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16 June 2023 Daily Current Affairs

Important Days

15 June 2023 –ASEAN Dengue Day

- ❖ Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) annually celebrates the ASEAN Dengue Day (ADD) on 15th June in the tropical and subtropical areas, such as Southeast Asia, Pacific islands, Latin America and Africa to create awareness on the prevention and control of Dengue at the regional and National level.
- ❖ This day also allows the ASEAN Members to promote measures to prevent the Dengue, in coordination with the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ❖ **Theme “Fight against Dengue”.**



Background

- ❖ The observance of ASEAN Dengue Day was endorsed at the 10th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting in 2010 as a key regional advocacy initiative against dengue.
- ❖ It is declared, that 15th June of every year as the ASEAN Dengue Day by all AMS.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- ❖ Established on- 8 August 1967
- ❖ Chair (2023)- Indonesia
- ❖ Secretary-General- Dr. Kao Kim Hourn (Cambodia)
- ❖ Headquarters- Jakarta, Indonesia

Persons in News

Uttam Lal Appointed as 'National Hydro Electric Power Corporation Private Limited's' Director of Personnel.

- ❖ Before joining 'National Hydro Electric Power Corporation Private Limited', Mr. Lal held the position of Chief General Manager at National Thermal Power Corporation Limited.
- ❖ With an extensive background of over 35 years, he brings immense expertise in Personnel Management, Industrial Relations, and Corporate Social Responsibility.



The National Hydro Electric Power Corporation Private Limited India

- ❖ State-owned enterprise under the Ministry of Power, Government of India.
- ❖ It is the largest hydropower development organization in India, with an installed capacity of over 8,000 MW.
- ❖ It has also diversified into other renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power.



- ❖ The company was incorporated in 1975 with an authorized capital of ₹2,000 million.
- ❖ The company has a strong focus on social and environmental sustainability.
- ❖ It has implemented several measures to mitigate the environmental impact of its projects.
- ❖ The company has also set up a number of social development initiatives, such as schools, hospitals, and roads, in the areas where it operates.

Defence News

Ministry of Defence Approved Deal to Acquire MQ-9 Reaper Drone from the USA

- ❖ The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), the highest decision-making body in the Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- ❖ It has approved the deal to acquire the MQ-9 Reaper (Predator B) drones from the United States of America (USA).
- ❖ The final decision on the deal is set to be taken by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS).
- ❖ The deal was approved during the meeting of The Defence Acquisition Council headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on 15th June 2023.
- ❖ During the meeting The Defence Acquisition Council has also approved other "Made in India" defence deals.
- ❖ All the high value acquisitions requires final approval from the Cabinet Committee on Security.



The Deal

- ❖ Lead agency of the deal: Indian Navy (IN).
- ❖ The deal involves the acquisition of 15 drones for the Indian Navy for surveillance operations in its area of responsibilities.

Additional info

- ❖ At present, India has 2 american predator drones, on lease from american firm General Atomics, which have been assisting the Indian Navy in monitoring activities in the Indian Ocean region (IOR).
- ❖ Previously in March 2023, The Defence Acquisition Council has approved the proposal to procure 60 Made in India utility helicopters(Maritime) worth Rs 32000 crore and BrahMos Supersonic cruise missiles for Indian Navy;

Ministry of Defence

- ❖ Union Minister- Raj Nath Singh(Constituency- Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh)
- ❖ Minister of State(MOS)- Ajay Bhatt



Reports and Indices

CBIC released National Time Release Study 2023 Report

- ❖ On 15th June 2023, Vivek Johri, Chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) released the National Time Release Study (NTRS) 2023 report which offers the port- category wise average release time for 2023.
- ❖ The data on the NTRS 2023 is based on the sample period- 1st week of January 2023, from 1st to 7th January 2023 (both dates included).
- ❖ Import Release Time Arithmetic Mean of the period between 'Arrival of Goods' and the Customs granting of "Out of Charge".
- ❖ Export Release Time Arithmetic Mean of the time between the arrival of the cargo at the port and its physical departure from port or customs station.



NTRS 2023

- ❖ NTRS 2023 was conducted at 15 customs ports across 9 States.
- ❖ The data source of the study was the customs automated systems maintained by the Directorate General of Systems and Data Management, CBIC.
- ❖ NTRS 2023 compares the average release time to the performance during 2021 and 2022.

Summits and Conferences

State Conference of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises on June 24

- ❖ State Conference on Economic Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises is scheduled to be held in Chennai on 24th and 25th June.
- ❖ A conference titled 'Samvardhan' was organized by the South India Regional Council (SIRC) of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs at T. G. Vaishnava College, Arumbakkam, Chennai. This conference is being held with the aim of promoting the Central Government's Self-reliant India project.
- ❖ In this conference, MSMEs and new entrepreneurs will be briefed on how to solve various practical problems faced by government schemes, grants and banking operations.





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- ❖ New entrepreneurs, students from management, commerce and engineering colleges, educational institutes, chartered accountants, retail and wholesalers can participate in this conference.
- ❖ Also, awards will be given to honor the best entrepreneurs. Apply for this award (June 18) at www.sirc-icai.org. For more information contact the mobile number 99400 20956.

Sports

ATP Tennis Tournament: Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden of Australia cruised into the doubles semifinals

The top-seeded Indian tennis star Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden of Australia cruised into the doubles semifinals with a 6-1,7-5 victory over Lorenzo Musetti and Lorenzo Sonego in the ATP Tennis Tournament in Stuttgart, Germany .

Pranai, Srikanth in the quarter finals

- ❖ India's K. Srikanth, H.S. Pranai progressed to the quarter-finals and PV Sindhu was disappointed to lose.
- ❖ In the men's singles round of 16 in the 1000-point World Tour event, Srikanth edged out fellow young Indian Lakshaya Chennai 21-17, 22-20 in 45 minutes. Along with this, Srikanth, who is meeting Lakshaya for the 3rd time, has seen success in all of them.
- ❖ Similarly, Pranai, who is ranked 7th, beat Hong Kong's Nika Long Angus 21-18, 21-16. The game ended in 43 minutes.
- ❖ Next in the quarterfinals, Srikanth will face China's Li Feng and Pranai will face Japan's Kodai Naravka.
- ❖ In the men's doubles, the 7th-ranked pair of Satviksairaj/Chirak Shetty of Liru edged China's He Ji Ting/Zhu Hao Tang 21-17, 21-15.
- ❖ In the quarter-finals, the Indian pair will face top-ranked Indonesia's Fajr Alfian/Mohammed Ryan.
- ❖ **Sindhu's disappointment:** In women's singles, ranked 14th in the world
- ❖ Sindhu lost 18-21, 16-21 to No. 3 seed Tai Swing of Chinese Taipei.
- ❖ While the two have met 24 times, Sindhu has lost to her for the 19th time.

India, Egypt in the semi-finals

- ❖ Defending champions Egypt and India have qualified for the semi-finals of the Cup Squash Tournament by topping their divisions.
- ❖ India's Joshna Chinnappa beat Japan's 18th-ranked player Satomi Wattenbe with her Apar game.
- ❖ Sourav Ghoshal also bounced back from the brink of failure.
- ❖ The World Cup Squash Tournament is being held at Chennai Express Avenue Mall on behalf of WSF, SR FI and STDA.
- ❖ Currently, 8 teams including Egypt and India have been divided into two groups and the games are being played from the 13th. Group A is topped by Egypt and Group B by India.



Art and Culture

Raja Parba Festival of Odisha: Celebration of Womanhood and Earth

- ❖ Raja Parba of Odisha, also known as Swing Festival, is an annual 3 day festival celebrated during the month of Asadha (usually starts on 14th June and ends on 16th June) dedicated to honouring Earth and celebrating womanhood.
- ❖ The festival also marks the beginning of monsoon.

Raja Parba 2023 is celebrated from 14th June to 16th June 2023.

- ❖ Raja is the shorthand of the word Rajaswala, which means a menstruating woman. Celebration of Raja Parba
- ❖ The first day is celebrated as Raja Sankranti or Pahili Raja, the second day is celebrated as Mithun Sankranti or Raja and the third day is celebrated as Bhudaha or Basi Raja (the day after raja).
- ❖ The fourth day is celebrated as Vasumati Sanana, signifies the end of the mensuration of the earth.

Significance

- ❖ The people of Odisha believe that Bhudevi (Earth), the wife of Lord Jagannath (Vishnu) undergoes her menstrual cycle in these days before the onset of rains.

Schemes and their Utilities

India Infrastructure Project Development Funding Scheme

- ❖ The Infrastructure Finance Secretariat (IFS) is continuously introducing measures to encourage private investment in infrastructure.
- ❖ To support this objective, The Infrastructure Finance Secretariat has redesigned its website, www.pppinindia.gov.in, to provide greater value to stakeholders involved in Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects.
- ❖ This website serves as a platform for promoting and facilitating Public-Private Partnerships in India, bridging the gap between the public and private sectors.
- ❖ It brings together government entities, private companies, investors, and entrepreneurs to foster collaboration and innovation for sustainable growth.
- ❖ The revamped website aims to create a dynamic ecosystem that promotes partnerships, encourages investment, and facilitates the exchange of knowledge and resources.
- ❖ The updated website will serve as a comprehensive repository of policies, guidelines, and model bidding documents, including model concession agreements, for various sectors.

Economy & Banking

Max Life Insurance launched non-linked life insurance savings plan

- ❖ The Max Life Insurance Company Ltd launched a non-linked participating individual life insurance savings plan named 'the Smart Wealth Advantage Growth Par Plan' with four income variants.



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- ❖ The savings plan would provide individuals with financial protection and savings accumulation.

Smart Wealth Advantage Growth Par Plan

- ❖ The plan includes four variants: Insta Income, Balanced Income, Future Income, and Lifelong Income.
- ❖ All these variants offer built-in guarantees, cash bonuses (if declared), and life coverage throughout the policy term.

Key benefits

- ❖ The plan combines the benefits of life insurance coverage with savings.
- ❖ They also offer death benefits that ensure financial protection for beneficiaries in case of the policyholder's demise.
- ❖ As non-linked plans are not tied to market investments or returns, the policyholders would have the opportunity to participate in insurance company profits through bonuses.
- ❖ The plan offers benefits of enhanced liquidity, guaranteed income, cash bonuses, retirement income planning, flexibility in income options, and enhanced protection benefits.

Retirement income

- ❖ The plan offers an enhanced income with a minimum guarantee after attaining 65 years.

Max Life Insurance Company Ltd

- ❖ It is a Joint Venture between Max Financial Service Ltd (part of Max Group) and Axis Bank Limited
- ❖ MD & CEO - Prashant Tripathy
- ❖ Headquarters- Gurugram, Haryana

SEBI Revised Rules Relating to Minor's Investment in Mutual Fund by Parent/Guard

- ❖ Based on the recommendation of the Mutual Fund (MF) Advisory Committee, The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has recently updated its 2019 circular, which outlines the standardized procedures to be followed by Asset Management Companies (AMCs) regarding investments made in the name of a minor through a parent/guardian.

Revised Regulations

- ❖ i. As per the new rule, the Mutual Fund scheme investment payments (in any mode for subscription) could be accepted from any bank account i.e. the minor, parents or legal guardians, or a joint account in the name of a minor with parents or a legal guardian.

Existing case

- ❖ So far, SEBI permitted an Mutual Fund scheme investment payment through the bank account of a minor or from a joint account of the minor along with parents or a legal guardian.



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- ❖ From now on, there will be no requirement to open joint accounts or accounts of a minor child for this particular investment purpose, as it could be done from any of three accounts i.e. the minor, parents or guardian.

Redemption

- ❖ But in case of all redemptions from MF scheme investments (made in the name of the minor) at a later stage, the amount will be credited to the verified bank account of the minor alone (that can be a joint account also)

National News

MSDE Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated 'Project Gajapati to Gabon', Gabon's 1st Agri-SEZ Project

- ❖ On June 14, 2023, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Ministry of Education (MOE) and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), inaugurated Project Gajapati to Gabon and flagged off Gabon's first Agriculture Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Project & Power Transformers (T&D) Project from New Delhi, Delhi.
- ❖ The establishment of the Agriculture and Food Processing Special Economic Zone in Gabon will enhance food security and self-sufficiency in Gabon.

Project Gajapati to Gabon

- ❖ Project Gajapati to Gabon is an international outreach initiative of the government of Gabon, AOM Group and Centurion University of Technology and Management for Education, Industry skilling and Agri Skilling Project.

About Agriculture SEZ Project and T&D project

- ❖ Agriculture SEZ Project and T&D project is the joint Venture (JV) of the Government of Gabon with Africa's AOM Group as implementing partner and Odisha's Centurion University of Technology and Management as knowledge, training and technology partner.

Key Points

- ❖ It was inaugurated during the event in New Delhi whose Chief Guest was Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, MSDE and Guest of Honour were Hugues Judicael Mbadanga Madiya, Minister of Investment Promotion and Public- Private Partnerships of Gabon; Mve Ellah Charles, Minister of Agriculture of Gabon Mouguiama Daouda Patrick Taofick, Minister of Higher Education of Gabon.

Google, Meity join hands to Enhance G20-Stay Safe Online Campaign

- ❖ On June 15, 2023, Google announced a collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) to enhance Meity's 'G20-Stay Safe Online': A Campaign for Cyber Safety' to create citizen awareness on online cyber safety in India.

Backdrop

- ❖ India has taken over the Presidency of the G20 for one year from 01 December 2022 to 30 November 2023.
- ❖ During India's presidency of G20, the Meity is running a campaign titled 'Stay Safe Online' for creating awareness among citizens including specially-abled persons to stay



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safe in an online world on the widespread use of social media platforms and rapid adoption of digital payments.

Key Points

- ❖ Under the collaboration, Google will work with Meity to amplify the 'Stay Safe Online' campaign through literacy programmes around cyber safety, helping people identify common types of online scams through multilingual digital content on online safety, and educational content on how to navigate information online.
- ❖ Google is working with Meity to improve user awareness of cyber fraud and adopt best practices to safeguard against it. Through the 'Be Internet Awesome' programme, Google will raise awareness of the fundamentals of online safety.
- ❖ YouTube is also offering a digital literacy program called 'Hit Pause', to promote critical thinking about online information and create awareness about online scams and avoid getting scammed.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity)

- ❖ Union Minister - Ashwini Vaishnaw (Rajya Sabha - Odisha)
- ❖ Minister of State (MOS) -Rajeev Chandrasekhar

International Relation

United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution moved by India to honour martyred peacekeepers.

- ❖ The UN General Assembly has adopted a draft resolution introduced by India to establish a memorial wall in the UN Headquarters to honour martyred peacekeepers.
- ❖ India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj introduced the draft resolution titled 'Memorial wall for fallen United Nations peacekeepers'.
- ❖ This resolution was supported by nearly 190 UN members and has been adopted by consensus.
- ❖ The resolution was submitted by 18 countries including Bangladesh, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, France, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Nepal, Rwanda and the U.S.
- ❖ The resolution calls for the wall to be completed within three years of its acceptance.
- ❖ The Permanent Mission of India to the UN had launched a virtual memorial wall in 2015. It was dedicated to Indian Soldiers who made sacrifices as UN peacekeepers.
- ❖ India has played a vital role in United Nations peacekeeping operations.



Union Finance Minister meeting with IFAD Chairman

- ❖ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held a meeting with International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) President Alvaro Lario.
- ❖ During the meeting held in New Delhi, the Union Finance Minister urged Lario that IFAD should contribute effectively in food storage, processing and small scale agricultural profit generating activities to ensure food security.



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- ❖ Furthermore, IFAD confirmed that developed and developing countries participate in effectively facing new global challenges including food security, credit crisis, climate change and the need for multilateral development banks to carry out a new and fair review to help countries face such new emerging challenges. .
- ❖ IFAD, also known as the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, is an international financial institution headquartered in Rome.
- ❖ Since 1978 to various countries Rs. IFAD has disbursed 1.9 lakh crore grants and low interest loans

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