

Date : 11th Dec 2023

Weekly Current Affairs

English

## National

### 1. 6th NSA Level meeting of CSC

The 6th NSA Level meeting of Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) took place in Mauritius. National Security Advisers from countries like India, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Seychelles and Bangladesh participated in the event. CSC promotes regional security and stability.

### 2. 1st Delta Report of Aspirational Blocks Programme

The first delta rankings of the Aspirational Block Programme (ABP) was released by NITI AAYOG. The first position was achieved by Tiryan Block of Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district, Texarkana. The top rankers of Aspirational Block Programme and Aspirational District Programme were showcased on the Wall of Fame.

### 3. 11th Divya Kala Mela 2023

The 11th Divya Kala Mela 2023 is being organised by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) in Patna. The event will showcase the products and craftsmanship of Divyang artisans from across the country.



### 4. The ADAS Show 2023

The International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) along with Aayera organised "The ADAS Show 2023" at Manesar. The event witnessed cutting edge technologies fr auto companies. Major auto companies like BMW, MG, HONDA etc showcased the

Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) technology.

### 5. Infinity Forum 2.0

The second edition of Infinity Forum to be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi via video conferencing. It is a global thought leadership forum in Fintech. It is being jointly organised by IFSCA and GIFT city.

### 6. Book Fair at NAI

A book fair was organised recently at National Archives of India (NAI). The fair also consisted of exclusive exhibition-cum-sale of the National Archives of India publications. Records of the government of India and its organisation are conserved by NAI.

### 7. UNEP report in Sustainable Cooling

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) releases a report on Sustainable Cooling namely "The Global Cooling Watch Report". The report stated that greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced by 60 percent by Sustainable practices in the Global cooling sector.

### 8. 1st Indian Art, Architecture and Design Biennale 2023

The first Indian Art, Architecture and Design Biennale (IAADB) 2023 was inaugurated by Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi. It is being held at Red Fort, New Delhi. The initiative is in line to develop flagship global cultural initiatives in the country.

### 9. Build for Bharat

A nationwide program "Build for Bharat" was launched by the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). It aims at addressing challenges in digital commerce and providing solutions across various sectors.

### 10. Inaugural meeting of National Traders Welfare

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## Board

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) convened the inaugural meeting of National Traders Welfare Board (NTWB). The meeting took place at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi and was chaired by Sunil J Singhi.

### 11. Crime In India Report by NCRB

The Crime In India Report was released by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). The report revealed significant statistics trends for the crimes that took place in 2022. Cybercrimes increased by 24 percent which was highest among all.

### 12. Government of India and ADB sign USD 175 million loan

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) to provide USD 175 million loan to improve connectivity and roads in the state of Madhya Pradesh. The project will upgrade 500 km of state highways and will enhance connectivity in state road networks across 14 districts.

### 13. Garba declared Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO

The United Nations Cultural arm UNESCO has declared "Garba of Gujarat" as an Intangible Cultural Heritage. It becomes the 15th Intangible Cultural Heritage element from India to join the list. The decision was made at the 18th meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Kasane, Botswana.

### 14. 59th Fertiliser Association of India Seminar 2023

Union Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the 59th Fertiliser Association of India Annual Seminar 2023 in New Delhi. The Theme was "Innovations in Fertiliser and Agriculture Sectors". Products and Services provided to Fertiliser and Agriculture sectors were showcased by 56 exhibitors from India and abroad at the exhibition.

### 15. Uttarakhand Global Investors Summit 2023

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Uttarakhand Global Investors Summit 2023. The Summit is being held at Forest Research Institute, Dehradun. The Summit is aimed at establishing Uttarakhand as a new Investment Destination.

### 16. 68th Mahaparinirvana Diwas of Dr BR Ambedkar

The Dr Ambedkar Foundation (DAF) commemorated the 68th Mahaparinirvana Diwas of Dr BR Ambedkar on 6th December 2023 at the Parliament House Lawn, New Delhi. It was on this day in 1956 Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, the person who drafted the Constitution of India passed away.



### 17. Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is launching the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY). The objective of the scheme is to provide assisted living devices to senior citizens suffering from age related disability.

### 18. Gram Manchitra Application

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched the Gram Manchitra Application. It is a Geographical Information System Application aimed to encourage spatial planning by the Gram Panchayat. The app provides help to Gram Panchayat to perform spatial planning at Gram Panchayat Level using Geo-Spatial Technology.

### 19. India Infrastructure Report 2023

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The India Infrastructure Report 2023 was released by Former Vice President of India Shri Venkaiah Naidu along with G20 sherpa Amitabh Kant. The subject matter of the Report is Urban Planning and Development.

#### 20. 40th CISO Deep Dive Training Program

The NeGD and Meity under the Cyber Surakshit Bharat Initiative conducted 40th Chief Information Security Officers (CISO) Deep Dive Training Program. It is a capacity building program aimed at sensitising and orienting participants on Cyber safety.



#### 21. Bhartiya Beej Sahkari Samiti Limited

The Ministry of Cooperation under the Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002 has set up Bhartiya Beej Sahkari Samiti Limited. It is a seed cooperative society with 2 kinds of members including ordinary members and Nominal or associate members.

#### 22. PM KISAN mobile app

The PM KISAN Mobile app launched by the Government of India has achieved a new milestone of successfully completing e-KYC of 20 lakh farmers. It is the first mobile app that uses face authentication based e-KYC feature. The PM KISAN scheme was launched by the Government of India in 2019 and it is a Central Sector Scheme.

#### 23. Youth Parliament Competition

The Youth Parliament Competitions are organised in schools across the country by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. The competitions are organised

for Kendriya Vidyalayas, Schools under the Directorate of Education, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas.

#### 24. India Internet Governance Forum 2023

The India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) 2023 took place on December 5th, 2023 at New Delhi. It is the third edition of IIGF under the theme "Moving Forward - Calibrating Bharat's Digital Agenda". It is an initiative associated with the UN Internet Governance Forum and it aims at building a secure, trusted and resilient cyberspace.

#### 25. More than 130 lakh beneficiaries under UDAN scheme

The Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) has achieved a new milestone as more than 130 lakh people have availed the benefits under the scheme. The Scheme seeks to stimulate Regional Connectivity to Masses at affordable rates through Airways.

#### 26. Football for Schools

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan attended the kick off programme for distribution of Footballs under the Football for Schools programme run by FIFA. Footballs were distributed at PM Shri Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in Mundali, Cuttack. The Ministry of Education along with SAI and AIFF are implementing this program in the country.

#### 27. SARAS Food Festival

SARAS Food Festival, a confluence of Taste and Culture was inaugurated at New Delhi by Union Minister Faggan Singh Kulaste. It was the second edition of the Food festival with the first one being inaugurated in 2022 by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).

#### 28. Dynamic GWR Assessment Report 2023

The Dynamic GroundWater Resources Assessment Report was released for the entire country for the year

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2023 by Union Jal Shakti Minister, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. There was an increase of 11.48 Billion Cubic Metres compared to 2022 in annual Ground Water Recharge. The report was jointly assessed by CGWB and States/UTs concerned.

## International

### 1. Oil and Gas Decarbonization Charter (OGDC)

Global Initiative, Oil and Gas Decarbonization Charter (OGDC) was launched by Saudi Arabia along with COP 28 President Dr Sultan AL Jaber. It is a major initiative launched to accelerate Climate Action in the Oil and Gas Sector. OGDC is integral to the Global Decarbonization Accelerator (GDA).



### 2. Italy withdraws from OBOR

South European Nation Italy officially withdraws from China's One Belt One Road Initiative. It was the only G7 nation to sign the OBOR in 2019. China is trying to shape the world order in its favour using Initiatives like OBOR.

### 3. Social Innovators from India won prizes at 4th AIGIF held at Malaysia

Social Innovators from India won prizes at Grassroot Innovation and Student Innovation competitions organised at the 4th edition of ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation Forum (AIGIF). Dipak Bharali and Sunil Shinde won 1st and 3rd prize at grassroots Innovation while Aanchal Agarwal won 3rd prize in student Innovation competition.

### 4. ISSA Vision Zero 2023 Award bagged by ESIC

The Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) was awarded with the ISSA Vision Zero 2023 award by ISSA. The award ceremony took place at the 23rd World Congress on Safety and Health at Work in Sydney, Australia. The approach of "Vision Zero" helps in the prevention of accidents at workplaces.

5.

The 46th Meeting of the Executive Committee of Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) is being held at FAO Headquarters at Rome. India has been unanimously elected as a member in the CAC representing the Asian Region. The Executive Committee is considered as an important arm of the CAC.

## Sports

### 1. Anantjeet takes top spot in National Selection Trials

Anantjeet Singh Naruka, Asian Games Silver medalist takes top spot in the National Shooting Selection Trials at Dr Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad. He had beaten Mohd. Sheeraz Sheikh 58-56 for the top spot.

### 2. FIFA suspends Luis Rubiales

Former Spanish football chief Luis Rubiales was officially suspended by the disciplinary committee of the International Football Federation (FIFA). He was suspended from any activity in sport for three years.

### 3. Ravi Bishnoi becomes World Number 1 T20I bowler

The 23 year old youngster from India, Ravi Bishnoi becomes World Number 1 T20I bowler surpassing Rashid Khan of Afghanistan. His rankings increased due to exceptional performance at the recently conducted T20I Series against Australia.



#### 4. Project Grand Slam

Lakshya Sports in collaboration with Amalgam Steel launched Project Grand Slam. The project is launched to nurture girls in tennis from Grassroot level to Grand Slam level.

#### 5. India wins the T20I series 4-1 against the mighty Australia

With the help of Indian Pacers Arshdeep Singh and Mukesh Kumar India Clinched victory in the last over thriller against Australia, winning the series 4-1. It is the first T20I Series win for India under the captaincy of Suryakumar Yadav

#### 6. Pakistan Women won first ever T20I against New Zealand

The Pakistan Women's team have secured their first ever T20 International win against the White Ferns for the first time in history. They defeated the hosts by 7 wickets.

#### 7. Vaishali-Praggnanandhaa first ever brother-sister duo to become Grandmasters

Vaishali and Praggnanandhaa created history by becoming the first ever Brother-Sister Duo to become Chess Grandmasters. Vaishali Rameshbaabu is only the third female grandmaster from India after Koneru Humpy and Harika Dronavalli.



#### Person In News

#### 1. First Female SC Justice Sandra Day O'Connor passed away

The first woman to be appointed as US Supreme Court Judge Justice Sandra Day O'Connor passed away due to respiratory illness and dementia. She was a fiercely independent champion of rule of Law and was praised as a Patriot by Justice John Roberts.

#### 2. First Woman Director General of ICFRE - Kachina Devi

The 1991 batch IFS Officer of Madhya Pradesh Cadre Shri Kanchana Devi has created a new milestone by being appointed as the first woman Director General of Indian Council of Forestry Research Education (ICFRE). ICFRE is a prestigious Council under MoefCC. The Headquarters of ICFRE is located in Dehradun.



#### Science and Tech/Space/Defence

#### 1. Successful training launch of AGNI-1

India had successfully carried out the training launch of Short range Ballistic missile "AGNI-1". The launch was carried out from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha under the aegis of Strategic Forces Command. It is a very high precision missile system.

#### 2. AI system Gemini unveiled by Google

Google CEO Sundar Pichai launched Google's latest Artificial Intelligence system named GEMINI. It is being

described as the biggest science and engineering effort by Google. Gemini consists of 3 modes namely Ultra, Pro and Nano.

### 3. INNO YODHA 2023

The Indian Army held Inno Yodha 2023 at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi. It was an Idea and Innovation Competition and Seminar. The event showcased the usage of technological Innovations within the organisation by users.

### 4. INS SUMEDHA deployed at Madagascar

INS SUMDEHA has been deployed at Antsiranana, Madagascar as part of the Indian Navy's Long Range Mission based deployment. The deployment aims at providing Maritime Security and strengthening Maritime cooperation with Madagascar.

### 5. Survey Vessel SANDHAYAK delivered to Indian Navy

The first Survey Vessel Ship built by GRSE kolkata namely SANDHAYAK had been delivered to the Indian Navy. It is the first of the four ships to be developed and delivered by GRSE, kolkata. The ship is powered by two Diesel engines and is capable of achieving speeds more than 18 knots.

### 6. UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting in Ghana

The UN along with the Republic of Ghana and The Department of Peace Operations is hosting the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting in Accra, Ghana. Raksha Rajya Mantri Ajay Bhatt will be attending the Meeting at Accra. Bilateral Meetings will be held with Participants of member countries to strengthen defence cooperation and engagements.

### 7. Tele MANAS Cell at AFMC Pune

A Tele-Mental Health Assistance and Networking across States (Tele MANAS) Cell was inaugurated at Armed Forces Medical College Pune by the Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan. Tele MANAS is an initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It

will serve as a central Psychological helpline for all armed forces beneficiaries.



### 8. IDEX-DIO sign 300th contract for Defence Innovation

Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) under Defence Innovation Organization (DIO) reached a milestone by signing the 300th contract in the field of design and development of Advanced Gallium Nitride Semiconductors with Agnit Semiconductors Pvt. Limited. The Gallium Nitride Semiconductors are essential for next generation wireless transmitters like Radars to EW Jammers.

### Miscellaneous

#### 1. Navy Day Celebrations at Sindhudurg

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi attended the Navy Day 2023 celebration on 4th December 2023 at Sindhudurg, Maharashtra. The PM witnessed the Operational Demonstrations by Navy Personnels and Navy Ships. It is celebrated every year at Sindhudurg to pay Homage to the rich Maritime heritage of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

#### 2. 59th BSF Raising Day

The 59th Border Security Force (BSF) Raising Day was observed across the Nation on December 1st, 2023. Union Home Minister attended the event in Jharkhand's Hazaribagh. The function is being held at the oldest training centre of BSF, the Rani Jhansi Parade Ground Training Center located at Meru, Hazaribagh.



### 3. 61st Nagaland Statehood Day observed

The 61st Nagaland Statehood Day was observed on December 1st 2023. Nagaland became the 16th state of India on December 1st, 1963. Nagaland got special provisions towards protecting social practices, ownership of land etc under Article 371A of the Constitution of India.

Health/agriculture/Environment

### 1. New Hedgehog Specie Mesechinus Orientalis discovered

A new Species of Hedgehog, "Mesechinus Orientalis" has been discovered in Eastern China by scientists from Anhui Normal University. The genus Mesechinus was previously thought to be limited to Northern China.

### 2. New Plant species Impatiens Karuppusamy discovered

The researchers from the Botanical Survey of India discovered a new Plant species named "Impatiens Karuppusamy" from Tamil Nadu. The species were found in Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu.

### 3. Pregnant Megamouth Shark Discovered in Philippines

A pregnant Megamouth Shark washes up in the Philippines. For the first time in mankind's history a female super rare, Deepwater species was seen pregnant. The discovery showcased that Megamouths are Ovoviviparous.



### 4. Lakadong Turmeric gets GI Tag

Meghalaya's Lakadong Turmeric, considered as World's best variety of Turmeric has recently been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. It has a curcumin content of 6.8 to 7.5 percent. Lakadong Turmeric is grown organically without the use of fertilisers.

### 5. Roadmap to reduce Plastic Waste

The "National Circular Economy Roadmap for reduction of Plastic Waste in India" was unveiled by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh. Leading research institutes from India and Australia collaborated to create the roadmap.

### 6. Carbon Emissions to increase by 8.2 percent in 2023

An International Research team cites that Carbon Emission in India is to increase by 8.2 percent in 2023. China on the other hand will see an increase of 4 percent only. The findings were reported in the Global Carbon Budget Report produced by more than 120 scientists.

### 7. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Awareness program

A National level Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Awareness program was launched by Union Health Minister Dr Mandukh Mandaviya across the nation. It is the first ever national level CPR awareness program and more than 20 lakh people participated in the CPR

training. The program is being implemented by NBEMS.

#### 8. Miyawaki plantation method to enhance Green Cover

Coal India Limited Subsidiary, Southern Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) to use Miyawaki plantation method for the first time in its operational areas to enhance Green Cover. Miyawaki Plantation technique is a popular Japanese technique to grow forest Cover in small areas.

#### 9. Green Credits Initiative at COP 28

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi launched the Green Credits Initiative at COP28 in Dubai. The initiative aims at generating Green Credits by plantation at Degraded wastelands. It was initiated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoefCC).

#### 10. LeadIT 2.0 launched at COP 28

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi unveiled LeadIT 2.0 at the COP 28 World Climate Action summit held at Dubai.

The initiative focuses on transfer of low carbon technology to emerging economies along with financial assistance. LeadIT stands for Leadership Group for Industry Transition.

#### 11. World Malaria Report 2023 by WHO

The World Health Organisation recently released the World Malaria Report 2023. The report has been titled as Tracking Progress and Gaps in the Global Response to Malaria. The report for the first time includes a dedicated chapter on intersection between Climate Change and Malaria. According to the report India accounted for 66 percent of Malaria cases in WHO South-East Asia Region in 2022.



#### 12. White Lung Syndrome

New Strain of Bacterial Pneumonia also known as White Lung Syndrome is emerging as a new health concern among children. The countries affected by it currently are China, Denmark, US and Netherlands. The disease is widespread amongst children of age group between three to eight years.

#### 13. Global Drought Snapshot Report

The Global Drought Snapshot Report was recently launched by the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. The report stated alarming impacts of Drought worldwide and its consequences on lives, economies and various sectors. The report was released at the beginning of the 28th COP to UNFCCC in Dubai.

#### 14. Training Programme on Latent Tuberculosis Infections

A comprehensive training program was organised by the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) on Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI). Ayurvedic medical officers from Delhi and Haryana will participate in the event. The event also has footfall through live platforms of social media.



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### 15. National Conference in Energy Transition in India

A two day National Conference on "Energy Transition in India- Road Travel and Opportunity Ahead" was conducted in Gandhinagar. The Conference was inaugurated by Union Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy Shri RK Singh. The Objective of the conference is to promote clean energy and facilitate transition to cleaner energy.

### 16. Cyclone Michaug

National Crisis Management Committee (NCCM) meets to discuss the State Government and Central Government preparedness towards the upcoming Cyclone Michaug in Bay of Bengal. The depression is to turn into a cyclonic storm over Southwest Bay of bengal. Fishermen have been asked to restrict movement in the sea.