

Date : 5th Dec 2023

Weekly Current Affairs

English

National

1. Jal Itihas Utsav

The National Water Mission under the Ministry of Jal Shakti organised Jal Itihas Utsav at Shamsi Talab, Jahaz Mahal, Delhi. It is being organised to raise public consciousness about safeguarding water heritage sites, creating a sense of ownership among masses as well as to promote tourism and restoration of such heritage structures.

2. Passing Out Parade of 145th NDA course

The Passing Out Parade of 145th National Defence Academy Course was conducted at Khetarpal Parade Ground, NDA Khadakwasla. The Parade was reviewed by the President of India Smt Droupadi Murmu. For the first time in history a contingent of 15 female cadets participated in the Passing out parade.



3. Centre of Data for Public Good (CDPG)

IISc's Foundation for Science Innovation and Development (FSID) launched the first of a kind Symposium Centre of Data for Public Good. The centre is dedicated to advancing research, innovation, collaboration and best practices in the realm of data science, analytics and policy to address critical societal challenges.

4. 81st Plenary Meeting of International Cotton Advisory Committee

The Ministry of Textiles to hold 81st Plenary Meeting of the International Cotton Advisory Committee in the Jio

World Convention Centre, Mumbai. Over 400 delegates from 35 countries are likely to participate in the Meeting. ICAC is an Intergovernmental body covering Cotton that is recognised by the United Nations.

5. Centre of Excellence to foster Geospatial Innovation and Research

A Tripartite MoU was signed between National Geospatial Programme-DST, NIGST, Survey of India and IIT Tirupati to establish a Center of Excellence to foster Geospatial Innovation and Research. It will cater to emerging technology solution requirements of the Geospatial domain in the country.

6. First Ever Auction of Critical and Strategic Minerals

Union Minister Prahlad Joshi launched the first tranche e-auction of Critical and Strategic Minerals. A total of 20 critical mineral blocks will be auctioned in the first tranche. The aim of the present launch is to ensure sustainable development goals and to fulfil Prime Minister's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

7. Peace Agreement with UNLF

In a historic development, the Government of India and Manipur signed a Peace Agreement with the United National Liberation Front (UNLF). It is the oldest valley based Armed group of Manipur. The agreement will usher a new era of peace in North East and Manipur. The UNLF was formed in 1964 and has been operating within and outside Indian Territory.

8. Central Sector Scheme for providing Drones to women SHG

The Union Cabinet approved the Central Sector Scheme for providing Drones to the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs). The scheme aims to provide drones to 15,000 selected Women SHGs during 2023-26 for providing rental services to farmers for Agriculture purpose.

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9. Cabinet approved PM JANMAN

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN). The total outlay of the scheme is 24,104 crore. It will focus on 11 critical interventions through 9 line Ministries.

10. European Union Film Festival of India

The 28th European Union Film Festival of India to take place in Delhi and Chennai with focus on Women Filmmakers. The 10 day festival will screen 28 films in 25 languages in New Delhi and then travel to Chennai. The festival celebrated cultural ties between India and the European Union.

11. Odisha celebrated Boita Bandana

Vibrant celebrations were witnessed across Odisha to mark the auspicious occasion of Kartik Purnima observing the traditional festival of Boita Bandana. It is a traditional Boat Worship festival. It is an annual festival held on the full moon night during the month of Kartik.

12. Industry Roundtable on Developing India

The Ministry of Tourism under Government of India is organising an Industry Roundtable in Developing India as a MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) Destination. It is being organised at the Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

13. Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam festival

The Ministry of Tourism organised a prequel event of Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam in association with the Ministry of Culture, Sangeet Natak Academy and State Government of Andhra Pradesh. It is a festival to celebrate the rich heritage of classical music.

14. ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation Forum (AIGIF) launched

The 4th edition of the annual ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation Forum (AIGIF) was launched in Langkawi, Malaysia. India along with 10 ASEAN member states (AMS) were represented by 200 participants. It is an annual programme focused on strengthening the relationship between India and AMS on the premise of Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation.

15. Gold Medal to Ministry of AYUSH

The Ministry of AYUSH was awarded the Gold Medal by "India Trade Promotion Organisation" in the India International Trade Fair. It won the award for its excellence in the "Ministries and Departments" category. The Ministry created Ayush Pavilion with various activities in the fair with the aim of promoting scientific evidence based Ayush treatment methods.



16. Guide on Gender Inclusive Communication

Union Minister Smriti Zubin Irani launched a Guide on Gender Inclusive Communication at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. It is one of the initiatives to promote Gender Equality and Empowerment. The Guide is a collaborative effort by the Ministry of WCD, NGCC, LBSNAA along with support from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and UN Women.

17. SEBI Reduces Minimum Issue Size for NPOs

To boost fundraising by Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) on the Social Stock Exchange (SSE), the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has reduced the minimum issue size for public issuance of

Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP) instruments by NPOs.

18. India Rebrands Health Centers as Ayushman Arogya Mandir

In a move to revitalize India's healthcare infrastructure, the government has rebranded the existing Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) as Ayushman Arogya Mandir. This renaming signifies a renewed focus on providing comprehensive and quality healthcare services to the underserved communities across the country.

19. RBI Penalizes 3 banks for Regulatory Violations

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed penalties on three banks – Citibank, Bank of Baroda (BoB), and Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) – for non-compliance with various regulatory norms. The penalties range from ₹1.50 crore to ₹4.25 crore for each bank.

20. India's Largest Tiger Reserve to Take Shape in Madhya Pradesh

The Madhya Pradesh government announced plans to establish India's largest tiger reserve in Damoh district. The proposed reserve, spanning an area of 1,948 square kilometers, will be home to a large population of tigers and other wildlife, further strengthening India's position as a global leader in tiger conservation.

21. Floating CNG Station at Ravidas Ghats

To develop Varanasi as a pollution free city, a second floating Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Mobile Refuelling Unit (MRU) station was inaugurated at Ravidas Ghat by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. The station has been developed by a Maharatna PSU GAIL India Ltd.

22. Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2023 released

Union Minister Shri Pardhottam Rupala released the

Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2023 based on Animal Integrated Sample Survey. The Statistics were released at the National Milk Day event at Guwahati. The Statistics consisted of milk, egg, meat and wool production.

23. Odisha Research Centre

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the Odisha Research Centre along with Governors of Chhattisgarh and Odisha. A One day workshop on "Knowledge Traditions of Odisha : A Futuristic Framework" was also inaugurated. Odisha Research Centre will give new direction to current and social dynamics.



24. NATPOLREX-IX

The Indian Coast Guard conducted the 9th National Level Pollution Response Exercise NATPOLREX-IX off Vadinar, Gujarat. Its objective is to accomplish testing at the level of Preparedness and coordination between various resource agencies to respond to a marine oil spill.

25. Samajik Adhikarita Shivir

Union Minister for Social Justice Dr Virendra Kumar inaugurated "Samajik Adhikarita Shivir" at Himmatnagar, Gujarat. The Shivir aims at distribution of aids and assistive devices to persons with disabilities (Divyangjan). The distribution camp was connected to 19 other locations covering 9 states across the country.

26. 2nd year of Nayi Chetna campaign

The Union Minister Faggan Singh Kulaste inaugurated the 2nd year of the Nayi Chetna campaign in New Delhi. The campaign was solely launched for the Battle against Gender Based Violence and goes with the Tagline “Sahenge Nahi Kahenge” and “Chuppi Todenge”.



27. PM flies LCA TEJAS

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi flew a sortie in the indigenously designed, developed and manufactured Twin seater Fighter Aircraft LCA TEJAS at Bengaluru. This was the first time that any Indian Prime Minister flew a fighter aircraft sortie.

28. Hamfest India 2023

Union Minister Devusinh Chauhan inaugurated Hamfest India 2023 in Ahmedabad. The event brings together amateur Radio Enthusiasts across the globe for Networking, Knowledge Sharing and Technological advancements. It is the largest gathering of Indian HAMs in one place.

29. YANTRA 2023

Union Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal attended the Yoga and Ayurveda in Neurosciences, Therapeutics and Research Approaches (YANTRA) 2023. The event was held at NIMHANS in association with Jignasa. It is an International Conference on Integrative Medicine with a theme on models of integration in Healthcare.

30. Major Harbour at Atlanta bay

Union Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal visited the proposed site of Major Harbour at Atlanta Bay in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Atlanta Bay has a natural draft of 19/20 and is just 50 m distance in sea. The 10m draft Harbour is essential to promote high end tourism.

31. NSTI PLUS

Union Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan laid the foundation stone for National Skill Training Institutes (NSTI) plus. It will scale demand driven and high quality skill training and vocational education at regional level. It is being launched to Elevate capabilities of Odisha's young Cadre.

32. Training of Krishi Sakhis

The Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare jointly launched the Krishi Sakhi program for the promotion of Natural Farming. It is being launched under the DeenDayal Antyodaya Yojana -National Rural Livelihoods Mission.



33. NHPC conferred with ET HR WORLD EX Awards

The National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) won the prestigious The Economic Times HR WORLD Exceptional Employee Experience Award 2023. It has won the award in the Large Scale Enterprises category. The award was presented in Bengaluru.

34. NACIN and NADT sign MoU

The National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics (NACIN) signed a Memorandum of

Understanding with Nationalist Academy of Direct Taxes (NADT) for sharing resources. The resources here include training materials, best practices and innovative technologies.

International

1. ILO report on Overworking

The International Labour Organization revealed astonishing results in its report stating Working for over 55 hours a week kills 800,000 people every year. The report shed light on how employment is fast evolving as a major cause of death especially among men.

2. Nepal registers first same sex marriage

Nepal becomes 1st country in the South Asian Region to formally register Same sex marriage. Same sex marriage was legalized by the Supreme Court of Nepal 5 months ago. The event took place in Dordi Rural Municipality of Lamjung District, Western Nepal.

3. UAE Unveils World's Largest Single-Site Solar Power Plant

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has unveiled the world's largest single-site solar power plant, the Al Dhafra Solar PV Project. The 2-gigawatt (GW) plant is located in Abu Dhabi and is expected to generate enough electricity to power nearly 200,000 homes. The project is a major milestone in the UAE's efforts to diversify its energy mix and reduce its reliance on fossil fuels.

4. India and ASEAN Nations Unite to Celebrate Millets

A joint millet festival was launched on November 27th by India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to promote the consumption of millet as part of a healthy diet. Millets are a group of nutritious and climate-resilient grains that offer various health benefits and can contribute to food

security.

5. India becomes Chair of ISO for 2024

India was announced to chair the International Sugar Organisation for 2024 at the 63rd council meeting of ISO. It is headquartered in London. India pays the highest Cane price in the World to Sugarcane farmers. India has been the largest consumer and second-largest producer of Sugar in the World.

Days

1. Constitution Day 2023

The Ministry of Law and Justice in collaboration with Indian Law Institute is celebrating Constitution Day on November 26, 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The Vice President of India graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.



2. National Cashew day observed on November 23

The Agriculture and Processed Food Products Development Authority (APEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce, observed National Cashew Day on November 23, 2023. The APEDA facilitated Cashew Nut Shipment to Bangladesh, Qatar, Malaysia, and the USA.

Sports

1. India beats Australia in 4th T20I sealing the series

India beat Australia in the penultimate 4th T20 International match held at Rainer, sealing the series.

India now leads the series 3-1 of the 5 matches of the T20I Series. The Player of the match was Amar Patel who clinched 3 crucial wickets.

2. Uganda creates history by qualifying for 2024 T20 World Cup

History was made as the African nation Uganda qualified for the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup triumphing over Rwanda in the final round of matches during the African leg of the qualifiers. Uganda became the second team after Namibia to qualify for the World Cup.

3. Namibia confirm its birth at Men's T20 World Cup

After five wins from five games, the Southern African Nation Namibia confirms its berth at the Men's T20 World Cup 2024. It will be the third edition in a row that Namibia will be playing the Men's T20 World Cup.

4. Shubman Gill Takes the Helm as Gujarat Titans Captain

Young batting prodigy Shubman Gill has been appointed as the new captain of the Gujarat Titans franchise ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024. Gill, who was a key player in the Titans' IPL 2022 title-winning campaign, will replace Hardik Pandya, who has moved to the Mumbai Indians.



5. Satwik-Chirag lost final at China Master's Super 750

India's Satwik-Chirag saved six match points in the decider before going down to World Number 1 Duo

Liang Wei Keng-Wang Chang in Shenzhen. The thriller between the two duos went on for 71 minutes.

6. Anish Bhanwala won Bronze in World Cup Final at Doha

Anish Bhanwala won a Bronze Medal in the ISSF World Cup Shooting finals held in Doha. He won the Medal in the 25-metre rapid-fire pistol event. He missed the 3 of the 5 targets in the sixth series.



Science and tech/Space/Defence

1. 40th Coast Guard Commander's Conference

Defence Minister Rajasthan Singh inaugurated 40th Coast Guard Commander's Conference in New Delhi. The Minister complimented the ICG for ensuring Maritime security for excellent work in the field of search and rescue and pollution response.

2. Launch of Mahe, Malvan and Mangrol

The first three ships of the 08x ASW Shallow Water Craft (CSL) project were launched simultaneously at CSL, Kochi. The ships were launched to the invocation from Atharva Vegas. The Ships were launched according to the Maritime tradition by the wives of Vice Admirals.

3. Maiden edition of MAHASAGAR

The maiden edition of the high level virtual interaction MAHASAGAR was hosted by the Indian Navy. It stands for Maritime Heads for Active Security and Growth for All Region. Admiral R Hari Kumar emphasised the need to find "Regional Solutions to Regional Problems".

4. Indian Navy Operational Demonstration 2023 at Sindhudurg

Indian Navy to display its operational prowess and capabilities through Operational Demonstration. It will cover a spectrum of Naval Operations by Ships and aircraft at Sindhudurg Fort on Western seaboard of India. The event aims to celebrate and glorify our rich maritime history and shed the colonial practices.

5. Defence Ministry signed Pact with BHEL

The Ministry of Defence signed an agreement with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Haridwar for procurement of 16 upgraded Super Rapid Gun Mount (SRGM). The Procurement is being done for the Indian Navy under Buy Indian category at a total cost of 2956 crore.



6. India Reaffirms Strategic Deterrence with Successful Agni-V Test-Fire

India successfully test-fired its Agni-V intercontinental ballistic missile on November 27th, demonstrating its advanced nuclear deterrent capabilities. The missile, capable of carrying a nuclear warhead, has a range of over 5,000 kilometers, reinforcing India's strategic reach and deterrence posture.

7. Galactic Infants and Teenage galaxies discovered by JWST

The James Webb Telescope discovered the Universe's Earliest Galaxies also called Galactic Infants. Astronomers call these the Galactic Teenagers. The researchers focused upon galaxies that formed about

2-3 billion years after the Big Bang event roughly 13.8 billion years ago.

8. Deformable Mirrors in Space

NASA stated that Deformable mirrors in space can help find alien life in the Universe. Deformable mirrors are mirrors whose surface can be bent to achieve wavefront control and optical aberration correction. The shape of these mirrors could be controlled with speed.

9. Space Missions could cause Erectile Dysfunction

Researchers at Florida State University and Wake Forest University stated that Cosmic Ray exposure on space missions could cause Erectile Dysfunction. When the rats' tissues were examined after exposure, the team found evidence of oxidative stress in the creature's tissues.



10. SouthEast Asia's First Night Sky Sanctuary in Ladakh

Ministry of Science and Technology to inaugurate South Asia's first Night Sky Sanctuary in Ladakh. The Sanctuary is being set up with the help of Indian Institute of Astrophysics Bengaluru affiliated to the Department of Science and Technology. "Ladakh's Pride" exhibition is to be held to mark the fourth anniversary of the establishment of UT of Ladakh.

11. High Energy Particle Amaterasu detected

The Astronomers have detected a rare and extremely high energy particle falling on Earth coming from an apparently empty region of Space. The Particle is

named Amaterasu after the sun goddess in Japanese mythology.

12. 75th anniversary of NCC

The National Cadet Corps celebrated its 75th anniversary of its raising on November 26, 2023. The NCC is the largest uniformed youth organisation in the world raised in 1948. The Defence Secretary paid Homage to the fallen heroes at the National War Memorial.

13. Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN-XVII

The 17th edition of Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN commenced at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand. The exercise is held between the Indian Army and the Nepal Army. It is an annual event conducted alternatively in the two countries. The Indian Army Contingent is being led by a Battalion from Kumaon Regiment.

Miscellaneous

1. National Milk Day 2023

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying celebrated National Milk Day 2023 on November 26 at the Veterinary College in Guwahati. The day honours the 102nd birth anniversary of Dr Verghese the "Father of the White Revolution in India".

Health/Agriculture/Environment

1. SBM-GOBARDhan Biogas Conference

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is organising a conference "SBM-GOBARDhan Biomass Conference: Accelerating Waste to Wealth and Circular Economy". The Conference is organised in order to accelerate the Compressed Biogas sector through cross-sectoral linkages and promote dialogue and Knowledge exchange among stakeholders.

2. 10000th Jan Aushadhi Kendra inaugurated

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the 10000th Jan Aushadhi Kendra at AIIMS Deoghar. A program was also launched to increase the number of Jan Aushadhi Kendra in the country from 10,000 to 25,000.



3. Saurauia Punduana found in Manipur

The Saurauia Punduana plant native to Bhutan and Tibet has been found for the first time in Manipur's Tamenglong district. It is categorised as Critically Endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

4. State of Wet Tropics Report 2023

The State of Wet Tropics 2022-23 report titled "Rescue and Recovery of threatened Wet Tropics species and ecological communities" was tabled in Queensland Parliament, Australia. Australia's biodiversity rich northern Rainforest designated as World Heritage Sites face escalating threats.

5. Mandatory blending of CBG in CNG and PNG

The Government of India announced the mandatory blending of Compressed Biogas in CNG and PNG segments of the CGD sector. CBG Blending Obligation (CBO) will promote production and consumption of Compressed BioGas (CBG) in the country.

6. New Specie of Triassic Dinosaur discovered

A new genus and species of Silesaur named Amanasaurus Nesbitti discovered by a duo of Paleontologists at Federal University of Santa Maria.

He lived in Brazil during the Carnian age of the Late Triassic Epoch 233 million years ago.

