DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 09-06-2023

NATIONAL NEWS

Nand Baba Milk Mission Scheme

- Uttar Pradesh, a leading state in the field of milk development and milk production, the state government has launched the Nand Baba Milk Mission scheme at a cost of Rs 1,000 crore.
- The mission is implemented to facilitate milk producers to sell their milk at reasonable prices in villages through dairy cooperatives.
- Under this mission, it is proposed to form a Dairy farmer producer organisation (Dairy FPO) in order to facilitate sale of milk in producers' villages itself.
- There is a plan to set up five dairy FPOs in five districts of the state as a pilot project in the financial year 2023-24, in which women will also play a major role.

India Joins Centralised Laboratory Network (CLN) for Testing Vaccines

- India has joined the Centralized Laboratory Network (CLN) which currently has 15 partner facilities in 13 countries that works to test vaccines which can be used during pandemic, epidemic disease outbreak.
- CLN is a part of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and the Network is the largest global group which has standardised methods and materials for testing.
- CEPI-funded network aims to identify the most promising vaccine candidates rapidly and accurately against emerging infectious diseases and the expanded network is working at supporting sustainable regional outbreak preparedness infrastructure also.

New Metro Line Between HUDA City Center and Cyber City

- The Union Cabinet approved the construction of a new metro line between HUDA City Center and Cyber City in Gurugram, Haryana.
- The expansion project includes Metro connectivity extension from HUDA City Center to Cyber City, which also includes the Dwarka Expressway.

- The entire project will be elevated and the estimated cost of this project is around Rs 5,452 crore.

- The metro line will cover a distance of over 28 kilometres and the line will have a total of 27 stations along the route.

- The network will also be connected to Gurgaon Railway Station and the main feature of this metro line is to connect New Gurugram to Old Gurugram.
- In the next phase, plans were made to provide connectivity to the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI Airport).

BANKING

RBI Monetary Policy

- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das announced the second monetary policy of this financial year.
- There has been no change in the repo rate for the second time in a row.
- Policy repo rate remains unchanged at 6.5%.
- Standing Deposit Facility (SDF rate) remains at 6.25%.
- Marginal Standing Facilityand bank rates stand at 6.75%.
- The current account deficit is expected to narrow further in the fourth quarter.
- Net inflows into non-resident deposits increased to US$ 8 billion in FY23 from US$ 3.2 billion in the previous year.

Gupshup Launches GSPay to Enable UPI Payments

- Conversational engagement platform Gupshup has introduced UPI payments for people using feature phones via a native app called GSPay.

- The app, developed along with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), will use SMS or even IVR based payments system, and do away with the need of data or internet connectivity.

- For developing this facility, in 2022, Gupshup.io is leveraging UPI 123 Pay launched by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and NPCI to enable payments for feature phone users.

- In addition, feature phone users will also be able to scan QR codes to make payments.

- So far, solutions built on UPI 123 Pay have deployed either missed calls or an IVR-based system for making payments.

- Now with GSPay, even new users can register for UPI, link bank accounts and set UPI PIN, all

within the embedded app in the phone.

- The app gives an option to make payments either through mobile number or UPI ID, completing the transaction in a simple 2-step process.
- To make a payment, the user needs to enter the mobile number or UPI ID of the payee, the amount and UPI PIN.

RANKS, INDICES & REPORTS

World's Second Largest Producer of Crude Steel

- According to the Union Minister of Steel and Civil Aviation, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, India has moved from the fourth largest producer of crude steel to the second largest producer.
- From 2014-15 to 2022-23, India sees a 42% increase in crude steel production, from 88.98 MT to 126.26 MT.
- China remains the largest exporter of crude steel globally and India has emerged as the second largest producer.
- In the financial year 2022-23, India is expected to produce 122.28 MT of finished steel, showing a growth of 49% as compared to 81.86 MT in 2014-15.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

New Director General of GSI

- Janardan Prasad has been appointed as the new Director General of the Geological Survey of India (GSI).
- Janardhana Prasad takes over from Dr. S. Raju, who has served as the Director General since 2020.
- The GSI conducts scientific studies on the Earth's geology, mineral resources, and natural hazards.
- It contributes to areas such as mining, infrastructure development, disaster management and environmental planning.

- GSI collaborates with national and international institutions, carries out geological mapping and assessment of mineral resources.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

‘Agni Prime’ Ballistic Missile Successfully Flight-Tested by DRDO

- New Generation Ballistic Missile ‘Agni Prime’ was successfully flight-tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- This was the first pre-induction night launch by the users after three successful developmental trials of the missile, validating the accuracy and reliability of the system.
- Range instrumentation such as radar, telemetry and electro optical tracking systems were deployed at various locations.
- The missile is a two-stage canisterised missile.
- It is the latest and sixth variant of the Agni series missiles, developed under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP).
- It has a range of 1,000 - 2,000 km.
- The missile has a diameter of 1.2 m and a height of 10.5 m.
- It has a payload capacity of up to 1.5 tonnes for carrying warheads.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Oceans Day

- World Oceans Day is celebrated annually on 08 June.
- It serves as a global reminder of the important role the oceans play in sustaining life on Earth.
- Recognized by the United Nations, it promotes ocean awareness and encourages action to protect the marine environment.
- The theme for World Oceans Day 2023 is ‘Planet Ocean: The Tides Are Changing’.
- The theme highlights the dynamic nature of the oceans and the need to adapt to the challenges they face.
- It was officially recognized by the United Nations in 2008.

MISCELLANEOUS

First Woman From Tamil Nadu to Scale Mount Everest

- Muthamizh Selvi, 36, a resident of Johilpatti, Virudhunagar, became the first woman from Tamil Nadu to scale Mount Everest.

- Tamil Nadu Sports Development and Youth Welfare Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin felicitated Muthamizh Selvi for his remarkable achievement.

- Mount Everest is the highest peak of the Greater Himalayan Mountain range located on the border of Nepal and China (Tibet) in Asia.

- Bachendri Pal is the first Indian woman to climb Mount Everest in 1984. Santosh Yadav is the first Indian woman to climb Everest twice in a row.

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