

**IACE**

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**12<sup>TH</sup> May 2023**

**DESCRIPTIVE**

## ❖ **Telangana Government implements Rs. 5 lakh insurance scheme for toddy tappers**

➤ The government of Telangana, led by Chief Minister Shri K Chandrasekhar Rao has planned to introduce a new insurance scheme for toddy tappers, under the name 'Geetha Karmikula Bhima' (Insurance for toddy tappers).

➤ As per the scheme the insurance money of Rs 5 lakh will be deposited directly in the bank account of the family members in case any toddy tapper dies accidentally while collecting toddy from palm trees in the fields.

➤ The insurance amount would be disbursed within a week.

➤ The CM instructed Telangana Finance Minister Shri T. Harish Rao and Excise and Prohibition Minister Shri V. Srinivas Goud to prepare guidelines for the new insurance scheme.

➤ Meanwhile, the State's first Neera Cafe will be inaugurated & it was constructed on Necklace Road in Hyderabad with an estimated cost of Rs 13 crore.

➤ Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan; Chief Minister: K. Chandrashekar Rao.

## ❖ **Associated Press wins public service, photo Pulitzer for Ukraine coverage**

➤ The Associated Press won two Pulitzer Prizes, including the distinguished public service award, for its coverage of the war in Ukraine.

➤ While the New York Times earned the international reporting honor for its stories about the Russian Invasion.

➤ Washington Post reporter Caroline Kitchener won the national reporting prize for coverage of abortion in the United States after the Supreme Court last year

overturned the landmark 1973 Roe v Wade ruling that had legalised the procedure nationwide.

- The annual Pulitzer awards, first presented in 1917, are the most celebrated honors in US journalism.
- The prizes are named for newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer, who died in 1911 and left money to create the awards and establish a journalism school at Columbia University.

### ❖ **International Nurses Day 2023 - May 12**

- International Nurses Day is celebrated every year on May 12. Nurses Day is celebrated to praise the Nurses who contribute their work to the society.
- The theme for the 2023 resource is 'Our Nurses. Our Future.'
- In 1953, US Department of Health, Education and Welfare officer Dorothy Sutherland contacted US President Dwight. D. Eisenhower to celebrate “Nurses Day”.
- Since 1965, the International Council of Nurses (ICN) has celebrated this day. From January 1974, May 12 was officially declared “International Nurses Day”.
- On this special day, the International Council of Nurses (ICN) distributed the Nurses Day kit to the people to know the importance of nurses. In Bangladesh, where the number of nurses is half of the number of doctors.

### ❖ **Yashasvi Jaiswal scores fastest IPL 50**

- Rajasthan Royals opener Yashasvi Jaiswal etched his name in history by becoming the fastest fifty in the Indian Premier League against Kolkata Knight Riders.
- Chasing 149, Jaiswal created history by scoring 50 off just 13 balls, surpassing KL Rahul's 14-ball fifty in 2018. He also went past KKR's Pat Cummins, who scored a 14-ball fifty in 2022.

- Yashasvi hit three sixes and seven fours in the first 50 runs.
- Batting first after losing the toss, Kolkata scored 149 runs losing eight wickets in 20 overs.
- The record of scoring the most runs in the first over of the innings is in the name of Mumbai Indians. He scored 27 runs in the very first over against Royal Challengers Bangalore in 2011. These include seven extras. Rajasthan is at number two.

### ❖ **India to attend Sixth Indian Ocean Conference set to begin in Dhaka**

- Bangladesh is set to host the sixth International Indian Ocean Conference in its capital city Dhaka from 12 May 2023.
- India will also be attending the event, which aims to bring together important maritime partners and regional states on a common stage to discuss the potential for regional cooperation for SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region).
- The two-day conference, which will be inaugurated by Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, will witness presence of about 150 delegates, including high-level officials and representatives from over 25 countries.
- The theme of the event this year is 'Peace, Prosperity and Partnership for a Resilient Future' in view of the post-Covid scenario and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.
- Few important dignitaries who are going to be a part of the conference include Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Mauritius president Prithvirajsing Roopun and Maldives vice-president Faisal Naseem.

### ❖ **Jayant Narlikar awarded with lifetime achievement award by ASI**

- Prof Jayant V. Narlikar, eminent astronomer and founder director of the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) in Pune, was presented the first Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award by the Astronomical Society of India (ASI).

- The ASI had instituted the award in 2022, as it celebrated its golden jubilee, to recognize eminent Indian astronomers for their contributions in the field of astronomy and astrophysics.
- Prof Dipankar Banerjee, President of ASI, told that the award was announced earlier this year at the 41st meeting of the society held at IIT Indore.
- “However, Prof. Narlikar was unable to travel to receive it. Hence they handed over the award to Prof. Narlikar at his residence in Pune and felicitated him,” Prof Banerjee said. The award carries a citation and plaque, and a cash prize.
- Prof Narlikar is known for his study of the Universe, contributing to various aspects of Astrophysics including the Narlikar-Hoyle theory. He was also among the first to initiate cosmology research in India.

#### ❖ **ICMR, AYUSH Ministry Sign MoU for Collaboration on Health Research**

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the AYUSH ministry have signed an agreement for collaboration and cooperation for research in the field of integrated medicine.
- Integrated medicine refers to using alternative medicine systems such as ayurveda, yoga, naturopathy, unani, siddha and homeopathy with orthodox systems as part of a treatment plan.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will combine traditional knowledge with modern research and boost ayurveda's identity on the basis of scientific evidence, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said.
- The agreement will focus on promoting high-impact scientific research in identified areas of national importance in healthcare.

#### ❖ **LIGO-India: Expanding Horizons in Gravitational Wave Research**

- PM Modi laid the foundation stone of scientific projects worth more than Rs 5800 crore on May 11.

➤ One of the most significant projects is the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO).

➤ The LIGO-India will be developed in Hingoli, Maharashtra.

➤ It is an extremely sensitive interferometer of 4 km arm length and act as 'antennae' to detect gravitational waves.

➤ It will work in synchronization with two observatories operating in the US.

### ❖ **Ladakh annual festival 'Monlam Chenmo' begins**

➤ Ladakh celebrated annual five-day-long Great Prayer Festival, "Ladakh Monlam Chenmo," in Leh on May 11.

➤ The event is being organized by the All Ladakh Gonpa Association.

➤ Smonlam Chenmo is a major annual prayer of the Sangha Community of Ladakh gathered at one platform.

➤ On the sidelines of the event, Ladakh MP, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal is organizing a special camp for Sangha Community, which is named "Seva for Sangha", in collaboration with district administration Leh.

### ❖ **ISRO successfully commences testing of semi-cryogenic engine**

➤ The Indian Space Research Organisation has successfully commenced testing of its semi-cryogenic engines that would power future launch vehicles.

➤ The very first integrated test on an intermediate configuration of the 2000 kN (Kilonewton) semi-cryogenic engine carried out at the newly-commissioned Semicryogenic Integrated Engine & Stage Test facility at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu.

➤ The test is a step towards developing a 2000 kN thrust engine, which works on Liquid Oxygen (LOX)-Kerosene propellant combination, for future launch vehicles.

➤ The intermediate configuration, designated as Power Head Test Article (PHTA), comprises all the engine systems except the thrust chamber. It was the first of a

series of tests planned to validate the design of the propellant feed system, including the low-pressure and high-pressure turbo-pumps, the gas generator, and control components.

➤ The Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) of ISRO has undertaken the design & development of a semi-cryogenic engine with 2000 kN thrust with Indian industry participation, and it will power the booster stages of future launch vehicles.

#### ❖ **Former AIFF vice-president A.R. Khaleel passes away**

➤ The former All India Football Federation (AIFF) Vice-President, AR Khaleel passed away at the age of 91 due to illness.

➤ He had also served as the president of the Karnataka State Football Association (KSFA) for 28 years till 2018.

➤ He was a footballer, who ran Jawahar Union FC, one of Bengaluru's traditional clubs.

➤ He also donned managerial roles for the Indian National Teams in various age groups.

#### ❖ **India extends \$1 billion credit line for Sri Lanka by a year**

➤ India has extended a \$1 billion credit line for Sri Lanka by one year, giving the crisis-hit country a backup infusion of dollars for essential imports.

➤ The credit line, part of about \$4 billion in emergency assistance extended by India during the peak of Sri Lanka's financial crisis early last year, was scheduled to end in March.

➤ Post-negotiations, the credit line was extended till March 2024. The situation has improved with Sri Lanka finalizing a nearly USD 3 billion bailout package from IMF.

➤ Sri Lanka's reserves dropped to record lows in April last year, triggering its worst financial crisis since independence from British colonial rule in 1948. The island,



off India's southern coast, spent months struggling to pay for essential imports such as fuel, cooking gas and medicine and defaulted on its foreign debt.

➤ The situation has improved with Sri Lanka finalising a nearly USD 3 billion bailout package from the International Monetary Fund in March and kicking off debt restructuring talks with key bilateral creditors India, Japan and China. Sri Lanka's foreign exchange reserves hit USD 2.7 billion last month's end.

### ❖ **Varanasi's LBSI airport gets India's first reading lounge**

➤ The Lal Bahadur Shastri International (LBSI) Airport here has become the first in India to have a reading lounge.

➤ Apart from books on Kashi, the lounge's library has a collection of literature and books in many international languages besides books of youth authors published under Prime Minister Yuva Yojana.

➤ The Varanasi airport has become the first airport in the country to have a free reading lounge. The lounge has been established with the assistance of National Book Trust (NBT), an Indian publishing house and autonomous body under the ministry of education of the Union government.

➤ The Airport Reading Lounge is a reflection of Kashi, for both traditionalists as well as the contemporary visitors and passengers, and for those who wish to seek further knowledge on the mystical heritage of this ancient city.

➤ Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport (LBSI Airport) has a history that dates back to the early 1950s. The airport was initially known as Varanasi Airport and served as a domestic airport connecting Varanasi with major Indian cities.

### ❖ **Commerce ministry recommends anti-dumping duty on optical fibre**

➤ The commerce ministry's arm DGTR has recommended imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports of a certain type of optical fibres from China,

Korea and Indonesia to protect the domestic industry from cheap inbound shipments.

- The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has recommended the duty after conducting an investigation on the dumped imports of 'Dispersion Unshifted Single-mode Optical Fiber' from these countries.
- The product is mainly applied to high-data rate, long distance and access network transportation.
- Birla Furukawa Fibre Optics Pvt. Ltd, on behalf of the domestic industry, has asked for initiation of an anti-dumping investigation on this product coming from these countries.

#### ❖ WHO declares end of mpox global health emergency

- The World Health Organization (WHO) announced on May 11 that the global health emergency for mpox, a viral disease formerly known as monkeypox, has ended after 10 months.
- This came after confirmed cases in over 100 countries since the disease started spreading globally in May 2022.
- The emergency committee of the WHO made the recommendation to end the health emergency, and WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus announced the decision during a press conference.
- Mpox is a viral disease that spreads through direct contact with body fluids and was first observed in humans in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1970. Since then, the disease has mainly been limited to West and Central African countries.