Monthly Current Affairs August 2022

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August 2022

Important News: State

UP government to develop Kannauj as a tourist destination

Why in News:

- The Uttar Pradesh government will develop Kannauj as a tourist destination.

key points:

- This decision has been taken by the Government of Uttar Pradesh to emphasize the importance of the perfume industry in India.
- Under this, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to organize an international perfume fair in Kannauj in December.
- Under this scheme, the first phase of the perfume park will be completed by November 15, 2022, which is being established in the district.
- Organized by the Uttar Pradesh government, the initiative aims to increase the perfume business from Rs 250 crore to Rs 25,000 crore.
- Under this project, it has been announced by the state government that if any trader participates in the fair related to perfume, the expenses including transportation and travel will be borne by the government.
- Under this project, various facilities including product development facility, testing, certification, marketing, branding, and packaging will be provided to the traders by the state government.
- The project will also involve the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), aimed at promoting perfume production in India by the government.

Source: Times of India

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PM Modi to inaugurate 'Atal Bridge' for pedestrians on Sabarmati River

Why in News:

- In Gujarat's Ahmedabad city, the pedestrian-only "Atal Bridge" over the Sabarmati River will be officially inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

key points:

- PM Modi is on a two-day visit to the home state of Gujarat, where the Atal Bridge will be inaugurated by PM Modi.
- Atal Bridge is about 300 meters long and 14 meters wide.
- A pedestrian overpass (Atal Bridge) has been developed by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation.
- The Atal Bridge is designed to connect both the lower and higher riverfront walks or promenades.
- Atal Bridge is named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- The 300-meter Atal Bridge has been constructed by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and has been named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- The futuristic Arts and Culture Center on the eastern bank of the river Atal Bridge is linked to the venue and the Flower Park on its west bank.
- Atal Bridge, acclaimed for its attractive design, will also connect multi-level parking lots.

Source: Indian Express

Nagaland gets its second railway station in 119 years

Why in News:

- With the completion of a new facility at Shokhuvi, the northeastern state of Nagaland now has a second railway station after a gap of more than 119 years.

Key Points:

- The Nagaland state's business district is home to the Dimapur Railway Station, which opened its doors in 1903.
- Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio flagged off the Donyi Polo Express at the Shokhuwi Railway Station during the day.
- The new train route has been expanded to Shokhuvi, which is currently a few kilometers away from Dimapur. The Donny Polo Express previously ran daily between Guwahati in Assam and Naharlagun in Arunachal Pradesh.
- With the extension of the Doni Polo Express up to Shokhuvi Railway Station, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh will have direct train service.
- The administration wants to build railroad connections to all of the northeastern state capitals as soon as possible.
- The 90 km long wide gauge route from Dhansiri in Assam to Jubja in the Kohima region of Nagaland was drawn out in 2016, and construction is now taking place on it.
- The state of Nagaland's capital is Kohima, and its governor and current chief minister are Neiphiu Rio and Jagdish Mukhi.

Source: Times of India

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.

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- 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

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

UP government to build India's first education township

Why in News:

- The Uttar Pradesh government is planning to build an education township in the state.

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key points:

- According to the Uttar Pradesh government, the education township will be developed on the idea of 'Single Entry, Multiple Exit'.
- Education township aims at providing high-quality education to the youth as well as equipping them with a variety of professional skills in one place.
- Under the Education Township, accommodation for both students and teachers will be provided along with many other facilities.
- Built on the idea of 'Single Entry, Multiple Exit', the focus of this township will be on high-end education, covering students from India as well as Africa, Latin American, and Central Asian countries.
- In the township, prestigious government and private universities of the country and the world will be able to open their campuses.
- Skill development universities have also been included in the education township, where training will be provided to the youth in different types of skills.
- Along with this, many other coaching institutes like Abhyudaya will also be started in these education cities so that more and more students can be successful in competitive examinations like NEET, IIT, Union Public Service Commission, etc. to be held in the country and the state.
- With the introduction of the 'Single Entry, Multiple Exit' system in the state, students can also avail affordable education loans.

Source: Times of India

Amrita Hospital in Faridabad, Haryana

Why in News:

- The 2,600-bed Amrita Hospital has been inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Faridabad, Haryana.

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key points:

- Amrita Hospital, with 2,600 beds, is Asia's largest hospital with state-of-the-art technology, which also houses a centrally located, fully automated laboratory.
- The state-of-the-art Amrita Hospital was built over the course of six years on a sprawling 130-acre campus with sustainability in mind.
- Amrita Hospital has a dedicated seven-story research building which was sponsored by Mata Amritanandamayi Math.
- The new super-specialty Amrita Hospital started operations with 500 beds and is expected to reach full capacity during the next five years.
- A medical college will be located on the premises of the new Mega Amrita Hospital in Sector 88, Faridabad, which has a built-up size of 10 million square feet.
- The hospital has hi-tech, fully automated central laboratories as well as wards and OPDs which are patient-centric.

Source: Economic Times

Chhattisgarh government to set up 300 rural industrial parks in the state

Why in News:

- The Chhattisgarh government has announced to set up 300 rural industrial parks in the state.

key points:

- The Rural Industrial Park project aims to strengthen the rural economy and make "Gauthan" (cattle shed) a livelihood hub.
- The Rural Industrial Park project will be launched in the state on October 2 on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.
- Under this project, the first such park in the state will be set up at Kulgaon in the Kanker district, which has been named Gandhi Gram.
- A residential training center has been started by the forest department on the basis of the value addition of minor forest produce.
- For the purpose of making vermicompost, cow dung is being procured by the state government at the rate of Rs.2 per kg.

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- Infrastructure is also being developed under this project by the state government, such as interlocking, cement/concrete roads, dormitories, residential rooms, kitchen halls, sheds for women's self-help groups, and underground irrigation pipelines.
- The government plans to use District Mineral Foundation (DMF) funds for this project.

Source: Economic Times

"Vidya Rath - School on Wheels"

Why in News:

- Himanta Biswa Sarma, the Chief Minister of Assam, has launched the 'Vidya Rath-School on Wheels' project.

Key Points:

- The Vidya Rath - School on Wheels program was launched in Assam at a ceremony held at the Gauhati High Court.
- The Vidya Rath - School on Wheels project aims to educate economically disadvantaged impoverished children with 10 months of elementary education.
- Underprivileged children will be given access to elementary education for 10 months as part of the Vidya Rath-School on Wheels program, following which they will be integrated into the traditional education system.
- The Vidya Rath - School on Wheels project will also offer children uniforms and textbooks, as well as free mid-day lunches.
- Assam State Transport Corporation, Assam Sarba Education Mission, Guwahati High Court Legal Services Committee, District Legal Services Authority Kamrup (Metro), and many other non-governmental organizations are among the participants in the School on Wheels program.

Source: Livemint

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India's first observatory to monitor space activity in Uttarakhand

Why in News:

- Diganta, a startup in the space industry, will build India's first commercial space situational awareness observatory in the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand, with the ability to track objects as small as 10 cm in size orbiting the Earth.

Key Points:

- The Space Situational Awareness (SSA) observatory would help India monitor all astronomical activity, including the movement of military satellites and space debris.
- The United States is currently a key player in the space debris monitoring field, with observatories spread around the country and commercial enterprises around the world contributing additional data.
- In particular, in geostationary, medium-Earth, and high-Earth orbits, the ability to monitor deep-space phenomena will be enhanced by high-quality observations with its partner ground-based sensor networks.
- By more precisely forecasting satellites' location, speed, and trajectory, cutting-edge technology can lower the possibility of collisions with another spacecraft.
- Multi-object Tracking Radar, which the SSA observatory is currently utilizing to track space objects for India, would significantly advance this sector.

Source: Times of India

GI tag to Mithila Makhana of Bihar

Why in News:

- The Central Government has designated Mithila Makhana as a Geographical Indication (GI).

Key Points:

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- The addition of a Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Mithila Makhana will allow growers to maximize the value of their quality supply.
- No one or corporation may sell anything identical to a product that has gotten this tag.
- The Geographical Indication (GI) label is valid for ten years and can be renewed.
- Other advantages of GI registration include legal protection for the commodity, restriction of unauthorized use by others, and export promotion.
- A Geographical Indication, sometimes known as a GI, is a term or indication given to particular items that are associated with a certain geographical location or origin of a region, city, or country.
- The use of geographical indications is seen as proof that a specific product is manufactured using traditional methods, has certain distinguishing characteristics, or has a special reputation due to its geographical origin.
- Wine and spirit drinks, cuisine, agricultural products, handicrafts, and industrial products are all examples of geographical indicators.
- The GI tag ensures that no one can use a popular product name after those who have been registered as approved users.

Source: Livemint

Jharkhand: Block Chain Based Seed Distribution

Why in News:

- With an aim to revolutionize agriculture in the country, the Government of Jharkhand and global blockchain technology company, Settlement jointly launched seed distribution to farmers based on blockchain technology.

key points:

- The objective of implementing this scheme is to reduce theft and make farmers free from spurious seeds received under various government schemes including Seed Exchange Scheme.
- At present more than 3 lakh farmers are registered on the Block Chain Portal, out of which 30 thousand quintal seeds have been distributed so far.
- Through this scheme, more than 300 seed varieties of more than 30 crops have been distributed at subsidized rates during both Kharif and Rabi seasons by the government.

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- Under this scheme, each farmer is registered on a blockchain-based platform with their Aadhar number and mobile number, and seed distribution information is updated on the system after the farmers enter the OTP received.
- An online entry is made when the seed company sends seeds to farmers in the state through a blockchain-based platform, which is easily tracked.
- Through the blockchain system implemented by the government, the complete information of the farmer who has taken the benefit is collected with the department, through which the department can know that if the farmer has been given the benefit of the scheme, then what kind of seed he has to get.
- The government aims to monitor the distribution of seeds through blockchain-based technology.

Source: Times of India

India's first electric double-decker bus 'Switch EIV 22'

Why in News:

- Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari unveiled India's first electric double-decker bus at the YB Center in South Mumbai.

Key Points:

- The Mumbai civic transport authority will operate India's first electric double-decker bus, the 'Switch EIV 22,' beginning in September.
- According to government data, diesel and gasoline are responsible for 35% of the country's pollution; however, pollution can be minimized with the use of electric buses.
- Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport has added two new electric buses to its fleet, including the country's first air-conditioned double-decker bus (BEST).
- The Switch EIV 22 was created with the goal of revolutionizing public transportation and setting new standards in the intra-city bus segment in India.
- The Switch EIV 22 bus will be powered by a twin gun charging system with a 231 kWh 2-string liquid-cooled battery pack, allowing it to deliver a range of up to 250 km for intra-city applications.
- Switch Mobility, an Ashok Leyland electric bus, and light commercial vehicle firm, has produced India's first electric double-decker air-conditioned bus, the Switch EIV22.

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- Ashok Leyland is a pioneer in the Indian commercial vehicle sector, having introduced the double-decker bus in Mumbai in 1967.

Source: Economic Times

MP's Mandla becomes the country's first 'functionally literate' district

Why in News:

- Bisahulal Singh, Minister of State, stated that Mandla district, a tribal-dominated area in Madhya Pradesh, has become a 100% literate district.

Key Points:

- According to the Madhya Pradesh government, the literacy rate in the district was 68 percent according to a 2011 study, but another report in 2020 stated that more than 2.25 lakh people in the district were illiterate, with the majority living in forest areas. There were indigenous communities residing there.
- "The tribals have frequently complained to authorities about fraudsters stealing money from their bank accounts, with the main cause being that they were not functionally literate."
- When a person is functionally literate, he can write his name, count, and read and write in Hindi.
- The Madhya Pradesh government wants to educate women and older persons; thus a literacy campaign has been launched with the involvement of the school education department, the women and child development department, Anganwadi, and social workers.
- He claimed that within two years, the entire district had become functionally literate, with citizens of Mandla being able to write, count, and read their names, making Mandla the first district in the country to do so.

Source: Business Standard

Chief Minister Anupriti Coaching Scheme

Why in News:

- The Rajasthani government has budgeted around Rs. 17 crores for the "Mukhyamantri Anupriti Coaching Scheme" during the fiscal year 2022-2023.

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Key Points:

- Students will receive free coaching for competitive exams under the Mukhyamantri Anupriti Coaching Scheme.
- Ashok Gehlot, the chief minister of Rajasthan, launched the Mukhyamantri Anupriti Coaching Scheme in 2021–2022.
- As part of the program, the government will give deserving students free coaching from reputable coaches so they may achieve their goals.
- The government has doubled both the funding and the number of seats allocated under this program, bringing the total to 15,000 seats.
- In accordance with this program, the government will provide an additional Rs 40,000 per year for boarding and lodging if the student is assigned to a coaching facility in another city.
- Students from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities, and Other Backward Classes, Specially Handicapped, and Economically Backward Classes who hail from families with an annual income of less than Rs. 8 lakhs are eligible for free coaching through the Mukhyamantri Anupriti Coaching Scheme.
- As part of the program, students will receive preparation for a number of competitive exams, including the IIT JEE, Civil Services, Rajasthan Administrative Service, Rajasthan Eligibility Test for Teachers (REET), and Medical College Admission.
- The state government set a goal of offering free coaching to 10,000 students in the academic year 2021–2022, and 9,000 of those students were chosen from more than one lakh applications.

Source: Indian Express

Arunachal's third airport named 'Doni Polo Airport'

Why in News:

- The Arunachal Pradesh government has given the third airport in the state, which is currently being built in Itanagar, the name "Doni Polo Airport."

Key Points:

- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu presided over a meeting of the state cabinet, which approved "Donny Polo Airport" as the name of the airport, according to a spokesman of the Chief Minister's Office.
- According to the official, the name of the sole airport in the capital city will reflect the long-standing indigenous veneration for Surya (Doni), as well as the state's rich cultural history and long-standing customs.
- The Airports Authority of India has launched a Rs 650 crore project to improve the airport with the goal of boosting aviation connectivity in mountainous regions.
- Along with Pasighat and Tezu airports, the "Donny Polo Airport" in Itanagar will be the 16th airport in Northeast India and the third airport in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Currently, there are 15 airports in the Northeastern Region that are in operation: Guwahati, Silchar, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Tezpur, Lilabari, and Rupsi (all in Assam), Tezu and Pasighat (both in Arunachal Pradesh), Agartala (in Tripura), Imphal (in Manipur), Shillong (in Meghalaya), Dimapur (in Nagaland), Lengpui (in (Sikkim).

Source: Times of India

K-DISC signs MoU with LinkedIn to boost employment

Why in News:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed by the ICT Academy of Kerala (ICTAK) with LinkedIn under the Kerala Knowledge Economy Mission (KKEM) by the Kerala Development and Innovation Strategy Council.

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key points:

- This agreement has been done by the Government of Kerala under the State Government's initiative Career to Campus Campaign (CCC).
- The Career to Campus campaign works in line with the objective of Right Job @ Right Time, promoting youth awareness of changes in global labor markets and skill needs to encourage students.
- The Government of Kerala aims to promote employability skills with this partnership among the youth of Kerala to get relevant jobs using LinkedIn.
- Under this scheme, various products and services will be provided by the Kerala state government to students on LinkedIn, including LinkedIn Insights, Curated LinkedIn Learning Courses, and LinkedIn Jobs.
- The Kerala Development and Innovation Strategy Council is a strategic think-tank and advisory body constituted by the Government of Kerala.
- ICTAK is a social enterprise built in a public partnership model to impart ICT skills to the youth of Kerala, also supported by the Government of India under the partnership of the Government of Kerala and the IT Industry.

Source: Indian Express

Bharat Rang Mahotsav

Why in News:

- The 22nd 'Bharat Rang Mahotsav' was inaugurated by the Governor of Maharashtra at the Rabindra Natya Mandir in Mumbai.

key points:

- The 22nd Bharat Rang Mahotsav is being jointly organized by the Union Ministry of Culture and PL Deshpande Maharashtra Kala Akademi in Mumbai.
- The 22nd Bharat Rang Mahotsav is being organized from August 9 to August 13, 2022, a five-day theatrical festival to pay tribute to our freedom fighters.
- Eminent theater personalities of Maharashtra will be honored on the stage of Bharat Theater during the event.
- As part of the 22nd Bharat Rang Mahotsav, 2022, 30 plays are also staged in Delhi, Bhubaneshwar, Varanasi, Amritsar, Bengaluru, and Mumbai from July 16 to August 14, 2022.
- Bharat Rang Mahotsav is an annual theater festival started by the National School of Drama, New Delhi in the year 1999.
- The objective of Bharat Rang Manch was to promote the development and progress of theater across the country.
- Originally the national festival showcasing the work of the most creative theater workers in India, it has grown into the international scene, hosting theater companies from across the globe, and is now the largest theater festival in Asia.
- The National School of Drama, funded by the Government of India, is the leading theater training institute in our country.

Source: PIB

CM Yogi launched 'Radio Jaighosh' on Kakori Train Action Anniversary

Why in News:

- "Radio Jaighosh" has been launched by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath as part of the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to mark the anniversary of Kakori Train Action.

key points:

- In order to promote the performing arts, regional specialties of Uttar Pradesh, folk arts, and gallantry award recipients, a community radio station has been developed by the state's culture department under which "Radio Jaighosh" is also a part of it.

- "Radio Jaighosh" will be made audible on 107.8 MHz by Sangeet Natak Akademi in Lucknow, in which programs will be broadcast daily from 6 am to 10 pm.
- Radio Jaighosh's mobile application and social media pages have also provided access to the programs.
- The daily radio programs "Parakram" and "Shaurya Nagar" will cover folktales from all 75 districts of the state and will feature brave soldiers from both pre-and post-independence eras as well as unsung heroes on "Radio Jaighosh".
- Along with this, regular shows on education will also be available on "Radio Jaighosh" started by the government.

Source: Livemint

Andhra Pradesh government named Konaseema district after Dr. B R Ambedkar

Why in News:

- Konaseema district has been renamed Dr. BR Ambedkar Konaseema by the Andhra Pradesh government.

key points:

- Konaseema district was formed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh by bifurcating Godavari district.
- The right to change the name of any district rests with the respective state government.
- The proposal to change the name of any district is done in three phases-
  1. The first step involves making a request in the form of a motion by any Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA).
  2. The second stage involves deliberation on the request to change the name of the city or district.
  3. At the final stage, voting is done on the validity of the resolution. If there is a majority in favor of the motion, then the said resolution is declared passed and the name of the district or city is changed and if the majority of votes are not received for any resolution, then the resolution fails.
- A resolution to change the name of any district must be passed by a simple majority.
- Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was born in the year 1891 in Mhow, Central Province.
- Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar is considered the father of the Indian Constitution and he was the first law minister of India as well as the chairman of the drafting committee for constitution making.

Source: Jansatta

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Uttarakhand government decided to develop one Sanskrit-speaking village in each district

Why in News:

- The Uttarakhand government has decided to develop one Sanskrit-speaking village in each of the 13 districts of the state.

key points:

- Under this mission, the Sanskrit Education Minister of Uttarakhand and the citizens of these villages will be trained by experts to use the ancient Indian language as a medium of daily communication.
- Under this scheme, a provision has been included by the government to send Sanskrit teachers to selected villages to teach the local people how to communicate in the language.
- Reading of Vedas and Puranas will also be done under this scheme to help citizens to acquire proficiency in Sanskrit.
- To be called a "Sanskrit Village" under this scheme, each of these villages would be designated as a center of ancient Indian culture.
- Sanskrit is the second official language of the state of Uttarakhand while Hindi is the first official language of the state.
- Uttarakhand is the first state in the country that has started such an initiative to promote Sanskrit.
- Prior to the state of Uttarakhand, there is only one Sanskrit-speaking village in the state of Karnataka, Mattur village.

Source: Livemint

UNESCO Heritage List

Why in News:

- The 106-year-old observatory at Langat Singh College, Muzaffarpur, Bihar, has been listed by UNESCO in the list of the world's most important observatories of the endangered world cultural heritage.

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key points:

- The observatory was built in 1916 at the 123-year-old university, presently known as Bhimrao Ambedkar, which is affiliated with the Bihar University.
- Various areas or objects are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.
- The UNESCO World Heritage List was adopted by UNESCO in 1972 and the World Heritage Center is the secretariat of the 1972 Convention.
- Three types of sites have been included in the UNESCO World Heritage List
- Cultural heritage sites include historical buildings, city sites, important archaeological sites, monumental sculptures, and painting works.
- Natural heritage includes outstanding ecological and evolutionary processes, unique natural phenomena, habitats of rare or endangered species, etc.
- Mixed heritage sites include important elements, both natural and cultural.

Source: Indian Express

India's first smart city to get data from Google's EIE

Why in News:

- Aurangabad becomes the first smart city in India to get data from Google's EIE.

key points:

- According to Aurangabad Smart City Development Corporation Limited, Google's Environmental Insights Explorer (EIE) data has been officially released in Aurangabad, and Aurangabad is the first city

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in the country to do so. Google's EIE Dashboard for Aurangabad was introduced by Google during an event in New Delhi.

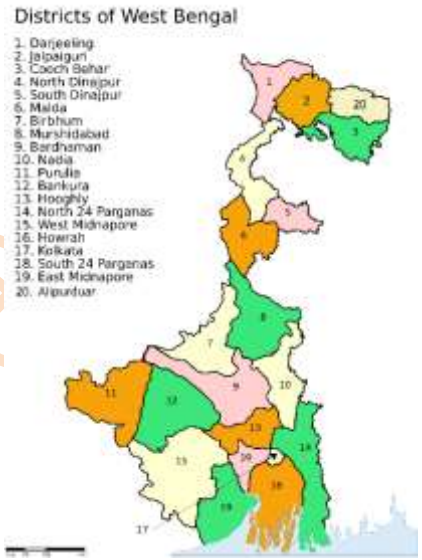
- Google with its EIE feature helps cities measure, analyze carbon emissions sources and identify strategies to reduce emissions, which is critical to creating the strategies needed to reduce air pollution.
- Currently, the EIE data is used by the states of Aurangabad, Bangalore, Chennai, and Pune for climate action plans, but the city of Aurangabad has been selected as the first city in the country to make transport emissions data public.
- The latest development for Aurangabad is in line with the city's commitment to the 'Race to Zero' and 'Race to Resilience' campaigns of the United Nations.
- Google's EIE parameter for Aurangabad and its official study will be made available to the public.

Source: Times of India

West Bengal will create 7 new districts

Why in News:

- In an effort to streamline administrative processes, the West Bengal government has decided to create seven new districts in the state.



key points:

- West Bengal Sunderbans, Ichmeti, Ranaghat, Bishnupur, Jangipur, Behrampur, and Basirhat have been included as new districts.
- With the newly formed 07 states, the number of districts in West Bengal has increased to 30.
- The power to create new districts or to change or abolish the boundaries of existing districts is vested in the State Government.
- The new district can be formed by the state government either through an executive order or through a law passed by the state legislature.

- West Bengal is India's fourth most populous and thirteenth largest state in terms of area with 90.3 million inhabitants.
- West Bengal shares borders internationally with Bangladesh to the east, Nepal, and Bhutan to the north, and West Bengal is a part of the Bengal region of the Indian subcontinent.
- West Bengal shares a national border with the states of Assam, Jharkhand, Bihar, Sikkim, and Odisha.
- According to the 2011 census, there were a total of 593 districts in the country, out of which 46 districts were created by the states between 2001 and 2011.

Source: Indian Express

Tamil Nadu Police gets President's color from Venkaiah Naidu

Why in News:

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin presented the famous "President's Colours" to the Tamil Nadu Police.

key points:

- Tamil Nadu Police is one of the few police departments in the country to have been awarded the coveted "President's Colours".
- The Tamil Nadu Police was recognized on August 19, 2009, during the time of late Tamil Nadu leader M. Karunanidhi, but then this honor was not given to the Tamil Nadu Police.
- During the conference, the Chief Minister also appreciated the Tamil Nadu administration for providing accommodation options for the law enforcement officers in the state.
- The Vice President and the Chief Minister were also given a Guard of Honor by contingents of the State Disaster Response Force, Commandos, Coastal Security Group, and Nilgiri Police at the conference.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu during the conference. Stalin was presented with the 'President Mark'.
- The 'Rashtrapati Nishan' is the highest honor given to any military/state police in recognition of exceptional service of at least 25 years to the country. This honor reflects bravery, courage, commitment, professionalism, integrity, and the spirit of service to humanity.

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Source: Indian Express

Chhattisgarh CM launches 'Mahatari Nyay Rath' for women's rights awareness

Why in News:

- With the aim of educating the women of the state about their constitutional rights and laws, the Mahtari Nyay Rath Yatra was launched by the Chhattisgarh Women's Commission and the Chief Minister.

key points:

- The Chief Minister Mahtari Nyay Rath has been launched with the aim of increasing legal knowledge among women on the occasion of Hareli Teej.
- The goal of Mahtari Nyay Rath is to educate women about the legal protection of women and their constitutional rights.
- Under the Mahatari Nyay Rath Yojna, two lawyers will ride on each chariot to hear the complaints of women and give information and advice to women related to it.
- With the help of Mahtari Nyay Rath, women can apply to the Women's Commission for redressal of their grievances.
- Nationally recognized instructional short films in Hindi and Chhattisgarhi will be screened on large size LED screens under Mahtari Nyay Rath.
- For the Mahtari Nyay Rath, specific adjustments have been made in the DMF policy by the State Government and the District Nyay Rath will be operated with the help of DMF.
- The objective of the Mahtari Nyay Rath is to make every woman, whether educated or not, aware of her legal rights along with the Women's Commission as well as the laws and regulations applicable to them.

Source: Navbharat times

Kerala government to launch "Kerala Savari" online cab service

Why in News:

- Kerala government announced the launch of its own e-taxi Kerala Savari service.

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key points:

- Kerala Savari is designed by the Government of Kerala to come up with an alternative to the popular corporate online cab service.
- Own e-taxi service by any state is the first such initiative by any state government in the country.
- "Kerala Savari", which is touted as the first such initiative by any state government in the country, has been launched by the state labor department with an aim to ensure safe and dispute-free travel through the existing auto-taxi network in the state.
- Kerala Savari will be made available to the residents of the state at the cheapest rates in the state.
- Kerala Savari Seva will be launched during a ceremony at Kanakkunnu Palace, Kerala.
- Kerala Savari will be launched by the government on August 17, the day marking the beginning of the auspicious Malayalam month of Chingam.

Source: Business Standard

Important News: India

World's largest religious monument

Why in News:

- The Temple of the Vedic Planetarium in West Bengal, which will house the headquarters of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), is the largest religious structure in the world and also has the largest dome.

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Key Points:

- The founder of ISKCON, Srila Prabhupada, built the Vedic Planetarium Temple, which takes design cues from the American Capitol building.
- The temple is greater than the Taj Mahal, the famous St. Paul's Cathedral in the Vatican, and the white marble dome building.
- The International Society of Krishna Consciousness will have its headquarters in the temple of the Vedic planetarium (ISKCON).
- The massive 400-acre Angkor Wat temple is currently the biggest religious structure in Cambodia.
- In West Bengal's Mayapur, the Vedic Planetarium temple is situated in the Nadia district.

Source: News on Air

NITI Aayog declared Haridwar the best aspirational district in India

Why in News:

- Haridwar, the holy city of Uttarakhand, has been declared the best aspirational district on five parameters by NITI Aayog.

key points:

- Haridwar district has been ranked first in terms of infrastructure and with this, an additional allocation of Rs 3 crore has been provided by NITI Aayog for the development of Haridwar.

- The Aspirational District Program launched by NITI Aayog evaluates the performance of districts on the basis of five key parameters, which include-
  1. Health and Nutrition (30%)
  2. Education (30%)
  3. Agriculture and Water Resources (20%)
  4. Financial Inclusion and Skill Development (10%)
  5. Infrastructure (10%)
- The ambitious district program of NITI Aayog was launched in the year 2018.
- The ambitious district program aims to identify potential districts that can be developed into model blocks through socio-economic development.
- Under the ambitious district program, the central government takes necessary steps to improve the socio-economic condition of the identified districts and ensure inclusive and holistic development.
- A total of 117 districts were initially selected to be part of the Aspirational Districts Program (ADP) for the ambitious district program, whose development and performance are assessed by NITI Aayog through reports sent by district administrators every month.

Source: Indian Express

Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar campaign

Why in News:

- As part of the Swachh Sagar, Safe Sagar program, the Ministry of Earth Sciences has launched a coastal cleanup drive to clean 75 beaches nationwide in 75 days.

Key Points:

- The world's first and longest-running coastal clean-up initiative, Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar Abhiyan has attracted the most participants.
- In order to increase awareness of how the usage of plastic is killing marine life, the Swachh Sagar, Safe Sagar Abhiyan seeks to drastically alter people's behavior.
- The government has introduced a mobile application called "Eco Mitram" to raise awareness of the Clean Sagar, Safe Sagar program and to sign up the general public to voluntarily participate in beach cleanup activity.

- The initiative will come to a close on September 17, 2022, also known as "International Coastal Cleanup Day."
- International Coastal Cleanup Day is commemorated annually on the third Saturday in September all over the world.
- The goal of International Coastal Cleanup Day is to increase public awareness of the effects of litter accumulation on the oceans and beaches.

Source: PIB

Ministry of Education hosted Smart India Hackathon-2022

Why in News:

- The Ministry of Education is hosting the Smart India Hackathon-2022.

Key Points:

- The Smart India Hackathon (SIH) Hardware and the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) Software are the two versions of the Smart India Hackathon that are being held this year.
- The grand finals of the Smart India Hackathon for Hardware and Software were set for August 25–29 and August 25–26, respectively, this year.
- The inaugural Smart India Hackathon (SIH) took place in 2017.
- The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) Innovation Section hosts the annual Smart India Hackathon with the goal of assisting students in resolving issues brought about by businesses, non-governmental organizations, and governmental entities.
- The MoE has also launched the Smart India Hackathon-Jr. in an effort to encourage youth to adopt an innovative mindset and culture.
- The goal of the Smart India Hackathon is to give students in the nation a forum to address the most significant problems that we encounter every day.
- **Source: Economic Times**

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PM Narendra Modi dedicates India's first earthquake memorial

Why in News:

- India's first earthquake memorial, Smriti Van has been dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Bhuj, Gujarat.

key points:

- Smriti Van is a unique monument in which a huge memorial has also been constructed with the names of more than 12 thousand people who lost their lives in the devastating earthquake here in January 2001.
- The earthquake simulator at Smriti Van will provide the visitors with a real experience like the experience of an earthquake tremor.
- Smriti Van is a monument spread over 470 acres on Bhujio Hill near Bhuj city.
- Smriti Van Museum displays the topography, reconstruction initiatives, and success stories of Gujarat after the 2001 earthquake and informs about different types of disasters and future preparedness for any type of disaster.
- A block has also been constructed in Smriti One to recreate the experience of earthquakes with the help of a 5D simulator.
- One of the major attractions of this project is the special theater where visitors can experience earthquakes through vibration and sound effects.

Source: Times of India

"One Nation One Fertilizer" program

Why in News:

- An order has been issued by the government to all businesses to market their goods under the brand name "Bharat" with an aim to standardize fertilizer brands across the country.

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key points:

- Under the One Nation One Fertilizer Order, all public or private sector companies will sport the brand names “Bharat Urea,” “Bharat DAP,” “Bharat MOP,” and “Bharat NPK.”
- Fertilizer firms reacted negatively to One Nation One Fertilizer's decision, saying it would "destroy their brand value and market distinction."
- The decision of One Nation One Fertilizer can be detrimental to the fertilizer industry as it will help in establishing the company's reputation among the farmers along with branding the products.
- Fertilizer firms engage in a variety of expansion efforts, including field-level demonstrations, crop surveys, and other events where their brands are prominently displayed and help connect with farmers, under One Nation One Fertilizer.
- The new rules issued under One Nation One Fertilizer will be effective from October 2, 2022.
- Under One Nation One Fertilizer, companies have been given time till December 12 to remove all their previous bag designs from the market.

Source: The Hindu

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

Super Vasuki: Longest Freight Train of Indian Railways

Why in News:

- Indian Railways has tested its latest train named Super Vasuki.

key points:

- Super Vasuki is operated by the Southeast Central Railway (SECR) zone of Indian Railways.
- The Southeast Central Railway had run a record long-distance goods train last year in Vasuki and Trisula and before that the 2.8 km long Sheshnag train.
- Super Vasuki has been established by merging five rakes of goods trains into a single unit which is 3.5 km in length.
- During the test run, the train carried six locos, 295 wagons, and a gross weight of 25,962 tons, making it the longest and heaviest freight train run by the Railways.
- The Super Vasuki is three times the capacity of the existing railway rakes (90 cars of 100 tons each), which can carry around 9,000 tons of coal in a single journey.
- During testing, the Super Vasuki train has taken 11.20 hours to cover a distance of 267 km.

Source: Indian Express

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Navy unfurls flag in 6 time zones across 6 continents

Why in News:

- In a first-of-its-kind effort, Indian Naval Ships (INS) (Warships) traveled across 6 continents - North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia as a part of the celebration of 75 years of Amrit Mahotsav of Independence. travel has been done.

key points:

- The tricolor national flag of India was flown by Indian warships in 6 continents, 3 oceans, and 6 different time zones during this campaign.
- As a part of the celebration of India's independence, a coordinated effort of this magnitude is being undertaken for the first time with friendly nations and maritime allies.
- During this campaign, the United States (USA) (North America), Rio de Janeiro (South America) in Brazil, Mombasa in Kenya (Africa), Muscat in Oman and Singapore (Asia), United Kingdom (UK) (Europe) The tricolor has been hoisted in London, and in Perth in Western Australia (Australia).
- The countries where the tricolor was hoisted under this campaign include-
- Australia:
    - INS Sumedha participated in Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with Australian Naval Ship HMAS Anzac, an Anzac class warship of the Royal Australian Navy, on 17 August 2022.
- Asia:
    - INS Saryu entered Changi Naval Base in Singapore as part of the Indian Navy's initiative to hoist the tricolor across 6 continents.
- Africa:
    - Talwar-class frigate INS Tabar (F44) arrived in Mombasa, Kenya on 14 August 2022 and participated in several activities including flag hoisting ceremony.
- South America:
    - INS Tarkash docked at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 15 August 2022.
- North America:
    - INS Satpura docked at San Diego Harbor in the US on 13 August 2022.
- Europe:
    - Made-in-India by naval ship INS Tarangini, docked at Thames Quay in East London, UK.

Source: The Hindu

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India's first portal NIDAAN on arrested Narcos criminals

Why in News:

- NIDAAN Portal, a first-of-its-kind database of detained drug offenders, has been developed for use by various national and state prosecution authorities tasked with enforcing the country's drug laws.

Key Points:

- Narcotics Control Bureau created the National Integrated Database Portal-NIDAAN (NCB).
- The Narcotics Coordination Mechanism webpage was launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on July 30, 2022, during the National Conference on 'Drug Trafficking and National Security in Chandigarh.
- The NIDAAN platform gets its data from the interoperable Criminal Justice System and e-Prison Application Repository, and it eventually hopes to interface with the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System, or CCTNS.
- The Inter-operable Criminal Justice System, a Supreme Court e-Committee effort, is intended to permit the seamless movement of data and information between several pillars of the criminal justice system, such as courts, police, prisons, and forensic science laboratories, using a single platform. was designed to accomplish
- Diagnostics is a one-stop shop for all drug offender data and can be utilized as a useful tool by investigative organizations to connect the connections while examining drug cases.

Source: The Hindu

Government launches Aqua Bazaar feature of Matsya Setu App

Why in News:

- Online Market Place feature "Aqua Bazaar" has been launched in "Matsyasetu" mobile app by Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Shri Purushottam Rupala with an aim to protect the interest of fish farmers and make them benefit from new technologies.

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key points:

- The app has been developed by ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture Bhubaneswar, with funding support from National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad through Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.
- This online marketplace will help fish farmers and stakeholders source inputs like fish seeds, feed, medicines, etc. Along with the services required for fish, farmers can also list fish for sale.
- The Aqua Bazaar feature aims to connect all the stakeholders in the aquaculture sector.
- Through the MatsyaSetu platform, any registered seller can list his/her input material, each listing includes the seller's contact details along with detailed information about the product, price, available quantity, supply area, etc.
- Matsya Setu App was developed by ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar.
- Species-wise or subject-wise self-learning online course modules are also included in the Matsya App.

Source: PIB

'Panch Prana' Target

Why in News:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his speech on August 15, 2022, outlined his "Panch Prana Lakshya" (five resolutions) to make India one.

key points:

- According to Panch Pran, cleanliness campaigns, vaccination, electricity connections, elimination of open defecation and use of solar energy are all examples of established Indian standards.

- A prime example of "liberation from the concept of slavery" is the new National Education Policy.
- According to Panch Pran Lakshya, women's rights, gender equality, and India First are national symbols of solidarity and unity.
- The Pancha Pranas given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is as follows:
  1. Move forward with more conviction and resolve for a developed India
  2. to get rid of any signs of slavery.
  3. Be proud of the history of India.
  4. power of unity
  5. Duties of citizens, such as PM and CM.
- The Prime Minister's vision of "Vishwaguru Bharat" is also one of these five resolutions (Panch Prana).
- On completion of 100 years of independence, PM Modi wants to turn India into "Vishvaguru".

Source: Indian Express

Manthan Platform

Why in News:

- The Government of India launched the "Manthan" platform to improve collaboration between industry and research institutions in order to execute technology-based social impact innovations and solutions in the country.

Key Points:

- The launch of Manthan, a platform that promises to strengthen our efforts to foster and encourage industry participation in R&D, demonstrates our dedication to the UN SDG goals.
- Manthan begins with the 75th anniversary of India's independence and provides an opportunity to bring national and global communities closer to India's technological revolution.
- The Manthan platform will aid in the enhancement of stakeholder contact, the facilitation of research and innovation, and the sharing of issues in various developing technologies and scientific interventions, including those with a social impact.
- Manthan Manch lays the groundwork for transforming the nation through new ideas, creative minds, and public-private-academic collaboration in order to meet the country's sustainability goals.

- Manthan promotes knowledge transmission and interaction through hosting information exchange sessions, exhibitions, and events in order to create a framework for future science, innovation, and technology-led development.

Source: The Hindu

Operation Yatri Suraksha"

Why in News:

- Operation Yatri Suraksha, an all-India campaign has been launched by the Indian Railway Protection Force (RPF).

key points:

- Under the Operation Yatri Suraksha initiative, several steps have been taken to provide round-the-clock security to the passengers.
- To kickstart Operation Yatri Suraksha, a month-long all-India campaign against criminals who robbed passengers was launched by RPF in July 2022.
- During the operation, 365 suspects were apprehended by the RPF, who were handed over to the concerned GRP for legal action.
- As part of the Operation Yatri Suraksha effort, station presence, CCTV surveillance, monitoring of active criminals, intelligence collecting, and criminal action, as well as train escorting to offer passengers perfect protection, A number of crucial components, including identifying "black spots," developing a workable strategy to lessen crime against passengers on trains and in crime-prone areas, and enhancing security, have been included.

Source: Indian Express

India's first saltwater lantern

Why in News:

- Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of Earth Sciences, has unveiled "Roshini," the country's first saltwater lantern that uses seawater to light Light Emitting Diode (LED) lamps.

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Key Points:

- During its visit to Sagar Anveshika, a coastal research vessel run by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) Chennai for Marine Research, the government unveiled the first lantern of its kind.
- Seawater is used as an electrolyte between specially crafted electrodes in saltwater lanterns to power the LED lights.
- The development of this technology will make life easier for the less fortunate, particularly the fishing community that lives along India's 7,500 kilometers of coastline.
- The saltwater lantern will also support Prime Minister Narendra Modi's UJALA program, which was established in 2015 to distribute LED lamps around the nation.
- In the Union Territory (UT) of Lakshadweep, three desalination facilities based on LTTD technology have been successfully developed and demonstrated on the islands of Kavaratti, Agati, and Minicoy.
- The islands of UT where the required temperature difference of roughly 15°C between sea surface water and deep-sea water is found close to the Lakshadweep beaches are appropriate for LTTD technology.

Source: Business Standard

Indian flag hoisted in space on completion of 75 years of independence

Why in News:

- The Indian National Flag was unfurled in space at a height of more than 30 kilometers to commemorate 75 years of independence.

Key Points:

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- Space Kids India, which describes itself as an aerospace organization that produces young scientists for the country, flew the tricolor to the edge of space on a balloon.
- The flag hoisting was part of Azadi's Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, which marked the completion of 75 years of India's independence.
- Space Kids India is a non-profit organization that "produces young scientists for the country and raises awareness among children about the importance of a borderless world."
- The organization has launched a satellite into Low Earth Orbit.
- AzadiSAT was created by 750 female students from across India to commemorate the country's 75th anniversary of independence.
- Raja Chari, an Indian American astronaut, has shared a photo of the Indian flag on the International Space Station (ISS).

Source: Times of India

The world's highest Chenab railway bridge inaugurated

Why in News:

- The world's tallest railway bridge crossing the Chenab River now has a golden joint.

Key Points:

- After an overarch deck on the Chenab River's highest single-arch railway bridge, Srinagar will be joined by the rest of India for the first time since independence.
- The Eiffel Tower will be 35 meters lower than this recently built railroad bridge.
- In the western (Punjab) Himalayas of the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh, two streams, the Chandra and the Bhaga converge to form the Chenab.
- The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, which is the Indian-administrated portion of the disputed Kashmir area, is traversed by the Chenab River as it runs west between the Lesser Himalayas and the sheer cliffs of the Shivalik Range in the south (north).
- The Chenab joins the Sutlej River, an Indus River tributary, after receiving the Jhelum River close to Trimu.
- The Chenab Bridge and 16 more railroad bridges are being built by AFCONs for the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) in the dangerous region of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The project to build the Udhampur, Srinagar, and Baramulla rail links includes all of the bridge construction.

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Source: Livemint

India International Seafood Show (IISS)

Why in News:

- The 23rd India International Seafood Show (IISS) will be held in Kolkata, City of Joy, from February 15 to February 7 of the following year. It will be organized by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) in collaboration with the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI).

Key Points:

- The greatest export by India to date was 13,69,264 tonnes of marine products valued at US$ 7.76 billion over the years 2021–2022.
- Shrimp production has increased in recent years in other countries as well, including India, where it has now surpassed one million metric tons.
- India hopes to export fisheries and aquaculture products worth $15 billion over the next five years using a multifaceted strategy.
- The expansive Biswa Bangla Mela grounds in Kolkata will be the site of the biennial showpiece event in the seafood industry, the largest in the industry with the goal of showcasing India's export potential, according to MPEDA President Dr. K.N. Raghavan.
- The conference will serve as a prime forum for communication between Indian marine product exporters and global importers.

Source: Economic Times

National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission (NIPAM)

Why in News:

- Prior to the deadline of August 15, 2022, the National Intellectual Property Knowledge Mission (NIPAM), which was initiated in the year 2021, was able to reach its goal of providing basic training and IP awareness to 10 lakh students.

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Key Points:

- The National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission's goal is to educate 10 lakh students about intellectual property and their rights.
- The National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission's objective is to inspire college and university students to safeguard their innovations and to foster a spirit of creativity and innovation among higher education students (classes 8 through 12).
- The Intellectual Property Office, Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (CGPDTM), and Ministry of Commerce and Industry are carrying out the National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission.
- Individuals are given the right to control their intellectual property, which includes the symbols, names, and pictures used in inventions, literary, artistic, and commercial works.
- India is a member of both the World Intellectual Property Organization, which works to advance the protection of intellectual property rights worldwide, and the World Trade Organization, both of which are dedicated to the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS Agreement) accountable entity.
- The Indian Patent and Design Act 1911 was replaced by this crucial piece of legislation for India's patent system in 1972.

Source: The Hindu

ITU's Regional Standardization Forum

Why in News:

- ITU's Regional Standardization Forum (RSF) for Asia and Oceania Region is inaugurated by Shri Devusinh Chouhan.

key points:

- The theme of the Forum is "Regulatory and Policy aspects of Telecom/ICT".
- The four-day meeting (9 August 2022 to 12 August 2022) of the International Telecommunication Union-T Study Group 3 Regional Group Asia and Oceania (ITU-T SG3RG-AO) has also been organized after the Forum meeting.
- The Regional Standardization Forum is a forum for a constructive exchange of ideas, including, inter alia, the role of ITU standards in sustainable digital transformation, harnessing technology for digital and financial inclusion in emerging markets, data value chains, and digital health. Discussions on standardization topics including India's experience in various areas of technology have been included.
- The ITU's Regional Standardization Forum aims to provide insight into the experience of the Asia and Oceania region from policy and regulatory perspectives under various sub-themes.
- This year's meeting of the ITU's Regional Standardization Forum has been attended by over 250 delegates from 20 countries.
- The ITU was established on May 17, 1865, and acts as a specialized agency of the UN.
- It is in charge of information and communication technologies and includes more than 900 professional, international and regional organizations, as well as academic institutions in its 193 member states.

Source: PIB

"India ki Udaan" initiative

Why in News:

- 'India Ki Udaan' initiative launched by the Ministry of Culture and Google to celebrate India's Atal, Immortal Spirit, and its achievements.

key points:

- India Ki Udan Utsav kicked off with a special event in Delhi as part of a decade-long partnership between the Ministry of Culture and Google.
- India Ki Udaan Yojana has been organized under the aegis of Joint Venture Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- A special exhibition was unveiled by Google Arts & Culture, under India's UDAN scheme, designed by the Google team to honor the achievers and the moments that made a difference in the last 75 years.

- Organized by Google Arts & Culture, the exhibition showcases the country's biggest achievements using Augmented Reality technology, including Indian handicrafts and stories of women doing something special for the country.
- India's Udaan program featured a scintillating performance by India's Got Talent 2022 winners Divyansh and Manuraj and a special performance by Clinton Cerejo and his team, showing artists from different parts of the country the culture of their region and bringing to life the diverse sounds of India with music and were brought together to form the 'Sound of India'.

Source: PIB

Culture Ministry 'Badhe Chalo' campaign

Why in News:

- 'Badhe Chalo Camping' has been started by the Ministry of Culture with the aim of connecting with the youth of India and inculcating in them a deep sense of patriotism.

key points:

- Badhe Chalo Camping aims to create a 'Youth Centric Activation' for mass outreach of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- Badhe Chalo campaign is designed to engage the youth of India by encouraging them to come forward to celebrate 75 years of India's independence.
- Badhe Chalo Camping Campaign aims to bring youth and people from all parts of India on one platform, Badhe Chalo campaign also includes Flash Dance which is written and composed on the theme of 'Badhe Chalo'.
- The Ministry also aims to spread the message and spirit of Amrit Mahotsav through these flash dances.
- Badhe Chalo campaign will be conducted daily in 10 cities from 5th August to 10th August 2022 and the grand finale of the campaign will conclude on 12th August 2022 at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi.
- Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav initiative was launched by the central government to celebrate 75 years of progressive India as well as the glorious history of Indian culture, achievements, and its people.

Source: PIB

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India: Target to eliminate Kala-azar by 2023

Why in News:

- The Government of India has set a target to eliminate Kala-azar from the country by the year 2023, which is ahead of the World Health Organization (WHO) target of eliminating the disease by 2030.

key points:

- Kala Azar also known as Leishmaniasis is a neglected tropical disease affecting more than 100 countries including India.
- Symptoms of leishmaniasis include fever, weight loss, and swelling of the spleen and liver.
- Kala Azar disease is caused by a parasite called Leishmania which is spread by the bites of sand flies.
- There are mainly three types of Leishmaniasis or Kala Azar in which
    - Visceral leishmaniasis, which is considered the most severe form of the disease, affects all parts of the body.
    - Cutaneous leishmaniasis affects skin lesions and severely affects the skin.
    - Mucocutaneous leishmaniasis causes skin and mucosal lesions.
- India's National Health Policy, 2002 had set a target of eliminating Kala-azar by the year 2010, which was revised in the year 2015 due to non-fulfillment.

Source: Times of India

Site identification tag for 'National Importance'

Why in News:

- A total of 20 heritage and religious sites have been identified for the tag of 'National Importance by the Central Government.

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key points:

- Two ancient mounds at Rakhigarhi in Haryana, rock paintings at Chintakunta in Andhra Pradesh, and Kaleshwar Mahadev Temple in Himachal Pradesh have been included in the list of sites released by the government.
- Other sites identified by the government include rock paintings at Chintakunta in Andhra Pradesh, Murna, a rock art site at Radang in Leho, and Kaleshwar Mahadev Temple in Kalesar (Manyala Panchayat) in Himachal Pradesh.
- Rakhigarhi site is one of the "Five Iconic Sites" which was announced by the Central Government in the Union Budget 2020-21.
- 55 monument sites in Assam have been declared protected by the government under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.
- 3 monuments in Mizoram have been declared monuments of national importance in the last five years.
- The Archaeological Survey of India is a premier organization for archaeological research and conservation of the nation's cultural heritage, which regulates all archaeological activities in the country in accordance with the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.
- The main function of the Archaeological Survey of India is to maintain the ancient monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance.

Source: Indian Express

India reaches the milestone of 75,000 recognized startups

Why in News:

- More than 75,000 start-ups have been recognized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

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key points:

- The government aims to foster innovation, enthusiasm, and entrepreneurial spirit in the start-up ecosystem in India.
- On 16 January 2016, a program was launched to take forward an action plan for building a strong start-up ecosystem in India and 16 January has been declared as National Start-up Day.
- 6 years later, those action plans have successfully made India the third largest ecosystem.
- Out of the total recognized start-ups, 12% are related to IT services, 9% to Healthcare and Life Sciences, 5% to professional and commercial services, 7% to education, and 5% to agriculture.
- The Start-up India program was launched by the government with the aim to provide an enabling environment for start-ups.
- Under the Start-up India program, the government provides funds for tax incentives, supports intellectual property rights to ease public procurement, and enables regulatory reforms to gain access to international festivals and events.
- The Start-up India program is currently synonymous with sustainable economic growth.

Source: Indian Express

Craft Village Initiative

Why in News:

- As a part of the "Linking Textiles to Tourism" initiative by the government, the work of linking major tourist destinations with the support of handicraft clusters and infrastructure has been taken up.

key points:

- The initiative launched by the government is aimed at promoting crafts and promoting tourism in these villages.
- Shilp Gram Initiative in Raghurajpur (Odisha), Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Vadaj (Gujarat), Naini (Uttar Pradesh), Anegundi (Karnataka), Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu), Taj Ganj (Uttar Pradesh), and Amer (Rajasthan) has been initiated.
- These Craft Village Handicrafts are practical for artisans in clusters and the aim of the Craft Village initiative is to benefit around 1000 artisans across India.
- The concept of a craft village was drafted to collect most of the craft samples and craftsmen in one place.

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- The infrastructure and environment at Craft Village are designed in a village-style to provide the feeling of rural life in India.
- Craft villages also act as a market, where one can buy artifacts at a lower price than the normal market.
- Crafts are an important part of Indian culture, and most of the crafts are practiced as a family and past heritage.

Source: Indian Express

'Ujwal India Bright Future - Power @ 2047'

Why in News:

- On the occasion of Amrit Mahotsav of Independence, several programs have been organized to highlight the major achievements made in the power sector across the country under "Ujjawal Bharat, Ujjwal Bhavishya 2047" in collaboration with the Ministry of Power, MNRE, and the Central Government.

key points:

- 'Ujwal Bharat Ujjwal Bhavishya - Power @ 2047' was organized by the government from 25th July to 30th July at the local town hall.
- Interaction by the Prime Minister has also been included in the selected states under the program 'Ujwal Bharat Ujjwal Bhavishya - Power @ 2047'.
- Ujjwal Bharat Ujjwal Bhavishya - Power@2047 Festival aims at providing a platform to highlight the major achievements of the power sector with the cooperation and mutual coordination of the Central and State Governments.
- Farmers and villagers are being benefited from the government's renewable energy in the form of Kusum Yojana, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana, Solar Panel, and Solar Pump Scheme for agriculture and domestic use.
- The government-run solar project is endowed with advanced technology as well as eco-friendly features.
- The Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme was launched by Narendra Modi during the event which aims to provide financial assistance to DISCOMs for modernization and strengthening of distribution infrastructure with a focus on improving the reliability and quality of supply to the end consumers.

Source: Livemint

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Advisory committee for the secondary steel sector

Why in News:

- An advisory committee for secondary steel has been constituted by the Ministry of Steel under the chairmanship of the Minister of 'Civil Aviation and Steel' Jyotiraditya Scindia.

key points:

- The newly constituted advisory committee will deliberate on the issues related to the steel sector, especially on reforms in the secondary steel industry.
- The first meeting of the committee will be held on 8th August in which inputs will also be invited from all the stakeholders, with the help of which actionable points can be identified quickly and they can be resolved soon.
- Along with the Minister of Steel, the Advisory Committee comprises of
  1. All India Induction Furnaces Association,
  2. Sponge Iron Manufacturers Association,
  3. Institute for Stainless Steel Development Association,
  4. Alloy Steel Producers Association,
  5. Steel Re-rollers Association,
  6. Pellet Manufacturers Association, Indian Ferro,
  7. Alloy Producers Association

  etc representation is also included.

- The Ministry of Steel aims to formulate the necessary policy for the secondary steel sector with significant inputs coming from the Advisory Committee.
- Secondary steel producers are an important component of the domestic steel industry, but their share in the country's steel production has declined sharply over the years.
- In the year 2015, the output of secondary steel industries has come down from the level of **55%** to only **40%** of the total steel production of the country.

Source: Livemint

Nilekani Center to promote Indian Language Technology

Why in News:

- The 'Nelekani Center in AI4India' was launched by the Indian Institute of Technology Madras to promote the state of Indian language technology with the aim of creating a social impact.

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key points:

- Inaugurated by Nandan Nilekani, the center is supported by Rohini and Nandan Nilekani.
- During the launch ceremony of the Nilekani Centre, a workshop was organized for students, researchers, and start-ups to discuss the resources available for building Indian language technologies.
- 'AI4India' was formed as an initiative of IIT Madras to develop an open-source language AI for Indian languages.
- The AI4India team has made several contributions to Indian language technology including machine translation and state-of-the-art models for dialect recognition.
- Under AI4India, many state-of-the-art resources have been created open source by the center which can be used by any person.
- The models released by AI4India are available free of cost and can be downloaded from their webpage.
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras was established in the year 1959 and at present Kamakoti Veezhinathan is working as its director.

Source: Indian Express

Task force to monitor the Monkeypox

Why in News:

- A task force has been constituted by the central government to monitor the situation of monkeypox in the country.

key points:

- The task force set up by the government will provide guidance to the government on expanding diagnostic facilities and the discovery of vaccinations for monkeypox in India.
- The task force will be headed by Dr. VK Paul, Member, NITI Aayog, and its other members including the Secretary, Union Health Ministry, and members from the Department of Pharma and Biotech.
- At present, four cases of monkeypox have been reported in India, out of which three cases have been reported in Kerala and one in Delhi.
- According to the World Health Organization, more than 18,000 cases of monkeypox have been reported in 78 countries.
- Monkeypox is a viral zoonotic disease that is recognized as a disease similar to smallpox in monkeys.
- Monkeypox has been identified as a disease endemic to Nigeria.
- Monkeypox virus is a member of the orthopoxviral genus in the family Poxviridae.
- Monkeypox was first reported in 1958, in monkeys in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and in humans in 1970.
- In 2017, Nigeria experienced the largest documented outbreak 40 years after the last confirmed case.

Source: The Hindu

Important News: World

India International MSME Start-up Expo and Summit 2022

Why in News:

- The 8th India International MSME Start-up Expo and Summit 2022 was officially launched by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha in New Delhi.

key points:

- 8th India International MSME Start-up Expo and Summit 2022 to enable SMEs, startups, businesses, industries, and service providers to discover new possibilities, connect with buyers and sellers, and exchange information about federal, state.
- About 45% of the total exports from India are exported by the MSME sector.
- Standardization, connectivity, and productivity are the three key elements for the long-term expansion of MSMEs.
- Vocal for local, district export hub, GeM portal, and market connectivity of domestic and global value chains primarily accelerate MSMEs.

- MSME exports grew by 54% in FY 2021–2022, while importer-exporter registrations grew by 173%.
- One of the fastest growing horticulture markets in the country is in Jammu and Kashmir.

Source: The Hindu

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

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75th anniversary of India-Egypt diplomatic relations

Why in News:

- A postage stamp has been issued by Egypt to commemorate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations with India.

key points:

- India's independence was recognized by Egypt on 18 August 1947, three days after its independence, which marked the beginning of diplomatic relations between India and Egypt.
- Relations between the two countries deepened in the 1950s, resulting in a historic friendship treaty in 1955.
- Egypt is one of the largest investment destinations for India in the region with a current Indian investment of USD 3.15 billion.
- India-Egypt bilateral trade stood at a historic record high of US$ 7.26 billion in FY 2021-22, an increase of 75% from FY 2020-21.
- Currently, under the 5th India-Egypt Joint Business Council meeting, the annual bilateral trade target of USD 12 billion over 5 years has been set by both sides.
- The bilateral military exercise Desert Warrior is also organized jointly by India and Egypt.
- The exercise, organized by India and Egypt, is organized to enhance mutual understanding between the Indian Air Force and the Egyptian Air Force.

Source: Navbharat Times

Greece's exit from the EU's advanced surveillance framework

Why in News:

- Greece's exit from the EU's enhanced surveillance framework for Greece's economy is meant to end 12 years of suffering and give it more flexibility to formulate its policies.

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key points:

- Greece's economic performance and policies have been closely monitored since 2018 under the framework to ensure that the reforms were undertaken during the three multilateral bailouts from the European Union (EU) and the IMF between 2010 and 2015 to be completed, totaling more than EUR 260 billion.
- It was announced by EU officials that "Athens had largely fulfilled its obligations."
- After being forced to take its first bailout in 2010, Greece was the victim of pension cuts, spending restrictions, tax hikes, and bank regulations that caused the economy to shrink by 25%.
- The monitoring system was designed to ensure that ongoing structural reforms support sustainable economic growth and steps are taken to address potential sources of economic distress.
- The country's objective of achieving an "investment grade" credit rating is also closed to being achieved if Greece emerges from increased supervision.

Source: The Hindu

Paraguay: Mahatma Gandhi's statue unveiled

Why in News:

- A statue of Mahatma Gandhi has been unveiled in Paraguay by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during his first official visit to South America.

key points:

- The decision of Asuncion Municipality to put up a statue of Mahatma Gandhi on the main bank of the city was also praised by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is on an official visit to Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina from 22-27 August.
- The newly opened Indian Embassy complex was inaugurated by S Jaishankar during his visit, which started functioning in January 2022 in Paraguay.
- During his visit to Paraguay, S Jaishankar also visited the historic Casa de la Independencies, from where the South American country's independence movement began more than two centuries ago.
- Mr. Jaishankar arrived in Brazil on the first leg of his six-day visit to South America, aimed at boosting overall bilateral ties with the region.
- Shri Jaishankar met envoys from Latin America and the Caribbean in New Delhi, with a focus on promoting holistic bilateral relations.
- The purpose of the External Affairs Minister's visit is to explore new areas of cooperation in the post-pandemic era.

Source: The Hindu

HAL to set up its first overseas marketing office in Malaysia

Why in News:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to set up its first international marketing and sales office in Kuala Lumpur in anticipation of a possible deal for Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas in Malaysia.

key points:

- The HAL's capacity to office in Kuala Lumpur by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited was signed to achieve the agreement, as well as to meet other requirements of the Royal Malaysian Air Force.
- Following a global tender issued by the Malaysian Defense Ministry in October 2021, the supply of 18 FLIT LCAs was proposed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited is also looking at offering RMAF Su-30 spare parts.
- The office will be the first in Malaysia to be focused entirely on marketing and commercial development.
- Egypt and HAL are in discussions on a possible sale of LCA Tejas, India has also promised to build a manufacturing plant in Egypt.

Source: Indian Express

India gifts Dornier maritime reconnaissance aircraft to Sri Lanka

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Why in News:

- On August 15, India presented Sri Lanka with a Dornier maritime reconnaissance aircraft, which will allow the island nation to combat a variety of difficulties such as human and drug trafficking, smuggling, and other types of organized crime in its coastal seas.

Key Points:

- The dramatic handover ceremony took place on the day India celebrated its 76th Independence Day, and a day before a high-tech Chinese missile and satellite tracking ship moored at the island country's vital Hambantota port.
- Vice Admiral S.N. Ghormade, accompanied by Indian High Commissioner to Colombo Gopal Baglay on a two-day visit to the country, handed over the aircraft to the Sri Lankan Navy at the Sri Lanka Air Force facility in Katunayake, next to the Colombo International Airport.
- The aircraft will function as a force multiplier, allowing Sri Lanka to combat a variety of difficulties in its coastal waterways, including human and drug trafficking, smuggling, and other organized forms of crime.

Source: Livemint

Moscow Conference on International Security-2022

Why in News:

- Moscow Conference on International Security-2022 was organized through a virtual medium.

key points:

- The Moscow Conference on International Security-2022 was attended by Defense Minister Rajnath Singh from the Indian side.

- Addressing the inaugural session of the Moscow Conference on International Security-2022 online, he said that the UN could lose its effectiveness and relevance without comprehensive reforms and democratizing the decision-making process.
- The conference emphasized the comprehensive reform of the UN system by India and suggested that the major powers refused to make timely changes to the UN institutions and the emerging geopolitical reality that occurred after 1945, the economic and technological advances have been overlooked.
- In the inaugural session of the Moscow Conference on International Security-2022 by India, the Council should be made more representative of developing countries provide leadership to the whole world.
- Reflecting its commitment to the Indo-Pacific region, India stated that as a nation at the heart of the Indian Ocean, India is committed to a free, open, secure, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region and India aims to establish regional and regional developments in the Indian Ocean.

Source: All India Radio

UK: The first country to approve Omicron vaccine

Why in News:

- The United Kingdom has approved the COVID-19 vaccination for the Omicron version for the first time.

Key Points:

- The Omicron vaccination was first authorized in the United Kingdom.
- The UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Authority has approved a COVID-19 vaccination that is compatible with the Omicron version, paving the way for an autumn booster campaign utilizing Moderna's two-strain injection.
- Drugs and Health Care Products Regulatory Authority gave the vaccination conditional authorization.
- The permitted vaccination is a supplement to the original coronavirus and the Omicron BA.1 strain.
- People over the age of 18 are permitted to utilize it.
- The UK will currently concentrate its booster program on persons over 50 who are extremely susceptible to getting COVID.
- SARS-Omicron CoV-2's B.1.1.1.529 is a variation.

- The variant was discovered for the first time in Botswana in November 2021 and was initially reported in South Africa by the Network for Genomics Surveillance. Since then, it has spread throughout the world to become a significant variant that is currently in use.

Source: Navbharat Times

Russia successfully launches Iran's satellite into orbit

Why in News:

- An Iranian satellite has been successfully launched into orbit from southern Kazakhstan by a Russian rocket.

key points:

- An Iranian satellite named Khayyam has been successfully launched into orbit by a Soyuz rocket from Russia's leased Baikonur launch facility in Kazakhstan.
- The satellite was named after the Persian scientist Omar Khayyam, who lived in Iran in the 11th and 12th centuries.
- According to Iran, the satellite is designed for scientific research including radiation and environmental monitoring for agricultural purposes.
- Telemetry data has been received from the first satellite sent by Iran's space agency.
- The satellite, equipped with a high-resolution camera launched by Iran, will be used for environmental monitoring and will be completely under its control.
- If this Iranian satellite operates successfully, the satellite will give Iran the ability to monitor its arch-enemy Israel and other countries in the Middle East.
- The capital of Russia is Moscow, and the official currency of Russia is Rubel.
- The current President of Russia is Vladimir Putin.

Source: The Hindu

Sweden and Finland approved by the US Senate to join NATO

Why in News:

- The NATO membership of Sweden and Finland was conclusively approved by the US Senate.

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key points:

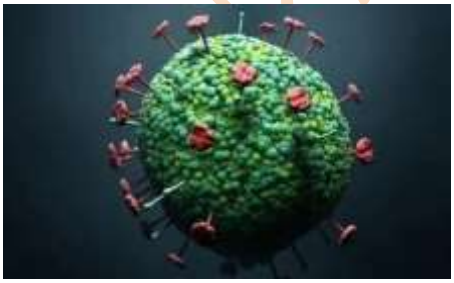
- The proposal for Finland and Sweden's membership in NATO was supported by US President Joe Biden, who sent the proposal to the Senate for consideration in July.
- The application was submitted by Sweden and Finland to join the Western Defense Alliance in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- Earlier, the French National Assembly had also approved the proposal.
- A country requires the support of all 30 NATO member states to become a member of NATO, with Sweden and Finland currently supported by two-thirds of the member states.
- Earlier, Montenegro and North Macedonia were included in NATO in the year 2017 and in the year 2020, with which the number of its member countries has increased to 30.
- NATO, better known as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, was established on April 4, 1949, in Washington, USA by the 12 founding members.
- NATO is an intergovernmental military organization headquartered in Brussels, the capital of Belgium.
- NATO works on the principle of collective defense, according to which if one or more members are attacked, then this attack is considered an attack on all member countries.
- The principle of collective defense is enshrined in Article 5 of NATO which was implemented after the terrorist attack on the United States.

Source: Business Standard

Langya henipavirus

Why in News:

- In some areas of China, 35 new cases of Langya henipavirus have been confirmed.



key points:

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- Langya henipavirus was first detected in the northeastern provinces of Shandong and Henan in 2018.
- Langya henipavirus is transmitted from animals to humans, according to The Guardian. Langya henipavirus is easily transmitted to domestic goats and domesticated dogs, from where it is easily transmitted to humans.
- Langya henipavirus is a new type of virus that spreads from animals to humans.
- Langya henipavirus is also known mainly as Langya henipavirus levi.
- According to World Health Organization data, henipavirus can cause severe disease in animals and humans and is classified as a biosafety level 4 virus.
- Symptoms such as fever, fatigue, cough, and nausea are found in a person infected with Langya henipavirus.
- Langya Henipavirus is a member of the 'Contagion' family, whose symptoms are different from the Nipah virus and Hendra virus.

Source: Jansatta

ASEAN celebrated its 55th anniversary in 2022

Why in News:

- Every year 8 August is observed by ASEAN members as ASEAN Day.

key points:

- The year 2022 is observed as the ASEAN-India Friendship Year, reaffirming the partnership in the Indo-Pacific and the commitment to the centrality of ASEAN. A panel discussion to celebrate the 55th anniversary of ASEAN has also been organized by the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) at the ASEAN-India Center (AIC) in New Delhi.
- The theme of this year's ASEAN Day is "Strong Together" which invites the leaders of ASEAN to work collectively to meet the challenges of the 21st century.
- ASEAN was established with the signing of the 1967 ASEAN Declaration, popularly known as the Bangkok Declaration, by the founding nations.

- The founding nations of ASEAN are Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.
- The full name of ASEAN is the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, a regional organization of Southeast Asian nations formed to promote political and social stability amid rising tensions among the colonizing nations of the Asia-Pacific. was.
- The Secretariat of ASEAN is located in Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia.
- Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia are the member states of ASEAN.

Source: Economic Times

China: launch of reusable spacecraft

Why in News:

- A pilot reusable spacecraft was successfully launched by China with a Long March-2F carrier rocket.

key points:

- The spacecraft, which was launched from China's Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center, will return to a planned landing site after being operated in orbit for some time with the aim of providing technical verification for reuse.
- China's Long March 2F Launch Vehicle primarily launches China's Shenzhou Crew Mission with a payload capacity of about 8 metric tons in low Earth orbit.
- The new spacecraft, similar in size to the US Air Force's X-37B space plane, has been modified to assist in the launch of the Long March 2F and its payload as a 'reusable test spacecraft'.
- Prior to this, China conducted an orbital test of a reusable experimental spacecraft in September 2020 which spent just 2 days in orbit.
- This mission is produced by the Chinese main space agency, CASC.

Source: Global Times

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The United Nations General Assembly recognized a healthy environment as a human right

Why in News:

- A resolution aimed at recognizing the right of all to a healthy environment has been adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

key points:

- Action to stop the dangerous degradation of the natural environment is an important proposal that has been supported by India.
- In accordance with operational paragraph 1 of the resolution, the United Nations General Assembly recognizes the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as a human right.
- According to scientists, mountain ranges and glaciers are also melting faster than ever before, so protecting the environment is important.
- Access to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a fundamental human right has been passed by the United Nations General Assembly with 161 votes in favor and eight against.
- The passed resolution urges governments, NGOs, and private companies to step up efforts to maintain a healthy environment for all people.

Source: News on Air

Fortune Global 500 List

Why in News:

- The Global 500 list of companies has been released by Fortune.

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key points:

- The country's largest insurance company Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has been included in the list of Fortune Global 500 after listing in the stock market.
- India's most valuable by market cap is the Mukesh Ambani-led private firm Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) company, up 51 places on the list this year by Reliance.
- Reliance Industries Limited has been included in Fortune's Global 500 list for the 19th year in a row.
- LIC ranks at the top among Indian companies, after which
- Eight other domestic companies have also been included in the list.
- Of the nine Indian companies on the list, five are state-owned companies while four are private sector companies.
- This year the only bank in India SBI Bank has been included in the list.
- In the list of Fortune Global 500, American retail company Walmart is in first place in the list.
- Listed companies in the Fortune 500 list are ranked based on their sales.

Source: Indian Express

A new global coalition launched to end AIDS in children by 2030

Why in News:

- A new global coalition to end AIDS in children by 2030 has been announced at the 24th International AIDS Conference.

key points:

- The objective of this initiative is to ensure that no child living with HIV is left out of treatment by the end of the decade and to prevent HIV infection in infants.
- The alliance is formed under a joint United Nations program with HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), civil society groups, governments, and international partners.
- Globally, only 52 percent of children living with HIV are on life-saving treatment, far behind the group of 76 percent of adults receiving antiretrovirals.
- According to UNICEF, approximately 2.8 million children and adolescents are currently living with HIV and about 88 percent of them are in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Human immunodeficiency virus is a type of retrovirus that, if not treated properly, can lead to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, or AIDS, considered the most severe stage of HIV infection.

- HIV-AIDS is generally spread from one person to another through blood, semen, vaginal secretions and breast milk etc.

Source: The Hindu

Sakurajima Volcanic Eruption

Why in News:

- An increase in the incidence of volcanic eruptions has been recorded in Japan's main southern island of Kyushu.

key points:

- The alert level for the explosion has been raised to five based on the intensity of the explosion on Japan's main southern island of Kyushu.
- After the eruption, red-hot rocks and dark smoke began to erupt from the Sakurajima volcano in Kagoshima Prefecture, Japan.
- Due to the volcanic eruption, the rocks in the southern part of the city have come out in the form of eruptions up to 2.5 km away.
- A volcano is an opening or rupture in the Earth's surface that ejects hot liquid and semi-liquid rocks, volcanic ash, and gases in the form of magma, and a volcanic eruption occurs when lava and gas erupt from a volcano. The gas sometimes comes out in an explosive form.
- Sakurajima is located on the main southern island of Kyushu in Japan, and Sakurajima is the island with the largest number of active volcanoes in Japan that erupt frequently.
- Sakurajima is located about 1000 km southwest of Tokyo. In the year 1914, Sakurajima experienced an extremely explosive volcanic eruption that made it a peninsula.

Source: Japan Times

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Important News: Economy

India overtakes China and UK to become world's 10th largest life insurer

Why in News:

- India has overtaken China and the UK to become the world's 10th largest life insurer.

key points:

- As per the report released by Benori Knowledge, the life insurance sector in India grew at a CAGR of 11% between 2017-2022.
- According to a survey by Brand Finance Insurance 100, 2021, a London-based brand valuation consultancy organization, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), a state-owned insurance company and life insurer, is the third largest and tenth most valuable insurance brand globally.
- According to the report, the combined value of the top 100 insurance brands in the world declined by 6% from 462.4 billion dollars in 2020 to 433.0 billion dollars in 2021.
- According to the report, the brand value of LIC has increased by almost 7 percent to 8.65 billion dollars.
- Five Chinese insurance companies are among the top 10 most valuable insurance brands in the world, with Ping an insurance ranking the most valuable brand after a 26% reduction in brand value.
- France, Germany, and India each have one insurance company on the list, and two companies from the United States are included in the top ten.

Source: Economic Times

HDFC is the leader in the credit card market while SBI tops the charts in the debit card market

Why in News:

- The country's largest bank State Bank of India (SBI) maintained its leading position in the debit card market till June 2022 and HDFC Bank in the credit card market.

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key points:

- According to data compiled by PGA Labs, public sector banks hold a larger percentage of the debit card market than private banks, while Bank of Baroda is second in the credit card market with 8% market share.
- As of June 2022, Canara Bank, Union Bank, and Punjab National Bank are ranked third, fourth, and fifth on the list with 5% each.
- HDFC Bank leads the credit card segment with a market share of 22%, followed by State Bank of India (SBI) (18%), ICICI Bank (17%), Axis Bank (12%), RBL Bank (5 %), and remains on the list with Kotak Mahindra Bank (5%).
- According to government data, premium credit cards like American Express and CITI Bank, which have negative growth rates of -8% and -2 respectively, are losing market share.
- RBI's decision to allow HDFC Bank to issue new credit cards in August last year is mostly supportive of the increase in card addition rate.

Source: Navbharat Times

Bima Manthan 2022

Why in News:

- In order to protect policyholders' interests, the insurance regulator, IRDAI, has asked firms to create technologically advanced innovative solutions for automatic death claim settlement, minimizing mis-selling, and other components of the insurance ecosystem.

Key Points:

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has welcomed applications for the Bima Manthan 2022 Hackathon, which was launched with the topic "Innovation in Insurance."
- Participants in the hackathon are asked to investigate and create ideas that have the potential to make insurance available to everyone in a seamless and timely manner through the use of technology while also preserving policyholders' interests.
- IRDAI is investigating technologically enabled methods for identifying uninsured motor vehicles, ensuring the issuing of needed motor third party insurance, and delivering insurance goods via technology, including "challenging terrain and poor penetration." Microinsurance is included in "eligible places."
- According to IRDAI, Bima Manthan 2022 will give participants the opportunity to present their innovative solutions to a renowned panel and compete for attractive awards.
- The Bima Manthan 2022 winner is given the option of collaborating with the insurer (or insurers) on the winning project/platform, participating in a demo day in front of insurers/intermediaries and other stakeholders, or directly entering the IRDAI regulatory sandbox regime.

Source: Times of India

Axis Bank becomes first Indian bank to launch Axis Receivables Suite (ARS)

Why in News:

- Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank, has become the first bank in India to introduce Axis Receivables Suite (ARS), an innovative cash management proposition.

key points:

- Axis Receivables Suite (ARS) streamlines the receivables solution and enhances cash flow while enhancing the customer experience.
- Axis Receivables Suite is commonly used to reduce the cost of doing business.
- Axis Receivables Suite acts as an end-to-aid solution with a mobile app intended to automate the reconciliation of receivables against sales invoices raised by customers.
- Axis Receivables Suite is manufactured by Axis Bank to eliminate the time-consuming, costly, manual, and error-prone work with the help of which the customers can completely customize and automate their operations.
- Axis Receivables Suite can also be used for real-time management on all receipts allowing the customer to easily view their upcoming/pending payments.
- Axis Bank was established in the year 1993 with its headquarters located in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Presently the MD and CEO of Axis Bank Limited is Amitabh Choudhary.

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Source: Times of India

RBI Canceled the license of Rupee Bank

Why in the news:

• Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken a major action against another cooperative bank in the state. RBI has decided to cancel the license of Rupee Cooperative Bank.

Key points

• RBI has taken this big decision after the order of Mumbai High Court. The important thing is that this order of RBI will come into effect six weeks from today i.e. from 22 September 2022, information has been given by RBI.

• RBI vide order dated August 8, 2022 has canceled the bank license of Rupi Co-operative Bank Limited, Pune.

• So 22 September 2022 the bank will have to wind up. The Co-operative Commissioner and Registrar of Co-operative Societies have also been requested to issue an order regarding closure of the bank and appoint a liquidator for the same.

What is the reason for cancellation of bank license?

1. Bank does not have enough capital and earning potential. Therefore, it did not comply with the provisions of Section 56, Section 11 (1) and Section 22 (3) (d) of the Bank Act, 1949.
2. Bank fails to comply with requirements under Sections 22(3) (A), 22 (3) (B), 22(3)(C), 22(3) (D) and 22(3)(E)
3. Continuation of the bank is against the interest of the depositors.
4. Bank will not be able to pay full amount to depositors as per present financial condition
5. Public interest may be adversely affected if bank is allowed to continue business.

Rupi Bank prohibited from doing banking business

• Rupi Bank will be barred from doing banking business due to cancellation of bank's license. It includes, among other things, acceptance of deposits and repayment of deposits.

• Meanwhile, on liquidation all the depositors will be entitled to get deposit insurance claim amount from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation up to a limit of 5 lakhs.

• According to the data presented by the bank more than 99 percent of the depositors are entitled to get the entire amount of their deposit from DICGC.

• DICGC has already paid 700.44 Crores of total aircraft landing deposits till May 18, 2022 as per demand of depositors.

Source: TV9Marathi

SEBI constitutes a 15-member committee to attract foreign investment

Why in News:

- A 15-member committee has been constituted by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to increase foreign investment.

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key points:

- The committee constituted by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) includes CEOs of Exchange and Clearing Corporation, depositories, legal experts, consultancy firms, and other representatives of foreign banks.
- The committee constituted by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) will be headed by former Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) K.V Subramaniam.
- The main function of the advisory committee set up by SEBI is to make it easier for foreign investors to invest in the Indian markets by reviewing the existing procedures.
- The new committee constituted by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is known as the 'FPI Advisory Committee' or FAC.
- This committee has been constituted by SEBI to simplify investment procedures and suggest new ways to increase investment in the capital markets of India.
- The committee, set up by SEBI, aims to help increase participation in domestic bond markets, and recommend new ways to bring in changes in the existing rules to attract investments and increase transparency.
- The newly constituted 15-member committee also aims to make recommendations to the government on issues related to the custodians.

Source: Business Standard

Union Bank sets 'Race' target as its strategy to be among top 3 PSBs

Why in News:

- Union Bank has decided to set a 'Race' target as its strategy to be among the top 3 PSBs.

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key points:

- The meaning of race is-
    - Increase in retail, agriculture, and MSME credit,
    - improving asset quality,
    - The current account and savings account are the increase in deposits.
- Union Bank of India aims to be among the top three PSB lenders and be a competitive bank in government-sponsored programs.
- Union Bank of India under RACE aims to increase the bank's profitability and net interest margin and increase the capital to risk-weighted asset ratio along with reducing the non-performing asset ratio.
- Union Bank of India, popularly known as Union Bank or UBI, is a state-owned bank in India
- Union Bank of India is a bank with annual revenue of US$106 billion with over 120 million customers, currently having around 9500 branches.
- Union Bank of India has branches in Sydney, Dubai, Antwerp, and Hong Kong apart from India.
- In addition to branches overseas, Union Bank of India has also established representative offices in Abu Dhabi, Beijing, and Shanghai.

Source: Indian Express

SEBI reconstitutes an advisory committee for 20 members

Why in News:

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has reconstituted its advisory committee on market data.

key points:

- The committee will recommend policy measures relating to securities market data access and privacy.
- The number of members in the advisory committee has been reduced to 20, initially, 21 members were included in the committee.
- New Advisory Committee The place of former Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) has been replaced by Ashishkumar Chauhan.
- BSE has not been included in the new advisory committee.
- The committee will be chaired by S Sahu, a professor at Delhi's National Law University and former chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

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- The new advisory committee comprises the CEO of the depository, representatives of various stakeholders, and senior officials of SEBI as members.

Source: Indian Express

Union Prerna 2.0 - EmpowerHim

Why in News:

- An industry-first, dedicated, women-centric society 'EmpowerHour' was launched by Union Bank of India as part of its flagship HR initiative 'Prerna'.

key points:

- Launched by the Union Bank of India, this initiative aims to raise the career graph of women and enhance the diversity of the bank by eliminating existing prejudices and challenges.
- Union Prerna is UBI's HR transformation initiative, which aims to improve productivity by revolutionizing work digitization, employee-centric interventions, and learning within the banking sector.
- The initiative, launched by MD & CEO A Manimekhalai, was attended by the senior management of the bank and around 40 women committee members from across the country.
- As an industry-first initiative, "EmpowerHour" is a committee constituted of only women employees of Union Bank.
- The EmpowerHer initiative aims to address issues related to diversity at the grassroots level.
- EmpowerHour Committee members, through their pan-India representation, will directly engage with the management to bring about effective structural changes that will bring Union Bank of India to the laurels of becoming the most preferred employer brand for women.

Source: Times of India

1st October is the deadline for card tokenization by RBI

Why in News:

- The card tokenizes service deadline has been extended by RBI from July 1, 2022, to October 1, 2022.

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key points:

- An order has been issued by the RBI to tokenize credit and debit cards by 1 October 2022 for making online payments on merchant websites.
- Card tokenized system has been introduced by RBI to make the convenience and security of the customers more effectively.
- Tokenization refers to the replacement of credit and debit card details with alternate codes called tokens, under which, online merchants will have to use token numbers in place of card data to store their customers' cards on their platform.
- As per the instructions issued by RBI, a token will be valid only for one card and one merchant, if the credit card is tokenized for one e-commerce site, then a separate token of that card will be made available on the other site.
- Merchants have been instructed by RBI to store a unique code for online payment, which will not be your original card number.
- The purpose of card tokenization conducted by RBI is to prevent frauds from sharing card information.

Source: Economic Times

Parle is currently the leading FMCG company in India

Why in News:

- Locally produced biscuit brand Parle has topped the rankings for the eleventh year in a row in the year 2021 as well, according to Kantar India's annual Brand Footprint Study.

key points:

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- Based on the Consumer Access Points (CRP), the report includes an assessment of the FMCG brands that are most preferred by consumers in the year 2021.
- CRP is evaluated on the basis of actual purchases made by customers and regularity during a given year (how consumers feel about it and how often they buy it).
- After Parle, other top brands on the list include products from Amul, Britannia, Clinique Plus, and Tata the rankings released this year.
- In the ranking released by Kantar India, this year the CRP by Parle has increased by 14% from the last year's rank.
- This year Haldiram has also been included in the top 25 rankings. This year Haldiram has been placed in 24th position.
- As per the report released by CRP, this year the number of brands has improved as compared to last year.
- Based in London, England, Kantar India is a data analytics and brand consultancy firm established in the year 1992.

Source: Livemint

Bandhan Bank opens first currency chest in Patna

Why in News:

- A currency chest has been inaugurated by Bandhan Bank in Didarganj, Patna.

key points:

- The currency chest launched at Didarganj, Patna is Bandhan Bank's first ever currency chest which will help in cash management for branches and ATMs in the city.
- As per A, this currency chest will assist individuals, MSMEs and small business owners by supplying currency notes to bank branches and ATMs as and when required.
- Bandhan Bank has also announced to open more than 530 new bank branches in the country in this financial year which will be mainly distributed in North and West and South India.
- Currency Chest aims to benefit all the customers directly or indirectly and it is a useful step to enhance the convenience of the customers in the banking services provided by the bank.
- Currency chests are branches of select banks that have been authorized by the RBI to stock rupee notes and coins.
- RBI offices in various cities receive coins from note presses and mints, these are sent to currency chests and small coin depots, from where they are distributed to bank branches.
- So far more than 4,075 currency chests have been set up by RBI in India.

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Source: Business Standard

Important News: Defense

Taurus Sainik Aramgraha

Why in News:

- Taurus Sainik Aramgraha was inaugurated by Lt Gen Nav K Khanduri, AVSM, VSM, GOC-in-C, Western Command at Delhi Cantt.

key points:

- Taurus Sainik Aramgraha is a first-of-its-kind project which has been constructed in collaboration with the Indian Army and Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC).
- The Taurus Sainik program has also been facilitated by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) officials.
- The state art facility currently has 148 beds, which includes a beautifully designed waiting lounge, in-house dining, green area, and parking area.
- Taurus Sainik Aramgraha has been constructed to ensure a comfortable stay for serving retired soldiers and their families.
- The Taurus Sainik Aramgraha facility has been developed with an aim to reflect the commitment of the Indian Army towards its serving/retired soldiers and their families in line with the ethos of Share and Care.

Source: Livemint

Indian Navy's AK-630 cannon was the first ammunition manufactured in India

Why in News:

- In the defense sector, 30 mm ammunition manufactured in India has been manufactured under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Make in India program.

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key points:

- Ammunition will be used in AK-630 guns mounted on warships.
- This is a big achievement for the country as the completely indigenous ammunition has been developed by the private industry of India.
- The 30 mm ammunition has been manufactured in 12 months, with all components indigenous.
- The Indian Navy, in pursuit of Spirit India by promoting industry, has provided technical assistance in terms of finalization of drawings, design specifications, inspection equipment, and proof and testing of ammunition.
- A chemical manufacturing company by the name of Economic Explosives Limited from Nagpur has supplied 100% indigenous 30 mm gun ammunition to the Indian Navy.
- The ammunition manufactured by Economic Explosives Limited has been received by Vice Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral SN Ghormade.

Source: The Hindu

Successfully Fight-Test India VL-SRSAM at Chandipur

Why in News:

- Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has conducted successful flight tests of the Vertical Launched Short-Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) for the Indian Navy and naval warships.

Key Points:

- Off the coast of Chandipur, in the state of Odisha, the VL-SRSAM flight test was conducted.
- To show the Indian Navy ship's capacity to launch vertically, it was successfully piloted against a fast unmanned aerial target.

- Sea-skimming targets are among the many airborne threats that the VL-SRSAM is designed and developed to defeat at close range.
- Flight data will be used to track the test launch of VL-SRSAM, including the flight route and vehicle performance statistics.
- Several ranges of equipment, including the radar, Electro-Optical Tracking System (EOTS), and Telemetry System placed by ITR, Chandipur, recorded the flight data during the test launch.
- The VL-SRSAM is built to strike high-speed air targets at a height of roughly 15 km and at distances between 40 and 50 km.
- The Astra missile, an air-to-air missile with a range beyond visual range, served as the inspiration for the weapon's design.
- The VL-thrust SRSAM's vectoring system will be crucial in improving its engine's capacity to alter thrust direction to regulate the missile's angular velocity and altitude.
- The VL-SRSAM is a canister system, allowing it to be stored and used from compartments that have been specifically created for that purpose.

Source: The Hindu

'Ulchi Freedom Shield' military exercise

Why in News:

- The largest joint military drill between South Korea and the United States in years has begun with the restart of field training.

Key Points:

- The annual summer exercise's name has been changed to "Ulchi Freedom Shield" this year, and it will continue through September 1, 2022.
- For the first time since the coronavirus outbreak, South Korea has begun a four-day Ulchi civil defense exercise that is specially intended to improve government preparation.
- With the aid of these civil and military exercises, the government seeks to increase the nation's readiness to accommodate the evolving nature of warfare.
- After South Korea and the US started the exercise's preliminary training, North Korea launched two missiles off its west coast.

- After South Korea and the US started the exercise's preliminary training, North Korea launched two missiles off its west coast.
- The Allies will conduct a total of 11 regional training programs, including one at the brigade level that will be attended by thousands of soldiers, according to the Seoul Ministry of Defense.

Source: Indian Express

Composite Indoor Shooting Range is inaugurated at INS Karna

Why in News:

- The first of its kind Composite Indoor Shooting Range (CISR) is inaugurated at INS Karna on the Eastern Seaboard by Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command.

key points:

- Presently the CISR Navy has a state-of-the-art, self-contained, 25 m, six-lane, live firing range for all primary and secondary weapons.
- The associated control software, as well as advanced aiming systems, will enable the range personnel to hone their firing skills, enabling them to challenge and face adversaries in challenging scenarios.
- The range has been established by an Indian firm in line with contemporary international standards and is touted as an example of the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative in the year of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- INS Karna is the first in the Navy and the only military unit in the country to have established and utilized such a facility.
- The government aims to significantly enhance the operational efficiency of the ENC naval personnel with this facility.

Source: The Hindu

India to buy six Tu-160 long-range bombers from Russia

Why in News:

- India will purchase Tu-160 bombers from Russia to strengthen its strategic forces.

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Key Points:

- The Tupolev Tu-160 bomber has a top speed of 2220 kilometers per hour. During the flight, the aircraft can lift a maximum weight of 110,000 kg.
- The Tu-160 strategic bomber is manufactured by Russia.
- The Russian-made Tu-160 bomber flew for the first time on December 16, 1981 and is now being restored by Russia.
- Strategic bombers can launch both long-range cruise missiles and nuclear warheads from the Tu-160 bomber.
- The Tu-160 bomber also does not require aerial refueling to function; hence tanker aircraft are not required to fly missions with this aircraft.
- India is encircled by adversaries on both sides; if a fight breaks out on both fronts at the same time, India will be obliged to divide its military capability, which it must purchase from Russia. A commitment has been made.
- The bomber is capable of infiltrating Pakistan and China and attacking major airports, warships, and aircraft carriers patrolling the seas.
- The Tu-160 bomber, unlike other fighters, can carry big missiles.

Source: The Hindu

Future Infantry Soldier (F-INSAS) System

Why in News:

- The much-anticipated Future Infantry Soldier (F-INSAS) has been handed over to the Indian Army as a System (F-INSAS) at a ceremony conducted in Delhi by India's Defense Minister, Rajnath Singh, to unveil various Defense and Strategic Systems.

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Key Points:

- The F-INSAS is outfitted with an AK-203 assault rifle, a Russian-made gas-fired, magazine-fed, select-fire assault rifle.
- An Indo-Russian joint company manufactures rifles, which have a range of 300 meters.
- For target acquisition, a rifle-mounted holographic sight with a 200-meter range is supplied.
- Infantry now has access to helmet-mounted night vision equipment. The helmet and vest are resistant to 9mm bullets as well as AK-47 assault guns.
- For communication with the command post and other components on the battlefield, a hands-free headset is provided.
- The system includes ballistic helmets, ballistic goggles, bulletproof jackets, elbow pads, and knee pads to ensure the survival of infantrymen.
- F-INSAS also has a cutting-edge target acquisition and communication system. The F-INSAS project was conceptualized in the early 2000s by the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) to fully fit with the goals of the Army's Infantry Troop Modernization Program and enhance soldier performance over the course of a military operation.

Source: The Hindu

75 laps "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Run" from INS Satpura in San Diego

Why in News:

- On August 13, the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Satpura arrived in San Diego Harbor to mark the 75th anniversary of India's independence.

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Key Points:

- On the occasion of India's Independence Day, the INS Satpura ran the 75-lap Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav race at the US Navy Base in San Diego.
- On the momentous occasion of 75 years of India's independence in North America, the Indian Tricolor flag is raised on the Indian Naval Ship in front of notable local dignitaries and foreign Indians.
- An Indian Navy destroyer has never before made it to the west coast of North America, making INS Satpura's landing at San Diego US Navy Base a historic occasion.
- The occasion highlights the Indian Navy's potential and development after 75 years of independence.
- The greatest multilateral naval exercise, The Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC), at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii included the Indian Naval Warship, INS Satpura, and the P81 LRMRASW aircraft.
- In an exercise that lasted six weeks and featured intense operational and training activities, INS Satpura and a P81 Maritime participated.
- The purpose of this exercise is to foster communication and confidence between the navies of different nations.

Source: PIB

Vajra Prahar 2022

Why in News:

- Indo-US Joint Special Forces Exercise “Purva Vajra Prahar 2022” has been started at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.

key points:

- Purva Vajra Prahar 2022 is the 13th edition of the annual exercise.
- The main objective of the pre-Vajra Prahar joint exercise is to share best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational strategy.
- In the pre-Vajra Prahar exercise, the Indian Army contingent was represented by Special Forces personnel under the aegis of SFTS, while the US contingent is represented by personnel from the 1st Special Forces Group and the US Special Forces Special Tactics Squadron.
- This joint annual exercise is conducted alternately between India and the US with an aim to share best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational strategy.
- During the pre-Vajra Prahar exercise for 21 days, teams of both the armies will jointly train, plan and execute a series of special operations, counter-insurgency operations and aerial operations in simulated conventional and unconventional scenarios in mountainous terrain.
- The former Vajra Prahar Abhyas is an important step towards strengthening the traditional bonds of friendship between the special forces of the two countries as well as improving bilateral defense cooperation between India and the US.

Source: The Hindu

Defense Expo

Why in News:

- The 12th edition of the Defense Expo will be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from October 18 to 22, 2022.

key points:

- The theme of the 12th edition of Defense Expo is 'Path to Pride'.
- The 12th edition of the Defense Expo invokes nationalistic pride and encourages citizens to participate in nation-building through the establishment of capable indigenous defense industry.
- The five-day Defense Expo program comprises three business days and two public days.
- The Defense Expo event will showcase the equipment and skill sets of the Armed Forces, DPSUs, and Industry at Sabarmati River Front through active participation and synchronized efforts at all levels on all five days.
- Defense Expo-2022 aims to attract the active participation of Indian companies.

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- The Defense Expo-2022 website has been designed to host informational material about various indigenous defense products and to provide online services to the exhibitors, to promote investment in Gujarat.
- The Defense Expo 2022, exhibition has been designed in line with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to achieve self-reliance in the defense sector and achieve exports of 5 billion dollars by the year 2025.

Source: Business Standard

Indian Navy's all-women crew completes the first solo maritime mission

Why in News:

- The first independent maritime surveillance mission in the North Arabian Sea was completed by a team of women officers of the Navy on a Dornier 228 aircraft.

key points:

- The first independent maritime surveillance mission was accomplished by five women officers of Naval Air Squadron-INAS-314 at Naval Air Enclave at Porbandar, Gujarat.
- The mission was captained by Lieutenant Commander Aanchal Sharma and his team consisted of Pilots Lieutenant Shivangi and Lieutenant Apoorva Geete. The mission was assisted in completion of the mission by Lieutenant Pooja Panda and Sub Lieutenant Pooja Shekhawat as Tactical and Censor Officers.
- For this campaign, women officers were trained for several months, and before this historic visit they were given detailed information about the mission.
- INAS-314 is the flagship squadron of the Navy based at Porbandar, Gujarat.

Source: News on Air

India-Vietnam bilateral military exercise "East VINBAX 2022"

Why in News:

- The third edition of the Vietnam-India bilateral military exercise Ex VINBAX - 2022 began at Chandimandir, Haryana.

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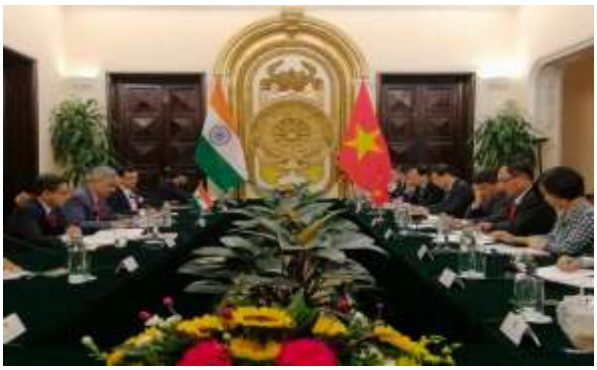

key points:

- Ex VINBAX - 2022 Exercise This is a sequel to the first bilateral military exercise with India held in Vietnam in the year 2019.
- The conduct of Ex VINBAX - 2022 as a field training exercise with increased scope from the previous editions of the bilateral exercise will be helpful in strengthening mutual trust, and interoperability and also between the Indian Army and the Vietnam People's Army. Will provide assistance in sharing best practices.
- Ex VINBAX - 2022 The exercise will also provide an opportunity for the soldiers of both parties to learn about each other's social and cultural heritage through joint exercise.
- Ex VINBAX - In the 2022 exercise, the Indian Army is being represented by soldiers of the 105 Engineer Regiment.
- The Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Demonstration and Equipment Demonstration during the Ex VINBAX - 2022 exercise will also showcase India's ability to undertake rescue and relief operations during natural and man-made disasters using indigenous solutions.

Source: Indian Express

Kargil War

Why in News:

- 'Point 5140' in Drass, Kargil has been named 'Gun Hill' by the government to celebrate the victory of the Indian Armed Forces and to pay tribute to the supreme sacrifice of the soldiers in 'Operation Vijay'.

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key points:

- The victory was declared by the Indian Army on 26 July 1999 after a nearly three-month-long battle with Pakistani troops on the snowy peaks of Kargil in Ladakh.
- The mission which was started to capture Point 5140 from Pakistan in Kargil, Ladakh was named 'Operation Vijay'.
- In the year 1999, Lahore Agreement was signed by India and Pakistan to mutually resolve the Kashmir issue peacefully, but Pakistani troops started infiltrating the Indian side of the Line of Control (LOC) under Operation Badr. It was ended by the Indian Army through Operation Vijay.
- On behalf of the Artillery Regiment, Director General of Artillery Lt Gen T.K. Chawla offered a wreath.
- Point 5140 was the highest enemy outpost in the Tololing Complex which was captured by the Indian Army on 20 June under the leadership of Captain Vikram Batra.

Source: The Hindu

Science and Technology

Beijing tops tech hub, Bengaluru second in Asia-Pacific

Why in News:

- According to the Cushman and Wakefield report, Bengaluru ranks second in the list of top tech hubs in the Asia Pacific region.

key points:

- China's Beijing has been ranked first in the list of top technical centers according to the Cushman and Wakefield report.
- In a report titled 'Tech Cities: The Global Intersection of Talent and Real Estate by Cushman and Wakefield, 115 different 'tech cities of the world have been studied.
- Three other Indian cities, Chennai, Delhi, and Hyderabad have been included in the list after Beijing and Bangalore.
- Mumbai and Pune also figure in the top-10 list.
- Tech Cities: The Global Intersection of Talent and Real Estate Report incorporates factors such as talent, real estate, and business environment to assess and evaluate cities.

- The beginning of the turn of the millennium was to make Bangalore a technology hub by building the first international tech park in the country at Whitefield.

Source: The Hindu

AAI and Sweden sign an MoU for Sustainable Aviation Tech

Why in News:

- A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by LFV Air Navigation Services of Sweden and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) at AAI Corporate Headquarters in New Delhi.

Key Points:

- The MoU between Sweden and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) brings together two air navigation service providers, India and Sweden, who have a history of developing and implementing the most cutting-edge environmentally friendly aviation technology, to look into intelligent aviation solutions.
- This MoU would make it easier for the two nations to exchange aviation technology and knowledge.
- This will help Indian enterprises expand more quickly by utilizing Swedish innovation and knowledge.
- At the time of the new agreement's signing at the AAI Corporate Headquarters in New Delhi, senior members of the Airports Authority of India (AAI), LFV, the Swedish Embassy in New Delhi, and the Business Sweden-Swedish Trade and Investment Council were also present.
- The government wants to considerably improve the partnership between LFV Sweden and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) in civil aviation for the creation and use of cutting-edge, intelligent, and environmentally friendly aviation technology.
- Tanmay Lal is the ambassador of India to Sweden, and Mr. Klaas Molina is the ambassador of Sweden to India.

Source: Indian Express

AirAsia India becomes the first airline to use CAE's AI training system

Why in News:

- The artificial intelligence-driven training system developed by CAE is now being used by AirAsia India to educate its pilots.

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Key Points:

- The leading supplier of tech-based pilot training solutions is CAE Simultaneous.
- The training program employed by AirAsia is known as CAE RISE, and it offers real-time data collection and analysis during pilot training sessions to give high-quality training.
- The CAE Rise Simulator makes it possible for trainers to gain insightful knowledge from training data.
- A division of Bangalore-based Tata Sons Private Limited is AirAsia India Private Limited.
- Since its official launch on June 12, 2014, AirAsia has served more than 50 direct and 100 connecting airports in India.
- Since its official launch on June 12, 2014, AirAsia has served more than 50 direct and 100 connecting airports in India.
- CAE is a technology company and the headquartered of the CEA is situated in Canada.
- The goal of CAE is to digitize the real world and offer education and vital operational solutions.
- CAEs primarily focus on enhancing the capabilities of pilots, airlines, and the armed forces.

Source: Indian Express

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

Images of Jupiter in the James Webb Space Telescope

Why in News:

- For the first time, clear pictures of the planet Jupiter have been captured by the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST).

key points:

- Images of Jupiter's stormy Great Red Spot, Ring, Aurora, and Aurora at the North and South Poles were not clearly visible in any of the photos taken yet.
- The image format obtained from the James Webb Space Telescope was infrared, in which infrared images were artificially tinted blue, white, green, yellow, and orange.
- The James Webb Space Telescope is a large infrared telescope designed to study every phase of the history of the universe.

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- The James Webb Space Telescope is designed to be able to look into the past such as the first galaxies formed through their long wavelengths in the early universe.
- The James Webb Space Telescope is yet to travel about 1.5 million kilometers from Earth.
- The James Webb Space Telescope was launched from French Guiana in South America on an Ariane 5 ECA rocket.

Source: The Hindu

NASA's Artemis III Mission

Why in News:

- NASA has announced 13 potential landing sites for the Artemis III mission, which will send a woman and a person of color to the Moon for the first time.

Key Points:

- The following 13 places have been chosen by NASA as probable landing sites for NASA's Artemis III mission: Peak Near Shackleton, Connecting Ridge, Connecting Ridge Extension, Howarth, Malapert Massif, Leibnitz Beta Plateau, Nobel Rim 1, Nobel Rim 2, and the Amundsen rim.
- The lunar South Pole is within six degrees of each region's location, lending scientific significance to these regions.
- Sunlight is required for the Moon's long stay since it serves as a power source and regulates the temperature.
- NASA and large scientific and engineering organisations will negotiate over the 13 prospective landing locations.
- The United States initially attempted to send humans into space in 1961; eight years later, on July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong became the first human to set foot on the Moon as part of the Apollo 11 mission.
- The astronauts of the Apollo 11 mission left an American flag and a sign on the Moon.
- Along with the goal of space exploration, NASA's mission to return Americans to the Moon aims to demonstrate American leadership in space and build a strategic presence on the Moon.

Source: The Hindu

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Indigenous hydrogen fuel cell bus

Why in News:

- India's first indigenous Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus developed by KPIT-CSIR has been launched by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh in Pune.

key points:

- The construction of India's first fully indigenous hydrogen fuel cell bus is in line with Prime Minister Modi's National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- Green hydrogen is an excellent clean energy vector that enables deep decarbonization of even the most difficult emissions from the refining industry, fertilizer industry, steel industry, cement industry, and the heavy commercial transport sector.
- The high efficiency of fuel cell vehicles and the high energy density of hydrogen ensures that the operating cost per kilometer for fuel cell trucks and buses is lower than for diesel-powered vehicles.
- The uniqueness of the process developed by CSIR-NCL is an innovative downstream process technology, which makes this indigenous technology competitive with global benchmarks.
- The Bisphenol-A pilot plant at CSIR-NCL was also inaugurated by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh during the event.
- Fuel cell vehicles emit zero greenhouse gas, which will prove to be important in tackling environmental pollution in India.

Source: PIB

India's first 3D-printed human cornea

Why in News:

- For the first time in India, researchers from Hyderabad have 3D printed an artificial cornea (a human cornea) and successfully implanted it in a rabbit's eye.

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Key Points:

- Researchers from the L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H), and the Center for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) have developed a 3D-printed human cornea manufactured from human donor corneal tissue.
- The (3D-Printed Human Cornea) product is fully natural, free of synthetic components, and safe for use by patients. It was produced locally with assistance from governmental and charitable groups.
- Researchers from LVPEI, IITH, and CCMB used the decellularized corneal tissue matrix and stem cells produced from human eyes to create a unique biomimetic hydrogel.
- The foundation material for the 3D-printed human cornea is this hydrogel.
- Human corneal tissue was used to create the 3D-printed human cornea, which is biocompatible, all-natural, and free of any animal ingredients.

Source: The Hindu

Bharat Biotech's Intranasal Vaccine

Why in News:

- For its intranasal COVID vaccine, BBV154, Bharat Biotech has requested approval for two doses of the vaccine as well as a booster dose.

Key Points:

- Bharat Biotech received data from BBV154 Phase 3 clinical studies for approval.
- Bharat Biotech claims that BBV154 is stable between 2 and 8 °C. Under carefully monitored clinical trials, it is secure, well-tolerated, and immunogenic.

- An intranasal vaccination called BBV154 has the power to create antibodies that are specific to the upper respiratory tract and can lessen infection and transmission.
- Two distinct, concurrent clinical trials have been carried out to assess the efficacy of BBV154 as a primary dosage and a booster dose.
- Over 3000 people participated in primary dosage Phase III trials to evaluate the drug's immunogenicity and safety.
- This vaccination may be administered through the nose because of its design.
- The University of Washington and Bharat Biotech are working together to develop the nasal vaccination for BBV154.
- Bharat Biotech was founded in 1996, and the company's headquarters are in Hyderabad.

Source: Economic Times

Ayush Grid Project

Why in News:

- The Ministry of AYUSH and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) have agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the AYUSH Grid initiative.

Key Points:

- According to the terms of the MoU, MeitY will offer the Ministry of AYUSH technical support for a three-year period in order to digitize the AYUSH industry.
- This agreement builds on one that was finalized in 2019.
- MeitY will offer technical assistance, including the use of cutting-edge technology, for the AYUSH Grid initiative.
- The Ministry of AYUSH announced the AYUSH Grid initiative in 2018 to serve as the IT industry's skeleton.
- The project was started as part of the Digital India program, which promotes "Information and Technology" to improve service delivery, increase service quality, and alter operational efficiency.
- The project aims to unite all AYUSH resources, including hospitals and labs, while advancing conventional healthcare systems.

- A key component of the MoU is the digitization of the whole AYUSH sector, which will revolutionize how health care is delivered at all levels—including research, teaching, medication regulation, and a variety of health programs.
- A High-Level Advisory Committee (HLAC), co-chaired by Secretary MeitY and Secretary AYUSH, will offer advice on the AYUSH Grid initiative.

Source: Times of India

ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle Mission

Why in the news:

- A satellite launch mission of ISRO was carried out. It also saw the first test flight of the new rocket-launcher SSLV (SSLV-D1). Those interested in this field, including ISRO, people and organizations related to space technology in the country and around the world were paying attention to this mission.

Key Points:

- With this new launcher, ISRO successfully launched two satellites (EOS 02 and AzaadiSAT) with a combined weight of less than 500 kg.
- However, after the launch of the satellites, due to malfunctioning of the equipment on which the satellites are attached, the satellites did not get the proper speed and both the satellites were declared unfit for use.
- So this failure was more talked about than ISRO's new launcher. The new launcher SSLV is going to be a game changer for ISRO.

How is the new launcher?

- The name of this launcher is Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV). The SSLV launcher has a height of 34 meters and a diameter of two meters, weighing 110 tonnes.
- With the help of this launcher, satellites weighing up to 500 kg, eventually weighing up to 1000 kg can be launched from a height of 500 km to even 1000 km.
- Most importantly, this launcher can be ready for flight by just 7 staff-technicians-engineers that too in just seven days.
- Therefore, ISRO's manpower and money will be greatly saved for the launch of light weight satellites.
- This will enable ISRO to launch satellites through this new launcher every week if required.

Earlier, we had to wait to send light weight satellites

- ISRO currently has a total of three launchers namely polar satellite launch vehicle (PSLV) weighing more than 290 tonnes and geosynchronous satellite launch vehicle type GSLV-II weighing around 414 tonnes and ISRO's Bahubali GSLV Mark III weighing around 640 tonnes.
- Preparing all these launchers for satellite launch requires ISRO to start preparations at least two months in advance and commit more than 600 manpower.

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- All these launchers can easily launch satellites weighing more than two tons. That is why ISRO launches light weight satellites with the help of these three giant launchers, planning the weight only if heavier satellites are to be launched.
- Because of this, ISRO sometimes has to wait a few months for the launch of these three launchers even though the light weight satellites are ready. The new SSLV will make it possible to launch low-weight satellites when needed, cheaply.
- Growing demand for lightweight satellites
- The use of low weight satellites is increasing day by day around the world. Light weight satellites are required by various educational institutes, universities, research institutes. Also, the demand for these small satellites is increasing for messaging, for taking pictures of land, for commercial use, for sending information.
- Satellites weighing more than 500 kg are generally called satellites, but satellites weighing less than that are called Small satellites, Microsatellites, Nanosatellites.

Source: Loksatta

SpaceX Launches South Korea's First Moon Mission, Danuri

Why in News:

- South Korea launched its first lunar mission, which can also be called its first mission away from low Earth orbit.

key points:

- The mission, formerly known as Korea Pathfinder Lunar Orbiter, launched by South Korea, is currently known as Danuri.
- Danuri is prevalent as a play on the Korean words for "moon" and "bliss".
- The Danuri mission, launched by South Korea, is operated by the Korean Aerospace Research Institute (KARI).
- Danuri was launched from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket by the Korean Aerospace Research Institute.
- Before returning to its destination, Danuri will fly toward the Sun and enter lunar orbit in mid-December using gravity generated by the Sun.

- After reaching the Moon in a 62-mile-high orbit, Danuri will carry out research with six of its science instruments (a magnetometer, a gamma-ray spectrometer, an experimental communication system, and three cameras).
- If South Korea successfully completes this lunar mission, South Korea will become the eighth political body to complete a Moon mission after the United States, the former Soviet Union, China, Japan, India, Luxembourg, and the European Union.

Source: Indian Express

ISRO launches the smallest rocket to display the tricolor in space

Why in News:

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) launched its first Small Satellite Launch Vehicle, SSLV-D1/EOS-02 from the Sriharikota Satish Dhawan Space Center.

key points:

- This is the first time that the Indian space agency ISRO has demonstrated its capabilities in launching an SSLV to place small satellites in low Earth orbit.
- The SSLV-D1/EOS-02, launched by ISRO, has been developed by a team of students from Earth Observation Satellite and Space Kids India named AzadiSat.
- On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence, girls from government schools across the country participated in the making of this eight-kg CubeSat that will encourage girls to pursue "Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)" by ISRO.
- The SSLV developed by ISRO uses solid fuel in the first three stages and a liquid propulsion-based velocity trimming module in the fourth stage.
- The newly built AzadiSat requires minimal launch infrastructure as compared to PSLV and GSLV launch vehicles of ISRO.
- AzadiSat also includes a long-range transponder and a solid-state PIN diode-based radiation counter that will be helpful in measuring ionizing radiation in its orbit.
- A ground system built by ISRO Space Kids India has also been employed to engage and interact with AzadiSat in orbit.

Source: Indian Express

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MyGov Platform

Why in News:

- The program was launched by the Minister of Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnav in New Delhi to celebrate "8 years of MyGov".

key points:

- Responsible AI for Youth 2022 was also launched by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav during the event.
- Youth 2022 AI has been developed by the National e-Governance Division of the Ministry of Electronics and IT in collaboration with Intel India.
- The Ministry of Education also extended its support to the program.
- Youth 2022 AI will be opened to all school students who are pursuing education in classes 8-12 in India.
- Youth 2022 AI aims to encourage a deeper understanding of AI-Tech as well as encourage youth to become human-centered designers.
- MyGov is a citizen engagement platform launched by the Government of India, which was launched on 26 July 2014 by the Government of India.
- MyGov facilitates two-way communication between government and citizens and is a leading platform for participatory governance.
- The MyGov app has been developed on the basis of three pillars, which include 'Do', Discuss, and Disseminate.
- Presently more than 2.5 crore citizens have been registered on the MyGov app.

Source: The Hindu

Earth's shortest day

Why in News:

- A new record has been set for the Earth to complete one complete revolution in 1.59 milliseconds and one complete revolution in less than 24 hours.

key points:

- It took the Earth 1.47 milliseconds to complete its rotation, which is less than the standard time of 24 hours.
- The reason for the increased speed of Earth's rotation is still unknown to scientists, although scientists attribute it to processes in the inner or outer layer of the oceans, tides, and climate change.
- According to some scientists, the reason for the increased speed of Earth's rotation may be related to the motion at the surface of Earth's geographic poles, known as the "Chandler's wobble".
- The Earth's rotation at such a high speed can register negative leap times.
- Negative leap seconds can have misleading results for electronic gadgets such as smartphones, computers, and other communication devices or systems.
- The Earth records the shortest day of the year on July 29.
- Prior to this, the fastest rotation was completed by the Earth on 19 July 2020, in which the time taken by the Earth was 1.47 milliseconds.

Source: Dainik Bhaskar

India's first learning robot - Eagle Robot

Why in News:

- As part of a collaborative learning strategy in its schools, Indus International School has launched the innovative and first teaching robot in India, Eagle Robot.

key points:

- Presently 7-7 Eagle Robots have been installed by Indus International School in Hyderabad, Bangalore, and Pune to raise the standard of education in Government Schools of Karnataka.

- Eagle Robot is an interactive robot, which personalizes the experience as well as simulates emotions through digital faces.
- The Eagle robot is capable of helping children in grades 5 to 11 work alone and with a human teacher in the classroom through instruction.
- More than 30 different languages can be used for the purpose of transmitting knowledge in Eagle Robot.
- The Eagle robot is designed so that the robots can use analysis to simultaneously answer questions, solve problems, and administer an automated test at the end of a lesson.
- All scientific and humanities curricula can be taught through the Eagle Robot and children can also interact with the robot through mobile, tablet, or laptop devices with the robot assessment and content.
- The robot and collaborative learning paradigm have been established with three major objectives, which include-
  - Each student's achievement can be increased through Eagle Robot,
  - Eagle robots will also be helpful in increasing the effectiveness of instruction,
  - Efforts being made by teachers can also be reduced by using Eagle Robot.

Source: Indian Express

Google India launches Street View in 10 cities

Why in News:

- Street View was launched by Google India in 10 cities of India.

key points:

- Google launched Street View, a feature already available in over 100 countries across 10 cities in India, that lets users get a 360-degree view of any iconic destination, restaurant, or street.
- This service is provided by Google in Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Pune, Nashik, Vadodara, Ahmednagar, and Amritsar.
- Google announced plans to capture street-level images in 2011, but it was banned in 2016 by the government citing security issues.
- As per the new geospatial policy released by the government, geospatial data of a spatial accuracy/value that is below one meter horizontally and three meters vertically can only be collected by entities controlled by Indian citizens.

- Google currently covers 150,000 km through Street View in India and aims to expand it to 50 cities by the end of the year.
- Street View will also provide information on road closures and incidents in eight cities including Delhi, Hyderabad, Chandigarh, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Gurugram, Bengaluru, and Agra on Google Maps, helping people avoid congested areas.
- As a new feature, Google Maps will also display the speed limit information shared by traffic officials starting from Bengaluru and Chandigarh.

Source: Economic Times

Environment

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

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HPCL launches its first dung-based compressed biogas project

Why in News:

- The first compressed biogas project based on dung has been started by HPCL.

Key Points:

- In this HPCL project, biogas, which can be used as fuel for vehicles, will be produced using 100 tons of cow manure per day.
- The framework for the HPCL Compressed Biogas Project Initiative was the GOBAR-Dhan plan, which was unveiled by the Indian government in April 2018 as a part of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) Biodegradable Waste Management component.
- With the help of livestock and organic waste, the HPCL Compressed Biogas Project scheme hopes to enhance sanitation while producing money and energy.
- The foundation stone laying ceremony for this project run by HPCL was organized by Shree Godham Mahatirth Pathmeda Lok Punyarth Trust, located in the Rajasthani village of Pathmeda in the Tehsil of Sanchore and District of Jalore.
- Agricultural waste, manure, municipal trash, plant material, sewage, green waste, and food waste are all examples of natural materials that can be used to make biogas.
- Methane, carbon dioxide, and hydrogen sulfide are the three major gases found in biogas.
- Methane (CH4), a gas found in natural gas, and carbon dioxide make up the majority of biogas, which is a renewable energy source (CO2).

Source: Indian Express

11 New Indian Wetland Sites to Ramsar List 75

Why in News:

- In India's 75th year of independence, 11 more wetlands have been added to the list of Ramsar sites, bringing the total to 75, which now span 13,26,677 hectares of the nation.

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Key Points:

- There are four Ramsar sites in Tamil Nadu, three in Odisha, two in Jammu and Kashmir, and one each in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra among the eleven new Ramsar sites.
- The Ramsar Convention, which was signed on 1 February 1982 at Ramsar, Iran, includes India as one of its Contracting Parties.
- A total of 26 sites were added to the list of Ramsar sites between 1982 and 2013, but between 2014 and 2022, 49 new wetlands were added to the list of wetlands in the nation.
- In India, a total of 28 locations have been designated as Ramsar sites in 2022.
- The state with the most Ramsar sites in Tamil Nadu, with 14; it is followed by Uttar Pradesh, with 10.

The 11 Indian wetlands which have been designated as new Ramsar sites:

1. Tampara Lake in Odisha;
2. Hirakud Reservoir in Odisha;
3. Ansupa Lake in Odisha;
4. Yashwant Sagar in Madhya Pradesh;
5. Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu;
6. Suchindram Theroor Wetland Complex in Tamil Nadu;
7. Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu;
8. Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu;
9. Thane Creek in Maharashtra;
10. Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve in Jammu and Kashmir;
11. Shallbugh Wetland Conservation Reserve in Jammu and Kashmir.

Source: PIB

2G ethanol plant in Panipat

Why in News:

- The second generation (2G) ethanol plant constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 900 crore was inaugurated at Panipat, Haryana through video conferencing by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

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key points:

- The objective of this project launched by the Prime Minister is in line with the Prime Minister's constant endeavor to make the energy sector more affordable, accessible, efficient, and sustainable.
- Based on state-of-the-art indigenous technology, this project will consume about two lakh tons of rice straw in a year to generate about 30 million liters of ethanol in a whole year.
- The project aims at providing direct employment to the people involved in plant operation as well as indirect employment in the supply chain for rice straw harvesting, handling, storage, etc.
- The scheme will help in reducing greenhouse gases equivalent to emissions of about 3 lakh tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year, thereby supplying fuel to about 63,000 cars a year on the country's roads.

Source: Livemint

Schemes

'CM Udyman Khiladi Upgradation Scheme'

Why in News:

- "Mukhyamantri Udyami Khiladi Unnayan Yojana" has been launched by the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Pushkar Singh Dhami, on the occasion of National Sports Day.

key points:

- Under the CM Udyman Khiladi Unnayan Yojana, the Chief Minister's Sports Development Fund will be set up to provide financial benefits to the students as per the speedy rules.
- In view of the shortage of sports coaches under the CM Udyman Khiladi Upgradation Scheme, eight sports coaches will also be appointed in each district.
- Under this scheme, a sports scholarship of Rs 1500 per month will be provided to the budding players in the age group of 8 to 14 years.
- Under this scheme, a total of 3900 budding sportspersons will be provided scholarships every year, which will include 1950 boys and 1950 girls.
- Efforts will be made by the government under this scheme to re-implement 4 percent reservation for sportspersons in government jobs as before.
- Under the CM Udyman Khiladi Unnayan Yojna, the State Sports Awards, along with the Himalayan Ratna Khel Award, as well as Devbhoomi Uttarakhand Khel Ratna, and Devbhoomi Uttarakhand Dronacharya Award will also be given by the government.

Source: Times of India

Rural Entrepreneur Project - Phase 2

Why in News:

- Phase II of the Rural Entrepreneurs Project at Ranchi (Jharkhand) by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in collaboration with Sewa Bharti and Yuva Vikas Society, with an aim to promote skill development and entrepreneurship among tribal youth and to promote Skill India Mission, has been launched.

key points:

- Participants from rural and tribal areas of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat were included in the first phase of the Rural Entrepreneurs Project.
- Under the first phase of the Rural Entrepreneur Project, training of 157 participants in seven groups was started in May 2022 at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh in which about 133 participants successfully completed the training on June 27, 2022.
- The second phase of the Rural Entrepreneur Project has been started in Ranchi.
- The objective of this training program is to empower tribal youth for skill development and entrepreneurship.

- Under the Rural Entrepreneur Project, the government aims to make India self-reliant in rural areas as well.
- Another major component of this project is to provide quality education to the tribal communities.
- The main objective of the Rural Entrepreneur Project is to boost the rural/local economy, increase employment opportunities so as to reduce forced migration due to lack of local opportunities, and also conserve natural resources.
- Presently, the project is being implemented in six states- Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Gujarat.

Source: The Hindu

Paalan 1000 National Campaign

Why in News:

- Dr. Bharti Praveen Pawar, Union Minister of State, virtually inaugurated the Parenting App, Palan 1000 National Campaign, and Early Childhood Development Conference in Mumbai.

Key Points:

- The cognitive development of infants in the first two years of life is the topic of the "Palan 1000 National Campaign - The Journey of the First 1000 Days."
- The Palan 1000 National Campaign seeks to improve young children's cognitive development before the age of two.
- The Palan 1000 National Campaign aims to satisfy the fundamental requirements of families by offering early years coaching to parents, families, and other caregivers.
- The objective of the program is in line with that of the National Child Health Program (RBSK), with a focus on intervention and responsive treatment in the first 1000 days.
- The Palan 1000 Parenting App will give caregivers useful suggestions for what they can do in their daily activities, assist in resolving common questions from parents, and aim our efforts toward the child's growth.
- The six guiding concepts of the Palan 1000 National Campaign are to
    - maximize love,
    - maximize talk,
    - be busy.

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    - Learn about nursing relationships between mothers and their babies via movement and play,
    - reading and discussing stories, and
    - stress reduction and remaining calm.
- To reduce child mortality from 45 per 1000 live births in 2014 to 35 per 1000 live births in 2019, the Indian government moved quickly.

Source: Livemint

Phase-II of the Fortified Rice Scheme

Why in News:

- The second phase of the "Fortified Rice Scheme" has reportedly seen the distribution of around 6.83 lakh tones of fortified rice through the Public Distribution System (PDS).

Key Points:

- By 2024, fortified rice was to be made available through government programs, according to a goal stated by the government in the year 2021.
- Fortified rice was provided through the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM Poshan) and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programs in the first phase of distribution, which began in October 2021.
- According to government statistics, 151 districts in 24 states received fortified rice under PDS in the second phase, and 52% of districts received it.
- The manufacturing capacity of mills for mixing fortified rice has grown to 60 lakh tones from 13.67 lakh tones as of August 15, 2021, in addition to distribution.
- Fortified Rice Kernel's (FRK) current annual production capacity has increased from 0.9 lakh tones to 3.5 lakh tones.
- The 2019 inauguration of the fortified rice program, a centrally supported program with the goal of addressing anemia and vitamin deficiencies in India.
- The plan was authorized for three years in 2019–20.

Source: PIB

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Telangana government launched 'Nethanna Ku Bima'

Why in News:

- The extension of insurance coverage for handloom and power loom weavers has been announced by the Telangana State Government under the Nethanna Ku Bima Yojana.

key points:

- Orders have been issued to increase the insurance coverage for weavers to Rs. 5 Lakh.
- The insurance coverage fixed for weavers under the Nathanna Ku Bima Yojna has been made at par with the insurance coverage of farmers.
- Weavers in the age group of 18 to 59 years have been covered under the Nethanna Ku Bima Yojana.
- Under the Nathanna Ku Bima Yojana, the amount of insurance will be given to the family of the said member after the death of the weaver or the assistant employee.
- The Handloom Department has been directed to prepare draft guidelines for the rapid implementation of this scheme by the government and submit the said draft to the government for implementation of the scheme.
- The purpose of Telangana government is to provide benefits of this scheme to 80 lakh weavers families under Nethanna Ku Bima Yojana.
- The Government of Telangana has partnered with Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) for Nethanna Ku Bima Yojana.
- Under the Nathanna Ku Bima Yojana, the annual premium of the scheme will be borne by the government, for which the government has allocated a budget of more than Rs 29 crore.

Source: Navbharat Times

Parwaz Market Linkage Scheme

Why in News:

- “Parwaz Market Linkage Scheme” was launched by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

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key points:

- Parwaz Market Linkage Scheme is an innovative market linkage scheme, which incorporates measures to improve the economic condition of the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Parwaz Market Linkage Scheme has been launched with the objective to create market linkage support for the shipment of perishable agricultural and horticultural commodities from Jammu and Kashmir.
- Under this scheme, a subsidy of 25% will be provided by the government on freight charges for carrying perishable fruits through air cargo.
- The subsidy received from this scheme will be transferred to the farmers through a direct benefit transfer mode.
- Parwaz Market Linkage Scheme is implemented by Jammu and Kashmir Horticulture Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation.
- Parwaz Market Linkage Scheme aims at trying to benefit the farmers by doubling their income.

Source: Times of India

Mission Vatsalya Yojana

Why in News:

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has implemented the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Mission Vatsalya" erstwhile Child Protection Service Scheme from the year 2009-10 for the welfare and rehabilitation of children.

key points:

- Mission Vatsalya aims to secure a healthy and happy childhood for every child in India.
- Mission Vatsalya aims at ensuring opportunities to enable children to realize their full potential while also helping them to thrive in a sustainable manner in all respects, a sensitive, supportive, and synchronous ecosystem for the development of children, to assist the States/UTs in fulfilling the mandate of the Juvenile Justice Act 2015 and achieving the SDG targets.
- The Integrated Child Protection Scheme was started by the government in the year 2010, which was renamed as "Child Protection Service Scheme" by the government in the year 2017, and again in the year 2021-22 the name of this scheme was named as Mission Vatsalya.
- Mission Vatsalya promotes family-based non-institutional care of children in difficult situations based on the principle of institutionalization of children as a last resort.
- Mission Vatsalya is implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme as per the cost-sharing ratio fixed between the Central and State/UT Governments.

Source: PIB

Panchamrut Yojana

Why in News:

- The scheme to double the income of farmers was launched by the Uttar Pradesh government under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's Panchamrut Yojana'.

key points:

- The Panchamrut scheme has been launched by the UP government with the aim to achieve the goal of doubling farmers' income through the introduction of cost-effective technological measures and the promotion of the co-cropping method.
- Initially, a total of 2028 farmers in the state will be selected for developing model plots before the autumn season under this scheme.
- According to the press note released by the UP government, the Panchamrut scheme is to reduce the production cost of sugarcane as well as include an integrated trench method for sowing sugarcane through five techniques, management, waste mulching, drip irrigation, and co-cropping.
- UP government's 'Panchamrut Yojana' aims at reducing costs through saving water and optimum use of sugarcane straw and leaves, saving the use of fertilizers and pesticides, promoting the cultivation of more than one crop for higher productivity, and at the same time increasing the income of the farmers.

- Under this scheme, those farmers will also be honored by the government that implementing the Panchamrut scheme.
- The Uttar Pradesh government's Panchamrut Yojana aims to encourage farmers to adopt new farming techniques to reduce the cost of agriculture and increase their income.

Source: Livemint

Haryana government launched the Haryana Cheerag scheme

Why in News:

- Haryana Chirag Yojana has been started by the Haryana Government.

key points:

- Under the Haryana Chirag Yojana, the government will provide free education to the economically weaker section (EWS) students of government schools in private schools.
- The meaning of Chirag Yojana is "Chief Minister Equal Education Relief, Aid and Grant".
- Haryana Chirag Yojana has been started as per Rule 134A of Haryana School Education Rules, 2003.
- Under the Chirag scheme, students at government schools can take admitted to private schools from class II to XII, but for this, the annual verified income of the parents is less than Rs.1.8 lakh.
- Around 533 budget private schools in villages and small towns had applied under the Chirag scheme, out of which only 381 schools were shortlisted.
- Eligible schools have provided 24,987 seats to EWS students of government schools out of which only 1665 students have opted for this scheme**.**

Source: Livemint

Assam 'Mission Bhumiputra'

Why in News:

- 'Mission Bhoomiputra' has been unveiled by the Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma.

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key points:

- Under the mission, digital caste certificates will be issued to the students in a simple and digital manner.
- Mission Bhumiputra will be implemented by the Department of Tribal Affairs (SADA) and Social Justice Empowerment.
- Mission Bhumiputra The government's mission of providing easy public service to the public will be continued, under which two pillars will be made by the government.
- Under this mission, the manual system of issuing caste certificates will be abolished and a new format of applications for caste certificates will be provided to the headmasters of all educational institutions by the Deputy Commissioner.
- Under the scheme, headmasters will have to fill out the application form and submit it to the deputy commissioners, which will be forwarded to the respective caste or tribe boards, if there is any doubt in this process, the application can be sent for further verification.
- Under this scheme, caste certificate under IT Act will be provided in Digi Locker which will be digitally signed by the concerned Deputy Commissioners.
- This portal can be used by the students of class 8th to obtain caste certificate from the year 2023.
- The portal created under this scheme has also been made in line with the CM's dashboard which enables the Chief Minister's Office to monitor the entire process.

Source: Livemint

Kerala CM launches egg and milk scheme for Anganwadi children

Why in News:

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has inaugurated a project of the Department of Women and Child Development.

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key points

- Under this project, milk and eggs will be provided to children in all Anganwadis of the state to improve their nutritional status.
- An amount of more than Rs 61.5 crore has been earmarked by the state government for the inclusion of milk and eggs in Anganwadi in the current financial year.
- Under this scheme, considered to be the first in the country, each child will be provided 125 ml of milk twice a week and one egg twice a week for 44 weeks (10 months).
- Under this project, four lakh children in the age group of 3-6 years of 33,115 Anganwadis of the state will be provided eggs and milk twice a week.
- The introduction of milk and eggs for Anganwadi children is aimed at improving their nutritional standards.
- Ending hunger is one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations.

Source: Times of India

Namaste scheme for cleaning sewer, septic tank

Why in News:

- A National Action Plan for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem-Namaste Scheme for cleaning sewers and septic tanks has been prepared by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

key points:

- Namaste Scheme is a joint venture of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- The objective of the Namaste scheme is to achieve zero deaths in sanitation operations in India, under this scheme no sanitation worker will come in direct contact with human excreta and all sewer and septic tank sanitation workers have access to alternative livelihoods.
- The type of machinery and main equipment required for maintenance works and safety gear for Safai Mitras have been shortlisted under this scheme.
- The devices shortlisted under the scheme have also been made available on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal by the States and Urban Local Bodies for their ease of purchase.
- Under this scheme, skill development and training of Safai Mitras is being given through National Safai Karamcharis Finance Development Corporation in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Source: The Hindu

'Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0'

Why in News:

- The operational guidelines regarding the implementation of 'Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0' have been issued by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

key points:

- The Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 scheme have been approved by the Government of India for implementation during the 15th Finance Commission period from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 is an integrated nutritional support program that aims to provide solutions to the challenges of malnutrition among children, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers through a strategic shift in nutritional content and delivery.
- 'Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0' aims to create an integrated eco-system to develop and promote practices that nurture health, wellness, and immunity.
- POSHAN 2.0 has been launched by the Government with the objective of accelerating the improvement in nutrition and child development outcomes along with bridging various gaps and gaps in the existing nutrition program and improving implementation.
- The newly formed POSHAN 2.0 has been launched with the following objective

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- Contribute to the human capital development of the country
- Addressing the challenges of malnutrition
- Promote nutrition awareness and good eating habits for sustainable health and wellness
- Addressing nutritional deficiencies through key strategies.

Source: Business Standard

Awards and Honours

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 "Vir 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

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National Awards Portal

Why in News:

- The Central Government has created the National Prizes Portal, which welcomes nominations for a number of awards awarded by various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies, in an effort to promote transparency and public participation.

Key Points:

- The National Prizes Portal's goal is to make it simple for the general public to suggest individuals and organizations for a variety of awards granted by the Indian government.
- The government has created this unified National Categories Portal to solicit nominations for various awards.
- The honors presented through the National Awards Portal range from the Padma Award to the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Telecom Skill Excellence Award to the Tensing Norgay National Adventure Award and the Sardar Patel National Integration Award.
- With the use of the National Awards Portal, the Government of India will be able to consolidate all of its awards across its numerous Ministries, Departments, and Agencies onto a single digital platform, promoting transparency and public participation.
- The National Prizes Portal aims to make it simpler for members of the public to suggest individuals and groups for several awards presented by the Government of India.

Source: Economic Times

Lisbon Triennale Lifetime Achievement Award

Why in News:

- Marina Tabassum, a prominent Bangladeshi architect, researcher, and educator has been honored with the prestigious Lisbon Triennale Millennium BCP Lifetime Achievement Award as the first laureate of Global South and First South Asian.

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Key Points:

- Marina Tabassum’s distinctive approach, according to the international jury for the prize, touches on the philosophical basis of architecture.
- Marina Tabassum's works, according to the jury's citation for the prize, address immediate contemporary themes and are influenced by specific cultural and geographical contexts.
- Marina Tabassum’s work exemplifies how architects may respond to climate disasters and impact societal change in novel, insightful, and exciting ways.
- The Lisbon Triennale, which opened on September 29 in Lisbon, Portugal, will be awarded a unique work of art made by Carlos Nogueira, a Portuguese sculptor, and artist.
- Marina Tabassum's architectural designs are known for disregarding professionalism and emphasizing environmental concerns.
- Marina Tabassum's Bait Ur Rauf Mosque in Dhaka is one of her numerous well-known masterpieces.
- The mosque is notable for its "lack of characteristic mosque iconography, focus on material, position, and light, and ability to function not only as a place of worship but also as a centre of its tiny community on the outskirts of Dhaka." Marina Tabassum has also designed bamboo cottages for the Rohingya refugee camps in Ukhia, near Cox's Bazar, which are "minimum impact, mobile housing that can be delivered at the lowest cost."

Source: Business Standard

Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) Awards 2022

Why in News:

- The 13th annual Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2022 kicked up on August 12 and runs through August 30.

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Key Points:

- The IFFM event, which takes place every year in Australia, honors the Indian film industry by showing some of the most well-known and highly regarded movies and TV shows.
- The Awards Night, where special prizes are given to the top actors from Indian cinema and the OTT scene from the previous year, is the festival's high point.
- The sports drama 83, starring Ranveer Singh, the Prime Video web series Mumbai Diaries 26, and the movie Jalsa received the most prizes during the event, which was hosted by Rithvik Dhanjiani.
- At the Melbourne Indian Film Festival in 2022, Ranveer Singh won the Best Actor Prize for the movie "83."
- The Best Actress Award went to Shefali Shah (Jalsa) at the Melbourne Indian Film Festival in 2022.
- At the Melbourne Indian Film Festival in 2022, 83 films received the Best Film Award.
- The Best Director trophy was given to Shoojit Sircar for the movie Sardar Udham and Aparna Sen for the movie The Rapist at the 2022 Indian Film Festival of Melbourne.
- The Best Series prize was given to Mumbai Diaries 26/11 at the Melbourne Indian Film Festival in 2022.
- Kapil Dev received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Melbourne Indian Film Festival in 2022.

Source: The Hindu

'dPal rNgam Duston' Award

Why in News:

- Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama has been conferred with the 'dPal rNgam Duston' award, Ladakh's highest civilian honor.

key points:

- Dalai Lama has been given this award for his immense contribution to humanity, especially to the Union Territory.
- This is the sixth award given to the Dalai Lama, by the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council.
- The Dalai Lama belongs to the Gelugpa tradition, the largest and most influential tradition in Tibet of Tibetan Buddhism.
- There have been 14 Dalai Lamas in the history of Tibetan Buddhism, the 14th and current Dalai Lama being Tenzin Gyatso.

- According to the history of Buddhism, the first and second Dalai Lamas were posthumously conferred the title of Dalai Lama.
- The Dalai Lama is chosen jointly by the High Lamas of the Gelugpa tradition and the Tibetan government.
- According to the tradition of Buddhism, the Dalai Lamas symbolize Avalokiteshvara and Chenrezig, the Bodhisattvas of compassion and the patron saint of Tibet.
- The Dalai Lama was escorted to India, the Dalai Lama came to India from Tibet with thousands of followers during the 1959 Tibetan Rebellion and was welcomed to India by the former Indian Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, and he sent the Dalai Lama to Dharamsala (Himachal). province) to form a 'Tibetan government in exile.

Source: The Hindu

'Distinguished Indologist for 2021' award

Why in News:

- Canadian scholar Jeffrey Armstrong has been awarded the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)'s prestigious Indologist Award for the year 2021.

key points:

- Jeffrey Armstrong has been conferred the Indologist Award "in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the study/teaching/research of India's philosophy, thought, history, art, culture, Indian languages, literature, civilization, society, etc."
- Armstrong, founder of the Vedic Academy of Science and Arts and author of The Bhagavad Gita Comes Alive, was nominated for the Indologist Award this year.
- The Indologist Award was instituted in the year 2015 during the 1st World Indology Conference organized by the then President of India.
- The objective of the Indologist Award is to promote Indian studies abroad and to bring the world's leading Indologists on one platform with Indian scholars.
- Professor Heinrich Freiherr von Steitenkorn from Germany was the first person to receive the Indologist Award.
- The Indologist Award carries a citation, a gold medal, and an amount of USD 20,000.

Source: Hindustan Times

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Books and Authors

Acclaimed dancer Mallika Sarabhai turns author, releases her memoir 'Free Fall'

Why in News:

- "Free Fall: My Experiments with Living," a forthcoming self-help memoir by renowned classical dancer and activist Mallika Sarabhai, is now available.

Key Points:

- Speaking Tiger is going to release Mallika Sarabhai's book Free Fall.
- Free Fall is a book about "creating a lifestyle that works for you" and "becoming in tune with yourself, your body."
- You can find the lifestyle that suits you by reading Free Fall, which teaches you how to become in sync with your body and self.
- Mallika is a skilled Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam dancer. She is the daughter of the renowned Indian classical dancer Mrinalini Sarabhai and the illustrious space scientist Vikram Sarabhai.
- Mallika Sarabhai has become skilled in utilizing art to transform society.
- In Peter Brook's play Mahabharata, on which the movie was based, Mallika Sarabhai portrayed Draupadi.
- Darpana Academy of Arts is also directed by Mallika Sarabhai (Ahmedabad).

Source: Livemint

Netanyahu's autobiography 'Bibi: My Story'

Why in News:

- Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's book, Bibi: My Story, will be released in November 2022.

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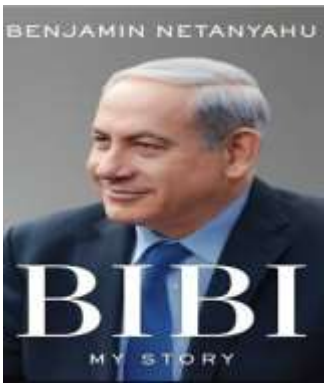

Key Points:

- "Bibi: My Story" will be released on November 22, three weeks after Israel's parliamentary elections.
- The book covers everything from Netanyahu's childhood to his unique perspective on Middle East geopolitics and his discussions with Presidents Clinton, Obama, and Trump to guarantee their country's future.
- "My life is of tragedies and wins, mistakes and accomplishments, lessons learned and loved ones woven together with Israel, which has demonstrated that faith and drive can overcome great challenges to create a brilliant future," Netanyahu says.
- Netanyahu has previously written publications such as "A Durable Peace" and "Fighting Terrorism."
- Netanyahu is the son of Benzoin Netanyahu, a notable Zionist and teacher, and the brother of Jonathan Netanyahu, who was killed while directing the historic 1976 hostage rescue aboard a hijacked plane in Entebbe, Uganda.
- Benjamin Netanyahu, the noted leader of the Israeli Likud party, served as Prime Minister from 1996 until 1999.

Source: Times of Israel

Michelle Obama book, 'The Light We Carry'

Why in News:

- Former US First Lady Michelle Obama's second book "The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times" has been announced.

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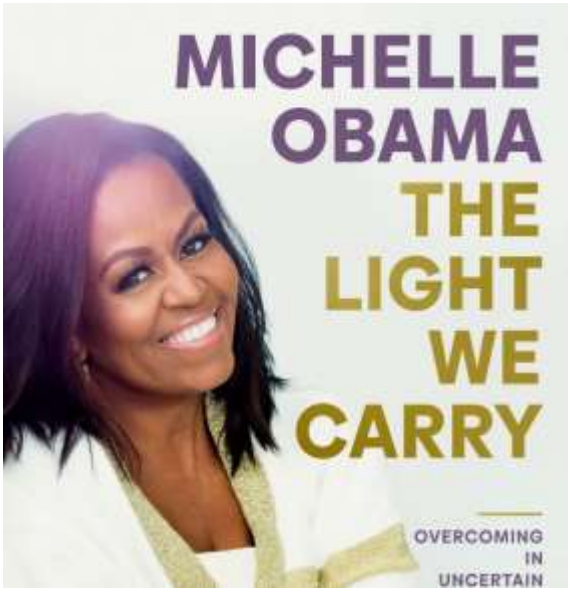

key points:

- Former US First Lady Michelle Obama's second book "The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times" will be released on November 15, 2022.
- The book The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times will be published in 14 languages in 27 countries around the world.
- In The Light, We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times, 58-year-old Michelle shares the habits and principles she learned from adapting to change, based on her experiences as a mother, daughter, wife, friend, and the first lady.
- Mitchell's upcoming book The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times will be published by Crown.
- Earlier in the year 2018, his first book "Becoming" got huge popularity, which was a memoir, and this book was published in 50 languages.
- Michelle was raised in southern Chicago her father was a water punt employee and her mother was a school secretary. Mitchell graduated from Princeton University and Harvard Law School.

Source: Navbharat Times

Important Days

World Water Week 2022

Why in News:

- World Water Week for the year 2022-23 has been organized from 23 August to September 1.

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key points:

- World Water Week is an annual event organized by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) since 1991 with the aim of addressing global water issues and concerns related to international development.
- The theme of the 2022 World Water Week is "Seeing the Unseen: The Value of Water".
- This broad theme for the World Water Week 2022-23 has been selected for three main approaches-
    - The value and development of water for the people.
    - The value of water for nature and climate change.
    - The financial and economic value of water.
- World Water Week is a community of change-makers who collaborate on solutions to some of the world's greatest water-related challenges.
- World Water Week also includes organizing a meeting to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and other international processes.

Source: Indian Express

17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023

Why in News:

- The 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023 will be held in Indore in January 2023, according to Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Arindam Bagchi.

Key Points:

- Every year on January 9, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas commemorates the contribution of the abroad Indian population to the growth of India.
- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is observed on January 9, 1915, to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's return to India from South Africa.
- Its format has been changed in 2015 to celebrate Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) every two years.
- The 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was held in Varanasi from 21 to 23 January 2019, with Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth as the main guest.
- The decision to mark Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was made in response to the recommendations of the Government of India's High-Level Committee (HLC) on the Indian Diaspora, which was chaired by LM Singhvi.
- The then-Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, presented the committee's findings during a public gathering at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on 8 January 2002 and announced 9 January 2002 as "Pravasi Bharatiya Divas" (PBD).

Source: News on Air

Renewable Energy Day 2022

Why in News:

- Renewable Energy Day, also known as Renewable Energy Day, is observed in India every year on August 20.

Key Points:

- The Theme of Renewable Energy Day 2022 is " Paddy crop growing in the fields on the basis of solar energy."
- The goal of Renewable Energy Day is to raise awareness about renewable energy production and use in India.
- Renewable Energy Day 2022 emphasizes the importance of renewable energy by encouraging and coordinating the alarming rate of natural resource depletion.
- Renewable Energy Day was established in 2004 to assist renewable energy development initiatives and to promote the utilization of natural resources in India.

- The inaugural event was organized in 2004 by then-Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who published a postage stamp featuring 12000 youngsters creating a human chain to promote the use of renewable energy sources.
- Renewable Energy Day is to target high school and college students in order to raise awareness among the younger generation.
- Natural resources are used to generate renewable energy.
- According to data from the official United Nations website, renewable energy is currently more inexpensive in most nations and creates three times more jobs than non-renewable fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gas.

Source: Livemint

76th Independence Day

Why in News:

- India will commemorate its 76th Independence Day on August 15, 2022, to recognize its liberation from nearly 200 years of British colonial control.

Key Points:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi presided over the event from New Delhi's Red Fort.
- The Indian government has launched an effort called "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" to mark the culmination of 75 years of independence.
- "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" was introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 12, 2021, to commemorate 75 years of independence.
- Thus, on August 15, 2022, India will commemorate its 76th Independence Day, capping 75 years of independence.
- The celebration of Independence Day pays tribute to the brave leaders and freedom warriors who gave their lives in defence of their nation and fellow citizens.
- After the English East India Company won the Battle of Plassey in the year 1757, the British acquired control of India. In the year 1619, the British reached Surat and Gujarat for trading purposes.
- From the year 1757 until over 200 years later, the British Empire ruled over the people of India.

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- Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi served as the leader of the Indian independence movement, which got underway during the First World War.
- On August 15, 1947, India gained its independence, ending over 200 years of British control.
- Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister, raised the country's flag atop the Lahori Gate of the Red Fort in Delhi on August 15, 1947.

Source: Indian Express

World Biofuel Day

Why in News:

- World Biofuel Day is observed every year on 10 August with an aim to raise awareness about the use of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels.

key points:

- During World Biofuel Day, government and private organizations come together with the aim of raising awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as a distinct source of energy.
- Biofuels are essential to reduce dependence on crude oil and ensure a cleaner environment.
- More employment can be created for rural people by the use of biofuels.
- Biofuels are also helpful in reducing carbon emissions because the burning of fossil fuels produces carbon emissions that are highly harmful to our air and environment.
- In the year 1893, on 10 August, the German inventor Sir Rudolf Diesel successfully tested his diesel engine on groundnut oil, every year 10 August is celebrated as World Biofuel Day.
- In India, World Biofuel Day is celebrated annually since 2015 by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.
- In India, three types of biofuels are used Bioethanol, Biodiesel, and Biogas, in which-
  1. Bioethanol is produced from sugar and starch crops and surplus agricultural waste and biomass.
  2. Biodiesel is produced from various types of vegetable oil and biomass waste from agricultural farms and forests.
  3. Biogas is produced through anaerobic digestion of biomass waste and animal waste.

Source: Indian Express

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International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

Why in News:

- International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is celebrated every year on 9 August all over the world.

key points:

- The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples aims to strengthen international cooperation to solve problems faced by indigenous peoples in areas such as human rights, the environment, education, health, and social development.
- The theme of the 2022 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is "The Role of Indigenous Women in the Preservation and Dissemination of Traditional Knowledge".
- On 23 December 1994, resolution 49/214 was passed by the UNGA, declaring 9 August as the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.
- On 9 August 1982, the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations held its first meeting, to commemorate the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on 9 August.
- On December 21, 1993, the year 1993 was also declared the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples by the UNGA.
- The goal of International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is to understand and preserve indigenous languages, and their practices and philosophy, along with science.

Source: Down to Earth

Nation celebrates 80th anniversary of Quit India Movement

Why in News:

- On 8 August 2022, the 80th anniversary of the Quit India Movement, which is considered an important milestone in the history of the freedom struggle, has been made across the nation.

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key points:

- The Quit India Movement is considered to be a peaceful and non-violent movement whose aim was only to urge the British to leave India and provide independence.
- On August 8, 1942, Mahatma Gandhi called for the end of British rule and with this, the Quit India Movement was started in the session of the All-India Congress Committee in Mumbai.
- During the Quit India Movement, Gandhiji gave the slogan "Do or Die" to the people of India in his speech at Gwalia Tank Maidan, presently known as August Kranti Maidan.
- Quit India Movement was started all over India in three phases in which-
  1. The first phase of the movement included urban uprisings, strikes, boycotts, and dharnas.
  2. In the second phase of the movement, rural areas were included in the movement.
  3. The third and final phase of the movement involved the formation of national governments or parallel governments in different areas such as Ballia, Tamluk, Satara, etc.
- The main demands of the Quit India Movement included the demand to end the British rule in India with immediate effect to get the support of Indians in the Second World War against fascism and to form an interim government after the British left India.

Source: The Hindu

National Handloom Day

Why in News:

- In India, National Handloom Day is celebrated every year on 7 August with the aim of honoring the handloom weavers.

key points:

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- Handloom is a symbol of our cultural heritage and is also an important source of livelihood.
- National Handloom Day of the year 2022 is the 8th National Handloom Day.
- This year the theme of National Handloom Day 2022 is "Handloom, an Indian Heritage".
- The Government of India has taken several initiatives aimed at promoting the handloom industry in India, which include government schemes like the Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme, National Handloom Development Programme, and Comprehensive Welfare Scheme for Handloom Weavers and Yarn Supply Scheme.
- The objective of National Handloom Day is to bring awareness to the handloom industry as well as to honor the weavers.
- Handloom industry is the largest industry in India which is an important source of employment in rural areas of India.
- Indian handloom sector exports its products to more than 20 countries of the world like the UK, USA, France, Germany, and South Africa.
- At present 70% of all weavers and allied workers in the handloom industry in India are women.
- In the year 1905, on 7th August, the Swadeshi Movement was started in Calcutta Town Hall in protest against the partition of Bengal by the British Government. declared as.

Source: Hindustan Times

Chabahar Day convention begins in Mumbai

Why in News:

- The Chabahar Day convention was inaugurated in Mumbai by Union Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Minister of State for Shipping Shripad Naik.

key points:

- The Chabahar Day opening ceremony held in Mumbai was attended by dignitaries from Kazakhstan, Iran, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Afghanistan.
- A tripartite agreement was signed by India, Iran, and Afghanistan in May 2016, which envisaged the setting up of a transit and transport corridor in Iran as a regional hub for maritime transport using the Chabahar port.

- Chabahar Port is located in the Gulf of Oman, which is located on the southeast coast of Iran.
- Chabahar port connects the western coast of India to the southern coast of Iran.
- Chabahar port has been declared a trade-free zone by Iran.
- Chabahar port is also a part of the International North-South Transport Corridor network connecting India.
- The Chabahar port is also politically important to India as China is rapidly advancing its own Belt and Road Initiative under the One Belt One Road project, and the Chabahar port is being developed with Chinese investment in Pakistan as the Gwadar port.

Source: Economic Times

World Day 2022 Against Trafficking in Persons

Why in News:

- World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is observed every year on 30 July with the aim to make people aware of trafficking.

key points:

- The World Day Against Trafficking in Persons aims to educate people that trafficking in people is considered a crime, which includes the exploitation of women and children for acts such as forced labor and sex acts.
- The theme of this year's 2022 World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is "Use and Abuse of Technology".
- Human trafficking, also called the trafficking of persons, is a modern-day form of slavery that involves the illegal exploitation of persons for the purpose of labor, sexual exploitation, or activities in which others benefit financially.
- Human trafficking is a crime in which women, children, and men are exploited for multiple purposes such as forced labor and sex.
- In 2010, the Global Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations General Assembly urged the governments of the world to make coordinated and sustained efforts to defeat the menace.

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- In the year 2013, a high-level meeting was convened by the United Nations General Assembly to work on a global action plan, in which a resolution A/RES/68/192 was adopted by the member states and on 30 July, the World Against Trafficking in Persons. designated as the day.
- Provisions related to human trafficking in India
    - Article 23 deals with human trafficking and forced labor
    - Article 24 forbids the employment of children below 14 years of age in hazardous work such as factories and mines.
    - Sections 370 and 370A of the IPC provide comprehensive measures to combat the menace of human trafficking, including physical abuse or sexual exploitation of children in any form, including slavery, servitude, or forcible removal of organs, for exploitation of children. smuggling is included.
    - Sections 372 and 373 of IPC deal with the sale and purchase of girls for the purpose of prostitution.

Source: Indian Express

Sports

Neeraj Chopra wins Lausanne Diamond League

Why in News:

- Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra has become the first Indian to win the Lausanne Diamond League.

key points:

- In his first attempt, Neeraj Chopra won the title with a throw of 89.08m.
- The 89.08m throw by Neeraj Chopra was the third-best effort of his career.
- Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Jacob Wadledge finished second with a best throw of 85.88m, while USA's Curtis Thompson was third with a best effort of 83.72m.
- Chopra, 24, qualified for the Diamond League final in Zurich on 7 and 8 September, becoming the first Indian to do so.
- By Neeraj Chopra Earlier in July this year, Chopra brought glory to India by winning a silver in the javelin throw final becoming only the second Indian and the first male track and field athlete to win a medal at the World Championships.

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Source: Livemint

England's James Anderson became the most successful pacer of international cricket

Why in News:

- James Anderson of England is become the first fast bowler in international cricket to reach 950 wickets.

key points:

- This historic feat was achieved by James Anderson on the third day of the second Test against South Africa.
- Glenn McGrath of Australia's record of 949 wickets has been broken by James Anderson.
- The most successful bowlers in international cricket are Sri Lankan spin, Muttiah Muralitharan (1,347 wickets), late Australian spin Shane Warne (1,001 wickets), and Indian spin great Anil Kumble (956 wickets).
- International cricket debut was made in the year 2003 by James Anderson, who has taken 951 wickets in all formats at an average of 27.18.
- Out of 951 wickets taken by James Anderson, 664 wickets have been taken in Test cricket.
- James Anderson is the only fast bowler to take more than 600 Test wickets.
- James Anderson is the only pacer to take 269 wickets in the ODI format.

Source: Indian Express

Sports Ministry to host "Meet the Champion Project" on National Sports Day

Why in News:

- On National Sports Day, the "Meet the Champion Project" will be hosted by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in 26 schools in the country.

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key points:

- Commonwealth Games and World Championship gold medalist Nikhat Zareen, Paralympics medalist Bhavna Patel and Tokyo Olympics medalist Manpreet Singh are some of the renowned athletes participating in the Meet the Champion project.
- The innovative school visit program "Meet the Champion Project" was launched in December 2021 by Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra.
- Champion Athlete aims to give school children an overall inspirational boost on the go by sharing their experiences, life lessons, and dietary advice.
- Sports Authority of India will also organize National Sports Day this year under the theme "Sports as an enabler for an inclusive and fit society" as part of the Fit India program.

Source: Indian Express

Judo World Championships

Why in News:

- Indian judoka Linthoi Chanambam scripted history by winning India's first medal at the Judo World Championships with a gold in the women's 57kg category at the World Judo Cadet (U18) Championships.

key points:

- The 15-year-old judoka won the medal after defeating Brazil's Bianca Reis in the final of the 57kg category.
- Linthoi Chanambam has become the first Indian judoka to win a medal in any age group at the World Championships.
- It is also a part of the TOPS program of the Government of India.

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- Linthoi Chanambam came into the limelight in the year 2017 with a gold medal in the Sub-Junior National Judo Championship and since then she has been training at JSW's Inspire Institute of Sports Judo programme.
- The gold medal in the National Cadet Judo Championship in the year 2021 was won by Linthoi Chanambam.
- After the year 2021, the bronze medal was won by Linthoi Chanambam at the Asia-Oceania Cadet Judo Championship in Beirut, Lebanon.

Source: Indian Express

Last Panghal: India's first under-20 world champion in wrestling

Why in News:

- Haryana's 17-year-old wrestler Last Panghal defeated Kazakhstan's Atlin Shagayeva 8-0 to win the Under-20 World Champion title.

key points:

- Last Panghal is the first Indian woman to become the under-20 world champion.
- The Under-20 World Wrestling Championship was held in Sofia, Bulgaria.
- With an early 11–0 win over German amary Olivia, the last Panghal has won due to his superior technical prowess.
- The last Panghal is a resident of Bhagana village in the Hisar district of Haryana.
- Last Panghal won a gold medal at the Asian Junior Championships (2022) and a bronze medal at the Cadet World Championships (2021).
- Last year, Panghal also won a silver medal at the U23 Asian Championships.
- In her second match, Ayaka Kimura of Japan was defeated by an Indian wrestler by a fall.
- Panghal faced Ukrainian Natalia Klivchutska in the semi-final match and won the match decisively with a score of 11–2.
- Other wrestlers from India participating in the final have not won a gold medal.
- Two-time U-17 world champion Sonam Malik had to settle for a silver medal after losing to Nonoka Ozaki in the 62kg final.
- India's Priyanka lost in the 65kg final to Japan's Mahiro Yoshitake by a score of 0-8.

Source: Indian Express

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UEFA League

Why in News:

- Young striker Manisha Kalyan has become the first Indian footballer to play in the UEFA Women's Champions League.

key points:

- Manisha Kalyan made her debut for Apollon Ladies FC at the European club competition in Angomi, Cyprus.
- Earlier in November 2021, Manisha Kalyan, the 20-year-old became the first Indian footballer to score a goal in the AFC Women's Club Championship.
- There was an impressive performance by Manisha Kalyan for the national team and Gokulam Kerala in the Indian Women's League (IWL).
- Manisha Kalyan Gokulam is the second player from Kerala to have signed for an overseas club after Dangme Grace joined Uzbek outfit FC Nassau.
- Earlier Manisha Kalyan was awarded the AIFF Women's Footballer of the Year for the year 2021-22 season.

Source: Indian Express

Northeast Olympics

Why in News:

- The upcoming second edition of the Northeast Olympics will be hosted by the state of Meghalaya from October 30.

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key points:

- A meeting between the Meghalaya Department of Sports and Youth Affairs and the Northeast Olympic Association was held in Meghalaya to finalize the list of sports subjects.
- The first edition of the Northeast Olympic Games was held in Manipur in the year 2018 with 12 disciplines.
- In the new edition of the Northeast Olympics, around 4,000 participants from eight northeastern states will participate in 18 disciplines at 13 venues spread across Shillong.
- Participants will compete in disciplines such as Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Boxing, Football, Judo, Karate, Shooting, Swimming, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Tennis, Wushu, Cycling (Mountain Bike), Golf, Weightlifting, and Wrestling.
- The Chief Minister of the State of Meghalaya is Conrad Sangma, and the Governor is Satya Pal Malik, and the capital of the State of Meghalaya is Shillong.

Source: Indian Express

44th Chess Olympiad

Why in News:

- The team Uzbekistan has won the gold medal in the open section of the 44th Chess Olympiad.

key points:

- Team Armenia won a silver medal in the 44th Chess Olympiad while the India-2 team won a bronze medal in the open category.

- In the 44th Chess Olympiad this year, Ukraine won the gold medal in the women's category, while the silver medal has been won by Team Georgia, and the bronze medal has been won by the India-1 team.
- The 44th Chess Olympiad was organized by the International Chess Federation or World Chess Federation (FIDE) in Chennai from July 28 to August 09, 2022.
- Held since 1927, this prestigious competition has been hosted for the first time in India and after 30 years in Asia.
- The 44th Chess Olympiad included Open and Women's tournaments this year with a total number of 1,737 participants, with 937 in the Open and 800 in the Women's event.
- The opening and closing ceremony of the 44th Chess Olympiad has been held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Chennai.
- The International Chess Federation (FIDE) is a non-governmental organization that is the governing body of the game of chess and regulates all international chess competitions.
- The International Chess Federation was recognized as a global sporting organization by the International Olympic Committee in the year 1999.
- The International Chess Federation is currently headquartered in Lausanne but was started in Paris in 1924 under the motto of Jens Una Samus.

Source: Livemint

Commonwealth Games 2022

Why in the news:

• The 22nd Commonwealth Games was recently held at the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham, England. In this year's Commonwealth Games, India won a total of 61 medals and finished fourth in the medal table.

• This includes 22 gold, 16 silver and 23 bronze medals. After the success in Tokyo Olympics, Indian athletes also made their country proud in the Commonwealth Games.

Key Points:

• India won seven medals in Tokyo Olympics. So naturally expectations were high in the Commonwealth Games.

• Wrestlers, boxers, weightlifters, badminton players, judokas, track and field athletes, lawn balls men's and women's teams, and women's cricket teams who raised their game and won 61 medals including 22 golds for India.

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• Sanketh Sargar, a clay player from Maharashtra who was injured at the time, won the silver medal without retreating. Mirabai Chanu won the gold medal by putting her experience to the test.

Commonwealth Games 2022: Overall Medal Tally

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	**Australia**	**67**	**57**	**54**	**178**
2	England	57	66	53	176
3	Canada	26	32	34	92
4	**India**	**22**	**16**	**23**	**61**
5	New Zealand	20	12	17	49
6	Scotland	13	11	27	51
7	Nigeria	12	9	14	35
8	Wales	8	6	14	28
9	South Africa	7	9	11	27
10	Malaysia	8	8	8	24

Source: Loksatta

ONGC Para Games 2022

Why in News:

- The 4th ONGC Para Games was inaugurated by Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing & Urban Affairs at Thyagaraj Sports Complex in New Delhi.

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key points:

- ONGC Para Games is a special human resource initiative to provide equal opportunities to the disabled in all walks of corporate life.
- This Para sport was further conceptualized by ONGC in 2017 to mainstream the differently abled persons in their roles.
- Athletes from IOCL, BPCL, HPCL, EIL, OIL, and GAIL have been roped in by ONGC to be a part of the 3rd edition of ONGC Para Games at Gandhinagar.
- In this current fourth edition, 192 will be participated by ONGC as well as seven other PSUs which include IOCL (21), GAIL (15), BPCL (13), MRPL (11), EIL (9), OIL (8) and HPCL (6).
- In this year's ONGC Para Games 275 Persons with Disabilities (PWD) - employees of eight Central Oil and Gas PSUs - participated in the 4th ONGC Para Games being organized by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) during 2-4 August 2022. have been taken.
- Para Games in an international format were organized by ONGC with the assistance of the Paralympic Committee of India from its first edition in the year 2017.

Source: Navbharat Times

Paris Olympics 2024

Why in News:

- "Games Wide Open" was unveiled by the organizers of the 2024 Paris Olympics as their official slogan.

key points:

- The year 2024 Summer Olympics will be held from July 26 to August 11, 2024.

- The Paris Olympics organizers released their official slogan with a video promising the Olympics and Paralympics will be "faster", "higher" and "stronger" - as well as "more inclusive, more brothers, more beautiful".
- Athletes will compete in a total of 329 events in 32 sports at the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- Paris will host the Summer Olympics for the third time in 2024, which is also the centenary of the 1924 Paris Games.
- The French capital Paris was also the host city of the second edition of the modern Olympic Games in 1900.
- The International Olympic Committee was established on 23 June 1894, with its headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- The president of the International Olympic Committee is Thomas Bach.

Source: Indian Express

Reports and Indexes

'Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022' Report

Why in News:

- The International Labor Organization has published a paper titled "Global Employment Trends 2022 for Youth: Investing in Youth Transforming the Future" (ILO).

Key Points:

- Young women underperform in the employment-to-population ratio (EPR), showing that they are approximately 1.5 times more likely to be employed than younger males, according to a report published by the International Labor Organization.
- The research states that, compared to its value in 2020, the youth employment participation rate decreased by 0.9% in the first nine months of 2021, whereas it climbed by 2% for adults during the same time period.
- In 2021 and 2022, young Indian women had a relative decline in employment compared to young Indian men.

- In India, all schools were shut down for around 18 months as a result of Covid, and only 8% of students in rural regions and 23% of children in urban areas have proper access to online education, according to the research.
- According to the survey, teachers in non-government institutions frequently earn significantly less money than their counterparts in public schools.
- By virtue of the Treaty of Versailles, the International Labor Organization was created in 1919 as a subsidiary of the League of Nations, and in 1946 it was admitted as the first specialized agency of the United Nations.
- Geneva, Switzerland is home to the International Labor Organization's main office.
- The International Labor Organization also publishes the following reports:
    1. world of work report
    2. World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2022
    3. world social security report
    4. social communication report
    5. global wage report

Source: Indian Express

New Appointments

Argentine Rear Admiral Guillermo Pablo Rios named head of UNMOGIP

Why in News:

- Rear Admiral Guillermo Pablo Ros, a seasoned member of the Argentine navy, has been appointed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as the UNMOGIP's Chief of Mission and Chief Military Observer in India and Pakistan.

Key Points:

- Major General Jose Eladio Alcán of Uruguay has handed over command of the mission to Rear Admiral Guillermo Pablo Ro of Argentina. The UNMOGIP is almost finished.

- Rear Admiral Guillermo Pablo Ros has reportedly been a member of the Argentine Navy for a significant amount of time since joining as a middle sailor in 1988 after graduating from the Naval Academy.
- Prior to 2022, Rear Admiral Guillermo Pablo Roa was the General Director of Education, Training, and Doctrine for the Joint Staff.
- During the years 2018 and 2020–21, Rear Admiral Guillermo Pablo Rosas held the positions of Marine Infantry Fleet Commander and Marine Infantry Commander (Years 2020-2021).
- In 2002–2003, Rear Admiral Guillermo Pablo Ros took part in an exchange program with the Argentine Marines while serving as a training officer in a US Marine Corps regiment.
- As of November 2021, 111 people from UNMOGIP, including 68 civilians and 43 mission specialists, were on the ground.

Source: Business Standard

Nitish Kumar took oath as Chief Minister

Why in the news:

• After Maharashtra, there has been a major political upheaval in Bihar and here Nitish Kumar has once again taken the oath of office of the Chief Minister after fighting with the BJP. He has broken the alliance with the BJP and formed a grand alliance with the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and other allied parties. Along with Nitish Kumar, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav has also sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister.

Key Points:

• 21 months ago, Nitish Kumar formed the government with BJP. At that time he was sworn in as Chief Minister. Nitish Kumar is going to take oath as Chief Minister for the eighth time in the last 17 years.

Who supports Nitish Kumar?

• Meanwhile, Nitish Kumar reacts to the media after meeting Bihar Governor. Nitish Kumar said that with the help of 164 MLAs from 7 parties and independents, the grand alliance is forming the government in Bihar.

• In Bihar, RJD has 79, JDU 45, Congress 19, Left 16 and an Independent has 160 seats. These parties have supported Nitish Kumar to become the Chief Minister.

Party strength of Bihar

• In the 2020 elections, the NDA got a marginal majority in 125 seats in the 243-seat Bihar Assembly. BJP got 74 seats, Nitish Kumar's JDU got 43 seats, Vikassheel Insan Party got 4 seats and Hindustan Awam Party Secular got 4 seats.

• On the other hand, RJD and its component parties were successful in 110 seats. RJD emerged as the largest party in Bihar with 75 seats. While Congress got 19 seats and Left got 16 seats. Owaisi's MIM also got 5 MLAs elected in Bihar, 4 of which went to RJD.

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Source: Lokmat

Justice Uday Umesh Lalit has been appointed as the 49th Chief Justice of India (CJI).

Why in News:
• Justice Uday Umesh Lalit has been appointed as the 49th Chief Justice of India.
key points:
• Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, a judge of the Supreme Court, has been appointed as the Chief Justice of India by the President in the exercise of the powers conferred by clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution of India.
• Earlier in August 2014, Justice Uday Umesh Lalit was appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court of India from the Bar Council.
• Under the provisions of Article 124(2) of the Constitution of India, the judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President after consultation with the Supreme Court and certain judges of the High Courts in the States (as many judges as the President deems fit for the purpose).
• **According to the Indian Constitution, the following** qualifications are necessary for the Chief Justice-
1. He should be a citizen of India.
2. He should be a Judge of a High Court for at least 5 years, or he should be an advocate of a High Court or different Courts combined for 10 years, or in the opinion of the President, he should be a respected jurist.
3. The Constitution of India does not specify any minimum age for the appointment of a judge.
Source: PIB

CSIR appoints Nallathambi Kalaiseelvi as its first woman Director General

Why in News:

- Senior Electrochemical Scientist, Nallathambi Kalaiseelvi has been appointed as the first woman Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

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key points:

- The appointment of Nallathambi Kalaiseelvi will be from the date on which he assumes charge of the post or until further orders, or for a period of two years, whichever is earlier.
- Nallathambi Kalaiseelvi will succeed Shekhar Mande, the current Chairman of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.
- Prior to this appointment, Kalaiselvi has spent more than 25 years of research work primarily on electrochemical power systems and in particular, electrochemical evaluation of in-house prepared electrode materials for the development of electrode materials and their suitability in energy storage device assemblies.
- Nallathambi Kalaiseelvi's research has ranged from lithium and lithium batteries to supercapacitors and waste-to-money powered electrodes and electrolytes for energy storage and electrocatalytic applications.
- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is a pan-India institute comprising an active network of 37 national laboratories, 39 remote centers, 3 innovative campuses, and 5 units.
- CSIR was established on 26 September 1942 as an autonomous body under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, and its headquarters is located in New Delhi.
- The ex-officio chairman of CSIR or Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is the Prime Minister of India.

Source: Indian Express

Jagdeep Dhankhar elected as the 14th Vice President of India

Why in News:

- Jagdeep Dhankhar was elected as the 14th Vice President of India.

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key points:

- Jagdeep Dhankhar was made a candidate from BJP by NDA.
- Jagdeep Dhankhar will assume his office on August 11 after the tenure of the current Vice President Venkaiah Naidu ends.
- A total of 725 MPs registered their votes for the Vice-Presidential election and 63 MPs did not participate in the Vice-Presidential Election 2022.
- Jagdeep Dhankhar got a total of 528 votes in the Vice-Presidential election, while the opposition candidate Margaret Alva could get 208 MPs votes.
- Jagdeep Dhankhar was born on 18 May 1951 in an agricultural household in a remote village in the Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan.
- Jagdeep Dhankhar completed his schooling at Sainik School Chittorgarh and obtained a law degree from Rajasthan University.
- Jagdeep Dhankhar was working as a Lok Sabha MP from Jhunjhunu from 1989 to 1991 before becoming the Vice President and after that, he took over as the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs from 1990 to 1991.
- After this Jagdeep Dhankhar worked as a member of the Legislative Assembly from Krishnagar, Rajasthan from the year 1993 to the year 1998, and from the year 2019 to the present Jagdeep Dhankhar is working as the Governor of West Bengal.
- According to Article 68 of the Indian Constitution, an election to fill a vacancy caused by the termination of the office of the Vice-President must be held before the expiration of the term of the outgoing Vice-President.
- The Election Commission of India superintends, directs, and controls the conduct of the election of the Vice-President under the President and Vice-President's Election Act, 1952 and the President and Vice-President's Election Rules, 1974 as well as Article 324 of the Constitution.
- The Vice-President is elected by an electoral college consisting of elected members of the Rajya Sabha, nominated members of the Rajya Sabha, and elected members of the Lok Sabha.

Source: The Hindu

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Important Personality

Miss Diva Universe 2022

Why in News:

- Karnataka's Divita Rai has been crowned Miss Diva Universe 2022 in a star-studded event.

key points:

- Divita Rai has been crowned as her successor by Miss Universe 2021 Harnaaz Sandhu.
- With this, 23-year-old Divita Rai will represent India at the 71st Miss Universe 2022 pageant.
- Divita Rai was born in Mangalore and studied at Sir JJ College of Architecture, Mumbai.
- Divita Rai is an architect and model by profession.
- On the same occasion, Pragyanya Ayyagari Liva of Telangana has been elected Miss Diva Supranational 2022 and Ojaswi Sharma Miss Popular Choice 2022.
- She also participated in the Miss Diva Universe pageant in the year 2021 by Divita Rai, where Harnaaz Sandhu became the winner and she was Miss Diva 2nd runner up.
- Divita Rai considers 1994 Miss Universe winner Sushmita Sen as her role model.

Source: Navbharat Times

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.

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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

Dadabhai Naoroji's London home gets Blue Plaque honor

Why in News:

- Dadabhai Naoroji's London home will receive a 'Blue Plaque', an honor reserved for notable personalities who have lived and worked in London.

key points:

- Dadabhai Naoroji was the first Asian to be elected as a Member of Parliament in Britain.
- The Blue Plaque scheme, run by the English Heritage Charity, honors the historical significance of particular buildings across London.
- Dadabhai Naoroji is known as the "Grand Old Man of India", Dadabhai Naoroji moved to Washington House, 72 Anerley Park, Penge, Bromley in the year 1897.
- Earlier Blue Plaque was built in the houses of Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Mahatma Gandhi, Sri Aurobindo, Jawaharlal Nehru, and BR Ambedkar.
- In 1863, the idea of a commemorative plaque scheme was introduced by House of Commons MP William Ewart, which was adopted by the Society of Arts three years later.

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- In the early 20th century, a more formal selection criterion for the plaque scheme was introduced by the London County Council (LCC) and the scheme was renamed 'Indication of the House of Historical Interest in London'.
- As of 1986, English Heritage took charge of the planning and English Heritage has put up more than 360 plaques in over 900 buildings in London.

Source: The Hindu

Statue of Marwari warrior Veer Durgadas Rathore

Why in News:

- Rajnath Singh, the defence minister, debuted the statue of "Veer Durgadas Rathore" in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

Key Points:

- Veer Durgadas Rathore, a Marwari warrior, was born 385 years ago today.
- Maharaja Jaswant Singh passed away in the 17th century, leaving Marwar (Jodhpur) under the sole control of the Rathor dynasty, headed by Veer Durgadas Rathore.
- General Durgadas Rathore served as a Rathor Rajput for the Kingdom of Marwar from 13 August 1638 until 22 November 1718.
- Maharaja Jaswant Singh is credited with keeping the Rathor dynasty in control of Marwar, India, after his death in the 17th century.
- Veer Durgadas Rathore, a Marwari warrior, oversaw the Rathore army during the Rajput War (1679–1707), and he also had a significant impact on the Rajput Rebellion (1708–1710), which was a crucial factor in the fall of the Mughal Empire.
- Veer Durgadas Rathore, a Marwari warrior, and Raja Jai Singh II of Jaipur were chosen as the rebellion's leaders.
- Veer Durgadas Rathore, a Marwari warrior, defeated the Mughals on numerous occasions and forced numerous Mughal officials to offer Chauth as a kind of tribute.

Source: Business Standard

Savitri Jindal Asia's richest woman

Why in News:

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- India's Savitri Jindal has become the richest woman in Asia at present.

key points:

- Savitri Jindal has overtaken Yang Huayan of China to become the richest woman in Asia at present.
- Savitri Jindal is the richest woman in India and Asia with a net worth of $18 billion.
- Savitri Jindal is the only woman on the list of 10 richest Indians in the year 2021 list released by Forbes.
- In the year 2015, Savitri Jindal was named as the Emeritus Chairperson of OP Jindal Group under her husband Om Prakash Jindal at the age of 55.
- According to a Bloomberg report, Yang Huiyan was the richest woman in Asia for the last 5 years.
- OP Jindal Group was established in the year 1952 by Om Prakash Jindal who has served as India's largest business organization active in various key sectors of the Indian economy over the last three decades.
- The rankings are provided by Forbes based on four parameters sales, profit, assets and market value.

Source: Livemint

Miscellaneous

Akasa Air: India's latest airline launches with Mumbai-Ahmedabad flight

Why in News:

- Akasa Air's first flight from Mumbai to Ahmedabad was inaugurated.

key points:

- Akasa Air is the 7th scheduled airline under the brand name SNV Aviation, with its corporate headquarters located in Mumbai with Boeing Max-8 aircraft.
- Akasa Air aims to be a low-cost airline carrier with a single fleet and all economy seats.

- Akasa Air aims to expand its operations to 72 aircraft in five years, which will lead to a significant increase in the number of domestic airlines in India.
- Akasa Air has registered significant growth in the seven years since its launch in 2015 by Vistara, a Tata Sons-Singapore airline joint venture.
- Akasa airline is founded by Rakesh Jhunjhunwala along with aviation stalwarts Vinay Dubey and Aditya Ghosh.
- Vinay Dubey was previously the CEO of Jet Airways till April 2019, while Aditya Ghosh, previously headed IndiGo.

Source: The Hindu

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Complete Course On MPSC Rajyaseva 2023 - Prelims & Mains (भाषा - मराठी)

जर तुम्ही MPSC राज्यसेवा 2023 साठी तयारी करत असाल, तर BYJU'S Exam Prep तुमच्यासाठी घेऊन येत आहे "One Stop Solution"

नवीन परीक्षेच्या पॅटर्नवर आधारित संपूर्ण अभ्यासक्रम	नव्याने जोडलेल्या विषयांचे विशेष कव्हरेज
मुख्य परीक्षा टेस्ट सिरिज, उत्तर लेखनाचा सराव आणि उत्तर पत्रिकेचे मूल्यांकन	पूर्व परीक्षेसाठी तपशीलवार विश्लेषणासह टेस्ट सिरिज
डेलि क्लासेस, डेलि क्विज, नोट्स व सर्व शंकांचे निरसण	चालू घडामोडींवर आधारित दृष्टिकोन विकसित करण्यासाठी विशेष क्लासेस
उच्च दर्जेदार रेकॉर्ड केलेले व्हिडिओ	व्यवस्थित आणि नियोजनावर आधारित क्रमवार विषयांची मांडणी

डॉ. सचिन भस्के
सामान्य विज्ञान व विज्ञान आणि तंत्रज्ञान तज्ञ

रितेश खिरड
अर्थव्यवस्था आणि राज्यव्यवस्था विषय तज्ञ्

वैभव राऊत
इतिहास आणि चालू घडामोडी तज्ञ

विशाल सुतार
मराठी व्याकरण आणि आकलन

अनिकेत जाधव
भूगोल , राज्यशास्त्र आणि चालू घडामोडी तज्ञ