Weekly Current Affairs

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(1 to 7 August 2022)

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International Relations

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.

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

Sakurajima Volcanic Eruption: Volcano Erupts for three days

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

National

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.

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

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).

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.
- 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.

The Ministry of Steel constitutes an 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 All India Induction Furnaces Association, Sponge Iron Manufacturers Association, Institute for Stainless Steel Development Association, Alloy Steel Producers Association, Steel Re-rollers Association, Pellet Manufacturers Association, Indian Ferro, 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.

Nilekani Center is set up by IIT-M 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.

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 AI4 India 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

8 Years of 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

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

Kargil War: Point 5140 in Dras of Kargil Sector named as Gun Hill

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'.

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

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

State

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.

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

Bihar College Astronomy Laboratory on 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.

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

Aurangabad: 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 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, making a total of 30 districts

Why in News:

- In an effort to streamline administrative processes, the Mamata Banerjee-led 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.

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.

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: Economy

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).
- 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 Bank of India launches 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.

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:

- 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.

Source: Business Standard

Personality

Indian woman Savitri Jindal Asia's richest woman

Why in News:

- 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

Science & Technology

Earth's shortest day: complete rotation in less than 24 hours

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.
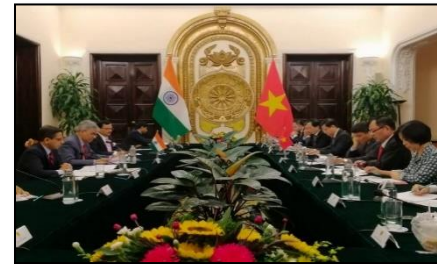
Source: Indian Express

Defence

3rd India-Vietnam bilateral military exercise "East VINBAX 2022" begins in Haryana

Why in News:

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

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

Sports

4th ONGC Para Games 2022 inaugurated by Shri Hardeep Singh Puri

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.

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

'Games wide open' unveiled as official slogan for 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

Important Days

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.
- 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

Awards

Canadian Jeffrey Armstrong receives '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

Health

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

Union Government set up a task force to monitor the Monkeypox situation in the country

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

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