

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

25th Mar 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ PM inaugurated free-of-cost SMSIMSR medical college and hospital in Karnataka

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Sri Madhusudan Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (SMSIMSR) & 'Sri Sathya Sai Rajeswari Memorial Block', a totally-free-of-cost medical college and hospital, at Sathya Sai Grama, Muddenahalli in Chikkaballapura district, Karnataka
- The SMSIMSR hospital has been established by humanitarian and spiritual leader Sadguru Sri Madhusudan Sai, at Muddenahalli, the birthplace of Bharath Ratna Sri M Visvesvaraya.
- It is the India's first totally free medical college with a set-up cost of INR 400 crores.
- Capital of Karnataka: Bengaluru
- Chief Minister of Karnataka: Basavaraj Somappa Bommai
- Governor of Karnataka: Thawar Chand Gehlot

❖ Indian Railways on The Fast Track To Complete Its 100 % Electrification Target By 2024.

- In order to achieve Net Zero Carbon Emission by 2030, Indian Railway is in full swing to get completely electrified.
- In this regard, the Indian railways have successfully completed the electrification of all broad gauge tracks in Chattisgarh like Bilaspur Division, Raipur Division, Sambalpur Division, Nagpur Division and Waltair Division.
- The electrification of 1,170 route km BG lines in the state will enhance the sectional capacity of the trains and reduce the dependency on imported crude oil and save foreign exchange.

➤ It also reduces the cost of operating and maintenance in electric locomotives.

➤ Union Minister for Railways: Ashwini Vaishnaw

❖ **NALCO-BARC Releases India's 1st Bauxite CRM**

➤ National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), the Navratna CPSE, under Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India and country's leading manufacturer and exporter of alumina and aluminium, has successfully developed a Bauxite Certified Reference Material (CRM) naming as BARC B1201 in joint collaboration with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).

➤ This is the first of its kind CRM in India and 5th in the World.

➤ The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) is India's premier nuclear research facility, headquartered in **Trombay**, Mumbai, Maharashtra.

➤ National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) is a Schedule 'A' Navratna CPSE (Central Public Sector Enterprises) established on 7th January, 1981 having its registered office at **Bhubaneswar**. It is one of the largest integrated Bauxite-Alumina-Aluminium- Power Complex in the country.

❖ **Centre to reduce 'disturbed areas' tag under AFSPA from many northeast districts**

➤ The Centre has decided to decrease the jurisdiction of "disturbed areas" declared under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in Nagaland, Assam and Manipur from April.

➤ This decision has been taken on account of significant improvement in the security situation in North-East India.

➤ Compared to the year 2014, there is a reduction of 76% in the extremist incidents in the year 2022. Similarly, the deaths of security personnel and civilians have come down by 90% and 97% respectively during this period.

➤ AFSPA act allows the Army and other central para-military forces to conduct raids and operations, and arrest anyone who is acting in contravention of law without prior notice or arrest warrant.

➤ AFSPA is invoked when a case of militancy or insurgency takes place and the territorial integrity of India is at risk.

❖ **Government Extends Rs. 200 Subsidy Under PMUY By 1 Year**

➤ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved a subsidy of Rs. 200 per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to 12 refills per year to be provided to the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

➤ The subsidy is credited directly to the bank accounts of the eligible beneficiaries.

➤ To make liquified petroleum gas (LPG), a clean cooking fuel, available to rural and deprived poor households, the government launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana in May 2016, to provide deposit free LPG connections to adult women of poor households.

➤ Aim: To ensure sustained LPG adoption and usage among PMUY consumers so that they can completely switch to cleaner cooking fuel.

➤ The average LPG consumption of PMUY consumers has increased by 20 per cent from 3.01 refills in 2019-20 to 3.68 in 2021-22.

❖ **Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam to be held from April 17th to 26th**

➤ The Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya announced that the Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam will be held from 17 to 26 April in Gujarat under the Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat initiative.

➤ The Sangamam would celebrate the cultural links between Gujarat and Tamil Nadu that have been formed due to the large Saurashtra Tamil community.

➤ The 10-day event would be held in four different places, i.e., Somnath, Dwarka, Rajkot and the Statue of Unity at Kevadia.

❖ 10 Crore Compensation on Kerala For Failing To Protect Ramsar Sites

- The principal bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has imposed a compensation of 10 crore on Kerala for its failure to protect Ashtamudi Wetland and Vembanad-Kol Wetland, which are Ramsar sites in Kollam district of Kerala.
- These lakes were hit by illegal waste dumping.
- The penalty was imposed on the basis of the 'polluter pays principle' which had to be deposited in a ring-fenced account to be operated under the authority of the Chief Secretary.
- The penalty will be utilised for conservation/restoration measures by preparing an action plan to be preferably executed within six months.
- National Green Tribunal (India) had been set up under National Green Tribunal Act as a statutory body in year 2010 to deal with cases related to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources and speedy implementation of decisions relating to it.

❖ Uttarakhand's first sports university to open in Haldwani

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami announced the government will set up a sports university in the Kumaun region's Haldwani town.
- Dhami, who made the announcement on the occasion of completion of one year of the formation of his government, said there had been longstanding demands from several sports associations for such a university. Along with this, a decision has also been taken regarding framing of Act, Rules etc. of the Sports University. The services of the Vice Chancellor of Swarnim Gujarat Sports University will be taken as the subject matter expert.
- Chief Secretary Dr. SS Sandhu, Additional Chief Secretary Radha Raturi, Special Principal Secretary Abhinav Kumar, Secretaries R. Meenakshi Sundaram, Shailesh

Bagoli, Dilip Jawalkar, Director General UCOST Prof. Durgesh Pant, Sports Director Jitendra Sonkar etc. were present in the meeting.

➤ Uttarakhand Governor: **Gurmit Singh**

➤ Uttarakhand Capitals: **Dehradun (Winter), Gairsain (Summer)**

❖ **Govt. hikes raw jute MSP by Rs 300 to Rs 5,050 per quintal**

➤ The government increased the minimum support price (MSP) of raw jute by Rs 300 to Rs 5,050 per quintal for 2023-24 season. The decision was taken at the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

➤ The decision was based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). The MSP of Raw Jute (TD-3 equivalent to earlier TD-5 grade) has been fixed at Rs 5,050 per quintal for the upcoming season.

➤ This decision will ensure a return of 63.2% over the all India weighted average cost of production. To undertake price support operations, the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) will continue as the central government nodal agency. If any losses are incurred during such operations, they will be fully reimbursed by the central government.

❖ **Gordon Moore, Intel co-founder and creator of Moore's Law, dies aged 94**

➤ Silicon Valley pioneer and philanthropist Gordon Moore has died aged 94 in Hawaii. Mr Moore started working on semiconductors in the 1950s and co-founded the Intel Corporation.

➤ He famously predicted that computer processing powers would double every year - later revised to every two - an insight known as Moore's Law. That "law" became the bedrock for the computer processor industry and influenced the PC revolution.

➤ Two decades before the computer revolution began, Moore wrote in a paper that integrated circuits would lead "to such wonders as home computers - or at least

terminals connected to a central computer - automatic controls for automobiles, and personal portable communications equipment". He observed, in the 1965 article, that thanks to technological improvements the number of transistors on microchips had roughly doubled every year since integrated circuits were invented a few years earlier.

❖ **IBA Women's World Boxing Championship: Nitu Ghanghas and Saweety Boora Win Gold**

- Nitu Ghanghas clinched gold in the 48kg category as Saweety Boora also won gold in the 81kg final at the IBA Women's World Boxing Championship.
- Ace India boxer Nitu Ghanghas won the gold medal in the 48kg weight category in the ongoing Women's World Boxing Championships in the national capital. The 22-year-old pugilist defeated Mongolia's Lutsaikhan Altansetseg in the final for the gold. Nitu registered a dominating 5-0 win over the Mongolian opponent.
- Saweety Boora was also crowned world champion after she beat Wang Lina of China in the 75-81 kg light heavyweight category. This is India's first ever gold in the worlds in the light heavyweight category.
- International Boxing Association (IBA) Headquarters: **Lausanne, Switzerland**

❖ **RBI imposes Rs 30 lakh penalty on Karur Vysya Bank**

- Reserve Bank of India imposed a penalty of Rs. 30 lakh on Karur Vysya Bank for violating RBI rules. During a select scope inspection conducted by the central bank, it was discovered that the bank did not provide information about fraud accounts to the RBI, which is mandatory for all banks as per the 2016 instructions of the RBI.
- The inspection was carried out from February 21, 2022, to March 4, 2023, and a notice was issued to the bank asking for an explanation as to why action should not be taken against it. After the bank replied to the show cause notice, the RBI imposed the fine.

➤ The bank had violated the rules, and hence the penalty was imposed. It is noteworthy that Karur Vysya Bank had earned a profit of Rs. 289 crore in the December quarter, which is 30 percent more than the profit earned in the December quarter of the previous year.

➤ Karur Vysya Bank Founded: 1916

➤ Karur Vysya Bank HQ: Karur, Tamilnadu

➤ Karur Vysya Bank Chairperson: **Dr Meena Hemchandra**; MD & CEO: **Mr. Ramesh Babu**

❖ **Dilma Rousseff Elected President of BRICS New Development Bank**

➤ The former president of the Republic Dilma Rousseff was elected president of the New Development Bank (NDB), also known as Banco do Brics.

➤ She replaces Marcos Troyjo, former special secretary of the former Ministry of Economy, who held the post since July 2020.

➤ Dilma will preside over the NDB until July 2025, when Brazil's term in charge of the financial institution, which is headquartered in Shanghai, China, ends. An official inauguration ceremony for Dilma is scheduled for the end of next week, during President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's trip to China.

➤ Although the bank announced the replacement of Troyjo by Dilma, the election on the bank's Board of Directors only took place. Each BRICS country – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – chairs the bank for five-year rotating terms.

➤ The Bank is headquartered in **Shanghai, China** with regional offices in South Africa and Brazil.

❖ **International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery: 25th March**

➤ International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed every year on March 25 to raise awareness of the history of the transatlantic slave trade, its impact on the modern world, and its legacies, including racism and prejudice.

➤ 2023 Theme: Fighting Slavery's Legacy of Racism Through Transformative Education.

➤ It was established in 2007 with the adoption of General Assembly resolution 62/122.

❖ **Cabinet approves 4% hike in dearness allowance for central Govt. employees**

➤ The Union Cabinet gave its nod to raising the dearness allowance and dearness relief for its over one crore employees by 4 per cent, taking the total to 42 per cent from 38 per cent.

➤ The combine impact on the exchequer on account of both Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief would be Rs.12,815.60 crore per annum.

➤ This will benefit about 47.58 lakh Central Government employees and 69.76 lakh pensioners.

➤ This increase is in accordance with the accepted formula which is based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission.