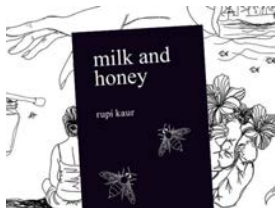




CURRENT AFFAIRS 4th May 2023

National News

1. Indo-Canadian Rupi Kaur book among most banned in US schools.



- Rupi Kaur, a Canadian-Sikh poet, has made it to the list of 11 most banned books in US classrooms for the first half of the 2022-23 school year.
- Kaur's debut work, 'Milk and Honey', which was released in 2014, has been banned due to its exploration of issues related to sexual assault and violence, according to non-profit organisation PEN America, which provided the data. Last month, Kaur's Twitter account was also withheld in India due to the Khalistan issue.
- According to the report, 'Milk and Honey' and Toni Morrison's 'The Bluest Eye' tied in ninth place on the list of most banned books in US classrooms for the first half of the 2022-23 school year. Both books were banned in 10 districts in Missouri alone.
- Rupi Kaur, who was born in Punjab, expressed her concern about the situation in an Instagram post last week, saying that she is troubled by the fact that there are people trying to take away literature that students find comfort in.

2. 'Gigachat' Russia's Sberbank launches AI to compete with ChatGPT.



- Sberbank has developed a technology named GigaChat to compete with ChatGPT in the artificial intelligence chatbot race.
- Initially available in an invite-only testing mode, GigaChat stands out with its ability to communicate more intelligently in Russian than other foreign neural networks.
- The release of Microsoft-backed OpenAI's ChatGPT last year has spurred the technology industry to incorporate AI further into users' hands to reshape how people work and win business.
- Sberbank, Russia's leading bank, has invested heavily in technology to reduce the country's dependence on imports, which has become critically important due to export cuts and sanctions over Moscow's actions in Ukraine by Western nations.

3. Unified portal, CU-Chayan launched by UGC for faculty recruitment



- **University Grant Commission (UGC) Chairman M Jagadesh Kumar launched a new recruitment portal called CU-Chayan for Central University faculty, declaring it to be completely user-friendly and suitable for the needs of all the stakeholders in the recruitment process.**
- **The UGC created the CU-Chayan portal with the aim of developing an enabling environment for both universities and applicants, with universities able to manage every aspect of the recruitment process independently.**
- **Currently 31% seats are vacants across different universities.**
- **The CU-Chayan portal is a unified recruitment platform that is tailored specifically to the recruitment of faculties in Central Universities.**
- **The portal serves as a common platform for listing vacancies, job advertisements, and postings across all Central Universities.**
- **Moreover, the registration and application process is entirely online, from application to screening to alerts for portal users.**

- The CU-Chayan portal offers a personalized dashboard that is built to manage the application process. It provides transparency and access to every facet of the recruitment process.
- It offers a variety of features to assist applicants, including a consolidated list of job openings from all participating universities, a singular login for applying to any of the universities, and customised dashboards to aid in the application process.

4. South Africa fast bowler Shabnim Ismail quits international cricket.



- Shabnim Ismail, the fastest bowler in women's cricket, has announced her retirement from international cricket.
- This is a significant blow to South Africa, who heavily relied on Ismail's pace and skill in their recent Twenty20 World Cup campaign, where they finished as runners-up.
- Ismail, who is 34 years old, played in 241 international matches across all formats, including one-day Internationals, Twenty20s, and tests.
- Her last appearance was in the World Cup final loss to Australia in February at Newlands.
- During the tournament, Ismail set a new record for the fastest ball ever recorded in women's cricket, with a speed of 128 kph (80 mph) in the semi-finals against England.

5. Geoffrey Emmanuel first Indian to compete in FIM JuniorGP.



- **Geoffrey Emmanuel will become the first Indian to participate in the FIM World JuniorGP World Championship.**
- **Geoffrey, son of seven-time National Champion Emmanuel Jebaraj, will race for Cuna De Campeones in his maiden FIM JuniorGP season. The first round of the 2023 season is scheduled for May 5-7 at the Circuit de Estoril in Portugal.**
- **After competing in the Honda India Talent Cup, Geoffrey made the move to international racing, participating in the 2022 Hawkers European Talent Cup – a one-make championship by Honda.**
- **To prepare for his FIM JuniorGP outing, he participated in test runs in Estoril and Valencia, astride the 2018 KTM RC 250GP bike earlier this year.**
- **The FIM JuniorGP World Championship is widely recognised as the final and biggest step on the road to MotoGP.**
- **It runs under Moto3 regulations and acts as a feeder class for the Moto3 World Championship.**
- **The championship has played a key role in the development of some of the most renowned MotoGP**

riders, such as Marc Marquez, Fabio Quartararo and Francesco Bagnaia.

- In fact, MotoGP organiser Dorna Sports says that over 80 percent of the riders in the Grand Prix paddock have passed through the series on their road to MotoGP.

6. Himachal Cabinet approves monthly incentive of Rs 1,500 for women of Spiti.



- The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet, under the leadership of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu, has announced a monthly incentive of Rs 1,500 for women in the Spiti Valley.
- The incentive will be provided to all eligible women, including Buddhist nuns, above the age of 18 years.
- This initiative is called the Indira Gandhi Mahila Samman Nidhi.
- The decision was made during a Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday, 3 April 2023.
- Apart from the incentive, the Cabinet also approved several other measures to improve the financial condition of the state.
- The Cabinet has decided to form a sub-committee to prepare a White Paper on the financial position of the state.
- The sub-committee will be chaired by Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri, while Agriculture Minister Chander Kumar and Rural Development Minister Anirudh Singh will be members

7. Telangana Govt to Implement Insurance Scheme for Toddy Tappers.



- The Telangana government has announced a new insurance scheme for toddy tappers called 'Geetha Karmikula Bhima.'
- The scheme is similar to the 'Rythu Bhima' program for farmers and is aimed at providing financial assistance to the families of toddy tappers who die due to accidents while collecting toddy from palm trees in the fields.
- Under the new scheme, an insurance amount of Rs. five lakh will be deposited directly into the bank account of the family members of the deceased toddy tapper.
- The insurance amount will be disbursed within a week of the accident, which is much faster than the current ex-gratia process.
- The Chief Minister of Telangana, K Chandrasekhar Rao, has instructed the Finance Minister and Excise and Prohibition Minister to prepare guidelines for the new insurance scheme.