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Weekly Current Affairs 2nd Week September 2022

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Important News: State

Digital India Mission

Why in News:

- Uttar Pradesh, with 9.12 million cases, is at the top in the number of disposal and submission of cases through the e-prosecution portal managed by the central government under the Digital India Mission.

key points:

- As of the end of August, Madhya Pradesh is second with 2.31 million, followed by Bihar and Gujarat.
- The e-prosecution portal launched by the states two years ago is an initiative of the Ministries of Home Affairs, IT, and Law to help the courts and the prosecution system to expedite criminal prosecution in heinous crimes.
- The portal provides e-communication between the Police Department and the Directorate of Prosecution under the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) which enables the transfer of data between courts, police, prisons, and forensic science laboratories.
- According to the latest data, the state of Uttar Pradesh also tops in cases related to crime against women and cybercrime as well as in cases related to Indian Penal Code (IPC) incidents involving conviction and seizure of illegal firearms.
- The Uttar Pradesh government aims to achieve the punishment of 1,000 convicts and crimes against women under the POCSO Act in 100 days.
- The e-prosecution mobile app is also being developed by the government which will involve digitization of all judicial processes of prosecutors in courts.
- The objective of the e-prosecution portal is to monitor the progress of the officers in all the districts to maintain continuous progress in the prosecution of important cases and thus instill a sense of confidence among the people.

Source: Indian Express

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'Jail Ka Khana' in Farrukhabad, UP gets a 5-star FSSAI rating

Why in News:

- Fatehgarh Central Jail in Uttar Pradesh's Farrukhabad district has been accorded a five-star rating by the Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for the quality of food served to inmates.

key points:

- The jail has been awarded a five-star 'Eat Right Certificate' by a third-party audit empaneled by FSSAI.
- It is a recognition of the quality and hygiene of the food, which means that quality food items are being provided to the prisoners in the jail.
- As per FSSAI's "Eat Right" accreditation, 1,100 inmates in Farrukhabad Jail are provided clean and healthy food.
- The jail administration has modernized it by installing large roti-making machines, dough kneading, machines, and machine-cutters for vegetables, earlier the help of prisoners was taken in preparing roti, vegetables, and pulses.
- Earlier it was time-consuming as it was a manual process and about 50 prisoners were employed to prepare the food for each shift.

Source: Times of India

Mohla-Manpur-Ambag Chowki became the 29th district of Chhattisgarh

Why in News:

- Bhupesh Baghel, the chief minister of Chhattisgarh, officially declared the newly created district Mohala-Manpur-Ambagarh the 29th district in the state.

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Key Points:

- On this occasion, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel also introduced the district map.
- Rajnandgaon district has been divided into a new administrative entity called Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh outpost.
- The newly created district of Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh has been included to the Durg division.
- S Jayavardhan, an IAS officer from the 2014 batch, has been appointed as the district's first collector, and Yeduvalli Akshay Kumar will serve as the district's first SP.
- The newly created district now includes Ambagarh Chowki, Mohala, and Manpur as well as three tehsils, three development blocks, and three Janpad Panchayats.
- The new district has a physical area of 2 lakh 14 thousand 667 hectares and a total population of 2 lakh 83 thousand 947, with 1 lakh 79 thousand 662 scheduled tribe members, or 63.27 percent of the district's total population.
- The district has 13, 89 Patwari Halka, and 185 Gram Panchayats. There are also 13 Revenue Inspector Circles.
- There are 9 total police stations in the district, 2 assembly districts, and 497 total voting places.
- There are 499 villages in the district of Mohala-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki as a whole.

Source: Indian Express

3 Indian cities in the UNESCO Network of Learning Cities

Why in News:

- Three cities in India have been included in the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities, which includes two cities Thrissur and Nilambur in Kerala and the Warangal district of Telangana.

key points:

- Nilambur is a famous eco-tourism destination in Kerala, and the majority of its population is dependent on agriculture and allied industries.
- Thrissur is an important center of educational and research institutions and is considered the cultural capital of Kerala, Thrissur in particular is also known as the gold arts and jewelry industry.
- Warangal is a city with the rich cultural heritage of Telangana and is also a major tourist destination of the state.

- With the inclusion of Warangal, 2 districts of Telangana have been included in this list, earlier Ramappa temple of Mulugu district was included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- Ukraine's capital Kyiv, South African city Durban, and UAE city Sharjah have also been included in this list of UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities this year.
- In the year 2022, 77 cities from 44 countries of the world including India have been included in this list.
- Launched in the year 2013, the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC) is an international policy-based network.
- So far, 294 cities from 76 countries have been included in the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities list.

Source: The Hindu

'Samarth' e-governance portal

Why in News:

- An e-governance portal "Samarth" has been launched by the Uttarakhand Education Department.

key points:

- Samarth Portal provides all administrative and educational updates including information about entrance exams, salary structure, and appointments from five state universities and 140 public schools.
- This initiative has been started by the government to make the education system more transparent in the state.
- Samarth Portal also provides access to 40 academic study modules.
- Under this scheme, 200 assistant professors of science subjects will be sent to the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore for specialized training, while teachers from state universities will be given training at IIM Kashipur.
- Under this scheme, a teacher-sharing format connecting several private and government schools across the country will also be implemented by the government to provide quality education to the students.
- Earlier the following schemes have been implemented by the Uttarakhand government-
    - Chief Minister Solar Self Employment Scheme
    - Hans Jal Dhara Scheme
    - Integrated Model Agriculture Village Scheme (Integrated Model Agriculture Village Scheme)
    - Chief Minister Entrepreneur Player Upgradation Scheme
    - snow guard scheme
    - e-FIR service

- 1064 Anti-Corruption Application App
- Chief Minister Self Employment Scheme

Source: Times of India

Tripura sets up India's first organic villages

Why in News:

- The first modified organic village in India has been established in Tripura, the nation's first state to do so.

Key Points:

- The usage of chemical fertilizers has decreased, and the Diaspora village in Tripura has transitioned to a lifestyle and livelihood based on nature.
- 64 households live in Diaspora and rely on fishing and agriculture for their livelihoods.
- After embracing the climate change mitigation strategy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Diaspora is one of Tripura's five successful Bio-Villages 2.0.
- The Tripura government has set a goal of creating 100 organic communities throughout the state.
- The Bio Village Project's goal is to enable rural communities to have holistic socioeconomic development by offering sustainable livelihood and food security.
- The project helps local communities produce solar-powered agricultural machinery, energy-efficient electrical appliances, biogas, and biofertilizers.
- The project's primary goal is to promote green technologies for the sustainable production of goods connected to agricultural and adjacent industries, such as solar water pumps, biomass cook stoves, and biogas plants.

Source: Times of India

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UP: Bharataul becomes the first village in the state where every house has RO water

Why in News:

- Bharataul has distinguished itself as the first village in Uttar Pradesh to offer RO water to every residence.

Key Points:

- Every family in the Bithiri Chainpur block of Bareilly, which has a population of roughly 7,000, has access to clean and sterile RO water. This is where Bharataul is situated.
- The Adarsh Gram Panchayat program has installed RO so that the village will have access to clean drinking water.
- Four RO plants have already been placed in the hamlet as part of this plan, and more RO plants are now being built.
- The main supply tanks are connected to the RO plant installed as part of this program, which aids in supplying each family with clean water.
- The reduction of water-borne illnesses in the hamlet is the main objective of this plan.
- The osmosis or osmosis concept underlies how the RO system operates.
- The osmosis principle states that in order to convert all of the salt water into fresh water, a small bit more external pressure must be applied to the tube in order to produce a larger volume of fresh water.
- To provide external pressure in the RO tube, an electrical motor and pump are used.

Source: Business Standard

Important News: India

NALSA Center for Citizen Services

Why in News:

- The Center for Citizen Services of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been officially opened by Chief Justice of India Uday Umesh Lalit.

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Key Points:

- In order to deliver cutting-edge legal services across the nation, NALSA will build up Legal Aid Centers for Citizens, Legal Aid Centers for NRIs, Training Centers, and Digital Command Centers in the space granted to them at Jaisalmer House.
- On November 9, 2021, the NALSA office, which had previously been housed in Jamnagar House, was moved to the Supreme Court of India's Additional Building Complex.
- The NALSA Center for Citizen Services will be used to deliver cutting-edge legal services in the nation for citizens, a Legal Aid Center for NRIs, a Training Center, and a Digital Command Center.
- In accordance with the Legal Services Authority Act of 1987, NALSA was established to offer free legal services to the less fortunate members of society.
- The NALSA Center for Citizen Assistance's goals is to organize Lok Adalat's for swift case settlement and to offer free legal services to qualified candidates.
- At the state and district levels, equivalent arrangements have been formed and presided over by the Chief Justice of the High Courts and the Chief Justices of the District Courts.
- NALSA Center for Citizen Services' primary goal is to expedite case resolution and lighten the load on the judicial system.
- NALSA was founded on November 9th, 1995 and has its headquarters in New Delhi.

Source: Times of India

Shikshak Parv 2022

Why in News:

- Union Ministers Annapurna Devi and Rajkumar Ranjan Singh founded Shikshak Parv with the goal of recognizing teachers and advancing the new National Education Policy (NEP).

Key Points:

- The Ministry of Education, CBSE, AICTE, and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship jointly conducted Shikshak Parv's official launch.
- Teachers are required to develop future action plans under the new National Education Policy 2020 based on the assumption of an integrated and multidisciplinary approach.
- Shikshak Parv will be crucial in creating a society based on values in order to foster the qualities of teacher-students and be in line with the NEP.

- The Ministry of Education has also given 19 principals and teachers of CBSE-affiliated schools the "CBSE Samman 2021-22 Awards for Excellence in Teaching and School Leadership."
- The National Screening and Selection Committee interviews candidates before choosing the prize winners, who are chosen based on their academic and professional accomplishments, volunteer work in the community, innovative teaching strategies, and effects on students' overall development.
- The All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) established the National Technical Instructor Award to honor outstanding instructors, educational excellence, institutional leadership, creativity, and uniqueness.

Source: Navbharat Times

Sammelan Manthan in Bengaluru

Why in News:

- 'Manthan' will be inaugurated in Bengaluru by the Union Minister for Roads, Transport, and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari.

key points:

- Manthan, organized by the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways, is a three-day Invitational Conference cum Public Expo.
- The purpose of the Manthan is to discuss several issues and opportunities in the Roads, Transport, and Logistics sector and engage with the State.
- The theme of Manthan is 'Ideas to Action: Towards a Smart, Sustainable, Road Infra, Mobility and Logistics Ecosystem'.
- The event will be attended by several Ministers of State, PWD, Departments of the Ministries of Transport and Industry, and senior government officials from these Ministries.
- The event will be discussed in three areas which include-
- First on the roads, covering road development, new materials, technology, and road safety.
- In the second phase, the transport sector, which includes EV and vehicle safety.
- In the third phase, alternative and futuristic mobility, including ropeways, multimodal logistics parks, ranges, and digital interventions.
- The 41st meeting of the Transport Development Council will also be organized during this program.
- The next-gen mobile app m Transport will also be launched during the Manthan event.

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Source: Economic Times

The government of India announced to rename Rajpath as Kartavya Path

Why in News:

- The name of Rajpath and Central Vista Lawn will now be Kartavya Path, according to the Indian government's announcement.

Key Points

- After a special conference to rename Rajpath and Central Vista Lawn in India, this decision was made.
- Previously, the Modi administration changed the name of the street from Racecourse Road to Lok Kalyan Marg where the Prime Minister's home is located.
- From Netaji's statue to President House, the entire route and area are covered by the Kartavya Path.
- The route in Delhi runs from India Gate to the National Stadium and from President House to Vijay Chowk on Raisina Hill.
- Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day speech, in which he highlighted the circumstances leading to the abolition of symbols and emblems associated with the colonial mindset, the decision was made.
- The government's large-scale Central Vista rehabilitation project includes Central Vista Avenue.
- Central Vista Avenue is prepared for opening when development on both sides of Rajpath has been finished.
- The Central Vista reconstruction project includes the new Prime Minister's residence and office, a new Vice President's enclave, a new triangular Parliament building, a common central secretariat, and revitalization of the three-kilometer Rajpath.
- State-specific food booths, red granite walkways with vegetation all around, vending zones, parking lots, and round-the-clock security will be present on Central Vista Avenue along Rajpath.

Source: Dainik Bhaskar

'SPARK' Program

Why in News:

- The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) has introduced SPARK, a novel project, to aid the research endeavors of India's up-and-coming brilliant brains.

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Key Points:

- The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences created the SPARK initiative to aid students' developing minds and advance an environment that values scientific research that is supported by evidence.
- Students will gain research skills and have their research ideas supported by the SPARK program.
- Supporting the research ideas of young students enrolled in all Indian Ayurveda colleges is the main goal of the SPARK initiative.
- The SPARK program's application process will be conducted online.
- The chosen students would receive financial aid of Rs 50,000 under this scholarship under the SPARK initiative.
- In accordance with this program, the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences seeks to forge successful partnerships in the fields of Ayurveda and related sciences with eminent academic research institutes like the IITs, ICMR, ICAR, JNU, BHU, and AIIMS.

Source: PIB

Important News: World

Homeopathy International Health Summit

Why in News:

- The first Homeopathy International Health Summit has been hosted by Dubai.

key points:

- The first Homoeopathy International Health Summit organized by Dubai aims to teach and promote the homeopathic system of medicine, medicines, and practices.
- The summit has been organized by Burnett Homeopathy Pvt Ltd.
- Homoeopathy is one of the greatest techniques to treat any disease or disease as its negative effects are very less compared to others.
- The first Global Homeopathy Health Summit is attended by a large number of top doctors from India and the world.
- By the year 2030, it is estimated that the health industry will need to spend between Rs 200 to 400 crore annually on account of climate change, as discussed in the first Global Homeopathy Health Summit.
- Many other schemes have also been started by the Government of India to advance homeopathic medicine systems.
- The meeting was addressed by Minister of State for Environment, Forestry, and Climate Change Ashwini Kumar Choubey at the first Homeopathy International Health Summit held in Dubai and was attended by Member of Parliament Manoj Tiwari, Former Indian Cricket Team Captain Mohammad Azharuddin, Former Indian Cricketer Shrishan.

Source: Indian Express

Important News: Economy

Status Report on India's External Debt 2021-22

Why in News:

- The 28th edition of the Status Report on India's External Debt 2021-22 has been released by the External Debt Management Unit (EDMU) in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

key points:

- India's external debt stood at US$620.7 billion at the end of March 2022, an increase of 8.2 percent from US$573.7 billion at the end of March 2021.
- According to the report, external debt as a ratio of GDP declined to 19.9 percent at the end of March 2022 from 21.2 percent a year ago.
- According to the report, the foreign exchange reserves as a ratio of external debt stood at 97.8 percent at the end of March 2022 from 100.6 percent a year ago.
- Long-term debt was estimated at US$ 499.1 billion, accounting for the largest share of 80.4 percent, while the short-term debt of US$ 121.7 billion accounted for 19.6 percent of such total debt.

- Short-term trade credit was mainly in the form of trade credit (96 percent) financing imports.
- As of the end of March 2022, the sovereign external debt (SED) amounted to US$130.7 billion, an increase of 17.1 percent from the year-ago level, reflecting the additional allocation of SDR by the IMF during 2021-22.
- SDRs increased from US$ 5.5 billion at the end of March 2021 to US$ 22.9 billion.
- The debt servicing ratio declined to 5.2 percent during 2021-22 from 8.2 percent during 2020-21 due to jumping in current receipts and a decline in debt service payments.
- From a cross-country perspective, India's external debt is very low, ranking 23rd globally.
- In terms of various credit vulnerability indicators, India's stability is better than that of low and middle-income countries (LMICs) as a group and many of them individually.

Source: PIB

India to emerge as the world's third-largest economy by 2029

Why in News:

- According to a report by the State Bank of India, India is set to become the third largest economy in the world by 2029.

key points:

- According to a report by the State Bank of India, India will overtake Germany in 2027 and emerge as the world's third-largest economy by 2029, surpassing Japan at the current rate of growth.
- The research report by SBI's Department of Economic Research said that the GDP growth for FY2023 is projected to be in the range of 6.7-7.7 percent, but to grow at 6-6.5 percent due to global uncertainties. have in common.
- According to the SBI report, the UK was overtaken by India as the fifth largest economy as early as December 2021.
- The share of India's GDP currently stands at 3.5 percent, from 2.6 percent in 2014, and is expected to cross 4 percent in 2027, which is Germany's current share of global GDP.
- However, India still lags behind most of the world's economies with respect to GDP per capita.
- According to World Bank data, India's per capita GDP was 2,277 Dollars in 2021, while the UK's per capita income was 47,334 Dollars.
- China's per capita income in 2021 was nearly six times that of India at 12,556 Dollars.

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Source: Economic Times

Important News: Defense

India and UK conduct counter ransomware exercise for 26 countries

Why in News:

- The National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and the UK Government jointly arranged the virtual cyber security exercise for 26 nations.

Key Points:

- The International Counter Ransomware Initiative - Resilience Working Group, which is led by India and is sponsored by British Aerospace (BAE) Systems, is a part of the Counter Ransomware exercise.
- These businesses constitute the final link in the public supply chain and are in charge of distributing electricity to residential customers.
- The Counter Ransomware Exercise Critical National Infrastructure also looks at how difficult it is to decide how to respond to ransomware.
- All 26 invited participants in the counter-ransomware exercise are from CRI partner countries and their respective law enforcement, national crisis management, national security policy, and cyber security institutions.
- The anti-ransomware scenarios have been specifically created for the participants based on threat intelligence and operational expertise.

Source: Livemint

Indian Army Chief Manoj Pandey is conferred the honorary rank of Nepal Army General

Why in News:

- President of Nepal Vidya Devi Bhandari has appointed Indian Army Chief General Manoj Pandey as an honorary general of the Nepal Army in Kathmandu.

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Key Points:

- The President's official house, "Sheetal Niwas," in the capital of Nepal, hosted a special celebration to commemorate General Pandey.
- During the ceremony of congratulations, the President of Nepal also gave Indian Army Chief Manoj Pandey a sword and a scroll.
- General Manoj Pandey has sent light vehicles and training equipment to the Nepalese Army on behalf of the Government of India, which would help them improve their soldiers' skills.
- The custom carries on a seven-decade-old tradition of granting honorary titles to the military leaders of one another's nations.
- The position was originally given to the Commander-in-Chief General KM Cariappa of the Indian Army in 1950.
- At a ceremony in New Delhi in November of last year, President Ram Nath Kovind also appointed General Prabhu Ram Sharma, Chief of the Nepal Army, as an Honorary General of the Indian Army.

Source: Livemint

Science and Technology

NASA's MOXIE Successfully Creates Oxygen on Mars

Why in News:

- NASA's lunchbox-sized invention MOXIE has successfully created oxygen on Mars.

Key Points:

- The first experiment of its sort to manufacture oxygen on the planet using Martian atmospheric constituents is the Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment (MOXIE).
- The Massachusetts Institute of Technology device splits atmospheric carbon dioxide in a manner like a tree to produce pure oxygen.
- Purified and pressured air is then sent through a solid oxide electrolyze in MOXIE, where carbon dioxide-rich air is electrochemically divided into oxygen ions and carbon monoxide.
- After that, it is mixed again by dividing oxygen ions to create respirable, molecular oxygen (O2).
- Before being released into the atmosphere, MOXIE's gas is lastly analyzed and quantified for purity.
- On each run, the MOXIE apparatus can generate up to six grams of oxygen per hour.

Source: Indian Express

Women in Engineering, Science, and Technology (WEST)

Why in News:

- Women in Engineering, Science, and Technology (WEST), a new "Indian Science Technology and Engineering Facilities Blueprint (I-STEM)" program, has been announced.

Key Points:

- The WEST program aims to give women with STEM credentials the tools they need to contribute to the ecosystem of science, technology, and innovation.
- I-STEM offers a platform for scientifically minded women researchers, scientists, and technicians to carry out research in basic or applied sciences in the cutting-edge fields of science and engineering through the WEST project.
- Launched in January 2020, I-STEM is a national digital site for sharing R&D facilities.
- The I-STEM portal enables researchers to share information about achievements, including patents, publications, and inventions, as well as access slots for equipment utilization.
- Under the direction of the Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council, the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India launched the I-STEM portal.

Source: The Hindu

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Bengaluru Space Expo 2022

Why in News:

- The Indian Science and Research Organization (ISRO), the Indian National Center for Space Promotion and Authorization (IN-Space), and New Space India Limited have collaborated to hold the 7th Bengaluru Space Expo 2022.

Key Points:

- The 7th Bengaluru Space Expo 2022 took place at the BIEC in Bengaluru from September 5–7, 2022.
- The Bengaluru Space Expo featured cutting-edge technologies and goods for the space industry from more than 100 businesses and organizations from roughly 15 nations.
- To demonstrate India's accomplishments in the space industry and potential future commercial prospects for the private sector in these disciplines, the government plans to erect a sizable pavilion at the ISRO exhibition with hubs across India.
- A concurrent international conference will also be held during the three-day Bengaluru Space Expo.
- The Bengaluru Space Expo conference is centered around the idea of "Nurturing New Space in India."
- The Bengaluru Space Expo seeks to give regional space agencies and businesses from India and abroad the right platform.

Source: Economic Times

India's first intranasal COVID vaccine by Bharat Biotech gets DCGI approval

Why in News:

- India's first intranasal COVID vaccine by Bharat Biotech has been approved by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for primary immunization against injection for people above 18 years of age.

key point:

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- Intranasal COVID Vaccine is India's first indigenous vaccine for COVID-19.
- The vaccine has been termed as a big boost for India's fight against COVID-19 by Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya.
- Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL), is a global company in vaccine innovation and developer of vaccines for infectious diseases.
- BBIL announced that the development of the Intranasal COVID Vaccine (BBV154) has been approved for restricted use in emergencies.
- iNCOVACC is a recombinant replication-deficient adenovirus vectored vaccine with a pre-fusion stabilized spike protein.
- This vaccine was evaluated in Phase I, II, and III clinical trials with successful results.
- The vaccine is designed to allow intranasal delivery via nasal drops.
- The intranasal vaccine is designed to be cost-effective in low- and middle-income countries.

Source: Times of India

Blue Energy Motors opens first LNG truck facility in India

Why in News:

- Blue Energy Motors is supplying India's first LNG truck facility.

Key Points:

- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launched India's first LNG truck facility.
- To introduce the first LNG truck with a BS VI-compliant FPT industrial engine, Blue Energy Motors has a deal with the global powertrain brand of the Italian Iveco Group, FPT Industrial.
- The launch of the 5528 42 tractors will mark the market entry of the first LNG-fueled truck type.
- Blue Energy Motors produces and tests the trucks in accordance with the strict duty cycle of the Indian transportation sector.
- In addition to being the best-in-class TCOs, these trucks, which have high-torque FPT industrial engines, also provide unmatched ride comfort and driver safety for lengthy trips.
- The FPT industrial engine, which is also compatible with CNG, LNG, and biomethane, is one of the most potent natural gas engines.
- It makes use of multipoint stoichiometric combustion to guarantee best-in-class fuel efficiency and quieter operation than diesel engines.

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- The CEO of Blue Energy Motors is Anirudh Bhuvalka, and the president of the Iveco Group Powertrain Business Unit is Sylvain Blaise.

Source: Business Standard

Country's first "Night Sky Sanctuary" to be set up in Ladakh

Why in News:

- Henle, Ladakh will soon become the first "Night Sky Sanctuary" in India.

Key Points:

- The Government of India is taking this innovative and ground-breaking step.
- The government's proposed Dark Sky Reserve will be built at Henle in Ladakh and will support the development of Astro tourism in India.
- The second-largest natural reserve in the world, Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary, will include the Night Sky Sanctuary.
- With regard to optical, infrared, and gamma-ray telescopes, the new project will be among the tallest in the world.
- As one of the highest locations in the world for optical, infrared, and gamma-ray telescopes, it will promote astronomical tourism in India.
- As one of the highest locations in the world for optical, infrared, and gamma-ray telescopes, it will promote astronomical tourism in India.
- Ladakh has a very diverse and rich animal population that is used for leather research, industry, and the development of the bioeconomy for goods made from animal skin.

Source: PIB

Schemes

Pudhumai Pen Scheme

Why in News:

- At a gathering in Chennai called "Pudhumai Pen," Stalin introduced the Higher Education Assurance Scheme, which was created by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Moolur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar.

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Key Points:

- Following the model used by his AAP government in Delhi, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also revealed 15 model schools in addition to the 26 Schools of Excellence established by the Tamil Nadu government.
- In accordance with the Pudhumai Pen program, girls enrolled in grades V through XII at state-run public schools would receive monthly financial aid of Rs 1,000 till they earn their diploma or degree.
- Six lakh girls are expected to benefit annually from the Pudhumai Pen Yojana, for which the government has allotted Rs 698 crore.
- The government's Pudhumai Pen Scheme aims to help economically disadvantaged families that are unable to afford to send their daughters to college.

Source: Indian Express

NITI Aayog: Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Gujarat top states in implementing the Poshan Abhiyan scheme

Why in News:

- Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Gujarat have been ranked as the top three states among large states in terms of the overall implementation of the Centre's flagship POSHAN Abhiyaan, according to a NITI Aayog report.

key points:

- According to the report published by NITI Aayog, Sikkim has performed best among smaller states.

- According to the report titled Poshan Abhiyaan in the Time of Pandemic, 12 out of 19 large states have implementation scores above 70 percent.
- According to the report released by NITI Aayog, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu have topped the Union Territories (UTs).
- As per the report, Punjab and Bihar are the least-performing states among the large states in terms of the overall implementation of POSHAN Abhiyaan.
- According to the report, in 17 states and union territories, more than 75 percent of children aged 12-23 months were fully immunized, while in 11 states and union territories less than 25 percent were fully immunized.
- According to the report, 16 states and UTs had more than 75 per cent of children (0-59 months) diarrhoea cases treated with ORS, while there were 5 states and UTs that treated less than 25 per cent of child diarrhoea cases with ORS.
- As per the report released by NITI Aayog, the total fund utilization under POSHAN Abhiyaan has been reduced, with less than 50 percent fund utilization in 23 states and union territories.
- The report suggested that it is necessary to conduct a Convergence Action Plan (CAP) with the help of which convergence is result-oriented and interventions in all sectors reach the target beneficiaries.

Source: Navbharat Times

PM-Shri Scheme

Why in News:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled a new initiative for the improvement of 14,500 schools nationwide under the Pradhan Mantri School for Rising India (PM-SHRI) program.

Key Points:

- Building PM-Shri School Model Schools will help to ensure that the National Education Policy is implemented in its entirety.
- The development of existing schools chosen from those runs by the Central Government, States, Union Territories, and local organizations will be how the Centrally Sponsored Scheme is put into action.
- These institutions aim to generate holistic persons with the necessary 21st-century skills as well as high-quality teaching, learning, and cognitive growth.
- In PM-Shri schools, a cutting-edge, revolutionary, and all-encompassing technology for educating students will be put in place.

- Under the PM-Shri school model, the emphasis will be on a discovery-oriented, learning-centered approach to teaching.
- The government will also put a lot of emphasis on the most recent technologies employed in the PM-Shri school model, as well as contemporary infrastructures like smart classrooms and sports.

Source: PIB

'Rural Backyard Piggery Scheme'

Why in News:

- The 'Gramin Backyard Pigri Scheme' has been launched by the Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Conrad K Sangma to enable the farmers to earn a sustainable livelihood through various livestock farming activities.

key points:

- The objective of Rural Backyard Pigri Yojana is to provide opportunities for successful income generation and economic prosperity to the farmers.
- Under this scheme Rs, 15.18 crore has been earmarked by the government, under which four high-yielding varieties will be distributed to 6000 families.
- An additional Rs 25 crore will be allocated by the government to start the second phase of this program.
- In order to make the state self-reliant in terms of pork, one of the biggest pig farming programs 'The Meghalaya Piggery Mission' has been implemented by the government.
- Under this mission, zero-interest loans will be provided for the establishment of fattening and pig breeding.
- At present, a loan of Rs 43.67 crore has been taken by 250 pig farming cooperative societies under this scheme.

Source: Indian Express

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Awards and Honours

International Travel Award 2023 for Best Destination for Culture

Why in News:

- The Pacific Area Travel Writers Association (PATWA), a part of the United Nations World Tourism Organization, has given West Bengal the International Travel Award 2023 for Best Destination for Culture (UNWTO).

Key Points:

- On March 9, 2023, in Berlin, Germany, at the World Tourism and Aviation Leaders' Summit, the International Travel Award will be given.
- The World Travel Awards have named the Republic of Cuba as the Caribbean's Leading Cultural Destination in 2022 for the second consecutive year.
- The Pacific Area Travel Writers Association (PATWA) is a group for professional travel writers that was founded in 1998.
- In order to promote sustainable growth and improve the standard of travel and tourism, the Pacific Area Travel Writers Association works with both the public and commercial sectors.
- The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the United Nations (UN), and the Pacific Area Travel Writers Association all operate under similar fundamental ideas.
- The most prestigious honor given to companies for their efforts in the travel, tourism, and hospitality industries is the International Travel Awards.
- The International Travel Awards, which honor all companies working in the global travel industry, are organized and run by Golden Tree Events Organizing and Managing in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Source: Indian Express

Former US President Barack Obama Wins Emmy Award

Why in News:

- Barack Obama, a former US president, received an Emmy Award for "Our Great National Parks," a Netflix documentary that he narrated.

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Key Points:

- Obama has previously received four significant American entertainment honors, including an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar, and a Tony.
- National parks from all over the world are covered in the five-part Netflix documentary created by Barack and Michelle Obama's "Higher Ground" Productions.
- The audiobook interpretations of Barack Obama's memoirs "The Audacity of Hope" and "A Promised Land" have already received Grammy Awards.
- Michelle Obama was awarded a Grammy in 2020 for reading her audiobook.
- In a category with many well-known nominees, including Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, David Attenborough, and Lupita Nyong'o, Obama was chosen as the winner.
- The Emmy Awards are a television production honor that emphasizes fun.
- The Emmy Award is regarded as the equivalent of the Grammy Award, the Tony Award for drama, and the Academy Award for film (for music).

Source: Livemint

Important Days

International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies: 7 September

Why in News:

- The International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies is observed globally on 7 September every year with the aim of promoting and facilitating actions to improve air quality.

key points:

- The International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies focuses on the trans-border nature of air pollution, highlighting the need for collective accountability and collective action.

- It is a day recognized by the United Nations that aims to raise public awareness at all levels of why clean air is important to health, productivity, the economy, and the environment.
- This year's theme "The Air We Share" focuses on the trans-border nature of air pollution, emphasizing the need for collective accountability and action.
- During its 74th session, a resolution was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly to organize an International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies on December 19, 2019.
- UNEP was established on 5 June 1972 and is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya.
- The founder of UNEP is Maurice Strong, and the current UNEP chief is Inger Andersen.

Source: Dainik Bhaskar

Sports

Mountain Cycle World Cup

Why in News:

- Leh will host the Mountain Cycle, MTB, World Cup- 'UCI MTB Eliminator World Cup' for the first time in India.

key points:

- The 'UCI MTB Eliminator World Cup' will be organized in association with the administration of the Union Territory of Ladakh and the Cycling Association of India.
- The Ladakh stage of the Eliminator World Cup is part of ten professional race series held in different cities across the world.
- The UCI MTB Eliminator World Cup cross country eliminator, XCE, short track race with a five-hundred-meter format with natural and artificial obstacles will also be held.
- A total of 20 international, 55 national, and local cyclists will participate in this upcoming event.
- The event will be flagged off by Ladakh MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, Leh CEC Tashi Gyalsan, and Ladakh ADGP SS Khandare.
- Ladakh Lieutenant Governor RK Mathur will flag off the cross-country eliminator heat and final.

Source: Times of India

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Reports and Indexes

Grievance Redressal Index 2022

Why in News:

- Top rating among all ministries/departments for resolving public complaints in the Unique Identification Authority of India's Grievance Redressal Index 2022 (UIDAI).

Key Points:

- The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances has released the Grievance Redressal Index 2022 reports (DARPG).
- When it comes to resolving cases obtained through the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System, UIDAI has been the department that performs the best (CPGRAMS).
- As a catalyst for both ease of living and ease of conducting business, UIDAI is dedicated to helping India's citizens.
- In order to be able to resolve 92% of CRM complaints within 7 days, UIDAI has also included a grievance redressal structure made up of UIDAI Headquarters Division, Regional Offices, a Technology Center, and, active Contact Center, Partners.
- Additionally, the new CRM solution from UIDAI will be able to support many methods for submitting, tracking, and successfully resolving complaints, including phone calls, emails, chatbots, web portals, social media, letters, and walk-ins.
- UIDAI was founded on 28 January 2009 and has its headquarters in New Delhi.

Source: Times Now

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