DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 23-11-2022

NATIONAL NEWS

UNESCO-India-Africa Hackathon 2022

- Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the UNESCO-India-Africa Hackathon 2022 at the Gautam Buddha University in Greater Noida on 22 November 2022.
- The Hackathon has been organized by the Union Ministry of Education.
- Students from 22 African countries are participating in the Hackathon.
- It is a social coding event that brings computer programmers and other interested people together to improve upon or build a new software.

Mukhyamantri Siksha Puraskar Yojana Award and Scholarship Scheme

- Odisha Chief Minister (CM) Shri Naveen Patnaik announced the Mukhyamantri Siksha Puraskar Yojana Award and Scholarship Scheme.
- The scheme has been introduced to encourage healthy competition between the state schools and also recognize excellence.
- Under the programme, annual awards worth Rs. 100 Crore per year will be given to school students, educational institutions and principals, teachers and school management committees for achieving excellence in Education and Alumni for their contribution.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

First India ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting

- Indian defence minister Rajnath Singh arrived Cambodia to co-chair the first India-ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting and attend the 9th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus).

- India and Cambodia are celebrating 70 years of diplomatic ties in 2022.
- The year 2022 is being celebrated as the ASEAN-India Friendship Year to commemorate the 30 years of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations.
- Cambodia is the current chairman of the ASEAN (Association of South East Nation) and all ASEAN related summits and conferences.
- The ADMM-Plus is a platform for ASEAN and its eight Dialogue Partners Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States to strengthen security and defence cooperation for peace, stability, and development in the region.

Australian Parliament Approves Trade Deal with India

- Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on 22 November 2022 announced that the country's Free Trade Agreement with India has been passed by the Australian Parliament.
- It is an interim trade deal which will be gradually converted into a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CEPA).
- This is the second such agreement signed by India with a foreign country after a similar agreement was signed with the United Arab Emirates in March 2022.

BANKING

Special Vostro Rupee Account for Trade with Russia

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed India’s largest private sector bank HDFC Bank and the public sector bank Canara Bank to open a special "Vostro account" for trade in rupees with Russia.
- Vostro is a type of a bank account where a bank holds an account on behalf of other banks in local currency.
- In July 2022 RBI introduced a mechanism for international trade settlements in rupees, aiming to promote exports and facilitate imports.
- This was done to promote trade and investment with Russia which was facing sanction from western countries.

Tata Power Solar Systems Ties up with Union Bank of India

- Tata Power Solar Systems (TPSSL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Power Renewable Energy (TPREL) has tied up with Union Bank of India (UBI) to help the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector switch to solar solutions.

- It is to improve access to green energy and save on the cost of electricity, thus making MSMEs more profitable.

- The association will be implemented under UBI's solar scheme called Union Solar.

- The scheme also requires a minimum down payment of only 20% of the project cost.

- MSMEs can avail of the dual services of Solar EPC by TPSSL, financed through a term loan facility by UBI, wherein industries can avail up to Rs 8 crore of the loan amount at interest rates with nil or minimum collateral.

ECONOMY

OECD Cuts India Growth Rate Forecast

- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has cut the expected growth rate of the Indian economy in 2022 to 6.6% from its earlier forecast of 6.9%.
- It has retained its earlier forecast of 5.7% in 2023.
- In its latest Economic Outlook report released on 22 November 2022 the OECD expects the world economy to grow by 3.1% down from 5.9% growth in 2021.
- It expects the growth to be 2.2 % in 2023 and 2.7% in 2024.

AWARDS & PRIZES

Gandhi Mandela Award

- Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, the governor of Himachal Pradesh presented the Gandhi Mandela Award 2022 to the 14th Dalai Lama at Thekchen Choeling at McleodGanj, Dharamshala.

- The Tibetan spiritual leader accepted the Gandhi Mandela Foundation's peace award in New Delhi.

- The Dalai Lama was chosen as the recipient of the prize.

- The Gandhi Mandela Foundation is a nonprofit organization with a government of India registered trust that was established to promote the nonviolent principles of Mahatma Gandhi and former South African President Nelson Mandela.

JCB Prize for Literature in 2022

- The fifth JCB Prize for Literature went to author Khalid Jawed for his work 'The Paradise of Food,' which Baran Farooqi translated from Urdu.
- The novel, which was first released in 2014 under the name 'Ne'mat Khana,' is the first Urdu-language work to get the honour and the fourth translation overall.
- With the conflict between his household and the outside world, the narrator of 'The Paradise of Food' strives to find his place in a middle-class Muslim family over the course of fifty years.
- Along with a trophy and the prize money of Rs. 25 lakhs, Jawed also received the sculpture 'Mirror Melting' by Delhi artists Thukral and Tagra.

OBITUTARY

Former Indian Football Captain Babu Mani

- Former Indian football captain Babu Mani, who was an integral part of the Indian football team in the 1980s passed away.
- He was at the age of 59.
- Babu Mani made his India debut against Argentina in Kolkata during the 1984 Nehru Cup and went on to play 55 matches for the country.
- He was also a part of the first Indian squad to qualify for the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Asian Cup in 1984.
- Mani was also a member of the Indian team which won gold medals at the 1985 and 1987 editions of the South Asian Games.

MISCELLANEOUS

Zorba, the First Dog of Anti-Poaching Dogs Squad K9

- The first dog of the anti-poaching dog's squad K9 Zorba died in Guwahati, Assam on 22 November 2022. He was 12 years old.
- India's first dog squad named K9, raised to combat poaching of wildlife, was set up in Assam

under the initiative of biodiversity organisation ‘Aaranyak’ in 2011.

- The Zorba of Belgian Malinois breed was mainly deployed in Kaziranga National Parks and retired from service in 2019.

- He helped the authorities in tracking down the poachers of wildlife.