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Important News: India

President Kovind holds bilateral talks with his Turkmenistan



Why in News

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** and his Turkmenistan counterpart **Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov** held delegation-level talks at Oguzhar palace Ashgabat and exchanged views on various regional and international issues.
- This is the first-ever visit of the President of India to independent Turkmenistan and comes just after the inauguration of new Turkmen President Berdimuhamedov.
- A postage stamp commemorating 30 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Turkmenistan was also released.

Key Points

- India and Turkmenistan signed four agreements, including in financial intelligence and disaster management.
- The two leaders highlighted the significance of the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and the Ashgabat Agreement on International Transport and Transit Corridor.
- President Kovind pointed out that the Chabahar port built by India in Iran could be used to improve trade between India and Central Asia.
- On the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline, President Kovind suggested that issues related to security of the pipeline and key business principles may be addressed in Technical and Expert level meetings.

Source: Indian Express

India and Australia sign Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement



Why in News

- The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, and Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Government of Australia, Dan Tehan signed the **India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (IndAus ECTA)**, in a virtual ceremony in presence of the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Australia, Scott Morrison.

Salient features of India-Australia ECTA:

- The India-Australia ECTA is the first trade agreement of India with a developed country after more than a decade.
- The Agreement encompasses cooperation across the entire gamut of bilateral economic and commercial relations between the two friendly countries, and covers areas like Trade in Goods, Rules of Origin, Trade in Services, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, Dispute Settlement, Movement of Natural Persons, Telecom, Customs Procedures, Pharmaceutical products, and Cooperation in other Areas.

Note:

- Australia is the 17th largest trading partner of India and India is Australia's 9th largest trading partner.
- India and Australia are partners in the trilateral **Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)** arrangement along with Japan which seeks to enhance the resilience of supply chains in the Indo-Pacific Region.

Source: PIB

5th Pariksha Pe Charcha Programme



Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with students on the subject of upcoming exams on 01 April 2022 in the 5th Pariksha Pe Charcha Programme.

Key Points

- The programme was organised at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi, where school students of grades 9th to 12th, parents, and teachers had interaction with the Prime Minister.
- The program was organised by the Ministry of Education's Department of School Education and Literacy.
- First edition of the Pariksha Pe Charcha was held on February 16, 2018.

Source: HT

CJI N V Ramana launches FASTER software to transmit court orders swiftly



Why in News

- Chief Justice of India N V Ramana launched **FASTER (Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records)** — a digital platform to communicate interim orders, stay orders, bail orders etc., of the Supreme Court to authorities concerned through a secured electronic communication channel.

Key Points

- The FASTER system is developed by the Registry in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre.
- To reach all districts of India through this system, so far 73 nodal officers have been nominated at various levels.
- All nodal officers have been connected through a specific Judicial Communication Network (JCN) by creating a secured pathway.

Note: The Supreme Court has also launched other programmes involving technology like Artificial Intelligence (AI) based portal 'SUPACE' in the judicial system aimed at assisting judges with legal research.

Source: Indian Express

Important News: State

Punjab Assembly passes resolution seeking immediate transfer of Chandigarh to state



Why in News

- Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann moved a resolution in the assembly seeking immediate transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab.
- The longstanding dispute between Punjab and Haryana over Chandigarh flared up after the Centre notified Central Service Rules for employees in the Union Territory instead of the Punjab Service Rules.

Key Points

- After Partition, Shimla was made the temporary capital of Indian Punjab.
- The capital was officially moved from Shimla to Chandigarh on September 21, 1953.
- The Punjab Reorganisation Act of 1966 carved out the new state of Haryana from undivided Punjab, created the new Union Territory of Chandigarh under the direct control of the Centre, and transferred the hill territories of Punjab to Himachal Pradesh.
- Chandigarh, identified as the capital of Punjab in The Capital of Punjab (Development and Regulation) Act, 1952, became the common capital of both Punjab and Haryana, and properties were divided between the states in the ratio 60:40.

Source: Indian Express

Important News: Appointment

Dr. S Raju takes over as DG, Geological Survey of India



Why in News

- **Dr. S Raju** has taken over as the Director General of **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** in Kolkata.

Key Points

- He succeeds R. S. Garkhal who superannuated on 31st March 2022.
- Prior to assuming the present post Dr. Raju was holding the post of Additional Director General and National Head, Mission-III & IV at GSI HQ.

About Geological Survey of India (GSI):

- It is a Government of India organization under the Ministry of Mines, one of the oldest of such organisations in the world and the second oldest survey in India after Survey of India.
- **Headquarters:** Kolkata, West Bengal
- **Founded:** 4 March 1851

Source: PIB

ITU's appoints India's Aprajita Sharrma as Vice-Chairperson



Why in News

- India has secured a leadership position in Council Standing Committee on Administration and Management of **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** as an Indian official has been appointed as vice chairperson for the same.
- The International Telecommunication Union at Council meetings held at Geneva from 21st March till 31st March, 2022, has announced the appointment of **Ms Aprajita Sharma**, an IP&TAF Service officer as the vice-chair of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management.

Key Points

- She will remain as vice chairperson of Council Standing Committee for the years 2023 and 2024 and its chairperson for the years 2025 and 2026.

About International Telecommunication Union (ITU):

- It is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for all matters related to information and communication technologies.
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Founded:** 17 May 1865
- **Head: Secretary-General;** Houlin Zhao

Source: ET

Important News: Sports

Australia wins 7th ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022 title



Why in News

- **Australia** won the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022 title after defeating England in the final by 71 runs at Hagley Oval in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Key Points

- This is the record for the seventh time Australia women have won the world cup.
- The 2022 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup was the twelfth edition of the Women's Cricket World Cup, which was held in New Zealand in March and April 2022.

Source: India Today