

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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DESCRIPTIVE

❖ H5N1 kills 50 million birds, spreads to mammals

- This year, the world has been witnessing one of the worst-ever documented outbreak of the highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 killing millions of birds.
- The virus, which is known to cause severe disease and death in birds, has also been detected in mammalian species and also in humans.
- A bird-adapted strain of H5N1, called HPAI A(H5N1) for highly pathogenic avian influenza virus of type A of subtype H5N1, is the highly pathogenic causative agent of H5N1 flu, commonly known as avian influenza (bird flu).
- It is epizootic (an epidemic in non-humans) and panzootic (affecting animals of many species, especially over a wide area), killing tens of millions of birds and spurring the culling of hundreds of millions of others to stem its spread.
- HPAI A(H5N1) is considered an avian disease, although there is some evidence of limited human-to-human transmission of the virus.

❖ Uzbekistan holds referendum on new Constitution

- Uzbekistan, the landlocked Central Asian country of 35 million, holds its third referendum since it became independent in 1991 following the disintegration of the Soviet Union.
- In the referendum, the voters would be asked if they support rewriting the Constitution.
- The new draft, which would rewrite over 60% of the current charter, promises more freedoms, better social protection, gender equality, and abolition of death penalty, among others.

➤ The new Constitution defines Uzbekistan as a sovereign, democratic, rule of law, social and secular state. All changes are based on the idea that human rights and freedoms are paramount.

➤ The new draft constitution expands the human rights and the freedom of citizens of Uzbekistan, where once the state came first, now the citizen comes first.

❖ **Abdulla wins gold in World Continental Tour athletics**

➤ The 27-year-old from Kerala produced his best, 16.31m, in his last effort to finish ahead of Australian champion Hinson Aiden (16.18m) in the World Athletics Continental Tour-Bronze event in Japan.

➤ Abdulla had won the Commonwealth Games silver with 17.02m last year.

❖ **Abhilash Tomy scripts maritime history**

➤ Retired Naval Commander becomes first Indian to complete the Golden Globe Race, finishing in the second spot.

➤ It is a solo, non-stop circumnavigation of the globe without using any modern technological aids, recreating the 1960s on the high seas.

➤ He travelled 236 days alone at sea in his sail boat named 'Bayanat'.

➤ The race started on September 4, 2022 from the French port of Les Sables-d'Olonne, with 16 sailors from 11 countries.

➤ Almost eight months later, Ms. Kirsten Neuschäfer, South African sailor, officially became the first woman to win a “round the world race by the three great capes, including solo and fully crewed races, non-stop or with stops, and the first South African sailor to win a round-the-world event.

❖ **Close to 4,000 painted storks nesting in two Andhra Pradesh villages**

➤ One of the largest flock of painted storks (*Mycteria leucocephala*), approximately 4,000 birds, have made tall trees in Veepapuram and Venkatapuram villages in Andhra Pradesh.

- The Painted Stork is a large wading bird in the stork family. Their distinctive pink tertiaries (flight) feathers of the wing are pink and give them their name.
- They are usually seen in the freshwater wetlands and occasionally in the coastal regions and are found in Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) had categorized and evaluated these stork species and had listed them as 'Near Threatened'.
- The breeding season extends from July to October in North India and November to March in South India.

❖ **PM Modi launches 91 FM Transmitters of capacity of 100 Watt**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually commissioned 91 FM Transmitters of capacity of 100 Watt at Diphu in Karbi Anglong district of Assam.
- Priority has been given to Left Wing Extremism affected areas, aspirational districts and border areas of the country for setting up new transmitters.
- The transmitter will act as a vehicle to convey information about programs and policies of the government as well as entertainment content to every nook and corner of the country.
- This will strengthen cultural connectivity as well as intellectual bonding and is expected to benefit the underprivileged who may not have had access to this facility earlier.
- It will promote digital entrepreneurship in villages.
- All India Radio, formally known as Akashvani since 1957, is India's national public radio broadcaster and an arm of Prasar Bharati.
- It is run by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- Its slogan is 'Bahujan Hitay: Bahujan Sukhay', which translates to 'serving, educating and entertaining the masses'.

❖ International Labour Day 2023

- International Labour Day is celebrated every year on 1 May to commemorate the struggles and sacrifices of the workers' and labours' movement.
- The origins of Labour Day can be traced back to the late 19th century when workers across the globe began demanding better working conditions, fair wages, and shorter working hours.
- Labour Day is celebrated around the world to raise awareness of the rights of working people and to protect them from exploitation.
- In India, the first May Day was celebrated by The Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan in Madras (now Chennai) in 1923.
- May 1 is also celebrated as 'Maharashtra Day' and 'Gujarat Day' to mark the statehood status of these two states in 1960.

❖ Ding Liren crowned as the king of World Chess

- Ding Liren of China beat Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia in the tiebreaks and ended Magnus Carlsen's decade-long reign in the format to win the 2023 Classical World Chess Championship in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- 30-year-old becomes China's first Men's World Chess Champion.

❖ Renowned scientist Dr.N. Gopalakrishnan passes away at 68

- N. Gopalakrishnan, the creator of the Indian Institute of Scientific Heritage (IISH) and a former scientist at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), has passed away at the age of 68.
- He was born in the city of Kochi in the Ernakulam district of Kerala.
- He held a Master of Science degree in Chemistry, a Master of Arts degree in Sociology, and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry.

❖ Sergio Perez wins Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2023

- Red Bull's Sergio Perez won the Azerbaijan Grand Prix, the fourth round of the 2023 Formula 1 World Championship, in Baku.
- Sergio Perez took advantage of a fortunately timed safety car to beat his teammate Max Verstappen to the victory in the Azerbaijan Grand Prix.

❖ Tamil Nadu tops market borrowing for third consecutive year, RBI Data Revealed

- For the third year in a row, Tamil Nadu has emerged as the State with the highest market borrowings according to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- During the April-February period of FY23, Tamil Nadu's gross market borrowings through State Development Loans (SDLs) stood at ₹68,000 crore.
- The State's Finance Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan announced in his budget speech last month that Tamil Nadu planned to borrow ₹1,43,197.93 crore during 2023-24 and make repayments of ₹51,331.79 crore, resulting in net borrowings of ₹91,866.14 crore.
- In the budget estimates for 2023-24, the Fiscal Deficit is estimated to be 3.25% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).

❖ NPCI International Payments partners with PPRO to expand reach of RuPay and UPI

- NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), has signed a definitive agreement with PPRO, a global digital payments infrastructure provider, to expand the reach of RuPay cards and UPI.
- PPRO's global clients include payment service providers (PSPs) and global merchant acquirers around the world.
- By partnering with PPRO, Indian consumers will be able to shop online with merchants worldwide and pay safely and easily using UPI.

➤ The partnership will also drive NIPL's expansion into foreign markets and add India to PPRO's Local Payment Method (LPM) coverage map.

❖ **Qualifier Nagal wins Rome Challenger**

➤ Sumit Nagal creates history by becoming the first Indian man to win ATP Challenger on European Clay.

➤ The Indian tennis number 1 defeated Jesper De Jong (6-3,6-2) in the final of the ATP 75 Rome Challenger.

➤ This is also the 25-year-old's third ATP Challenger title and first in four years.

➤ The Jhajjar-born athlete is set to re-enter the top 300 in the ATP singles rankings (currently placed 254th in the live rankings).

❖ **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to hand over patrol vessel, landing craft to Maldives as India's gift**

➤ Defence minister Rajnath Singh will hand over a fast patrol vessel and a landing craft to the Maldives as India's "gift" during his visit to the island nation from May 1 to 3.

➤ Singh's visit to the Maldives will be an "important landmark in building strong bonds" of friendship between the two countries.

➤ The Maldives is one of India's key maritime neighbours in the Indian Ocean region and the overall bilateral ties, including in the areas of defence and security, have been on an upward trajectory in the last few years.

➤ India's decision to provide the military platforms to the Maldives came amid China's persistent efforts to expand its overall influence in the region.

❖ **Rajneesh Karnatak appointed as new MD & Chairman of Bank of India**

➤ Rajneesh Karnatak has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chairman of Bank of India (BOI) by the Government of India.

➤ He is currently serving as the Executive Director of Union Bank of India.

➤ He will hold the role of MD & CEO of Bank of India for a period of three years, from the date he assumes charge or until further instructions.

➤ With over 29 years of experience in the banking sector, Karnatak has served as the Chief General Manager of Punjab National Bank before being appointed as the Executive Director of Union Bank of India on October 21, 2021.

➤ Karnatak holds a Master of Commerce degree and is a certified associate from the Indian Institute of Bankers (CAIIB).

➤ Bank of India (BOI) tagline : Relationship Beyond Banking

❖ **Science 20 Engagement Group meeting under India's G20 chairmanship begins in Lakshadweep**

➤ The Science 20 Engagement Group meeting on Universal Holistic Health began under India's G20 chairmanship in Lakshadweep, Bangaram Island.

➤ The focus of the two-day event is to work towards better agricultural practices, greater access to nutritious food, healthier eating habits and more opportunities for ecologically conscious and sustainable food products.

➤ The aim of the event is to develop a holistic approach to health that focuses on promoting wellness and preventing diseases rather than merely treating them.

➤ It is an effort to bring together scientists, experts and policy makers from different countries to exchange ideas and knowledge on health related issues.

➤ The Engagement Group will also explore the role of technology in promoting health and wellness, such as the use of telemedicine and digital health solutions.

➤ The event is a significant step towards achieving India's vision of universal health coverage and promoting the Sustainable Development Goals.

❖ **Debdutt Chand appointed as the new Managing Director of Bank of Baroda**

➤ Debdutt Chand was appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of Bank of Baroda (BoB) on 29 April.

- Chand is currently serving as the Executive Director of the bank.
- He will assume the position of MD for a period of three years with effect from July 1, 2023 or until further notice.
- The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) recommended the name of Debdutt Chand for the post of Managing Director and CEO in Bank of Baroda.