

**IACE**

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**28<sup>TH</sup> April 2023**

**DESCRIPTIVE**

## ❖ 7th edition of bilateral training exercise 'Ajeya Warrior 2023'

- India and the United Kingdom will soon begin the seventh edition of the bilateral training exercise Ajeya Warrior 2023.
- The exercise is part of an initiative to develop interoperability and share expertise with friendly foreign nations.
- Military forces of both countries participate in this joint military exercise.
- The exercise will see the participation of an infantry company from India and a unit of equal strength from the British Army.
- Troops of both countries will practice each other's weapons, combat tactics, equipment, battle strategies and procedures to conduct joint military operations under difficult conditions.
- In addition, there will also be expert academic discussions on several topics of common interest such as joint weapon concepts, operation logistics, experience sharing of joint forces, etc.

## ❖ Ministry of Finance approves Navratna status to Rail Vikas Nigam

- The Government of India upgraded the status of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) to 'Navratna' Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).
- Prior to this upgrade, RVNL was earlier classified as a 'Miniratna' CPSE. The decision to upgrade RVNL was approved by the Finance Minister and is effective from April 26, 2023.
- RVNL is a mid-cap company under the Ministry of Railways.

➤ For the year 2021-22, RVNL has an annual turnover of Rs 19,381 crore and a net profit of Rs 1,087 crore. This upgrade makes RVNL the 13th Navratna company among CPSEs in India.

➤ Navaratna is a select group of public sector enterprises in India that have been granted greater autonomy in decision making and financial management by the government.

➤ The term "Navratna" means "Nine Gems" in Hindi and refers to the original nine CPSEs that were granted this status in 1997.

### ❖ **Pennsylvania Recognizes Diwali as an Official State Holiday**

➤ The US state of Pennsylvania officially recognized the Hindu festival of Diwali as a state holiday.

➤ State Senators Greg Rothman and Nikil Saval introduced legislation to make Diwali a state holiday in February this year.

➤ The bill was passed unanimously by the Senate. According to My Twin Tears, there are approximately 200,000 South Asian residents in Pennsylvania, many of whom celebrate Diwali as a time to gather and reflect.

➤ It is a state located in the northeastern region of the United States of America.

➤ The state's capital is Harrisburg, and its largest city is Philadelphia, which is known as the birthplace of the United States of America.

### ❖ **Centre inks MoU with Art of Living as part of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan**

➤ The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Art of Living, the NGO run by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, as part of its Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) in a ceremony attended by the spiritual leader, and Social Justice Minister Virendra Kumar.

- The signing ceremony was held at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi, where newly-appointed Social Justice Secretary Saurabh Garg was also present.
- This campaign will get a boost towards achieving a drug-sensitized India.
- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) has been implementing the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) to curb the menace of drug demand.

❖ **Total enrolment under Atal Pension Yojana crossed 5.20 crore mark**

- The Finance Ministry has said that the total enrollment under the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) has crossed the figure of five crore twenty lakh till March 31 this year.
- The scheme envisages enrollment of more than one crore 19 lakh new subscribers in the financial year 2022-23 as compared to 99 lakh in the previous financial year, showing a growth of over 20 per cent.
- As on date, the total assets under management (AUM) in APY is more than Rs 27,200 crore and the scheme has generated investment return of 8.69 per cent since the inception of the scheme.
- In the public sector banks (PSBs) category, nine banks achieved the annual target while Bank of India, State Bank of India, and Indian Bank sourced more than 100 APY accounts per branch.
- Under the regional rural banks (RRBs) category, 32 banks achieved the annual target while Jharkhand Rajya Gramin Bank, Vidharbha Konkan Gramin Bank, Tripura Gramin Bank and Baroda Uttar Pradesh Gramin Bank sourced more than 160 APY accounts per branch. Also, Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank, Dhanlaxmi Bank and Airtel Payments Bank achieved annual target allocated by the ministry of finance.

- Further, 12 states like Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and

Uttarakhand also achieved their annual targets with the help and support of their respective state-level banker's committee (SLBCs).

### ❖ **Amitav Ghosh's non-fiction book 'Smoke and Ashes' to be released in July 2023**

- Amitav Ghosh's new non-fiction book, "Smoke and Ashes: A Writer's Journey Through Opium's Hidden Histories", will be published by HarperCollins Fourth Estate on July 15, 2023.
- The book is a combination of memoir, travelogue, and cultural and economic history, which explores the often overlooked effects of opium on society and history.
- Based on Ghosh's extensive research conducted while writing his trilogy of novels between 2005 and 2015, "Smoke and Ashes" takes a personal look at the author's engagement with the hidden history of opium.
- This book explores how opium has shaped the modern world and continues to play an important role in making it now.
- Amitav Ghosh is a renowned writer who was born in Kolkata and brought up in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.
- He has written many acclaimed works of fiction, including "The Shadow Lines," "The Glass Palace," "The Hungry Tide," "Gun Island," "The Nutmeg's Curse," "Jungle Nama," and "The Living Mountain."

### ❖ **TAL Presents Lifetime Achievement Award to Breast Surgeon Dr. Raghu Ram Pillarisetti**

- Dr Raghu Ram Pillarisetti, a renowned surgeon, has been awarded the lifetime achievement award by the Telugu Association of London (TAL).
- He is the founding director of the AKIMS-Ushalakshmi Centre for Breast Diseases located in Hyderabad. Despite his relatively young age, Dr Raghuram has

become one of the few people to receive the award. He is also the only Indian living outside the UK to be bestowed with this honor.

➤ During the celebration of Ugadi 2023, organized by the Telugu Association of London (TAL), Dr Raghu Ram Pillarisetti was awarded the lifetime achievement award. TAL is the biggest Telugu Charity Organisation in the UK and represents the Telugu speaking community of around 10,000 people in and around London.

➤ Dr Ramulu Dasoju, the founder chairman of TAL, and the current chairperson Bharathi Kandukuri, read out parts of the citation during the event.

### ❖ **Ratan Tata honoured with Australia's highest civilian honour**

➤ Ratan Tata, the Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, has been awarded the Order of Australia (AO), which is Australia's highest civilian honour.

➤ The award was given to Tata in recognition of his contributions towards strengthening the bilateral relations between India and Australia.

➤ Tata has been a strong supporter of the 2022 India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement, and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is said to have the largest workforce of any Indian company in Australia, with around 17,000 employees.

➤ Ratan Tata was recently named an Honorary Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO) for his contribution to promoting trade, investment and philanthropy between India and Australia. The recognition came just a month before he received Australia's highest civilian honour for his efforts to strengthen bilateral ties between the two countries.

➤ The Order of Australia is an honour awarded to Australian citizens and other individuals in recognition of their exceptional achievements and services.

### ❖ **India-UK NET Zero Innovation virtual centre**

➤ India and the United Kingdom have agreed to create an India-UK Net Zero Innovation Virtual Centre.

- The center will provide a platform for stakeholders from both countries to work together in areas such as manufacturing processes, transportation systems and decarbonization of green hydrogen as a renewable source.
- This was announced by Science and Technology Minister Dr Jitendra Singh at a meeting of the India-UK Science and Innovation Council meeting in the presence of United Kingdom Minister George Freeman.
- India is fast marching towards becoming an economic powerhouse driven by its extraordinary technology and innovation. India is committed to achieve its climate change and environment goals within the stipulated time period.
- Energy efficiency and renewable energy are the central pillars, where India has already taken the lead through various initiatives like Solar Alliance and Clean Energy Mission.
- Dr Jitendra Singh is leading a high-level official Indian delegation from the Ministry of Science and Technology on a six-day visit to the United Kingdom.

### ❖ **Russian poet Maria Stepanova wins Leipzig Book Prize 2023**

- A Russian poet, Maria Stepanova has been awarded the prestigious Leipzig Book Prize for European Understanding in 2023.
- She was honored in Leipzig for her volume of poetry "Mädchen ohne Kleider" (Girls Without Clothes).
- It is described as a sensitive and highly poetic study of often hidden violence against the female body and the power imbalance that drives this oppression.
- About Leipzig Book Award: Literary prizes in Germany
- Prize money: 20,000 euros

### ❖ **India's first cable-stayed bridge Anji Khad will be ready in May 2023**

- India's first cable-stayed bridge, the Anji Khad bridge will be completed by May 2023.



- It connects Katra and Reasi via tunnels T2 and T3 on the Katra-Banihal section.
- It aims is to connect J&K to the rest of the country with all-weather rail connectivity
- The cables weigh 848.7 MT and the total length of cable strands involved is 653km.
- The asymmetrical cable-stayed bridge crosses the deep gorges of Anji river, a tributary of river Chenab.
- Total length of the bridge: 725m

### ❖ **Dima Hasao insurgent group signs peace pact with Assam, Centre**

- The Dimas National Liberation Army (DNLA), an insurgent group operating mostly in Assam's Dima Hasao district, signed a peace agreement with the government in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.
- According to the memorandum of understanding (MoU), the DNLA will lay down the arms and abide by the Constitution. A total of 179 DNLA cadres will surrender their arms and ammunition.
- The central and state governments will provide ₹ 500 crore each for the development of the Dimas tribal areas.
- In September 2021, the DNLA had declared a unilateral ceasefire for a period of six months following an appeal by the chief minister. The ceasefire has been extended since then.
- The DNLA announcement in 2021 came two weeks after the insurgent group allegedly fired upon on a convoy of seven trucks in the Dima Hasao district, killing five people and injuring one.
- The DNLA was established in April 2019 seeking a sovereign territory for the Dimas tribals and launched an armed insurgency to achieve its goal.

## ❖ **World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2023: 28th April**

- World Day for Safety and Health at Work is observed every year on April 28 to promote safe and decent work environments across the globe
- The theme for 2023 is "A safe and healthy working environment as a fundamental principle and right at work".
- It coincides with the anniversary of the 1971 adoption of the Occupational Safety and Health Convention by the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- It was first observed in 2003 after the ILO declared it an annual international campaign.

## ❖ **Hari Hara Mishra takes charge as CEO of AARC**

- Hari Hara Mishra has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Association of Asset Reconstruction Companies (AARCs).
- The ARCs are the voice of all Asset Reconstruction Companies in India and have been active for over eight years. Currently, there are 28 ARCs registered with the Reserve Bank of India.
- Hari Hara Mishra is an experienced professional in the field of asset reconstruction. He began his career with the State Bank of India in 1982 and worked there until 2004. Since then, he has been associated with the asset reconstruction sector in various executive and director level roles.
- As the new CEO of the Association of Asset Reconstruction Companies, Mishra will lead the organization and represent the interests of its member companies. He will work closely with the Reserve Bank of India and other regulatory bodies to ensure that the ARCs continue to operate in compliance with all relevant laws and regulations.

## ❖ **Scientist and orator Dr N Gopalakrishnan passes away**

- A noted orator and retired scientist, Dr. N Gopalakrishnan passed away at the age of 68.



- He was a scientist at Advanced Seismic Testing and Research Laboratory (ASTaR) of CSIR-SERC.
- He had served as a design engineer at TATA Consulting Engineers, Bengaluru and later joined as scientist in the Structural Dynamics and Machine Foundation division of CSIR-SERC.
- He was the co-author of 61 national and international journal articles and filed for five Indian patents.