

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

23rd December 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

- ❖ **National Farmers' Day is celebrated every year in India on 23 December**
 - Every year, National Farmer's Day is celebrated on December 23.
 - National Farmer's Day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of **Chaudhary Charan Singh**, the former Prime Minister of the country.
 - **Theme:** Cultivating the Future: Innovation and Sustainability in Agriculture.
 - Chaudhary Charan Singh served the nation from **1979 to 1980**. Within his short tenure, he developed several welfare programmes directed at improving the conditions of the farmers and empowering them.
 - In 2001, the Government of India announced December 23 to be celebrated as National Farmer's Day to honour Chaudhary Charan Singh's contributions and his transformation from a farmer to the head of the state.
- ❖ **Karnataka government to roll out 'Yuva Nidhi' unemployment allowance scheme starting January 1**
 - Karnataka government is all set to implement the '**Yuva Nidhi**' scheme which is one of the five poll promises of the Congress party.
 - This scheme aims to provide unemployment allowance to all unemployed persons.
 - The registration process for this scheme will start from **December 26**.
 - This scheme will be implemented from **January 1, 2024** and applicants can enroll themselves on the '**Seva Sindhu**' portal.

➤ Those who have completed six months of graduation in the academic year 2022-23 and are not in higher education or any employment are eligible to apply. The scheme will be applicable to degree holders and diploma pass holders.

➤ He further added that unemployed graduates will get **monthly financial assistance of Rs 3,000** and diploma holders will receive **Rs 1,500** under this scheme.

➤ This money will be directly transferred to the beneficiary's account till they are employed for a **maximum period of two years**.

❖ **Six Indian Heritage Projects bag UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards 2023**

➤ The United Nations Educational, Scientific and cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s '2023 Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation' also known as Heritage Awards, were awarded to a total of 12 projects from India (6), China (5), Nepal (1).

➤ Those 6 projects of India include: Rambagh Gate and Ramparts in Punjab (India), has won the "Award of Excellence", the highest honor of UNESCO heritage awards.

➤ Karnikara Mandapam, Kunnamngalam Bhagawati Temple, Kerala, India have won the 2 awards.

➤ It was recognized with Special Recognition for Sustainable Development category and Award of Distinction.

➤ **Award of Merit won by total 3 projects:**

➤ Church of Epiphany in Gurugram, Haryana

➤ David Sassoon Library and Reading Room in Mumbai, Maharashtra

➤ Bikaner House in New Delhi.

➤ Special Recognition for Sustainable Development award was won by Pipal Haveli in Punjab, India.

➤ The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation, established in 2000, recognize efforts of private individuals and organizations to restore or conserve structures, places, or properties of heritage value in the Asia-Pacific region.

❖ **Sukrit Paul Kumar Won the 6th Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for her book “Salt Pepper”**

➤ Sukrita Paul Kumar, Indian Poet, critic and Translator, was honored with the 6th Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2023 for her book titled “Salt Pepper: Selected Poems” published by Paperwall publishing.

➤ Indian-American economist, Abhijit Banerjee, the 2018 Nobel Prize laureate (Economics), received the Tagore Prize for Social Achievement 2023.

➤ The award ceremony was held at India International Center, IIC, in New Delhi, Delhi.

➤ An amount of USD 5,000, a Tagore statue and a certificate for contribution to literature was given to Sukrit Paul Kumar at award ceremony.

➤ **About Rabindranath Tagore Literacy Prize:**

➤ It was founded in 2018 by Copenhagen (Denmark)-based publisher Peter Bundalo, who is also the chair of the Awarding Committee.

➤ It is an annual cultural event founded as a platform for World Peace, Literature, Art, Education, and Human Rights.

➤ Last Year, the prize was given to journalist-author Raj Kamal Jha for his novel “The City and The Sea.”

❖ Gujarat govt introduces 'Bhagavad Gita' textbook to school curriculum

- The Gujarat government has launched a supplementary textbook on the '**Bhagavad Gita**' to foster a connection between students and India's cultural heritage.
- This textbook will be incorporated into the curriculum for classes 6 to 8, beginning with the next academic year.
- This decision aligns with the principles of the National Education Policy introduced by the Union government three years ago.
- The State Education Department has decided to include the spiritual principles and values from the 'Shrimad Bhagavad Gita' as a supplementary textbook within the curriculum of classes 6 to 8.

❖ Karnataka bags National Energy Conservation Award 2023

- Karnataka has won first prize in State Designated Agency (SDA Group-1) sector at National Energy Conservation Awards-2023 (NECA 2022).
- The National Energy Conservation Awards-2023 was organised by the "**Bureau of Energy Efficiency**" as part of National Energy Conservation Day.
- President Droupadi Murmu presented the award to Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Ltd MD KP Rudrappaiah as an appreciation for the state's achievement in energy conservation.
- The Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL) was chosen for the prestigious award based on the energy efficiency projects they implemented in the State.
- **Minister for Energy:** K J George
- **Additional Chief Secretary (energy department):** Gaurav Gupta

❖ Emmanuel Macron Will Be The Chief Guest At Republic Day 2024

- The French President Emmanuel Macron will attend the Republic Day celebrations in 2024 as the chief guest. India has sent a formal invitation to Macron in this regard.
- Emmanuel Macron will be the 6th French leader to attend the 2024 Republic Day parade as Chief Guest. Former French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac attended the event twice, in 1976 and 1988.
- Former French Presidents Valery Giscard d'Estaing, Nicolas Sarkozy and Francois Hollande attended the Republic Day celebrations as chief guests in 1980, 2008 and 2016 respectively.
- The Central government has earlier invited US President Joe Biden as the chief guest, but he expressed his inability to come.
- Egyptian President Abdel Fatah El-Sisi was the chief guest at India's Republic Day Parade 2023.
- Indonesian President Sukarno was the chief guest at the first Republic Day celebrations on 26 January 1950.

❖ Shri Anurag Singh Thakur to launch Official logo and mascot for Khelo India Youth Games Tamil Nadu

- Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports and Information & Broadcasting, Sh. Anurag Singh Thakur shall be the chief guest for the launch of official logo, jersey, mascot, torch and theme song for the Khelo India Youth Games Tamil Nadu in Chennai.
- The 6th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games is scheduled from January 19 to 31, 2024.
- The previous 5 editions of the Youth Games have been held in Delhi, Pune, Guwahati, Panchkula and Bhopal.

➤ The upcoming edition will take place in four cities of Tamil Nadu - Chennai, Trichy, Madurai, and Coimbatore.

➤ There will also be distinguished presence of renowned sports icons such as Chess Grand Master Vishwanathan Anand, Tokyo Olympian Fencer Bhavani Devi, Badminton star Joshna Chinappa and Hockey Asia Cup bronze medalist S. Mareeswaran, among other esteemed personalities.

❖ **BEL bags orders worth Rs 2,673 cr from two firms**

➤ Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has received orders worth Rs 2,673 crore from Goa Shipyard Limited (Rs 1,701 crore) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (Rs 972 crore) for supply of 14 types of sensors for use on Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPV).

➤ The company in a BSE filing will have participation of electronics and associated industries including MSMEs, which are sub vendors of BEL.

➤ The equipment manufactured by BEL are part of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' programme.

➤ The company has also received additional orders worth Rs 86.15 crore since the last disclosure on December 15, 2023 and the orders pertain to miscellaneous spares and services.

❖ **Argentina leads 2023 FIFA rankings**

➤ World champions Argentina firmly held onto their world No. 1 position at the end of 2023, as FIFA announced the year-ending men's world rankings.

➤ Argentina regained top spot in April and have held the lead since then, despite the other nine placings in the top ten changing many times.

➤ France kept their second place and England finished 2023 in third place.

➤ Only 11 international matches were played in December after the previous world rankings were released on November 30.

❖ **South Africa's Dean Elgar to retire from international cricket after Tests against India**

➤ Former South Africa captain Dean Elgar has announced his retirement from international cricket after a test series against India concludes early next month.

➤ Elgar, who has scored more than 5,000 runs with 13 centuries in his 84 tests, will play his final test at Newlands in Cape Town starting Jan. 3.

➤ **Elgar will fittingly end his international career with the two Test matches:**

➤ The first to be played at his home ground in Centurion from 26-30 December.

➤ The second at the venue where he scored his first Test runs, Newlands Cricket Ground in Cape Town, from 03-07 January.

❖ **Vita Dani becomes first Indian to be inducted as ITTF governing board member**

➤ Vita Dani, a sports philanthropist and entrepreneur, has made history as the first Indian to join the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Foundation's governing board.

➤ As Chairperson of Ultimate Table Tennis, Dani has significantly impacted the sport in India, increasing its accessibility and organizing tournaments across 25 states.

➤ The ITTF Foundation, established by the ITTF in 2018, seeks to leverage table tennis's unique characteristics to promote development and align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

➤ The foundation believes in the sport's universal appeal across age, gender, cultural background, social status, and physical capabilities.

➤ Dani is the founder of the Dani Foundation and co-owner of the Chennai in Football Club.

➤ The Dani Foundation, based in Mumbai, aims to create a self-sufficient society through empowering individuals and community involvement.

➤ **President of ITTF and ITTF Foundation:** Petra Sorling

➤ **ITTF Group CEO:** Steve Dainton

➤ **ITTF Foundation director:** Leandro Olvech

❖ **Govt inks pact for Rs 22,627cr Japanese loan to finance bullet train project**

➤ The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has signed a loan agreement with the Central government to provide an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of 400 billion Japanese Yen (approximately Rs 22,627 crore) as tranche five for the construction of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR) project.

➤ This is the largest commitment amount through a single project loan agreement in the history of JICA, across the globe.

➤ JICA has been supporting the MAHSR bullet train project by providing ODA loans with the cumulative commitment amount of JPY 1 trillion and 50 billion (Rs 59,396 crore) since 2017.

➤ The objective of the project is to develop a high-frequency mass transportation system by constructing the High-Speed Rail between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, using Japan's Shinkansen technology (also known as the Bullet Train), there by enhancing mobility in India and contributing to regional economic development.

❖ **Jaishankar To Visit Nepal In First Week of January**

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will arrive here in the first week of January on a two-day official visit to Nepal during which he will attend a high-level bilateral meeting and hold talks with the country's top leadership.
- Jaishankar will arrive in Kathmandu on January 4 to attend the 7th meeting of the Nepal-India Joint Commission.
- Jaishankar is visiting Nepal at the invitation of N P Saud (Nepalese Foreign Minister) to take part in the high-level bilateral mechanism between the two countries to review past agreements and boost ties between them.
- During the visit, among others, an agreement on exporting 10,000 megawatts of energy from Nepal to India is likely to be signed.

❖ **Govt grants LIC one-time exemption from 25% public shareholding rule**

- The Centre has granted Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) a one-time exemption from the 25% minimum public shareholding (MPS) rule.
- This means that the Government of India will continue to hold more than 75% stake in the insurance behemoth for the next eight-nine years.
- The current MPS rule specifies that a listed entity with a market capitalisation (m-cap) of more than Rs 1 lakh crore should have a minimum 25% public shareholding within five years of listing.
- For firms which have lower m-cap, they are required to have a minimum 25% public shareholding within a year of listing.
- LIC, which had launched the biggest IPO in India's capital market history, entered the bourses on May 17, 2022.
- This meant it had to meet the 25% criteria by May 2027. However, with the extension, it would now have to meet the MPS rule by May 2032.

➤ Currently, LIC has a m-cap of Rs 4.84 lakh crore and the Government of India, the company's largest stakeholder, holds a 96.50% stake in the company. Public shareholding in LIC stands at only 3.50%.

➤ LIC shares have seen a big recovery, gaining over 27% since start of November.

❖ **ADB approves USD 100 mn loan to improve urban services, tourism facilities in Tripura**

➤ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$100 million loan to enhance the tourism and urban infrastructure in the state of Tripura.

➤ This loan will provide much-needed support to the government's efforts in boosting the economy and promoting the tourism industry in the region.

➤ The loan aims to improve urban infrastructure, including the development of roads, water supply systems, and waste management facilities.

➤ These improvements will not only enhance the lives of local residents but also contribute to attracting more tourists to explore the scenic beauty of Tripura.

➤ One of the major challenges in Tripura's infrastructure development is the poor condition of roads.

➤ The ADB loan will address this issue by funding the construction of new roads and the repair and maintenance of existing ones.

➤ This will facilitate better connectivity within the state and with neighboring areas, leading to improved access to tourist attractions and boosting the economy.