

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

24th & 25th September 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ World Pharmacists Day 2023 - September 25th

- World Pharmacist Day is an annual celebration observed on September 25.
- It serves as a dedicated occasion to acknowledge and honour the invaluable contributions made by pharmacists in advancing global health.
- This day underscores the crucial role that pharmacists perform in improving human well being.
- The primary objective of World Pharmacist Day is to endorse and provide support for initiatives aimed at raising awareness and advocating for the pivotal roles played by pharmacists worldwide.

Theme: "Pharmacy Strengthening Health Systems."

- This day is dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the indispensable contributions of pharmacists in the realm of medical supplements and healthcare professionals.

❖ World Rivers Day - September 24th

- World Rivers Day, celebrated on September 24th, is a global event dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of rivers and their conservation.
- It encourages people to engage in activities like river cleaning, educational programs, riverbank restoration projects and river rewinding.
- This day highlights the vital role rivers play in providing freshwater, supporting ecosystems, and in a case of wild river learn about river spontaneous dynamic.

➤ World Rivers Day has been celebrated since 2005. It was initiated by Canadian river conservationist Mark Angelo, who believed that rivers deserved their own dedicated day of recognition.

➤ Since then, it has grown into a global event observed on the last Sunday in September each year.

➤ World Rivers Day aims to foster public awareness and engagement in river conservation efforts.

❖ **Antyodaya Diwas Day 2023 - September 25th**

➤ India celebrates Antyodaya Diwas annually on September 25 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.

➤ It is a day of remembrance and celebration of his life and legacy and he was one of the most prominent figures in India's political history.

➤ He was a co-founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS) and a thinker of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

➤ Upadhyaya is also known for his efforts to uplift the poor and less fortunate, and so his birth anniversary is celebrated on Antyodaya, which means 'rising of the last'.

➤ In keeping with the Antyodaya Mission's mission to reach out to all, the motto of the day is to help all underprivileged and rural youth in India find local, national and global employment opportunities.

❖ **PM Modi lays foundation stone of first international cricket stadium in Varanasi**

➤ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the first international cricket stadium in Varanasi's Ganjari in Uttar Pradesh.

➤ The stadium will be built in a 30-acre area at a cost of Rs.450 crore.

➤ The Uttar Pradesh government said that it has spent Rs.121 crore to acquire the land for the stadium, while the BCCI will spend Rs.330 crore on its construction.

- The stadium is likely to be completed by December 2025.
- The architecture of the cricket stadium proposed at Ganjari in Varanasi will be reminiscent of the holy city's rich heritage and things related to Lord Shiva.
- The roofs will be in the form of a crescent that crowns Lord Shiva, while the floodlights will be trident-shaped.
- "This stadium in the city of 'Mahadev' will be dedicated to 'Mahadev' himself. This stadium will become the star of Purvanchal region.
- ❖ **Singapore is now the world's freest economy, displacing Hong Kong after 53 years**
- Singapore has dethroned Hong Kong to become the world's freest economy, according to a report released by Canadian think tank Fraser Institute.
- For the first time since the Economic Freedom of the World Index started in 1970, Hong Kong has slipped from its number one position to second place and its score is about to drop even further.
- Some of the tenets used to gauge economic freedom index are measured based on ease of international trade, freedom to enter and compete in markets, as well as business regulations, amongst other yardsticks.
- The findings in the 2023 report are based on data from 2021, the most recent year with available comparable statistics across the 165 jurisdictions.
- It measures the economic freedom of individuals or their ability to make economic decisions on their own.

❖ **Power Finance Corporation (PFC) signs MoU worth Rs 1.18 trn with SJVN for renewable energy projects**

- Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with state owned hydro power firm SJVN Ltd, committing to finance the latter's renewable energy and thermal power projects.
- The deal is valued at Rs 1.18 trillion and aims to set up 12 gigawatt (Gw) of power generation capacity, predominantly from renewable sources such as solar, wind, and pumped hydro, along with a 660 megawatt thermal power project.
- The financial backing from PFC is expected to range between Rs 80,000 crore and Rs 90,000 crore, displaying a significant commitment to these crucial projects.
- According to a PFC statement, this funding could be augmented to meet the specific needs of the renewable projects, highlighting the flexibility of the partnership.
- The agreement would contribute to the company's new mission of reaching 12 Gw capacity by 2026 and a long term vision of 50 Gw by 2040.

❖ **India's Meta Introduces UPI Payments for WhatsApp Business Messaging**

- Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced a significant expansion of WhatsApp's payment feature in India during the Meta Conversations event in Mumbai.
- Users in India will now have the option to make payments to businesses via WhatsApp Business using various payment methods, including UPI, credit cards, debit cards, netbanking, Google Pay, PhonePe, Paytm, and more.
- Initially, Meta has partnered with RazorPay and PayU for this payment service.
- This development follows the initial launch of WhatsApp Payments in Singapore and Brazil.

➤ Zuckerberg emphasized the importance of this expansion, stating that it will make it easier for people to make payments to Indian businesses directly within a WhatsApp chat using their preferred payment method.

➤ Meta introduced “WhatsApp Flows,” a feature designed to automate common business processes such as ticket booking, form filling, and application submission. This feature will be rolled out in the coming weeks.

❖ **Axis Bank launches NEO for Business transaction banking platform for MSMEs**

➤ Axis Bank has launched a transaction banking platform for the Indian Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) called NEO for Business.

➤ According to the company's statement, it will cater to the "real, current, and emerging" transaction needs of Indian MSMEs.

➤ The NEO for Business platform offers features like digital self on boarding, bulk payments, GST compliance invoicing, payment gateway integration, end-to-end transaction tracking, auto reconciliation, cash flow reports, and recurring collections, among others.

➤ India currently has over 65 million MSMEs, which contribute over 30 per cent to India's gross domestic product (GDP).

➤ The MSME Business Banking landscape is evolving rapidly, and there is a need for a comprehensive solution for all their Banking and Beyond Banking requirements.

❖ **DAC clears procurement of 12 SU-30 jets among proposals worth ₹45,000 crore**

➤ The Defence Acquisition Council which approved procurement of 12 SU-30MKI jets for the Indian Air Force (IAF).

➤ These will be license manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and cost under ₹11,000 crore.

➤ These will replace aircraft that have been lost over the years. The IAF has been pushing for additional Sukhois as well 21 Mig-29s to arrest its falling fighter strength before newer inductions come in.

➤ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh stated that it is time to upgrade ambitions towards indigenisation.

➤ Rather than a threshold of 50% indigenous content for Indian Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured (IDDM) projects, we should aim for a minimum 60-65% indigenous content.

❖ **India becomes No.1 ranked team in all formats after defeating Australia in 1st ODI**

➤ India became the number 1 ranked team in all three formats i.e. Tests, ODIs and T20Is, after their 5-wicket win against Australia.

➤ India displaced Pakistan from the top of the ODI rankings while they lead England in the T20I rankings.

➤ In the longest format, they are in the first place while Australia are right behind them.

➤ The rankings reflect the hard work put in by this team as they chase excellence on the field.

➤ This is fantastic achievement just ahead of the World Cup. Also 1-0 up against Australia with a win in Mohali.

❖ **Northeast's mithun gets 'food animal' tag and its meat a leg-up**

➤ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has recently recognized the Mithun as a 'food animal,' opening doors for its commercial use found in Arunachal Pradesh.

Aim: To promote its meat as a commercial product can indeed have significant economic and cultural implications for the region.

➤ It is a captivating and culturally significant bovine species found in Northeast India.

➤ Its role in the livelihoods of indigenous communities, ecological balance.

➤ Mithun, scientifically known as *Bos frontalis*, is a remarkable bovine species native to the lush and hilly regions of Northeast India, particularly the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram.

➤ Often referred to as the “Cattle of the Hills,” Mithun holds significant cultural, economic, and ecological importance in this region.

❖ **Malini Rajurkar, Hindustani vocalist whose 'tappa' renditions were epic, passes away at 82**

➤ Noted Hindustani classical vocalist Malini Rajurkar, who epitomised simplicity and depth, passed away in a Hyderabad at age the 82.

➤ As one of the foremost exponents of Gwalior gharana, she forged a special connection with the audience in Pune at the annual Sawai Gandharva festival for nearly five decades.

➤ They were spellbound by her tappa recital, her khayal renditions and her natya sangeet and many recalled her unforgettable "Yaa Bhavanatil Geet Purane".

❖ **Andhra Pradesh govt. signs MoU with International Baccalaureate**

➤ The Andhra Pradesh State Government signed an MoU with America educational agency International Baccalaureate (IB) in the presence of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

➤ The MoU with IB will help introduce innovative questioning and answering methods that will be closer to practical life.

➤ The State Government was committed to increasing the standards in education and making students globally ready.

➤ Introduction of the IB syllabus for students is a big challenge that too in Government school is an herculean task.

➤ However, the State Government is aspiring to make students attain number one positions in their respective fields and become perfect global leaders.

❖ Oil minister HS Puri launches India's first green hydrogen fuel cell bus in Delhi

- Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri flagged off India's first green hydrogen fuel cell bus in Delhi.
- 15 green hydrogen buses will be operational by the end of 2023.
- The success of this project can catapult India from being a net importer of fossil energy to becoming a net exporter of clean hydrogen energy provide global leadership to other countries in terms of technology transfer, while becoming a large green hydrogen producer and supplier of manufacturing parts.
- Puri added that the hydrogen fuel powered vehicle can be refilled in a few minutes, nearly as fast as fossil fuel can fill an internal combustion engine.
- The project for green hydrogen fuel cell bus has been undertaken by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) in collaboration with Tata Motors.
- Indian Oil has initiated a scientifically designed program to undertake operational trials of 15 fuel cell buses powered by green hydrogen on the identified routes in Delhi, Haryana and U.P.

❖ India bags ten medals including one Gold and three Silver at Asian Games in Hangzhou, China

- India has secured ten medals - one gold, three silver, and six bronze in the Asian Games at Hangzhou in China.
- Indian trio Rudrankksh Patil, Divyang Panwar and Aishwary Tomar clinched gold in the Men's 10m air rifle event.
- India's men's quadruple scull team and men's four team in Rowing bagged bronze, while Aishwary Tomar won bronze in men's 10m air rifle individual event.

- In the 25 meter rapid-fire pistol team event, Indian team comprising Anish Bhanwala, Vijayveer Sidhu and Adarsh Singh clinched the bronze.
- India won its first medal in shooting as the trio of Ramita Jindal, Mehuli Ghosh, and Ashi Chouksey earned a Silver in the women's 10m air rifle event.
- Shortly after the first medal, Indian duo Arjun Lal Jat and Arvind Singh won a silver in men's lightweight double sculls in the rowing discipline.

❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launches Bharat Drone Shakti 2023 exhibition at Hindon airbase

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a large-scale drone exhibition called "Bharat Drone Shakti 2023" at the Hindon airbase.
- As reported by PTI, this event is a collaborative effort between the Indian Air Force and the Drone Federation of India (DFI).
- The Defence Minister opened the grand drone exhibition and witnessed several aerial drone demonstrations.
- The Defence Minister formally inducted the C-295 transport aircraft into the Indian Air Force in the presence of top military officials, including IAF chief Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari.
- The Indian Air Force, recognizing the significant potential in the development of indigenous drones, has joined forces with the Drone Federation of India to co-host the Bharat Drone Shakti 2023 event.

❖ **SIDBI, UPNEDA inks MoU to finance renewable projects to MSMEs**

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and the Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA) have signed two memorandums of understanding (MoUs) to make direct financing options available for (MSMEs).
- Of these MoUs, the first one is a structured arrangement for solarisation of residential units at Ayodhya, while the second one is for bio-energy and renewable project financing. The MoUs have been signed to disseminate information about solar and green projects to MSMEs.
- SIDBI has undertaken various programs to support the Government of India's commitments to prevent climate change, such as installing solar rooftops in 2,500 MSMEs for captive consumption, enabling EV market-aligned with the GoI EV30@30 Mission, and promoting innovative technologies.
- SIDBI emphasised the need of MSMEs becoming energy efficient and adopting green solutions.

❖ **NASA's first asteroid samples land on the earth**

- NASA's first asteroid samples fetched from deep space parachuted into the Utah desert to cap a seven year journey.
- In a flyby of Earth, the Osiris-Rex spacecraft released the sample capsule from 63,000 miles (100,000 kilometers) out.
- The small capsule landed four hours later on a remote expanse of military land, as the mothership set off after another asteroid.
- The capsule was intact and not breached, keeping its 4.5 billion-year-old samples free of contamination.
- Within two hours of touchdown, the capsule was inside a temporary clean room at the Defense Department's Utah Test and Training Range, hoisted there by helicopter.

➤ The building already houses the hundreds of pounds (kilograms) of moon rocks gathered by the Apollo astronauts.

❖ **Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Leads the Way with Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) Using UPI on ATMs**

➤ Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited announced the launch of an innovative service, set to revolutionise cash withdrawal experiences.

➤ Utkarsh Small Finance Bank is dedicated to offering process-centric, technology-driven, and customer-oriented services that lead to a reliable, scalable, and sustainable institution, driving socio-economic change.

➤ The Bank is pleased to announce the launch of Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) service, that utilises UPI (Unified Payments Interface) on its ATM networks.

➤ This is In line with the Reserve Bank of India's directive in May 2022, urging all banks to provide Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) options at their ATMs, and Utkarsh Small Finance Bank has taken the lead in fulfilling this mandate.