

**IACE**

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Mar 2023**

**DESCRIPTIVE**

## ❖ 'Millet Man' PV Satheesh dies in 'Year of Millets'

- 'Millet man of Telangana' PV Satheesh, founder and executive director of the Deccan Development Society (DDS), passed away while undergoing treatment at a corporate hospital in Hyderabad after prolonged illness. He was 77.
- Born on June 18, 1945 in Mysore, Periyapatna Venkatasubbaiah Satheesh was a graduate from the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, and started out as a journalist.
- As one of the icons of civil society activism in India, Mr. Satheesh, through the Zaheerabad-based organisation in rural Telangana, championed issues of Agri-biodiversity, food sovereignty, women's empowerment, social justice, local knowledge systems, participatory development, and community media.

## ❖ Pankaj Advani retains Asian Billiards title

- Star Indian cueist Pankaj Advani retained his Asian Billiards title after defeating compatriot Brijesh Damani 5-1 in the final.
- Advani, who had lost to Damani in the group stages, was in great form and won the first two games easily. He scored breaks in each frame, including a century break in the fourth game.
- This is the Ninth Asian Billiards title in all for Advani, the Indian cue sports ace who has been bestowed the Arjuna Award in 2004, Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna in 2006, Padma Shri in 2009 and Padma Bhushan in 2018. Advani had won the same title last year at Doha.

### ❖ Sergio Perez Wins F1 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix

- Red Bull's Sergio Perez took victory in Sunday's Formula 1 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix, as teammate Max Verstappen salvaged second place after starting 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Verstappen snatched the fastest lap around Jeddah's floodlit Corniche circuit right at the end to retain the Formula One championship lead by a single point.
- Mercedes, George Russell was third after Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso was given a 10-second time penalty.

### ❖ CM Ashok Gehlot announces formation of 19 new districts, 3 new divisions in Rajasthan

- In a significant announcement in the election year, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has announced the formation of 19 new districts and three new divisions in the state, earmarking Rs 2,000 crore for infrastructure development for them.
- This is the first time since 2008 that new districts have been carved out in Rajasthan, taking the number of districts in the state to 50. Rajasthan currently has 33 districts.
- The three new divisions will be in Banswara, Pali and Sikar.
- The new districts are -- Anoopgarh which was a part of Ganganagar, Balotra (Barmer), Beawar (Ajmer), Kekri (Ajmer), Deeg (Bharatpur), Deedwana-Kuchaman (Nagaur), Dudu (Jaipur), Gangapur City (Sawai Madhopur), Jaipur North, Jaipur South, Jodhpur East, Jodhpur West, Kotputli-Behror (Jaipur-Alwar), Khairthal (Alwar), Neem ka Thana (Sikar), Phalodi (Jodhpur), Salumber (Udaipur), Sanchore (Jalore) and Shahpura (Bhilwara).

### ❖ Sangita Kalanidhi Award for Bombay Jayashri

- Eminent Carnatic vocalist Dr Bombay Jayashri, one of the foremost exponents of the art in today's Carnatic music world, will be conferred the prestigious 'Sangita Kalanidhi' award for the year 2023, Madras Music Academy announced.
- Bombay Jayashri is known for her melodic and meditative style of singing and has been awarded the Padma Shri in 2021.

➤ She has also been training underprivileged children in music and contributing through her art to social causes.

➤ **NOTE: Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi dancer Vasanthalakshmi Narasimhachari is selected for this year's Nritya Kalanidhi award**

❖ **UAE's EMAAR makes first-ever FDI in a Srinagar Mall**

➤ Dubai-based Emaar, a real estate developer from the UAE, became the first overseas company to invest in a mega-mall spread over 10 lakh square feet in Srinagar, a first since the Centre ended Jammu and Kashmir's special constitutional position in 2019.

➤ The mega-mall is the first significant Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Jammu and Kashmir, according to an official statement. The Emaar group plans to invest ₹250 crore to set up the mega-mall.

➤ It is a joint venture of Emaar and Delhi-based real estate firm Magna Waves Build Tech, the mall is likely to become operational by 2026.

➤ Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir: *Sh. Manoj Sinha.*

➤ *Capitals of Jammu & Kashmir: Srinagar (summer); Jammu (winter)*

❖ **Luxor Selects Virat Kohli as Brand Ambassador**

➤ Luxor Writing Instruments Private Limited, a company that makes stationery, has signed cricketer Virat Kohli as its new brand ambassador.

➤ Kohli, the company said in a statement, is recognised as one of the all-time cricket greats and known for his record-breaking performances. He will be the face of its products across its stationery range.

➤ Pooja Jain Gupta, managing director of Luxor, said the company has also partnered with Schneider Pens for its upcoming portfolio of products.

❖ **FSIB recommends Ashwani Kumar as MD of UCO Bank**

➤ The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB), the headhunter for directors of state-owned banks and financial institutions, recommended the name of Indian Bank executive director Ashwani Kumar for the post of managing director of UCO Bank.

- Prior to joining Indian Bank, Kumar was serving as chief general manager of Mumbai Zone of Punjab National Bank (PNB).
- The final decision on the FSIB recommendation would be taken by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- FSIB is headed by former secretary, Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Bhanu Pratap Sharma.

### ❖ **World Oral Health Day 2023 observed on 20th March**

- World Oral Health Day is observed globally every year on March 20, with the primary objective of increasing awareness about the significance of oral health.
- The day is celebrated to promote good oral hygiene habits, encourage people to take care of their teeth, and educate them on how to prevent dental problems.
- The World Dental Federation (FDI) launches a campaign for World Oral Health Day every year with a specific theme.
- The theme for 2023 is **‘Be Proud of Your Mouth,’** which is the same theme used for the past three years. The campaign was launched by the FDI in 2021.

### ❖ **International Day of Happiness 2023 : 20th March**

- International Day of Happiness’s purpose is to emphasize the importance of happiness and the overall well-being of individuals.
- The United Nations initiated this event in 2013.
- The theme for the 2023 International Day of Happiness: **“Be Mindful. Be Grateful. Be Kind.”**

### ❖ **Bharat Gaurav Tourist train embarks on ‘Punya Kshetra Yatra’**

- The national transporter has introduced Bharat Gaurav trains to showcase the country’s rich cultural heritage by connecting important historical, cultural, and religious places through the railway service.
- This is the first tourist train originating from the two Telugu states – Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

➤ This tourist circuit train will take rail passengers to some of India's most ancient and significant places in eastern and northern parts of the country like Puri, Kasi and Ayodhya.

➤ It commenced its journey from Secunderabad railway station under the banner of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" programme.

### ❖ Singareni to become 'net zero' by 2024

➤ Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) would become "Net Zero" energy company in 2024 as it would be able to produce 700 million of power through solar power.

➤ The company has taken to solar power generation on a large scale to reduce and stop energy purchases from the power utilities to meet its residential demands.

➤ By doing this it will become the first public sector coal company in the country to meet all its energy needs with renewable power.

➤ Chairman and Managing Director of Singareni : N. Sridhar

### ❖ TS among top states in digitization of land records

➤ Telangana has been ranked among the top States in the country in terms of computerisation of land records (record of rights).

➤ The state has also achieved 100% computerisation of property registration as also integration of land records with property registration.

➤ It has covered all 33 districts in the integration of land records with banks under the ILIMS (Integrated Land Records Information Management System).

➤ Telangana is among the States where the integration of land records with cadastral maps has not started yet.