

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

26th August 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ National Space Day – August 23

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced to celebrate August 23, when India's Chandrayaan-3 landed on the Moon, as National Space Day.
- He also announced that the spot where the lander landed on the Moon will be known as 'Shivashakti' and where Chandrayaan-2 touched down will be called as 'Tiranga Point'.
- He addressed the scientists at the ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network Mission Control Complex in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Experts suggested that in a few years, India's space industry will become \$16 billion from \$8 billion.

❖ PM was awarded with Grand Cross of the Order of Honour award

- Greece conferred the 'Grand Cross of the Order of Honour', the country's highest civilian order that can be awarded to a premier, on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The award was presented to Modi, the first Indian premier to visit Greece in four decades, by Greek President Katerina Sakellariopoulou.
- Modi is also the first foreign head of government to receive the honour.
- The two countries recalled the shared values of democracy, freedom and rule of law and discussed matters related to sustainable development, women-led development, India's G20 presidency and the deepening of bilateral ties.

❖ 69th National Film Awards

- The winners of the 69th National Film Awards were announced at the National Media Center in New Delhi.
- These awards are recognized as one of the highest honors in the field of film-making, serve as an evident to the dedication and creativity of individuals who contribute to the film industry.
- Allu Arjun was awarded for the Best Actor for the film Pushpa while the Best Actress Award was presented to Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon for their films Gangubai Kathiawadia and Mimi respectively.
- The Kashmir Files won the Nargis Dutt Award for Best Film on National Integration.

Other awards:

Best Feature Film: Rocketry

Best Director: Nikhil Mahajan (Godavari)

Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment: RRR

❖ B20 Summit India 2023 begins in New Delhi

- The B20 Summit India 2023 started in New Delhi. The Summit is based on the theme of B20 India R.A.I.S.E: Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable, Equitable Businesses
- India is pushing the agenda of strong, sustainable, inclusive and balanced economic growth by focusing to remove the protectionists measures. He said, accelerating the pace to achieve Sustainable Development Goals, emphasis on climate actions and rapid climate financing for leveraging growth of the global south and women led development are the other key priorities.

❖ **Rajeshwari Kumari qualifies for Paris Olympics 2024**

- Rajeshwari Kumari has secured another shooting spot for India in the Paris 2024 Olympics.
- She finished fifth in the women's trap final at the ISSF World Championship 2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan, and won India's first spot in the women's trap event.
- The ISSF World Championship 2023 serves as a qualifying event for the Paris Olympics 2024.
- The best four finishers, one from each country, in each of the 12 Olympic individual shooting events receive a seat on their national teams, giving a total of 48 shooters.

❖ **IIT BOMBAY receives donation of 18.6 million for Green Energy Hub**

- The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay has received a donation of \$18.6 million from an alumnus for the Green Energy and Sustainability Research Hub.
- It will help the Institution in addressing the global climate crisis.
- The hub will be set up within a state-of-the-art academic building on the IIT Bombay campus.
- The Hub will also serve as a nexus for learning and exploration, offering state-of-the-art infrastructure and facilities for students and researchers.

❖ **HDFC Bank launches India's First Co-Branded Hotel Credit Card with Marriott**

- HDFC Bank has partnered with Marriott Bonvoy to unveil the 'Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card'.
- This pioneering co-branded hotel credit card, the first of its kind in India, operates on Diners Club platform, a part of the Discover Global Network, and aspires to set new standards for rewarding travel cards in the country.
- This card brings together the strengths of these two prominent brands, presenting consumers with an unparalleled selection of travel benefits.

❖ **NHPC, APGENCO partners for Pumped Storage Hydropower Projects**

- NHPC Limited has signed an MoU with APGENCO for the implementation of Pumped Hydro Storage Projects and Renewable Energy Projects in Andhra Pradesh.
- The MoU envisages the implementation of two identified Pumped Hydro Storage Projects with a total capacity of 1,950 MW.
- The projects will be implemented under Joint Venture mode.
- The MoU seeks to harness Pump Storage Projects as Energy Storage Solutions to achieve the national objective of clean and green energy.

❖ **Wrestling icon and WWE Hall of Famer, Terry Funk, passes away**

- Wrestling icon and WWE Hall of Famer, Terry Funk has passed away at 79.
- He had an intriguing and remarkable career over five decades (1965 to 2017).
- He was known for his hardcore style, his charisma, and his passion for the business.

- He was inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame in 2009 by his longtime friend and rival, Dusty Rhodes.
- In 2021, he also received recognition from the International Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame.

❖ **IWAI signs MoU with NRL for export of Petroleum Cargo via NW 2 & IBPR**

- An MoU was signed between the Inland Waterways Authority of India and Numaligarh Refinery Limited to use the National Waterways-2 (Brahmaputra) and Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route.
- Reason: For export of petroleum products to Bangladesh and other southeast Asian countries in Guwahati
- Aim: To fulfill the 'Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 for Northeast' by enabling inland waterways transportation via NW2 and IBPR, unveiling a new chapter of EXIM trade for the Northeast region

❖ **Government sets up high power committee to review DRDO**

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has set up a nine-member committee of experts to overhaul the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).
- The committee headed by Prof K VijayRaghavan to review and redefine the role of the department and submit a report within three months.
- Prof Vijay Raghavan is a former Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India and one of the key architects of the National Research Foundation (NRF).

❖ **Central Vigilance Commission reconstitutes advisory board on bank frauds**

➤ The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has reconstituted the Advisory Board on Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF) which conducts the first-level examination of bank frauds before recommendations or references are made to investigative by agencies such as CBI.

➤ The reconstituted APBFF will be chaired by former CVC Suresh N Patel.

➤ There are four Members and the tenure of the Chairman/ Members would be for two years.

❖ **India announces definition of Green Hydrogen**

➤ The standard issued by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, outlined the emission thresholds that must be met in order for hydrogen produced to be classified as 'Green', i.e., from renewable sources.

➤ The scope of the definition encompasses both electrolysis-based and biomass-based hydrogen production methods.

➤ The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy has decided to define Green Hydrogen as having a well-to-gate emission of not more than 2 kg CO₂ equivalent/kg H₂.

❖ **Norway becomes 3rd country to give F-16 jets to Ukraine**

➤ NATO-member Norway will donate F-16 fighter jets to Ukraine, Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store.

➤ Norway would be the third European country after the Netherlands and Denmark to donate F-16 planes.

➤ In February, oil-rich Norway announced that it is donating 75 billion kroner (\$7 billion) to Kyiv as part of a five-year support package, making Norway one of the world's biggest donors to Ukraine.

❖ Infosys brand ambassador – Rafael Nadal

- Infosys announced a three-year partnership with global tennis star Rafael Nadal .
- Infosys is the digital innovation partner for the ATP Tour, Roland-Garros, Australian Open, and The International Tennis Hall of Fame.
- Infosys and Nadal's coaching team are developing an AI-powered match analysis tool.

❖ Start up AR4 partners with Sodian Energy

- Coimbatore's AR4 Tech partners with Singapore's Sodian Energy to build a sodium-ion battery factory, targeting vehicle electrification.
- Sodium-ion batteries (Na-ion batteries or NIBs) are an emerging battery technology that utilizes sodium ions (Na⁺) as charge carriers.
- They share similarities with lithium-ion batteries but offer the advantage of using more abundant and cost-effective sodium.
- Sodium-ion batteries have the potential to be more affordable due to sodium's lower cost. It costs 1-2% of lithium's price.
- Reduced dependence on lithium can mitigate ecological concerns related to its extraction.

❖ Six new members in Brics

- Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have been invited to join as full members from January 1 next year.
- The BRICS bloc of top emerging economies have taken a major step in expanding its reach and influence with the announcement that six more nations have been invited to join as new members.
- The bloc, which was formed in 2009 with Brazil, Russia, India and China, first expanded to admit South Africa in 2010.
- Now it is seeking to grow a stronger coalition of developing nations who can better put the interests of the Global South on the world's agenda.
- Before the start of its annual summit in South Africa this week, more than 40 countries had expressed interest in joining BRICS, and 23 formally applied to join.

❖ Indian women bag free pistol gold

- India finished the 2023 ISSF World Championships with six gold and eight bronze medals as Tiyana, Sakshi Suryavanshi and Kirandeep Kaur combined to clinch gold in the Women's 50M Pistol as the national contingent finished the event with 14 medals, second behind China.
- India also ensured four Paris Olympic quotas from the tournament.
- In the team event, the Indian trio grossed 1,573 points to secure gold while China finished second with 1,567, and Mongolia was third with 1,566 Later, Tiyana also won a bronze in the individual Women's 50M Pistol event.

❖ Center signs 19000 crore pact with HSL

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract with Visakhapatnam-based state-owned Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) for acquisition of first of its kind five Fleet Support Ships (FSS) of 44,000 tonnes for the Indian Navy at an overall cost of approximately ₹19,000 crore.
- These fleet support ships will replenish warships with fuel, water, ammunition, spares and stores on the high seas to prolong their operational deployments.
- These ships will enhance the strategic reach and mobility of India's combat fleet and bolster the Navy's blue-water capabilities.
- They can also be deployed for evacuation of people as well as HADR (Human Assistance and Disaster Relief) operations