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'AstroSat' discovered star galaxy

- India's first Multi-Wavelength Space Observatory 'AstroSat' has detected extreme-UV light from a galaxy located 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth.
- Indian astronomers have **discovered one of the farthest Star galaxies** in the universe in a **landmark achievement**.
- The galaxy called **AUDFso1** was discovered by a team of Astronomers at the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune.

Highlights

- ASTROSAT is **India's first dedicated multi wavelength space observatory**.
- This scientific satellite mission endeavours for a more detailed understanding of our universe.
- The scientific objectives of ASTROSAT mission are:
 - To understand high energy processes in binary star systems containing neutron stars and black holes
 - o Estimate magnetic fields of neutron stars
 - Study star birth regions and high energy processes in star systems lying beyond our galaxy
 - o Detect new briefly bright X-ray sources in the sky
 - o Perform a limited deep field survey of the Universe in the Ultraviolet region

GTAM in electricity launched pan-India

- Indian power market has gone green with the launch of pan-India Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) in electricity.
- Introduction of GTAM platform would lessen the burden on Renewable Energy-rich States.
- Government's target of 175-Gigawatt renewable energy capacity by 2022 is driving accelerated renewable penetration pan-India.

Highlights

- . The GTAM platform will **lead to an increase** in the **number of participants in the renewable energy sector.**
- GTAM will benefit buyers of renewable energy through **competitive prices and transparent and flexible procurement**.
- It will also benefit renewable energy sellers by providing access to the pan-India market.
- GTAM contracts will **allow additional avenues** to the **renewable energy generators** for sale of energy.



Telecom Companies granted 10 years topay AGR dues: SC

- Supreme Court has given telecom companies 10 years to clear AGR (adjusted gross revenue) dues of around 1.43 lakh crore rupees to the Centre by March 31, 2031
- The companies must pay the **dues without further review** as it **granted the firms** a **10-year window** to pay the amount in **annual instalments**.
- It directed the companies to pay the first instalment of 10% of dues by March 31, 2021.

Background

- **AGR** is a fee-sharing mechanism between government and the telcos who shifted to 'revenue-sharing fee' model in 1999, from the 'fixed license fee' model.
- The dispute between the telcos and the government has been mainly on the definition of AGR.
- While the government says that AGR includes all revenues from both telecom as well as non-telecom services, the operators suggest that it should include only the revenue from core services.
- The **Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)** calculation is what the government and telecom majors have had a disagreement over **since 2005.**
- The two sides were locked in a legal battle over the definition of AGR for more than a decade. On October 24, 2019, the top court widened the definition of AGR to include the government's view.

Coal India

- Coal India Ltd (CIL) will invest over 1.22 lakh crore rupees on development of nearly 500 projects related to coal evacuation, infrastructure, project development, exploration and clean coal technologies in the country.
- The investment aims at **making India self-reliant** in terms of coal and achieve the production target of **1 billion tonnes by 2023-2024.**
- Coal India has also identified 15 greenfield projects which will be operated under the Mine Developer and Operator (MDO) model.

Highlights

- Coal India Limited is an Indian public sector coal mining and refining company headquartered in Kolkata, West Bengal, India.
- It is the **largest coal-producing company** in the world and a **Maharatna public sector undertaking.** It is committed to fulfill energy aspirations of the nation
- The company contributes around **82% to the total coal production in India**.



World Coconut Day

- Every year World Coconut Day is observed on 2nd September.
- It is being celebrated under the auspices of the **Asia-Pacific Coconut Community from 2009 onwards** to **focus attention and awareness** about this plantation crop.

Highlights

- In India, Kerala tops the production in coconut, but Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are also picking up in this sector.
- In **Tamil Nadu**, the annual production is around **two crore 17 lakh nuts** and the productivity are being further increased by such initiatives like the **Integrated Coconut Plantation Scheme**.
- The objective of the programme is to encourage the farmers to adopt the technology developed for the management of coconut gardens.
- The National Coconut Board is also overseeing the production and development of value-added varieties from coconut like soft drinks, chips and jams.
- Handicrafts based on coconut shell and wood are also being given further encouragement.

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme

- Uttarakhand and Karnataka are paired under Ek Bharat Shreshtha
 Bharat programme to promote national integration through mutual
 understanding.
- Both the states have **established relations through sports**, **trade and culture**.

Highlights

- Uttarakhand had inspired people in **Karnataka** in **forest conservation**.
- The famous Chipko Andolan or hug the trees movement of Uttarakhand had inspired Appiko Andolan in Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka.
- Appiko is the Kannada word for Chipko.
- **Note:** It was Sunderlal Bahuguna, one of the leaders of Chipko movement who visited the state in 1983 to inspire villagers in Gubbigadde in Uttara Kannada on the non-violent struggle to save trees.

About the Programme

- "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" was announced by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 31st October 2015 on the 140th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- Subsequently, the Finance Minister announced the initiative in his Budget Speech for 2016-17.
- Through this innovative measure, the knowledge of the culture, traditions and practices of different States & UTs will lead to an enhanced understanding and



bonding between the States, thereby strengthening the unity and integrity of India.

• All States and UTs will be covered under the programme.

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