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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **Jhulan Goswami, Eoin Morgan, Heather Knight join MCC Committee**

➤ Indian woman cricketer Jhulan Goswami has joined England women's team captain Heather Knight and Eoin Morgan to become a member of the MCC World Cricket Committee (WCC).

➤ This committee is an independent body that consists of current and former international cricketers, umpires, and officials from various countries.

➤ Jhulan Goswami retired from international cricket in 2022.

➤ She was made an Honorary Life Member of MCC in April 2023.

❖ **World Bank approves \$391 million for Assam, Tripura**

➤ The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved a total of \$391 million loan for two Indian states, Assam and Tripura.

➤ Aim: To improve access to high-quality healthcare services and to economic opportunities

➤ Out of \$391 million, \$251 million was approved for the Assam State Secondary Healthcare Initiative for Service Delivery Transformation (ASSIST) Project.

➤ While \$140 million was approved for the Tripura Rural Economic Growth and Service Delivery Project.

➤ "The World Bank is committed to supporting the Government of India's development efforts in the northeast of the country," Auguste Tano Kouame, World Bank Country Director for India.

➤ “In Assam, greater access to reliable health services will help people save money and time – and be more productive.

➤ In Tripura, access to upgraded all-weather roads and green agriculture technologies will help improve the lives and livelihoods of tribal populations, especially women.”

❖ **Timeline for disbursement of loan to boost agri-economy**

➤ The Centre government has extended the timeline for the disbursement of loans for the completion of ethanol projects up to 30 September 2023 in respect of all the schemes notified during 2018-2021.

➤ Aim: To boost the agricultural economy, reduce fossil fuel dependency, save foreign exchange, and cut air pollution

➤ The decision has been taken under the ‘scheme for extending financial assistance to sugar mills for augmentation of ethanol production capacity’.

➤ India has achieved a milestone in ESY 2020-21 with 408 crore liters of ethanol, achieving a blending rate of 10.02 per cent. By 11 June, 2023, ESY 2022-23 recorded 310 crore liters blended, reaching 11.70 per cent blending .

➤ “The target for the current ESY 2021-22 is 12 per cent blending. To achieve 20 per cent blending by 2025, ethanol production capacity needs to be expanded to 1700 crore liters,” it added.

❖ **India’s CAD narrows to 1.3 billion dollars in the January-March quarter**

➤ According to the data released by the Reserve Bank, the current account deficit (CAD) of India has been narrowed to 1.3 billion dollars or 0.2% of GDP in the January-March quarter of the last fiscal.

➤ The decline was mainly due to moderation in the trade deficit and a robust increase in services exports.

➤ RBI data has shown that net services receipts increased, both sequentially and on a year-on-year basis, on the back of a rise in net earnings from computer services.

➤ However for fiscal 2022-23, the current account balance recorded a deficit of 2 percent of GDP compared to a deficit of 1.2 percent in 2021-22 as the trade deficit widened to 265.3 billion dollars from 189.5 billion dollars a year ago.

➤ RBI data has shown that net services receipts increased, both sequentially and on a year-on-year basis, on the back of a rise in net earnings from computer services.

❖ 8th edition of the World's Largest Urban Cleanliness Survey begins

➤ The 8th edition of the world's largest urban swachhata survey, Swachh Survekshan 2023 – Mera Shehar, Meri Pehchan has been started.

➤ Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the Field Assessment for Swachh Survekshan (SS) 2023.

➤ Swachh Survekshan 2023 indicators focus on parameters pertaining to segregated door-to-door waste collection, zero waste events, Divyang-friendly toilets, improved plastic waste management, and cleaning backlanes.

➤ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Assessment release the annual ranking based on the cleanliness of public places and toilets, feedback of residents and the performance of municipalities which is known by the name Swachha Survekshan.

❖ Minister Parshottam Rupala to launch the 'Report Fish Disease' App

➤ Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, Parshottam Rupala has launched the Report Fish Disease App.

➤ The app has been developed by ICAR-NBFGR under the National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD).

➤ It is funded under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.

➤ This app will help the farmers to report the incidences of diseases in finfish and shrimps on their farms with field-level officers and fish health experts.

➤ The app has been developed by ICAR-NBFGR under National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD), funded under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India.

❖ **Writer Radhika Swarup's 'The New New-Delhi Book Club' book to be released**

- A book titled 'The New New-Delhi Book Club', authored by Radhika Swarup would be released in October 2023.
- The book will be published by Westland Books publishing house.
- The book is an interconnected collection of short stories, showing both the hopes and fears of life during the pandemic.
- Her debut novel, "Where the River Parts", was longlisted by the Author & Club for the best first novel award.
- Her last novel 'Civil Lines' was out in 2021.

❖ **Hemis Monastery Festival**

- In Ladakh, two -day long annual Hemis Monastery Festival, known as Hemis Tseschu is being celebrated with great religious fervor and gaiety.
- It is a significant annual event celebrated in Ladakh, India.
- The festival spans over two days and is observed with immense religious fervor and joyous celebrations.
- The festival commemorates the birth anniversary of Guru Padma Sambhava, a revered figure in Tibetan Buddhism.
- Grand prayers, sacred mask dances and thanks for mural paintings are performed on the occasion.
- It holds great cultural and spiritual significance, attracting a large number of foreign tourists to Ladakh. Visitors from around the world come to witness the mesmerizing performances, immerse themselves in the vibrant atmosphere, and experience the rich traditions of the region.
- With its centuries-old history, the festival has become one of the major highlights of Ladakh, captivating the attention and interest of both locals and tourists alike.

❖ National Statistics Day - 29 June

- National Statistics Day is observed annually on 29 June to honour the contribution of Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in statistics and economic planning.
- Professor Mahalanobis, known as the 'Father of Indian Statistics', developed the Mahalanobis distance, a statistical measure to assess the difference between a point and a distribution.
- The program of National Statistics Day 2023 will be organised at SCOPE Convention Centre, SCOPE Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.
- Rao Inderjit Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation will be the chief guest on the occasion.
- Theme of National Statistics Day 2023: Its theme is "Aligning the State Indicator Framework with the National Indicator Framework for Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals".

❖ Gujarat government signs MoU with Micron Technology for semiconductor assembly and test facility

- Gujarat government signs MoU with US chip maker firm Micron Technology for semiconductor assembly and testing facility in Ahmedabad.
- The MoU was signed in the presence of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Union Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav.
- The semiconductor assembly and testing facility will be located at Sanand in Ahmedabad district.
- The Central Government will provide 50 per cent financial assistance towards the total project cost.
- The State Government of Gujarat will provide an incentive of 20 per cent of the total project cost.
- The Semiconductor Assembly and Test Plant will generate 5,000 direct employment opportunities.

❖ 17th Indian Cooperative Congress

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 17th Indian Cooperative Congress (ICC) on the 1st July at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
- The National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) is organizing the two-day event with the theme "Amrit Kaal: Prosperity through Cooperation for a Vibrant India."
- The Union Home and Cooperation Minister, Amit Shah, will chair the congress.
- The Indian Cooperative Congress aims to discuss various trends in the cooperative movement, showcase best practices adopted by successful cooperatives, and deliberate on the challenges faced by the cooperative world.
- An exhibition will also be held during the congress, showcasing various products of Self-Help Groups and NCUI Cooperative Education Field Projects under the banner of NCUI HAAT.
- The event is expected to connect approximately five crore members live during the congress.

❖ Union Cabinet approves highest ever Fair and Remunerative Price for Sugarcane Farmers

- The Union Cabinet has approved a fair and remunerative price of 315 rupees per quintal for sugarcane farmers for the season 2023-24.
- This decision is aimed at benefiting five crore sugarcane farmers and their dependents, as well as five lakh workers employed in the sugar mills and related ancillary activities.
- It is important to note that this price is the highest ever offered to sugarcane farmers, demonstrating the government's commitment to supporting the agricultural sector.
- The government has decided to introduce the NRF Bill, 2023, which aims to strengthen the research ecosystem in the country.

➤ The Union Cabinet has approved this bill, which will establish the NRF as an apex body responsible for seeding, growing, and promoting research and development.

➤ The bill intends to foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, and research institutions.

❖ **Kolkata Team Emerges Victorious in Historic Dubai Women's Kabaddi Final**

➤ Dubai created history by hosting the world's first International Women's Kabaddi Final which saw the Punjab Panthers vs Uma Kolkata contest.

➤ The match concluded with Uma Kolkata emerging as champions and securing a grand prize of ₹10,000,000.

➤ All the matches were held at the 'Shabab Al-Ahli' sports club in Dubai. Matches were played from 16 June to 27 June.

➤ The Punjab team showcased commendable skills and secured the second position, receiving a prize of ₹5,000,000.

➤ The tournament spanned 12 days and witnessed the participation of eight teams representing different states in India.

➤ The Women's Kabaddi League played a crucial role in successfully organizing the event and bringing it to fruition.

➤ This historic tournament provided a global platform for women Kabaddi players from India to showcase their skills and talent.

➤ The participating teams represented different Indian states, including the Delhi Dynamites, Gujarat Angels, Great Marathas, Haryana Hustlers, Punjab Panthers, Rajasthan Riders, Uma Kolkata, and Bengaluru Hawks.

❖ US decision to introduce in-country renewable of H-1B visas

- The Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) has welcomed the US announcement to start in-country renewal of H-1B visas, saying it will facilitate the movement of Indian IT professionals and boost services exports.
- The decision will make on-site customer engagement easier for in-house IT professionals.
- Quick travel to client locations abroad allows them to better understand client requirements, establish strong relationships, and provide tailored solutions.
- The US is a major market for India's IT exports, and this decision will have a significant positive impact on IT services exports from India.
- This will contribute to the timely completion of visa renewal projects in the country, ensuring high quality outcomes and meeting customer expectations.
- It also enhances India's reputation as a reliable IT service provider, thereby creating more export opportunities.

About H-1B Visa

- The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations.
- It is designed to allow skilled foreign workers to come to the United States and work for American companies.
- This requires theoretical or technical expertise.

❖ Indumathi strikes as Tamil Nadu downs Haryana to win the senior National Women's Football Champion

- Tamil Nadu beat Haryana 2-1 in the final to clinch the senior women's National football championship at the Guru Nanak stadium in Amritsar on Wednesday.
- Tamil Nadu had last won the title in 2018.
- After Renu Rani, with the help of a deflection off a TN defender, put Haryana ahead in the 50th minute, Priyadharshini equalised with her header off a corner kick from Malavika in the 56th minute. Indumathi struck the winning goal off a penalty in the 83rd minute.

❖ Swedish pole vaulter Armand Duplantis clears world-leading outdoor 6.12m at Golden Spike meet

- Swedish pole vaulter Armand Duplantis cleared a world-leading outdoor 6.12m at the Golden Spike meet.
- The 23-year-old world record-holder improved his previous outdoor best of 6.11 this season at Hengelo, the Netherlands, earlier this month.
- Duplantis cleared 6.12 with his first attempt before failing to clear 6.17.
- The American-born Duplantis, who competes for Sweden, set a world record of 6.22 at an indoor meet in Clermont-Ferrand, France, on February 25.
- Another world-record holder, American shot putter Ryan Crouser, dominated the competition with a throw of 22.63m to improve his own Golden Spike record.