

Daily Current Affairs 26.08.2022

Important News: International

For the first time, India will assume the presidency of G20 till December 2022

Why in News:

- India will serve as the G20 grouping's chair in 2023, and the Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the G20 Secretariat and accompanying entities.



Key Points:

- From December 1, 2022, through November 30, 2023, India will serve as the G20's chair. The G20 summit will take place in India the following year.
- The G20 is a loose alliance of 19 nations, including the European Union, as well as the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund.
- G20 countries account for more than 80% of global GDP, 75% of global trade, and 60% of the global population.
- A ministerial forum, the G20 was created by the G7 with the help of both developed and developing economies.
- Since 1999, the G20 has gathered finance ministers and governors of central banks annually.
- The decision to host a meeting of the leaders of the G20 nations once a year came about as a result of the globe realizing the need for a new political consensus during the 2008 financial crisis.
- Twice a year, representatives of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund attend meetings of the central bank governors and finance ministers of the G20 countries.
- Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States are all members of the G20.

Source: The Hindu

Important News: National

India to have 1.8 lakh km of highways and 1.2 lakh km of rail lines by 2025

Why in News:

- According to a report by Bank of America Securities India, India is estimated to have 1.8 lakh km of highways and 1.2 lakh km of rail lines by the year 2025.



key points:

- According to the new report presented by Bank of America Securities India, the length of all national highways in India is estimated to reach about 1.8 lakh km, with the target of laying 1.2 lakh km of railway lines by 2025 if India continues to work at the same pace.
- Between 1950 and 2015, 4000 km of new national highways were constructed in India, up from 77,000 km in 2015.
- According to a new report presented by Bank of America Securities India, the target of reaching 1.8 lakh km of highways by the year 2025 is more than double the current length.
- In the year 1950, the railway network in India was only 10,000 km of rail lines which had grown to 63,000 km by the year 2015.
- According to the latest report submitted by Bank of America Securities India, the length of the railway line is to reach 1.2 lakh kilometers by the year 2025.

Source: Livemint

PM Modi inaugurates Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital in Mohali

Why in News:

- The 300-bed Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Center have been inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Mullanpur, Mohali, Chandigarh.



key points:

- The Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Center has been built at a cost of over Rs 660 crore by the Tata Memorial Center which is an aided institution under the Department of Atomic Energy.
- The hospital is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities which include Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Mammography, Digital Radiography, and Brachytherapy to ensure a cure for all types of cancer in India.
- Government of India has planned to open 1.50 lakh health and wellness centers in the country, and at present, 1.25 lakh centers out of 1.50 lakh have started functioning.
- The Government of India has worked to ensure a medical college in each city to increase the number of paramedics and doctors in the country.

Source: Indian Express

BioAsia 2023

Why in News:

- The 20th edition of BioAsia 2023 will be hosted by the Government of Telangana on February 24-26, 2023, by BioAsia 2023 flagship event for life sciences and health technology.



key points:

- The logo and theme of BioAsia 2023 are "Moving for One: Shaping the Next Generation of Humanized Healthcare".
- Hyderabad has been an important center for the world over the past two decades, as well as the Center for Health Care and Life Sciences in India and BioAsia 2023 will be held there.
- The city of Hyderabad has enhanced its reputation by being instrumental in providing vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic, which helped immunize the entire world, and is currently hosting the BioAsia 2023 event in Hyderabad.
- To discuss the interdisciplinary themes of One Health, disruptive technologies in healthcare, and access and affordability in healthcare for all, a key goal of BioAsia 2023.
- The BioAsia 2023 event also includes a start-up showcase, where more than 100 carefully selected health-tech entrepreneurs from around the world can present their groundbreaking solutions to urgent medical problems.

- BioAsia 2022 will be held with a virtual presence of around 37,500 attendees from around 70 countries.

Source: Economic Times

Important News: State

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi's government will set up the country's first night safari in Lucknow

Why in News:

- In the cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, approval has been given to the proposal of the Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department to start the country's first night safari in the capital Lucknow.



key points:

- On the lines of the world's first night safari located in Singapore, this night safari in Lucknow will be set up on 350 acres in the Kukrail forest area spread over an area of 2027.46 hectares.
- Under this project, a Zoological Park will also be constructed in an area of 150 acres along the lines of Singapore.
- This is the first night safari in the country, currently, there are 13 open day safaris in the country, but none of them are night safaris.
- Under this scheme, the entrance of Night Safari will be grand and attractive, in which Interpretation Center and Butterfly Interpretation Center will also be built.
- Under this project, plans to build Leopard Safari on 75 acres, Bear Safari on 60 acres and Tiger Safari on 75 acres have also been included.
- The world-class facilities include night safaris along with train rides and jeep rides with local guides.
- The government has also included the development of facilities like canopy walks, camping activities, mountain bike tracks, wall climbing, tree top restaurant, a nature trail, and a food court to make the park more attractive.

Source: Indian Express

Important News: Science & Tech

IIT Guwahati develops technology to make sugar substitute "Xylitol"

Why in News:

- Researchers at IIT Guwahati have created a fermentation process that uses ultrasound to safely generate Xylitol from sugarcane bagasse, a byproduct of sugarcane crushing.



key points:

- This approach would eliminate the operational constraints of chemical synthesis and the time lag of conventional fermentation.
- The use of ultrasound during the fermentation process by IIT Guwahati researchers has not only reduced the fermentation time to 15 hours but also increased the product yield by about 20%.
- Innovative technology to manufacture xylitol has led to an increase in the use of safer alternative sweeteners as awareness of the negative effects of white sugar (sucrose) on individuals with diabetes and general health has increased.
- To make xylitol industrially, D-xylose, a valuable chemical derived from wood, is processed with a nickel catalyst at extremely high temperatures and pressures, which makes the process extremely energy-intensive.
- The process of fermentation used by researchers at IIT Guwahati is not innovative, with many Indian households using a fermentation process to convert milk into curd.
- In fermentation, several types of microbes, including bacteria and yeast, are used to convert one material into another.
- In this process, researchers at IIT Guwahati first employed sugarcane bagasse, which is the remaining fibrous waste product after extracting sugarcane juice.
- A new fermentation technique has been used by researchers at IIT Guwahati, which uses ultrasonic waves to accelerate the microbe-induced synthesis of xylitol.

Source: The Hindu

Important Personality

17-year-old pilot Mac Rutherford sets world record for solo flight

Why in News:

- Mac Rutherford, a 17-year-old pilot, has become the youngest person in the world to fly solo in a small plane after landing in Bulgaria.



key points:

- Mac Rutherford, a Belgian-British dual citizen, landed at an airstrip west of the Bulgarian capital Sofia, and with this flight, he holds two Guinness World Records.
- Rutherford became the youngest person to fly alone in the world, as well as the youngest person to orbit the globe in a microlight plane.
- Mac Rutherford started his journey on 23 March, Rutherford flew to 52 countries on five continents in this journey.
- Mac Rutherford crossed the equator twice during his travels.
- Mac Rutherford traveled through Africa and the Gulf region to India, China, South Korea, and Japan.
- Mack Rutherford crossed the North Pacific Ocean and landed after 10 uninterrupted hours in the air on a volcanic island near the Bering Strait.

Source: Indian Express

Important Awards

UNESCO Peace Prize 2022

Why in News:

- The UNESCO Peace Prize 2022 has been given to former German Chancellor Angela Merkel in recognition of "her efforts to welcome migrants."



Key Points:

- As refugees began to arrive in Europe in 2015, Merkel famously said that the Germans could "Wir schaffen Das," or "we can do this," and opened her country's borders.
- After receiving more public and conservative party support, former German Chancellor Angela Merkel was forced to return to her pro-immigration stance.
- His bold choice to accept more than 1.2 million refugees from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Eritrea in 2015 won the admiration of every single member.
- The Felix Hauffouet-Bogen-UNESCO Peace Prize is the official name of the award, which honors the former leader of the Ivory Coast.
- Since 1989, it has been given out annually to people, groups, or institutions who have gone above and beyond to advance, investigate, or secure peace.
- A gold medal, a diploma for world peace, and a check for \$150,000 are given to the winner.

Source: Times of India