

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

21st Dec 2022

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ 'Fit At Any Age'

➤ Author: Air Marshal PV Iyer (retd.)

❖ Sonakshi Sinha named PETA Person of the Year 2022

➤ Sonakshi Sinha has been named 'Person of the Year 2022' by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India.

➤ Sonakshi's actions helped save the lives of many animals killed for fashion, but her strong advocacy for dog and cat rights earned her the title.

➤ She is actively involved in animal welfare activities and regularly voices out the need for stronger animal protection laws

➤ In 2021, Alia Bhatt was named the PETA Person of the Year.

➤ Past recipients of PETA India's Person of the Year Award include former Supreme Court Justice KS Panicker Radhakrishnan, cricketer Virat Kohli, comedian Kapil Sharma; and actors John Abraham, Anushka Sharma, Sunny Leone, R Madhavan, Jacqueline Fernandez, Hema Malini, and Sonam Kapoor Ahuja, among others.

❖ Bihar's Gaya and Nalanda selected for development under Swadesh Darshan 2.0

➤ Gaya and Nalanda in Bihar have been selected for development under Swadesh Darshan 2.0.

➤ Punaura Dham site in the Sitamarhi district of Bihar has been identified for development under the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme of the ministry.

➤ This information was given by the Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy in the Lok Sabha on 19 December 2022.

➤ Government of India launched Swadesh Darshan scheme in 2014-15 for integrated development of theme based tourist circuits for eg Buddhist circuit, Ramayana circuit, desert circuit etc.

➤ It was later revamped and re-launched as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 with the focus on developing sustainable and responsible tourism destinations.

❖ **‘Friends of Library’ programme**

➤ The ‘Friends of Library’ programme, under which books would be directly given to those who are unable to access state-run libraries, was introduced by the Tamil Nadu government.

➤ The project will be helpful to people with disabilities, seniors, kids, and hospital in-patients, among others, who are unable to visit a library.

➤ Volunteers will hand over the books to such people from the libraries.

➤ Such individuals will receive the books from the libraries from volunteers, he continued. The recipients must register with the relevant library.

➤ The programme will involve 2,500 libraries in its initial phase, including 31 district libraries. The aim of such an initiative was to promote a knowledge-based society. State Food Minister R Sakkarapani, district collector Dr S Visakan and others participated.

❖ **Latvia hosted Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) summit at Riga**

➤ Latvia hosted the 3rd summit meeting of the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) on 19 December 2022 in Riga.

➤ The summit meeting has been convened on the Initiative of the Prime Minister of Latvia Krišjānis Kariņš, with the support of the United Kingdom.

➤ The JEF was founded in 2015 after the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) summit meeting in Wales in 2014. It comprises Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

➤ Latvia lies in North Eastern Europe and is one of the three Baltic countries. The other Baltic countries are Lithuania and Estonia.

➤ It is called Baltic country as it lies along the Baltic Sea.

❖ **Cape Town to Rio Race 2023**

➤ INSV Tarini has set sail for an expedition to Cape Town, for participating in the Cape to Rio Race 2023.

➤ INSV Tarini will start for an expedition to Cape Town, South Africa for participating in the 50th edition of Cape to Rio Race 2023.

➤ This ocean sailing race will be flagged off from Cape Town on 02 Jan 23 and will culminate at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The race is one of the most prestigious Trans-Atlantic ocean races.

➤ Transiting from Goa to Rio de Janeiro via Cape Town and back, INSV Tarini would be covering a distance of almost 17,000 nautical miles (approx. 30,000 km)

➤ The crew, over a period of 5-6 months in this trans-oceanic voyage is expected to face extreme weather and rough sea conditions of the Indian, Atlantic and the Southern oceans.

➤ It is the second sailboat of Indian Navy after INSV Mhedi.

➤ It is known for circumnavigating the globe with an all-women officer crew in the historic expedition titled 'Navika Sagar Parikrama' in 2017.

❖ **INS Vagir**

➤ The fifth submarine of the Project – 75, Kalvari Class submarines, Yard 11879 was delivered to the Indian Navy on December 20, 2022.

➤ Vagir was launched into water on November 12, 2020 and commenced sea trials on February 1, 2022.

➤ It is having "superior stealth features" like advanced acoustic absorption techniques.

➤ The sixth and last of the Scorpène-class submarines, Vagsheer, was launched into water in April 2022 and is expected to be delivered to the Navy by end 2023.

- Six Scorpene submarines are being built under Project-75 by MDL under technology transfer from Naval Group of France under a \$3.75 billion deal signed in October 2005.
- The project is about four years behind schedule.
- The first submarine INS Kalvari was commissioned in December 2017, second submarine INS Khanderi in September 2019, third one INS Karanj in March 2021 and the fourth one INS Vela joined service in November 2021.

❖ **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)**

- In view of this sudden spike in the overall AQI of Delhi, the Sub-Committee for invoking actions under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) of the CAQM held an emergency meeting recently.
- GRAP is a set of emergency measures that kick in to prevent further deterioration of air quality once it reaches a certain threshold.
- The GRAP was first notified in January 2017 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- Stage 1 of GRAP is activated when the AQI is in the 'poor' category (201 to 300). The second, third and fourth stages will be activated three days ahead of the AQI reaching the 'very poor' category (301 to 400), 'severe' category (401 to 450) and 'severe +' category (above 450)
- The Commission is a statutory body which was first formed by an ordinance in October 2020.
- Chairperson: To be chaired by a government official of the rank of Secretary or Chief Secretary. He will hold the post for three years or until s/he attains the age of 70 years.
- It will also have five ex officio members who are either Chief Secretaries or Secretaries in charge of the department dealing with environment protection in the States of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.

❖ **Bullock's Heart Tree- Ramphal**

- A Research intern at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) recently won the prize for developing a cost-effective bio-insecticide from the leaves of bullock's heart tree (*Annona reticulata*), popularly known as Ramphal.
- Bullock heart tree's extracts have traditionally been used to cure conditions including dysentery and pediculosis (louse infestation)
- Extracts from its leaves may be useful against three destructive pests — Pod borer, Green peach aphid and fall armyworm — with a mortality rate of 78-88 per cent, the research claimed. All these pests are known for incurring crop losses to farmers.
- It is a small deciduous or semi-evergreen tree in the plant family Annonaceae and part of the Annonas group.
- It is best known for its fruit, called custard apple, a common name shared with fruits of several other species in the same genus: *A. cherimola* and *A. squamosa*.
- ICRISAT is a non-profit agricultural research organization.
- It was founded in 1972 by a consortium of organizations convened by the Ford and the Rockefeller Foundations.
- Its charter was signed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

❖ **Kunming-Montreal Agreement**

- The 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) on December 19, 2022.
- The framework has 23 targets that the world needs to achieve by 2030.
- The countries will monitor and report every five years or less on a large set of indicators related to progress.

➤ The Global Environment Facility has been requested to establish a Special Trust Fund to support the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework (“GBF Fund”)

➤ Countries committed to protecting 30% of land and 30% of coastal and marine areas by 2030, fulfilling the deal’s highest-profile goal, known as 30-by-30.

❖ **Karim Benzema announced retirement from international football**

➤ France footballer Karim Benzema has announced his retirement from International football.

➤ Benzema ends his time with France with 37 goals in 97 appearances.

➤ He made his debut 15 years ago.

❖ **FIFA picks Morocco to host Club World Cup in February 2023**

➤ Morocco has been selected by FIFA to host the 2023 Club World Cup in February, while an expanded 32-team edition is set to launch in 2025.

➤ The tournament will take place from February 1 to 11, 2023

➤ European champion Real Madrid, South American champion Flamengo and Seattle Sounders, the first CONCACAF Champions League winner from the United States, will play in the traditional seven-team tournament.

➤ It will be one of the last seven-team editions for continental champions with an expanded, month-long tournament planned to start in 2025.

➤ Morocco hosted the Club World Cup in 2013 and again in 2014, while the most recent edition was held in the United Arab Emirates in February, with Chelsea lifting the trophy.

❖ **Rehan Ahmed: youngest to claim five-fer on Test debut**

➤ England’s leg-spinner Rehan Ahmed has become the youngest men’s Test cricketer to take a five-wicket haul on debut

➤ Rehan broke the record of now-Australian captain, right-arm fast-bowler Pat Cummins, who was 18 years and 193 days when he took 6-79 on his Test debut against South Africa in 2011.