

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

29th August 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ ISRO to launch Aditya-L1 on September 2nd

- Aditya-L1 will be the first space mission aimed at studying the Sun.
- The launch of the space vehicle PSLV XL will take place on September 2nd from Sriharikota.
- Aditya-L1 will be placed in the halo orbit around the Lagrange point(L1) of the Sun-Earth system (1.5 million km from earth).
- A satellite in the halo orbit around the L1 point will continuously observe the Sun without any eclipses. This will provide an advantage to study solar activities and their real-time effect on space weather.
- ISRO estimated that the total travel time from launch to L1 point will take about four months for Aditya-L1.
- The spacecraft will carry seven payloads to observe the photosphere, chromosphere and the outermost layer of the Sun called corona, with the help of electromagnetic, particle and magnetic field detectors.
- Four payloads will directly view the sun and the remaining three payloads are aimed at carrying out in-situ studies of particles and fields at the L1 point.
- The objective of this mission is to study the solar corona and its heating mechanism, the initiation of the coronal mass ejections, flares and diagnostics of coronal loop plasma.

❖ Telugu language day – August 29

- Telugu Language Day celebration is observed on 29th August each year in the state of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Telugu is one of the six classical languages in India.
- This date was chosen to coincide with the birthday of the Telugu poet Gidugu Venkata Ramamurthy.
- Gidugu Venkata Ramamurthy was a Telugu writer and one of the earliest modern Telugu linguists and social visionaries during British rule.
- He is known for advocating the use of a language, comprehensive to the common man, and opposed the use of scholar language.
- The government provides funds and presents awards with the objective of the betterment of the Telugu language.
- The Department of Culture is responsible for organizing the day on behalf of the government.
- Telugu language is known as the “The Italian of the EAST”.

❖ National Sports Day – August 29

- The National Sports Day in India is celebrated on 29 August every year.
- It is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand Singh.
- The day also serves as a reminder for all of us to recall the contributions, determination and extraordinary achievements of the athletes and their influence in shaping societies.
- The first National Sports Day was celebrated on August 29, 2012 and hence this year marks the 12th anniversary of ‘Rashtriya Khel Divas’.

➤ National Sports Day serves as a catalyst for the development of a robust sports culture in the country. It emphasizes the importance of regular exercise and a healthy lifestyle and brings people together regardless of their background, language, or beliefs.

➤ The theme for this year's National Sports Day celebration is "Sports are an enabler to an inclusive and fit society".

❖ **Chokuwa rice recently got GI tag in Assam**

➤ It is also known as Magic rice cultivated in Assam.

➤ It is a part of Assam's culinary heritage; this unique rice has been a staple of the troops of the mighty Ahom dynasty.

➤ This unique and healthy rice is cultivated around the Brahmaputra River area.(In several parts of Assam like Tinsukia, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, etc.)

➤ It is basically semi-glutinous winter rice, known as Sali rice.

➤ The sticky and glutinous variety is categorised as Bora and Chokuwa based on their amylose concentration.

➤ The low amylase Chokuwa rice variants are used to make soft rice, which is known as Komal Chaul or soft rice.

➤ This whole grain can be consumed after soaking the rice in cold or lukewarm water. This rice variety is widely consumed for its convenience of preparation and nutritional value.

➤ This unique rice variety is consumed with curd, sugar, jaggery, and bananas to name a few.

➤ This rice is also used in making several Assamese delights like Pithe and other local dishes.

❖ Ministry of Education unveils The Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2023

- The Smart India Hackathon (SIH) is a collaborative initiative between the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell and the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE).
- SIH 2023 is the sixth edition and it features an impressive lineup of 239 problem statements, spanning software and hardware challenges.
- The event has garnered participation from 26 Central Ministries, 6 State Ministries, and 4 Industry partners, underscoring its collaborative nature.
- The themes for SIH 2023 encompass a wide array of societal needs, including Agriculture, food tech and rural Development, Blockchain and cybersecurity, Clean & Green Technology, Disaster Management, Fitness and sports, Heritage and culture, MedTech / BioTech / HealthTech, Renewable / Sustainable Energy, Robotics and Drones, Smart Education, Smart Vehicles, Transportation & Logistics, and more.
- Some intriguing problem statements include the development of a Blockchain-based e-vault system for legal records by the Ministry of Law and Justice.
- Another challenge involves predicting Cloudbursts in hilly areas using meteorological data, presented by the Ministry of Power.
- The National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) has issued a challenge to devise a Ransomware Readiness Assessment tool to combat ransomware threats.

❖ RBI approves merger of Akola Merchant Co-operative Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given approval for the amalgamation of Akola Merchant Co-operative Bank Ltd, located in Akola, Maharashtra, with The Jalgaon Peoples Co-operative Bank Ltd, situated in Jalgaon, Maharashtra.
- This merger has been sanctioned by the RBI, exercising its powers as per Sub-Section (4) of Section 44A in conjunction with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

➤ The approved scheme of amalgamation is set to take effect from August 28, 2023.

❖ **Shweta Sharda wins Miss Diva Universe 2023 title**

➤ Shweta Sharda of Chandigarh won the Miss Diva Universe 2023 title at the grand beauty pageant finale held in Mumbai.

➤ The diva was crowned in a star-studded ceremony by Miss Diva Universe 2022 Divita Rai.

➤ Sonal Kukreja was crowned Miss Diva Supranational 2023 and Trisha Shetty from Karnataka secured the Miss Diva 2023 runner-up title.

➤ Shweta will now represent India at the 72nd Miss Universe pageant.

❖ **Airtel Payments Bank partner with Frontier Markets, to support 1 lakh women**

➤ Airtel Payments Bank, Frontier Markets and the Mastercard Center for inclusive growth have announced the launch of 'She Leads Bharat: Udyam', an initiative to elevate 1,00,000 women-owned small businesses with resources, tools and opportunities to grow and diversify their incomes.

➤ 'She Leads Bharat: Udyam' is a first-of-its-kind initiative that brings together the private sector, social enterprise, and philanthropy in the banking, financial services, and insurance sector to demonstrate a digital-first model designed to unlock ways for women-owned small businesses to increase their incomes.

➤ This initiative will be funded by the Mastercard Impact Fund, while Mastercard will bring the catalytic capital and global expertise of its Center for Inclusive Growth to unlock tools, resources, and networks for the women-owned small businesses.

❖ **RBI enhances transactions limits for small value digital payments to ₹500**

➤ To encourage the usage of UPI-Lite wallets in places where internet access is poor or non-available, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the upper limit of an offline payment transaction from Rs 200 to Rs 500.

➤ The overall limit for offline transactions on a payment instrument, however, remains Rs 2,000 at all times.

➤ This will enable faster, more reliable, and contactless payments for everyday small value purchases, transit payments, and so on by eliminating the need for two-factor verification for small value transactions.

❖ **Disputed border between India and China – Aksai Chin**

➤ Aksai Chin is an arid region which lies at the juncture of China, Pakistan, and India.

➤ It is ruled by China but claimed by the Republic of India as part of its Leh District, Ladakh Union Territory.

➤ Aksai Chin means "the great white stone desert".

➤ It covers an area of 37,555 km² (16,481 sq mi) of the disputed territory.

➤ It is located at an elevation of 5,000-metre (16,000 ft), and is almost uninhabited, has no permanent settlements, and receives no rain or snow as the Himalayan and other mountains block the rains from the Indian monsoon.

➤ It consists of about one fifth of Kashmir and one of the driest place and true desert in the world that receive less rain than the Polar desert.

➤ The meaning of the word "Chin" has been disputed. It is taken to mean "China" by some Chinese and Indian sources.

➤ Geographically part of the Tibetan Plateau, Aksai Chin itself is a plateau and it is often called the "Soda Plain".

➤ Pakistan recognizes it as part of China, however India has objected to this and claims all the territory.