

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

31st October 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ National Unity Day - 31st October 2023

- The birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first home minister of Independent India, is celebrated as National Unity Day or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas on October 31.
- Aim: To maintain the integrity and unity of the Indian nation.
- Vallabhbhai Jhaverbhai Patel also dubbed as ‘Sardar Patel’ was born on October 31, 1875, into a landowning family of the Leva Patidar caste.
- He earned the title “Iron Man of India.”

❖ NIT-Warangal hosts energy innovation hackathon

- INNOTHON-2023, an energy innovation hackathon, was organized by Hitachi Energy India at National Institute of Technology (NIT Warangal) campus.
- The theme of the event was '**Future of energy for all**' by all in the domain of NIT campus, community around NIT campus and schools around NIT campus.
- The event saw the participation of 122 students, and three winners in each domain were given trophies, cash rewards and certificates.
- As part of its CSR, Hitachi Energy has partnered with NIT-Warangal to develop infrastructure on the campus.

❖ **NTCA is organizing art exhibition on 'Silent Conversation: From Margins to the centre' in New Delhi**

➤ The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change in collaboration with the Sankala Foundation organised an art exhibition titled, '**Silent Conversation: From Margins to the centre**' at India habitat Centre, New Delhi.

➤ President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu was the chief guest of the inauguration ceremony.

➤ NTCA along with Sankala Foundation through this art exhibition is paying a tribute to the successful completion of 50 years of Project Tiger.

➤ Project Tiger is a wildlife conservation initiative in India that was launched in 1973 with the primary objective of protecting and preserving the Bengal Tiger, India's national animal.

➤ Over the years, the number of Tiger Reserves has increased, and there are now 54 reserves across the country.

❖ **ANUBHAV AWARDS 2023 will be conferred by the Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh**

➤ Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) organised the Anubhav Awards 2023 ceremony in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi to felicitate the awardees for their write-ups for the year 2023.

➤ The awardees are from 8 different Ministries, Departments and Organisations.

➤ Union Minister for Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh conferred the Awards.

➤ DoPPW launched Anubhav Portal in March 2015. The portal provides an online system for the retired employees to submit and showcase their commendable work done, to share their experiences of working in the Government and to give suggestions for improvement in governance.

❖ **State Bank of India ropes in cricket icon MS Dhoni as brand ambassador**

➤ The country's largest lender, State Bank of India, has roped in cricketing legend Mahendra Singh Dhoni as the bank's official Brand Ambassador to strengthen its connection, especially with the younger population.

➤ Dhoni will play a pivotal role in various marketing and promotional campaigns of SBI.

➤ Among public sector banks, Bank of Baroda had appointed Rahul Dravid as its brand ambassador.

➤ Badminton players P V Sindhu, K Srikanth, and cricketer Shafali Verma are BOB's brand ambassadors.

➤ Delhi-based Punjab National Bank had also taken Virat Kohli on board as its brand ambassador.

➤ The bank hopes to make connections with customers stronger and enhance its brand image through its association with Dhoni.

❖ Indian Army , IAF participate in India-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise KAZIND-2023

- Indian Army and Indian Air Force contingent comprising 120 personnel departed for Kazakhstan to take part in the 7th edition of Joint Military 'Exercise KAZIND-2023'.
- The Exercise will be conducted at Otar in Kazakhstan.
- Indian Army contingent comprises 90 personnel led by a Battalion from the DOGRA Regiment.
- The Kazakhstan contingent is represented by personnel from Regional Command South of Kazakh Ground Forces.
- Thirty personnel of the Air Force from both sides will also participate in the current edition of the Exercise alongside the Army contingents.
- The Joint Exercise between India and Kazakhstan was instituted as 'Exercise PRABAL DOSTYK' in 2016.
- After the second edition, the Exercise was upgraded to a company-level exercise and renamed as 'Exercise KAZIND'.
- The Exercise has been further upgraded as a Bi-service Exercise this year by including the Air Force component.

❖ Bank of Baroda Launches Bob LITE Savings Account

- Bank of Baroda has launched the bob LITE Savings Account, a lifetime zero-balance savings bank account, as part of its festive campaign.

- Bob LITE offers customers a hassle-free banking experience without any minimum balance requirement.
- The account also includes a lifetime free RuPay Platinum Debit Card for account holders who maintain a nominal Quarterly Average Balance (QAB) in the account.
- Additionally, eligible account holders can avail of a lifetime free credit card.
- The company mentioned that this lifetime zero-balance savings account is available to any resident individual, including minors (above 10 years of age who are able to read and write).
- A Lifetime Free RuPay Platinum Debit Card with various attractive features is available, subject to the maintenance of the Quarterly Average Balance, as follows: Rs 3000 for Metro/Urban branches, Rs 2000 for Semi-Urban branches, and Rs. 1000 for Rural branches.

❖ **Former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan's new book 'Breaking the Mould'**

- Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor, Raghuram Rajan has teamed up with economist Rohit Lamba to write a book, 'Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future', with the goal of giving the reader a rare glimpse into India's economic future.
- The book is being published by Penguin Random House India and is set to be released on December 7.
- This eagerly anticipated book seeks to delve into some of the critical questions surrounding India's economic trajectory.

➤ The authors propose a number of strategies for accelerating India's economic development, and these include investing in human capital, expanding opportunities in high-skilled services, and fostering innovative manufacturing of new products.

❖ **AU Small Finance Bank launches 'Planet First-AU Green Fixed Deposit' with 8.5% interest rate**

➤ AU Small Finance Bank has introduced its first Green Fixed Deposit called 'Planet First - AU Green Fixed Deposit'.

➤ Aim: To allocate its entire proceeds to support renewable and green projects.

➤ It is in a unique position to contribute towards sustainable 'Badlaav' by gradually offering such retail products aligned with the guidance of the regulator.

➤ Planet First - AU Green Fixed Deposit offers an interest rate of up to 8.5%, with an investment requirement of only ₹5k.

➤ This new offering allows both AU SFB's existing and new customers to secure their Green FD conveniently through Video Banking, the AU 0101 App, NetBanking, or by simply visiting their nearest AU Small Finance Bank branches.

❖ **PM Modi releases three books at Tulsi Peeth in Chitrakoot, MP**

➤ PM Modi visited Tulsi Peeth and released three books - 'Ashtadhyayi Bhashya', 'Rambhadracharya Charitam' and 'Bhagwan Shri Krishna ki Rashtraleela'.

➤ Ashtadhyayi is a thousand-year-old text of India's linguistics, India's intellectuality, and our research culture.”

➤ Tulsi Peeth is an important religious and social service institution in Chitrakoot, Madhya Pradesh established by Jagadguru Rambhadracharya in 1987.

➤ It is one of the leading publishers of Hindu religious literature.

❖ **Paytm Becomes Official Sponsor For 37th National Games**

➤ One97 Communications Ltd (OCL), owner of brand Paytm announced that it is the official sponsor for the National Games being held in Goa.

➤ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the National Games at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Fatorda.

➤ The Vijay Shekhar Sharma-led company would introduce QR codes, soundbox, and card machines in multiple government departments, including panchayats and municipalities, in the state.

➤ Fintech giant Paytm has become the official sponsor for the ongoing 37th edition of the National Games.

❖ **World Thrift Day 2023 - 30th October**

➤ World Thrift Day or World Savings Day is celebrated each year on 30 October to raise awareness to people about their financial security, savings, and freedom.

➤ The theme of World Thrift Day in 2023 is '**Preparing for the future through saving**'.

➤ Aim: To promote the importance of saving money and how savings can cushion our difficult times.

➤ It raises awareness about the importance of thrifting to save money.

➤ In 1934, at the first International Savings Bank Congress, Filippo Ravizza an Italian professor proposed the idea of World Thrift Day.