDF files.
- NHAI officials will review the uploaded information and evaluate its potential for implementation.

❖ **The number of refugees globally stood at 35.3 million by the end of 2022**

- According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) report, the number of refugees globally stood at 35.3 million by the end of 2022.
- It also shows an increase in the number of more than 8 million from the year before.

- Around 52% of all refugees came from Syria, Ukraine, and Afghanistan.
- According to international law, refugees are people who are forced to flee their home countries to escape persecution or a serious threat to their life or freedom.

❖ **Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani donates ₹315 crores to IIT Bombay**

- Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani has donated ₹315 crores to IIT Bombay.
- Reason: Fostering world-class infrastructure, stimulating research in emerging areas of engineering and technology, and nurturing a deep tech startup ecosystem at IIT Bombay
- An MoU was signed between Nandan Nilekani and Prof. Subhasis Chaudhuri, Director, IIT Bombay.
- His contribution will catalyze philanthropic contributions towards advancing research and development at universities in India.

❖ **Govt approves \$2.7-billion Micron's chip plant**

- The Indian cabinet has granted approval for US chipmaker, Micron Technology to proceed with its \$2.7 billion plan for a semiconductor testing and packaging unit.
- It has also sanctioned production-linked incentives worth 110 billion rupees for the plant in Gujarat.
- The necessary approval stems from the significant size of the incentive package.
- Micron Technology's venture coincides with the White House's efforts to encourage U.S. chip companies to invest in India.

❖ **Reliance emerges as Most Valuable Private Company in India**

- As per Hurun India's 2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 list, Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd is the most valuable private company in India, with a whopping value of Rs 16.4 lakh crore.

➤ TCS with Rs 11.8 lakh crore ranked second in India, followed by HDFC Bank with Rs 9.4 lakh crore.

➤ The value of Reliance decreased by 5.1% in the last six months, while the total value of TCS increased marginally by 0.7% and HDFC Bank increased by 12.9%.

❖ **Union Bank launches four new deposit schemes**

➤ Union Bank of India has launched four bank account schemes targeting women, women entrepreneurs and professionals, pensioners, and cooperative housing societies.

➤ The bank has launched Union Unnati specifically designed for women entrepreneurs and professionals.

➤ This account offers free cancer care coverage and personal accident cover.

➤ Union Samriddhi has targeted women.

➤ The third product is Union Samman, a savings account aimed at pensioners.

❖ **Indian Army takes delivery of Mahindra Armado armoured vehicle**

➤ Mahindra Defence Systems (MDS), a subsidiary of Mahindra & Mahindra has started delivering Armado to the Indian armed forces.

➤ It is an Armoured Light Specialist Vehicle, which is designed by and developed by Mahindra.

➤ It has been designed keeping in mind a variety of roles the armed forces may use it for.

➤ It gets ballistic protection up to B7, Stanag Level II.

➤ It can be utilised in counter-terrorist operations by facilitating patrolling in conflict-hit areas.

❖ **Jharkhand government launches panchayat-level medicine scheme**

- Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren launched the panchayat-level drugs shop scheme to make essential medicines available in remote areas
- The scheme was inaugurated in Chatra district by handing over licenses to three persons for operating the medicine shops in panchayats.
- A total of 15 people have been selected for licenses in the district so far.
- The programs like ‘Sarkar Aapke Dwar’ will be restarted to establish a “real connection with people”.

❖ **Alibaba appoints Eddie Wu as new CEO and Joseph Tsai as executive chairman**

- Eddie Wu has been appointed as the new CEO and Joseph Tsai as Executive Chairman by Alibaba Group.
- Eddie Wu is one of the co-founders of Alibaba and currently serves as the chairman of Taobao and Tmall Group.
- This leadership change is the second major change for Alibaba in recent years after Jack Ma stepped down in 2019.

About Alibaba

- It is a Chinese multinational technology company. It specializes in e-commerce, retail, internet and technology.
- Alibaba operates in a variety of sectors including e-commerce, retail, Internet services and technology solutions.
- The company's primary strength lies in its e-commerce platforms such as Alibaba.com, Taobao, Tmall and AliExpress.
- Founded - 4 April 1999; Headquarters - Hangzhou, China

❖ Tamil Nadu Police Launches New Scheme for Women Traveling Alone at Night

- The Tamil Nadu police have introduced a new scheme called 'Pungal Pathukaaptu Thittam' (Women Safety Scheme) in Chennai city.
- The scheme aims to provide safe transportation for women who return from work between 10 pm and 7 am. It is operational every day of the week.
- Women who feel unsafe while traveling alone at night can dial helpline numbers such as 1091, 112, 044-23452365, and 044-28447701.
- Upon receiving a call, the police will dispatch a patrol vehicle to accompany the women and ensure their safe transportation to their residences.
- The scheme has been implemented in response to the increasing number of women working in various shifts.
- Often, women are dropped off at a location by office vehicles, and they have to walk alone to reach their homes.

❖ WHO Director General Tedros Ghebreyesus awarded Olympic Order by IOC

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) awarded the Olympic Order to Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO).
- The award was given to Dr. Tedros for his efforts in holding the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Olympic Order was presented by IOC President Thomas Bach at the Olympic House.
- Dr. Tedros has been invited by President Bach to be the Guest of Honor at the Olympic Games Paris 2024.
- The award recognizes Dr. Tedros' support in promoting cooperation between the IOC and WHO, in particular the Cooperation Agreement signed in 2020.

➤ The IOC and WHO have collaborated on various initiatives, including the Let's Move campaign for Olympic Day.

International Olympic Committee: Founded - 23 June 1894, Paris, France

➤ Founders - Pierre de Coubertin and D. Bikélas ; Headquarters - Lausanne, Switzerland

❖ **India-United States Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS X) launched in Washington DC**

➤ The U.S. Department of Defense and the Indian Ministry of Defense launched the India-US Defense Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) on 21st June at an event hosted by the US-India Business Council.

➤ The launch of INDUS-X is a major milestone in promoting US-India defense cooperation, innovation, and job creation.

➤ The initiative seeks to enhance defense capabilities and contribute to global peace, security and prosperity while reaffirming commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

Significance of INDUS-X:

➤ INDUS-X aims to revitalize defense industrial cooperation between the United States and India, promoting the development of new technologies and fostering collaboration in manufacturing.

➤ It represents a strategic effort to strengthen bilateral ties and unlock the potential for advancements in the defense sector.

❖ **G-20 Labor Engagement Group meeting started in Patna**

➤ The two-day meeting of the G-20 Labor Engagement Group began on 22 May 2023 in Patna, Bihar.

➤ Around 150 delegates from the G-20 member states and eight guest countries participated.

- The ceremony was inaugurated by Bihar Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar at the Ashoka Convention Center in Patna.
- This meeting includes universalizing social security and increasing women's participation in the workforce (around 32% globally).
- The meeting also focused on the plight of migrant workers and the issue of knowledge and skill gaps among workers.
- The delegates will explore new employment opportunities and challenges in G20 countries.
- Union Labor and Employment Minister - Bhupendra Yadav
- Labor Resources Minister of Bihar - Surendra Ram

❖ **Petteri Orpo has been elected as the new Prime Minister of the country by the Parliament of Finland**

- In Finland, the leader of the Conservative Party, Petteri Orpo, was elected Prime Minister of the country by the parliament.
- Orpo's election was supported by 107 members of parliament, while 81 opposed and 11 abstained.
- President Sauli Niinisto is set to formally appoint Petteri Orpo as the new Prime Minister.
- Orpo will replace Sanna Marin of the Social Democrats, who finished third in the polls.

About Finland: It is a northern European nation.

- It shares borders with Sweden, Norway and Russia;

The capital of Finland is Helsinki.

❖ **United Nations Public Service Day - 23 June**

- United Nations Public Service Day is celebrated every year on 23 June.
- The day is dedicated to appreciating the importance of public services and the people who work in them.
- The United Nations established the United Nations Public Service Awards to recognize and reward exceptional public service projects.
- The award program was updated in 2016 to align with the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- United Nations Public Service Day reminds us of the value of public service and encourages young people to consider careers in this field.

❖ **India beat Bangladesh to win the 2023 Women's Emerging Asia Cup title**

- The India U-23 women's team won the 2023 Women's Emerging Asia Cup T20 title after defeating Bangladesh in the final held at the Mission Round Ground in Hong Kong.
- India has scored 127 for the loss of seven wickets in 20 overs.
- India's Kanika Ahuja was named the Player of the Match, who stayed not out on 30 off 23 with four fours in the final.
- While India's Shreyanka Patil was named the Player of the Series, as she was the highest-wicket taker.

❖ **India ranks 127 in Gender Gap Index 2023**

- According to a Gender Gap Index 2023, released by World Economic Forum, India has been ranked 127 out of 146 countries in the Global Gender Gap Report 2023, up by 8 positions from 135 in 2022.
- The report reflects an improvement of 1.4% points.

➤ India's neighboring countries rank: Bangladesh (59), Bhutan (103), China (107), and Pakistan (142)

➤ For the 14th year running, Iceland (91.2%) takes the top position.

➤ While Norway ranked 2nd, followed by Finland, and Sweden.

❖ **Hasmukh Adhia appointed as the chairman of GIFT City, GACL and GMDC**

➤ Former Union Finance Secretary Hasmukh Adhia has been appointed as chairman of GIFT (Gujarat International Finance Tec) City.

➤ In addition to this role, he was also appointed as the Chairman and Director of the Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd (GACL) and the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC).

➤ He replaced Sudhir Mankad, to take the helm of GIFT City.

➤ He has also served as the Principal advisor to Narendra Modi when he was CM of Gujarat.