

**IACE**

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**29<sup>TH</sup> & 30<sup>TH</sup> April 2023**

**DESCRIPTIVE**

## ❖ Agriculture Minister launches 'Millets Experience Centre' at Dilli Haat

- Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched the first of its kind 'Millets Experience Centre (MEC)' at Dilli Haat in New Delhi.
- India has an important role to play in the celebration of the International Year of Millets 2023.
- India is poised to become a 'Global Hub' for Millets and setting up of MEC is a major step in that direction.
- The United Nations General Assembly has declared the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets (IYM 2023).
- The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) in association with the Ministry of Agriculture has set up the Millets Experience Centre.
- It aims to increase awareness about millet and encourage its adoption among the general public.
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted India's resolution and declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets in March 2021.
- India's proposal received the support of 72 countries.
- In 2021, NITI Aayog signed a letter of intent with the United Nations World Food Program (WFP).

## ❖ **Nirmala Sitharaman launches a book titled 'Reflections' authored by Shri Narayanan Vaghul in Mumbai**

- Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman released the book 'Reflections' authored by noted banker Shri Narayanan Vaghul in Mumbai.
- The book is a vivid account of Mr. Vaghul's experiences in India's financial landscape over the decades.
- Shri KV Kamath, Chairman, National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NABFID), Ajay Piramal, Chairman, Piramal Group, J.P. Kalpana Morparia, former president of Morgan South and South East Asia, was also present.
- Widely regarded as the architect of modern banking in India, Mr. Vaghul's book chronicles the dramatic, humorous and momentous events during his illustrious career.
- The processes established by Mr. Vaghul have become strong and sustainable practices in the Indian financial ecosystem.

## ❖ **Dubai's airline Emirates unveils world's first robotic check-in assistant**

- Dubai-based airline Emirates has unveiled the world's first robotic check-in assistant named 'Sara'.
- The system is part of a new City Check-in and Travel Store that is set to launch in Dubai's Financial District.
- In addition to the new check-in facility, Emirates passengers with a valid boarding pass will also have access to select lifestyle amenities at ICD Brookfield Place, as well as exclusive discounts and special offers at a range of restaurants, gyms and luxury stores.
- Passengers can connect directly to the airport via taxi or Emirates Chauffeur Service.
- This latest innovation from Emirates aims to enhance the customer experience and make the check-in process more seamless and efficient.

- 'SARA' will match customers' faces with scanned passports, check in passengers and guide them to the baggage drop area.
- This facility allows customers to drop off their luggage at the airport up to 24 hours in advance and up to 4 hours before their flight.
- Passengers can check-in via self-check-in kiosks, with Emirates agents at dedicated desks or with the help of Sara.

### ❖ **Germany and Britain intercepted three Russian military reconnaissance aircraft over the Baltic Sea**

- The German Air Force announced that it intercepted three Russian military aircraft flying over the Baltic Sea.
- Germany and UK Eurofighter have been alerted to identify 3 military machines.
- The two SU-27 flankers and one IL-20 from Russia flew again without a transponder signal in International airspace over the Baltic Sea.
- German and British forces were deployed to identify the two Sukhoi Su-27 fighter aircraft and one Ilyushin Il-20 aircraft.
- Germany handed over responsibility for NATO's Baltic air policing mission to Britain earlier this month.
- The Baltic Sea is an arm of the Atlantic Ocean located in northern Europe.
- It is a shelf sea and marginal sea of the Atlantic, with limited water exchange between the two, making it an inland sea.
- The Baltic Sea is one of the largest brackish inland seas by area. The maximum depth is 459 m (1,506 ft).
- The Helsinki Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Region covers the Baltic Sea.

### ❖ **Rezoana wins Asian under-18 400m in record time**

- Rezoana Mallick Heena broke the eight-year-old meet record of Bahrain's former World champion Salwa Eid Nasser as she won the girls 400m gold at the fifth Asian under-18 athletics championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- The 16-year-old from Nadia in West Bengal, who is coached by Arjun Ajay in Bengaluru, clocked 52.98s (Salwa's old meet record 53.02s) which made her the world's fastest under-18 quartermiler this year and the fastest Indian woman this season.
- Rezoana's sterling sprint also bettered former Asian silver medallist Jisna Mathew's under-18 national record (53.14s, 2015).
- The Indian athletes also collected two silver and bronze medals each. Abhinaya Rajarajan's 11.82 second effort in the women's 100m meant that the youngster could brandish the silver medal around her neck.

### ❖ **World Veterinary Day 2023 observed on 29th April**

- World Veterinary Day is an annual event celebrated on the last Saturday of April to increase awareness about the important work of veterinarians in promoting animal health, welfare, and public health. This year, the event falls on April 29th.
- The aim of World Veterinary Day is to recognize the hard work and dedication of veterinary professionals in protecting the health and safety of animals and humans alike.
- This day is a celebration of the efforts made by veterinarians worldwide to improve animal welfare and health. It also serves as a platform for the global veterinary community to come together and seek support for their work.
- Theme for World Veterinary Day 2023 is "Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness in the Veterinary Profession".

### ❖ **Three new conservation reserves declared in Rajasthan.**

- The Rajasthan government's recent declaration of three areas as conservation reserves has brought a ray of hope for wildlife conservation efforts and ecotourism in the state.
- As the state government declared three areas — Sorsan in Baran, Khichan in Jodhpur and Hamirgarh in Bhilwara as conservation reserves. The new reserves are expected to protect rare and endangered species and provide a safe haven for migratory birds.
- With the addition of these reserves, Rajasthan now has 29 conservation reserves, providing a safe haven for various species of flora and fauna.
- The Forest Conservation Act of 1990 mandates that all development projects in conservation areas must get approval from the National Board for Wildlife and the State Board of Wildlife. This helps in maintaining a balance between development and conservation efforts.

### ❖ **NPCI Bharat BillPay launches NOCS platform to process ONDC transactions**

- The National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) subsidiary, NBBL, has launched the NOCS platform to provide reconciliation and settlement services for transactions made on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) network.
- This platform will serve as the foundation for the ONDC network and enable secure and timely transfer of funds to network participants..
- The NOCS platform is integrated with banks, fintechs, and e-commerce players, and will soon go live with the first set of five banks on ONDC—AU Small Finance Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, IDFC First Bank, and YES Bank.
- According to the release, NBBL is also working closely with ONDC to bring other innovations to the ecosystem and launch more value-added solutions for the customers, sellers, and network participants in the foreseeable future.

## ❖ **Reliance General Insurance becomes first insurer to accept CBDC in tie-up with YES Bank**

- Reliance General Insurance has made history by becoming the first general insurance company to accept the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) e-Rupee (e₹) for premium payments.
- The insurer has partnered with YES Bank to facilitate the collection of premiums in digital mode using the bank's e-rupee platform.
- Customers who have an active e-rupee wallet with any bank can scan Reliance General Insurance's CBDC QR code to make easy, safe, instant, and green payments.
- Reliance General Insurance's physical e-rupee QR code is available at select branches for walk-in customers to scan and pay instantly.

## ❖ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi revealed the book 'Saurashtra-Tamil Sangamprashastih'**

- Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, revealed a book called 'Saurashtra Tamil Sangam Prashasti,' authored by Somnath Sanskrit University.
- The Sangam celebrates the cultural and historical bond between Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, as many people migrated from the Saurashtra region to Tamil Nadu several centuries ago.
- According to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office, the Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam event allowed Saurashtrian Tamils to reconnect with their ancestral roots.
- The Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam that began on April 17 and ended on April 26 at Somnath. The 10-day confluence witnessed more than 3000 Saurashtrain Tamils attending the event in Gujarat.
- The event was mainly held to celebrate the links between Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

### ❖ **PGCIL wins Global Gold Award for CSR work**

- The Green Organization has awarded Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL), with the Global Gold Award for their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) work.
- The recognition was given at the Green World Awards 2023 function held in Miami, USA.
- This award is a recognition of PGCIL's efforts to improve agriculture productivity and rural livelihood through watershed management, community participation, and better crop management practices in 10 villages of Jaipatna Block of Kalahandi District in Odisha.
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a business approach that involves taking responsibility for the company's impact on society and the environment. It is a company's way of giving back to the community and the environment that it operates in.

### ❖ **NASA Successfully Extracts Oxygen from Lunar Soil Simulant**

- NASA scientists have successfully extracted oxygen from simulated lunar soil in a vacuum environment, which could pave the way for future human colonies on the Moon.
- The ability to extract oxygen from lunar soil is crucial for providing breathable air for astronauts and can also be used as propellant for transportation and space exploration.
- To simulate the conditions on the Moon, NASA scientists used a special spherical chamber called the Dirty Thermal Vacuum Chamber.
- This chamber has a 15-foot diameter and is designed to allow unclean samples to be tested inside.

➤ The vacuum environment inside the chamber is similar to the conditions on the Moon, where there is no atmosphere and the temperature can range from -173°C to 127°C.

### ❖ **MoHUA launches 'City Beauty Competition'**

➤ The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched 'City Beauty Competition' portal (<https://citybeautycompetition.in>)

➤ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across the country can participate in this competition through an online process.

➤ Objective: To encourage and recognize the transformational efforts made by cities and wards across the country to create beautiful, innovative and inclusive public spaces.

➤ Five broad pillars of this competition are accessibility, amenities, activities, aesthetics and ecology.

### ❖ **Rajkumar Rao wins Best Male Actor award at 68th Filmfare Awards 2023**

➤ Rajkumar Rao has been awarded the Best Male Actor award for his role in Badhaai Do at the 68th Hyundai Filmfare Awards on April 28, 2023.

➤ Alia Bhatt was awarded Best Actor (Female) for Gangubai Kathiawadi.

➤ The 68th Hyundai Filmfare Awards was held at the Jio Convention Centre, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai.

➤ Best Film: Gangubai Kathiawadi

➤ Best Film (Critics'): Badhaai Do

➤ Best Actor (Critics'): Sanjay Mishra (Vadh)

➤ Best Actress (Critics'): Bhumi Pednekar (Badhaai Do) and Tabu (Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2)

➤ Best Director: Sanjay Leela Bhansali (Gangubai Kathiawadi)

➤ Filmfare Awards is one of the oldest and most prominent film events dedicated to the Hindi film industry. The awards were first introduced in 1954.

➤ They are presented annually by the 'The Times Group'.

➤ They were initially referred to as 'The Clare Awards'.

### ❖ **Govt. appoints Debadatta Chand as Managing Director of Bank of Baroda**

➤ The government has appointed Debadatta Chand as a Managing Director (MD) of the Bank of Baroda for three years.

➤ Currently, he is serving as Executive Director of the bank.

➤ He has succeeded Sanjiv Chadha, whose term was extended for five months till June 30 by the government.

➤ In January 2023, the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) recommended Debadatta Chand as MD & CEO of the Bank of Baroda.

➤ Headquarters: Vadodara

### ❖ **Sinthan Snow Festival 2023 organized in J&K**

➤ The Directorate of Tourism, Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Authority (KTDA) organized a two-day Sinthan Snow Festival-2023 at Sinthan Maidan, Kishtwar, J&K from 29-30 April 2023.

➤ It was organized in collaboration with the District Administration Kishtwar, the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL), and the Army.

➤ This festival hosts a variety of activities like a Bike Rally, Paragliding, Snow Kayaking, and much more.

➤ Sinthan Top is a mountain pass, a popular tourist destination located between Breng Valley in the Anantnag district of Kashmir division and Kishtwar district of Chenab Valley in the Jammu division.

### ❖ **Index of Eight Core Industries increases by 3.6 percent in March 2023**

- The combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) has increased by 3.6% (provisional) in March 2023 as compared to the Index of March 2022.
- ICI measures the combined and individual performance of the production of eight core industries - Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement, and Electricity.
- The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

### ❖ **India Calling Conference 2023 organized by IMC in Mumbai**

- The Indian Merchants Chamber has organized the 'India Calling Conference 2023' in Mumbai.
- The theme of the 2023 Conference is "Rising India- Inviting Partnership for Growth".
- The conference was attended by Union Minister for Commerce Piyush Goyal, Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, and MoS for Railways & Textiles Darshana Jardosh.
- Minister Piyush Goyal delivered the inaugural address at the 'India Calling Conference 2023'. He appealed to all to aim for a USD 47 trillion economy when India reaches the year 2047.

### ❖ **Bank of India launched Shubh Arambh FD scheme for senior citizens**

- Bank of India has launched the "Shubh Arambh Deposit" retail term deposit scheme for senior citizens.
- With this scheme, seniors, including super senior citizens can take benefit of an additional interest rate of 0.50% for senior citizens and 0.65% for super senior citizens.

- It provides super senior citizens seniors with 501-day fixed deposits at a high-interest rate of 7.80%.
- Other senior citizens between the ages of 60 and 80 can invest at a rate of 7.65%.
- The bank is providing a 7.15% interest rate on a 501-day term for the general public.

### ❖ **ITC becomes India's 6th valuable company**

- FMCG giant ITC has overtaken the market capitalization of Infosys to become India's sixth most valuable company on the stock exchanges.
- ITC's market cap currently stands at ₹5.11 trillion (at the time of writing this report).
- This achievement comes after the share price of ITC rose 59% over the past year and 24% so far in 2023.
- Meanwhile, Infosys shares have fallen by 20% in 2023.
- Top five companies are : Reliance, TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, HUL

### ❖ **IIT Bombay's SHUNYA secures second place in 'Solar Decathlon' Build Challenge in US**

- A team of students from IIT Bombay secured second place in the prestigious Solar Decathlon contest in the US, for their innovative zero-energy house designed to address air quality challenges in Mumbai's hot and humid climate.

The US Department of Energy's (DOE) Solar Decathlon competition is the longest running student competition in the US.

- In this, groups of students have to design and build highly efficient and innovative buildings powered by renewable energy.
- Ball State University took almost two years to design and build their zero-energy home and won the '2023 Build Challenge' competition.

➤ The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and the University of British Columbia came second and third respectively in this year's 'Build Challenge'.

➤ A team from IIT Bombay built a house in Mumbai with advanced technology solutions to help improve air quality in hot and humid climates.

❖ **Indian-American 'Neeli Bendapudi' gets 'Immigrant Achievement Award'**

➤ Indian-American citizen 'Neeli Bendapudi' (59) was conferred with the prestigious 'Immigrant Achievement Award' 2023 for her contribution in the field of higher education in the US.

➤ Neeli Bendapudi is the president of Penn State University. She is the first black woman to serve as the president of Penn State University.

➤ The award is given each year to an individual or organization for their commitment and dedication to American heritage.

➤ Raised in India, Bendapudi came to the US to pursue her doctoral studies at the University of Kansas.

➤ For nearly 30 years, Dr. Bendapudi, President of 'Penn State University', has been working to foster student success, inclusive excellence in higher education, and create opportunities for students, faculty and staff.