

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

14TH & 15TH May 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ Praveen Sood appointed as new CBI director

- Praveen Sood, a 1986 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Karnataka cadre, has been appointed as the next director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- Praveen Sood will replace current CBI Director Subodh Jaiswal when his term ends on May 25.
- The Department of Personnel and Training approved the appointment of Sood as CBI Director for a period of two years.
- CBI is the premier investigative agency of India.
- It was established in 1941 as Special Police Establishment and later renamed as Central Bureau of Investigation in 1963.
- Its primary objective is to maintain the integrity and credibility of administration, ensure justice and uphold the rule of law.

❖ Geeta Rao Gupta appointed US Ambassador for Global Women's Issues

- The US Senate has confirmed the appointment of Indian-American Geeta Rao Gupta as the 'Ambassador at Large' for global issues related to women at the State Department.
- The Senate is deeply impressed by Gupta's efforts to promote the rights of women and girls through US foreign policy.
- Gupta's nomination was confirmed earlier this week by a 51-47 vote in the US Senate.

➤ According to Geeta Rao Gupta, women across the world face many inequalities and stigma and this prevents them from participating fully in the economy.

➤ She served as the executive director of the UN Foundation's 3D Program for Girls and Women.

➤ She also advises the UNAIDS Global Coalition on Women and AIDS and is on the boards of the Inter Action and Moria Fund.

➤ She has also held the position of Co-Chair of the United Nations Millennium Project Task Force on Education and Gender Equality.

❖ **International Day of Families: 15 May**

➤ International Day of Families is observed on 15 May to raise awareness about the importance of families and their role in society.

➤ It is a global observance observed by countries around the world, including the United States.

➤ The theme for International Day of Families 2023 is 'Demographic Trends and Families', while the theme for 2022 was 'Families and Urbanisation'.

➤ The significance of the day lies in raising awareness about the importance of families as the basic unit of society.

➤ This day was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993.

➤ It aims to promote awareness of the importance of families as the basic unit of society and to address issues related to the global family.

❖ **India-Indonesia bilateral exercise 'Samudra Shakti-23' begins**

➤ The indigenously designed and built anti-submarine warfare corvette INS Kavaratti arrived at Batam, Indonesia to participate in the fourth edition of India-Indonesia bilateral exercise 'Samudra Shakti-23.'

➤ The exercise that began will see the participation of an Indian Navy Dornier Maritime Patrol aircraft and Chetak helicopter. The Indonesian Navy will be

represented by KRI Sultan Iskandar Muda, CN 235 Maritime Patrol Aircraft and AS565 Panther Helicopter.

- Samudra Shakti is aimed at enhancing interoperability and mutual cooperation between both the navies.
- The harbour phase of the exercise comprises cross deck visits, professional interactions, subject matter expert exchanges, and sports fixtures, while the sea phase includes weapon firing, helicopter operations, anti-submarine warfare and air defence exercises and boarding operations.

❖ **NASA launches second super-pressure balloon**

- The US space agency, NASA has launched a second football-stadium-sized, heavy-lift super pressure balloon (SPB), under its Scientific Balloon Program, from Wānaka Airport, New Zealand.
- The first scientific balloon was launched on April 16, following five failed attempts last year.
- Airways (New Zealand's air navigation services provider) works with Nasa to launch the balloons, which inflate fully in flight to 532,000 cubic meters and carry a scientific payload.
- The balloon launched is carrying the Extreme Universe Space Observatory 2 (EUSO-2) from the University of Chicago, which will detect ultra-high-energy cosmic ray particles from beyond our galaxy as they penetrate Earth's atmosphere.

❖ **AIIMS ties up with WHO, Duke-NUS for quality control**

- The All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi (AIIMS) has collaborated with World Health Organization (WHO-SEARO) to ensure patient safety and quality control.
- According to WHO, the current challenge in global public health is patient harm, which is a leading cause of avoidable mortality and morbidity.

- In this regard, a core committee for Patient Safety and Quality at AIIMS is being constituted for implementation of advanced patient safety and quality initiatives across various departments.
- AIIMS will follow the learning curriculum proposed by WHO in collaboration with the Duke-NUS (Institute of Patient Safety & Quality -IPSQ).
- The WHO will organize onsite visits of experts or study tour of AIIMS staff as and when required.

❖ **Arinze Ifeakandu wins Dylan Thomas prize 2023**

- Writer Arinze Ifeakandu has won Swansea University's Dylan Thomas Prize 2023 for a “kaleidoscopic reflection of queer life and love in Nigeria”.
- Dylan Thomas Prize is a recognition of literary works by authors aged 39 or under and is one of the most prestigious awards for young writers.
- His debut book is 'God's Children Are Little Broken Things', which is a collection of nine short stories on the themes of queer life, love, and humanity.
- A few months back, Ifeakandu also won the Republic of Consciousness Prize.
- Previous winners of the Dylan Thomas Prize include Patricia Lockwood, Raven Leilani, Bryan Washington, among others.

❖ **PayNearby launches 'PayNearby Mall' for small businesses and consumers**

- PayNearby, India's leading branchless banking and digital network, has launched PayNearby Mall, a meta-commerce platform aimed at enabling retailers to offer goods and services in an assisted mode at the last mile.
- The platform, which will soon be integrated with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform, aims to upgrade every retailer in PayNearby's million+ active network to benefit from the ongoing e-commerce revolution.
- Within hours of the launch, more than 6,000 retailers have upgraded themselves to a mall, with over 100 retailers placing over 250 orders. The most popular

categories included mobile phones and accessories, home appliances, groceries, and textiles.

➤ The PayNearby Mall is envisioned as a meta-commerce platform that will empower every retailer and seller, from big merchants and e-commerce platforms to local sellers and small businesses (through ONDC) meet the unmet demand of their customers, both locally and across a wider market PAN India.

➤ Anand Kumar Bajaj, Founder, MD & CEO, PayNearby.

❖ **UN Global Road Safety Week: May 15-21, 2023**

➤ UN Global Road Safety Week is an annual event held in May to raise awareness about road safety and the importance of taking steps to prevent accidents.

➤ The week is organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN regional commissions, and it is supported by a wide range of partners, including governments, NGOs, businesses, and individuals.

➤ The week was first marked in 2007. It was no longer observed until 2013, and it had been recorded every two years since then until 2019.

➤ The 7th UN Global Road Safety Week will take this year from 15-21 May. The theme is sustainable transport, and specifically the need for governments to facilitate a shift to walking, cycling and using public transport.

➤ Road safety is both a prerequisite for this shift to happen and an outcome of it. The slogan is #RethinkMobility.

❖ **Himachal CM launches 'Him Data Portal'**

➤ Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched the 'Him' data portal, a common digital platform to improve the delivery of welfare schemes by integrating real-time and accurate data of all government bodies.

➤ This will strengthen the state's benefit delivery systems through 'Him Pulse' which would support and enhance the capacity of 'Him Parivar' in linking digital identity to the delivery of benefits to the targeted population.

➤ Addressing a conference organised by the Bharti Institute of Public Policy of the Indian School of Business (ISB) on governance and technology in Punjab's Mohali, Sukhu said that state government agencies should collaborate, connect, and respond to the needs of the public more efficiently by accessing accurate and real-time data.

❖ **71 million people internally displaced worldwide: IDMC**

➤ A record high number — 71 million people — were reported internally displaced in 2022 because of war or natural disasters, according to a report published by the Norwegian Refugee Council.

➤ The council's Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) counted the number of people who were displaced within their country's borders, also called internally displaced people. The report does not account for refugees, or those who left their countries.

➤ The report said events that pushed the total number of displaced people up 20% from 2021 included the war in Ukraine, natural disasters like weather phenomenon La Nina and ongoing effects from the global pandemic.

➤ Internal displacements, defined in the report as the number of forced movements of people within the borders of their country, was 28.3 million — three times higher in 2022 than the annual average from the last decade.

❖ **BAFTA TV Awards 2023: Ben Whishaw Bags Best Lead Actor Award**

➤ Ben Whishaw has received the best leading actor award for his role in 'This is Going to Hurt (BBC One)' at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) TV Awards 2023.

➤ While Kate Winslet won the leading actress award for her role in I Am Ruth.

➤ Some Others Awards:-

➤ Drama series: Bad Sisters

➤ Mini-series: Mood

➤ International: Dahmer-Monster : The Jeffrey Dahmer Story

➤ Supporting actor : Adeel Akhtar - Sherwood.

❖ Coastal Road in Mumbai renamed after Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj

- Chief Minister Eknath Shinde recently renamed the Coastal Road in Mumbai to the new name Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj.
- In the memory of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, on his 366th birth anniversary, a grand ceremony was organised for the first time at the Gateway of India.
- As an additional tribute, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced plans to install a grand statue of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj along the Coastal Highway.
- The announcement comes against the backdrop of the quashing of the Maratha reservation and the recent Supreme Court rejection of a review petition by the government for the Maratha reservation.
- The announcement is seen as an attempt to woo the Maratha community ahead of the upcoming elections. Chhatrapati is the symbol of pride for the Maratha community.

❖ 29th Biennial Conference of the All India Primary Teachers' Federation

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi Addressed the 29th Biennial Education Conference of All India Primary Teachers's Federation organized at Gandhinagar in Gujarat.
- In his address, the Prime Minister said that technology can provide information but the right approach can be given only by teachers.
- He said that with the changing times, the real challenge before teachers today is to satisfy the growing curiosity of children and keep themselves updated.
- The conference was a significant event that brought together primary teachers from across India to discuss pertinent issues in the education sector.
- The theme of this summit is 'Teachers at the Heart of Transforming Education.
- The objective of the conference is to provide a platform for primary teachers to exchange ideas, share experiences and collectively address challenges in primary education.