

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

03rd to 06th Mar 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ World Wildlife Day 2023

- March 3 is known as World Wildlife Day (WWD), marked annually to draw attention to issues of conservation of flora and fauna.
- The purpose of World Wildlife Day is to bring awareness to the various challenges facing fauna and flora worldwide.
- World Wildlife Day 2023's theme is "Partnerships for wildlife conservation".
- In its 68th session on December 20, 2013, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed March 3, the day of the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), as World Wildlife Day.

❖ World Obesity Day

- World Obesity Day is observed on March 4 every year to promote practical solutions and help people achieve and maintain a healthy weight while undertaking proper treatment.
- Obesity is a global problem that affects everyone. Around the world, approximately 800 million people are living with the disease while millions are at risk to get affected.
- The theme of this day is 'Changing Perspectives: Let's Talk About Obesity'.
- World Obesity Day was established in 2015 as an annual campaign with the goal of stimulating and supporting practical actions that will help people achieve and maintain a healthy weight and reverse the global obesity crisis.

❖ National Safety Day

- National Safety Day is celebrated on 4 March every year in India.

- The main aim of the day is to highlight safety measures and make sure that people are aware of them and follow them to avoid accidents at work.
- 4 March also marks the beginning of the National Safety Week in India.
- The National Safety Week is observed from 4 to 10 March annually. National Safety Day commemorates the establishment of the National Safety Council in 1966.
- The theme for National Safety Day 2023 is “Our Aim – Zero Harm”. The theme signifies the importance of protection of society as a whole.

❖ **IPS officer Rashmi Shukla appointed Director-General of Sashastra Seema Bal**

- Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Rashmi Shukla has been appointed as the Director-General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- SSB is the border-guarding force deployed along Nepal and Bhutan border.
- Ms. Shukla, a 1988 batch IPS officer of the Maharashtra cadre, was posted with the Central Reserve Police (CRPF).
- The 1988 batch officer has previously headed the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) as Additional Director General and has been the former Chief of Maharashtra Intelligence Department.
- Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) has been Founded on 1963.

❖ **Jishnu Barua appoints as new chairperson of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission**

- Jishnu Barua has become the new chairperson of power regulator Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC).
- He will succeed PK Pujari who demitted office in June 2022.
- Barua was chief secretary of Assam from October 2020 to August 2022. Prior to this, he had been additional chief secretary to Assam looking after various departments of the state from August 2017 to October 2020.

➤ Post-retirement, Barua held the charge of chairperson of Assam Power Distribution Company Ltd.

➤ CERC is responsible for regulating and determining tariffs for inter-state transmission of electricity, issuing licences to persons to function as transmission licensee and electricity trader with respect to their inter-state operations.

❖ **Asia's longest ever cycle race flagged off from Srinagar in J&K**

➤ Asia's longest Ultra-Cycling Race from Srinagar to Kanyakumari was flagged off from Srinagar.

➤ The race, after covering a distance of more than three thousand kilometres, will culminate at Kanyakumari.

➤ Asia's longest cycle race began in Srinagar today as 29 cyclists including one woman set off for the first of its kind 3651-kilometre event.

➤ The route for this cycle race will be the longest highway covering the National Highway-44 of 3651 kilometres passing through twelve major states, three major metropolitan cities and over twenty major cities of the country.

❖ **Karnataka & Gujarat: Top states in Clean Energy Transition**

➤ According to a report from Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and Ember, Karnataka, and Gujarat have emerged as India's frontrunners in the transition to clean electricity.

➤ Ember is an independent, not-for-profit climate and energy think tank while the IEEFA examines issues related to energy markets, trends, and policies.

➤ The report analyses 16 Indian states, which together account for 90 percent of the country's annual power requirement, across four dimensions.

➤ Gujarat lags behind Karnataka in decarbonizing its power sector. Haryana and Punjab have shown promising preparation and implementation for the electricity transition.

➤ States like West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh lag far behind in this area.

❖ **Uttarakhand to set up India's first government mother milk bank**

- The Uttarakhand health department plans to set up a 'mother milk bank,' the first such facility in the state.
- Through this milk bank, milk will be made available to those new born babies whose mother dies during delivery.
- This will be the first milk bank of its kind in the country.
- According to the National Health Mission's Sample Registration System (SRS) report in 2021, Uttarakhand had the third-highest infant mortality rate of 27 deaths per 1,000 live births among 10 Himalayan states of the country after Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya.

❖ **HDFC Bank's Sashidhar Jagdishan is 'BS Banker of the Year 2022'**

- Sashidhar Jagdishan, managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of HDFC Bank, has been chosen as the Business Standard Banker of the Year 2022.
- HDFC has continued its strong performance under Sashidhar's leadership while successfully navigating through technology-related challenges.
- A five-member jury, chaired by former Reserve Bank of India deputy governor SS Mundra, has picked Sashidhar Jagdishan as the CEO of the largest private sector bank of the country as the winner.
- Sashidhar Jagdishan took charge of HDFC Bank on October 27, 2020, after his predecessor Aditya Puri demitted office upon attaining the age of 70 years.
- He started his journey in HDFC Bank in 1996 as a manager in the finance function.

❖ **'Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023'**

- President Draupadi Murmu presented the Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023 under various categories of Swachh Bharat Mission - Rural, Jal Jeevan Mission and National Water Mission in New Delhi on 4 March 2023.
- He has also released a video and a commemorative postage stamp on 'Jal Shakti Se Nari Shakti'.

- The President also released 'Swachh Sujal Shakti Ki Abhiviyakti', a collection of stories from Swachh Bharat Mission - Gramin, Jal Jeevan Mission and National Water Mission.
- The Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023 aims to bring forward women achievers from the grassroots level and connect them with the national leadership, who can share their journey and thereby inspire others.

❖ 'Porter Prize 2023'

- Health Ministry gets Porter Prize 2023 for Government's strategy in managing COVID-19.
- It recognized the government's strategy in managing COVID-19, also the approach, and involvement of various stakeholders especially involvement of ASHA workers in the industry to create PPE Kits.
- The prize was announced during The India Dialog at Stanford University. The country's contribution in developing and manufacturing vaccines was also lauded.
- Porter Prize is named after award-winning economist Michael E. Porter.
- It was presented to MoHFW in the virtual presence of the Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, and Secretary of the MoHFW, Rajesh Bhushan. The theme of the conference was 'The Indian Economy 2023: Innovation, Competitiveness, and Social Progress'.

❖ Hekani Jakhalu became the first female MLA of Nagaland Assembly

- Hakani Jakhalu of the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) became the first female MLA to be elected to the Nagaland Legislative Assembly.
- No female MLA was elected in a total of 13 state assembly seats in the state till date.
- Jakhu won the Dimapur III seat by defeating Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) leader Azheto Jhimomi by 1,536 votes.
- Another NDPP female candidate, Salhunuonu Cruce defeated her independent rival by just seven votes in the Western Angami constituency. Both became the first female MLA from Nagaland.

➤ In 2019, she won the Nari Shakti Puruskar from the Ministry of Child and Women Development.

➤ Nagaland was formally recognized as a separate state on December 1, 1963, with Kohima declared as its capital.

❖ **Karnataka Bank appoints Abhishek Sankar Bagchi as new CFO**

➤ Karnataka Bank appointed Abhishek Sankar Bagchi as the bank's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) with effect from 2 March 2023.

➤ The appointment comes after Muralidhar Krishna Rao, the bank's CFO, resigned on March 1 after his term expired. He has over 18 years of work experience in RBI reporting, strategic planning, fund management, financial reporting, financial planning & control, taxation, and budgeting.

➤ He was CFO and Head of Finance at NSDL Payments Bank since September 2017.

❖ **Vietnam parliament elects Vo Van Thuong as new state president**

➤ Vietnam's National Assembly has elected Vo Van Thuong as the country's new President.

➤ The National Assembly appointed Vo Thi Anh Xuan, who was elected as Vice President in 2021, as the acting president.

➤ In an extraordinary session, lawmakers confirmed Thuong after the ruling Communist Party nominated him as President.

➤ He will serve until the present term ends in 2026.

➤ Thuong, who was born in December 1970, is the youngest among members of the Politburo of the CPV.

➤ Thuong started his political career in 1993, working on student and youth affairs, and became secretary of the Ho Chi Minh City's Communist Youth Union in 2003.

➤ He was also assigned to serve as a permanent member of the CPV Central Committee's Secretariat.

❖ **Dubai-based Emirates emerges as the largest foreign airline for international traffic**

- Dubai based Emirates airline emerges as the largest foreign airline for outbound and inbound international traffic to and from India, according to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation India.
- According to DGCA data for the last quarter of 2022, Emirates is also the third largest carrier if all domestic carriers in India are included for this statistical purpose.
- Operating 334 weekly flights between Dubai and India, Emirates carried 4.45 million passengers between the two destinations last year.
- The United Kingdom is the most popular travel destination among European countries, receiving approximately 4.4 percent of all international travelers during the fourth quarter of 2022.

❖ **Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar takes over as Vice Chief of Army Staff**

- Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar assumed the charge of the vice chief of army staff (CoAS) on 1 March.
- He replaces Lt Gen BS Raju, who took over the reins of the Jaipur (Rajasthan)-based Sapta Shakti command.
- Prior to taking over as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff, Lt Gen Kumar was “tenanting the appointment of Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy) at Army HQ.”
- An alumnus of Sainik School, Bijapur, and the National Defence Academy, the general officer was commissioned into 1 Assam Regiment in June 1985.
- He has commanded the 59 Rashtriya Rifles Battalion (ASSAM), an Infantry Brigade and an Infantry Division on the Line of Control, and the highly active White Knight Corps in Northern Command.
- He has experience in intelligence, operations, force structuring, operational logistics, and tech infusion in his recent appointments.

❖ 'FRINJEX-23'

- Indian Army and French Army will participate in the 'FRINJEX-23', a joint military exercise on 7- 8 March.
- For the first time, armies of both countries are engaging in this format with each contingent comprising a Company Group.
- The aim of the exercise is to enhance interoperability, coordination, and cooperation between both forces.

❖ 1,300 year-old Buddhist stupa found in Odisha

- The Archaeological Survey of India recently discovered a 1,300-year-old Buddhist stupa near Jagannath temple located in Puri.
- The stupa was discovered during a mining operation. Khondalite stone is mined here.
- It is a metamorphic rock and was used in the construction of the Puri Jagannath temple.
- The discovered stupa is 4.5 metres tall.
- It belongs to the 7th or 8th century.
- Khondalite is a foliated metamorphic rock.
- In India, it is also called Bezwada Gneiss and Kailasa Gneiss.
- It was named after the Khond tribe of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh because well-formed examples of the rock were found in the inhabited hills of these regions of eastern India.

❖ Scientists discovered a new form of corrosion

- Scientists have recently discovered a new form of corrosion known as the 1D wormhole corrosion.
- This type of corrosion is characterized by a wormhole-like 1D morphology that can serve as a mass-flow pathway.

- The discovery of this type of corrosion is significant for the understanding of material degradation mechanisms in molten salt environments, particularly in relation to next-generation nuclear power plants that use molten salts as coolants.
- The 1D wormhole corrosion is a highly localized form of penetrating corrosion that occurs in a nickel-chromium alloy when exposed to molten fluoride salt.
- This type of corrosion leads to the development of a percolating network of tunnels along grain boundaries.
- These tunnels are filled with molten salt and leave voids along the grain boundaries.

❖ **V-dem Democracy report 2023**

- India ranks 108th in the Electoral Democracy Index of the V-dem Democracy report 2023.
- India has been ranked 97th in the Liberal Democracy Index. India has been placed in the bottom 50 percent of the LDI index.
- Denmark is in the first position with a score of 0.89 in the Liberal Democracy Index.

❖ **Hockey India appoints Craig Fulton as new Chief Coach of Indian men's hockey team**

- Hockey India has appointed Craig Fulton of South Africa as the new head coach of the Indian men's hockey team.
- Craig Fulton will replace Graham Reid who resigned in January 2023 following India's poor performance in the World Cup.
- Craig Fulton represented South Africa at the Atlanta 1996 and Athens 2004 Olympics and earned 195 international caps in a career spanning more than a decade.
- Fulton managed the Irish men's hockey team between 2014 and 2018 and helped them qualify for the Rio 2016 Olympics.
- He also won the FIH Coach of the Year in 2015 while with the Irish team.

➤ Fulton has nearly 25 years of coaching experience and has earned 195 caps for South Africa over a span of 10 years.

➤ He also played in the Atlanta and Athens Olympics.

❖ **Sayantan Das becomes India's 81st Grandmaster**

➤ Sayantan Das became India's 81st GM after beating the opposition at the International Festival des Jeux in Cannes, France.

➤ Das entered the A Group of the tournament as an IM, chasing the 24 FIDE Elo points that would bring him to the 2500 mark and grant him the title of India's newest grandmaster.

➤ Vignesh N R is India's 80th and first Grandmaster brothers with Visakh.

➤ In March last year, Gukesh became only the sixth Indian to break the 2700 Elo-rating mark, and the youngest Grandmaster from the country to be rated above 2700

❖ **ACF confers Grandmaster D Gukesh with Player of the Year award**

➤ Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh has been honoured with Player-of-the-Year award by the Asian Chess Federation (ACF) for clinching the gold medal with a record-breaking score of 9/11 in the 44th Chess Olympiad at Mahabalipuram last year.

➤ The All India Chess Federation (AICF) bagged the 'Most Active Federation' award conferred during the ACF annual summit.

➤ In March last year, Gukesh became only the sixth Indian to break the 2700 Elo-rating mark.

➤ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin has been conferred with Man-of-the-Year award for his effort in the successful hosting of the FIDE Chess Olympiad in August last year within a short notice of four months.

➤ ACF, Headquarters: Al Ain, United Arab Emirates.

❖ **Ravindra Jadeja: 2nd Indian player to take 500 wickets, score 5,000 runs in international cricket**

- Star all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja became the second player in India to take 500 wickets and score 5,000 runs in international cricket.
- He accomplished this landmark during Australia's third Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India in Indore.
- He is the only player besides legendary all-rounder and India's World Cup-winning legend Kapil Dev to have a double of 500 international wickets and 5,000 international runs.
- Jadeja has scored 5,527 runs in 298 international matches across 241 innings at an average of 33.29. He has scored three hundreds and 31 half-centuries, with the best individual score of 175*.
- He also taken a total of 503 wickets in 298 matches at an average of 29.35 at an economy rate of 3.51. His best bowling figures in innings are 7/42.

❖ **Santosh Trophy National Football Championship**

- Karnataka defeated Meghalaya by 3-2 to win the Santosh Trophy football after 54 years.
- Karnataka won the Santosh Trophy National Football Championship on 05 March 2023.
- It defeated Meghalaya by 3-2 in a final at the King Fahd International Stadium in the Saudi Arabia capital, Riyadh.

❖ **Padma Bhushan awardee Chandrashekhar Dasgupta passes away**

- Former Indian diplomat and Padma Bhushan Awardee (2008) Chandrashekhar Dasgupta died at the age of 82.
- He was born in Kolkata, West Bengal, on May 2, 1940. Chandrashekhar Dasgupta was awarded the 3rd-highest civilian honour, the Padma Bhushan, for Civil Service (Delhi) in 2008.
- He served as vice-chair of the preparatory committees of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Conference on

Environment and Development (UNCED), popularly known as the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

- He was appointed to the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change in 2014.
- Also, he wrote a book titled "War and Diplomacy in Kashmir, 1947-48" which discusses the onset of the Kashmir war and the Indo-Pakistan War of 1948.
- The "India and Bangladesh Liberation War" is another work by Chandrashekhar Dasgupta.

❖ **Former Chief Justice of India AM Ahmadi Passes Away**

- Former Chief Justice of India AM Ahmadi passed away today morning, at 91.
- He worked as the President of the Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee in 1989 and as the Executive Chairman of the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes in India between 1990 and 1994.
- Justice Ahmadi served as the Chief Justice of India from 25th October 1994, till his retirement on 24th March 1997.
- Justice Ahmadi, who became the third Muslim ever to serve as CJI, demitted office on March 24, 1997.
- He was the only Chief Justice of India who started at the very lowest rank to rise to the highest position of the Indian judiciary.