

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

24th Mar 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **World Tuberculosis Day 2023**

- World Tuberculosis Day, observed on **24 March** each year, is designed to build public awareness about the global epidemic of tuberculosis (TB) and efforts to eliminate the disease.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) aims to end the TB epidemic by 2030. The organization works with governments, non-governmental organizations, and other partners to increase access to TB prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, and to develop new tools and strategies for TB control.
- The theme for this year's World Tuberculosis Day is **"Yes! We can end TB!"**.
- World Tuberculosis Day has been observed annually on March 24th since 1982, commemorating the date when Dr. Robert Koch announced his discovery of the tuberculosis (TB) bacterium in 1882. In 1982, the International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD) and the World Health Organization (WHO) established World TB Day to raise public awareness about the global epidemic of TB and the efforts needed to control and eliminate the disease.

❖ **IPL India's first unicorn with a \$1.1 billion valuation**

- D&P Advisory has analyzed the Indian Premier League (IPL) and reported that the cricket tournament was India's first unicorn, with a valuation of \$1.1 billion in 2008, the year it was launched. The advisory had previously announced that IPL had become a decacorn (valued at \$10.9 billion) recently. D&P Advisory is now preparing to publish a new analysis called "IPL: The Pioneer of Indian Unicorns."

➤ IPL became a unicorn even before companies such as Inmobi and Flipkart attained that status. In addition, IPL is also the most profitable unicorn compared to other start-ups.

➤ According to D&P advisory, the IPL ecosystem was valued at \$10.9 billion in 2022, within 15 years of inception.

❖ **IIT Delhi enters list of top 50 institutions for engineering in QS Rankings 2023**

➤ The Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi has been ranked among the top 50 engineering institutions in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023. Additionally, this year, a total of 44 programmes offered by Indian higher education institutions in various disciplines have been ranked in the top 100 globally. This represents an increase from last year's report, which saw 35 Indian programmes listed in the top 100.

➤ Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) has released a statement indicating that Delhi University has the highest number of entries (27) among Indian universities, followed by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay (25), and IIT Kharagpur (23).

➤ In the thirteenth edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject, 66 universities from India have been ranked. Collectively, these universities have achieved 355 entries, which represents an 18.7% increase from the previous year's 299 entries.

➤ IIT Bombay has featured among the world's top 100 in mathematics by clinching the 92nd spot, up by 25 places. IIT Kanpur ranks among the world's top 100 in engineering-electrical electronics (87th, up by 21 places) and in computer science information systems (96th, up by 13 places). IIT Kharagpur occupies the 94th spot, up by 15 places, for computer science and information systems. IIT Madras has moved up by 50 places to come at 98th spot for mathematics.

❖ **Canara Bank sells stake in Russian joint venture to SBI for Rs 121 crore**

➤ Canara Bank on Thursday said it has sold its stake in Russian joint venture Commercial Indo Bank LLC (CIBL) to the other venture partner State Bank of India (SBI) for about Rs. 121.29 crore. CIBL, incorporated in 2003, is a joint venture in Russia between SBI (60 per cent) and Canara Bank (40 per cent).

➤ Canara Bank, in a regulatory filing, said it has received the entire consideration amount equivalent to Rs. 121.29 crore on Thursday for the sale of its stake. The Bengaluru-based state-owned bank entered into the agreement for sale on November 11, 2022.

➤ Canara Bank Headquarters: **Bengaluru.**

➤ Canara Bank Founder: **Ammembal Subba Rao Pai.**

➤ Canara Bank Was Founded On: 1 July 1906.

❖ **Ashneer Grover launches fantasy sports app 'CrickPe'**

➤ Ashneer Grover, co-founder of BharatPe, has launched a new cricket-focused fantasy sports app named CrickPe ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) tournament. This app will compete against rivals such as Dream11, Mobile Premier League (MPL), and Games24x7's My11Circle.

➤ CrickPe is a newly launched cricket-focused fantasy sports app that enables users above 18 years of age to create virtual cricket teams and participate in paid contests to win cash prizes based on the real-life performance of players.

➤ Ashneer Grover is an Indian entrepreneur and co-founder of several successful startups. He was born in 1982 in Delhi, India, and completed his MBA from the Indian School of Business in Hyderabad.

❖ **India's men and women's teams win Asian Kho Kho Championships 2023**

➤ India won both the titles in men's and women's categories of 4th Asian Kho Kho Championships as they defeated Nepal in both the finals during the tournament in Assam's Tamulpur.

➤ India were head and shoulders above their rivals in both the finals as men's team defeated Nepal by six points and an innings. While Indian women got the better of the same opponents, winning by 33 points and an innings.

➤ In men's and women's categories, the third place was shared by Sri Lanka and Bangladesh respectively.

➤ Ranjana Sarania represented the Indian women's team, whereas Indian men's team was represented by Akshay Bhangre.

❖ **India, UK hold joint maritime exercise 'Konkan' in Arabian Sea**

➤ Konkan 2023, a joint maritime exercise, was conducted between the Royal Navy of Britain and the Indian Navy from the 20th of March to the 22nd, off the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea.

➤ The exercise will go a long way in bolstering the combined efforts of the Indian Navy and Royal Navy to strengthen maritime security and uphold a rules-based order in the region.

➤ INS Trishul, a guided missile frigate, and HMS Lancaster, a Type 23 guided missile frigate, participated in this edition and undertook multiple maritime drills to enhance interoperability and imbibe best practices.

➤ India and UK agreed to significant new cooperation on Maritime Domain Awareness, which includes new agreements on maritime information sharing, an invitation to the UK to join India's Information Fusion Centre in Gurugram.

❖ **26 % of world's population does not have safe drinking water: UNESCO report**

➤ 26 per cent of the world's population does not have safe drinking water and 46 per cent lack access to safely managed sanitation, according to a report published by UNESCO at the UN 2023 Water Conference in New York.

➤ As per the report, between two and three billion people experience water shortages for at least one month per year, posing severe risks to livelihoods, notably

through food security and access to electricity. The global urban population facing water scarcity is projected to double from 930 million in 2016 to 1.7 to 2.4 billion people in 2050.

➤ UNESCO Director-General: Audrey Azoulay.

➤ UNESCO HQ: Paris, France.

❖ **Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches DigiClaim**

➤ Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched a DigiClaim, under the ambit of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana for claim disbursement through National Crop Insurance Portal.

➤ With the DigiClaim Module, insurance claims of over 1,260 crore rupees have been disbursed to insured farmers of six states on March 23, 2023.

➤ The states are Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, and Haryana.

❖ **Veteran journalist and Padma Shri awardee Abhay Chhajlani passes away**

➤ Veteran journalist, former editor-in-chief of popular Hindi daily Naidunia and Padma Shri awardee Abhay Chhajlani passed away. He was 88 years old and ill for a long time.

➤ He entered the field of journalism in 1955 and graduated from the Thomson Foundation, Cardiff (UK).

➤ He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2009 for his outstanding contribution to journalism.

➤ He also served as the president of the Indian Language Newspaper Association (ILNA) and Indian Newspaper Society (INS).

❖ Defence Ministry signs contracts with BEL to enhance operational capabilities of Indian Air Force

- Defence Ministry signed two separate contracts with Bharat Electronics Limited at a total cost of over 3,700 crore rupees to enhance the operational capabilities of the Indian Air Force.
- The first contract, worth over 2,800 crore rupees, pertains to the supply of Medium Power Radars 'Arudhra' for the Indian Air Force. The second contract, at an overall cost of around 950 crores, relates to 129 DR-118 Radar Warning Receivers.
- These essentially embody the spirit of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and will help facilitate the realisation of the country's journey to achieve self-reliance in defence manufacturing.
- Both projects are under Buy Indian – IDMM (Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured)' category.
- Defence minister of India: Rajnath Singh.

❖ Vedic Heritage Portal – inaugurated by Amit Shah

- The Vedic Heritage Portal is a digital platform that provides researchers with a deeper understanding of the Vedic knowledge tradition and helps the general public gain a general understanding of ancient scriptures.
- This portal is hosted by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).
- The portal gives detailed information about oral traditions, textual tradition in the form of published books or manuscripts.
- The IGNCA comes under the 'Ministry of Culture'.
- The current working project of IGNCA is 'Vrihattar Bharat', which aims to document the cultural linkages of India with 40 other countries, including Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, and Mongolia.

➤ The Home Minister also launched a virtual museum 'Kala Vaibhav' based on 64 arts, through which the world will be more familiar with India's architecture, painting, drama, music and the world will know the rich history of India's glorious culture.

❖ **Asia's largest 4-metre International Liquid Mirror Telescope (LMT)**

➤ Ministry of science and technology inaugurated Asia's largest 4-metre International Liquid Mirror Telescope at Devasthal in Uttarakhand.

➤ LMTs (Liquid Mirror Telescope) are stationary telescopes that image a strip of sky. It can capture all possible celestial objects like stars, galaxies, supernovae explosions, and asteroids to space debris.

➤ It is the first liquid mirror telescope designed exclusively for astronomical observations.

➤ It has the largest aperture telescope available in India.

➤ It is also the first optical survey telescope in India.

➤ Union Science & Technology and Space Minister: **Jitendra Singh**.

❖ **PM Modi addressed the One World TB Summit held in Varanasi**

➤ PM Modi addressed the One World TB Summit 2023 at Rudrakash Convention Centre, Varanasi on the Occasion of World Tuberculosis Day (March 24).

➤ It is organised by Health and Family Welfare Ministry and Stop TB Partnership.

➤ In March 2018, the PM called on India to achieve TB-related SDG targets by 2025. The PM also awarded select States/UTs and districts for their progress toward ending TB.

➤ In State level: Karnataka and J&K

➤ In District level: Nilgiris, Pulwama, and Anantnag.