

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

13th Jan 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **"Jadunama"**

➤ Author: Arvind Mandloi

➤ Jadunama is a book written on veteran writer-lyricist Javed Akhtar.

❖ **A.C. Charania named NASA's new chief technologist**

➤ NASA has named Indian-American aerospace industry expert A.C. Charania as its new chief technologist to serve as principal advisor on technology policy and programs at the agency's headquarters in Washington.

➤ He replaces another Indian-American scientist Bhavya Lal, who served as acting chief technologist prior to the former's appointment.

➤ The position works within NASA's Office for Technology, Policy, and Strategy.

➤ Prior to joining NASA, he served as vice president of product strategy at Reliable Robotics, a firm that works to bring certified autonomous vehicles to commercial aviation.

➤ Charania has also worked in strategy and business development for the Virgin Galactic (now Virgin Orbit) LauncherOne small satellite launch vehicle programme.

❖ **Meta appoints Vikas Purohit as head of global business in India**

➤ Technology major Meta named Vikas Purohit as its director of its global business group in India to lead the strategy of working with advertisers and agency partners.

➤ Purohit will report to Arun Srinivas, director and head of ads business for Meta in India.

➤ Purohit comes with more than 20 years of experience in senior business, sales and marketing roles at companies such as Tata Cliq, Amazon, Reliance Brands Limited, Aditya Birla Group and Tommy Hilfiger.

➤ Purohit stepped down as the CEO of Tata Cliq last year in October.

❖ **Justice N. Kotiswar Singh appointed acting Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court**

➤ The Central government has notified the appointment of Justice N Kotiswar Singh as the acting Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, effective from January 12.

➤ Justice Singh's appointment will come into effect following the retirement of Chief Justice RM Chhaya.

➤ In May 2022, Justice Kotiswar Singh was appointed as the Acting Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court following the elevation of the then Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia to Supreme Court.

➤ High court judges retire at the age of 62 years, while Supreme Court judges retire at the age of 65.

❖ **Kerala's 'Year of Enterprises' Project Acknowledged as Best Practice Model**

➤ The 'Year of Enterprises' Project was recognized as the best practices model at the National Conference on Micro Small and Medium Enterprises.

➤ The National Conference on Micro Small and Medium Enterprises was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi where he discussed enhancing cooperative federalism and smooth relations between the center and states.

➤ The 'Year of Enterprises' aimed to create 1,00,000 enterprises and has successfully created 1,18,509 enterprises and got investment worth ₹7,261.54 crores.

❖ **World Spice Congress' 14th Edition to Be Held In Mumbai**

➤ The 14th edition of the World Spice Congress (WSC), is to be held in Mumbai from 16-18 February 2023.

➤ It was planned and conceived in 1990 as a forum for discussion and interaction between the importers and exporters of spices.

➤ India is known as the 'Spice Bowl' of the world.

- The theme of the World Spice Congress is VISION 2030: S-P-I-C-E-S (Sustainability, Productivity, Innovation, Collaboration, Excellence and Safety).
- Maharashtra has been chosen as a venue because It is one of the leading states producing spices. It is the largest producer of turmeric in India. Maharashtra produces two GI-tagged turmeric varieties and one GI-tagged chilli variety. Coastal areas of Maharashtra are also known for the production of GI-tagged Kokum.
- Andhra Pradesh's Guntur is referred to as world's biggest chilli market, J&K is home to the world's most expensive spice (saffron), Delhi's Khari Baoli is Asia's largest spice market and the Northeast's Naga *chilli is one of the world's hottest chillies. Maharashtra is a one of the leading states producing spices.
- As of February 2022, a total of 26 Indian spices have received GI tag. These include Coorg Green Cardamom, Mizo Ginger, Kanniyakumari Cloves, Malabar Pepper, Harmal Chilli, among several others.
- Spices Board was constituted on 26th February 1987 under the Spices Board Act 1986 with the merger of the erstwhile Cardamom Board (1968) and Spices Export Promotion Council (1960).
- It is functioning under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. It is responsible for the export promotion of the 52 scheduled spices and the development of Cardamom (Small & Large).
- ❖ **Free food grain scheme named 'PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana'**
- The Centre has named its new free foodgrain scheme under the National Food Security Act, 2013, as 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).
- The name of the new scheme is similar to that of the free foodgrain scheme implemented as part of the Centre's Covid-19 package announced in 2020.
- Till December 2022, the NFSA beneficiaries were getting their foodgrains entitlement at a highly subsidised rate of Re 1, Rs 2 and Rs 3 per kg for coarse cereals, wheat and rice, respectively. Now, they will get it for free this year.

➤ The central government will spend more than Rs 2 lakh crore in 2023 as food subsidy under the NFSA and other welfare schemes to remove the financial burden of the poor.

❖ **Village Defence Guards Scheme (VDGs)**

➤ Recently, Government started the process of arming members of VDGs with assault rifles in Jammu region and CRPF to provide arms training to VDGs in the wake of recent terror attacks in the region.

➤ The aim of VDGs is to organize a small group of volunteer armed civilians in the identified villages along the borders as well as in-depth areas of the Jammu division, with a view to instill a sense of self-protection and ensure safety and security of such villages.

➤ VDGs shall be charged with the responsibility of protecting community installations and infrastructural facilities within the defined areas of their village.

➤ The Village Defence Committees (VDCs) were set up in the 1990s to arm villagers for self-defense purposes in the J&K region.

➤ Based on assessment by law enforcement agencies, a group of armed civilians belonging to the 'more vulnerable areas' not more than 15 in number in each group, who shall be designated as VDGs shall be formed.

➤ Each group will be called the 'Village Defence Group' and shall be headed by a retired officer of the Army/Central Para Military Force (CPMF)/J&K Police.

➤ All VDGs are eligible for a monthly remuneration. The VDGs also function under the supervision of district superintendent of police(SP)/Senior superintendent of police(SSP).

❖ **Gabon names first female vice president and new prime minister**

➤ Gabon's President Ali Bongo appointed the country's first female Prime Minister Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda to the role of vice-president and named a new PM to replace her.

➤ She is the country's first-ever female vice president.

➤ Ossouka Raponda, 59, was appointed in July 2020 after her predecessor stepped down. She was defence minister before that.

- Ossouka Raponda was named budget minister in 2012 before being elected mayor of the capital Libreville in 2014, becoming the first woman to hold that position since 1956.
- She is an economist by training who graduated from the Gabonese Institute of Economy and Finance, specialising in public finance.

❖ **Uganda declares end of Ebola disease outbreak - WHO Africa**

- Uganda declared the end of the Ebola disease outbreak caused by Sudan ebolavirus, less than four months after the first case was confirmed in the country's central Mubende district on 20 September 2022.
- Uganda's outbreak was caused by the Sudan Ebola virus, one of six species of the Ebola virus and for which there is currently no confirmed vaccine.
- Three candidate vaccines, one developed by Oxford University and the Jenner Institute in Britain, another from the Sabin Vaccine Institute in the United States, and a third from the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) -- are being trialled in Uganda.
- Ebola is named after a river in Democratic Republic of Congo, previously called Zaire, where it was discovered in 1976.
- Human transmission is through body fluids, with the main symptoms being fever, vomiting, bleeding and diarrhoea.
- The deadliest epidemic unfolded in West Africa between 2013 and 2016, killing more than 11,300 people.

❖ **Kuno Palpur National Park**

- Kuno National Park lies in Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh in Central India near the Vindhyan Hills.
- With an area of 748 sq. km, the park is located within the larger Kuno Wildlife Division.
- Initially established as a wildlife sanctuary, it was only in 2018 that the government changed its status into a national park.

- Named after the Kuno River (One of the main tributaries of the Chambal River) that cuts across it, Kuno is primarily a grassland region.
- 8 cheetahs arrived from Namibia and were released into Kuno National Park on 17th September 2022 by the Prime Minister of India.
- Kuno National Park was selected under ‘Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India’.
- Project Cheetah: World's first inter - continental large wild carnivore translocation project.
- Project Cheetah was approved by the Supreme Court of India in January 2020 as a pilot programme to reintroduce the species to India.
- Close to 50 cheetahs will be introduced into the wild over the next five years.

❖ **Viscose Fibre**

- Recently, The Association of Man-made Fibre Industry of India (AMFII) has appealed to the Union Finance Ministry to accept the recommendations of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) on the levy of anti-dumping duty (ADD) on imports of Viscose Staple Fibre from Indonesia.
- Viscose is a type of rayon. Originally known as artificial silk, in the late 19th century, the term “rayon” came into effect in 1924.
- The name “viscose” is derived from the way this fibre is manufactured; a viscous organic liquid used to make both rayon and cellophane.
- Viscose is made from tree wood pulp, like beech, pine, and eucalyptus, but can also be made from bamboo
- As a manufactured regenerated cellulose fibre, it is neither truly natural (like cotton, wool or silk) nor truly synthetic (like nylon or polyester) – it falls somewhere in between.
- Chemically, viscose resembles cotton, but it can also take on many different qualities depending on how it is manufactured.
- It is versatile, Highly absorbent and Inexpensive fibre.

❖ ICC Players of the Month: December 2022

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the winners of the ICC Player of the Month awards for December 2022.
- England's rising talent Harry Brook made an immediate impression in Test cricket and has been named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for December 2022.
- Australia's Ashleigh Gardner secures the ICC Women's Player of the Month award.
- Brook's explosive batting style was a driving force behind him breaking the record for most runs by an English batter in a Test series in Pakistan.

❖ Hockey India: 1st national sports body to enter the world of Metaverse

- Hockey India becomes the first National Sports Federation to enter the world of metaverse.
- 'Hockeyverse' will provide a new virtual experience where global hockey fans can visit and experience their favourite sport from the comfort of their home, on their personal computer.
- The 'Hockeyverse' has some unique features and attractions like the replica of Rourkela stadium and 'The Time Machine' which is designed based on time travel elements.

IACE'S UNIQUE INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

IACE'S
W - CAT
(Weekly Current Affairs Test)
CHAMPIONSHIP
(EVERY MONDAY)
9:00AM TO 9:30AM

1 ST Prize	3000	3 RD Prize	1000
2 ND Prize	2000	4 TH & 5 TH Prize	500

6TH TO 10TH: APPRECIATION PRIZES