

**IACE**

# **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

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

**DESCRIPTIVE**

## **❖ World Bank Approves \$82 Million for Prevention of Zoonotic & Endemic Diseases in India**

- The Board of Executive Directors of World Bank (WB) approved an \$82 million loan for Animal Health System Support for One Health Programme (AHSSOH).
- It will support India's Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme, towards to control animal diseases by adopting global best practices for animal health management & to prevent, detect, & respond to endemic zoonotic, transboundary, and emerging infectious diseases.
- Its aim is to mitigate the risks of animal disease outbreaks by enhancing disease surveillance and veterinary services in the livestock and wildlife sectors.
- The \$82 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) uses the Program-for-Results (P for R) financing instrument that links the disbursement of funds directly to the achievement of specific program results.
- The loan has a maturity period of 11.5 years, including a grace period of 4.5 years.

## **❖ Kotak Mahindra Bank introduces Privy League, an exclusive premium banking programme**

- Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) announced the launch of its all-new Privy League programme, an exclusive premium banking programme.
- It has unique lifestyle benefits and bespoke financial solutions tailored to high-networth people (HNI).

- Privy League, was designed to honour their customers' achievements by providing them with unrivalled lifestyle experiences and superior banking services.
- The Premium Metal Debit Card for the Privy League black tier, designed by famous artist Arunanshu Chowdhury, allows clients to enjoy premium bargains, complimentary airport lounge access, and many other privileges.
- The initiative provides a variety of Business Banking solutions, as well as advantageous rates on loans, locker rentals, brokerage, and other specialised products.

### ❖ **CML Biotech installs world's 1st integrated blood collection tube manufacturing machine**

- Angamaly-based CML Biotech Ltd., one of the largest manufacturers of blood collection tubes in India, has installed the world's first integrated machine 'Husky – Ichor', for manufacturing of blood collection tubes.
- The integrated machine comprises machine mould, hot runner, dowsler, dehumidifier, chiller, temperature controller and dryer.
- Normally, these functions are carried out in different machines. The machine is manufactured by Canada-based Husky Technologies, a global leader in injection moulds and moulding machines.
- The machine, set up at a cost of ₹12 crore, is capable of manufacturing 8 lakh blood collection tubes per day.
- The company currently has a manufacturing capacity of around 120 million vacuum blood collection tubes and 100 million non-vacuum blood collection tubes per annum.
- Apart from pan-India operations, the company's blood collection tubes, microbiology products and lab disposables are exported to more than 60 countries.
- CML Biotech Managing Director : **Paul Jacob**.

### ❖ **Duroflex ropes in Virat Kohli as brand ambassador**

- Duroflex announces cricket icon Virat Kohli as its new brand ambassador to further its mission of advocating the importance of quality sleep in promoting a long healthy life.
- Virat Kohli's strong association with the brand's mission has inspired him to take on the role of brand ambassador for Duroflex.
- This collaboration will demonstrate Duroflex's commitment to spreading awareness about the connection between quality sleep and a healthier, more satisfying life.
- Kohli also launched Duroflex's latest offering Neuma'.

### ❖ **Indian Army conducts Flood Relief Exercise Jal Rahat in Assam**

- Gajraj Corps of the Indian Army conducted a Joint Flood Relief 'Exercise Jal Rahat' at Hagrama Bridge on Manas River, Assam to validate joint drills and coordinate preparedness by multi-agency flood relief columns.
- Apart from Indian Army- SSB, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and police representatives took part.
- The event included coordination and rehearsals for rescue mission of people from inundated areas by joint efforts of specialist teams from Army, NDRF and SDRF.
- Practice on use of innovative expedients by the flood relief columns was also organised in which teams of Army and SSB demonstrated use of local resources during such calamity.
- The event was witnessed by senior dignitaries from the Army, Civil, CAPF, DC Offices, Bongaigaon & Chirang and SSB.
- Notably, the Indian Army has been at the forefront during flood relief operations over the years has evacuated thousands of lives.

### ❖ **Govt. appoints Anil Kumar Jain as new PNGRB chairman**

- Former coal secretary Anil Kumar Jain has been appointed chairman of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).
- Jain, a 1986-batch Madhya Pradesh cadre IAS officer, has spent more than a decade formulating energy-sector policies at the petroleum and coal ministries as well as Niti Aayog.
- Jain has a doctorate in energy studies and has papers and a book published on the country's natural gas sector.
- He will fill a position that has been vacant since December 2020.
- Jain's appointment comes after three attempts to fill the position in the past two years failed. Former power secretary Sanjeev Sahai, former petroleum secretary Tarun Kapoor and former BPCL chairman Arun Singh were picked by the petroleum ministry's selection panel but were not appointed to PNGRB.

### ❖ **PM to inaugurate International Museum Expo 2023**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the International Museum Expo 2023 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- He will also unveil several key initiatives, including the Mascot, a Graphic Novel titled 'A Day at the Museum', the Pocket Map of Kartavya Path, and Museum Cards.
- The International Museum Expo is a significant event organized as part of the ongoing Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, commemorating the 47th International Museum Day (IMD).
- This year, the IMD theme is 'Museums, Sustainability, and Well Being', aiming to highlight the role of museums in fostering sustainable development and promoting well-being.

➤ The Museum Expo seeks to facilitate a comprehensive dialogue among museum professionals, fostering their evolution into cultural centers that play a crucial role in India's cultural diplomacy.

➤ The Mascot of the International Museum Expo is an artistic representation inspired by the iconic Dancing girl sculpture in the Chennapatnam art style.

### ❖ **'Gauri' bags 'Best Long Documentary Award' at SAFF, Montreal**

➤ "Gauri", a documentary on journalist and activist Gauri Lankesh directed by Kavita Lankesh, has won the "Best Long Documentary Award" at the Montreal 2023 South Asian Film Festival.

➤ This film was commissioned by Free Press Unlimited, Amsterdam.

➤ The Free Press Unlimited mission stems from Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

➤ The documentary "All That Breathes", which was nominated for an Oscar, was also in competition and received the runner-up prize.

➤ The Kabir Centre for Arts and Culture in Montreal is organizing the 13th South Asian Film Festival of Montreal (SAFFM) in 2024.

### ❖ **Uttar Pradesh Now Holds 2nd Position In GI Tagged Products**

➤ Uttar Pradesh now holds the second position in the country in terms of having the maximum number of Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged goods.

➤ The state has received GI tags for three more One District One Product (ODOP) crafts, taking the total number of GI-tagged products in the state to 48.

➤ The three newly-tagged ODOP crafts are Mainpuri tarkashi, Mahoba Gaura stone craft, and Sambhal horn craft. The GI tag is a valuable asset for the state of Uttar Pradesh.

➤ It helps to promote the state's traditional crafts and products, and also helps to boost the local economy. The GI tag also helps to create awareness about the state's rich cultural heritage.

➤ While Tamil Nadu leads with 55 GI-tagged goods, UP and Karnataka follow with 48 and 46 GI products, respectively.

### ❖ **Indian economy to grow at 6.7% in 2024: UN**

➤ India's gross domestic product is expected to expand by 5.8% in the calendar year 2023 and 6.7% in 2024, aided by resilient domestic demand, according to a report by the United Nations.

➤ However, higher interest rates and weaker external demand will continue to weigh on investment and exports in 2023, the UN says in a mid-year update for its World Economic Situation and Prospects report.

➤ Inflation in India is expected to decelerate to 5.5% in 2023 as global commodity prices moderate and slower currency depreciation reduces imported inflation.

➤ India's retail inflation, measured by the All-India Consumer Price Index (CPI), hit an 18-month low of 4.7% in April compared with 5.66% in March on easing food prices. Inflation has remained within the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) target band of 4%-6% for the second straight month.

### ❖ **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2023: May 17**

➤ World Telecommunication and Information Society Day is celebrated annually on May 17 to raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other ICT.

➤ The Theme for the year 2023 is 'Empowering the least developed countries through information and communication technologies'.

➤ The first World Telecommunication Day was celebrated on May 17, 1969, to mark the founding of ITU and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865.

### ❖ Andhra Pradesh launches 'e-Chits' app

- The Andhra Pradesh government has taken steps to make chit fund business transparent in the state and has brought a new policy in the management of chits.
- AP Revenue Minister Dharmana Prasada Rao revealed that everything will be done online from now on and launched an electronic application called e-chits.
- According to the new policy, all chit fund companies will have to transact online only. For this, the AP Revenue Registration and Stamps Departments have created electronic e-chits. All subscribers can know whether their money is safe through e-chits through this new system.
- According to the new policy, the officials of registration department will check online and give approval. Chits will have to be managed only through this system from now on.

### ❖ Nobel laureate and pioneering economist, Robert E. Lucas Jr. passes away

- An American economist, Robert E. Lucas Jr. passed away at 85.
- He was honoured with the Nobel Prize in Economics for having developed and applied the hypothesis of rational expectations, and thereby having transformed macroeconomic analysis and deepened our understanding of economic policy in 1995.
- He was well known for his investigations into the implications of the assumption of the rational expectations theory.