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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **CM Yogi unveils the first ticket for the first race of 'MotoGP India' 2023**

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath has unveiled the first ticket for the first race of MotoGP 2023, to be hosted by Uttar Pradesh.
- For the first time, the motorbike race is being held in India.
- The event is scheduled to be held at the Buddha International Circuit in Greater Noida from September 22 to 24, 2023.
- The event would firmly establish 'Brand Uttar Pradesh' at the global level.
- This is the first time the event is being held outside Europe.

❖ **Cristiano Ronaldo receives Guinness World Record award**

- Portuguese football player, Cristiano Ronaldo has received the Guinness World Record Award certificate to become the first men's player to make 200 international appearances.
- He celebrated the milestone by scoring the winning goal in the 89th minute as Portugal beat Iceland in European Championship qualifying.
- He received a Guinness World Records certificate before the game.
- The closest to Ronaldo's tally is Bader Al-Mutawa, who was capped by Kuwait on 196 occasions.

❖ Indian Railways, USAID/India Indian sign MoU for Renewable Energy

- Indian Railways has signed an MoU with the United States Agency for International Development/India (USAID/India) for collaboration on Renewable energy and Energy Efficiency.
- It was signed in the presence of the Chairman of the Railway Board, Anil Kumar Lahoti.
- As Indian Railways is proactively working towards the achievement of Net Zero Carbon Emission by 2030.
- As part of its commitment to reduce carbon footprints, Indian Railways is taking several initiatives.

❖ Global Liveability Index 2023 released

- The Global Liveability Index 2023. EIU's index quantifies the challenges presented to an individual's lifestyle in 173 cities worldwide.
- This year's average score has risen to a 15-year high, with a return to order after the covid-19 pandemic and better healthcare and education in developing countries.
- According to the Global Liveability Index 2023 published by the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU), Vienna in Austria has topped the ranking of the most liveable cities.
- While Copenhagen in Denmark placed second on the list, followed by Melbourne and Sydney.
- Damascus in Syria and Tripoli in Libya remained at the bottom of the liveability index.
- From India, New Delhi and Mumbai are at 141st position and Chennai at 144th.

❖ **Airtel Payments Bank ties up with Care for health insurance**

- Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with Care Health Insurance to offer health insurance products to its customer via the Airtel Thanks app.
- The offerings will include coverage for pre-existing ailments and daycare treatment.
- Customers can opt for health insurance services through the Airtel Thanks app and pay using an APB account.
- According to the NITI Aayog report, nearly 30% of India's population is devoid of any health insurance backup.
- Airtel Payments bank has taken a step towards offering easy access to health insurance for its customers by entering into a Corporate Agency Agreement with Care Health Insurance.
- Through this agreement, Airtel Payments Bank will be able to provide their customers with Care Health Insurance products along with the comprehensive and customised Health Insurance offering - Group care 360° through the banking section of the Airtel Thanks App.

❖ **Milk processing plant in collaboration with NDDDB in Kangra**

- Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu informed that the Himachal Pradesh government will collaborate with National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB) to set up a state-of-the-art milk processing plant at Dagwar in Kangra district.
- The dairy development board's assistance would be taken for its operation and marketing.
- The Dagwar plant's capacity would range from 1 lakh to 3 lakh liters, in which high-quality milk products would also be prepared.
- With an estimated cost of Rs 250 crore, this ambitious project aims to revolutionize milk production and processing in the region.
- The venture is expected to bring substantial economic and social benefits to the state while enhancing its position in the dairy sector.

❖ Centre allocates ₹145 crore to Nagaland for Unity Mall

- The Central government has allocated ₹145 crore for the construction of a Unity Mall in Dimapur, Nagaland.
- Aim: For promoting and showcasing the state's One District One Product offerings
- The allocation is part of the Union Budget 2023-24, which has earmarked ₹5,000 crore for the establishment of Unity Malls.
- The announcement was made during an ODOP Sampark event, which was organized by the DPIIT, Invest India, and the Department of Industries and Commerce, Nagaland.

❖ International Women In Engineering Day 2023: 23rd June

- International Women in Engineering Day is observed every year on June 23 for improving the participation of young girls in the field of engineering.
- The theme of the special day this year is 'Make Safety Seen'.
- In 2014, the United Kingdom officially dedicated June 23 to lead a national campaign for women in the engineering field.
- In 2017, UNESCO celebrated this day for the first time, to mark the vigilant efforts of women in the engineering society.

❖ 8th Global Pharmaceutical Quality Summit 2023

- The Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) successfully concluded the 8th edition of the Global Pharmaceutical Quality Summit at Mumbai.
- The theme for the Summit was, 'Patient Centricity: New Paradigm of Manufacturing and Quality'.
- The two-day Summit brought together industry leaders, global regulators, quality experts, and stakeholders to foster knowledge exchange and deliberate on areas of importance in shaping the pharmaceutical landscape in India.

- The event was inaugurated by Samir Mehta, Chairman, Torrent Pharmaceuticals and President, IPA.
- Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers and Health and Family Welfare addressed the summit.
- India played a vital role as the "Pharmacy to the World" during the COVID-19 pandemic by ensuring a steady supply of quality medicines and vaccines across the globe.
- The Indian pharmaceutical industry has demonstrated its potential both in terms of quality and quantity.

❖ Sahitya Akademi announces winners of Bal Sahitya Puraskar

- The Sahitya Akademi has announced the recipients of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar and Yuva Puraskar for this year.
- The announcement was made at a meeting of the Sahitya Akademi's Executive Board, chaired by President Madhav Kaushik.
- The winners of both awards will receive an engraved copper plaque and a cheque of Rs 50,000 each at a ceremony to be held later.
- Sudha Murty, a renowned children's author, has been selected for the Bal Sahitya Puraskar for her collection of stories titled 'Grandparents' Bag of Stories'.
- Suryanath Singh has been chosen for the Hindi language category of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar for his collection of short stories called 'Kotuk App'.
- Anirudh Kanisetti will receive the Yuva Puraskar for his work 'Lords Of The Deccan: Southern India From Chalukyas To Cholas', while Atul Kumar Rai will be awarded in the Hindi language category for his novel 'Chandpur ki Chanda'.
- The recipients for Manipuri, Maithili, and Sanskrit categories of Yuva Puraskar, as well as the Bal Sahitya Puraskar for Manipuri, will be announced later.
- No Yuva Puraskar winner was announced for Odia, and no Bal Sahitya Puraskar winner was announced for Kashmiri.

❖ International Day of Women in Diplomacy - 24 June

- International Women's Day in Diplomacy (IDWID) is observed annually on 24 June.
- It is a day to honor and recognize notable women in the field of diplomacy and decision-making globally.
- Armenian Ambassador Diana Abgar is credited with being the first female diplomat of the 20th century.
- Prominent women such as Indira Gandhi, Margaret Thatcher and Sushma Swaraj have contributed significantly in representing their nations at the international level.
- India's Permanent Representative/Ambassador to the United Nations in New York Ruchira Kamboj is carrying forward this legacy.
- IDWID celebrates the history and importance of women in diplomacy.
- The theme of this year's IDWID is "Breaking Barriers, Shaping the Future: Women in Diplomacy for Sustainable Development."

❖ India and US sign Artemis Accord to take Space cooperation to new heights

- During his state visit to the United States, Prime Minister Narendra Modi signed the Artemis agreement with the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), highlighting the growing importance of India's role as a global space power.
- The agreement establishes the foundation for cooperation in space exploration and underlines India's commitment to peaceful space activities.
- In addition to the Artemis agreement, NASA and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) have agreed to launch a joint mission to the International Space Station in 2024.
- This collaborative effort will enable both countries to advance their space research and exploration efforts.

❖ India and UAE signed a Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Authorized Economic Operators

- India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have signed a Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Authorized Economic Operators.
- The agreement was formally signed during the World Customs Organization's (WCO) Customs Co-operation Council meeting held in Brussels.
- The Mutual Recognition Arrangement aims to promote trade facilitation and ease of doing business between the two countries.
- It establishes a framework for recognizing Authorized Economic Operators (AEOs) from both India and the UAE.
- The recognition of AEO status will streamline customs procedures, reduce administrative burdens, and lower costs for authorized businesses.
- This agreement signifies an important milestone in the economic cooperation between India and the UAE and is expected to strengthen bilateral trade ties.
- By leveraging the benefits of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement, both countries aim to enhance trade facilitation, improve the ease of doing business, and encourage investments.

❖ Journalist A.K. Bhattacharya authored a new book titled “India’s Finance Ministers”

- Veteran Journalist Ashok Kumar Bhattacharya (AK Bhattacharya) has authored a new book titled “India’s Finance Ministers: From Independence to Emergency (1947-1977)” which highlights the role of India’s finance ministers who shaped India’s economy in the first 30 years (from 1947 to 1977) after Independence.
- The book is published by Penguin Business an imprint of Penguin Random House.
- The book is divided into 3 main parts: Nehru and his finance ministers, those under Shastri and Indira Gandhi, and Indira Gandhi as her own finance minister.
- Economic Journalist AK Bhattacharya is the editorial director of Business Standard and the writer of a long-running column – Raisina Hill.

❖ NTPC Receives “Most Preferred Workplace of 2023-24” Award from Team Marksmen

➤ NTPC's recognition as the "Most Preferred Workplace of 2023-24" by Team Marksmen reaffirms its position as a leading organization in the power generation sector.

➤ NTPC Ltd. India's largest power generator, has been recognized by Team Marksmen as the “Most Preferred Workplace of 2023-24.

➤ This esteemed award acknowledges NTPC's outstanding performance in several key areas, highlighting the organization's commitment to organizational purpose, employee centricity, growth, recognition and rewards, intrapreneurial culture, work-life

balance, diversity, equality and inclusion, safety, and trust.

➤ The organization's progressive approach, prioritizing “People before PLF” (Plant Load Factor), has significantly contributed to making NTPC a preferred workplace.

❖ Paytm Collaborates with Arunachal Pradesh to Foster Startup Ecosystem

➤ The partnership between Paytm Payment Services Limited & Arunachal Pradesh Innovation and Investment Park marks a significant step in creating an enabling environment for startups in Arunachal Pradesh.

➤ Paytm Payment Services Limited (PPSL) entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Arunachal Pradesh Innovation and Investment Park (APIIP) to establish a thriving startup ecosystem for the youth in the northeastern state.

➤ The partnership aims to nurture entrepreneurship and encourage young business ventures during their early stages of development.

❖ **RBI Imposes Penalties on Axis Bank, J&K Bank, and Bank of Maharashtra**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalties on Axis Bank, Jammu & Kashmir Bank, and Bank of Maharashtra for rule violations.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 2.5 crore on Jammu & Kashmir Bank for non-compliance with certain directions issued by the RBI.
- The penalty relates to the bank's failure to adhere to RBI's guidelines on the central repository of large common exposures across banks, loans, and advances, as well as statutory and other restrictions.
- Additionally, the bank did not ensure the timely implementation and strengthening of SWIFT-related operational controls. The RBI's statutory inspection conducted on March 31, 2021, revealed non-compliance with these directions.
- Axis Bank has been levied a monetary penalty of Rs 30 lakh by the RBI for non-compliance with certain provisions of the RBI's directions on Prudential Norms on Income Recognition, Asset Classification, and Provisioning pertaining to Advances – Credit Card Accounts.
- The RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1.45 crore on Bank of Maharashtra for non-compliance with specific directions issued by the RBI.

❖ **Telangana CM Inaugurates Medha Rail Coach Factory in Hyderabad**

- Telangana CM KCR inaugurates Medha Rail Coach Factory in Hyderabad, assures full support for expansion and job creation.
- Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao recently inaugurated the Medha Rail Coach Factory, the largest private coach factory in India, located in Kondakal, Shankarpally mandal of Rangareddy district.
- During the inauguration ceremony, CM KCR assured complete support to Medha Servo Group for its expansion in Telangana, expressing confidence that it would generate significant employment opportunities for the local youth.