

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

1st & 2nd Jan 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **Ajit Kumar Saxena takes charge as MOIL CMD**

- Ajit Kumar Saxena has assumed charge as Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of State-owned MOIL.
- Prior to this assignment, Saxena held the position of Director (Operations) at RINL-Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant.
- He is a recipient of “Young Metallurgy of the year Award” for the year 2000 from Ministry of Steel.
- MOIL, under the steel ministry, is the largest producer of manganese ore in the country and operates 11 mines in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.
- MOIL is a Schedule “A” Miniratna Category-I Company under the Union Ministry of Steel.
- It was originally incorporated as Manganese Ore (India) Limited in 1962 and its name was changed to MOIL Limited during 2010-11.

❖ **India's first underwater metro services**

- The East-West Metro Corridor project which is India's first underwater metro service is expected to be completed by December 2023.
- The underwater metro which will run through the Hooghly River will connect the cities of Kolkata and Howrah.
- Two German-made tunnel boring machines (TBMs), named Prerna and Rachna, were deployed for the process.
- Of the total 16.55 km length of the project, 9.30 km length between Sector V and Sealdah is operational. The remaining 7.25 km length is likely to be operational by December 2023.

➤ The first metro rail system in India was also started in Kolkata from Dum Dum to Tollygunge in 1984.

➤ The first metro rail system in the world was started in London on 10 January 1863.

❖ **Remote Electronic Voting Machine (RVM): ECI**

➤ The Election Commission of India has developed a prototype of a Remote Electronic Voting Machine (RVM) for domestic migrant voters.

➤ It has invited political parties for a demonstration. If implemented, migrant voters do not need to travel to their home district to exercise their franchise and this will be a major move to increase voter participation.

❖ **India's First Muslim Woman Teacher Fatima Sheikh**

➤ The Andhra Pradesh government has introduced a lesson on the contribution of Fatima Sheikh in the textbooks of the eighth class.

➤ Fatima Sheikh was India's first woman Muslim teacher and one of India's greatest social reformers and educators.

➤ She was known to have given shelter to Jyoti Rao Phule and Savitribai, the well-known social reformer couple who worked for the education of girl child.

➤ On 9th January 2022, Google honored Fatima Sheikh with a doodle on her 191st birth anniversary.

❖ **Performance of Information Commission (ICs) in India for 2021-22: Report by Satark Nagrik Sangathan.**

➤ The State Information Commission of Tamil Nadu has the lowest performance of responsiveness under the RTI Act concerned, with only up to 14% of the information sought. Maharashtra was second lowest with sharing only 23% of the information asked for.

➤ The report was issued on the Performance of Information Commission (ICs) in India for 2021-22 by Satark Nagrik Sangathan.

➤ Only 10 ICs provided the full information in response to the RTI applications filed as part of this assessment.

➤ These included Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Jharkhand, and the northeastern states of Tripura, Nagaland, and Sikkim.

❖ **SpaceX Launched First 54 Starlink v2.0 satellites Into Low Earth orbit**

➤ The SpaceX Falcon 9 launch vehicle launched into low Earth Orbit the first 54 Starlink Satellites of the new generation, or v2.0 or Gen2.

➤ The SpaceX Falcon 9 was launched on 28th December 2022, and it took place from the SLC-40 launch pad of the US Air Force Base at Cape Canaveral. It is the 60th successful SpaceX mission since the beginning of 2022.

➤ Starlink v2.0 satellites have several different configurations depending on the launch vehicle.

➤ It was assumed that the new satellites would be launched by Starship initially.

➤ The mass of such satellites is 303 kg, and the dimensions are almost the same as in v.15.

➤ The main difference of Starlink v2.0 is a larger antenna and increased bandwidth of each satellite.

❖ **India's second longest cable-stayed eight-lane Zuari Bridge opens in Goa**

➤ Union Minister of Roads Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the country's second longest cable-stayed eight-lane Zuari Bridge in Goa. Right-hand side (4-lane corridor) across the Zuari

➤ River and approaches from Bambolim to Verna were thrown open for vehicular traffic. Gadkari also launched the PWD Goa App for integrated operations management.

➤ Through the insurance scheme of the Government of Goa, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has given Rs 2 lakh each to the families of the workers who died during the construction of the bridge.

➤ The Zuari Bridge is a bridge between North Goa and South Goa, India. It carries the NH 66 over the tidal part of the Zuari River, between the villages of Agaçaim and Cortalim.

❖ **India's Koneru Humpy wins silver medal at 'World Blitz Championships'**

➤ Koneru Humpy won silver at the Fide World Blitz Chess Championships, becoming the first Indian woman to medal at the prestigious tournament.

➤ With 12.5 points, Koneru finished just half a point behind gold medal winner Bibisara Balabayeva of Kazakhstan.

➤ The Indian beat China's Zhongyi Tan to win silver.

➤ She is the second Indian to win a medal at World Blitz, after Viswanathan Anand.

➤ This was Humpy's first medal at World Blitz, as per Chessbase India.

➤ The International Chess governing body FIDE organises World Rapid and Blitz chess championship at the end of the year.

➤ This year it was held in Kazakhstan's capital Almaty from 26-30 December 2022.

❖ **Ronaldo joins Saudi Arabian club Al Nassr until 2025**

➤ Portugal captain Cristiano Ronaldo has joined Saudi Arabian club Al Nassr on a 2-1/2 year contract.

➤ Ronaldo's contract with the team has been estimated by media to be worth more than 200 million euros (\$214.5m).

➤ Ronaldo will arrive in Saudi Arabia with a vast collection of club honours after a glittering spell at Spanish giants Real Madrid from 2009-18 where he won two La Liga titles, two Spanish Cups, four Champions League titles and three Club World Cups.

➤ He played for Portugal in Qatar, where he became the first male player to score in five World Cups after netting a penalty in his side's opening Group H game against Ghana.

➤ Saudi Arabia's national team earned its biggest international win ever at the World Cup in Qatar last month when it beat eventual champion Argentina in its first group-stage game.

❖ Hockey Haryana Women's U-18 team wins Khelo India Youth Games 2022

- Hockey Haryana won the Khelo India Youth Games 2022 (Women's Under 18) Bhubaneswar by defeating Madhya Pradesh in the Final of the Qualifiers - Khelo India Youth Games 2022 (Women's Under 18) Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- Hockey Association of Odisha stepped up to claim Third Place after beating Hockey Jharkhand.
- Hockey Haryana, Hockey Madhya Pradesh, Hockey Association of Odisha and Hockey Jharkhand have qualified for the Khelo India Youth Games to be held in Madhya Pradesh in 2023.

❖ Pritzker-winning architect Arata Isozaki passes away

- Arata Isozaki, a Pritzker-winning Japanese architect known as a post-modern giant who blended culture and history of the East and the West in his designs, has died.
- He was 91.
- Isozaki won the Pritzker Architecture Prize, internationally the highest honor in the field, in 2019.
- Among Isozaki's best-known works are the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles and the Palau Sant Jordi stadium in Barcelona built for the 1992 Summer Games. He also designed iconic building such as the Team Disney Building and the headquarters of the Walt Disney Company in Florida.

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