



## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 03-06-2023**

### **NATIONAL NEWS**

#### **World's Largest Food Storage Scheme in Co-Operative Sector**

- The Union Cabinet approved forming and empowering an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) to create the “world’s largest grain storage plan in the cooperative sector” by converging 8 ongoing schemes of three ministries.
- This ₹1 trillion scheme will be the world's largest grain storage scheme in the cooperative sector.
- The scheme will help cooperatives set up decentralized storage facilities across the country, which is likely to reduce the burden on the Food Corporation of India (FCI).
- This will reduce wastage of agricultural produce and help farmers to plan their sales better.
- An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) will be constituted under the chairmanship of the cooperation minister.

#### **UPU Regional Office in New Delhi**

- The Cabinet approved the setting up of a Regional Office of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) at New Delhi.
- The purpose of the office is to carry out the development cooperation and technical assistance activities of the UPU in the region through an agreement with the UPU.
- India will actively participate in multilateral organizations in the postal sector with a focus on South-South and triangular cooperation.
- India will provide field project experts, staff and office infrastructure for the UPU Regional Office.
- The office will formulate and implement projects for capacity building, training, improving postal service efficiency and quality, enhancing postal technology, promoting e-commerce and trade in the region.
- These projects will be coordinated with UPU.

## **Araku Coffee and Black Pepper are now Organic Certified**

- Araku Coffee and Black Pepper received organic certification from APEDA.
- Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has granted organic certification to Girijan Co-operative Corporation (GCC), Visakhapatnam for Araku coffee and black pepper crops.
- This certification will have a positive impact on the market value of these products.
- The certification covers an extensive cultivation area of 21,104 acres. 1,300 farmers in the Gondipakalu, Lammasingi, Kappalu, GK Veedhi, Pedavalasa, and Erracheruvulu clusters grow coffee and pepper.
- The process of obtaining certification crossed various challenges including third-party verification, online registration, geo-tagging of farms, etc.
- Araku Coffee is cultivated in the Araku Valley of Andhra Pradesh.
- Arabica Coffee is grown around Vishakapatnam district in Andhra Pradesh and Koraput district in Orissa.

## **‘Odisha for AI, and AI for Youth’ Initiative**

- Odisha Chief Minister (CM) Shri Naveen Patnaik launched ‘Odisha for Artificial Intelligence’ (AI) and ‘Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Youth’ initiatives.
- ‘Odisha for AI, and AI for Youth’ initiative will be implemented in Bhubaneswar, Puri and Cuttack in the first phase.
- Odisha Electronics and IT Department has collaborated with Intel India.
- ‘Odisha for AI’ is a free 4-hour course on AI by Intel on its app/site.
- ‘Odisha for AI’ is a self-learning online program designed to raise public awareness about artificial intelligence.
- AI for youth is an initiative for students (below 18) of 2000 5T schools and Odisha Adarsh Vidyalayas.
- The Odisha government is focused on technology-driven transformation. It is one of the key components of the Government’s 5-T (Team Work, Technology, Transparency, Transformation & Time Limit) initiative.
- The initiative will promote digital literacy among the masses and make them familiar with new-generation technology.
- It will also create an ecosystem for improving research, innovation, and application of AI across various sectors.

# **ECONOMY**

## **UPI Hits Record 9 billion Transactions**

- The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) registered more than nine billion transactions in May 2023 amounting to over 14 lakh crore rupees.
- According to the National Payments Corporation of India NPCI, UPI recorded a total 9.41 billion transactions in May 2023.
- UPI had recorded 8 billion transactions in January this year, followed by 7.5 billion in February, 8.7 billion in March, and 8.89 billion in April.
- In Financial Year 2022-23, the payment system processed a total of 83 billion transactions, amounting to a value of 139 lakh crore rupees.
- India's homegrown payments system UPI is one of the globally accepted payment systems and has emerged as a trusted payment mode ever since its launch in 2016.
- The report titled "The Indian Payments Handbook - 2022-27" said that the share of UPI in the total transaction volume in the retail segment during 2022-23 was around 75 per cent.
- The Indian digital payments market is expected to reach 411 billion transactions in FY 2026-27 from 103 billion in FY 2022-23.

# **SPORTS**

## **Mission Olympic Cell Approved Neeraj Chopra's Proposal**

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) on 28th May approved Olympic Gold Medallist Neeraj Chopra's proposal to train in Kuortane, Finland.
- Neeraj will train at the Kurtane Olympic Training Center in Finland.
- He is scheduled to compete in several World Athletics events next month.
- The MOC members also approved paddler Payas Jain's proposal for an advanced training camp in Taiwan.
- Proposals to get Indian table tennis stars Manika Batra and Sathiyan Gnanasekaran's personal trainers Aman Balgu and Raman Subramaniam for a number of events were also approved by the MOC.

## **Men's Junior Asia Cup 2023**

- India won the Men's Junior Asia Cup 2023 title in Hockey by defeating Pakistan 2-1 in the final held in Salalah, Oman.
- The win marked India's fourth title in the men's Junior Asia Cup, having previously won in 2004, 2008 and 2015.
- Angad Bir Singh and Arjit Hundal Singh scored for India, while Pakistan managed to score a goal through Basharat Ali.
- It is an international under-21 field hockey tournament organized by the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF).

## **AWARDS & PRIZES**

### **Environmental Airline of the Year 2023**

- Etihad Airways, the national airline of the UAE, has been named the Environmental Airline of the Year 2023 for the second year in a row at the Airline Rating Awards.
- The prestigious award acknowledges the airline's commitment to sustainable aviation through innovation and collaboration.
- Etihad is ranked third in the 'Top 10 Airlines' category, which evaluates comfort, innovation, value and safety in economy, business and first class.
- Etihad's sustainability strategy focuses on emissions reduction, industry alignment, collaboration with the UAE ecosystem and proactive transparency.
- Key initiatives of the airline include the Greenliner program using Boeing 787 Dreamliners and the deployment of Sustainable50 A350-1000 aircraft.

### **Greentech Safety Award 2023**

- RINL received the “GreenTech Safety Award 2023” under the safety Excellence Category.
- It has received the award for improving safety at the workplace in 2022-23.
- The award was presented at the 21st Annual Greentech Awards function in New Delhi.
- The 21st GreenTech Safety Award has been organized by the Greentech Foundation.

- It honours the outstanding organizations that are defining the commercial futures by adding value through excellence in fire, safety, health and security management for corporate citizenship, life cycle stewardship, etc.
- The jury of the award praised RINL's initiatives of using Drone technology for the inspection of high-rise structures, chimneys etc. and the development of Software Application for tracking the use of Safety Harnesses.
- Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd, also known as Vizag Steel, is a central public sector undertaking under the ownership of Ministry of Steel, Government of India based in Visakhapatnam, India

## **APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS**

### **First Female Secretary-General of WMO**

- Celeste Saulo of Argentina has been appointed as the first female Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- Saulo won a landslide victory at the Congress of the United Nations Climate and Weather Agency in Geneva.
- She will take over from the outgoing secretary-general Petteri Taalas of Finland.
- Saulo has served as director of Argentina's National Meteorological Service since 2014.
- The leader of the World Meteorological Congress is elected every four years.
- The agency plays an important role in coordinating international meteorological operations.
- It relies on satellites and thousands of weather stations to measure key parameters of the atmosphere, land and sea.

### **Chairman of SAIL**

- Amarendu Prakash took charge as the new Chairman and Managing Director of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) with effect from 31 May.
- He was earlier Director (In-Charge) of SAIL's Bokaro Steel Plant.
- Prakash is heading the Bokaro Steel Plant as Director-in-Charge from September 2020.
- Under Prakash's leadership, Bokaro Steel Plant achieved remarkable production records in FY22 and FY23.
- SAIL is a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Steel, Government of India.

# BOOKS & AUTHORS

## A political Biography of NTR by K Ramachandra Murty

- Justice Sudarshan Reddy released a book titled 'A Political Biography NTR'.
- 'A Political Biography NTR' has been written by senior Editor K. Ramachandra Murthy.
- HarperCollins India published the book.
- Justice B Sudarshan Reddy said that Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao was a rare leader who fulfilled promises made to people and loved people abundantly.
- NTR had no political knowledge but he has a strong will power to do welfare of the people.
- Supreme Court retired Judge Justice Chalameshwar released the Telugu version of the book 'NTR- Rajakiya Jeevitha Charitra- Asalu Kadha'.
- Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao served as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for seven years over three terms. He also acted in more than 300 films.

# OBITUARY

## Padma Shri Awardee and Writer Vellayani Arjunan

- Eminent scholar, linguist, academician and writer Vellayani Arjunan passed away in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. He was at the age of 90.
- Vellayani Arjunan began his illustrious career as a research assistant in the Kerala Lexicon Department and later became a Malayalam faculty at Sree Narayana (SN) College in Kollam, Kerala.
- He rose to the position of the head of the Department of Modern Indian Languages at Aligarh Muslim University years later.
- He also served as the director of the state Institute of Encyclopaedic Publications.
- He is an author of over 40 books of different genres, including poetry, short stories, children's fiction, essays, literary criticism, research articles, etc.
- In 2008, Arjunan was awarded the Padma Shri for his overall achievements in numerous sectors.



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