

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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DESCRIPTIVE

❖ 'Mircha' rice of Bihar's West gets GI tag

➤ Mircha' rice of Bihar's West Champaran has been awarded the GI tag. The size and shape of the grain appear like that of black pepper, hence it is known as Mircha or Marcha Rice.

➤ The grains and flakes of this rice have a unique aroma that makes it different. This rice is famous for its aroma, palatability and its aromatic chura (rice flakes) making qualities. The cooked rice is fluffy, non-sticky, sweet and easily digestible with a popcorn-like aroma.

➤ An application for GI tag was submitted on behalf of Marcha Dhan Utpadak Pragatisheel Samuh, a registered organization of paddy cultivators.

➤ Bihar Chief Minister: **Nitish Kumar**

➤ Bihar Governor: *Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar*

➤ Bihar Capital: **Patna**

❖ I&B Ministry signs agreement with Amazon India to boost India's creative economy

➤ The Information and Broadcasting Ministry and Amazon India have signed a collaboration agreement in New Delhi to boost India's creative economy and promote creative talent in the country.

➤ As part of the agreement, Amazon Prime Video will sponsor scholarships, create internship programmes, and offer job opportunities for students of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) and Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute. International Film Festival of India (IFFI) Award-winning films and films produced

as part of India's international co-production treaties will be onboarded by Amazon Prime Video.

➤ Amazon Prime Video and MiniTV will also onboard the rich archival content owned by Prasar Bharati and National Film Development Corporation for easy access to the youth of the country and across the world.

❖ **RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 6.5%**

➤ After six hikes since May last year, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced its decision to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent.

➤ RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) had decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent with readiness to act should the situation warrant so.

➤ Since May last year, the RBI has raised the repo rate six times to control runaway inflation. The RBI projected inflation to be at 5.2 per cent in the financial year 2023-24, and at 5.1 per cent in first quarter of the fiscal.

➤ Repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends money to banks, and any change in it affects bank loans and EMIs.

➤ The RBI also marginally raised the GDP growth projection for FY24 to 6.5 per cent from the earlier estimate of 6.4 per cent. Economic activity remains resilient, and real GDP growth is expected to have been 7 per cent in FY 22-23.

➤ Policy Repo Rate: 6.50%

➤ Standing Deposit Facility (SDF): 6.25%

➤ Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 6.75%

➤ Bank Rate: 6.75%

➤ Fixed Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%

➤ Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR): 4.50%

➤ Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR): 18.00%

❖ **Govt. unveils plans to add 250GW renewable energy capacity in next five years**

➤ The government announced a plan to add 250 GW of renewable energy capacity in the next five years to achieve its target of 500 GW of clean energy by 2030.

➤ The government has decided to invite bids for 50 GW of renewable energy capacity annually for the next five years i.e., from Financial Year 2023-24 till Financial Year 2027-28.

➤ These annual bids of ISTS (Inter-State Transmission) connected renewable energy capacity will also include setting up of wind power capacity of at least 10 GW per annum.

➤ India currently has a total renewable energy capacity of 168.96 GW (as of 28th February 2023) with about 82 GW at various stages of implementation and about 41 GW under tendering stage. This includes 64.38 GW of Solar Power, 51.79 GW of Hydro Power, 42.02 GW of Wind Power and 10.77 GW of BioPower.

❖ **Punjab government launched Punjab's 'CM di Yogshala' programme**

➤ Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, while launching 'CM di Yogshala' programme along with AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal. The initiative would act as a stepping stone for carving out a healthy, vibrant, prosperous and progressive state.

➤ Addressing the gathering after launching the portal for the flagship programme of 'CM di Yogshala, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, claimed that this citizen-centric project was the brainchild of Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and had attained a lot of popularity among people.

➤ Under this initiative, people will be able to avail free yoga classes in these four cities: Patiala, Amritsar, Ludhiana, and Phagwara.

➤ As part of the initiative, people can give a missed call on 7669400500 to seek a free yoga teacher.

❖ Kerala Leads in GI Tags for Unique Local Products in FY 2022-23

- According to data shared by the GI Registry, Kerala received the highest number of Geographical Indication (GI) tags for products among all states in India in the fiscal year 23 (FY23).
- Several products from Kerala have been recognized with the GI tag, including Attappadi Attucombu avara (beans), Attappadi thuvara (red gram), Onattukara elu (sesame), Kanthalloor vattavada veluthulli (garlic), and Kodungallur pottuvellari (snap melon).
- Apart from six products from Kerala, the Geographical Indications (GI) Registry selected Mithila Makhana (aquatic fox nut) from Bihar and Alibaug white onion from Maharashtra for GI recognition tag. Tandoor Redgram, a local variety of pea, from Telangana, Ladakh Raktse Carpo Apricot from Ladakh, and Gamosa handicraft from Assam were also selected for GI recognition.
- For the period between April 2022 and March 2023, a total of 12 products were selected for GI recognition, including two foreign ones - Brandy de Jerez from Spain and Provolone Valpadana from Italy.
- In the last financial year (FY22), 50 products were selected for GI recognition, with Uttar Pradesh having the highest number of GI tags (seven), followed by Uttarakhand with six.

❖ Union government approves Indian Space Policy 2023 to enhance role of Department of Space

- Its aim is to boost the country's space department's role and give a larger participation to research, academia, startups, and industry.
- The policy sets out the roles and responsibilities of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and private sector entities. The policy will enhance the role of India's Department of Space, promote research, education, start-ups and industry.
- The policy is expected to provide a framework for the country's space sector for the next decade. Within 3 years, the number of startups has reached 150 in ISRO.

➤ The Union Cabinet also approved the revised domestic gas pricing guidelines. Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur said, the price of natural gas should be 10 percent of the monthly average of the Indian crude basket. This step has been taken to ensure stable pricing in the regime and to provide adequate protection to the producers from adverse market movements.

❖ **Argentina becomes number one football team in the world in FIFA rankings 2023**

➤ The Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) released the latest rankings of international football teams and Argentina topped the FIFA rankings for the first time in six years.

➤ The top five teams in the FIFA rankings as of April 2023 are Argentina, France, Brazil, Belgium and England. The next FIFA World Rankings will be published on 20 July 2023. FIFA is the governing body for association football, beach soccer and futsal at the international level.

➤ It was established in 1904 to oversee international competition between the national federations of several European countries, including Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

➤ FIFA is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, and is responsible for organising major international tournaments such as the World Cup, the Women's World Cup and the Club World Cup.

➤ India is at 101st position.

❖ **World Health Day: 7 April**

➤ World Health Day is observed every year on 7th April to draw global attention to a specific health issue that affects people around the world. It aims to promote awareness and draw global attention to a specific health issue that affects people around the world.

- The theme of World Health Day 2023 is "**Health for All**", reflecting the achievements of public health over the past seven decades in enhancing the quality of life of people.
- The first World Health Day was celebrated on July 22, 1949, but was later moved to April 7 to encourage student participation.
- The day also marks the anniversary of the founding of the World Health Organization (WHO), a leading global health institution that works towards improving global health and well-being.

❖ **Dr. Nitya Abraham awarded young urologist of the Year award**

- Dr. Nitya Abraham, an Indian-American physician and professor, has been honoured with the Young Urologist of the Year Award conferred by the American Urological Association (AUA).
- Dr. Nitya Abraham is an Associate Professor at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Program Director for the Montefiore Urology residency programme. Abraham is among the honorees of the 2023 Young Urologist of the Year Award.
- Abraham is among members selected by their colleagues who serve on the Young Urologists Committee and endorsed by their respective Section/Society to receive the special honour for 2023. Abraham has been chosen from the New York region for her accomplishments and contributions.
- She serves as the Chair of the Executive Curriculum Committee for Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She is a member of the Society for Urodynamics, Female Pelvic Medicine, and Urogenital Reconstruction (SUFU) Young Urologists Committee and social media committee.

❖ **Telangana's Kanti Velugu programme screens 1 crore for eye problems**

- The Telangana state government's initiative to prevent controllable blindness, called Kanti Velugu programme, has achieved a milestone by screening one crore people for eye problems.

➤ The second phase of the programme started on 19th January and will continue till 15th June. Health staff are screening all individuals over 18 years old at Kanti Velugu camps set up in all Gram Panchayats in the State.

➤ A total of 1,500 teams are working towards creating a Guinness World Record. At a programme held in Sadashivpet to celebrate the milestone, State Health Minister Harish Rao commended the government staff for their efforts and congratulated them on reaching one crore screenings in just 50 working days.

➤ Telangana Chief Minister: **Kalvakuntla Chandrashekar Rao**

➤ Telangana Governor: **Tamilisai Soundararajan**

➤ Telangana Capital: **Hyderabad**

❖ **Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport ranked 9th busiest in the world in 2022**

➤ Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport has secured the ninth position in the list of the world's busiest airports in 2022, handling 59.5 million passengers annually.

➤ The data was shared by the Airports Council International (ACI) World, a global organisation that assesses airport standards. This marks a significant improvement for IGI Airport, which was ranked 13th in 2021 and 17th in 2019 before the pandemic.

➤ The world's busiest airport, Georgia's Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, remained at the top spot in 2022, with 93.6 million passengers. IGI Airport ranked one position behind London's Heathrow Airport, which handled 61.6 million passengers, while Paris' Charles de Gaulle Airport was the 10th busiest airport in the world, handling 57.4 million passengers.

➤ The IGI Airport is the only airport from south and southeast Asia to feature in the top 10 list. The top 10 airports for total passenger traffic, representing 10% of global traffic, saw a gain of 51.7% from 2021.

❖ Centre declares Tripura best state in NE for e-procurement

- Tripura has been given the best state award in the North eastern region by the Centre for successful implementation of e-procurement.
- To maintain transparency, the state has made it mandatory to go for e-procurement if the value of any government purchase or contract goes beyond Rs. 25,000.
- The total value of payments made through e-procurement and Government eMarketplace (GeM) portals increased from Rs 4,451 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 7441 crore in 2021-22.
- As of now, 80 per cent of payments are made through digital platforms (in Tripura). Except the pension to 82,000 pensioners, all the employees including Anganwadi workers are receiving salary through digital payment.
- Tripura Chief Minister: **Dr. Manik Saha**
- Tripura Governor: **Satyadev Narayan Arya**
- Tripura Capital: **Agartala**

❖ President Droupadi Murmu inaugurate Gaj Utsav at Kaziranga in Assam

- President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated a two-day '**Gaj Utsav-2023**' at the Kaziranga National Park High School's playground field in Assam. President Murmu is on a three-day visit to the North eastern state.
- Kaziranga Gaja Utsav is **an** annual festival held in the national park to promote the conservation and protection of elephants. It is jointly organized by the Forest and Tourism Departments to draw attention and find a solution to the growing human-elephant conflict in the state. This is being organized to mark the completion of 30 years of Project Elephant.
- President Murmu also enjoyed cultural performances including Bhortal, Jhumur and Bihu dance forms by Assamese artistes at Kohora. The President also flag off the 'Mount Kanchenjunga Expedition-2023'.

➤ President Murmu also attended the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of the Gauhati High Court as the chief guest and also launched a mobile app "**Bhoroxa**" designed for the safety of women and the elderly.

➤ Assam Chief Minister: **Himanta Biswa Sarma**

➤ Assam Governor: **Gulab Chand Kataria**

➤ Assam Capital: **Dispur**

❖ **Jharkhand minister Jagarnath Mahto passes away**

➤ Jharkhand minister Jagarnath Mahto has passed away. Mr Mahto, the minister for school education and literacy, was airlifted to Chennai last month due to health complications. He had undergone a lung transplant in November 2020 after suffering from COVID-19.

➤ Mr Mahto, the four-time JMM MLA from Dumri in Giridih district, was taken to Chennai in October 2020, where he had undergone the transplant as his lungs were damaged due to the COVID-19 infection.

➤ Jagarnath Mahto, also known as Tiger Mahto or Tiger Jagarnath Da, was a cabinet minister and politician from Jharkhand, India. He served as a legislator for the Dumri Vidhan Sabha district under the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha party. Mahto was born on January 1, 1967, in the Alargo village of Bokaro District in Jharkhand.

❖ **Aleksander Ceferin re-elected UEFA president until 2027**

➤ A Slovenian lawyer, Aleksander Ceferin has been re-elected unopposed as Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) president for a four-year term (2023-27).

➤ He was elected as the seventh president of UEFA in 2016 to replace Michel Platini, who was banned from the football administration due to ethics violations.

➤ The UEFA Champions League is an annual club football competition. It is organized by the Union of European Football Associations and contested by top-division European clubs. Apart from European countries, UEFA also regulates

football in transcontinental countries such as **Turkey, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Kazakhstan**. Some Asian countries such as Israel, Cyprus and Armenia also come under the rule of UEFA.

❖ **Kalikesh Singh Deo takes over as NRAI chief**

- Kalikesh Singh Deo took over the reins of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI). The NRAI Governing Body today unanimously approved the handover to Deo.
- Deo was the senior vice-president before taking over from Raninder Singh, who went on a long leave after the Sports Ministry demanded an election for the top post.
- The ministry said Raninder's three-term period of 12 years got over in December. The NRAI, however, maintained that Raninder took over in the interim in 2010 after the demise of the then president Digvijay Singh and hence that cannot be counted as part of the tenure guidelines of the National Sports Development Code.