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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 16-06-2023

NATIONAL NEWS

Tiger Safari in Ramgarh Reserve

- The Forest Department is making preparations to launch a wildlife safari within the buffer zone of the recently established Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve (RVTR) in Rajasthan's Bundi district.
- By setting up wildlife safaris within the buffer zone of the tiger reserve, the forest department aims to promote eco-tourism and raise awareness about wildlife conservation.
- It will provide visitors a chance to see tigers and other wildlife in their natural habitat.
- This will ensure the protection of wildlife and reduce the distress caused to the animals.
- Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary was designated as a tiger reserve on 05 July 2021, after receiving in-principle approval from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

Women 20 Summit Begins at Mahabalipuram

- The third and final working group of the summit on W-20 began at Mahabalipuram near Chennai.
- The conference also emphasised the importance of women's health and gender empowerment, and the role of families in supporting the rights of children.
- Emphasis was placed on the private sector to actively participate and contribute positively in gender-specific planning.
- The first session focused on the convergence of women's health, gender equality, and social and economic development in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Aviation Fuel Plant in Haryana

- Indian Oil Corp (IOC) partnered with LanzaJetto set up an aviation fuel plant in Haryana.
- The aim of the collaboration is to produce sustainable aviation fuel (SAF).
- The investment for the aviation fuel plant is around 23 billion rupees ($280.1 million).

- The collaboration promotes sustainable aviation solutions in India.
- It contributes to addressing the environmental impact of the aviation industry.
- Sustainable aviation fuel reduces greenhouse gas emissions and mitigates climate change.

Kerala Government Launched a Reward System

- The Government of Kerala (local self-government (LSG) department) has launched a new scheme to reward for reporting illegal waste dumping on roads.
- It is to make the state garbage-free by 2024.
- This scheme is a part of the ‘Malinya Muktham Nava Keralam’ campaign.
- The person who informs authorities of such violations will be given Rs 2,500 (maximum) or 25% of the fine imposed on those resorting to illegitimate disposal of garbage.
- Under this scheme, citizens would report about the littering/dumping (solid and liquid waste) in public spaces, private property and water bodies.
- The report must be backed with evidence, including credible photographs or video clips, along with details such as the place and time of the wrongdoing.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.S. Will Rejoin UNESCO

- The United States will rejoin UNESCO, the United Nations cultural organization, in July 2023.
- The move ends Washington's more than ten-year disputewith the UN cultural agency after the US left UNESCO in 2018.
- US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Verma submitted a letter to UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay last week to formalize plans to rejoin.
- In addition, the US will also pay an outstanding balance of over $600 million.
- By rejoining, the US is seeking to regain its role in shaping and influencing UNESCO's policies.

BANKING

World Bank Launches Its First Road Safety Project

- The World Bank (WB) launched its first dedicated road safety project in South Asia with a USD 358 million financing agreement signed in Dhaka with the government of Bangladesh.
- The project seeks to improve road safety and reduce fatalities and injuries from road crashes in selected cities, high-risk highways, and district roads.
- The project will focus on two national highways in Bangladesh: Gazipur-Elenga (N4) and Natore-Nawabganj (N6).
- These highways will serve as the primary sites for implementing various road safety measures.
- The aim is to achieve a substantial reduction of over 30 percent in road traffic deaths on these two highways.
- These improvements will encompass the installation of road signs, dividers, footpaths, zebra crossings, speed breakers, and bus bays.

AWARDS & PRIZES

International Green Apple Awards

- Five buildings and structures from Telangana have been selected to receive the 'International Green Apple Awards for Beautiful Buildings' in the Urban and Real Estate Sector category.
- These awards are presented by 'The Green Organisation,' an independent non-profit organization based in London.
- This is the first time any building or structure in India has received these prestigious awards and all five nominated structures from Telangana have been recognised.
- Selected buildings and constructions from Telangana:
- Mozzam-Jahi Market (Heritage category)
- Durgam Cheruvu Cable Bridge (Bridge category)
- B R Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat Building (Aesthetically designed office and workspace building category)
- Integrated Command Control Centre of Telangana Police (Unique office category)

- Yadadri Temple (Excellent religious structures category)
- The Green Organization, founded in 1994 in London, is an independent non-profit organization that focuses on acknowledging, rewarding, and promoting environmental best practices globally.
- Since 2016, they have been organizing the annual 'Green Apple Awards' in London, UK.
- These awards aim to recognize and appreciate businesses, local authorities, and communities that demonstrate outstanding efforts in environmental sustainability.

'Governor of the Year' at Central Banking Awards

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das was named 'Governor of the Year' at the Central Banking Awards in London.

- The award is presented by Central Banking, a leading organisation that covers matters related to central banks and financial regulators globally.

- The Central Banking Awards 2023 announced the winners at the end of March, the National Bank of Ukraine received the title of Central Bank of the Year.

- Shaktikanta Das, representing the Reserve Bank of India, was honoured with the Governor of the Year award at the event.

Award For Atal Pension Yojana Enrollment

- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has bagged the national award for significant enrolment under Atal Pension Yojana (APY) from the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), New Delhi.

- Shreekant M Bhandiwad, Chairman of KVGB, received the award from Vivek Joshi, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Government of India, and Deepak Mohanty, Chairman of PFRDA, in New Delhi.

- Bhandiwad took charge as the Chairman in April 2023.

- Bhandiwad said APY is a safety net for workers in the informal sector for getting pre-defined pension after 60 years.
- The bank has enrolled 3,42,852 (cumulative) accounts under APY.
- During 2022-23, the bank enrolled 76,569 accounts against the target of 50,320 and achieved the target well before the time frame.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) is observed annually on 15 June.
- The day aims to raise awareness about the abuse, discrimination and neglect experienced by older persons.
- It serves as a platform to emphasise the importance of upholding the rights of older adults and promoting their dignity.
- The theme for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2023 is ‘Closing the Circle: Addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Older Age Policy, Law and Evidence-Based Responses.’
- The theme focuses on highlighting the issue of gender-based violence among older persons.
- The United Nations officially established World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in 2011.