

Daily Current Affairs 19th July 2022

Important News: National

Azadi train and station

Why in News:

- The iconic week celebrations of 'Azadi Ki Train and Station' were inaugurated by Shri Vinay Kumar Tripathi, Chairman, and CEO, of Railway Board.



key points:

- Highlighting the special importance of 75 identified stations/27 trains in the freedom struggle, Indian Railways will organize this Iconic Week Celebrations from 18th July to 23rd July.
- The various programs of this iconic week celebration by Indian Railways have focused on both railway stations and trains with historical importance, for which 75 railway stations have been identified as 'Freedom Stations' and 27 trains for 'Spot Lighting'.
- The objective of the Iconic Week named Azadi Ki Train, and Station is to inculcate a sense of patriotism in the minds of the traveling public as well as the general public.
- In this iconic week, on the day of the 'Milestone Celebration' in Delhi on 23rd July 2022, the families of freedom fighters of the respective local area will be invited to these stations to share their stories.

Source: PIB

Ramayana Massam of Kerala

Why in News:

- RamayanMasam month has started in Kerala (July 17, 2022, to August 16, 2022).



key points:

- According to the Malayalam calendar, the Ramayana month marks the beginning of Karkidakam, the last month of the year.
- During the month of Ramayana, verses of Ramayana are recited in the Hindu homes of Kerala throughout the month at dusk and Ramayana lessons are organized in temples also.
- Ramayana month is considered favorable for Ayurvedic treatment and pilgrimage.
- The Ramayana Massam ritual takes place before Onam, the famous festival of Kerala.
- A famous pilgrim center in Kerala, the Shabripeeth, located near Pampasar on the way to Sabarimala, attests to the darshan of Rama-Shabari during the exile period.

Source: Indian Express

Important News: Health

kala-azar disease

Why in News:

- At least 65 more cases of black fever or 'Kala-azar disease' have been reported in eleven districts of Bengal.



key points:

- Kala-azar or Visceral Leishmaniasis is a protozoan parasitic disease, which is transmitted by the bite of sandflies.
- Flies are infected with a parasite called 'Leishmania donovani'.
- According to the WHO, there are 3 main forms of leishmaniasis, of which kala-azar is the most severe.
- The disease affects the poorest and is associated with malnutrition, population displacement, poor housing, weakened immune systems, and lack of financial resources.
- According to WHO, leishmaniasis is also associated with environmental changes such as deforestation and urbanization.
- In the year 2020, more than 90 percent of new cases reported to WHO occurred in 10 countries: Brazil, China, Ethiopia, Eritrea, India, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Yemen.
- In India, the Kala-Azar disease is endemic in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

Source: Indian Express

Important News: Economy

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Why in News:

- The government has changed the rates of Goods and Services Tax.



key points:

- At present, customers will have to pay 5% Goods and Services Tax (GST) on pre-packaged labeled food items such as flour, paneer, and curd, along with hospital rooms renting more than Rs 5,000 as per the new rates.
- 12% GST levied by the government on hotel rooms, maps, and charts including atlases for rent up to Rs 1,000 a day, while cartons and charges (in loose or booked form) by banks for issuance of cheques. The limit of GST imposed on it has been increased to 18%.
- Initially, 5% GST was levied on Solar Water Heater which has been increased to 12% at present by the Government.
- Trucks and cargo vehicles that include fuel costs, will have to pay GST at the rate of 12% lower as compared to the current 18% on hires.

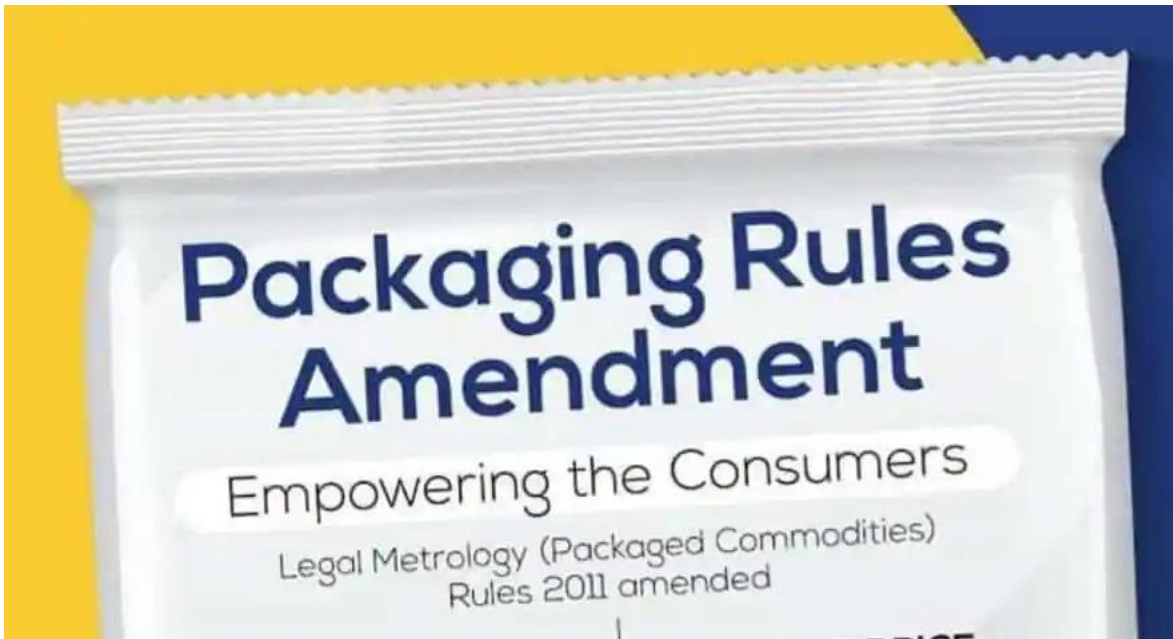
Source: The Hindu

Important News: Polity

The Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules 2011 amended by the Central Government

Why in News:

- Under the amendment to the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities), Rules 2022 by the Department of Consumer Affairs, electronic products have been allowed to declare certain mandatory declarations through QR codes for a period of one year.



key points:

- The latest amendment allows the industry to declare detailed information digitally through QR codes.
- Under the amended Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules 2011, other descriptive information can be passed on to the consumer through a QR code.
- The Department of Consumer Affairs aims to enable greater use of technology in this digital age.
- Currently, the industry can provide other information, except telephone numbers and email addresses, to customers through QR codes, such as the size and dimensions of the item and customer service details.
- Earlier, all pre-packaged goods including electronic products were required to declare all mandatory declarations on the package as per the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities), Rules 2011 which has been amended at present.

Source: The Hindu

Important News: Sports

Murali Sreeshankar:

Why in News:

- Murali Sreeshankar became the first Indian to enter the final of the men's long jump at the World Athletics Championships.



key points:

- At the World Athletics Championships, a jump of 8 meters in the qualification round by Murali Sreeshankar took her to the final.
- Murali Sreeshankar, 23, from Kerala finished second in the qualification round Group B and seventh overall.
- The 10-day biennial World Athletics Championships will conclude on 24 July 2022.
- The World Athletics Championships are being held at the University of Oregon's Hayward Field Stadium for the first time in the United States.

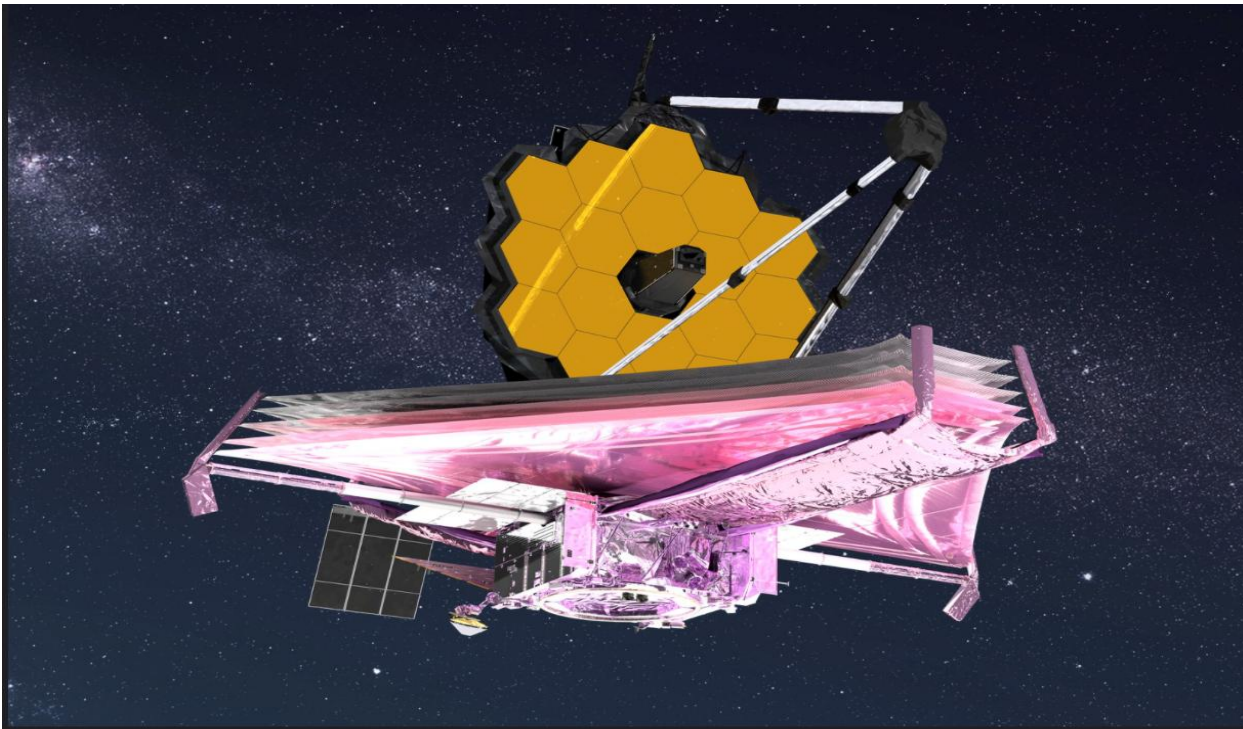
Source: All India Radio

Important News: Science & Technology

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) James Webb Space Telescope

Why in News:

- A set of images of five different regions of the sky has been released by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) with the help of the James Webb Space Telescope.



key points:

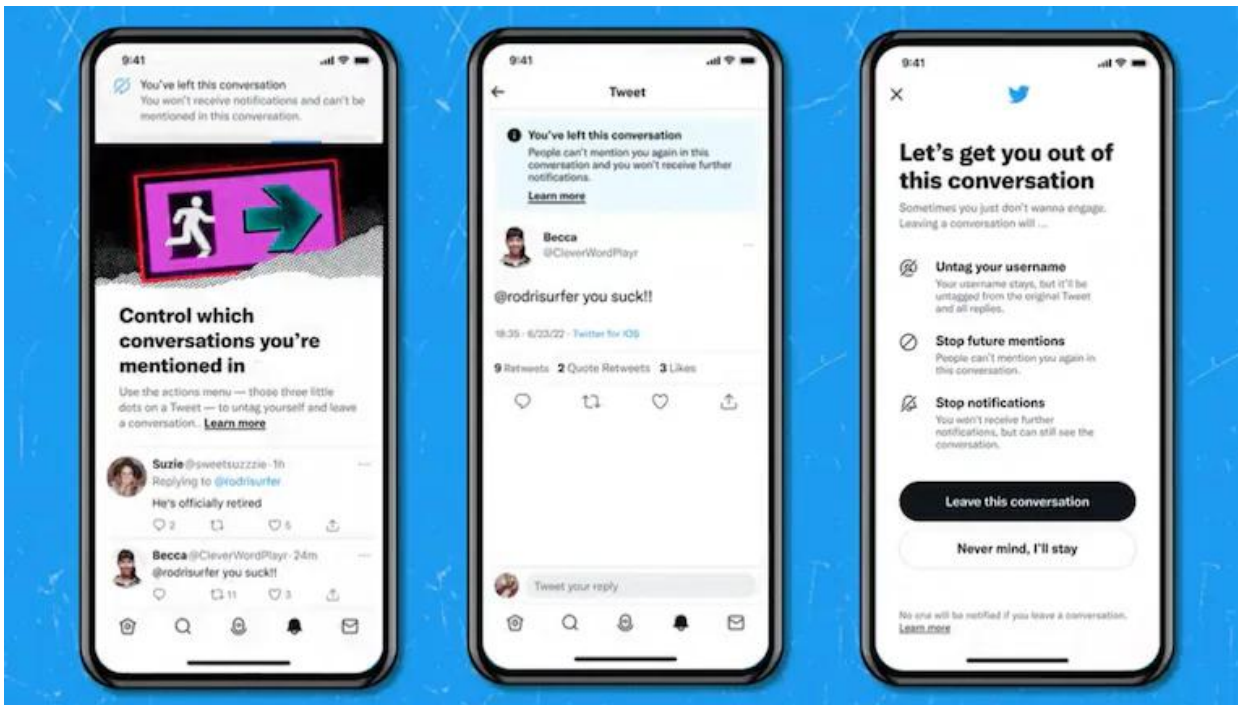
- The James Webb Space Telescope-assisted image is the deepest and best-infrared image of the most distant and oldest galaxies ever discovered.
- The James Webb Space Telescope established under an international collaboration between NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA), and the Canadian Space Agency was launched in December 2021.
- The James Webb Space Telescope is the largest, most powerful infrared space telescope, primarily a successor to the Hubble Telescope.
- The James Webb Space Telescope aims to investigate every phase of the past, from the Big Bang to the formation of galaxies, stars, and planets to the evolution of the Solar System.
- The James Webb Space Telescope provides coverage primarily in the infrared range with observations from 0.6 to 28 μm , plus this telescope does not orbit the Earth but is designed to orbit the Sun 1.5 million kilometers from Earth.
- The James Webb Space Telescope is currently located at the Sun-Earth L2 Lagrange point which is one of the five points in the orbital plane of the Earth-Sun system.

Source: The Hindu

Twitter launches unmentioned feature

Why in News:

- Twitter has launched the “unmentioned feature”, which allows users to remove themselves from any conversation.



key points:

- The unmanaging feature was introduced by Twitter at the time when Elon Musk offered to buy Twitter for US\$44 billion.
- Before launching the unmentioned feature, Twitter was testing the unmentioned feature on a limited number of users until now.
- The unmanaging feature allows users to remove themselves from conversations they no longer wish to be a part of.
- Twitter is an American communications company headquartered in San Francisco, California.
- Twitter was created in March 2006 by Jack Dorsey, Biz Stone, Noah Glass, and Evan Williams, and officially launched in July 2006.

Source: Times of India

Important News: West Bengal

La. Ganesan takes oath as West Bengal governor



Why in News?

Manipur Governor La. Ganesan took charge as Governor of West Bengal.

key points:

Mr. Ganeshan was administered oath by Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court, Prakash Srivastava, at Raj Bhawan in Kolkata.

Mr. Dhankhar, who has been made the Vice President nominee by National Democratic Alliance resigned from the post of West Bengal Governor.

His resignation was accepted by President Ram Nath Kovind, who gave charge to Mr. Ganeshan.