

**IACE**

# **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**25<sup>TH</sup> & 26<sup>TH</sup> June 2023**

**DESCRIPTIVE**

## ❖ **Priya A.S. received Sahitya Akademi Award 2023 for children's literature**

- Indian writer, Priya A S has been named the prestigious (Kendra) Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2023.
- She was awarded for children's literature in Malayalam for her 2018 novel Perumazhayathe Kunjithalukal.
- She won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award for Children's Literature for the same novel in 2020.
- The book was featured in the Sammanapothi series by Poorna Books.
- Bal Sahitya Puraskar consists of a cash prize of Rs 50,000 and an engraved copper plaque.

## ❖ **Manipal Technologies, Indian Bank joined hands to offer banking products**

- Manipal Technologies Limited (MTL) has partnered with the Indian Bank to drive financial inclusion by offering customized banking products.
- Aim: To build a sustainable network of corporate business correspondents (CBCs).
- It will enhance the availability, affordability, and accessibility of financial services, particularly in underserved markets and rural areas.
- MTL will work closely with Indian Bank to offer tailor-made banking products in rural locations.

### ❖ **HM Amit Shah lays foundation stone of 'Balidan Stambh' in Srinagar**

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah has laid the foundation stone of Balidaan Stambh' (martyr's memorial) at Pratap Park, near the Lal Chowk city centre the commercial hub of Srinagar city.
- Home Minister has laid the foundation stone in the presence of Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.
- The memorial, a project under the Srinagar Smart City, is a tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the nation.
- "Jammu and Kashmir is the land of indomitable courage and bravery of nation's bravehearts.
- To immortalise the valour of such heroes, the foundation stone of the ' Balidan Stambh' was laid at Pratap Park in Srinagar . The Stambh will inspire patriotism among the youth by immortalizing the memory of the martyrs."

### ❖ **Google to invest 10 billion dollars in India's digitisation fund**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with Google CEO Sundar Pichai, Amazon CEO Andrew Jassy, and Boeing CEO David Calhoun in Washington DC.
- After the meeting, it was informed that Google is investing 10 billion dollars in India's digitization fund and will open Google's global fintech operation centre in GIFT City, Gujarat.
- While Amazon CEO Andrew Jassy has already invested 11 billion dollars and with an intention to invest another 15 billion dollars.

### ❖ **IFFCO starts exporting world's first Nano urea invented in India**

- IFFCO has started exporting the world's first Nano urea invented and manufactured indigenously in India to the US.
- An agreement to export Nano urea was signed between IFFCO and Kapoor Enterprises Inc of California.

➤ The nano urea is a revolution in the agriculture sector as it has the potential to reduce storage space and money.

➤ A 500 ml bottle of IFFCO Nano Urea Liquid has the capacity to replace at least one bag of conventional Urea.

### ❖ IIT Kanpur successfully conducts test flight for cloud seeding

➤ IIT Kanpur has successfully conducted a test flight for cloud seeding.

➤ The project was initiated at IIT Kanpur a few years ago and is headed by Prof. Manindra Agrawal from the Computer Science and Engineering Department.

➤ The experiment was conducted with due approval from the DGCA.

➤ Cloud seeding involves the utilization of various chemical agents such as silver iodide, dry ice, common salt, and other elements with the aim of enhancing the probability of precipitation.

### ❖ Dr Vanessa Kerry appointed as WHO DG Special Envoy for Climate Change

➤ WHO has appointed Dr Vanessa Kerry as the first-ever WHO Director-General Special Envoy for Climate Change and Health.

➤ She is a renowned global health expert and medical doctor and CEO of Seed Global Health.

➤ She will play a pivotal role in amplifying WHO's climate and health messaging and undertake high-level advocacy.

➤ Climate change is emerging as the greatest health challenge of the 21st century, impacting various aspects of human well-being.

## ❖ Asian Development Bank to provide 400 million US dollars in loans to Bangladesh

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a loan agreement with the government of Bangladesh to provide \$400 million for the construction of a dual gauge railway between Chattogram and Cox's Bazar.
- The purpose of the railway project is to promote trade, investment, and tourism in Bangladesh.
- The new rail link is expected to open this year and aims to transport approximately 2.9 million passengers annually between Chattogram and Cox's Bazar by 2024.
- The ADB is supporting the government's shift from road to rail transport, as rail is considered a climate-friendly, safe, affordable, and efficient mode of transportation.
- The Chattogram-Cox's Bazar Railway is part of the Trans-Asia Railway (TAR) network, which is an initiative led by the United Nations.
- The TAR network aims to establish seamless rail links between Asia and Europe to enhance connectivity between people and markets.

## ❖ World Drug Day - 26 June

- The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, also known as World Drug Day, is observed annually on 26 June.
- World Drug Day aims to promote global efforts to eliminate drug abuse and illegal drug trafficking.
- This year's campaign focuses on treating individuals involved in drug use with empathy and respect.
- The campaign aims to combat the stigma and discrimination faced by drug users through respectful and non-judgmental language and approach.
- The theme for World Drug Day 2023 is "People First: Stop Stigma and Discrimination, Strengthen Prevention."
- The theme emphasizes a people-centred approach to drug policies with a focus on human rights, compassion and evidence-based practices.

## ❖ Greece's conservative New Democracy party wins landslide election victory for second 4-year term

- Greece's conservative New Democracy party has emerged victorious in the parliamentary election, securing another four-year term for reformist Kyriakos Mitsotakis as the Prime Minister.
- According to interior ministry figures with most votes counted, New Democracy, a centre-right party, led with 40.5 percent of the vote, securing 158 seats in the 300-seat parliament.
- New Democracy's lead of more than 20 points over Syriza, a radical leftist party that governed Greece from 2015 to 2019 during a severe debt crisis, marked a significant victory for Mitsotakis.
- Mitsotakis, a former banker, has pledged to boost revenue from Greece's crucial tourist industry, generate employment opportunities, and raise wages to approach the European Union average.
- The election result dealt a humiliating blow to Syriza, which suffered the loss of over 30 Members of Parliament.
- This election was the second within five weeks, as the initial poll on May 21, conducted under a different electoral system, failed to grant any single party an outright majority in Parliament.

## ❖ IAF conducts Rannvijay exercise with focus on integrated operations

- The Indian Air Force recently conducted Exercise Ranvijay, a series of integrated wargames aimed at enhancing the skills of fighter pilots through day and night operations involving combat aircraft like Su-30s.
- The exercise took place in the UB Hills and Central Air Command Area of Responsibility .
- It involved the execution of full spectrum operations by all combat assets, with a particular emphasis on integrated operations and the optimal utilization of the Indian Air Force's electronic warfare capabilities.

➤ The exercise was carried out from various air bases under the Central Air Command, which is headquartered in Prayagraj.

➤ Different commands within the Indian Air Force, along with the Army and Navy, have been conducting wargames to enhance coordination and strengthen integration among the forces.

➤ After addressing various concerns, the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force have reached a consensus to proceed with the plan for establishing theatre commands, which will further enhance coordination and synergy among the three services.

### ❖ REC to provide ₹3,045 cr finance to Bangalore Metro

➤ REC Limited, a Public Sector Enterprise under the Union Ministry of Power, has announced its decision to provide financial assistance of Rs 3,045 crore to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) for the Phase-II project of Bangalore Metro.

➤ The assistance was approved by the REC Board during a meeting. The Ministry of Power released a statement confirming the extension of financial support to BMRCL.

➤ The Phase-II project of Namma Metro includes the extension of the existing East-West Corridor and North-South Corridor of Phase-I, as well as the addition of two new lines: RV Road to Bommasandra and Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara.

➤ These new metro lines will help alleviate traffic congestion in high-traffic areas of Bangalore.

➤ Upon completion of Phase-II, the Namma Metro network will cover a total distance of 114.39 km and have 101 stations.

### ❖ PM Modi conferred Egypt's highest state honour

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded the 'Order of the Nile,' Egypt's highest honor, by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi during a ceremony at the Presidential palace in Cairo.
- The 'Order of the Nile' was established in 1915 and is bestowed upon heads of states, crown princes, and vice presidents who have rendered invaluable services to Egypt or humanity.
- This is the 13th highest state honor conferred upon Prime Minister Modi.
- During the first bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Egypt in 26 years, India and Egypt elevated their relationship to a 'Strategic Partnership' following extensive discussions between Modi and El-Sisi.

### ❖ Indian women's doubles pair of Sutirtha and Ayhika clinches WTT Contender tournament title in Tunis

- Sutirtha Mukherjee and Ayhika Mukherjee, the Indian women's doubles pair, emerged victorious in the World Table Tennis (WTT) Contender tournament held in Tunis .
- In the final, they defeated the Japanese duo of Miyuu Kihara and Miwa Harimoto with a score of 3-1 (11-5, 11-6, 5-11, 13-11) in a challenging match.
- This win makes Sutirtha Mukherjee and Ayhika Mukherjee the first Indians to secure a Contender title in the current year.
- Prior to reaching the final, the Indian pair faced a tough last-four battle against the Korean duo of Shin Yubin and Jeon Jihi, which they won 3-2 (7-11, 11-9, 11-9, 7-11, 11-9).
- On the other hand, the Indian mixed doubles pair of Manika Batra and G Sathiyan, as well as the men's doubles duo of Manav Vikash Thakkar and Manush Utpalbhair Shah, were unable to progress to the finals as they lost their respective semifinal matches.

### ❖ **Diksha Dagar wins record second ladies European tour event title**

- Indian golf player, Diksha Dagar has secured her second Ladies European Tour (LET) at the Tipsport Czech Ladies Open 2023.
- In the final, she defeated Trichat Cheenglab of Thailand.
- She hails from Jhajjar in Haryana.
- In 2019, she won her first LET title at the South African Women's Open, held in Cape Town.
- After Aditi Ashok, Diksha Dagar is the only other Indian woman golfer to have won two or more LET titles.
- She represented India at the Tokyo 2022 Olympics.

### ❖ **India's first hydrogen-powered train to run from Jind district, Haryana**

- The first hydrogen-powered trains in India are expected to start from the Jind district of Haryana by the end of this year, 2023.
- The officials informed that the plant development has entered the final phase and hydrogen will be produced from water.
- The Hydrogen fuel-based train of eight bogies will be environment-friendly.
- Presently, trains are being run on diesel and electricity.
- The officials claimed that hydrogen-powered trains are running only in Germany.

### ❖ German Parliament approves new immigration law

- The German Parliament has approved a new immigration law designed to attract skilled workers to the country.
- Reason: The nation is suffering from an unprecedented labour shortage
- The law was initiated by the governing center-left coalition of the Social Democrats, the liberal Free Democrats, and the Greens.
- The law includes a points-based system that lowers entry hurdles for work visa applicants according to their professional qualifications, age, and language skills.

### ❖ World Bank approves USD 255.5 million loan to improve technical education

- The World Bank has granted its approval for a USD 255.5 million loan to enhance the quality of technical education in government-run institutions across India.
- This funding will support approximately 275 selected government-run technical institutions over the course of the next five years.
- The Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education Project will focus on improving student skills and employability through various measures.

### ❖ LIC launches new non-linked period plan 'Dhan Vridhhi'

- Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) launched a new close-ended plan Dhan Vridhhi.
- It is a non-linked, non-participating, individual, savings, single premium life plan, offering a combination of protection and savings.
- This plan provides financial support to the family in case of unfortunate death of the life assured during the policy term.
- It also provides a guaranteed lump sum amount on the date of maturity to the assured.
- Minimum assured sum: Rs 1,25,000

## ❖ IOB, Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission ink MoU

- Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has signed an MoU with the Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission (TNSRLM) to foster the growth of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the State and provide them with vital financial support.
- TNSRLM will facilitate eligible SHGs for credit linkage with IOB.
- Aim: To streamline access to financial resources for SHGs, enabling them to undertake entrepreneurial activities, expand their ventures, and contribute to the economic development of the State