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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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DESCRIPTIVE

❖ India aims to expand standard care for hypertension and diabetes to 75 million people by 2025

- The Union Health Ministry will screen and list 75 million people, diagnosed with hypertension and diabetes on standard care by 2025 through primary health care centres in the country.
- The treatment that is accepted by medical experts for a certain type of disease and that is widely used by healthcare professionals is called standard care.
- According to Dr VK Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, this will be the largest expansion of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in primary health care programme with a “community-based approach”.
- The Outcome Budget document of Union Budget 2023-2024 has for the first time introduced hypertension and diabetes treatment as output indicators reflecting reflects the government’s commitment to scale-up hypertension and diabetes coverage services.
- In addition Besides the 75-25 initiative, the Shashakt Portal was launched to train 40,000 primary health care medical officers on Standard Treatment Workflow for NCDs.

❖ \$5 Billion undersea gas pipeline between United Arab Emirates -Gujarat proposed

- South Asia Gas Enterprise (SAGE), an international consortium of companies in deep water pipeline projects, has sought the support of the ministry of petroleum and others to develop an undersea gas pipeline from the Gulf to India.

- The proposed 2,000-km-long energy corridor connecting the Middle East and India, a \$5 billion project, can lead to an annual saving of about 7,000 crore in comparison with a similar quantity of liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports.
- The undersea transnational gas pipeline project Middle East-India Deepwater Pipeline (MEIDP) was initially conceived between Iran and India (Porbandar) about a decade ago but failed to take off due to western sanctions.
- There have been new large gas discoveries in Oman, UAE and Saudi Arabia and the Middle East plans to spend over \$120 billion to increase gas output by 14 billion cubic feet per day (bcfd) by 2030.
- Meeting the needs of the power and fertiliser industry for affordable gas, while moving to a low carbon economy, and increasing gas share to 15% in energy basket will create a demand of 700 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meter per Day (MMSCMD) gas annually at right prices.

❖ **Himachal Pradesh's unique Kangra tea registered for GI tag with European Union**

- Himachal Pradesh's (HP) Kangra tea, known for quality, unique aroma, and a tinge of fruity flavor, has been registered with the European Union (EU) as a protected Geographical Indication (GI).
- The registration was an important tool to recognise the quality, genuineness, and reputation of the product in the European markets, and this would boost the sale of Kangra tea.
- The sales would eventually benefit tea growers in Palampur, Baijnath, Kangra, and Dharamshala in Kangra district, Jogindernagar of Mandi district and Bhattiyat area of Chamba district.
- The Kangra tea was given GI status in 2005 by the Registrar of Geographical Indicators, Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).

➤ The GI status has been given to more than 400 traditional products of the State including Kullu shawl, Chamba Rumal, Kinnaur shawl, Kangra painting, Lahaul woolen socks and gloves etc.

❖ **Kamal Haasan to be felicitated with Outstanding Achievement at IIFA 2023**

➤ Veteran actor Kamal Haasan will receive the Outstanding Achievement in Indian Cinema award at the upcoming IIFA Weekend and Awards.

➤ The International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) will also honour fashion designer Manish Malhotra and actor couple Riteish Deshmukh and Genelia D'Souza at the award ceremony, to be held in Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, on May 26 and May 27.

➤ Haasan, a multi hyphenate cinema personality who has worked across industries in India, said he is looking forward to the 2023 IIFA Awards.

➤ Malhotra, whose credits include films such as 'Rangeela', 'Dil To Pagal Hai', and 'Ae Dil Hai Mushkil', will also showcase an exclusive "old world charm meets the new world" collection at a fashion show as part of Sobha Realty IIFA Rocks, a sidebar event at IIFA.

❖ **Chandigarh bags first rank in National Water Award 2022**

➤ The Ministry of Jalshakti Department of Water Resources, River Department and Ganga Rejuvenation has adjudicated Municipal Corporation Chandigarh First in the Best Urban Local Body Category of the National Water Award 2022.

➤ While sharing this achievement, Ms. Anindita Mitra, IAS, Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Chandigarh said that the Government of India, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation has declared the 4th National Water Award in the year 2022.

➤ The Ground Water Augmentation Awards and National Water Awards were launched in 2007.

➤ Its aim is to encourage all stakeholders for adopting innovative practices of groundwater augmentation through rainwater harvesting.

❖ **India's first commercial plane using sustainable aviation fuel flies**

- In a significant development towards decarbonising of the aviation sector, Air India's subsidiary, AirAsia has successfully operated India's first commercial passenger flight using indigenously produced Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) blend.
- Flight I5767 flew from Pune to Delhi powered by SAF blended aviation turbine fuel (ATF) supplied by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) in partnership with Praj Industries, which provided the technology for the blend.
- It was supplied by Indian Oil in partnership with Praj Industries, which provided the technology for the blend.
- SAF is also referred to as bio-jet fuel. It made from renewable biomass and waste resources
- Praj Industries has developed the fuel in partnership with the US-based biofuels company Gevo Inc., which has developed a breakthrough alcohol-to-jet (ATJ) technology for the production of SAF using sugarcane molasses as feedstock.

❖ **British Novelist, Martin Amis passes away at 73**

- Renowned British novelist, Martin Amis passed at 73 in Florida due to oesophageal cancer.
- He was a prolific writer and published 15 novels during his career.
- He was best known for his works "Money: A Suicide Note" and "London Fields."
- He was awarded the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for his memoir "Experience."
- His novels "Time's Arrow" and "Yellow Dog" were recognized with nominations for the Booker Prize.

❖ India's billionaire population estimated to rise to 19,119 in 5 Years

- The ranks of India's ultra high-net-worth individuals (Ultra HNIs) with a net worth of \$30 million and more are estimated to rise 58.4% in the next five years to 19,119 in 2027 from 12,069 in 2022, according to a Knight Frank India report.
- India's billionaire population is expected to move up to 195 individuals in 2027 from 161 in 2022, according to the report.
- The billionaire population is also expected to reach 195 from the current 161 individuals in 2022.
- Three out of the top ten highest growth spots across the world were held by Asian markets, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia recording between 5% and 7% rise in the ultra-wealthy population.
- This region is estimated to witness a growth of close to 40% in its ultra-wealthy count in the next five years. By 2027 Asia will be home to 210,175 UHNIs taking over Europe and standing second to the Americas.
- Europe was the hardest hit region with declines of 8.5% in the number of UHNWIs. Four-fifths of the region's countries experienced a decline in their UHNWI population.

❖ RBI to pay ₹87,416 crore as dividend to Centre for FY23

- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) central board approved the transfer of ₹87,416 crore as surplus to the government for FY23, surpassing the budget estimate by 82%.
- The union budget estimated an aggregate dividend of ₹48,000 crore from the RBI and public sector lenders.
- Last year, the central bank transferred a surplus of ₹30,307 crore to the Centre. Experts estimated a high dividend payout in FY23 on the back of bumper profits from forex sales and higher interest income.

➤ Some analysts had estimated a larger surplus transfer of ₹80,000-95,000 crore. Madhavi Arora, lead economist, Emkay Global Financial Services, said the fact that the RBI increased the contingency buffer as a percentage of the balance sheet from 5.5 to 6% probably led to the dividend remaining at the lower end of the expected range.

❖ **Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin selected to build NASA's Artemis V lunar lander**

➤ NASA announced that it selected Jeff Bezos-owned space technology company Blue Origin to build the human landing system for the Artemis V mission to the Moon.

➤ Blue Origin was awarded a \$3.4 billion contract to design, develop, test, and verify its Blue Moon lander.

➤ The lander will have to meet the space agency's requirements for recurring astronaut expeditions to the lunar surface, including docking with the Gateway, a space station that NASA plans to launch into the lunar orbit.

➤ Apart from the design and development of the lander, the contract awarded by NASA also includes one uncrewed demonstration mission to the lunar surface before astronauts use the lander during the Artemis V mission, which the agency targets to launch in 2029.

➤ NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) rocket will launch four astronauts to lunar orbit as part of the Artemis V mission. The astronauts will be launched aboard the Orion spacecraft, which was tested along with the Space Launch System during the Artemis 1 mission.

❖ **Minister Smriti Irani to inaugurate women labourers convention in Kerala**

➤ The Union Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani inaugurated the women labourers convention organised by the Kerala unit of BMS in Thiruvananthapuram.

➤ Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan would make the keynote address at the event.

- Around 3,000 women workers and laborers are expected to take part in the convention.
- The trade union informed that 2,000 seminars would be held across the country and out of those 200 would be held in Kerala.
- BMS further said that this year it has been accorded the chair of Labour-20 (L20) which is one of the G20 Engagement Groups.

❖ **PM Modi conferred with the highest honours of Fiji and Papua New Guinea**

- After Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred with the highest honour of Fiji, the Companion of the Order of Fiji by Sitiveni Rabuka, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji. Papua New Guinea also conferred their highest award to PM Modi.
- Papua New Guinea Governor-General Sir Bob Dadae bestowed the Companion of the order of Logohu to PM Modi for championing the cause of unity of Pacific Island countries and spearheading the cause of Global South.
- Former recipients of this award include former US president Bill Clinton.
- PM Modi, meanwhile, said he was “delighted” to meet his Fiji counterpart and added that the relation between India and Fiji has stood the test of time. “We look forward to working together to further cement it in the coming years,” PM Modi tweeted.
- PM Modi is on a visit to Papua New Guinea to attend the third India-Pacific Islands Cooperation Summit.

❖ **Prime Minister Modi unveils Mahatma Gandhi Bust in Hiroshima**

- The Gandhian ideals of peace and harmony reverberate globally and give strength to millions, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said as he unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi here in Hiroshima (Japanese city).
- The location of the bust of Gandhi has been chosen as a mark of solidarity for peace and non-violence.

- The US conducted the world's first nuclear attack on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, destroying the city and killing some 140,000 people.
- Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, representing a Hiroshima constituency in the House of Representatives, invited Modi to the G-7 Summit as a guest.
- The bust was gifted by India to Hiroshima as a symbol of friendship and goodwill between India and Japan on the occasion of Prime Minister Modi's visit to the city for the G7 summit.

❖ **SpaceX sends Saudi astronauts, including first Arab woman, to ISS**

- Saudi Arabia's Rayyanah Barnawi has made history as the first Arab woman astronaut to travel to the International Space Station (ISS) as part of the private Ax-2 mission.
- She is a breast cancer researcher and was joined on the mission by fellow Saudi Ali Al-Qarni, a fighter pilot.
- The Axiom Mission 2 (Ax-2) crew took off aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Florida.
- The team also includes Peggy Whitson and John Shoffner.
- The team also includes Peggy Whitson, a former NASA astronaut who will be making her fourth flight to the ISS, and John Shoffner, a businessman from Tennessee who will serve as pilot.

❖ **No TCS on debit card, credit card forex payments of up to Rs 7 lakh**

- The Ministry of Finance has notified that no Tax Collection at Source (TCS) will be levied on individual payments using international debit and credit cards of up to Rs 7 lakh in a financial year from July 1, 2023.
- Further, the Union Budget 2023 has increased TCS for foreign remittances under the LRS from 5% to 20% (except for education and medical purposes).
- This rule will be effective from July 1, 2023.

➤ However, after the latest clarification from the Finance Ministry, TCS will not be levied on any payments made by an individual using their international debit or credit cards up to Rs 7 lakh per financial year.

➤ Data collected from top money remitters under LRS reveals that international credit cards are being issued with limits in excess of the present LRS limit of USD 2,50,000.

➤ As per Rule 5 of the FEM (CAT) Rules, 2000, individuals can avail of a foreign exchange facility for the following purposes, as detailed in Schedule III of the Rules, within the LRS limit of USD 2,50,000 on a financial year basis.

❖ **Daniil Medvedev wins Italian Open 2023**

➤ The world's number three tennis player, Daniil Medvedev (from Russia) has clinched his maiden Italian Open 2023 title, after beating Holger Rune (Denmark).

➤ It is Medvedev's fifth title of 2023 and victory lifts him above Novak Djokovic to second in the world rankings.

➤ Other winners: Women's Single Title: Elena Andreyevna Rybakina (Kazakhstani) after defeating Anhelina Kalinina.

➤ Men's Double: Hugo Nys and Jan Zieliński ; Women's Double: Storm Sanders and Elise.

❖ **International Day for Biological Diversity 2023: 22nd May**

➤ The world observed the International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22 to increase understanding and encourage the preservation of the Earth's diverse ecosystems.

➤ Theme for the year 2023 is "From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity".

➤ The origins of the International Day for Biological Diversity can be traced back to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, commonly referred to as the Earth Summit, which took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992.

❖ Indian athlete Shaili Singh bags bronze medal at Golden Grand Prix 2023

- Indian athlete Shaili Singh clinched a bronze medal at the Golden Grand Prix 2023 athletics meet in the women's long jump in Japan.
- She has attempted a jump of 6.65 meter, which provided her third place on the podium.
- Germany's Maryse Luzolo won the gold medal with an effort of 6.79 meter while Australia's Brooke Buschkuehl bagged the silver medal with a 6.77 meter leap.
- During the Indian Grand Prix 4 athletics meet in Bengaluru, she has registered a jump of 6.76 meter.

❖ PM Modi releases Tamil classic 'Thirukkural' in Tok Pisin language

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with his Papua New Guinea counterpart James Marape released the Tamil classic 'Thirukkural' in the Tok Pisin language.
- Its aim is to bring Indian thought and culture closer to the people of this southwestern Pacific nation.
- Tok Pisin is the official language of Papua New Guinea.
- Thirukkural is a collection of couplets on ethics, political and economic matters, and love, is written by Poet Thiruvalluvar.