



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

JUNE, 2023

Week-3

15-21 June, 2023

★★ Useful for ★★

**CSE, ESE, PSUs, State Services Exams,
SSC and Banking Exams**

15th JUNE, 2023

Julley Ladakh

- **Context:** The Indian Navy has launched the 'Julley Ladakh' outreach programme in Ladakh, which is aimed at increasing awareness about the service and engaging with the local youth and civil society.

Key highlights

- A highlight of this initiative is a 5000 km Motorcycle Expedition, which was ceremoniously flagged off from the National War Memorial
- The primary objective of the Indian Navy's outreach programme in Ladakh is to raise awareness among the local population about the opportunities and contributions of the Navy.
- In line with the celebration of "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav," the Navy aims to instil a sense of pride and patriotism among the people of Ladakh.
- Through various outreach activities, the Indian Navy seeks to engage with the youth and civil society in Ladakh.

National Time Release Study (NTRS) 2023 Report

- **Context:** The recently released National Time Release Study (NTRS) 2023 report by Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) is a significant milestone in evaluating the performance of cargo release processes in India.

Key highlights

- This study aims to provide valuable insights into import and export release times.
- The Time Release Study serves as a vital performance measurement tool that assesses the duration of cargo release processes.
- It measures the time taken from the arrival of cargo at Customs stations to its out-of-charge status for domestic clearance in imports or the departure of the carrier in exports.
- The NTRS 2023 report analyzed data collected during the sample period from January 1 to 7, 2023.

- The study encompasses a wide range of ports, including seaports, air cargo complexes (ACCs), inland container depots (ICDs), and integrated check posts (ICPs).
- These ports collectively account for approximately 80% of bills of entry and 70% of shipping bills filed in the country.

Miss World Pageant 2023

- **Context:** The Miss World Organization recently announced that India has been selected as the host country for its upcoming competition, scheduled to take place later this year.

Key highlights

- The Miss World pageant, one of the most prestigious beauty competitions, has a rich history and global following. It has been held in various countries since its inception.
- In 1996, the Miss World pageant made its way to India, marking a significant milestone for the country. This was the first time that India served as the host nation for this illustrious event. The pageant took place in Bengaluru.
- This year, India is set to host the Miss World pageant once again.
- Contestants from over 130 countries will converge in India to showcase their unique talents, intelligence, and compassion. The event will include various competitions, such as talent showcases, sports challenges, and charitable initiatives.
- The grand finale of the pageant is scheduled for November or December 2023.

About Miss World Pageant

- The Miss World pageant was originally launched in Britain in 1951 during the Festival of Britain.
- The idea to include an international beauty contest in the festival came from Eric Morley, the publicity director of Mecca Limited, an entertainment company based in London. Morley's vision was to enhance festival attendance by adding an intriguing event to the lineup.

16th JUNE, 2023

VAIBHAV Fellowship Programme

- **Context:** The Government of India has launched a fellowship program known as VAIBHAV (Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik) to foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing between the Indian diaspora scientists and academic institutions in India.

Key highlights

- Under the Ministry of Science and Technology, this initiative aims to harness the expertise of scientists and technologists of Indian origin residing abroad and promote collaborative research in frontier areas of Science and Technology.
- The VAIBHAV fellowship program targets scientists and technologists of Indian origin, including NRI (Non-Resident Indians), OCI (Overseas Citizen of India), and PIO (Person of Indian Origin) engaged in research activities in their respective countries.
- The program seeks to bridge the gap between the Indian diaspora and Indian academic and R&D institutions.
- A VAIBHAV fellow can spend up to two months in India each year for a maximum duration of three years.
- The fellowship comes with a comprehensive grant that covers various expenses. This includes a fellowship grant of Rs 4,00,000 per month, support for international and domestic travel, accommodation, and contingencies.

Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society

- **Context:** The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society, a prestigious institution in India, recently held a special meeting that resulted in a significant resolution to change its name to Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society.

Key highlights

- The decision to change the institution's name to the Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society was made, symbolizing a shift in its focus and reflecting the evolving landscape of Indian democracy.
- The new name, Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society, embodies the comprehensive representation of India's prime ministerial legacy.
- It acknowledges the contributions of all the leaders who have guided the nation and democratizes the institutional memory, ensuring each prime minister's significant role is recognized.

17th JUNE, 2023

Nusrat Choudhury

- **Context:** Nusrat Choudhury became the first female Muslim federal judge in the United States. This milestone appointment marks a significant step towards inclusivity and diversity within the judiciary.



Key facts

- As a federal judge, Nusrat Choudhury will serve at the prestigious US District Court for the Eastern District of New York.
- This court's jurisdiction covers various aspects of federal law and plays a critical role in upholding justice within the region.

About Nusrat Choudhury

- Nusrat Choudhury belongs to Bangladeshi-American heritage.
- Prior to her appointment as a federal judge, Nusrat Choudhury served as the legal director at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). In this role, she focused on pivotal areas such as racial justice, criminal justice, policing, and government surveillance of Muslim communities and national security issues.

- She received the South Asian Bar Association of New York Access to Justice Award for her outstanding contributions in the legal field.

Japan redefines Age of Consent

- **Context:** Japan recently made significant changes to its age of consent laws, raising the minimum age at which one can legally engage in sexual relations.

Key highlights

- This transformative move aims to provide stronger legal protections, particularly for minors, in matters related to sexual relationships and crimes.
- The age of consent in Japan has been increased from 13 years old to 16 years old. This crucial revision reflects Japan's commitment to ensuring the well-being and protection of young individuals involved in sexual relationships.
- By raising the age of consent, the government seeks to establish clearer boundaries and enhance legal safeguards.
- Alongside the modification of the age of consent, Japan's new bill encompasses additional measures to strengthen legal frameworks and address critical issues. Notably, the legislation clarifies the requirements for prosecuting rape cases and criminalizes voyeurism.

■ DO YOU KNOW: _____

Japan's previous age of consent was established in 1907 and remained unchanged for over a century.

Indian Languages Programme

- **Context:** Google has taken significant steps to support and uplift the Indian news publishing industry through its Indian Languages Programme.

Key highlights

- At the core of Google's Indian Languages Programme is the objective to provide training and support to small Indian news publishers.

- Recognizing the importance of local language content in reaching a diverse audience, Google aims to bridge the digital divide by empowering publishers to effectively leverage the internet.
- The Indian Languages Programme covers a total of eight local languages, apart from English. These languages include Hindi, Bengali, Telugu, Marathi, Tamil, Gujarati, Kannada, and Malayalam.
- Google's Indian Languages Programme offers a comprehensive range of support mechanisms to news publishers. Training sessions equip publishers with the necessary skills and knowledge to leverage digital platforms effectively. Technical support assists publishers in optimizing their websites by assessing parameters such as page speed, core web vitals performance, and other relevant factors.

18th JUNE, 2023

Food Outlook Report

- **Context:** The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) recently released the latest Food Outlook Report, revealing significant trends and concerns regarding food imports.

Key highlights

- The report emphasizes the projected decline in food imports by vulnerable countries, while also highlighting the impact on purchasing capacity and the overall global food import bill.
- According to the FAO report, vulnerable countries are expected to experience a decline in food imports this year.
- The projected decline in the food import bill for the least developed countries stands at 1.5%.
- Additionally, net food-importing developing countries may witness a more significant decline of 4.9% in food import volumes. This decline raises concerns about the purchasing capacity of these countries, potentially leading to food security challenges.

- While vulnerable countries face a decline in food imports, the global food import bill is still forecasted to reach a record high in 2023.
- The FAO estimates that the global food import bill will amount to \$1.98 trillion, representing a 1.5% increase compared to 2022.
- The report also sheds light on anticipated changes in rice and wheat production. Rice production is expected to rise by 1.3% in the upcoming year, reaching 523.5 million tonnes.

Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021

- **Context:** The Ministry of Culture recently announced that the Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021 will be conferred upon Gita Press, Gorakhpur.

Key highlights

- This prestigious award recognizes Gita Press' exceptional contribution to social, economic, and political transformation through non-violent and other Gandhian methods.
- Instituted by the government in 1995 as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi's ideals, the Gandhi Peace Prize has been bestowed upon various individuals and organizations for their outstanding efforts.
- The Gandhi Peace Prize, carrying a cash prize of 1 crore, a citation, a plaque, and an exquisite traditional handicraft/handloom item, aims to honor individuals and organizations for their remarkable efforts in furthering the ideals cherished by Mahatma Gandhi.

About Gita Press

- Gita Press, established in 1923, has emerged as one of the world's largest publishers promoting knowledge through literature.
- With a remarkable publication record of 417 million books in 14 languages, including 162 million copies of the sacred Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, Gita Press has touched the lives of countless individuals.

19th JUNE, 2023

DAKSHTA For Young Professionals

- **Context:** Union Government has recently introduced a new curated collection of courses called "Dakshata" on the iGOT Karmayogi Platform.

Key highlights

- The iGOT Karmayogi platform serves as a comprehensive portal aimed at capacity-building for government officials. The platform aims to equip learners with essential skills and knowledge required for effectively discharging their duties.
- The newly introduced collection of courses, named Dakshata, is designed to focus on various areas crucial to government officials.
- It encompasses subjects such as data-driven decision making, code of conduct, office procedures, effective communication, public policy research, stress management, and more.
- By addressing these key areas, Dakshata aims to enhance the expertise of government officials and improve their overall performance.

About Mission Karmayogi

- It is a government program focused on civil services capacity building, plays a crucial role in nurturing a smart, citizen-friendly, and future-ready public workforce.
- As a part of this mission, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has established Karmayogi Bharat, a government-owned, not-for-profit special purpose vehicle.
- Karmayogi Bharat takes the responsibility of managing, maintaining, and improving the iGOT Karmayogi platform, which aligns with the program's core objectives.

Ex Khaan Quest 2023

- **Context:** The multinational peacekeeping joint exercise, Ex Khaan Quest 2023, has commenced in Mongolia, marking an important event in the realm of international military cooperation.

Key highlights

- This 14-day exercise aims to enhance interoperability, share experiences, and train uniformed personnel for United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO).
- It serves as a platform for military contingents and observers from more than 20 countries to come together and engage in cooperative training.
- The exercise is co-sponsored by the Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF) and the United States Army Pacific Command (USARPAC).
- A contingent from the GARHWAL RIFLES representing the Indian Army in Ex Khaan Quest 2023. Through its participation in Ex Khaan Quest 2023, the Indian Army aims to enhance defence cooperation with participating countries, particularly the Mongolian Armed Forces. This exercise provides a valuable opportunity for building stronger bilateral relations between India and Mongolia, fostering trust and collaboration in the realm of defense.

20th JUNE, 2023

German Peace Prize

- **Context:** Salman Rushdie, the renowned British-American author, has been awarded the prestigious German Peace Prize for his outstanding contributions.

Key facts

- The Peace Prize of the German Book Trade jury recognized Rushdie as a passionate defender of freedom of thought and expression.
- The German Peace Prize was instituted five years after the Second World War with the intention of

honoring those who oppose anything that endangers peace, understanding, and equality among nations.

- Traditionally, the peace prize is awarded at Frankfurt's St. Pauls Church, a place of historical significance in Germany. This church hosted the Frankfurt National Assembly, the first freely elected parliament for all German states, in 1848.

NOTE:

The 2019 German Peace Prize was conferred upon Amartya Sen, an economist and philosopher. Sen was honored for his groundbreaking work on combating social inequality and promoting global justice.

Ravi Sinha

- **Context:** Ravi Sinha, an IPS officer, has been appointed as the chief of the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), one of India's premier intelligence agencies.

Key facts

- This significant appointment brings a fresh perspective to the organization as Sinha takes over from Samant Goel, who will complete his tenure on June 30.
- In his new role as R&AW chief, Sinha aims to bridge the gap between technological advancements and human intelligence capabilities.
- By integrating these dimensions, he seeks to address the challenges of today's dynamic and evolving threats.
- Ravi Sinha's appointment comes at a critical time, considering the prevailing political and economic instability in neighboring Pakistan, the rise of Sikh extremism from abroad, and attempts to incite violence in the northeast region of India.
- Ravi Sinha's tenure as Secretary RAW has been approved for a duration of two years, providing him with the opportunity to implement strategic initiatives and drive impactful changes within the organization.

21st JUNE, 2023

Ukraine Recovery Conference 2023

- **Context:** The Ukraine Recovery Conference 2023, a crucial event dedicated to the transformation and reconstruction of Ukraine held in London.

Key highlights

- This conference aims to mobilize international support and assistance for Ukraine's recovery from the devastating effects of war.
- With significant pledges of emergency aid from the international community, the conference underscores the commitment to rebuild Ukraine and hold Russia accountable for its aggression.
- The previous edition of the conference, held during the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine, marked a turning point.
- It launched the Lugano Principles, which provided a framework for Ukraine's reconstruction process and brought the world together in collective efforts. These principles laid the foundation for international support and cooperation, serving as a guiding light for the upcoming conference.
- The European Union has pledged a remarkable \$54.5 billion in aid for the period from 2024 through 2027. This long-term commitment reflects the

EU's dedication to Ukraine's economic and social stabilisation.

- The United States has announced an additional \$1.3 billion in near-term assistance, further bolstering its support for Ukraine.
- In an effort to aid Ukraine's rebuilding process, Britain has pledged guarantees for \$3 billion worth of World Bank loans.

Bhavani Devi

- **Context:** Indian fencer C.A. Bhavani Devi achieved a historic milestone by securing India's first-ever medal at the Asian fencing championships.

Key highlights

- Competing in the women's sabre event, Devi's exceptional performance earned her a well-deserved bronze medal.
- Bhavani's performance throughout the tournament showcased her remarkable talent and determination.
- Bhavani's success at the Asian championships has fueled her determination for the upcoming World championships in Milan.
- Scheduled to take place from July 22 to 30, this prestigious tournament presents another opportunity for Bhavani to showcase her skills and compete against the best fencers on a global stage.

