DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 17-03-2023

NATIONAL NEWS

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin

- According to the government, 2 crore 18 lakh pucca houses have been built till 11 March 2023, under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G).
- The government has set a target of constructing two crore 95 lakh pucca houses with basic facilities by March 2024.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation launched the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana rural in 2016.
- The scheme was initiated with the objective of 'Housing for All by 2022'.
- The scheme has 2 Components - Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural).
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin was earlier called Indira Awas Yojana which was renamed in March 2016.

Narender Singh Tomar Inaugurates 'Agriunifest'

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar on 15 March inaugurated a 5-day cultural program 'AgriUnifest' in Bengaluru.
- It was organized by Bangalore Agricultural University in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- More than 2500 meritorious students from 60 State Agricultural Universities, Deemed Universities and Central Universities participated in it.
- The All India Inter Agricultural University Youth Festival was conceptualized and initiated by ICAR during 1999-2000 with the objective of integrating Indian agriculture by connecting various Indian cultures.
- Its objective was to nurture the talent of the youth of the Agricultural Universities and represent Indian culture.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India And Luxembourg Release Joint Commemorative Postage Stamp

- India and Luxembourg celebrating 75 years of friendship on March 15, 2023. To mark the occasion, both the countries launched a joint Commemorative Postage Stamp.
- The Postage Stamp symbolises the long standing and strong ties between India and Luxembourg.
- Both the countries have been cooperating in the steel sector for the last 20 years.
- The Paul Worth company of Luxembourg has been working in India for the last two decades under this collaboration.
- The partnership between India and Luxembourg in various fields reflects their commitment to strengthen their friendship and explore future opportunities for cooperation.

Appeal Arbitration Arrangement

- Japan has become the latest country to join an alternative mechanism, Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA) to resolve the trade dispute mechanism at the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- The MPIA is an alternative mechanism for resolving WTO disputes.
- It was set up by the EU and their key partners.
- Including Japan, 26 WTO members currently participate in the MPIA.
- Any member can join the MPIA by notifying the Dispute Settlement Body and a range of members have done so.

BANKING

RBI and Central Bank of UAE signed MoU

- The MoU involves both the central bank to explore Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) and examine interoperability between the CBUAE and the CBDCs of the RBI.

- The cooperation aims to increase efficiency and reduce costs in cross-border transactions, which further the economic ties between India and the UAE.

- The MoU also includes technical cooperation and knowledge sharing on matters related to fintech and financial products and services.

- The collaboration between RBI and CBUAE is an important step towards fostering innovation and collaboration in the area of FinTech.

- The joint exploration of CBDCs and cross-border testing is expected to pave the way for increased efficiency and cost reduction in cross-border transactions, benefiting both India and the UAE.

AWARDS & PRIZES

The International ‘Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2023

- The Ministry of Tourism has won the Golden and Silver Star in ‘TV/Cinema Commercials International and Country International’ Category.
- The Promotional films / television commercials that received the award were part of the Ministry of Tourism Post Covid Promotional Global Campaign.
- The Ministry of tourism has developed the new Incredible India brand films for welcoming foreign tourists to India after the pandemic.
- Shri Arvind Singh, Secretary (Tourism) Government of India received the award.
- The Golden City Gate Tourism Multi-media Award is given annually in the sectors of Tourism and Hospitality.
- The award ceremony takes place at ITB Berlin.

DEFENCE

Exercise 'Sea Dragon 23'

- Indian Navy's long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft P8I will participate in the third edition of the coordinated multilateral anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercise 'Sea Dragon 23'.
- The exercise, scheduled for 15 March 15 – 30 March, hosted by the US Navy, will emphasize coordinated anti-submarine warfare among participating nations.
- The exercise will have representation from P8A of the US Navy as well as P8I of the Indian Navy, P1 of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force, CP 140 of the Royal Canadian Air Force and P3C of the Republic of Korea Navy (RoKN).

- The P8I aircraft of the Indian Navy arrived at Guam, US on 14 March.
- The objective of the exercise is to achieve a high degree of synergy and coordination between the friendly navies.
- It is an annual US-led multinational exercise.

Joint India Singapore Exercise 'Bold Kurukshetra'

- The Singapore Army and Indian Army participated in the 13th edition of Exercise 'Bold Kurukshetra', a bilateral exercise at Jodhpur Military Station, India.
- Organized by the Indian Army, soldiers from the 42nd Battalion, Singapore Armored Regiment and the Armored Brigade of the Indian Army participated in the exercise.
- The exercise is conducted within the scope of joint military training and exercise between the Singapore Army and the Indian Army.
- This exercise enhances cooperation between the two armies.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Immunisation Day

- National Immunization Day is celebrated every year on 16 March.
- The objective is to raise awareness about polio eradication worldwide.
- India has set a target of vaccinating more than 324 million children through MR vaccination campaigns to eliminate measles and rubella.
- Immunisation is an important aspect of public health that provides immunity to the body against pathogens that may cause diseases in the future.
- National Immunization Day was first observed in 1995 when the Pulse Polio Immunization Program was launched to eradicate polio from India.

OBITUTARY

Renowned Bengali Litterateur Sasthipada Chattopadhyay

- Renowned Bengali novelist and short story writer Sasthipada Chattopadhyay passed away at the age of 82 in Howrah, West Bengal.
- He is well known in Bengali literature for the series stories of ‘Pandav Goenda’ (five detectives).
- He created two more detective series – ‘Detective Ambar Chatterjee’ and ‘Goenda Tatar’.
- He was awarded Bal Sahitya Puraskar in 2017 by the Sahitya Akademi for his contribution to children’s literature in Bengali
- The West Bengal government in 2017 honoured him with the ‘Bangla Akademi Award’ for his contribution to children’s literature.

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