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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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DESCRIPTIVE

❖ Hangzhou Asian Para Games 2023: India finish with a historic tally of 111 medals

- The 4th Asian Para Games 2023 were held in Hangzhou, People's Republic of China from 22 to 28 October.
- India's medal Tally in the Para Asian Games 2023, stood with 111 medals, including 29 Gold medals 31 Silver medals and 51 bronze medals.
- India sent its largest contingent this year, consisting of 303 athletes (191 male & 112 female).
- Out of the 111 medals, female athletes have contributed 40 medals, i.e. 36% of the medal tally.
- India ended at fifth place in the medals tally, a remarkable achievement in itself, below China (521 medals: 214 gold, 167 silver, 140 bronze), Iran (131: 44, 46, 41), Japan (150: 42, 49, 59) and Korea (103: 30, 33, 40).
- The first Para Asian Games were held in 2010 in Guangzhou, China, where India had finished 15th with 14 medals, including one gold.

❖ **Reetika becomes first Indian woman wrestler to win gold at U23 World Championships**

- India's Reetika Hooda won a gold medal at the U23 Wrestling World Championships under 76 kg category.
- Reetika defeated USA's Kennedy Blades in the summit clash in Tirana, Albania, to achieve the historic feat.
- The wrestler switched from 72kg to 76kg before entering the championship and beat the former junior world champion.
- Reetika Hooda is a wrestling world champion from India and is the second Indian to win a gold medal at the U23 Wrestling World Championships.
- Aman Sehrawat became the first Indian wrestler to win a Gold medal at U-23 World Wrestling Championships in Spain.

❖ **Anant Nath elected as president of the Editors Guild of India**

- Anant Nath, Editor of 'The Caravan', has been unanimously named the President of the Editor Guild of India.
- The announcement was made at the Annual General Meeting for the financial year 2022-23.
- Ruben Banerjee, former Editor-in-Chief of Outlook, and K.V. Prasad, former Senior Associate Editor of the Tribune, have been elected as General Secretary and Treasurer of the Editors Guild of India respectively.

➤ The announcement was made by a three-member Election Committee, comprising Rajdeep Sardesai, Vijay Naik and Kumkum Chadha at the AGM.

❖ **7.5% dip in active workforce under MGNREGS**

➤ According to a data analysis conducted by LibTech India, a consortium of academics and activists, the number of active workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has decreased by 7.5% from April to September 2023.

➤ According to data accessible to October 6, 2023, the workforce has decreased from 15.49 crore in the previous fiscal year to 14.33 crore.

➤ The LibTech's MGNREGS tracker for April-September 2023 provides a comparative analysis of data from preceding financial years 2021-22 and 2022-23 during the same time frame, using the data available with the Union Rural Development Ministry.

➤ **About MGNREGS:**

➤ In September 2005, the Indian government passed the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

➤ The Act guarantees adult members of rural households who want to work and are willing to conduct unskilled manual labour a hundred days of paid employment in a fiscal year.

❖ Bangladesh is building memorial to honor Indian heroes of 1971 war

- A memorial is under construction in Ashuganj, Bangladesh, to honor Indian soldiers who participated in the 1971 Liberation War. It is expected to be completed by December.
- The memorial will feature the names of approximately 1,600 Indian soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice during the war.
- This will be the first memorial in Bangladesh exclusively dedicated to Indian soldiers from the 1971 war.
- The foundation stone for the memorial was laid by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in March 2021.
- The purpose of the memorial is to ensure that the names of the Indian soldiers who contributed to Bangladesh's liberation are engraved for all to see, emphasizing their role in the nation's emancipation.
- The memorial's location in Ashuganj, close to the India-Bangladesh border, is significant. It was near this area that Indian forces crossed the Meghna River on their way to Dhaka during the liberation war.
- The project aims to raise awareness of the 1971 Liberation War among the youth and will include facilities for children's recreation on the premises.

❖ UltraTech board approves ₹13,000 crore investment to expand cement capacity by 21.9 MTPA

➤ The Board of Directors at Ultratech, a flagship company of the Aditya Birla Group, approved a substantial ₹13,000 crore investment.

➤ This investment is aimed at increasing their cement production capacity by 21.9 million metric tonnes per annum (MTPA) through a combination of greenfield and brownfield projects.

➤ Ultratech is boosting its total capacity to 182 MTPA in India.

❖ Centre imposes minimum export price of \$800 per tonne on onions till December 31

➤ The Indian government imposed a \$800 per tonner minimum export price on onions being shipped from the subcontinent amid an increase in the cost of the root vegetable across the country.

➤ Export of onions is 'free'. Minimum Export Price (MEP) of US \$800 F.O.B per Metric Ton (MT) is imposed till 31st December, 2023.

➤ The DGFT notification indicates that the export policy change will go into effect starting Sunday, October 29.

➤ The notification also laid out exceptions to the new regulation, stating that onions designated for export and already handed over to customs are exempt as well shipments for which export duty has been paid before the notification was sent out.

❖ **Darpan Inani, Soundrya Pradhan, Ashwin won Gold in Chess**

➤ Indian Chess players Darpan Inani, Soundrya Pradhan and Ashwin bagged a gold medal in the men's chess at the Hangzhou Asian Para Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China.

➤ **Other winners:**

➤ Kishan Gangoli, Aryan Joshi and Somendra won a bronze medal in the men's chess B2 category team.

➤ Himanshi Rathi, Sanskruti More and Vruthi Jain won a bronze medal in the women's chess B1 category team.

➤ Anita and Narayana Konganapalle won a silver medal in rowing at the Hangzhou Asian Para Games.

❖ **Kerala Becomes the First State to Have Hallmarking Centres in All Districts**

➤ In India, Kerala became the first state in India to have hallmarking centres in all of its 14 districts.

➤ This milestone was completed after the inauguration of a hallmarking centre in Adimali, Idukki district, Kerala.

➤ The opening of hallmarking centres across the districts will make Kerala a hub of gold business and further strengthen its claim to being the most reliable market in the country to buy gold ornaments.

➤ There are about 12K gold merchants in the State with majority holding BIS registration.

➤ Gold merchants gave hallmarking and hallmarked unique identification numbers even for pieces with weight below two grams.

❖ **Union Minister Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti inaugurates SARAS Ajeevika Mela**

➤ Minister of State for Rural Development, Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti, inaugurated the SARAS Ajeevika Mela showcasing the best of crafts by rural Self Help Group (SHG) Women at Gurugram.

➤ This is the second edition of Saras Ajeevika Mela.

➤ To empower at least two crores Lakhpati didis of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission.

➤ The two-week-long Mela will witness over 800 SHG women from across the country showcasing their handicraft and handloom products.

➤ Workshops will be organized for women of self-help groups to develop marketing skills.

➤ The SARAS Mela, organised by the Ministry of Rural Development, National Institute of Rural Development, and Panchayati Raj, is an initiative to support livelihood enhancement initiatives.

❖ Actor Matthew Perry passed away at 54

- 'Friends' star Matthew Perry passed away in Los Angeles home at the age of 54.
- He was an incredibly gifted actor and an indelible part of the Warner Bros.
- The impact of his comedic genius was felt around the world, and his legacy will live on in the hearts of so many.
- He brought so much joy to hundreds of millions of people around the world with his pitch perfect comedic timing and wry wit.
- His legacy will live on through countless generations.

❖ US & South Korea Hold Future Combat Drills

- In Gangwon Province in South Korea, the US and South Korean militaries held joint future combat drill exercises.
- The training came as South Korea's military conducts a series of annual Hoguk autumn exercises aimed at improving responses to North Korea's nuclear and missile threats.
- More than 120 soldiers from both sides joined forces to fight against a trained team of opposing forces in a mock-up town.
- Aim: To beef up future combat capabilities, with the troops wearing multiple integrated laser engagement systems (MILES), which uses lasers to simulate actual battle.
- The South Korean army training was an attempt to modernize their military and improve their responses to North Korea's nuclear and missile threats.

❖ **World Stroke Day - 29th October 2023**

➤ World Stroke Day is observed on 29th October 2023 which serves as a critical reminder of the prevalence and impact of strokes on individuals and communities worldwide.

➤ The theme for World Stroke Day 2023 is **"Together we are Greater Than Stroke."**

➤ Aim: To raise awareness about strokes, their prevention, treatment, and the importance of timely intervention.

➤ Strokes, often referred to as brain attacks, are a leading cause of disability and death worldwide.

❖ **IAF signs contract with Indian manufacturer for procurement of automatic weather stations**

➤ The Indian Air Force recently signed a contract with an Indian manufacturer for the procurement of Automatic Weather Stations at 82 IAF locations.

➤ This technology enhancement will provide a major boost to Aerospace Safety by making available real-time weather updates during flying operations and training.

➤ The Indian Air Force is planning to equip them with an indigenous advanced radar named 'Virupaaksha'.

➤ The Indian Air Force is working on the upgrade programme of the Su-30MKI fleet under a package worth over Rs 65,000 crore where 84 planes would be upgraded indigenously with advanced made-in-India radars (Virupaaksha) and weapon systems.

❖ **Manu Bhaker secures India's 11th Paris Olympics quota in Korea**

- In shooting, Manu Bhaker secured the 11th Paris Olympics quota place for India after finishing fifth in women's 25-metre sports pistol at the Asian Championships in Changwon, Korea.
- Tokyo Olympian Bhaker topped qualification with a score of 591 to qualify for the final but could only manage 24 in the medal round to finish fifth.
- Arjun Babuta in men's 10 metre air rifle event and Sarabjot Singh in men's 10 metre air pistol event have also secured Paris 2024 quotas.
- Manu is the second shooter after 10-metre air pistol marksman Sarabjot Singh to clinch an Olympic quota in the pistol events.
- India has so far won seven quota places in rifle events and two each in shotgun and pistol in men's and women's sections.