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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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DESCRIPTIVE

❖ National Cadet Corps celebrates 75th Anniversary day

- The National Cadet Corps (NCC), the largest uniformed youth organisation in the world raised in 1948, will celebrate its 75th Anniversary signifying a momentous chapter in its legacy of honing youth with core principles such as discipline, leadership, and unwavering patriotism.
- In solemn commemoration of this significant milestone, Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane laid a wreath and paid homage to the fallen heroes on behalf of the entire NCC fraternity at National War Memorial, New Delhi.
- NCC takes immense pride in its integral role in nation-building over the past seven decades.
- It has played an instrumental part in moulding the character of lakhs of NCC Cadets, instilling a sense of duty and preparing future leaders for our country.
- On this historic day of 75th anniversary, NCC remains resolute in its dedication to shaping future contributors to society and nation-building.

❖ Malaysia Opens Visa-free Travel for Indian Visitors and Chinese Citizens

- Malaysia will grant a 30-day visa-free entry for Indian and Chinese citizens from December 1 this year.
- Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has announced joining Thailand and Sri Lanka in recent weeks to offer such a facility to foreigners to promote tourism.
- Mr. Ibrahim said the waiver was an additional facility to the existing visa exemptions currently enjoyed by Gulf nations and other West Asian countries, including Turkiye and Jordan.

➤ Malaysia is counting on extra tourist arrivals and their spending to support economic growth.

➤ Anwar last month announced plans to improve visa facilities next year to encourage the entry of tourists and investors, “especially from India and China.”

❖ **Commemorative stamp released to mark 75 years of CMFRI**

➤ On the occasion of its 75th anniversary, ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) released a commemorative stamp and special postal cover signifying the institute's rich legacy and contributions to the field of marine fisheries' research and development.

➤ In the special release, 5,000 sheets of stamps, each containing 12 stamps, have been made available, making them a collectible for philatelists and marine enthusiasts.

➤ The stamp's design encapsulates CMFRI's dedication to marine research, bearing the inscription ‘75 Years of Research Excellence’ alongside the institute's logo and the image of CMFRI headquarters in Kochi.

➤ From a humble beginning in 1947, the institute has emerged as a leading tropical marine fisheries and mariculture research hub in the world.

❖ **Indian-origin ex-MP Dave Sharma wins Australian Senate seat**

➤ Dave Sharma, who became the first Indian-origin lawmaker in Australia’s Parliament in 2019, will return to politics after his victory in the New South Wales Liberal Senate race.

➤ Sharma, 47, will replace ex-foreign minister Marise Payne, who has retired from the Senate.

➤ Sharma, who represented the Sydney seat of Wentworth until his defeat at the 2022 election, beat former New South Wales (NSW) minister Andrew Constance, a front runner backed by Opposition Leader Peter Dutton.

➤ In a vote by the New South Wales Liberal Party members, Sharma defeated Constance 251-206 in the final ballot.

➤ Sharma, who served as Australia's ambassador to Israel from 2013 to 2017, was backed by the moderates within the party.

❖ **Shubman Gill named Gujarat Titans captain**

➤ Shubman Gill has been appointed the captain of Gujarat Titans after the franchise confirmed Hardik Pandya's return to Mumbai Indians via trade.

➤ Gill, who won the Orange Cap earlier this year, will take over from Hardik, who led GT for two seasons, leading the team to an IPL title in 2022 and a runner-up finish in 2023.

➤ Shubman has been one of the stars of the Indian Premier League (IPL) in recent seasons.

➤ In particular, Shubman scored 890 runs in 17 matches last season at an average of 59.33 and a strike rate of 157.80.

➤ The right-hander also scored three centuries in last year's IPL, with only Virat Kohli (2016) and Jos Buttler (2022) having more tons in a single IPL season.

❖ **Italy beats Australia, reclaims Davis Cup title after 47 years**

➤ Italy won the Davis Cup title for the second time as they beat Australia 2-0 in the final.

➤ After Matteo Arnaldi outlasted Alexei Popyrin in the first singles clash, Italy's number one Jannik Sinner then sealed the title with an easy win against Alex De Minaur.

➤ Italy's only other title in the elite men's team competition was in 1976.

➤ Matteo Arnaldi had given Italy the first point with a 7-5, 2-6, 6-4 win over Alexei Popyrin.

➤ The No. 4 Sinner beat top-ranked Novak Djokovic in the singles and doubles matches in semifinal showdown against Serbia.

➤ The 22-year-old Italian needed 1 hour, and 21 minutes to seal Italy's victory against Australia.

❖ **After Air India, IndiGo launches AI-powered chat assistant for customers**

➤ IndiGo has launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered chat assistant "6Eskai" to address customer queries in 10 different languages.

➤ India's largest airline has followed the footsteps of Air India, which launched its AI-powered chat assistant "Maharaja" on November 10.

➤ While Maharaja is powered by Microsoft's Azure OpenAI service, 6Eskai is powered by Microsoft's GPT-4 technology.

➤ 6Eskai is capable of performing a wide range of tasks, including booking tickets, applying promotional discounts, booking add-ons, performing web check-ins, helping in seat selection, planning trips, answering FAQs, and connecting customers with an agent, IndiGo noted.

➤ Air India on November 10 stated that Maharaja has successfully answered over half a million customer queries since its pilot launch in March 2023, and today it manages over 6,000 queries a day in four languages.

❖ **S&P Global Ratings raises India's FY24 GDP growth forecast**

➤ S & P Global Ratings said India's economy in FY24 will grow at a faster clip than it previously projected before hitting a slower than estimated trajectory in the next financial year.

➤ The rating agency revised the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth projection for financial year 2024 to 6.4% from 6% earlier on the back of strong domestic tailwinds.

➤ India's GDP growth for fiscal 2024 (ending in March 2024) to 6.4%, from 6%, as robust domestic momentum seems to have offset headwinds from high food inflation and weak exports.

➤ However, it lowered the growth projection for financial year 2025 to 6.4% from 6.9% earlier.

➤ S&P's FY25 GDP growth prediction is lower than the RBI's projection of 6.6%.

➤ It expects interest rates to fall by 100 basis points by March 2024.

❖ **HDFC Securities Scales Investing App to Millions of Traders on AWS**

➤ Amazon Web Services (AWS), an Amazon.com company, announced that HDFC Securities Ltd., one of the leading investment service providers in India, launched its new mobile trading app, HDFC SKY, on the world's most comprehensive and broadly adopted cloud.

➤ HDFC Sky serves 75 million customers and all HDFC Group companies, investors, and traders worldwide with user-friendly trading of shares, commodities, futures, currencies, initial public offerings (IPOs), mutual funds, and exchange-traded funds (ETFs).

➤ To make trading more transparent and accessible for investors, HDFC SKY operates on a flat pricing model, charging traders a consistent, predetermined fee, regardless of the amount of money they invest or the number of transactions they make.

➤ Built on AWS, HDCAF SKY gives investors access to the stock market at a scale of thousands of transactions per second.

➤ With AWS, HDFC Securities will reduce its annual IT infrastructure and management costs by up to 50% compared to using on-premises infrastructure.

➤ Retail investors now account for 36% of total trading market share in India.

❖ **Odisha to Host Ultimate Kho Kho Season 2 from December 24, 2023**

- Ultimate Kho Kho (UKK) is all set to enthrall audiences with its grand second edition, scheduled to commence on December 24, 2023 and conclude on January 13, 2024.
- The Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Cuttack, Odisha, will play host to this high-octane sporting event, promising excitement and entertainment to the millions of fans eagerly anticipating its return.
- Inspired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's vision of '**sports for youth, youth for the future**,' the Odisha government has emerged as a hub for major global sports events.
- World-class multi-sport infrastructure, Odisha has become a destination for sports enthusiasts.
- The state's commitment to fostering sports is evident in its role as the host for the second edition of Ultimate Kho Kho.

➤ **About Odisha:**

- **Capital:** Bhubaneswar
- **Chief Minister:** Naveen Patnaik
- **Governor:** Raghubar Das

❖ **Hardeep Singh Puri launches city's 2nd floating CNG station at Ravidas Ghat**

- Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated the city's second floating compressed natural gas (CNG) mobile refueling unit (MRU) station at Ravidas Ghat.
- Earlier, Namo Ghat had a floating station for filling CNG in boats.
- The decision to set-up this floating CNG station is a testament to our belief in the transformative power of clean energy.

- This will provide great convenience to boatmen as they will not have to go all the way to Namoo Ghat for refueling, thus saving time and money.
- On an average, it is estimated that each boatman can potentially save over Rs 36,000 per year by using CNG as fuel.
- Puri said CNG boats not only reduces pollution but also leads to savings as it is more efficient.
- According to GAIL officials, the floating stations have been developed at a cost of Rs 17.5 crore.