

Monthly Current Affairs

May 2023

English



Important News: International

International Air Transport Association (IATA)

Why in news: The latest market analysis by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) states that India is fast emerging as a major global aviation market.



1. IATA is an international trade body founded in 1945 by a group of airlines.
2. Currently, IATA represents approximately 300 airlines comprising 94% of international scheduled air traffic. IATA's members include the world's leading passenger and cargo airlines.
3. Headquarters: Montreal, Canada
4. Mission: To represent, lead and serve the airline industry. IATA supports many areas of aviation activity and helps formulate industry policy on important aviation issues, including environmental concerns.
5. ICAO is dedicated to developing safe and efficient international air transport for peaceful purposes and ensuring a fair opportunity for each state to operate international airlines. It sets out the necessary standards and regulations for aviation safety, safety and convenience, efficiency and economic development of air transport, as well as improving the environmental performance of aviation.

(SOURCE – LIVEMINT)

Pulverized Coal Injection (PCI)

Why in news: Russia emerged as the top supplier of pulverised coal injection (PCI) to India's steel mills, for at least five months of FY23, displacing Australia as the key supply nation.



1. PCI is a process that involves injecting large amounts of fine coal particles into the raceway of a blast furnace (BF). This modern blast furnace is an essential tool for ironmaking.
2. PCI provides auxiliary fuel for partial coke replacement and has proven to be economically and environmentally friendly. This can result in substantial improvements in BF efficiency and thus contribute to the reduction of energy consumption and environmental emissions.
3. The composition and properties of the coal used for injection can affect the operation, stability and productivity of BF and the composition of BF gas.
4. The PCI process system consists of six sub-systems,



- a. Storage and discharge of raw coal;
 - b. Powder and drying of raw coal;
 - c. Transport, storage and supply of pulverized coal for injection system;
 - d. An even distribution of pulverized coal to each tuar;
 - e. Combustion of pulverized coal;
 - f. Explosion prevention facilities;
5. There is a tube, nozzle or pipe through which air is blown into the furnace. Air or oxygen is injected into the furnace under pressure from a device such as a blower or blowing engine.

(SOURCE – LIVEMINT)

The monkeypox virus.

Why in news: Mpox (monkeypox) is an infectious disease caused by monkeypox virus. It can cause a painful rash, enlarged lymph nodes, and fever.



1. Monkeypox virus is an orthopoxvirus, a genus of viruses that also include variola virus, which causes smallpox, and vaccinia virus, which was used in smallpox vaccines.
2. Monkeypox causes symptoms similar to smallpox, although they are less severe. While vaccination eradicated smallpox worldwide in 1980, monkeypox continues to occur in many countries in Central and West Africa, and has occasionally appeared elsewhere.
3. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), two distinct clades are identified: the West African clade and the Congo Basin clade, also known as the Central African clade.
4. Monkeypox is a zoonosis, i.e. a disease that spreads from infected animals to humans. Cases occur close to tropical rainforests that are inhabited by animals carrying the virus. Monkeypox virus infection has been found in squirrels, Gambian prey mice, dormice and some species of monkeys.
5. However, human-to-human transmission is limited. Transmission, when it occurs, can occur through contact with bodily fluids, wounds on the skin or on internal mucous surfaces, such as the mouth or throat, respiratory droplets, and contaminated objects.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)



Yellow Fever

Why in news: A total of 117 passengers of Indian Origin that have arrived from Sudan are currently quarantined because they were not vaccinated against Yellow Fever.



1. Yellow fever is often associated with jaundice, hence the name yellow. For the WHO, yellow fever occurs in 47 endemic countries in Africa in Central and South America. About 90% of cases reported each year occur in sub-Saharan Africa.
2. The yellow fever virus is spread by infected mosquitoes, usually from the Aedes species - the same mosquito that spreads Zika, chikungunya and dengue viruses. Homozygous mosquitoes also spread it and are mostly found in the forest. And this disease cannot spread from one person to another by contact.
3. Once contracted, yellow fever viruses incubate the body for 3 to 6 days. Symptoms usually present themselves in 2 stages. The first, "acute", phase usually causes fever, muscle pain or vomiting. Most patients improve and their symptoms disappear after 3 to 4 days. However, a small percentage of people enter the second, more toxic phase within 24 hours of initial remission. They will experience high fever, jaundice and abdominal pain along with vomiting and worsening kidney function.
4. Yellow fever can be prevented by a vaccine that is protective for life. A single dose of the yellow fever vaccine, known as 17D, provides life-long immunity against the disease.
5. There is no specific treatment for yellow fever, but good supportive treatment of symptoms, such as dehydration, fever, and infection, improves survival rates. Associated bacterial infections can be treated with antibiotics.

(SOURCE -NEWS ON AIR)

De-dollarisation

Why in news: In April 2023, while facing criminal charges, former US President Donald Trump warned that the US dollar was crashing and would soon no longer be the world standard. His warning comes amid growing interest in countries towards de-dollarization.



1. De-dollarization refers to the process in which countries reduce their dependence on the U.S. dollar as a reserve currency, medium of exchange, and as a unit of account.



2. Reserve currency is the foreign currency held by central banks to facilitate international transactions, stabilize exchange rates and strengthen financial confidence. Efforts to remove the dollar as a global reserve currency have gained momentum after Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year
3. The growing economic power of emerging markets and their desire for a more diverse and flexible financial framework have renewed the call for de-dollarization.
4. China, Russia and Brazil have been among a growing list of countries around the world that have embarked on the path of de-dollarisation.
5. India has also started efforts to reduce its dependence on the dollar. It started moving towards paying in rupees for oil imports from Russia.
6. De-dollarization presents opportunities for a more diverse and resilient global financial system. However, it also poses significant challenges that must be carefully managed to ensure global financial stability and the preservation of sustained economic growth.
7. Therefore, developing countries like India should adopt a prudent and measured approach towards de-dollarization.

(SOURCE – LIVEMINT)

U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)

Why in news: India recently rejected a report by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) that alleged "severe violations" of religious freedom in the country.



1. It is an independent, bipartisan federal government entity created by the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA) of 1998.
2. Objective: To review the facts and circumstances of violation of religious freedom at the level.
3. Make policy recommendations to the President, Secretary of State, and Congress; It uses international standards to monitor violations of religious freedom globally.
4. U.S. policy is required to release its own annual report, setting its own independent recommendations.



5. Structure: The USCIRF has nine commissioners, appointed by the president or congressional leaders of each political party, supported by a non-partisan professional staff.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

WEF: “Future of Jobs” Report

Why in news: The report, titled “Future of Jobs,” reveals that the Indian labour market will see a 22% job churn (movement of jobs in an economy), compared to 23% globally.



1. The World Economic Forum (WEF) has released its fourth edition (bi-annually) report on jobs and skills, which explores how jobs and skills will evolve between 2023-2027.
2. The report's focus report tracks the labor-market impact of the fourth industrial revolution, the green energy transition, supply-chain shifts, and more.
3. New job-creation will be driven by the green transition, and the localization of supply chains, while job destruction in the coming years will be due to slower economic growth, supply shortages and rising costs of inputs, and rising costs of living for consumers; The skills of 44% of workers will be disrupted in the next five years; 23% of jobs are expected to change in the next five years.
4. Clerical or secretarial roles, including bank teller, cashier and data entry clerk, are expected to decline the fastest
5. Workforce Strategies 2023-27) The report recommends investing in on-the-job learning and training, accelerating automation of processes, expanding the use of contract work, hiring significantly more permanent employees, etc.
6. To move forward governments and businesses must invest in supporting future job changes through education, skills, and social support structures. Training workers to use AI and big data needs to be prioritized.
7. About the World Economic Forum (WEF) The World Economic Forum (founded in 1971; headquarters: Colony, Switzerland) is an international non-governmental and lobbying organization for multinational companies. It was founded on 24 January 1971 by German engineer Klaus Schwab

(SOURCE –NEWS ON AIR)



Ajay Banga to be next President of World Bank

Why in news: Recently, the US President (Joe Biden) announced that the US is nominating Ajay Banga to lead the World Bank (WB).



1. It was established with the IMF at the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference. WB is an international financial institution that aims to pursue capital projects in low and middle income/low income. Provides loans and grants to the governments of developing countries.
2. The WB Group, which is the parent organization of WB, consists of -
 - a. IBRD: It provides loans, credits and grants.
 - b. IDA: It provides low or no interest loans to low-income countries.
 - c. International Finance Corporation (IFC): It provides investment, advice and asset management to private companies and governments.
 - d. Multilateral Guarantee Agency (MIGA): It insures lenders and investors against political risk such as war.
 - e. International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID): It settles investment disputes between investors and countries.
3. All of these serve the twin objectives of the WB Group, which is to end extreme poverty by 2030 and increase shared prosperity for the bottom 40% of the population worldwide.
4. As of 2022, WB is run by a chairman and 25 executive directors. The IBRD and IDA have 189 and 174 member countries, respectively, and S, Japan, China, Germany and the UK have the largest voting power.
5. The Chairman of WB, who is the Chairman of the entire WB Group, is responsible for presiding over the meetings of the Board of Directors and overall management of the Bank. The nominee is subject to confirmation by the Board of Executive Directors for a five-year, renewable term of service.
6. Banga, 63, currently serves as vice president at General Atlantic and was awarded the Padma Shri in 2016.
7. Banga is the honorary president of the International Chamber of Commerce, serving as president from 2020-2022. He is a member of the Trilateral Commission, founding trustee of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum, etc. Prior to that, he was president and CEO of Mastercard, leading the company through strategic, technological and cultural change.

(SOURCE – LIVEMINT)



World Press Freedom Index 2023

Why in news: In the recently released 2023 World Press Freedom Index, India's ranking has slipped to 161 out of 180 countries.



1. It is an annual report published by global media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF).
2. Objective: To compare the level of freedom enjoyed by journalists and media in 180 countries and territories.
3. The ranking is based on five categories - political, legislative, economic, socio-cultural and safety of journalists.
4. India is ranked 161 out of 180 countries. Press freedom in India has gone from "problematic" to "very bad", with the country slipping 11 ranks since the 2022 report. Barring Bangladesh (163), Myanmar (173) and China (179), all other neighbouring countries are ranked better than India - Bhutan (90), Nepal (95), Sri Lanka (135), Pakistan (150), Afghanistan (152).
5. India was ranked 169th in political indicators, while it was 144 in legislative, 155 in economic, 143 in social indicators and 172 in protecting journalists. And Norway is in first place for the seventh consecutive year.
6. It is an international NGO whose self-proclaimed objective is to protect and promote media freedom. Headquarters: Paris, France.
7. It has consultative status with the United Nations. It defines freedom of the press as "the ability of journalists as individuals and groups to select, produce and disseminate news in the public interest independent of political, economic, legal and social interference and in the absence of threats to their physical and mental safety".

(SOURCE – LIVEMINT)

Fit for 55

Why in news: Fit for 55 refers to the EU's target of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030. The proposed package aims to bring EU legislation in line with the 2030 goal.



1. The Fit for 55 package is a set of proposals aimed at revising and updating EU law and implementing new initiatives to align EU policies with climate goals agreed by the Council and the European Parliament.

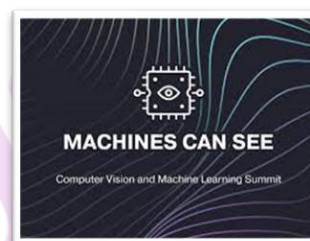


2. The package is named after the EU's goal of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030.
3. Some of the initiatives include - expansion of emissions from maritime transport. Reduction in emission allowances. Implementation of the Global Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Plan for International Aviation. Increase funding for an innovation fund. Revision of market stability reserve.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

“Machines Can See” summit 2023

Why in news: The UAE government recently launched the 'Machines Can See 2023' Summit, an international conference on Artificial Intelligence (AI) held at the Museum of the Future in Dubai. The event was held in partnership between the Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy, and Remote Work Applications Office and 'Machines Can See' company.



1. The UAE government launched the 'Machines Can Sea 2023' summit in Dubai, one of the first international conferences in Artificial Intelligence (AI) across the region.
2. The conference is being organised in partnership between the Office of Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications and 'Machines Can Sea' company.
3. The conference aims to bring together experts from around the world to discuss the future of AI and its potential to contribute to the UAE's vision of creating the next Silicon Valley.
4. The event was organised in collaboration with Dubai's Department of Economic and Tourism and the Dubai Future Foundation.
5. The summit included presentations and panel discussions by various experts in the field of AI.

The UAE is the only country with a state-level AI program, a testament to its commitment to supporting the advancement of AI technology.

6. Artificial Intelligence It is a broad branch of computer science that deals with the creation of smart machines capable of performing tasks that usually require human intelligence.

(SOURCE – LIVEMINT)



Ocean's 20: Blueprint for a Blue Economy

Why in news: The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) will chair SAI20, an engagement group for the highest audit institutions (SAL) of G20 countries in Goa.



1. As president of SAI20, India's CAG aims to help ensure inter-generational equality for G20 countries and create a framework to mitigate climate change while developing ocean resources.
2. The Blue, or ocean economy, whose global annual value is estimated as \$2.5 trillion, encompasses an array of coastal activities, including fishing and tourism. In 2018, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) set out sustainable blue economy finance principles for the first time.
3. Investors can use this framework to fund ocean-based industries. Financiers can use this as a reference point to see how maritime investment can impact livelihoods and poverty alleviation.
4. The measurement of the blue economy is challenging due to conflicting definitions and issues when classifying different sectors and sub-sectors. And existing international economic classifications are unable to properly distinguish between land-based and ocean-based activities.
5. The National Accounting System (NAS) does not provide a clear understanding of the blue economy. Given these difficulties, there is a need for a new accounting framework that can objectively identify production, trade and services related to different segments of the blue economy.
6. India has identified blue economy as one of the 10 key sectors for national development. A National Blue Economy Policy has been formulated by the Ministry of Earth Sciences which aims to harness marine resources while preserving the rich marine biodiversity of the country.
7. The toolkit being prepared by SAI20 under the leadership of CAG of India will be presented at the SAI20 Engagement Group Meet. It will provide a unique opportunity for constructive dialogue and agreement to improve the audit of performance in specific areas of ocean-based activities.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

Washington Declaration

Why in news: The President of South Korea and the US President recently signed the Washington Declaration on the anniversary of 70 years of their bilateral relations.



1. It was signed on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of bilateral relations between the US and South Korea. The declaration outlines cooperation towards nuclear deterrence.
2. Objective: Protect the Korean Peninsula from nuclear attack.
A US nuclear-armed ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) will be deployed in the Korean Peninsula;
A Joint Nuclear Advisory Group will be formed to formulate the principles of joint reaction strategy;
South Korea will receive intelligence from the US regarding nuclear progress;
3. The US will strengthen South Korea's nuclear deterrence capabilities through joint military training programs and annual intergovernmental simulations.
4. The declaration ratifies the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which means South Korea will not venture into building its independent nuclear capabilities and will instead focus on deterrence measures through an alliance-based approach.
5. It also mandates the US president as the sole 'sole official' to use America's nuclear arsenal in the event of a nuclear confrontation.

(SOURCE – ECONOMIC TIMES)

ADB's IF-Cap

Why in news The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced the Innovative Finance Facility for Climate in Asia and the Pacific (IF-CAP) programme to accelerate climate change financing in the region. The announcement was made on May 2, 2023.



1. IF-CAP is a first-of-its-kind multi-donor financing partnership facility in Asia and the Pacific with the goal of enhancing finance for accelerated action against climate change.
2. The initial partners of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) are Denmark, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
Benefits
1. Multiplier effect of up to \$5 in much-needed climate finance for every \$1 of guarantee (model of '\$1 in, \$5 out')
2. The financing will help vulnerable countries in Asia and the Pacific meet their mitigation and adaptation goals.
3. Support ADB's increased ambition for \$100 billion in climate finance from 2019-2030.

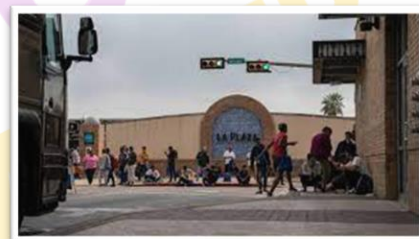


4. Financing mechanisms are the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Adaptation Fund, and the Loss and Damage Fund
Funding sources bilateral and multilateral sources, the private sector, and philanthropy including the Global Energy Alliance for People and the Planet
An initial ambition of \$3 billion in guarantees could create up to \$15 billion (the model of '\$1 in, \$5 out') in new loans for much-needed climate projects in Asia and the Pacific.
5. The Asian Development Bank (founded in 1966; headquarters: Manila, Philippines) is a regional development bank committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient and sustainable Asia and the Pacific while maintaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)

Title 42

Why in news: The United States is getting ready to lift COVID-19 restrictions that have prevented migrants caught at the U.S.-Mexico border from seeking asylum since 2020, a major policy shift with humanitarian and political implications.



1. The Covid restrictions, known as Title 42, were first introduced by Republicans in March 2020 at the start of the pandemic. Was implemented under then President Donald Trump.
2. At the time, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said the order was needed to prevent the spread of coronavirus in crowded detention settings.
3. Title 42 allowed border agents to swiftly expel many migrants to Mexico.
4. Since its inception, migrants have been expelled more than 2.7 million times under Title 42, although the total includes many repeat crossers and Mexico has generally accepted only a few nationalities.

(SOURCE – LIVEMINT)

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccine

Why in news: The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the first-ever respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine developed by UK-based pharmaceutical company GSK for use in people 60 years and older.



1. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a common virus that can cause mild to severe respiratory illness, especially in young children and older adults.
2. Transmission RSV is spread through respiratory secretions, such as by coughing or sneezing, or by touching contaminated surfaces or objects.
3. Symptoms of RSV can cause symptoms such as coughing, wheezing, fever, runny nose, and difficulty breathing.
4. Venerable infants, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems are at the highest risk of severe RSV infection.
5. RSV can be diagnosed through a respiratory sample, such as from a nasal or throat swab, which is tested in a laboratory.
6. Treatment for RSV is mainly supportive, such as fluids, oxygen therapy, and fever reducers. Severe cases may require hospitalization.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

Pulitzer Prize

Why in news: 9 Winners of Pulitzer Prize 2023 for Book, Drama and Music



1. The Pulitzer Prize is given since 1917 to honor excellence in journalism and the arts. The annual awards are given in 23 categories in journalism, books, drama and music. The Pulitzer Prize 2023 was announced on May 9. Here we list the Pulitzer Prize 2023 winners for books, drama and music.
2. This year's Pulitzer Prize for Fiction has been shared by two authors Barbara Kingsolver and Hernan Diaz. Barbara Kingsolver won the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for 'Damon Copperhead', a modern retelling of Charles Dickens' classic 'David Copperfield'. Meanwhile, Hernan Diaz won the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for 'Trust'.
3. Pulitzer Prize for General Non-Fiction 2023
'His Name is George Floyd: One Man's Life and the Struggle for Racial Justice', written by Robert Samuels and Toulus Olorunnipa, won the Pulitzer Prize 2023 in the General Non-Fiction category.
4. Beverly Gage won the Pulitzer Prize 2023 in the biography category for the book 'G-Man: J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century'. And Hua Hsu won the Pulitzer Prize 2023 in the memoir or autobiography category for her memoir 'Stay True'. And Carl Phillips won the Pulitzer Prize 2023 for poetry for the book 'Then War: And Selected Poems, 2007-2020'.



5. Jefferson Covey won the Pulitzer Prize 2023 for history for the book 'Freedom Dominion: A Saga of White Resistance to Federal Power'. And Sanaz Tusi's play 'English' won the Pulitzer Prize 2023 for drama. Ryanon Giddens and Michael Abels won the Pulitzer Prize 2023 for music for their album 'Omar'.

(SOURCE – ECONOMIC TIMES)

ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise

Why in news: India recently sent two frontline warships to participate in the first ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2023).



1. AIME-2023 is the first time India has joined the exercise with ASEAN, though there have been separate exercises with ASEAN countries.
2. Objective: To enhance interoperability and exchange of best practices among the participating navies. With AIME-2023, India has become the fourth ASEAN dialogue partner to conduct the ASEAN+1 maritime exercise, after Russia, China and the US.
3. The first exercise will be held off the coast of Singapore and will have events in port and at sea off the coast of Singapore.
4. Two major warships of the Indian Navy - indigenously built destroyer INS Delhi and the recently built Shivalik-class advanced stealth frigate INS Satpura are part of the exercise.
5. It is a regional intergovernmental organization consisting of ten Southeast Asian countries. It was established with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration in 1967.
6. Objective: To promote inter-governmental cooperation and facilitate economic, political, security, military, educational and socio-cultural integration between its members and other Asian states.
7. Members: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam.

(SOURCE – LIVEMINT)

Everest annual ITS ranking

Why in news: Global IT research firm Everest Group has released its annual Peak Matrix Service Provider of the Year Awards for information technology (IT) services.



1. The ranking recognizes large IT service providers with more than \$2 billion in annual revenue that have demonstrated superior capabilities and service strategies.
2. For the seventh consecutive year, Accenture has secured the number one position in the rankings, followed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Capgemini, Wipro and HCLTECH. TCS moved up to the second spot, while Capgemini and Wipro each jumped three places in the rankings compared to last year.
3. The 2023 ITS rankings saw major ups and downs, with Capgemini moving from sixth to third place, while Wipro moved from seventh to fourth. Infosys, on the other hand, slipped from second to seventh, while HCL moved from fourth to fifth and Cognizant from fifth to sixth.
4. New entrants to the ITS leaderboard this year include LTImindtree (No. 10), EY (No. 18), Orange Business Services (No. 19), and EPAM (No. 20). Meanwhile, UST Global and EXL dropped out of the list in 2023.
5. The ITS rankings also recognise Star Performers of the Year, achieving the largest positive relative movement year-over-year on peak matrix evaluations. This year's star performers include LTIMINDTREE, TCS, Capgemini and HCLtech.

The top 3 ITS challengers in the 2023 awards are Mphasis, Virtusa and Genser. Genser is also recognized as the Top ITS Challenger Star Performer for achieving the greatest cumulative upward mobility on the Top ITS Challengers list.

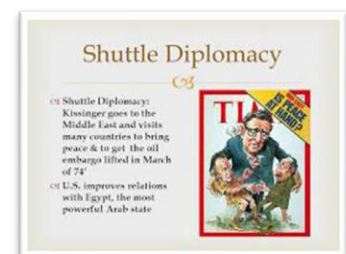
6. Accenture has retained the top spot for the seventh consecutive year. TCS has improved from the third position last year to the second position. Capgemini climbed three places to third. Wipro moved up to the fourth position from seventh last year. HCL Tech has slipped to the fifth position from the fourth position last year.
7. Cognizant slipped a notch to sixth.

Infosys was the biggest loser and slipped from second place last year to seventh this year. NTT Corporation and IBM swapped positions, with NTT taking eighth place and IBM coming in ninth. LTIMindtree ranked tenth in its top 10 for 2023, as a new entrant.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

Shuttle diplomacy

Why in news: In diplomacy and international relations, shuttle diplomacy is the action of an outside party in serving as an intermediary between (or among) principals in a dispute, without direct principal-to-principal contact



1. Shuttle diplomacy refers to a type of diplomacy where an intermediary travels back and forth between two or more parties to facilitate negotiations and resolve disputes.
2. It is often used when direct interaction between parties is not possible for political, geographical or security reasons. For example, efforts by the then U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in the 1970s to broker peace talks between Israel and Egypt. Kissinger flew back and forth between Jerusalem and Cairo, meeting with leaders on both sides to mediate the ceasefire and eventually the Camp David agreement.
3. Recently, the term "shuttle diplomacy" has been used to describe the efforts made by Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yol to improve relations between their two countries.
4. Usage : Such words can be asked directly in the preliminary examination or in the International Relations/International Relations Act. Can be used mainly in essay paper.

(SOURCE – ECONOMIC TIMES)

CORPAT exercises

Why in news: The Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy conducted the 35th edition of the India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) from May 3 to May 10, 2023.



1. The aim of the exercise was to strengthen maritime ties between the two countries and ensure the security of the Indian Ocean. The Indo-Thai CORPAT is held bi-annually along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) since 2005 to enhance understanding and interoperability between the two navies.
2. The aim of the exercise is to prevent and suppress illegal activities such as illegal uncontrolled (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, piracy and armed robbery. It also facilitates exchange of information for prevention of smuggling, illegal immigration and conduct of Search and Rescue (SAR) operations at sea.
3. In line with the Government of India's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region), the India-Thai CORPAT is an essential step towards enhancing regional maritime security. The exercise strengthens operational synergy between the two navies, enabling them to work together effectively in the event of any crisis or emergency. In addition, it promotes close and friendly relations between India and Thailand,



4. Which includes a wide range of activities and interactions. The Indo-Thai Corpat saw the participation of Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari, an indigenously built LST(L) and His Majesty Ship (HTMS) Cyberi, Chao Phraya class frigate, maritime patrol aircraft of both navies.
5. The exercise involved coordinated patrolling with IMBL in Andaman Sea with a focus on enhancing communication, interoperability and sharing of best practices between the two navies.
6. Thailand, officially known as the Kingdom of Thailand, is a country located in Southeast Asia. The capital of Thailand is Bangkok. It is also the largest city in the country, with a population of over 8 million.

(SOURCE – LIVEMINT)

Indian Ocean Conference

Why in news: Bangladesh will host the 6th Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) scheduled to be held between May 12-13 in Dhaka.



1. It will discuss aspects strengthening cooperation between the countries of the Indian Ocean region.
2. The 6th edition of the Conference is being organised by India Foundation in association with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh and S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies.
3. Theme: "Peace, Prosperity and Partnership for a Resilient Future"
4. The Conference endeavours to bring critical states and principal maritime partners of the region together on a common platform to deliberate upon the prospects of regional cooperation for Security And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).
5. The first edition of the Conference was held in Singapore in 2016.

(SOURCE – LIVEMINT)

India hosts SCO startup forum

Why in news: India recently hosted the third edition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum as the first physical event in New Delhi.



1. The event was organised by Startup India, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce. The forum aims to expand startup



interaction among SCO member states and encourage innovation, job creation and talent creation.

2. The forum saw physical participation from SCO member states, including a delegation of government officials, private industry players, incubators and startups.
3. The SCO Startup Forum focused on collaboration and entrepreneurship. It aims to promote innovation development, particularly through the creation of common platforms and facilitation of ideas and best practices among SCO member states. The forum facilitated various startup-to-startup bilateral meetings to promote and achieve this agenda.
4. The delegates participated in a workshop on "Role of Bilateral and Multilateral Engagement in Developing Startup Ecosystem" organized by Startup India. The workshop included an interactive session to understand the various models of engagement that can be undertaken to develop closer ties between nations and boost the startup ecosystem in SCO countries.
5. Startup India had earlier organised various initiatives including the SCO Startup Forum 2020 for SCO member states, which laid the foundation for multilateral cooperation and engagement for startups among SCO member states.
6. The SCO Startup Forum 2021 was held virtually through a customised platform representing Indian culture in augmented reality. It launched the SCO Startup Hub, a point of contact for the SCO startup ecosystem. Startup India also organised a three-month-long virtual mentorship series called "Starting-Up" for startups enrolled for capacity building among SCO startup founders.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

Mitochondrial donation treatment (MDT)

Why in news: MDT offers families with severe inherited mitochondrial illness the possibility of a healthy child. It is a form of IVF that replaces faulty mitochondrial DNA in the patient's eggs with healthy mitochondrial DNA from a donor egg



1. A baby has been born in the UK using a technique called mitochondrial donation treatment (MDT) (popularly called 'three parent baby'), which involves using the DNA of three people in an attempt to prevent children from inheriting incurable diseases.
2. The process combines sperm and eggs from biological parents with mitochondria from a donor's egg. Harmful mutations in mitochondria, which are



only inherited from the mother, can affect all of a woman's children. So far, the technique is still in its experimental stage.

3. About 1 in 5,000-10,000 babies are born each year with mitochondrial disease. Concerns: developing designer babies, thinning parenthood, expensive in nature, etc.

(SOURCE – LIVEMINT)

Mpox

Why in news: Scientists recently deciphered the structure of the protein methyltransferase from the monkeypox virus.



1. It is a viral zoonotic disease caused by the monkeypox virus. The first human case of mpox was recorded in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).
2. There are two known types (clades) of mpox virus — one that originated in Central Africa (Clade I) and one that originated in West Africa (Clade II).
3. Common symptoms of mpox are a skin rash or mucosal lesions, which can last 2–4 weeks accompanied by fever, headache, muscle aches, back pain, low energy, and swollen lymph nodes.
4. Human-to-human transmission of mpox occurs through direct contact with body fluids, lesions, prolonged face-to-face contact, including sexual contact, and indirect contact with contaminated clothing or bedding.
5. There are no specific treatments for monkeypox virus infection. Early and supportive care is important to help manage symptoms and avoid further problems.
6. These are infections that are spread between people and animals. These infections are caused by germs, such as viruses, bacteria, parasites, and fungi. Some can be severe and life-threatening, such as rabies, and others may be milder and get better on their own.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

Indian Ocean Conference (IOC)

Why in news: Bangladesh will host the 6th Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) scheduled to be held between May 12-13 in Dhaka.

1. It will discuss aspects strengthening cooperation



between the countries of the Indian Ocean region.

The 6th edition of the Conference is being organised by India Foundation in association with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh and S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies.

2. Theme: "Peace, Prosperity and Partnership for a Resilient Future"
3. The Conference endeavours to bring critical states and principal maritime partners of the region together on a common platform to deliberate upon the prospects of regional cooperation for Security And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).
4. The first edition of the Conference was held in Singapore in 2016.

(SOURCE – ECONOMIC TIMES)

Storm Shadow Missile

Why in news: Russia's Defence Ministry recently said that Ukrainian aircraft had struck two industrial sites in the Russian-held city of Luhansk in eastern Ukraine with Storm Shadow missiles supplied by Britain.



1. It is a long-range cruise missile with stealth capabilities, jointly developed by the UK and France.

The missile is intended to strike high-valued stationary assets such as airbases, radar installations, communications hubs and port facilities.

2. Able to be operated in extreme conditions, the weapon offers operators a highly flexible, deep-strike capability based on a sophisticated mission planning system.
3. The Storm Shadow is also in service with the air forces of Egypt, India, Italy, Greece, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Features:

4. It is typically launched from the air. It carries a 450kg conventional warhead to a range of up to 200 miles (300km). The missile weighs 1.3 tonnes and is just over 5m long. It is equipped with fire-and-forget technology and fully autonomous guidance. The missile is fitted with a passive imaging infrared seeker.
5. The missile is programmed with every detail of the target and the path to be taken to reach the target prior to its launch. Once launched, the Storm Shadow drops to a low altitude to avoid detection by enemy radar before latching onto its target with the infrared seeker.

(SOURCE – LIVEMINT)



G20: 2nd culture group meet in Bhubaneswar

Why in news: The second meeting of the Culture Group under G-20 is being held in Bhubaneswar. It started on Sunday and will continue till Tuesday.



1. How to unite and maintain our culture in coordination with others, transcending boundaries in culture, fostering connections, and inspiring genuine dialogue and understanding between individuals, communities and nations will figure prominently during the meeting.
2. The Meeting of the Culture Working Group (CWG) chaired by India's G20 will focus on 'Culture United All' in campaign mode to highlight India's unwavering belief in multilateralism based on peaceful coexistence between different cultures and communities.
3. In today's connected world, culture is important in creating collaborative solutions and promoting inclusion and peaceful living. "The theme 'culture unites all' acknowledges that, while cultural traditions and practices can vary greatly, They often share underlying values and principles.
4. "Culture provides pathways to collaborate and develop sustainable and balanced solutions to contemporary global challenges," the statement said. Therefore, capturing the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', the message expresses a broader vision to strive towards a communal sustainable future and universal welfare.
5. Representatives of G20 members, guest countries and several international organisations are participating in the summit. The objective of this meeting is the first Commonwealth Games meeting held in Khajuraho in February and expert-driven global thematic webinar focusing on four priority areas of the Commonwealth Games: conservation and restoration of cultural assets, harnessing living heritage for a sustainable future, promoting cultural and creative industries and the creative economy, and leveraging digital technologies for the preservation and promotion of culture.
6. Along with the sessions of the 2nd Culture Working Group meeting and bilateral meetings, the G20 delegates will also visit historical heritage monuments of Odisha such as the Sun Temple in Konark, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Udayagiri Caves in Bhubaneswar. The delegates will also be given exciting cultural performances that represent the diverse and colourful heritage of the state of Odisha.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)



6th Indian ocean Conference

Why in news: Recently, the secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (Ministry of Science & Technology) released the "National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22: Summary for Policymakers.



1. It is a joint study by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
2. Objective of the survey: To evaluate the innovation performance of manufacturing firms in India. Firm-level survey: It captured data related to the type of innovations and innovative measures taken by firms, including the process of innovation, access to finance, resources and information for innovation, etc.
3. Regional System of Innovation (SSI) Survey: It mapped the manufacturing innovation system and its enabling role in achieving innovations in firms.
4. The study of small scale industry measured the convergence or divergence of current policy instruments in select five key manufacturing sectors – textiles – critical to the Indian economy; Food and drink; Automotive; Pharma; and ICT.
5. The first National Innovation Survey was conducted in 2011. Key facts about the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations with a unique mandate to promote and accelerate industrial development.
6. It provides assistance to its 171 member states through four mandatory functions:
 - a. Technical Cooperation
 - b. Action-oriented research and policy-advisory services.
 - c. Activities related to standard standards
 - d. Promote partnerships for knowledge and technology transfer.
7. India is a member of this organization. National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22 findings released, can help increase competitiveness of Indian manufacturing

(SOURCE –The Hindu)

Samudra Shakti – 23

Why in news: Indigenously designed and built ASW Corvette INS Kavaratti arrived in Batam, Indonesia to participate in the fourth edition of Indo-Indonesia bilateral exercise Samudra Shakti-23 from 14-19 May 23



1. The exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability, jointness and mutual cooperation between the two navies.
2. The harbour phase will include cross deck tours, professional interactions, subject matter expert exchanges and sports fixtures.
3. During the sea phase, weapon firing, helicopter operations, anti-submarine warfare and air defence exercises and boarding operations are planned.
4. Samudra Shakti-23 will demonstrate the high level of interoperability between the two navies and their shared commitment to peace and stability in the region.
5. The Indonesian Navy will be represented by KRI Sultan Iskandar Muda, CN 235 maritime patrol aircraft and AS 565 Panther helicopter.

(SOURCE – LIVEMINT)

Global Report on Internal Displacement 2023 (GRID-2023)

Why in news: The Global Report on Internal Displacement 2023 (GRID-2023), published by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, highlights the significant increase in the number of people displaced by disasters in 2022. The report highlights the impact of weather-related events, the role of La Nina, and regional variations in displacement.



1. According to GRID-2023, the number of people displaced by disasters increased by 40% in 2022 compared to 2021. This unprecedented growth reflects the growing challenges faced by communities around the world due to various types of disasters.
2. The report stressed that 98% of disaster displacements in 2022 were caused by weather-related events. Floods and hurricanes played an important role, accounting for 6 out of 10 disaster displacements. This was the first time since 2016 that hurricanes outpaced other causes of displacement.
3. Pakistan and India: High displacement rates Pakistan topped the list of countries with the most disaster displacement in 2022, with 8.16 million displacements recorded. India ranked fourth with 2.5 million displacements. These figures point to the significant impact of disasters on these countries and the urgent need for effective disaster management and response strategies.
4. La Nina, the cold phase of the El Nino Southern Oscillation, played a key role in the increase in disasters in 2022. Grid-2023 attributes the three-year La Nina event to an increase in weather-related disasters, particularly floods. Its impact continued for the third consecutive year, causing widespread disasters around the world.



5. Sub-Saharan Africa experienced the most displacement due to disasters in 2022, with 16.5 million internal displacements – a 17% increase from the previous year. South Asia saw the annual average of disaster displacement double, reaching 12.5 million. In contrast, East Asia and the Pacific experienced less displacement due to less intense rainfall and cyclone season.
6. The alarming increase in disaster displacement highlights the urgent need for effective disaster risk reduction and management strategies. It underscores the importance of building resilience and preparedness at the individual, community and national levels. Addressing the impacts of climate change and investing in adaptation measures is key to reducing future displacement.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)

Why in news: The US had recently proposed that advance notices of tariff changes and export restrictions by the 14 member countries of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) be considered.



1. It is an economic initiative launched by the President of the United States on May 23, 2022.
2. IPEF has fourteen member states: Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, the United States, and Vietnam.

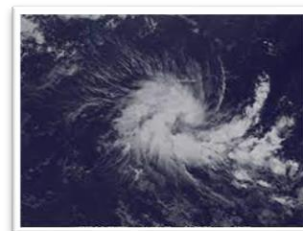
The framework aims to advance resilience, stability, inclusivity, economic growth, fairness and competitiveness for member economies.
3. The forum seeks to go beyond traditional free trade agreements and work on supply chains, clean energy, decarbonisation, infrastructure, and tax and anti-corruption issues.
4. The initiative aims to contribute to cooperation, stability, prosperity, development and peace within the Indo-Pacific region.
5. This framework will provide tangible benefits that boost economic activity and investment, promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth, and benefit workers and consumers across the region.

(SOURCE – LIVEMINT)



Cyclone Fabien

Why in news: A powerful cyclone 'FABIEN' is moving over the South Indian Ocean in the equatorial latitudes, abeam Southern Peninsula. The hurricane-strength weather system will take nearly one week to clear the area. This monster storm is restricting the cross-equatorial flow and the build-up of the Monsoon stream.



1. At 5:00 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, the center of Tropical Cyclone Fabien was located at latitude 9.0°S and longitude 73.6°E, approximately 145 miles (235 km) southeast of Diego Garcia.
2. Fabien was moving toward the southwest at a speed of 6 mph (10 km/h). The maximum sustained wind speed was 110 mph (175 km/h), with wind gusts reaching 130 mph (210 km/h). The minimum surface pressure was recorded at 959 mb.
3. Tropical Cyclone Fabien is expected to move through an environment unfavorable for intensification in the next 24 hours. While the Sea Surface Temperatures are near 28°C, southerly winds on the western side of the circulation will continue to bring in drier air, and the cyclone will experience vertical wind shear due to northwesterly winds blowing toward the top of its circulation.
4. Fabien will be steered by a high-pressure system over the South Indian Ocean, moving it toward the west-southwest in the next 24 hours.

(SOURCE – LIVEMINT)

London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR)

Why in news: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued an advisory to banks and other RBI-regulated entities asking them to take steps to ensure a complete transition away from the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) from July 1.



1. It is a benchmark interest rate at which major global banks lend to one another in the international interbank market for short-term loans.
2. It serves short-term loans with maturities from Overnight to 1 year. It also acts as a basis for Corporate and Government Bonds, mortgages, student loans, credit cards, derivatives, and other Financial Products.
3. It is Administered by ICE Benchmark Administration (IBA), regulated by the UK's Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). It is based on five currencies, including the



U.S. dollar, the euro, the British pound, the Japanese yen, and the Swiss franc, and serves 7 different maturity periods.

4. The Secured overnight financing rate (SOFR) is being widely used as a substitute for LIBOR across the world. Other Benchmarks rates – (1) CHF – SARON; (2) EUR – ESTER; (3) GBP – SONIA (Already in use since March 31, 2021); (4) JPY – TONA.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

International Organization for Migration

Why in news: Amy Pope from the United States has been elected as the new Director-General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), making her the first woman to hold the post.



1. IOM is an intergovernmental organization that provides migration-related services and advice to governments and migrants, including refugees, internally displaced persons, and migrant workers.
2. Origin IOM was founded in 1951 as the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) to help resettle people displaced by World War II.
3. It was granted permanent observer status to the United Nations General Assembly in 1992. It is now part of the United Nations.
4. The flagship report World Migration Report is published every year. The work works in four broad areas of IOM migration management- migration and development, facilitating migration, regulating migration and forced migration.
5. It has 175 member countries. India is a member of IOM. The IOM, primarily with US leadership, plays a key role in addressing global migration challenges, providing assistance to migrants, and advising governments on migration-related policies

(SOURCE – LIVEMINT)

South Asia Gas Enterprise (SAGE)

Why in news: An undersea gas pipeline project connecting the Middle East and India has been proposed by South Asia Gas Enterprise (SAGE), an international consortium.



1. The project, estimated to cost \$5 billion, aims to set up a 2,000-km-long energy corridor through the Arabian Sea, bypassing geopolitically sensitive areas.
2. If realised, it could result in annual savings of about Rs 7,000 crore compared to importing the same amount of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the pipeline.



3. Imports of gas from countries such as Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkmenistan and Qatar, which collectively have significant gas reserves.
4. The proposed pipeline is estimated to deliver 31 million metric standard cubic metres per day (mmscmd) of gas to India under a 20-year long-term supply contract, with a pipeline tariff range of \$2 to \$2.25 per mmBtu.
5. South Asia Gas Enterprise Private Limited (SAGE) has been promoted by New Delhi-based Siddho Mal Group into a joint venture with UK-based Deepwater Technology Company. It is launching a path-breaking project to build the deepest underwater international gas pipeline ("Middle East to India Deepwater Pipeline (MEIDP)) to connect the gas-rich Gulf and Middle East regions to India."

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)

S-80FP wall piercing rocket

Why in news: The Russian military will soon be equipped with a new air-launched rocket with the S-8 OFP entering production



1. It is an 80 mm unguided rocket developed primarily for the armed forces of the Russian Federation. It is an air-to-surface rocket intended for both fixed and rotary-wing aircraft.
2. It was designed by Spalav Corporation, Russia.
It is designed to hit single and multiple targets, unarmored and light armored military hardware, as well as surface ships.
3. The S-80FP can explode before hitting the target, on impact or after hitting the target. Its total weight is 17 kg and its warhead is 9.5 kg.

(SOURCE – LIVEMINT)

Quad Summit 2023

Why in news: Recently, the Prime Minister of Australia, the Prime Minister of India, the Prime Minister of Japan and the President of the United States met for the 3rd In-Person Quad Leaders Summit.



1. The group of four democracies - India, Australia, the US and Japan - is known as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad.



2. The group aims to ensure a free and open international order based on the rule of law in the Indo-Pacific region.
3. In the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami, India, Japan, Australia and the US formed an informal alliance to collaborate on disaster relief efforts.
4. It was attended by Prime Ministers/Presidents of all member countries. The summit was hosted by the US. A shorter edition of the Quad summit of India, Japan, the US and Australia was held in Hiroshima.

The Quad International Standards Cooperation Network and the Quad Principles on Critical and Emerging Technology Standards were released. This reflects the quad leaders' support for an industry-led, consensus-based multi-stakeholder approach to the development of technology standards.

5. Joint statement by Quad leaders
 - a. Clearly expressed his deep concern over the Ukraine war
 - b. On the Indo-Pacific region
 - c. Quad Health Security Partnership
 - d. Other regional issues
 - e. Marine Domain
 - f. Quad Investor Network (QUIN)

(SOURCE – LIVEMINT)

WHO Launches Global Network to Detect Infectious Disease Threat

Why in news: The World Health Organization has launched a global network to help rapidly detect the threat of infectious diseases such as COVID-19 and share information to prevent their spread.



1. About IPSN (Objectives, Vision, Area of Work, Results, etc.) About the International Pathogen Surveillance Network (IPSN) The International Pathogen Surveillance Network (IPSN) is a global network of pathogen genomic actors.
2. It aims to accelerate progress on the deployment of pathogen genomics and improve public health decision-making. By strengthening the pathogen genomic surveillance ecosystem, IPSN enables rapid detection of new pathogens and increased tracking of the spread and development of diseases.
3. IPSN supports ongoing disease surveillance and will help detect and fully characterize new disease threats before they become epidemics or pandemics. A world where every country has equal access to continued capacity for genomic sequencing and analytics as part of its public health surveillance system.



4. Community of practice for solving common challenges – At the heart of IPSN's work is a set of communities of practice that enable exchanges between partners working on pathogen genomics. The first of these is the IPSN Community of Practice on Genomics Data.
5. Its projects and deliverables aim to harmonize data standards and protocols, ensure genomics data tools are fit for purpose, and enhance data and profit sharing.
6. CSUA's projects and delivery aim to create a set of capacity building tools as global goods, and to empower South-South bilateral and sub-regional partnerships for capacity development.
7. With the active participation of countries, partners, regional organizations and WHO, IPSN keeps pathogen genomic surveillance on the global agenda and ensures strategic procurement.
8. The annual forum brings together key players from all IPSN entities involved in pathogen genomic surveillance. The platform will help provide a high-profile platform to build partnerships, introduce innovations, socialize ideas and advocate for political and financial commitments.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)

PM Modi conferred with the highest honour of Papua New Guinea, Fiji

Why in news: Papua New Guinea Governor-General Sir Bob Dadae conferred the Companion of the order of Logohu to PM Modi for championing the cause of unity of Pacific Island countries and spearheading the cause of Global South.



1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been awarded Fiji's highest honour, the Companion of the Order of Fiji, by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, Sitivani Rabuka.
2. Papua New Guinea Governor General Sir Bob Dade awarded PM Modi the Companion of the Order of the Logo for the unity of pacific island countries and for leading the cause of the Global South. Former recipients of this award include former US President Bill Clinton.
3. Forum for India Pacific Island cooperation- is a multinational grouping developed in 2014 for cooperation between India and 14 Pacific islands nations.
4. Papua New Guinea is in southwest pacific ocean , with capital Port Moresby.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)



Tiger shark joint military exercise

Why in news: The Bangladesh-US joint naval drill exercise 'Tiger Shark 40' began at BNS Nirvik in Chattogram on Sunday.



1. The aim of the exercise is to enhance the strategic capabilities of the two countries and gain mutual technical and procedural knowledge. This is being done to improve the existing good relations between the armed forces of the two countries.
2. Special Forces of Bangladesh Army and Navy and US Special Forces participated in this training exercise conducted under the management of Commodore Swords Command.
3. Some representatives of the US Embassy in Bangladesh also attended the event. Among others, other officials from the Armed Forces Department, Army, Navy and Chittagong Naval Area and invited guests were present at the exercise.

(SOURCE – LIVEMINT)

Georgi Gospodinov wins Booker Prize

Why in news: Georgy Gospodinov, a prominent Bulgarian writer, has gained international acclaim for her thought-provoking works that delve into the complexities of human existence. He recently became the first Bulgarian to receive the International Booker Prize.



1. His literary achievements have transcended language barriers, with his books translated into many languages. With the success of Gospodinov, the skilled translator Angela Rodale has been instrumental in bringing her works to an English-speaking audience.
2. Georgi Gospodinov's literary skills have captivated readers around the world, leading to the translation of her works into more than 20 languages. His novel "The Physics of Grief" stands as one of his famous and highly respected works, reflecting his ability to delve into the depths of human emotions and experiences.
3. The Italian translation of Gospodinov's novel "Time Shelter" was awarded the prestigious Premio Strega Europa Prize. This recognition speaks of the universality of Gospodinov's story, transcending boundaries and resonating with readers across cultures.



4. The list of Gospodinov's literary repertoire extends beyond traditional novels. His graphic novel "The Eternal Fly" holds the distinction of being the first Bulgarian graphic novel.
5. The translation of Gospodinov's works into English has been skillfully handled by Angela Rodale, a well-known literary translator. Rodale's contributions have allowed English-speaking readers to access Gospodinov's thought-provoking narratives and experience his unique literary voice.
6. Angela Rodale's translation of "The Physics of Grief" received critical acclaim and several prestigious awards. In particular, he was awarded the AATSEL Prize for best literary translation in English, recognizing his exceptional skill in faithfully conveying the essence of Gospodinov's work to an English-speaking audience.
7. In 2016, Angela Rodale was named a finalist for the Pen Translation Award, which further strengthened her reputation as an accomplished translator. This recognition highlights his extraordinary talent in bridging linguistic and cultural gaps, allowing readers to appreciate Gospodinov's work in English.

(SOURCE – LIVEMINT)

The European Space Agency's ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter (TGO)

Why in news: The European Space Agency's ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter (TGO) recently showed an encoded message to Earth from its orbit around Mars.



1. TGO is the first in a series of joint missions between the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Russian space agency Roscosmos. Gain a better understanding of methane and other atmospheric gases that are present in the Martian atmosphere in small concentrations (less than 1% of the atmosphere).
2. The orbiter's sensitivity to hydrogen has also allowed it to search for water buried beneath the shallow layers of Martian soil. It is also meant to test the technology for future missions.
3. It was launched in March 2016 and started operations after entering the Martian orbit on October 19, 2016. TGO took the Schiaparelli lander with it to Mars. However, it crashed during landing.

The spacecraft itself is a 3.2 m by 2 m by 2 m box, with one antenna mounted to communicate with Earth and the other to communicate with the spacecraft on the surface of Mars.



4. It is powered by a pair of solar arrays that protrude from its edges like wings, along with two small batteries to keep it running during an eclipse, when it receives no sunlight.
5. It has a number of tools including,
 - a. Nomad (Nadir and Occult for MARS Discovery);
 - b. ACS (Atmospheric Chemistry Suite);
 - c. CASIS (color and stereo surface imaging system);
 - d. FREND (Fine Resolution Epithermal Neutron Detector);

(SOURCE – LIVEMINT)

WMO approves Global Tracker for GHGs

Why in news: According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the World Meteorological Congress has taken an important decision to approve a new greenhouse gas (GHG) monitoring initiative.



1. The initiative aims to support urgent action in reducing heat-trapping gases that contribute to rising global temperatures. The newly established Global Greenhouse Gas Watch will address critical information gaps, integrating different observation systems, modeling capabilities and data assimilation under a comprehensive framework.
2. The unanimous support of the WMO's 193 members highlights the growing importance of greenhouse gas monitoring and the need to strengthen the scientific foundations for climate change mitigation efforts.
3. Filling information gaps and providing an integrated framework Overcoming limitations in the international exchange of integrated surface-based and space-based observation, greenhouse gas observation and modeling products Supported by the World Meteorological Congress Recognizing the social importance of greenhouse gas monitoring Supporting scientific understanding of the Earth system Strengthening the basis of mitigation actions for climate agreements.
4. Components of the Global Greenhouse Gas Watch
 - a. Comprehensive overview: Surface-based and satellite-based monitoring of CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O
 - b. Forecasting of GHG emissions:- Using activity data and process-based models to estimate emissions
 - c. Global Earth System Model:- Developing high-resolution models representing GHG cycles



- d. Data assimilation system:- combining observations with model calculations for high accuracy

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)

UAE Unveils Ambitious Space Mission to Explore Main Asteroid Belt

Why in news: The mission will consist of a six-year development phase for the spacecraft, followed by a seven-year journey beyond Mars to reach the main asteroid belt. The MBR Explorer will conduct close flybys of seven asteroids in the belt, aiming to conduct unique observations and gather valuable data.



1. In a groundbreaking announcement, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has revealed its plans to embark on a pioneering space mission to explore the main asteroid belt situated between Mars and Jupiter.
2. The ambitious endeavor, named MBR Explorer, is expected to launch in March 2028, marking a significant milestone in the UAE's space exploration program.
3. The UAE, renowned for its remarkable achievements in space research, intends to send the MBR Explorer on a remarkable journey covering a staggering distance of 5 billion kilometers. The mission's primary objective is to unravel the mysteries surrounding the formation of our solar system and to unearth potential clues to the origins of life that may be concealed within the asteroid belt.
4. The multi-faceted expedition aims not only to investigate the potential utilization of water-rich asteroids as a valuable resource but also to assess the presence of volatile and organic compounds within the asteroid belt. Such compounds are the fundamental components of life as we know it and could unlock crucial insights into our own planet's origins. Furthermore, the mission's findings may open up possibilities for future resource extraction from asteroids.
5. The UAE made history by becoming the first Arab country and only the second nation ever to achieve a successful entry into Mars' orbit on its inaugural attempt with the Hope probe earlier this year.
6. The Hope probe has already commenced its mission of providing a comprehensive understanding of the Martian atmosphere and its layers, providing vital data to answer critical questions about the planet's climate and composition. With the MBR Explorer mission, the UAE reaffirms its commitment to pushing the boundaries of space exploration and scientific discovery.

(SOURCE – HINDUSTAN TIMES)



World Health Assembly adopts resolution to prevent drowning

Why in news: Member states of the World Health Assembly (WHA) agreed to establish an alliance to prevent drowning worldwide during the 76th meeting of the WHA May 29, 2023. This is the first alliance to address global public health concerns on the issue until 2029.



1. A resolution sponsored by the Governments of Bangladesh and Ireland invited the World Health Organization (WHO) to coordinate action on drowning prevention within the United Nations system and among relevant UN entities.
2. The 194 members of the WHA agreed to set up a Global Alliance for Drowning Prevention and prepare a global status report to assess the impact of drowning worldwide. The status report will inform policymakers of critical information to guide them.
3. The resolution asked member states to study national drowning scenarios within each country and implement policies and programmes to reduce risks.
4. Subsequently, reporting on achievements of the global alliance and intersections with broader agendas, including the UN-mandated Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, should also be included in 2029.
5. The official global estimate of 235,000 deaths per annum excludes drownings attributable to flood-related climatic events and water transport incidents, resulting in a significant underrepresentation of drowning deaths

(SOURCE – THE HINDU)

Important News: National

Blue bugging

Why in news: Concerned over an increase in instances of cybercrime, Andhra Pradesh police recently asked the people to be wary of "bluebugging."



1. This is a form of hacking that lets attackers access the device through its searchable Bluetooth connection. Once a device or phone is bluebugged, a hacker can listen to calls, read and send messages, and steal and modify contacts.
2. This started as a threat to laptops with Bluetooth capability. Hackers later used this technology to target mobile phones and other devices. This attack is often



limited due to the limitation of the Bluetooth connection, which only goes up to 10 meters.

3. Bluebugging attacks work by exploiting Bluetooth-enabled devices. And the device's Bluetooth must be in searchable mode, which is the default setting on most devices.
4. The hacker then tries to pair with the device via Bluetooth. Once the connection is established, hackers can use brute force attacks to bypass authentication. They can install malware in the hacked device to gain unauthorized access to it.
5. Malware, or malicious software, is any program or file that is intentionally harmful to a computer, network, or server. Types of malware include computer viruses, worms, Trojan horses, ransomware, and spyware.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

National Green Hydrogen Mission

Why in news: Recently, The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister of India, has approved National Green Hydrogen Mission.



1. The initial outlay for the mission will be Rs 19,744 crore, which includes Rs 17,490 crore for site programme, Rs 1,466 crore for pilot projects, Rs 400 crore for R&D and Rs 388 crore for other mission components.
2. Objective: To make India a global hub for production, use and export of green hydrogen and its derivatives. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy will formulate plan guidelines for implementation of the respective components.
3. Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition Programme (SITE): Under this, two different financial incentive mechanisms will be provided
 - a. Targeting domestic manufacturing of electrolyzers and
 - b. Production of green hydrogen
4. The mission will also support pilot projects in emerging end-use areas and production routes. Large-scale production and/or production of hydrogen. Areas capable of supporting the use and/or use will be identified and developed as green hydrogen hubs.
5. The mission will facilitate a public-private partnership framework for R&D (Strategic Hydrogen Innovation Partnership – SHIP). An integrated skill development programme will also be launched under the mission.



6. Green hydrogen is a gas produced by splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen using electrolyzers that can be powered by electricity generated from renewable energy sources.

(SOURCE – ECONOMIC TIMES)

Paalan 1000 campaign

Why in news: India has taken rapid strides in reducing child mortality since 2014 from 45 per 1,000 live births to 35 per 1,000 live births in 2019.

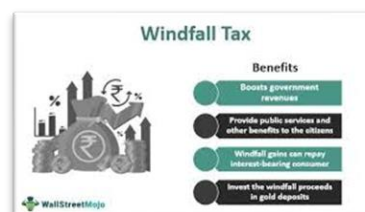


1. Paalan 1000 – The First 1000 Days Journey', focuses on the cognitive development of children in the first 2 years of their lives. It also includes a parenting app to focus on child health.
2. The app will provide practical advice to caregivers on what they can do in their everyday routine and help clear doubts.
3. The app combines coaching for parents, families, and other caregivers with services designed to meet the basic needs of families.
4. The programme is aligned with the mission of the National Child Health Programme (RBSK), with an emphasis on responsive care and focused intervention during the first 1,000 days.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)

Windfall Tax?

Why in news: India recently slashed the windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil to ₹4,100 per tonne from ₹6,400 per tonne.



1. It is a high tax levied by the government on specific industries when they experience unexpected and above-average profits. When the government notices a sudden increase in the revenue of an industry, they impose this tax.
2. However, these revenues cannot be linked to anything the company actively pursues, such as its business strategy or expansion.
3. As a result, a windfall tax is levied on an industry's profits when it experiences a sharp increase in revenue due to unrelated external events.
4. redistribution of unexpected profits, when higher prices benefit producers at the expense of consumers;



- a. Funding social welfare schemes;
 - b. As a supplementary revenue stream for the government;
 - c. As a way for the government to reduce the country's growing trade deficit;
- (SOURCE –The Hindu)

ASEAN-India maritime exercise (AIME-2023)

Why in news: India recently sent two frontline warships to take part in the first-ever ASEAN-India maritime exercise (AIME-2023).



1. AIME-2023 is the first time India has joined the exercise with ASEAN, though there have been separate exercises with ASEAN countries.
2. Objective: To enhance interoperability and exchange of best practices among the participating navies.
3. With AIME-2023, India has become the fourth ASEAN dialogue partner to conduct the ASEAN+1 maritime exercise, after Russia, China and the US.
4. The first exercise will be held off the coast of Singapore and will have events in port and at sea off the coast of Singapore.

Two major warships of the Indian Navy - indigenously built destroyer INS Delhi and the recently built Shivalik-class advanced stealth frigate INS Satpura are part of the exercise.

5. ASEAN is a regional intergovernmental organization consisting of ten Southeast Asian countries. It was established with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration in 1967.
6. Objective: To promote inter-governmental cooperation and facilitate economic, political, security, military, educational and socio-cultural integration between its members and other Asian states.
7. Members: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

Yuva Tourism Clubs

Why in news: The Tourism Ministry will undertake a special initiative of 100 Episodes of Mann ki Baat - 100 days of Action through the Yuva Tourism Clubs.



1. The Ministry has formed 30 thousand Youth Tourism Clubs by May 1, 2023 to nurture and develop young ambassadors of Indian tourism.
2. Vision: This vision is to nurture and develop young ambassadors of Indian tourism who will be aware of the tourism potential in India, appreciate our rich cultural heritage and develop interest and passion for tourism.
3. These young ambassadors will be a catalyst to promote tourism in the country. Setting up of Youth Tourism Clubs was initiated in schools, colleges and Indian Institutes of Hotel Management in connection with the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.
4. The Ministry of Tourism has also proposed to increase the number of Youth Tourism Clubs to 50,000 in the next 100 days starting May 1, 2023.
5. Participation in tourism clubs is also expected to facilitate the development of soft skills such as teamwork, management, leadership besides encouraging the adoption of responsible tourism practices and concern for sustainable tourism.

(SOURCE – ECONOMIC TIMES)

India to join international climate action in civil aviation from 2027

Why in news: India recently announced that it will start participating in the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) and the Long-Term Aspirational Goals (LTAG) from 2027



1. It was established in 1947 by the International Civil Aviation Conference (1944) known as the Chicago Convention.
2. Headquarters: Montreal, Canada
3. ICAO is dedicated to developing safe and efficient international air transport for peaceful purposes and ensuring a fair opportunity for each state to operate international airlines.
4. It sets out the necessary standards and regulations for aviation safety, safety and convenience, efficiency and economic development of air transport, as well as improving the environmental performance of aviation.
5. It also serves as a clearinghouse for cooperation and discussion on civil aviation issues among its 193 member states.
6. It also promotes regional and international agreements aimed at liberalising aviation markets. It helps to establish legal standards to ensure that the



development of aviation does not compromise safety, and encourages the development of other aspects of international aviation law.

7. It is a global market-based measure designed to offset international aviation CO₂ emissions to stabilize such emission levels. Offsetting of CO₂ emissions will be achieved through the acquisition and cancellation of emission units from the global carbon market by airplane operators.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)

Buland Bharat Exercise

Why in news: Indian Army recently conducted the 'Buland Bharat' exercise in the longest high-altitude Artillery Ranges of the eastern theatre.



1. It is an integrated surveillance and firepower training exercise conducted by the Indian Army. It was held at the recently operated longest High Altitude Artillery Range of The Eastern Theatre located in Arunachal Pradesh.
2. The exercise involved surveillance and coordinated application of artillery and infantry surveillance and firepower in close coordination with special forces, aviation and central armed police forces deployed in West Kameng and Tawang districts of Arunachal Pradesh.
3. The exercise validated plans to reduce integrated firepower by conducting synchronized firing by artillery guns and fire support components with the aim of destroying designated targets.
4. The month-long training culminated in a test exercise in which troops and equipment were tested in simulated combat conditions in high altitude area and extreme weather conditions.
5. During the exercise, coordinated surveillance and firepower from infantry and artillery radars, weapon systems and air-to-fire direction were carried out and intercepted communication over multiple media over long distances was also tested.

(SOURCE – The Hindu)

Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)

Why in news: The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is undertaking a third-party assessment of the Rs 945-crore Startup India Seed Fund Scheme to see its impact on the ground.



1. It is a flagship scheme launched in April 2021 under Startup India
2. Objective: Financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product testing, market entry and commercialization.

It has been implemented for a period of 4 years with a corpus of Rs 945 crore with effect from April 1, 2021.

3. Nodal Department: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Funding:

4. An Expert Advisory Committee (EAC) has been constituted by DPIIT for execution and monitoring of SISFS.
5. The EAC will select eligible incubators, who will be provided a grant of up to Rs 5 crore each. In return, the selected incubators will provide up to Rs 20 lakh to startups for proof of concept, prototype development and verification of product trials.
6. A startup accredited by DPIIT was not incorporated more than 2 years ago at the time of application. And startups must have a business idea to develop a product or service with a market fit, viable commercialization and scope of scaling.

Startups should use technology in their core product or service, or business model, or distribution model, or methodology to solve the problem being targeted.

7. Startups should not get monetary assistance of more than Rs 10 lakh under any other central or state government scheme. And the shareholding by Indian promoters in startups should be at least 51% at the time of application in the incubator for the scheme.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi' campaign

Why in news: The Ministry of Women and Child Development will celebrate the fifth Poshan Pakhwada from 20th March 2022 to 3rd April 2023 with various activities nationwide.



1. The poshan pakhwada aims to raise awareness about the importance of nutrition and promote healthy eating habits through mass movement and mass participation.
2. The theme of this year's Poshan Pakhwada 2023 is "Nutrition for All: Together towards a Healthier India".



3. With the year 2023 being declared as the International Year of Millets, the focus of this year's Nutrition Fortnight will be on popularising 'Sri Anna', the mother of all cereals, as a valuable asset to combat malnutrition.
4. The activities during the Poshan Pakhwada will focus, inter alia, on the following key themes
 - a. Nutritional supplements to millet-based foods,
 - b. Home visits,
 - c. Promotion and popularization of Shri Anna/Millet for nutrition welfare through organizing campaigns to link with food counseling camps etc.
 - d. Celebrate and recognize a 'healthy child' or healthy child according to defined norms by creating a healthy sense of competition for good nutrition, good health and well-being.
 - e. Popularizing Saksham Anganwadis: Campaigns will be conducted to raise awareness and popularize competent Anganwadis with improved infrastructure and facilities as centres of better nutrition delivery and early childhood care and education.
5. Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Women and Child Development
6. Poshan Abhiyaan, launched by the Prime Minister of India on 8th March 2018, has been instrumental in ensuring people's participation and bringing the discourse on nutrition to the forefront. Poshan Abhiyaan was launched to improve nutritional outcomes overall.

(SOURCE – ECONOMIC TIMES)

Vivad se Vishwas I – Relief to MSMEs

Why in news: The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, has launched the scheme, “Vivad se Vishwas I – Relief to MSMEs” for providing relief to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) for COVID-19 period.



1. The scheme was announced in the Union Budget 2023-24. The scheme is based on a similar 'Sabka Vishwas Scheme' for indirect taxes announced in 2019.
2. There is a provision for settlement of disputed tax, interest, penalty etc. in this scheme. and to provide exemption from any proceedings for prosecution for any offence under the Income Tax Act in respect of the matters covered in the declaration.



3. Under the scheme, ministries have been asked to refund losses seized or deducted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some relief has also been provided to MSMEs banned for default in execution of contracts during covid-19 period.
4. The Ministry of Finance decided to extend the following additional benefits to eligible MSMEs affected during the COVID-19 period through this scheme: 95% of the seized performance protection will be returned. 95% of the bid security will be refunded. 95% of the deducted liquidation damage (LD) will be refunded. 95% of the risk purchase amount charged will be refunded.
5. If a firm has been banned only due to default in the execution of such contracts, such restriction will also be revoked by issuing appropriate orders by the procurement entity.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

India to launch its own heat index next year to quantify heat hazard

Why in news: India will launch its composite index next year to measure the impact of heat on its population and generate impact-based heat wave alerts for specific locations.



1. The IMD began releasing an experimental heat index for different parts of the country last week, taking into account air temperature and relative humidity to determine how hot it actually feels.
2. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) last week started releasing an experimental heat index for different parts of the country, taking into account air temperature and relative humidity to determine how hot it actually feels.
3. Along with temperature and humidity it will integrate other parameters such as wind and duration of exposure. This will be an effective indicator of heat stress for people.
4. The threat score will be ready in about two months and it will be operational in the next summer season. Meanwhile, light fog enveloped various parts of the national capital this morning, affecting visibility.
5. The city received heavy rainfall yesterday and recorded around 21 mm rainfall in the last 24 hours. Yesterday, the maximum temperature was recorded at 30.6 degrees Celsius, nine notches below the season's average, while the minimum temperature was recorded at 20.1 degrees Celsius, five notches below the season's average.

(SOURCE – ECONOMIC TIMES)



Mission Karmayogi

Why in news: "Mission Karmayogi" launched by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has institutionalised the process of capacity building with an aim to shape the 2047 century India, especially for the benefit of civil servants.



1. Mission Karmayogi or National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB).
2. Mission Karmayogi aims to prepare for the future by making civil servants more creative, creative and innovative through transparency and technology.

This unique programme will help lay the foundation for civil servants in the country. It will have a greater focus on 'on-site learning' in complement to "off-site learning".

3. The stated objective of Mission Karmayogi is to provide a mechanism for continuous capacity building, updating the talent pool and providing equal opportunities for personal and professional development and respect of government officials at all levels.
4. Karmayogi wants to shift the focus from rule-specific to role-specific. The mission will help train officers to face the challenges of the society.
It aims to build a future-ready civil service with the right attitude, skills and knowledge, which is in line with the vision of New India.
5. The effort is also to end the culture of working in silos and to remove the multiplicity of training courses due to institutes spread across the country. It will improve human resource management practices in the government and use scale and state-of-the-art infrastructure to enhance the capacity of civil servants.
6. It will be operated by four new bodies.
 - a. New institutions Prime Minister's Public Human Resource Council,
 - b. A Capacity Building Commission,
 - c. There will be a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) that will own and operate a digital asset and technology platform for online training,
 - d. And there will be a coordination unit, which will be headed by the Cabinet Secretary.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)



Food Street Project

Why in news: Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya recently reviewed the 'Food Street Project'.



1. It aims to develop 100 healthy and clean food-roads across the country. The project seeks to encourage safe and healthy food practices, reduce foodborne illnesses, and improve overall health outcomes.
2. The National Health Mission will provide assistance of Rs 1 crore per food street to make the food street operational. Financial assistance will be provided for activities such as safe drinking water, hand washing, toilet facilities and proper liquid and solid waste disposal.
3. The initiative will be implemented through NHM in convergence with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
4. The Health Ministry has taken various steps to improve hygiene and food safety standards protocols for food street hubs.
5. These initiatives include training of food handlers, independent third party audits and certification under the Clean Street Food Hub initiative of the Eat Right India Movement.

(SOURCE – ECONOMIC TIMES)

Startup India Seed Fund Scheme

Why in news: The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is conducting a third-party impact assessment of the Startup India Seed Fund scheme to evaluate its performance in benefiting the startup community.



1. SISFS was created in 2021 by DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It aims to provide financial assistance to start-ups for proof of concept, prototype development, product testing, market entry and commercialization.
2. Eligibility startups recognised by DPIIT who were not incorporated more than 2 years ago at the time of application have not received monetary assistance of more than Rs 10 lakh under any other central or state government scheme.
3. Preference startups create innovative solutions in areas such as social impact, waste management, water management, etc.



4. Grants and grant-in-aid of up to Rs 5 crore are provided to eligible incubators, who in turn provide a grant of up to Rs 20 lakh to startups for verification of proof of concept, prototype development or product trials. The estimated beneficiary is 3,600 entrepreneurs through 300 incubators in the next 4 years.
5. Seed funding is an initial stage of investment in a start-up or a new business idea that helps the company reach a point where it can secure additional rounds of funding or generate revenue to become self-sufficient.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)

Khelo India University Games 2022

Why in news: Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur will launch the logo, jersey, mascot, torch and anthem of the Khelo India University Games 2022 (KIUG 2022) at the Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow this morning.



1. The third edition of the Khelo India University Games will be held from May 23 to June 3. The opening ceremony is scheduled to be held on May 25 at Babu Banarasi Das University in Lucknow.
2. The upcoming edition of KIUG is expected to see the participation of over 4,700 athletes from over 200 universities across the country, with the total participation reaching over 7,000.
3. The number of sports disciplines covered in this edition is 21, the highest ever in the history of university sports. Rowing is also being introduced for the first time.
4. Apart from the state capital Lucknow, the Games will be held in Varanasi, Noida and Gorakhpur. The shooting competition will be held at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi.
5. For the first time, water sports like rowing will be a part of the Khelo India University Games. Two indigenous sports disciplines namely Mallakhamb and Yogasana were part of the previous edition of Khelo India University Games held in Karnataka and will also be a part of this edition.

(SOURCE –The Hindu)

Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)

Why in news: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deputy governor had recently said that central bank digital currency (CBDC) platforms can bring a significant change in the field of cross-border payments.



1. CBDCs are a form of digital currency issued by a country's central bank. Examples of central banks include the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the US Federal Reserve System, the Bank of Japan.
2. CBDCs are similar to stationary coins, except that their value is decided by the central bank and is equal to the country's fiat currency.
3. It provides privacy, transferability, convenience, accessibility and financial security to businesses and consumers. And it also reduces the maintenance costs that a complex financial system requires. It reduces cross-border transaction costs.
4. It will also reduce the risks associated with using digital currencies, or cryptocurrencies, in their current form. The CBDC, backed by a government and controlled by a central bank, will give households, consumers and businesses a secure means of exchanging digital currency.
5. Stablecoins are cryptocurrencies whose value is valued or tied to another currency, commodity or financial instrument. Stablecoins aims to provide an alternative to the high volatility of the most popular cryptocurrencies, including Bitcoin (BTC).
6. Unlike cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, the prices of stablecoins remain stable whatever fiat currency supports them. For example, USDC Stablecoin is backed by dollar-denominated assets.

(SOURCE –The Hindu)

Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra clinches Doha Diamond League title

Why in news: India's Neeraj Chopra has made a great start to the 2023 season by winning the javelin throw title in the ongoing Diamond League in Doha.

1. The 25-year-old Chopra, who won the 2022 Diamond League Final trophy in Switzerland in September last year, clocked a best throw of 88.67m.
2. Chopra hit his stripes in his first attempt with a world leading throw of 88.67m, which was the fourth best of his career.
3. He maintained the lead until the end to win this competition in his second appearance at Qatar Sports Club.
4. Czech Republic's Vadlejic was second and Grenada's Peters was third. With this victory, Neeraj has also achieved a world lead.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)



Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START).

Why in news: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced a new introductory level online training programme called Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START).



1. The START program is aimed at postgraduate and final year undergraduate students of physics and technology.
2. The programme will cover various domains of space science including astronomy and astrophysics, heliophysics and sun-earth interactions, instrumentation and aeronomy. It will be distributed by Indian academicians and scientists from ISRO centres.
3. The programme is part of ISRO's efforts to enable Indian students to become professionals in space science and technology.
4. It aims to provide students with an introductory level training in space science and technology, giving them an overview of various aspects of the field, research opportunities and career options. The training will also emphasize the cross-disciplinary nature of space science.
5. The programme is expected to help build a human capacity that will lead to space science and research in the future.
6. The student community will receive:
 - a. Overview of various aspects of space science and technology,
 - b. Exposure to ongoing research in various Indian institutions,
 - c. Insight into how their personal qualifications will be in line with certain aspects of space science and technology, Students will get a chance to appreciate the cross-disciplinary nature of the subject, and choose their career path accordingly.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)

PM CARES Fund

Why in news: The central government has recently informed the Delhi High Court that the PM CARES Fund has been set up as a public charitable trust and not a public authority under the RTI.



1. The Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES Fund) was created on 28 March 2020 after the COVID-19 pandemic in India.
2. It was created for combat, prevention and relief efforts against situations like the coronavirus outbreak and similar pandemics in the future. It has been registered as a Public Charitable Trust.
3. To provide assistance and relief to all affected persons in the event of any calamity, calamity, public health emergency or any other emergency of any kind which may be natural or man-made.
4. Construction and upgradation of any pharmaceutical facilities, funding of research, construction or upgradation of any necessary infrastructure, health care assistance or any other type of support.
5. The Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM CARES Fund. The Defence Minister, the Home Minister and the Finance Minister, Government of India are ex-officio trustees of the Fund. The trust deed of the fund gives the chairman of the board of trustees i.e. the prime minister the power to nominate three trustees to the board of trustees.
6. The Fund consists entirely of voluntary contributions from individuals/organizations and does not receive any budgetary support. Contributions to the fund can be from any individual or any organization including companies, other charitable institutions, associations, etc.
7. Donations to the PM CARES Fund will qualify for 80G benefits for 100% exemption under the Income Tax Act. Donations to the PM CARES Fund will also be counted as corporate social responsibility (CSR) expenditure under the Companies Act, 2013.
8. It is also exempted under the FCRA. It enables the PM CARES Fund to accept donations and contributions from individuals and organisations based abroad.

(SOURCE –NEWS ON AIR)

IFFCO Integrating drone, Nano and AI technologies for smart farming.

Why in news: Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative (IFFCO) is planning to promote the use of nano fertilizers like Nano Urea and Nano DAP using drones and Artificial Intelligence technologies at all India level in technical collaboration with agricultural universities and technical institutes.



1. DroneAI is an integrated program that promotes foliar application of nano



fertilizers and other agrochemicals by combining drone, nano, artificial intelligence and mobile technologies.

2. Farmers can use these advanced technologies through their mobile app which will make spraying efficient, cost-effective and safe. While spraying, Artificial Intelligence (AI) based software can detect crop growth and health and guide farmers towards smart farming.
3. The main focus of this program is to build a successful drone spraying system, to connect rural youth/youth. The system has to operate in coordination with farmers and train them in advanced technologies which ultimately results in rural entrepreneurship.
4. All mandatory protocols related to drones, their transport vehicles and safe flying are embedded in this process and have been coordinated by farmer friendly mobile apps. So this high-end, integrated drone technology can be promoted in agriculture that will help farmers practice high-tech smart farming.
5. The test module of DRONAI was launched by IFFCO in technical collaboration with TNAU on May 2 at Agricultural Research Station, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore, India.
6. Around 450 farmers from various districts participated in the event to understand more about drones, nano and artificial intelligence technologies in agriculture. The event was jointly organised by Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) and IFFCO.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)

Global Buddhist summit in New Delhi.

Why in news: Recently, the Ministry of Culture in partnership with International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) has organized the 1st Global Buddhist Summit 2023.



1. The two-day summit was attended by Buddhist monks from various countries. The conference was attended by eminent scholars, Sangh leaders and dharma seekers from across the world.
2. It includes 173 international participants, including 84 union members and 151 Indian delegates, including 46 union members, 40 nuns and 65 delegates from outside Delhi.
3. Theme: Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy for Praxis.
4. The summit aims to discuss important global issues of today and seek answers in Buddha Dhamma based on universal values.



5. It aims to establish a platform for general Buddhist scholars and dharma masters. It seeks to delve into Buddha's message for peace, compassion and harmony with the aim of working towards universal peace and harmony in accordance with the core values of religion and to produce a document for further academic research, to study its feasibility for use as a tool for conducting international relations on a global stage.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)

“Har Ghar Dastak” campaign

Why in news: Har Ghar Dastak 2.0 campaign began across the country to ensure that all eligible beneficiaries receive full Covid-19 vaccination.



1. The campaign pays special attention to vaccination of people aged 12 to 14 years and precautionary doses for those above 60 years of age.
2. The first Har Ghar Dastak campaign was launched in November 2021. So far, 193.6 crore doses of vaccines have been administered across the country. About 96.3 per cent of people aged 15 years and above have received at least one vaccination dose and 86.3 per cent have received both doses.
3. The Union Health Ministry expressed concern over the slow pace of Covid vaccination.
4. The campaign aims to vaccinate all eligible population groups across the country for the first, second and precautionary doses through door-to-door campaigns. The campaign will focus on: old age homes, colleges, schools (for out-of-school coverage of children aged 12 to 18), brick kilns, prisons, etc.
5. Unicef is supporting this Health Ministry in this campaign. The ministry had pointed out that sub-optimal coverage of persons with precautionary doses for people aged 60 years and above, as well as slow coverage speed for those between the ages of 12 and 14 years is a matter of great concern.
6. This second round of the campaign will focus on children in the age group of 12 to 18 years. The campaign will also include a school-based campaign that includes private, government and informal schools such as day care schools, madrasas, etc. A round of this campaign will also be organized for those whose schools are closed for summer vacations.

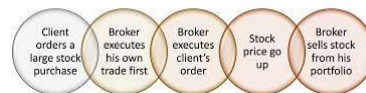
(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)



Front-running

Why in news: SEBI has banned five entities, including an employee of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), from the securities market for 'front-running'

Front Running Process



1. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has banned five entities, including an employee of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), from the securities market for 'front-running'
2. Front-running is an illegal practice in the stock market where an individual or entity trades based on advanced information obtained from a broker or analyst before it is made available to its clients.
3. For example, suppose a broker receives a large order from the client to buy shares of Company X. Before placing an order on behalf of the client, the broker can purchase shares of Company X for his personal account, knowing that the client's order will raise the price of the shares. Once the price of shares rises, the broker can sell its shares at a profit.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)

iDrone initiative

Why in news: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has successfully conducted a trial run of delivery of blood bags by drones under its iDrone initiative.



1. The trial run, as part of a pathbreaking validation study, has been undertaken for the first time in the country by the ICMR; Lady Hardinge Medical College (LHMC); Government Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS), Greater Noida; and the Jaypee Institute of Information Technology (JIIT), Noida.
2. The inaugural trial flight carried 10 units of whole blood samples from the GIMS and LHMC in visual line of sight.
3. The project 'i-DRONE'(ICMR's Drone Response and Outreach for North East) assessed the feasibility of using drone to deliver vaccines and medical supply.
4. This was carried out in difficult geographical terrains including land, island, foothills and across the hills.
5. The medical supplies delivered under i-Drone project included COVID-19 vaccines, vaccines used routine immunisation programs, antenatal care medicines, multi-vitamins, syringes and gloves.



6. The drone delivery system focused on end-to-end ecosystem for drone-based logistic transportation within the states and was first successful example of delivering vaccines through drone from land to Island in South Asia.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

Improvised Explosive Device (IED)

Why in news: Five Indian Army personnel were recently killed in the Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir in an explosion caused by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED).



1. IED is a type of unconventional explosive weapon that can take any form and be activated in a variety of ways. IEDs are used by criminals, vandals, terrorists, suicide bombers, and insurgents.

Because they are improvised, IEDs can come in many forms, ranging from a small pipe bomb to a sophisticated device capable of causing massive damage and loss of life.

2. IEDs can be carried or delivered in a vehicle; carried, placed, or thrown by a person; delivered in a package; or concealed on the roadside.
3. The extent of damage caused by an IED depends on its size, construction, and placement and whether it incorporates a high explosive or propellant.
4. The term IED came into common usage during the Iraq War that began in 2003.
5. It consists of a variety of components that include an initiator, switch, main charge, power source, and container. IEDs may be surrounded by or packed with additional materials or “enhancements” such as nails, glass, or metal fragments designed to increase the amount of shrapnel propelled by the explosion.

An IED can be initiated by a variety of methods depending on the intended target.

6. Many commonly available materials, such as fertilizer, gunpowder, and hydrogen peroxide, are used as explosive materials in IEDs.

Explosives contain fuel and an oxidizer, which provides the oxygen needed to sustain the reaction.

(SOURCE – ECONOMIC TIMES)



Bovine Viral Diarrhoea

Why in news: Scientists have recently created the first gene-edited calf with resistance to the bovine viral diarrhoea virus (BVDV).



1. BVD is an infectious disease, globally distributed endemic to cattle and other ruminant populations. It is caused by the Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV).
2. It can cause of respiratory and reproductive issues in the herd. It leads to immunosuppression and can cause signs in multiple body systems in addition to the digestive tract.
3. Most animals become exposed through contact with other recently infected or persistently infected (carrier) animals that are shedding the virus. It is also possible for cattle to become infected via contact with contaminated fomites, such as water buckets, calf feeders, feed bunks, IV equipment etc.
4. It can be transmitted through a congenital infection of the fetus or after birth. The BVD infection in these calves will persist during the entire life of the calf, and they will shed BVDV continuously in the farm environment.
5. While this virus has no cure, practising supportive therapies will temporarily help to improve the well-being of the cattle. Infected calves should be culled to prevent the spread of BVD.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)

Mission Amrit Sarovar

Why in news: The Prime Minister launched Mission Amrit Sarovar on April 24, 2022, with an aim to conserve water for the future.



1. The objective of the mission was to develop at least 75 Amrit Sarovars in every district of the country on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. In total, under this mission, a target was set to build 50,000 Amrit Sarovar by August 15, 2023, which has been achieved before the scheduled time. So far, the construction of 50,071 Amrut Sarovar has been completed.
2. In order to achieve the resolve of rainwater conservation and harvesting through Mission Amrit Sarovar, the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, acting as the nodal Ministry, is working in mission mode to achieve the target in collaboration with various Ministries.



3. A detailed action plan was prepared from the restoration of Amrit Sarovar, which is on the verge of extinction, to the construction of a new Amrit Sarovar. Due to the efforts made through a "whole government" approach and "people's participation" during all aspects of the mission, the target of 50 thousand Amrit Sarovar could be achieved ahead of time.
4. With the coordinated efforts of district administration, Panchayat Raj officers, public representatives, panchayats, voluntary organizations, various institutions and public participation in the States and Union Territories, about 1,05,243 sites have been identified as Amrit Sarovar till May 10, 2023, out of which work has started on 72,297 sites. So far, the construction of 50,071 Amrut Sarovar has been completed.
5. Mission Amrit Sarovar aims to build or renovate Amrit Sarovar in such a way that they become the hub of local community activities. A user group is being formed for each Amrit Sarovar as there should be community ownership in the maintenance of Amrit Sarovar, to ensure their long-term conservation. So far, 59,282 user groups have joined Mission Amrit Sarovar for the maintenance of the lake and generating their livelihood from it.
6. Under Mission Amrit Sarovar, in achieving the target of 50 thousand Amrit Sarovar before the deadline, it is necessary to highlight the importance of public participation which has turned this mission into a mass movement. So far, 1784 freedom fighters, 684 families of martyrs, 448 families of freedom fighters, 18173 senior members of panchayats and 56 Padma awardees have participated in the mission.

(SOURCE –NEWS ON AIR)

Union Health Ministry launches SAKSHAM Learning Management Information System

Why in news: The Learning Management Information System (LMIS) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) is called SAKSHAM (Stimulating Advanced Knowledge for Sustainable Health Management) by the Union Health Secretary. The digital platform was created by the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW) in New Delhi.



1. Saksham is an integrated and specialized online learning platform that aims to provide medical education and training to all healthcare professionals in India.
2. This digital system will guarantee comprehensive development of health professionals, including those working in rural and remote areas in primary



health centres, as well as those employed in tertiary care and corporate hospitals located in metropolitan cities.

3. LMIS is currently offering more than 200 public health and 100 clinical courses through an online platform. Healthcare professionals can enroll for these courses on the portal by visiting the website

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)

Centre launches 'Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi' to ensure Early Childhood Care & Education

Why in news: The Ministry of Women and Child Development's (MCWD) latest initiative 'Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi' to strengthen early childhood care and education (ECCE) was launched in New Delhi on May 10.



1. This unique initiative aims to ensure that India has a high-quality preschool network. ECCE is an important component of Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Nutrition 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0) and is envisaged under the National Education Policy.
2. 'Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi' is a pathbreaking ECCE programme to ensure that India has the world's largest, universal, high-quality pre-school network, as suggested by the National Education Policy.
3. In line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the government has aimed to strengthen the foundations of the country's future generations. The initiative targets children's development in every domain outlined in the National Curriculum Framework, such as physical and motor development, cognitive development, and social-emotional-moral development.
4. It will focus on promoting holistic and quality early stimulation and pre-primary education for children. Additionally, under the initiative, each child will be provided with at least two hours of high-quality preschool instruction on a daily basis.
5. Anganwadi Centres of India are an integral part of India's Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme. These centres provide supplementary nutrition, early care and education to about 8 crore beneficiary children under the age of 6 years across the country. Given the vast network of around 13.9 lakh operational centres, the Anganwadi eco-system becomes an important access point to build a solid foundation to secure the future of children.
6. Essential for the overall development and well-being of children ECCE sets the foundation for lifelong learning, as the early years of a child's life are a period of



rapid brain development. It helps children develop essential skills, including language and communication and problem-solving, which form the basis for future academic and personal success.

7. It also gives significant long-term economic benefits to society. Children receiving quality early education are more likely to complete higher levels of education, secure better employment opportunities, and make a positive contribution to the economy.

(SOURCE –The Hindu)

YUVA PRATIBHA - Culinary Talent Hunt

Why in news: MyGov, in collaboration with Institute of Hotel Management, Pusa will launch - YUVA PRATIBHA - Culinary Talent Hunt on May 13, 2023.

1. The purpose of this competition is to bring out the lost recipes and promote the culinary talents of young and aspiring chefs and home cooks.
2. The aim to create awareness and increase the production and consumption of millet, the year 2023 has been declared as the International Year of the Millets by the United Nations.
3. The fusion of millets in this competition provides a unique opportunity for participants to showcase their creativity and innovation in cooking with healthy and sustainable ingredients.
4. This will create awareness of the contribution of nutri-cereals (millets) for food security and nutrition.



The contest is open to the citizens of India within the age group of 18 to 40 years. The dish should be home-cooked, wherein 50 percent of the ingredients should be of millet.

(SOURCE – ECONOMIC TIMES)

Carbon Market

Why in news: The Ministry of Power and Ministry of Environment will develop Carbon Credit Trading Scheme for Decarbonisation. Government plans to develop the Indian Carbon Market with the objective to decarbonize the Indian economy by pricing the Green House Gas emission through trading of Carbon Credit Certificates.



1. Carbon markets are essentially a tool for putting a price on carbon emissions—they establish trading systems where carbon credits or allowances can be bought and sold.
2. A carbon credit is a kind of tradable permit that, per United Nations standards, equals one tonne of carbon dioxide removed, reduced, or sequestered from the atmosphere.
3. Carbon allowances or caps, meanwhile, are determined by countries or governments according to their emission reduction targets.
4. A United Nations Development Program release this year noted that interest in carbon markets is growing globally, i.e., 83% of NDCs submitted by countries mention their intent to make use of international market mechanisms to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
5. Two types of Carbon Markets:
 - a. Compliance Market –
These are set up by policies at the national, regional, and/or international level—are officially regulated.
 - b. Voluntary Market:
These are markets in which emitters— corporations, private individuals, and others— buy carbon credits to offset the emission of one tonne of CO₂ or equivalent greenhouse gases

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)

India's first Mining Start-up Summit

Why in news: The Ministry of Mines unveiled the logo of the Mining Start-up Summit here today.

1. Start-ups can play an important role in tackling the technological challenges faced by the country's mining sector and this will pave the way for a healthy ecosystem for the development of the mining sector. To achieve this goal, the Ministry of Mines will organise the first Mining Start-up Summit in Mumbai on May 29, 2023 in collaboration with IIT, Bombay.
2. More than 150 start-ups and 20 leading industries will participate in the summit. The Ministry of Mines is promoting productivity and innovation in exploration and mining of minerals to fulfill the vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat".
3. With the country having the third largest start-up ecosystem in the world, there is scope to address the challenges in the mining sector, simplify the process for



the mining industry by leveraging new technologies in exploration and mining and thereby involve start-ups in increasing the country's mineral production.

4. The summit, to be held at IIT, Bombay, Powai, will see participation from start-ups in the fields of exploration, virtual reality, automation, drone technology, consulting, etc.
5. The summit will primarily focus on innovation and technologies that will support and improve performance, safety and help build autonomy in the field of mining and metallurgy. During the event, the Ministry of Mines will interact with start-ups in the field of mining and metallurgy and how these start-ups equipped with various technologies can contribute to the activities of the mining sector and boost the capabilities of exploration and mining and increase production in the mining industry.
6. The summit will also focus on interactions with leading industries, financial institutions and banks in the mineral exploration sector. Students and young professionals working in the fields of exploration, virtual reality, automation, drone technology, consulting, etc. You will also benefit from the event.

(SOURCE –The Hindu)

Model prison act 2023

Why in news: The Centre finalised the comprehensive 'Model Prisons Act, 2023' to focus on skill development of prisoners.



1. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and under the guidance of Home Minister Amit Shah, a comprehensive 'Model Prisons Act, 2023' has been finalized. The government had earlier decided to review and amend the old colonial-era Prisons Act to suit contemporary modern needs and reformatory ideology.
2. The Model Prisons Act, 2023 can serve as a guiding document for states and for adoption in their jurisdiction.
3. The Home Ministry had entrusted the task of amending the Prisons Act, 1894, to the Bureau of Police Research and Development. The bureau prepared a draft after holding extensive discussions with state prison authorities, correctional experts and others. It has been designed with an aim to provide guidance holistically and bridge the gaps in the existing Prisons Act.
4. Some of the key features of the new Model Prisons Act include provisions for security assessment and separation of prisoners and individual sentencing



scheme. Grievance redressal, Prison Development Board, behaviour change towards prisoners, provision of separate accommodation for women prisoners, and transgender are some of the other features. There is also a provision for use of technology in prison administration with a view to bring transparency in prison administration. The new Act will focus on vocational training and skill development of prisoners and their re-integration into society.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)

SAKSHAM (Stimulating Advanced Knowledge for Sustainable Health Management) Learning Management Information System.

Why in news: The Union Health Ministry has launched the SAKSHAM (Stimulating Advanced Knowledge for Sustainable Health Management) Learning Management Information System (LMIS) developed by the National Institute of Health & Family Welfare (NIHFW)



1. The Learning Management Information System (LMIS) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) is called SAKSHAM (Stimulating Advanced Knowledge for Sustainable Health Management). The digital platform was created by the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW) in New Delhi.
2. Saksham is an integrated and specialized online learning platform that aims to provide medical education and training to all healthcare professionals in India.
3. This digital system will guarantee comprehensive development of health professionals, including those working in rural and remote areas in primary health centres, as well as those employed in tertiary care and corporate hospitals located in metropolitan cities.
4. LMIS is currently offering more than 200 public health and 100 clinical courses through an online platform. Healthcare professionals can enroll for these courses on the portal by visiting the website <https://lmis.nihfw.ac.in>
5. One can earn certification after successfully completing the required training and meeting the evaluation criteria.

(SOURCE –NEWS ON AIR)



Ayushmann Khurrana Roped In To Galvanise Indian Team Headed For Special Olympics In Berlin

Why in news: Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana has been roped in to galvanise the Indian team and cheer for the athletes headed to the Special Olympics for people with intellectual disabilities scheduled to be held in Berlin from June 16 to June 25.



1. Ayushmann Khurrana is a highly versatile Bollywood star, thought leader and youth icon.
2. Ayushmann has been roped in to galvanise India to cheer for our athletes headed to the Special Olympics this summer
3. The powerhouse performer and all-rounder entertainer has made a name for himself in the history of Indian cinema with his progressive, social entertainer. Today, people refer to his brand of inspired and disorganized cinema as the 'Ayushmann Khurrana genre'.
4. He rose tremendously to stardom with becoming the face of disruptive cinema in India. Ayushmann's contribution in bringing about social change through his films as an actor has been lauded by the most prestigious global publication - Time Magazine, which has recognised him as one of the most influential people in the world. She is also unicef's national ambassador in India.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)

Govt pushes ONDC as e-com's UPI equivalent

Why in news: Recently, the Centre had directed e-commerce companies and food delivery companies to join the government-backed Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).



1. Some companies like Flipkart and Zomato are trying to set up step down subsidiaries to join this network. However, some other big companies like Amazon and Swiggy have so far opted to stay away.
2. ONDC is an initiative that aims to promote open networks for all aspects of the exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks.
3. It is to be based on the open-source methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform. Making a software or process open-source means that the code or steps of that process are made freely available for others to use, redistribute, and modify.



4. It has been developed as a counter to the existing Duopoly in the Indian e-commerce market, which is largely dictated by Amazon and Walmart-owned Flipkart.
5. ONDC is not an application, an intermediary or software, but rather a set of specifications designed to promote open exchanges and connections between shoppers, technology platforms, and retailers.
6. It is a non-profit company established by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It was incorporated in 2021 with an initial investment from Quality Council of India (QCI) and Protion EGOV Technologies Limited (formerly NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Limited).
7. Demand for equal opportunity mainly from small retailers Reduce the barrier of online entry and discovery, adopt an open digital ecosystem in key areas, fix the non-competitive behaviour of large e-commerce companies like Amazon and Flipkart, capture the fast-growing domestic retail market.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

India floats global digital system to face pandemic challenges

Why in news: Addressing the G7 health ministers' meeting in Japan, Mandaviya pledged to provide digital devices like India's CoWIN free of cost to other countries.



1. India's G20 President has recognised digital health as a priority area. Stressed the need for a collaborative global health architecture that can assure all countries of the power of digital solutions to meet the challenges posed by future pandemics.
2. Addressing the G7 health ministers' meeting in Japan, Mandaviya pledged to provide digital devices like India's CoWIN free of cost to other countries.
3. The G20 President has recognized digital health as a priority area. Proposed convergence of all digital initiatives through the "Global Initiative on Digital Health" at the World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters.
4. The Covid pandemic exposed the flaws in the existing system and called for a more robust and inclusive system while maintaining the centrality of the WHO. A more collaborative approach is needed to ensure health equity.
5. Highlighting the case of covid-19 vaccination programme, the minister expressed concern that more than two years after vaccines were implemented in December 2020, only 34% of the population in low- and middle-income countries have access to them, compared to 73% in high-income countries by April 2023.



6. Health equality, especially when it comes to medical measures such as diagnostics, medicines and vaccines at the time of the pandemic, is one of the three priority areas for India's health agenda for the G20.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)

Appointment of CBI Director

Why in news: Karnataka Director General of Police Praveen Sood will be the next Director of THE CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation).



1. The establishment of CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962-1964). It is not a statutory body as it was established by a resolution (1963) of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The CBI is the main investigating agency of the central government. It plays an important role in prevention of corruption and maintaining integrity in administration. It also provides assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal.
2. Investigation of cases of corruption, bribery and misconduct of Central Government employees. Such as investigating cases related to violation of fiscal and economic laws, i.e., violation of laws relating to export and import control, customs and central excise, income tax, foreign exchange regulations, etc. Such cases are taken up either in consultation with the concerned Department or on their request.
3. To investigate serious crimes of national and international ramifications committed by organized gangs of professional criminals. Coordinate the activities of anti-corruption agencies and various state police forces. Any matter of public importance is being examined at the request of the State Government. Maintaining crime statistics and disseminating criminal information.
4. The Central Government appoints the Director on the recommendation of a three-member committee, which includes the following:

Prime Minister as Chairman,

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha,

Chief Justice of India

When there is no recognised leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha, the leader of the largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha will be a member of that committee.

(SOURCE – ECONOMIC TIMES)



Ministry of corporate affairs introduces C-PACE

Why in news: The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has set up the Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE) to streamline the process of removing companies from the MCA register.



1. C-PACE aims to reduce the burden on the registry and provide a convenient process for stakeholders to remove their company name from the register.
2. The initiative is part of MCA's effort to make it easier for businesses to do business and exit for companies. C-PACE will operate under the Registrar of Companies (RoC) and handle applications for processing and disposal.
3. C-PACE's office was inaugurated on May 1, 2023, by Rk Dalmiya, Director of Inspection and Investigation at MCA.
4. Harihar Sahu of ICLS has been appointed as the first Registrar of C-PACE, which will be monitored by the Director General of Corporate Affairs (DGCOA), New Delhi.
5. The establishment of C-PACE will help maintain a clean registry and provide more valuable information to stakeholders. With the introduction of C-PACE, companies can expect a smooth exit process without any hassle.

(SOURCE –The Hindu)

MoHUA's Mega Campaign 'Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar' launched

Why in news: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched a mega campaign 'My Envelope, My Clean City'.



1. Reuse and upcycling of common household items has been an integral part of Indian culture. Taking inspiration from this shared habit, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) campaign – 'Meri Life, My Clean City' has been launched to champion the RRR of waste management - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.
2. Urban India is increasingly adopting the principles of creating 'wealth' from waste, with citizens actively refurbishing old items for reuse. This is speeding up the overall zero-waste ecosystem under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0.
3. 3R is the backbone of 'Waste to Wealth' and has empowered many craftsmen, recyclers, self-help groups, entrepreneurs, startups etc. Recycling waste into a host of products.



4. Mission LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment) encourages individual and collective action in this direction. Mission LIFE aims to protect and conserve the environment and bring about a pro-planetary behaviour change that can be established through individual action in day-to-day life.
5. The nationwide campaign aims to highlight cities to 'reduce, reuse, recycle (RRR) centres, one stop collection centres, clothes for citizens, shoes, old books, toys and contribute to reusing or recycling used plastic'.
6. This three-week campaign will strengthen citizens' resolve under SBM-U 2.0 – to reduce, reuse and recycle – and will also support LIFE's objective of taking collective action to protect and conserve the environment by adopting sustainable daily habits.
7. The RRR centres are scheduled to be launched across the country on May 20, 2023 and will serve as a one-stop solution for citizens, institutions, commercial enterprises, etc. To collect unused or used plastic items, clothes, shoes, shoes, books and toys. After collection, these items will be given to various stakeholders to renew for reuse or made into new products, thus actually furthering the government's vision of circular economy.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

Global Financial Innovation Network's (GFIN) Greenwashing TechSprint.

Why in news: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently opened a window to allow all Indian-based firms and innovators to participate in the Global Financial Innovation Network's first greenwashing techsprint.



1. GFIN, a well-known international organization, is hosting Greenwashing TechSprint. Involving regulators and experts from different countries, GFIN is dedicated to promoting financial innovation and addressing critical challenges in the financial sector.
2. The TechSprint event provides a unique platform for participants to work with regulatory experts, stakeholders and professionals from around the world, facilitating valuable collaboration and knowledge exchange.
3. TechSprint's central focus is sustainable finance. As the world increasingly emphasizes ESG ideas, it becomes important to develop effective tools that can identify and reduce the risks of greenwashing. TechSprint aims to drive innovation in this domain and enhance the credibility of sustainable financial services.



4. The virtual techsprint will be hosted by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). As a major regulatory body, the FCA ensures the integrity of the UK's financial markets and promotes fair and transparent practices. Its participation highlights the importance of TechSprint and its potential impact on the financial sector.
5. TechSprint's primary objective is to develop a robust tool that can help regulators and the market effectively deal with the risks associated with greenwashing. By fostering collaboration and innovation, TechSprint strives to create solutions that increase transparency and promote sustainable finance practices.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)

CEIR System

Why in news: The Government of India has launched the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) tracking system to combat mobile phone theft.



1. The Central Equipment Identity Register is a tracking system to combat mobile phone theft and facilitate tracking and blocking lost or stolen mobile phones across the country. CEIR acts as a central depository or database of International Mobile Equipment Identification (IMEI) numbers, models, versions and other details of mobile devices.
2. Centre implementation body for Department of Telematics (CDOT) Pan-India deployment ready for pan-India launch on May 17, 2023
3. access to International Mobile Equipment Identification (IMEI) numbers and related mobile numbers; Preventing revenue loss to the government; IMEI number before sale of mobile device Block unauthorized mobile phones on telecom networks.
4. The Karnataka Police used the CEIR system to recover and return over 2,500 lost mobile phones.

Apple has a tracking system through Apple ID for its devices, but Android phones face challenges in this regard.

5. Effect the use of stolen mobile phones will be futileChallenge Database Maintenance Authority; cloning or reprogramming of stolen mobile phones; The possibility of blocking authentic IMEI numbers when blocking cloned numbers.
6. International Mobile Device Identification is a unique 15-digit code that accurately identifies the device. Mobile phone manufacturers assign IMEI numbers to each device based on categories allocated by the Global System for Mobile Communications Association. Dual SIM phones will have two IMEI numbers.



(SOURCE – ECONOMIC TIMES)

WPI inflation has fallen into negative for the first time since July 2020.

Why in news: WPI inflation has fallen to negative for the first time since July 2020.



1. According to data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the inflation rate based on the wholesale price index (WPI) declined to a nearly three-year low of (-) 0.92% in April, slipping into negative territory for the first time in 33 months.
2. A higher base effect along with a decrease in global commodity prices is reflected in the reduction in food, fuel and other input costs.
3. The decline in wholesale price index inflation rate in April 2023 was mainly due to fall in prices of basic metals, food products, mineral oils, textiles, non-food items etc.
4. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) represents the price of goods at a wholesale level i.e. goods that are sold in bulk and traded between organizations rather than consumers.
5. The index has a total of 697 items including primary goods (117), fuel and electricity (16), and manufactured products (564). The percentage increase in the wholesale price index in a year gives the rate of inflation for that year. At present, the base year of wholesale price index is 2011-12.

WPI is used as an important measure of inflation in India.

6. The inflation rate is calculated on the basis of indices - WPI and CPI. The indices are set to 100 in a particular year and the year is the base year.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

IDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence)

Why in news: Innovation for Defence Excellence (IDEX) recently achieved a milestone with the signing of the 250th contract, the first under Mission Defspace.



1. About IDEX (Innovation for Defence Excellence):

It is the flagship initiative of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) launched in April 2018.



2. Objective: To achieve self-reliance by involving industries including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D institutions and academics and promote innovation and technology development in defence and aerospace.
3. IDEX has partnered with the country's leading incubators to provide handholding, technical support and guidance to the winners of the IDEX challenges.
4. IDEX will be funded and managed by 'Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO)', which has been constituted as a 'not-for-profit company' as per Section 8 of the Companies Act 2013 by two founding members, i.e. Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) - HAL and BEL.
5. IDEX will act as the executive branch of the DIO, carrying out all necessary activities, while the DIO will provide high-level policy guidance to IDEX. Under IDEX, financial assistance is provided to start-ups/MSMEs/individual innovators and partner incubators through DIOs.
6. It was launched by the Prime Minister during the DefExpo in October 2022. Mission Defspace aims to make India self-reliant in defence technologies in the space sector. It will encourage technology development in space for defence applications by startups and young entrepreneurs through 75 defence space challenges launched in various initiatives of Department of Defence Production (DDP) such as IDEX, 'Make 1', and 'Make 2'.
7. The challenges are grouped into five buckets, namely launch systems, satellite systems, communication and payload systems, ground systems and software systems providing an overall overview of space.

(SOURCE –The Hindu)

INS Delhi and INS Satpura

Why in news: Indian Naval ships INS Delhi and INS Satpura recently sailed from Sihanoukville in Cambodia after making port calls in the country as part of Indian Navy's deployment in ASEAN countries.



1. It is India's first indigenously built guided missile destroyer. It is the flagship ship of its class of guided missile destroyers of the Indian Navy.
2. It was built at Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai and commissioned on 15 November 1997. Maximum speed: 28 knots (52 km, range: 5,000 miles (8,000 km)
3. Aircraft transported: 2 x Sea King helicopter



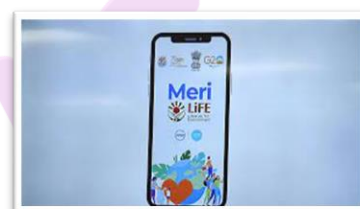
INS Satpura is an indigenously built and built Shivalik-class guided missile stealth frigate. The ship is a frontline unit of the Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam.

4. Built at Mazagon Docks Limited, Mumbai and commissioned on 20 August 2011, INS Satpura derives its name from the majestic Satpura mountain range in central India. It is equipped with a versatile array of weapons and sensors and can carry multi-role helicopters.
5. Displacement: 6,200 tons, maximum speed: 32 knots (59 km), aircraft transported: 2 × HAL Dhruv or Sea King Mk 42B helicopters

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

"Meri LiFE" (My Life) mobile application

Why in news: The government has recently launched "Meri LiFE" (My Life) mobile application to empower the youth and encourage their participation in tackling climate change.



1. The app is inspired by the concept of Mission LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment), which was conceived by the Prime Minister at COP 26.
2. Purpose: To promote careful use rather than wasteful consumption.
3. The application will promote a nationwide movement for LIFE, which will showcase the power of citizens in saving the environment.
4. Through this app, the effects of simple actions in daily life can be understood, which can have a big climate impact. My LiFE is a marketplace where young people can explore their interests, find opportunities focused on climate change and environmental sustainability that match their interests, and sign up to act on the issues that matter most to them.
5. It was launched by the Prime Minister at Kevadiya in Gujarat on 20 October 2022. The mission focuses on bringing about behavioural change in individuals through simple and easy actions. It is envisioned as an India-led global mass movement that will take individual and collective action to protect and conserve the environment.
6. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the nodal Ministry for national level coordination and implementation of Mission LIFE.

The global movement will showcase sustainable goals and climate actions taken by countries and individuals around the world. To monitor the progress of LiFE, the Ministry has developed two dedicated portals. Mission LiFE Portal (missionlife-moefcc.nic.in): Allows open access to download more than 100 creative, video and knowledge content created by the Ministry for LiFE.



(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)

Adopt a Heritage Scheme

Why in news: The Union Culture Minister had recently said that the ministry is likely to launch the 'Adopt a Heritage' or 'Smarak Mitra' scheme.



1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and the Archaeological Survey of India. It was launched on World Tourism Day in September 2017.
2. Under this, the government invites entities including public sector companies, private sector firms as well as individuals to develop selected monuments and heritage and tourist destinations across India.
3. The objective of this project is to encourage these entities to become 'Smarak Mitras' and take the responsibility of developing and upgrading basic and advanced tourist facilities at these sites.
4. The memorial mitras are selected by the 'Monitoring and Vision Committee' co-chaired by the Tourism Secretary and the Culture Secretary based on the bidder's 'vision' for development of all facilities at the heritage site.
5. The inspection committee also has the power to terminate the MoU in case of non-compliance or non-performance. The corporate sector is expected to use corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds for the maintenance of the site. Memorial Mitras will get limited visibility on the site premises and the Incredible India website.

(SOURCE – ECONOMIC TIMES)

Government launches Sanchar saathi portal

Why in news: Government launches citizen-centric portal, Sanchar Sathi to block and locate lost mobile phones

1. Mobile users can now track and block their lost mobile phones through sanchar saathi portal.
2. Sanchar Sathi portal is an initiative of Department of Telecommunications. It allows citizens to know the mobile connections issued in their name, cut the connection required by them and block and trace lost mobile phones.



3. Three important modules have been added to the portal to protect mobile users from fraudulent activities. The first module, Central Equipment Identity Register has been introduced to block stolen or lost mobiles, the second module is Know Your Mobile Connection and the third module - Artificial Intelligence and Facial Recognition Powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification, will identify fraudulent customers.
4. Through the use of Sanchar Sathi portal, more than 40 lakh fake connections have been identified and more than 36 lakh such connections have been disconnected so far. There have been many reforms in the telecom sector, due to which the telecom industry has become a strong and investment oriented industry.

(SOURCE –NEWS ON AIR)

Mahila Samman Certificate exempted from TDS

Why in news: The Union Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman announced Mahila Samman Saving Certificate, a new small savings scheme for women and girls, in her Budget Speech 2023-24.



1. The Mahila Samman Savings Certificate scheme was announced to commemorate the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
2. It is a new small savings scheme for women and girls. The scheme is offered by the Indian Post Office and can be availed at any post office across India.
3. The Mahila Samman Savings Certificate is a one-time scheme available for two years, from April 2023-March 2025. It will offer a maximum deposit facility of up to Rs.2 lakh in the name of women or girls for two years at a fixed interest rate.
4. Mahila Samman Savings Certificate scheme is a small savings scheme backed by the government. Hence, it does not have any credit risk. The Mahila Samman Savings Certificate can be done only in the name of a girl child or woman.
5. The minimum deposit amount under the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate is 1,000 in multiples of rupees one hundred. The maximum deposit amount is 2 lakh in one account or all Mahila Samman Savings Certificate accounts held by an account holder.

(SOURCE –The Hindu)



Phase-V of Sagar Parikrama covering Maharashtra-Goa coastal districts will start soon

Why in news: Sagar Parikrama Yatra aims to resolve the issues of the fishermen and stakeholders and for their economics upliftment.



1. The Sagar Parikrama Yatra Phase-V would be proceeding towards coastal regions are like Gateway of India, Karanja (Raigad District), Mirkarwada (Ratnagiri District), Devgad (Sindhudurg District), Malvan, Vasco, Mormugaon, Canacona (South Goa).
2. The impact of this Sagar Parikrama will be far reaching on the livelihood and holistic development of fishermen and fisher folks including climate change and sustainable fishing.
3. Phase I Programme of 'Sagar Parikrama' was organized in Gujarat, started on 5th March 2022 from Mandvi and ended on 6th March 2022 at Porbandar, Gujarat. The voyage Sagar Parikrama as Phase –II programme started on 22nd September 2022 from Mangrol to Veraval and ended at Mul Dwaraka, on 23rd September 2022 from Mul Dwaraka to Madhwad. Phase III Program of 'Sagar Parikrama' started on 19th Feb 2023 from Surat, Gujarat, and ended on 21st Feb 2023 at Sasson Dock, Mumbai. Phase IV program started from Mormugao Port, Goa on 17th March 2023 and ended on 19th March 2023 in Mangalore.
4. It is an initiative by Government of India, with an aim to resolve the issues of the fishers, other stakeholders and facilitate their economics upliftment through various fisheries schemes and programs being implemented by the Government of India such as Pradhan Mantri MatsyaSampadaYojana (PMMSY) and Kisan Credit Card (KCC).
5. Sagar Parikrama shall focus on the sustainable balance between the utilization of marine fisheries resources for the food security of the nation, livelihoods of coastal fisher communities and the protection of marine ecosystemsto bridge the gaps of fisher communities and their expectations, development of fishing villages, upgradation and creation of infrastructure such as fishing harbors & landing centers to ensure sustainable and responsible development through an ecosystem approach.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)



Minimum Import Price (MIP) for apples in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

Why in news: It is aiming to protect the interests by preventing tax-free imports of apples from other countries, ensuring a level playing field for the local apple industry.



1. Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) is an arm of the commerce ministry which frames rules related to exports and imports.

2. According to the policy, any apple costing less than Rs 50 per kg cannot be imported.

3. Benefits —

It will help stabilise apple prices in the local market by reducing the oversupply of cheap imported apples.

This stability will enable local farmers to fetch better prices for their produce.

4. According to the policy, any apple costing less than Rs 50 per kg cannot be imported.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)

Production Linked Incentive Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware

Why in news: The Union Cabinet approved a revised Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for IT hardware with an outlay of Rs 17,000 crore, which is more than double the budget of the scheme first approved in 2021.



1. The IT hardware industry is targeted to reach a production of \$24 billion by 2025-26, with exports estimated to be in the range of \$12-17 billion during the same period.

2. The foundation stone of the government's thrust to achieve a self-reliant India is the objective of PLI schemes

- Make domestic manufacturing globally competitive
- Create global champions in manufacturing and
- To create employment opportunities for the youth of the country.

3. The strategy behind this scheme is to provide incentives to companies on incremental sales from products manufactured in India in the base year.

Promote domestic manufacturing in sunrise and strategic sectors,

4. Curb cheap imports and reduce the import bill,



Improve cost competitiveness of domestically manufactured goods, and Increase in domestic capacity and exports.

- 5.** The first three PLI schemes were approved in March 2020 followed by 10 other new PLI schemes in November 2020.
- 6.** The Union Budget 2021-22 has announced an outlay of Rs 1.97 lakh crore for PLI schemes for 13 key sectors. This means that the minimum production in India as a result of PLI schemes is expected to exceed USD 500 billion in 5 years.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

Expected Credit Loss (ECL)-based loan loss provisioning framework.

Why in news: Banks have requested RBI to give one more year to implement the Required Credit Loss (ECL) system for provision of loans.



1. In January 2023, the RBI issued a draft guideline, proposing to adopt the expected credit loss approach to credit loss.
2. Banks will be given a year's time after the final guidelines for implementing the new framework are issued. The RBI is yet to announce final guidelines on ECL norms. However, some rating agencies have said that the final criteria on this can be notified by FY 2024 for implementation from April 1, 2025.
3. The RBI defines loan loss provision as an expense that banks set aside for default loans. In other words, the loan loss provision is a cash reserve that banks set aside to cover losses incurred from defaulting loans.
4. Basically, it is an income statement expense that banks can use when borrowers are unlikely to repay their loans. In the event of a loss, instead of taking a loss in its cash flow, the bank can use its loan loss reserves to cover the loss. For example: Let's say a bank has issued \$100,000 total in debt and has a loan loss provision of \$10,000.
5. On one of his default loans, the borrower repaid only \$500 of the outstanding \$1,000. To cover a loss of \$500 from a defaulted loan, the bank will deduct \$500 from the loan loss provision. The level of credit loss provision is determined based on the level required to protect the safety and soundness of the bank.
6. To be adopted by banks for making credit loss provision. Banks in India are currently required to make credit loss provisions based on the loss model. This model assumes that all debts will be repaid until evidence to the contrary (known as a loss or trigger event) is identified.
7. The loss approach requires banks to compensate for losses that have already occurred or have occurred. The delay in identifying the expected losses under this



approach led to a decline during the financial crisis of 2007-09. Faced with a systemic increase in defaults, the delay in recognising credit losses resulted in banks making higher levels of provisions.

8. This ate up the capital created by the bank which in turn affected the resilience of the banks and created systemic risks. Moreover, the delay in identifying loan losses increased the income generated by banks. Under this practice, a bank is required to estimate the expected credit loss based on forward-looking projections. Under this, banks will be required to classify financial assets into one of three categories — Phase 1, Phase 2, or Phase 3. This classification will depend on the credit losses assessed on them at the time of initial recognition as well as on each subsequent reporting date, and make the necessary provisions.

(SOURCE –The Hindu)

Artificial Intelligence and Facial Recognition powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification (ASTR) tool

Why in news: The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has developed an artificial-intelligence-based facial recognition tool called Artificial Intelligence and Facial Recognition Powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification (ASTR).



1. According to the Department of Telecommunications, ASTR can reduce cyber frauds by detecting and blocking potentially fraudulent mobile connections.
2. ASTR is an artificial intelligence and facial recognition-powered solution for telecom SIM customer verification. It has the ability to check on the customer database of telecom operators to find out if it has multiple connections connected to the same person.
3. It has been developed to reduce cyber fraud by detecting and blocking potentially fraudulent mobile connections.
4. In 2012, the Department of Telecommunications had issued an order to all telecom operators that they have to share their customer database, including photographs of users, with the department.
5. These images constitute the core database on which executives are running their facial recognition algorithm using ASTR. The ASTR project was conceptualised and designed between April 2021 and July 2021 by a unit of the Department of Telecommunications in Haryana.
6. The encoding of the captured image in customers' images human faces are encoded using the Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model. CNN is a type of



deep learning model that is widely used for image and video recognition, computer vision tasks, and other tasks involving data such as structured grids.

7. This is done for facial tilt and angle, opacity and dark color of images. After that, one face is compared for each face against all the faces in the database, and the same faces are grouped under a directory. Two faces are considered equal by ASTR if they match to a range of at least 97.5 percent.

ASTR is capable of detecting all SIMs against suspicious faces in less than 10 seconds from a database of 10 million images.

8. According to data from the Department of Telecommunications: West Bengal has the highest number of 12,34,111 SIMs cut. This was followed by Haryana (5,24,287), Jharkhand (3,27,246), Madhya Pradesh (2,28,072) and Uttar Pradesh-East (2,04,658). The lowest number of cases of SIM connection disconnect has been reported from Himachal Pradesh at 3,491.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

National Ayush Mission (NAM) Conclave

Why in news: NAM has played a key role in the conservation and promotion of AYUSH systems and its integration into the mainstream healthcare system

1. The Ministry of AYUSH is organizing a two-day National AYUSH Mission Conclave in New Delhi from 18th to 19th May 2023.
2. The National AYUSH Mission (NAM) is the flagship programme of the Ministry of AYUSH and with the active support of the Governments of the States and Union Territories; It is changing the health and wellness scenario in the states. The two-day conference will pave the way for better coordination among stakeholders and strengthen the functioning of AHCs.
3. During the two-day conference, subject experts from the participating states will deliberate on various aspects of the National AYUSH Mission (NAM), which focuses on increased efficiency in budget absorption under NAM and institutionalisation for immediate execution of the scheme, better supply of medicines to AYUSH health facilities, capacity building for AYUSH and upgradation of AYUSH Health Wellness Centres (AHCs).
4. Strengthen the education ecosystem in AYUSH to strengthen public health and technological integration for research and quality assurance in AYUSH public healthcare.



5. The endeavour of the Ministry of AYUSH has been to strengthen the public health and wellness system through integration of AYUSH system. The flagship programme National AYUSH Mission was launched in 2014 and has played a key role in preserving and promoting India's traditional medicine systems and their integration into the mainstream healthcare system.
6. It aims to enhance the availability, accessibility and quality of AYUSH health services across the country through AYUSH Health Wellness Centres (AHWCs) as part of the Government of India's Ayushman Bharat Scheme. The NAM includes components of AYUSH services and AYUSH educational institutions in addition to the newly launched AYUSH public health programmes.
7. The Union Cabinet has approved operationalisation of 12,500 AYUSH HWCs by upgrading existing AYUSH dispensaries/health sub-centres under the umbrella of National AYUSH Mission (NAM) in a phased manner through State/UT Governments. To date, more than 8500 AHWCs have been established across India and are serving communities.

(SOURCE – ECONOMIC TIMES)

Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme

Why in news: The Cabinet approved revision of Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for Rabi season, 2022-23 (from 01.01.2023 to 31.03.2023) and fixation of Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for Kharif Season, 2023 (from 1.4.2023 to 30.09.2023) on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers.



1. The Cabinet has approved the proposal of Department of Fertilizers for revision of Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for various nutrients i.e. Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potash (K) and Sulphur (S) for Rabi season 2022-23 (from 01.01.2023 to 31.03.2023). 2023 for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers (from 1.4.2023 to 30.09.2023).
2. The subsidy on P&K fertilizers is governed by the NBS Scheme with effect from 01.04.2010. The Government has approved revision of NBS rates for Rabi 2022-2023 with effect from 01.01.23 to 31.03.2023 and approved NBS rates for Kharif, 2023 (from 01.04.2023 to 30.09.2023) to provide 2 grade of Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers at subsidized prices to the farmers.
3. The government will provide a subsidy of Rs 38,000 crore for Kharif 2023 to fulfil its commitment to provide quality and subsidised P&K fertilisers to farmers.
4. The Cabinet decision will have the twofold benefit of ensuring availability of DAP and other P&K fertilizers to farmers at subsidized, affordable and reasonable



prices during the Kharif season and also ensure rationalization of subsidy on P&K fertilizers.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)

National Capital Civil Services Authority

Why in news: The Centre has promulgated the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023 for the constitution of the National Capital Civil Services Authority.



1. The authority will recommend transfer and posting of all Group 'A' officers and officers of Danix serving in the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.
2. The authority consists of the Chief Minister of Delhi, who will be the ex-officio chairman of the authority, the chief secretary and the principal home secretary of the National Capital Territory of Delhi. All matters shall be decided by a majority of the members present.
3. In case of difference of opinion, the decision of the Lieutenant Governor shall be final.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)

IREDA IPO

Why in news: The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) is set to go public with an initial public offering (IPO) in the near future.



1. To oversee this important event, the government has appointed IDBI Capital, BOB Capital and SBI Capital as the lead managers for the IPO.
2. The IPO is expected to be sold by the government and 15% new equity by IREDA, which aims to fund the development of a renewable energy project financier.
3. IREDA's IPO is expected to come in the financial year 2023-24. It will be followed by sale of 10% stake by the government and 15% new equity issue by IREDA. The primary objective of the IPO is to generate the funds needed to expand IREDA's business operations in the renewable energy sector. Officials have expressed their intention to complete the IREDA listing within the current financial year.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)



INS Vaghsheer

Why in news: Waghshir, the sixth Scorpene submarine of the Indian Navy's Kalvari-class Project-75, has recently started its sea trials.



1. INS Waghshir (S26) is the sixth submarine of the first batch of six Kalvari-class submarines for the Indian Navy. It is named after the sand fish, a deadly deep-sea predator of the Indian Ocean.
2. It has been designed by French naval defence and energy group Naval Group and manufactured by Mazagon Dock Limited.
3. It is designed to operate in all theatres of operation, demonstrating interoperability with other components of the Naval Task Force.
4. The Kalvari class is a class of diesel-electric attack submarines based on the Scorpene-class submarine being built for the Indian Navy. The submarines have been designed by French naval defence and energy company DCNS and are being built by Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai.
5. It has been constructed with technology transfer from French firm Naval Group under a programme called Project 75. The state-of-the-art technology used in the Scorpene-class has improved stealth features such as advanced acoustic silencing technology, low radiating noise levels and the ability to launch serious attacks with precision-guided weapons on board.
6. They can attack underwater or on the surface by launching torpedoes and anti-ship missiles.

(SOURCE –The Hindu)

Himalayan Chandra Telescope

Why in news: The Himalayan Lunar Telescope in Hanley recently joined hands with 10 other global observatories to observe the brightening of the blazer, one of the universe's most powerful objects.



1. It is a 2 m optical-infrared telescope named after Nobel laureate Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar. It is at the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) at Hanle near Leh in Ladakh.
2. It is currently the tenth highest optical telescope in the world, located at an altitude of 4,500 meters. The telescope operated remotely using a dedicated satellite communication link from the Centre for Research and Education in Science and Technology (CREST), Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bangalore.



3. Imaging devices include an unconscious object spectrograph, an infra-red, and an optical CCD camera. It is a type of galaxy powered by a massive black hole and is one of the brightest and most powerful objects in the universe.
4. They are known to emit highly energetic particles and radiation, including gamma rays, X-rays and radio waves.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

International museum expo inaugurated by PM

Why in news: During the inauguration of the International Museum Expo 2023 at Pragati Maidan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised his government's commitment to protect India's heritage.



1. PM Modi highlighted the issue of smuggling of ancient Indian art and antiques and other countries are now returning items related to Indian heritage as India's position in the world is steadily increasing.
2. He also unveiled plans to set up ten special museums to commemorate the contribution of the tribal community in India's freedom struggle. The destruction of the written and unwritten heritage of the country during the period of slavery was not only a loss to India but a loss to the whole world.
3. Encouraged individuals, homes, schools and institutions to make preserving historical artifacts a part of their nature by creating their own museums. The expo is part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and is being organised to commemorate the 47th International Museum Day (IMD).
4. During the event, PM Modi also inaugurated the virtual walkthrough of the upcoming National Museum in North Block and South Block. The theme for this year's IMD is "Museums, Sustainability and Wellness". The expo aims to initiate a comprehensive dialogue on museums with professionals which will help them develop as cultural hubs that contribute immensely to India's cultural diplomacy.
5. The International Museum introduced the Expo mascot which is an updated version of the girl dancing wood in the Chennapatnam art style. Additionally, PM Modi revealed a graphic novel titled "A Day at the Museum".
6. Learn about the various job opportunities available in museums. The Pocket Map highlights cultural places and institutions and enters the history of the duty path. The museum cards are illustrated with the masks of iconic museums across India and contain brief information about each.

(SOURCE – ECONOMIC TIMES)



India begins operation Karuna

Why in news: India has taken the initiative to assist the people affected by Cyclone Mocha in Myanmar by launching "Operation Karuna".



1. On May 18, three ships, namely Indian Navy ships Shivalik, Kamorta and Savitri, arrived in Yangon with emergency relief materials like food supplies, tents, essential medicines, water pumps, portable generators, clothing and hygiene items.
2. India has always been at the forefront of supporting its neighbours during such disasters, highlighting its commitment to ensure security and development for all in the region.
3. Cyclone Mocha, which recently made landfall in Myanmar, has been classified as an extremely severe cyclonic storm by the IMD and a 'super cyclone' by global weather website Zoom Earth.
4. The storm emerged in the Bay of Bengal and has been recorded as the strongest all-season cyclone to form in the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal since 1982, with a wind speed of 277 kmph. The name of cyclone 'Mocha' has been suggested by Yemen.

(SOURCE –The Hindu)

China and Turkey won't attend the G20 meet in Srinagar

Why in news: The third G20 meeting of the Tourism Working Group has begun in Srinagar today, China and Turkey will not attend the important meeting in Kashmir.



1. China's decision can be taken from the objections of its close ally Pakistan, which has claimed that the G-20 meetings are aimed at maintaining India's "illegal occupation" of Jammu and Kashmir.
2. Ahead of the G-20 tourism meeting, Indian Army personnel are patrolling the streets of Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.
3. Both Pakistan and China have made an inappropriate reference to the Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in the past. India has consistently rejected the statements of Beijing and Islamabad on Jammu and Kashmir. India and China have been locked in a three-year-long border standoff in eastern Ladakh.
4. Turkey is also expected to join China's decision to oppose the G20 tourism meeting in Srinagar. However, there has been no official statement from the



authorities yet. In recent times, Turkey has criticised the Indian government's handling of the Kashmir issue.

5. Security has been beefed up at sensitive places to avoid any possibility of a terrorist attack during the G-20 meeting. The three-day gathering began on Monday at a sprawling, well-preserved site on the banks of Dal Lake in Srinagar.
6. India has the G20 presidency for 2023 and has planned over 100 meetings across the country.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management (CoE- SLM)

Why in news: Recently, the Union Minister inaugurated the Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management at the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) in Dehradun.



1. Background: The Prime Minister of India announced the establishment of the CoE-SLM during the 14th Conference of Parties (COP-14) of the United Nations Conference on Combating Desertification (UNCCD) in September 2019.
2. To set land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets, develop drought risk and early warning systems, promote mainstream gender considerations, good governance of land tenure and rights, assess the impacts of land degradation on greenhouse gas emissions and loss of biodiversity.
3. To facilitate restoration of degraded land through technical assistance, capacity building and knowledge sharing at national and sub-national levels.
4. Promote South-South cooperation and address issues of land degradation through sustainable land management practices.
5. Objectives: The COE-SLM has set specific objectives to guide its operations:
 - Assessment of land degradation,
 - Capacity building on sustainable land management framework aligned with SDGs,
 - Strengthen assessment, monitoring and reporting of land-based indicators outlined by UNCCD.

(SOURCE – ECONOMIC TIMES)



People's Biodiversity Register

Why in news: The National Campaign for Updation and Verification of Public Biodiversity Register (PBR) was launched in Goa by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.



1. Objective: It aims to document and conserve the rich biological diversity of India.
2. The People's Biodiversity Register serves as a comprehensive record of locally available bio-resources, including the landscape and demography of a particular area or village.
3. It is prepared by biodiversity management committees (under the Biodiversity Act 2002) in consultation with local communities.
4. BMC are local bodies created under the Biodiversity Act 2002, with a mandate to ensure conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits from biodiversity.
5. The Act has made it mandatory for every local self-governing institution in rural and urban areas to constitute biodiversity management committees within its jurisdiction. The BMC should prepare the PBR in consultation with the locals.
6. Kolkata was the first major metropolitan city in India to create a detailed People's Biodiversity Register (PBR). Earlier, the Forest Survey of India report had marked the West Bengal capital for the least greenery among all metro cities.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)

Airawat

Why in news: Recently, India's AI supercomputer 'Airavat' has been ranked no. 75 in the world at the International Supercomputing Conference (ISC 2023) in Germany.



1. The supercomputer has been named in the 61st edition of the recently released Top 500 Global Supercomputing List. The AI supercomputer is installed at Airavat C-DAC, Pune. The system has been set up by the Government of India under the National Programme on AI. Airavat's manufacturer company is NetWeb Technologies.
2. Airavat PSAI stands as India's largest and fastest AI supercomputing system with a remarkable speed of 13,170 teraflops.
3. It will enable academics, research laboratories, the scientific community, industry and start-ups to come up with indigenous AI-enabled products/services,



especially to solve India-specific grand challenges and complex real-life problems. Empower to develop solutions.

4. It has the potential to revolutionize various fields including weather forecasting, drug discovery, climate modeling and artificial intelligence research.

It is a premier R&D organization under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. It focuses on research and development in various domains including information technology, electronics and supercomputing. It was established in the year 1988.

5. It was established to create supercomputers in the context of the United States' refusal to import supercomputers.
6. C-DAC built India's first indigenously built supercomputer PARAM 8000 in 1991.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

UDAN 5.1 Scheme

Why in news: The Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched UDAN 5.1, a new version of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) designed specifically for helicopter routes.

1. Reducing airfare limits by 25% to make helicopter travel more affordable, allowing routes where one of the original or destination locations is in the priority area.
2. Increasing viability gap funding (VGF) limit for operators to improve financial viability

Objective: The scheme aims to democratize air travel and boost tourism, hospitality and local economies.

3. The previous rounds of the scheme have already operationalised 46 helicopter routes, benefiting the hilly and north east states and the current round aims to cover a large number of routes.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)



PM Modi to install sacred 'Sengol' at inauguration of new Parliament building

Why in news: On the occasion of the inauguration of the new Parliament building, PM Modi will install the historic and sacred "Sengol" in the Parliament House. The Parliament House is the most suitable and sacred place for this historic "Sengol". It will mark the Amrit period, an era



that will see new India take its rightful place in the world

1. On May 28, the new Parliament building will be dedicated to the nation. On this day, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will receive the sacred symbol of fair and just governance and install it in the new Parliament House.
2. This is the same Sengol that was accepted by the first Prime Minister of India, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, in the presence of several leaders at his residence on the night of August 14. Even after 75 years of independence, most of the people of India are not aware of this incident in which India's transfer of power took place through handing over the Sengol to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.
3. It was a special occasion to celebrate India's independence on the night of August 14, 1947. On this night Jawaharlal Nehru received 'Sengol' from the adhinam (priests) of Thiruvaduthurai Aminam (monastery) in Tamil Nadu, who had specially arrived for the occasion. This was precisely the moment when power was transferred to the hands of Indians by the British. What we are celebrating as independence is actually marked by the moment of handing over 'Sengol'.
4. Hon'ble Prime Minister decided to adopt Sengol as the national symbol of the Amrit period. The new Parliament building will also witness the same event, in which Adinam (priest) will repeat the ceremony and present Sengol to the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Sengol has a deep meaning, derived from the Tamil word "Semmai", which means "righteousness". It is blessed by the high priests of a major religious monastery in Tamil Nadu. Nandi, with his firm vision as a spectator of "justice", is hand-carved at the top.

5. The recipient of Sengol has an "order" ("Anai" in Tamil) to govern justly and fairly. It is the most attractive, those chosen to serve the people should never forget it. From 1947 onwards, the same Sengol will be installed in the Lok Sabha by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, prominently close to the Speaker's seat. It will be displayed for the nation to see, and will be taken out on special occasions.
6. The Parliament House is the most suitable and sacred place to establish the historic "Sengol". The installation of "Sengol", makes the spirit of 15 August 1947 unforgettable. It symbolizes the promise of boundless hope, limitless possibilities and resolve to build a strong and prosperous nation. It will be a symbol of the Amrit period, which will witness the glorious era in which India will be taking its rightful place.
7. The Tamil Nadu government has proudly published the role played by monasteries in the state in the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments



Department (HR&CE) Policy Note 2021-22. Para 24 of this document clearly highlights the role played by monasteries as royal lawyers.

8. This historic plan has been prepared in consultation with the Presidents of Adiname. All the 20 Adinam Presidents will also be present on this auspicious occasion to shower their blessings in memory of this holy ritual.

(SOURCE – TIMES OF INDIA)

Infosys unveils AI-first offering Infosys Topaz to accelerate business value

Why in news: Infosys, a leading IT services company, has launched Topaz, a comprehensive suite of services, solutions and platforms that harness the power of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies.



1. Topaz is built on Infosys' Applied AI framework, enabling the development of an AI-first core that enhances the capabilities of individuals and organizations to deliver cognitive solutions and accelerate value creation.
2. Enhancing Capacity and Embracing Responsible AI With an AI-First approach, Topaz aims to unleash the potential of humans, enterprises and communities, enabling them to take advantage of the next wave of opportunities generated by unprecedented innovations, connected ecosystems, and increased capacity.
3. Infosys emphasizes its commitment to a "responsible by design" approach while ensuring unwavering ethics, trust, privacy, security and compliance within AI-driven solutions.
4. Harnessing the power of Infosys Cobalt and Data Analytics Topaz Infosys Cobalt integrates the capabilities of cloud and data analytics, leveraging their collective power to drive AI-enabled business transformation. By providing tailored solutions and intuitive experiences, Topaz enables businesses to unlock growth potential and derive value from their data assets.
5. Additionally, a national railway company used Topaz to create a smart hub, facilitate agile value-chains, and optimize functions such as logistics.
6. By implementing Topaz internally, Infosys aims to accelerate the growth of its market offering, drive enterprise transformation and drive incremental value through subtle changes that improve customer service, re-imagine business processes, and boost productivity.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)



76th world health assembly

Why in news: Recently, the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare delivered the keynote address at a side event session on "Heal and Heal by India in India" at the 76th World Health Assembly in Geneva.



1. The 'Heal by India' initiative has been designed with the intention of increasing the mobility of the health workforce from India to different parts of the world to serve the world in accordance with the Indian philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (The World is One Family).
2. The 'Heal in India' initiative aims to provide "integrated and holistic treatment" to the world in India and enhance patient mobility for access to world-class, affordable and quality healthcare services.
3. WHO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that is responsible for international public health. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. It was established on April 7, 1948, which is celebrated as World Health Day.
4. Work: The agency leads global efforts to expand universal health coverage and to direct and coordinate the world's response to health emergencies.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

India to Launch 18 New petaFLOP Supercomputers

Why in news: Supercomputers have revolutionized various fields of science and technology, and weather forecasting is no exception. India is currently planning to launch 18 new petaflop supercomputers for weather forecasting this year.



1. The deployment of powerful supercomputers enables meteorologists to make more accurate predictions, leading to increased disaster preparedness and a better understanding of climate patterns.
2. The introduction of a new supercomputer brings many expected benefits to weather forecasting. First, forecasting at the block level is projected to improve, providing more localized and accurate information. This is especially useful in areas with diverse microclimates and different weather patterns. With a higher resolution range, meteorologists can analyze and predict weather events with greater detail and accuracy.
3. Cyclones are severe weather events that can cause significant damage and loss of life. The new supercomputer is expected to enhance cyclone predictions by incorporating advanced modeling techniques and comprehensive data analysis.



This will improve early warning systems and lead to better preparedness measures, ultimately reducing the impact of cyclones on vulnerable populations.

Understanding the behavior of the oceans is important for various sectors including fisheries, marine activities and coastal management. The new supercomputer will enable meteorologists to generate forecasts of ocean conditions, which will provide valuable information about factors such as water temperature, currents and seawater quality.

4. These forecasts contribute to the sustainable management of marine resources and the protection of coastal ecosystems. FLPS (floating-point operation per second) is a metric used to measure computational performance. It determines the processing power and efficiency of computing systems, especially in the high-performance computing and artificial intelligence domains. FLP involves mathematical calculations using real numbers with partial parts.
5. Over the years, hardware efficiency has significantly affected computing power. Modern computing systems, such as CPUs and GPUs, use parallel processing techniques to perform multiple operations simultaneously. This parallelism has led to a rapid increase in the number of FLOPs obtained within a certain time frame. From early systems like the IBM 7030 Stretch, computing power has grown exponentially, with devices like the PlayStation 5 reaching peak performance of 10.28 TFLOP.
6. The computing power of today's supercomputers is often measured in petaflops (PFLOPs), which represent billions or trillions of operations per second. One petaflop is equal to 1015 FLP. In 2008, the IBM Roadrunner became the first supercomputer to break the petaflops barrier with a peak performance of 1.105 petaflops. Currently, India uses supercomputers like 'Mihir' (2.8 petaflops) at NCMRWF and 'Pratyush' (4.0 petaflops) at IITM for weather forecasting.
7. While FLOPs provide a valuable baseline for comparing computational capabilities, other factors affect the overall performance of a computer. Memory bandwidth, latency, and architectural features also play an important role. These factors collectively contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of a computing system, ensuring optimal performance in various tasks.
8. India's weather forecasting efforts are supported by the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM).

(SOURCE – TIMES OF INDIA)



Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

Why in news: Recently, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has invited nominations for the Prime Minister's National Child Award.



1. The government organises the prestigious Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar every year to give due recognition to children with exceptional abilities who have achieved exceptional recognition in bravery, sports, social service, science and technology, environment and other fields.
2. Age Limit: 5 years to 18 years (as on 31st August of the respective year).
3. It is given under two categories-
 - The Bal Shakti Puraskar will be given in recognition of children with exceptional abilities and outstanding achievement in the fields of innovation, scholastic, sports, art and culture, social service and bravery.
 - Child Welfare Awards
4. Individual: For individuals who have made outstanding contributions to service to children in the field of child development, child protection and child welfare for at least 7 years.
5. Institutions: For institutions that have done exceptional work for the interest of children in any field of child welfare.
6. Selection: A National Selection Committee headed by a Minister or Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development will finalise the names of the awardees.
7. These awards are given by the President at a special ceremony held in January every year. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh, a medal and a certificate.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

NITI Aayog's 'State Health Index'

Why in news: NITI Aayog's 'State Health Index': Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana top states in Covid year, Delhi worst Union Territory

1. According to niti aayog's annual 'State Health Index' (5th edition) for the Covid year of 2020-21, three southern states Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana emerged as the top performing states among the 'large states'.



2. It was launched by NITI Aayog in 2017 to measure the performance of states and union territories on a weighted composite score incorporating 24 health performance indicators added under three domains.

The Commission releases the index (annually) in collaboration with the Union Health Ministry and the World Bank. The objective of this index is not only to look at the historical performance of the states, but also to look at their incremental performance.

3. The index encourages healthy competition and cross-learning among states and UTs and motivates states/UTs to build robust health systems and improve service delivery through their policy formulation and resource allocation.
4. As a result, MoHFW had linked the index to incentives under the National Health Mission. It plays an important role in focusing on outputs and outcomes from budget spending and inputs. This index is an example of both competitive and cooperative federalism.
5. 'Health outcomes' include indicators such as neonatal mortality, total fertility rate, sex ratio at birth, vaccination coverage, proportion of institutional deliveries, etc. The main inputs/processes are a measure of the available health infrastructure, which includes a ratio of functional 24x7 Primary Health Care Centres etc.
6. The 'Governance and Information' domain includes the average occupancy of three key posts at the state level, the average occupancy of the chief medical officer, the days taken for fund transfer, etc.

Top performers: Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana have secured the top three spots in the case. Worst performance: Bihar, UP and MP are ranked 19th, 18th and 17th respectively. Incremental performance from 2019-20 to 2020-21: Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Odisha have emerged as the top three performers among the large states.

7. In the small states category: Tripura has performed the best overall, followed by Sikkim and Goa. On the other hand, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur occupy the bottom three positions.
8. Among the Union Territories: Lakshadweep has secured the top spot in terms of overall performance, while Delhi has been placed at the bottom.

(SOURCE –NEWS ON AIR)

Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana top states in Covid year, Delhi worst UT: Health index

Why in news: The annual health index, which measures the performance of states and UTs on a “weighted composite



score incorporating 24 health performance indicators”, was launched by the NITI Aayog in 2017.

1. The annual health index, which measures the performance of states and UTs on a “weighted composite score incorporating 24 health performance indicators”, was launched by the NITI Aayog in 2017. The Aayog brings out the index in collaboration with the Union Health Ministry and World Bank.
2. The three southern states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana emerged as the top performers among the ‘larger states’ in the NITI Aayog’s annual ‘health index’ for the Covid year of 2020-21. While Tripura was the best among the ‘smaller states’, Delhi ranked at the bottom of the Union territories’ list.
3. The health index assesses states and UTs on two parameters – incremental performance (year-on-year progress) and overall performance. The states and UTs — categorised separately as ‘larger states’, ‘smaller states’ and UTs — are then ranked based on their scores.
4. It is a weighted composite index based on 24 indicators grouped under the domains of ‘health outcomes’, ‘governance and information’, and ‘key inputs/ processes’. Each domain has been assigned weight based on its importance with higher score for outcome indicators.
5. The ‘health outcomes’ include indicators like neonatal mortality rate, total fertility rate, sex ratio at birth, immunisation coverage, proportion of institutional deliveries, total case notification rate of tuberculosis, and proportion of people living with HIV on antiretroviral therapy.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

Important News: States

Ladakh’s Hanle is India’s first Dark Sky Reserve

Why in news: Ladakh is all set to have India's first Dark Night Sky Reserve at Hanle village in Changthang region. In about eighteen locations in Hanley, powerful telescopes will be installed for stargazing.



1. The International Dark Sky Association (IDSA) defines an International Dark Sky Reserve (IDSR) as "public or private land of substantial size (at least 700 km², or about 173,000 acres) that has an exceptional or iconic quality of starry nights and nocturnal environments, and is particularly sensitive to its scientific... Natural, educational, cultural heritage and/or cultural heritage. Or protected for public enjoyment".



2. A dark sky reserve requires a "core" area that has clear skies without any light pollution, which can enable telescopes to see the sky in its natural darkness.
3. To support the core, it must be surrounded by a "peripheral" or "buffer" area that supports dark sky values in the core while gaining the same benefits.
4. According to IDSA it considers the land suitable for dark sky sites if it is on public or private land, publicly accessible in all or part of the year, scientific, natural, educational, cultural, cultural and/or cultural sites. Or protected for public purposes.
5. The Hanley Dark Sky Reserve (HDSR) will come up within the Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary, which is located at an altitude of 4,500 metres above sea level, making it an ideal host for binoculars. Ladakh is also ideal for long-term observatories and dark-sky sites due to its large dry area, high altitude and sparse population.
6. The Milky Way galaxy appears overnight in the Hanley region due to its cloudless skies and low atmospheric turbulence. Hanley is the second highest optical telescope in the world, which was established by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics in 2001.
7. The Department of Science and Technology and the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) in Bengaluru are providing support for this facility

(SOURCE –NEWS ON AIR)

India's First Undersea Tunnels In Mumbai

Why in news: The Mumbai Coastal Road Project (MCRP) is a Rs 12,721-crore initiative by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to connect Marine Drive with the Bandra-Worli Sea Link.



1. The most important feature of the project is the construction of India's first undersea tunnel, which is set to open by November 2023. The 2.07-km-long twin tunnel runs 17-20 metres below sea level, connecting Girgaum to Priyadarshini Park through the Arabian Sea, Girgaum Chowpatty and Malabar Hill.
2. The construction of the twin tunnels involved cutting the complex geological strata using a giant Chinese tunnel boring machine (TBM) and a team of 35 men. The TBM named Mawala is the largest ever used in India weighing over 1,700 tonnes and is about 12 metres long.
3. It was manufactured by China Railway Construction Heavy Industry Company Limited (CRCHI) and was assembled and launched a year ago. TBM has played an important role in completing the construction of undersea tunnels. It broke from



the Girgaum end in January 2022 after a year of mining activity, and boring of the second tunnel began in April 2022. The BMC hopes to achieve its success by the end of May as only 140 metres of mining work is left.

4. The tunnels have a diameter of 12.19 meters and feature six crosswalks, four for pedestrians and two for motorists. Each tunnel has three 3.2-meter-wide lanes, with two lanes operational and the third used in case of emergencies or increased vehicular density.
5. The tunnels also have fibreglass facades resembling the Queen's Necklace, a famous C-shaped promenade on Marine Drive. The entry and exit points are designed to provide easy access to the tunnels, and the crosswalks allow for safe pedestrian and vehicular movement.
6. The MCRP is expected to reduce the 45-minute commute from Girgaon to Worli to just 10 minutes during peak hours. The high-speed coastal road, spanning 10.58 kilometers, connects Marine Drive to the Bandra-Worli Sea Link. The undersea tunnels are a critical component of the project, cutting down commute time and easing traffic congestion in the area.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)

World's highest Chenab rail bridge is ready

Why in news: The work of laying the track on the Chenab railway bridge has started recently.

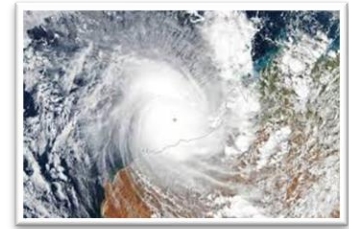
1. The Chenab rail bridge, also known as the Chenab Arch Bridge, is a concrete arch bridge being built over the Chenab River in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.
2. It will be the world's highest railway bridge, with a height of 359 meters above the river bed. The chenab bridge will be 1,315 metres long with 17 spans, of which the main arch across the Chenab river will extend 467 metres.
3. The design speed of the bridge is 100 km/h. It will have a lifespan of 120 years. It is designed to withstand zone-5 earthquakes, wind speeds of 266 km/h and high-intensity explosions.
4. It forms a crucial link along the 111-km stretch from Katra to Banihal, which is part of the Rs 21,653-crore Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) project, which aims to provide all-weather rail connectivity to the Kashmir Valley.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)



Cyclone Mocha

Why in news: A powerful cyclone Mocha is expected to form in the southeast Bay of Bengal around May 6. In the wake of Cyclone Mocha, IMD issued an advisory and asked fishermen to stay away from the southeast Bay of Bengal from May 7 onwards.



1. Cyclone 'Mocha' is likely to form over southeast Bay of Bengal around May 6, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. Under its influence, a low pressure area is likely to form in the same area around May 7.
2. The weather agency followed reports from the US weather forecast model Global Forecast System (GFS) and the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecast (ECMWF).
3. The word 'Cyclone' originated from a Greek word which means "Coiling of the Snake". It is formed by atmospheric disturbances around a low-pressure area which is usually accompanied by violent storms and severe weather conditions.

(SOURCE –The Hindu)

India captures the rare Aurora lights on camera for the first time!

Why in news: The Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) above Mount Saraswati captured a rare event as the geomagnetic storm entered the Earth's magnetic field, creating unique auroras.



1. Auroras are commonly seen at high altitudes in Alaska, Norway, and parts of other countries. This was the first time Aurora was captured on camera in India by the Indian Astronomical Observatory.
2. A 360-degree camera mounted atop the IAO in Ladakh's Hanle captured the mysterious phenomenon, triggered by an interaction between plasma particles thrown by the Sun and Earth's magnetic field.
3. The Sun is expelling charged particles from its corona, forming a solar wind. When that air hits the Earth's ionosphere, Aurora is born.
4. In the Northern Hemisphere, this phenomenon is called the Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis), while in the Southern Hemisphere, it is called the Southern Lights (Aurora Australis).
5. The hemispheric asymmetry of auroras is caused by the sun's magnetic field that interferes with the earth's magnetic field. Another Aurora-like phenomenon on Steve Earth is Steve (strong thermal emission velocity increase).



6. It's a glowing atmospheric phenomenon, but it looks a little different from its wavy Aurora counterparts. Like the Northern and Southern lights, Steve is also visible from lower latitudes, closer to the equator, than from Aurora.

(SOURCE –NEWS ON AIR)

First multinational logistics park of India to come up in Assam

Why in news: The construction of India's first international multimodal logistics park at Jogighopa in Assam is expected to be completed by the end of this year.



1. The park, being built at a cost of Rs 693.97 crore, will provide direct connectivity by waterways, road, rail and air.
2. The project aims to revive the transport network in the North Eastern region of India including neighbouring countries like Bhutan and Bangladesh.

The PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan is a key component of this vision, which aims to revive and rejuvenate the transport system and make it an efficient and effective agent of change.

3. The International Multimodal Logistics Park is a large-scale facility designed to provide integrated logistics solutions through multiple modes of transport, including rail, road, air and water.
4. This allows efficient movement of cargo between different modes of transport, thereby reducing transportation costs, transit time, and improving supply chain management.
5. The park usually includes various facilities such as warehouse, container yard, custom clearance house, cold storage, administrative building, parking space and other infrastructure required for handling and storage of cargo.
6. The development of such a park is often part of the country's broader transportation and infrastructure development plans to facilitate trade and economic growth.

(SOURCE –NEWS ON AIR)

India gets its first IAF Heritage Centre in Chandigarh; Preserving and showcasing IAF's rich heritage.

Why in news: The Heritage Centre of the Indian Air Force was inaugurated by the Defence Minister in Chandigarh. The centre will serve as a source of inspiration for future generations.



1. Considered to be an embodiment of the rich history and heritage of the IAF, the centre has a collection of artefacts, murals and 3D dioramas, reflecting the evolution of the force since its inception. It showcases the heroic deeds of the Indian Air Force and the country's technological advancements in aircraft/equipment.
2. One of the main features of the centre is the array of simulators that allow visitors to replicate the thrill of flying iconic aircraft in the IAF inventory and give them a chance to get a taste of being a pilot. The centre, which is now open to the public, also has enclosures dedicated to combat operations, in which the IAF participated. These provide a unique opportunity to the visitors to learn about the important role played by the IAF in protecting the nation.
3. The combined skills, integration and commitment displayed by the three services during the war was unprecedented and exceptional. This war was not fought for any land or power, but for humanity and democracy.
4. This is proof that India believes that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere and it is our duty to stand up against any kind of injustice. Winning the war on the strength of its strategies and not imposing any kind of political control there is a symbol of India's strength as well as its values and cultural generosity.
5. The centre will serve as a source of inspiration for future generations. "The IAF has a rich heritage and it is our responsibility to preserve and showcase it.
6. The centre will become an important tool to preserve the history of the IAF and inspire the youth to imbibe the values of the armed forces.

(SOURCE –The Hindu)

Digital Tripura project

1. The Digital Tripura project aims to provide training to the Nodal Officers of all government departments to make all administrative work transparent, fast, and paperless.
2. Other examples of paperless governance projects are e-Office (Andhra Pradesh), e-Tendering (Maharashtra), M-Governance (Kerala) Online Land Records System (Haryana), e-Stamping (Karnataka) etc.
3. Usage: such examples can be quoted in Governance/Essay Papers to show how technology can be used to bring positive changes in the lives of citizens by providing smart and people-friendly governance.

(SOURCE –The Hindu)



Chheligada Irrigation Project

Why in news: 5T secretary-cum-secretary to the Odisha Chief Minister recently directed officials to begin construction of the multipurpose irrigation project at Chheligada.



1. It is a multipurpose medium project being undertaken across river Badjhore, a tributary of river Vansadhara near the village Chheligada in the Gajapati District of Odisha.
2. The Project envisages the construction of a 250m long & 30m high dam across the river Badjhore with a central spillway.
3. After this Project, 5201 hectares metres water can be preserved and water can be supplied for irrigation of 5760 hectares of land in Ganjam and 500 hectares of land in Gajapati districts.
4. This Project will also provide drinking water to Brahampur City. Additionally, 36 MW of electricity can be produced through a mini hydel project in three places Shiali Loti, Kankata and Dekili in the Gajapati district.
5. The salient features of the Project are:
90m long centrally located Ogee-type gated Spillway; 1.13 km long tunnel to connect Chheligada reservoir with Ghodahada river;
6. Canal system directly from the dam to irrigate in the Gajapati district. Laying of the pipeline for drinking water supply to Berhampur (Distt. Ganjam)

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)

Telangana has become the first state in the country to launch a state robotics framework

Why in news: The Telangana government introduced a new policy known as the State Robotics Framework. It is designed to establish a self-sustaining robotics ecosystem and establish the state as a leader in robotics in India.



1. The policy aims to provide support for research and development, encourage collaboration between academia and industry and promote adoption of robotics technology in various fields.



2. As part of the state robotics framework, Telangana plans to set up a robo park with testing facilities, co-working spaces and co-production or manufacturing options. These facilities will be set up either at state-owned sites or at competitive rates in collaboration with industry, academia and incubators.
3. In addition, the state intends to set up a world-class robotics accelerator to provide necessary support to startups, including incubation, infrastructure, authorization, market insights, investor connections and mentorship. This accelerator will be an important resource for entrepreneurs and startups in the robotics sector, helping them grow and succeed.
4. The State Robotics Framework is a detailed plan that outlines Telangana's vision to advance the robotics ecosystem and promote the growth of the industry in India. The framework was created by the emerging technologies wing of the ITE&C department of Telangana in collaboration with the All India Robotics Association and inputs from academics, industry experts and stakeholders.
5. The framework aims to use robotics technology to drive growth and development in four key areas: agriculture, healthcare, industrial automation and consumer robotics. The emphasis is on leveraging robotics to improve outcomes in these domains.

(SOURCE –The Hindu)

Treasure trove of 1st Century BC artefacts found in Telangana village

Why in.news: A team, including researchers and history enthusiasts from Telangana, have made a commendable discovery of relics and artifacts that they suggest belong to the Satavahana period from the 1st century BC to the 3rd century AD.



1. The team found many yakshinis, puppets, terracotta pearls, hopscotch, pottery pieces in large sizes with amazing designs and countless broken gravel and pebbles.
2. Other startling discoveries included large bricks that measure 14x12x4 inches. It is said that Patigadda has a large brick structure and these bricks from the Satavahana period point to an ancient structure.
3. The people of that period were fond of jewellery is evident from the terracotta beads that have been found, including a large emerald green stone bead. The ornaments of the people of the Satavahana period included coloured stone beads and terracotta pearls.



4. Among the terracotta statues were the legs of a broken doll, a broken fairy head, and headless goddesses. These sculptures are of Ikshvaku style. Also three Neolithic stones that were used as rock tools and a coin from the Satavahana period were found. The latter has the insignia of Ujjain on one side and the Brahmi script on the other.

(SOURCE –NEWS ON AIR)

Palghat Gap

Why in news: The Palghat Gap in the Western Ghats is a significant break in the mountain range, which is about 40 km wide.



1. The surrounding hills are characterized by steep Nilgiri and Anamalai hills on either side, both rising above 2,000 m above sea level.
2. Importance of Gateway to Kerala State for Roads and Railways Unlike the tropical rainforests found in other parts of the Western Ghats, the vegetation in the Palghat Gap is classified as dry evergreen forest.
3. Geologically, Palghat Gap is a shear zone running from east to west. Shear areas are weak areas in the Earth's crust, as a result of which tremors are sometimes felt in the Coimbatore region.
4. The origin of the gap can be traced back to the separation of Australia and Africa from the Gondwana landmass, leading to continental drift.
5. Many species of flora and fauna are found on only one side of the gap. Moreover, the mitochondrial DNA of elephants on the Nilgiri side differs from that of the Anamalai and Periyar sanctuaries

(SOURCE –NEWS ON AIR)

UP holds 2nd position in GI Tag

Why in news: Uttar Pradesh now ranks second in the country in terms of the maximum number of geographical indication (GI) tagged goods.



1. The state has received GI tags for three and one district one product (ODOP) crafts, taking the total number of GI-tagged products in the state to 48. The three new tagged ODOP crafts are Mainpuri Tarkashi, Mahoba Gaura Pathar Craft and Sambhal Horn Craft.



2. The GI tag is a valuable asset for the state of Uttar Pradesh. It helps in promoting the traditional crafts and products of the state, and also helps in boosting the local economy. The GI tag also helps in creating awareness about the rich cultural heritage of the state.
3. Tamil Nadu leads with goods with 55 GI tags, while UP and Karnataka are second with 48 and 46 GI products respectively. However, UP ranks first in terms of GI-tagged handicrafts, with 36 crafts. With this achievement, UP has overtaken Karnataka to become the second state with the highest GI tag of goods in the country.
4. The number of GI tags in handicrafts in the country is also the highest in UP. According to him, out of 48 GI goods of UP, 36 products belong to the handicraft category. In Varanasi region alone, 18 of the 23 GI-tagged items belong to the handicrafts category.
5. A GI tag is an indication used on products that have a specific geographical origin and have qualities or reputations that are due to that origin. The GI tag helps protect products from duplication and ensures that consumers get the actual product.
6. The state government is taking various steps to promote products with GI tags. The government has set up a GI cell to facilitate the process of obtaining GI tags for products. The government is also providing financial assistance to ODOP artisans to help them improve their products and marketing.
7. The GI tag has the potential to transform the lives of ODOP artisans and help them get a better livelihood. The government is committed to promoting GI-tagged products and helping ODOP artisans succeed.

(SOURCE – TIMES OF INDIA)

Mumbai ranks 6th in Housing price growth

Why in news: Mumbai has moved up to the sixth rank among 46 global cities in terms of annual price growth of high-end residential properties, with an appreciation of 5.5%



1. Real estate consultant Knight Frank India in its report 'Prime Global Cities Index Q1 2023' said that Mumbai, Bengaluru and New Delhi have registered an increase in average annual prices in January-March 2023.
2. "The rise in average prices in Mumbai was recorded at 5.5 per cent year-on-year (YoY), while it was 3 per cent YoY in Bengaluru, and 1.2 per cent YoY in New Delhi, compared to Q1 2022," it said.



3. Mumbai's significant rise on the international index was largely due to the rise in demand in the city, the consultant attributed.
4. While the demand has been strong for all segments, the consultant said it has seen a rise in the sale of higher value products.

Knight Frank India CMD Shishir Baijal said, "The Indian economy stood out with steady performance despite concerns around global growth and inflation that marked most of 2022."

(SOURCE – ECONOMIC TIMES)

Kiru Hydro-Electric Power Project

Why in news: The Central Bureau of Investigation recently searched 12 locations in Delhi and Rajasthan in connection with a case alleging corruption in the award of ₹2,200 crore civil works related to the Kiru hydro-electric power project.



1. It is being developed over the Chenab River near the villages of Patharnakki and Kiru in Kishtwar district, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
It is located between Kirthai II hydroelectric project to its upstream and Kwar hydroelectric project to its downstream.
2. The project is being developed by Chenab Valley Power Projects (CVPP), a joint venture between National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC, 49%), Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC, 49%) and Power Trading Corporation (PTC, 2%).
3. The states which will get benefited by this project are **J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh**, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Union territories of Chandigarh & Delhi.
4. The project involves the construction of a 135m-high concrete gravity dam near Kiru.
5. The project will have a catchment area of 10,225km², while the reservoir will be 6.5km-long and 1.03km² in area.
6. It will have one 700m-long horse-shoe shaped diversion tunnel with two openings to divert the flow of the river to enable the dam construction.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)



UP govt to implement training programme for youth on 5G Technology.

Why in news: The Uttar Pradesh government is taking an important step towards increasing skill development opportunities by launching 5G technology training programs under its Skill Development Mission.



1. The objective of this initiative is to equip the youth with the necessary skills in new and future employable technologies, recognizing the importance of 5G technology in shaping the telecom sector and the economy of the future.
2. The primary goal of the 5G technology training program is to skill the youth in the latest technologies that will be in high demand in the future job market. The event acknowledges the critical role of 5G technology in transforming the telecom ecosystem, including hardware, software and services.
3. It is seen as the technology of the future, with applications ranging from the Internet of Things (IoT) to machine-to-machine communication and edge computing.
4. Under this programme, the Uttar Pradesh government aims to train 1,000 candidates and provide jobs. The initiative will initially be launched in five districts - Lucknow, Kanpur, Gautam Buddh Nagar, Moradabad, Agra, Gorakhpur, Varanasi and Prayagraj. These districts have been strategically selected to ensure maximum reach and impact of the training programme.
5. The 5G technology training program offers three courses to equip candidates with the necessary knowledge and skills. These courses include Telecom Rigger – 5G and Legacy Networks, Technician 5G – Active Network Installation and Project Engineer – 5G Networks. Each course focuses on different aspects of 5G technology, providing specialized training to meet different job roles and requirements.

The Uttar Pradesh government estimates that more than Rs 80 lakh will be spent on the telecom rig-5G and legacy network course. The implementation strategy of the programme consists of five phases. First, steps will be taken to attract students to enroll in the courses.

(SOURCE –NEWS ON AIR)

Mega Textile Park at Dhar, MP will open new doors of progress : PM

Why in news: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a new mega textile park in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh.



Which will open the doors of development in the state.

1. Pm Modi said that this new park will strengthen Make in India and create employment opportunities for the youth.
2. To promote Make in India, the Central Government has approved PM Mitra Mega Textile Parks in 7 states of the country. CM Mitra Mega Textile Parks are going to be set up in Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
3. Under the PM Mitra Mega Textile Park, the entire work (i.e. from cloth making to its export) will be done at one place. There will be an investment of about Rs 4425 crore in this.
4. This decision will promote investment in the textile sector and create many employment opportunities. This will create 14 lakh employment opportunities.

(SOURCE –NEWS ON AIR)

Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023

Why in news: The National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023 which aims to effect the powers of the elected state government of Delhi and restore certain powers to the Lieutenant Governor (LG).



1. Article 239AA was inserted into the Constitution by the 69th Amendment Act 1991. This article grants special status to the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCT).
2. The National Capital Region will have a Legislative Assembly and a Council of Ministers headed by a Chief Minister. The Legislative Assembly will have the power to make laws on all matters in the State List and the Concurrent List, except those matters which are specifically excluded by the Constitution. The Council of Ministers will be accountable to the Legislative Assembly.
3. More power to the Lieutenant Governor (LG) – The ordinance seeks to amend the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act 1991.
4. The ordinance is aimed at giving the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Delhi more power over the administration of services in the national capital.
5. Override the Supreme Court verdict - The ordinance aims to nullify the Supreme Court verdict and in the administration of Delhi.
6. The role of the Lieutenant Governor (LG) has to be strengthened. National Capital Civil Services Authority (NCCSA) – A new statutory body responsible for making recommendations to the LG regarding transfer postings, vigilance and other related matters.



7. Violates the principle of federalism – it gives the LG more power than the elected government of Delhi. Non-democratic – because it gives the LG more power than the elected representatives of the people of Delhi. The ordinance weakens the powers of the elected government of Delhi.

(SOURCE –The Hindu)

Kerala first fully e-governed state

Why in news: India's southern state of Kerala is all set to make history by declaring itself the country's first "total e-governed state".



1. Building on its reputation as the first fully literate state in India, Kerala has achieved this milestone through a series of policy initiatives aimed at transforming the state into a digitally empowered society.
2. With a focus on a knowledge-based economy and 100% digital literacy, the government has digitized the delivery of critical services across various domains while ensuring transparency, inclusivity and accessibility for all citizens.
3. Decades after attaining full literacy, Kerala embarked on its journey to become a fully e-literate society. Recognizing the potential of digital technologies to enhance governance and public service delivery, the state government launched several initiatives to achieve complete e-governance. The vision of providing transparent and prompt service to all citizens has been an important driving force behind these efforts.
4. Digitization of critical services Under the comprehensive e-governance framework, Kerala has successfully digitized the delivery of all critical services. Key domains such as health, education, land revenue, documentation of assets, public distribution system and social security payments have been integrated into the digital ecosystem.
5. By eliminating physical paperwork and leveraging technology, the government has streamlined processes, making services more efficient and accessible.
6. At the heart of Kerala's e-governance infrastructure is e-Sevanam, an integrated single-window service delivery mechanism. The platform brings more than 800 government services online, allowing citizens to easily avail various services. With a user-friendly interface and state-of-the-art technology, e-Sevanam ensures a seamless experience for users, facilitating quick and hassle-free access to government services.
7. Kerala's total e-governance initiative emphasises on inclusion of all sections of the society, including the less privileged and marginalised. By digitising service delivery, the government has made it easier for citizens, regardless of their socio-



economic background, to access essential services. This commitment to inclusivity is in line with the state's long-standing tradition of social welfare and equitable development.

8. Digital platforms empowering government offices To support the implementation of e-governance at all levels, the State IT Mission has developed digital platforms and applications. In particular, e-office file flow system has been introduced, which enables seamless digital workflow even at the village office level. This integration of technology ensures efficient administration and enhances the overall governance process.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

The Ministry of Mines in collaboration with IIT, Bombay organised the first Mining Start-up Summit in Mumbai on May 29

Why in news: On May 29, 2023, he will inaugurate the first Mining Start-up Summit organized by the Ministry of Mines in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay in Mumbai.



1. The unique summit will primarily focus on innovation and technologies that will help demonstrate, protect and build autonomy in the field of mining and metallurgy.
2. With the third largest start-up ecosystem in the world, there is scope to address the challenges in the mining sector, simplify the process for the mining industry by leveraging new technologies in exploration and mining, and involve start-ups in enhancing the country's mining and mineral production.
3. During the event, the Ministry of Mines will interact with start-ups in the field of mining and metallurgy and how these start-ups equipped with various technologies can contribute to the activities of the mining sector and boost the capabilities of exploration and mining and enhance the efficiency of the mining sector.
4. The summit will also focus on interactions with leading industries, financial institutions and banks in the mineral exploration sector. Students and young professionals working in the fields of exploration, virtual reality, automation, drone technology, consulting, etc. You will also benefit from the event. More than 120 start-ups and 20 leading industries will participate in this summit.
5. Some of the major highlights of the first Mining Start-up Summit to be held in India's commercial capital Mumbai are a state-of-the-art exhibition showcasing the advancement of technology in the mining sector, technical sessions and panel discussions with industries and academia, presentations by start-ups, brainstorming sessions are some of the major attractions.

(SOURCE –The Hindu)



Samarth campaign for digital transactions

Why in news: Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Shri Giriraj Singh recently launched 'Samarth Campaign on Promoting Digital Transactions in 50,000 Gram Panchayats' under The Azadika Matru Mahotsav in Lucknow.



1. The campaign, launched by the Ministry of Rural Development, aims to promote digital transactions in rural areas with a special focus on empowering women.
2. Under the Samarth Abhiyan, the government wants to promote the adoption of digital transactions in 50,000 gram panchayats across India. The initiative aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Azadi Ka Matritva Mahotsav, which celebrates 75 years of India's Independence. The campaign started on February 1, 2023 and will continue till August 15, 2023.
3. Emphasising on India's global leadership in women empowerment, he also appreciated the contribution of BC Sakhis in the digital economy.
4. He emphasized the important role played by BC Sakhis in Uttar Pradesh, enabling more than 5 crore 57 lakh digital transactions and providing doorstep banking services to the last mile of the population. These empowered women have not only served the underprivileged citizens but also helped banks save cost on small amounts of transactions.
5. The Uttar Pradesh government is integrating banking services into digital village secretariats in villages, thereby increasing access. Empowering women and changing lives Minister of State for Rural Development, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti lauded the women of India for their multitasking capabilities, acknowledging their contribution in managing households as well as bringing banking services to underprivileged citizens across the country.
6. The event also included distribution of biometric point of sale (PoS) machines and appointment letters to newly appointed BC sakhis. Around 1000 BC Sakhis from all over India participated in the event held in Lucknow. The State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM) and stakeholders across the country joined the event through webcast and live streaming on social media platforms.

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)



Innovation nurturing scheme

Why in news: To address the challenges in the ship design and construction industry, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Limited, a Kolkata-based defence PSU (public sector undertaking), has launched an innovation nutrition scheme.



1. The GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Plan - 2023 (GAINES) aims to generate a large number of ideas and support their development through a two-step process.
2. The primary objective of GAINES 2023 is to identify and encourage the development of innovative solutions for technological advancements in shipbuilding, especially from startups. GRSE intends to leverage the ecosystem to address both current and emerging challenges in the ship design and construction industry. The focus areas for GAINES 2023 include artificial intelligence, renewable energy, energy efficiency and efficiency enhancement.
3. The partnership between GRSE and innovators is a "win-win" situation that will shape the future of technology and innovation in the ship design and construction industry.
4. Open Innovation, a well-established and effective approach, will be used to gather ideas from outside the organization and create better solutions in a relatively short time. This initiative of GRSE is the first of its kind launched by a public sector undertaking to launch a startup challenge. It aims to harness the inherent strengths and capabilities of the Indian startup ecosystem to develop technologically innovative solutions.
5. The GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nutrition Plan - 2023 (GAINES) follows a two-step process:
 - Idea Generation: The scheme invites innovators to participate in an Open Innovation Challenge, encouraging them to submit their ideas. Focus areas for ideas include artificial intelligence, renewable energy, energy efficiency and efficiency enhancement in ship design and construction.
 - Idea selection and nutrition: Out of the ideas presented, some promising ones will be selected for further development and nurturing. GRSE will provide support, resources and mentorship to selected innovators to help them refine and implement their ideas.
6. Profit:
Promote innovation
Technological advancements:



Collaboration Opportunities:

7. The launch of Gains 2023 reflects GRSE's vision to foster innovation and leverage the Indian startup ecosystem for technological advancements in ship design and construction.

(SOURCE – ECONOMIC TIMES)

Mumbai gears up to host first ever 'Mining Start-up Summit' on May 29

Why in news: Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi will inaugurate the first Mining Start-up Summit in Mumbai on May 29.



1. The summit is being organised by the Ministry of Mines in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.
2. The summit will primarily focus on innovation and technologies that will support and improve performance, safety and help build autonomy in the field of mining and metallurgy.
3. The summit will also focus on interactions with leading industries, financial institutions and banks in the mineral exploration sector. More than 120 start-ups and 20 leading industries will participate in the summit.
4. During this event, the Ministry of Mines will interact with start-ups in the field of mining and metallurgy and how these start-ups equipped with various technologies can contribute to the activities of the mining sector.

(SOURCE – TIMES OF INDIA)

REWARD program with World Bank

Why in news: Reward is a World Bank assisted watershed development programme being implemented from 2021 to 2026.



1. The development objective of the award programme is to "strengthen the capabilities of national and state institutions to adopt better watershed management to enhance the resilience of farmers in selected watersheds of participating states and support value chains".
2. The programme is being implemented by the Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development and to introduce modern watershed practices in the states of Karnataka and Odisha.



3. The total budget outlay of the awards programme is USD 167.71 million over a programme period of 4.5 years. This includes USD 115 million from the World Bank (USD 60 million), Odisha (USD 49 million) and DOLR (USD 6 million), two partner states (Karnataka (USD 25.71 million) and Odisha (USD 21 million) and USD 6 million from the DOLR. The funding pattern is 70:30 between the World Bank and the states, while it is 50:50 between the World Bank and the DOLR.
4. At the central level, the scope of the reward program includes management, monitoring, communication and knowledge sharing functions by the DOLR. At the state level, the award programme will be aligned within the ambit of WDC-PMKSY 2.0, and will support the implementation of key science-based activities and demonstrations, which ultimately aim to coordinate the broader perspective of WDC-PMKSY 2.0 to other states in India.
5. As a part of the 3rd Implementation Support Mission (ISM), the World Bank team headed by Smt. Preeti Kumar visited the DoLR and Reward States for the 3rd ISM to review the progress and discuss about the action plan for the next 6 months.
6. Other points discussed during the debriefing meeting included strengthening of the Centre of Excellence on Watershed Component set up in Bengaluru under the awards programme, organising a national level workshop on science-based watershed management, development of protocols for expansion of Land Resources Inventory (LRI) across the country on a pilot basis, providing LRI based digital advisory services to farmers and exposure visits of reward officers etc.

(SOURCE –The Hindu)

Meri LiFE Mera Swachh Shehar

Why in news: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched the mega campaign 'Meri LIEFE, My Clean City' to promote waste management principles of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (RRR).



1. It aims to establish pro-environmental behaviour change in daily life in line with mission LiFE (Lifestyle for the Environment)
2. Implementation: The campaign aims to set up RRR centres where citizens can contribute items like clothes, shoes, books, toys and plastic for reuse or recycling. The campaign will last for three weeks and will conclude on World Environment Day with a pledge for a clean and sustainable environment.
3. Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for the Environment) (launched in October 2022) is a global movement launched by India to promote environmentally conscious lifestyles.



4. The need to address environmental degradation and climate change at the individual and community level
5. It aims to replace mindless consumption with careful use and encourages individuals and communities to take climate-friendly actions in their daily lives.
6. Aim:-
 - Promote environmentally conscious lifestyles, -motivate individuals to act climate-friendly,
 - Creating a Global Network of Pro-Planet People (P3)
 - India's track record: success of Swachh Bharat Mission and other national schemes
7. Other related initiatives are Glasgow Climate Meeting (COP26), Panchamrit Strategy, International Solar Alliance, National Action Plan on Climate Change, National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), National Biofuel Policy

(SOURCE – INDIAN EXPRESS)

Maharashtra farmers to get Rs 6,000 a year under new scheme

Why in news: The Cabinet approved the establishment of a Maize Research Center at Mauje Kotnandra and Doifoda in Sillod.

1. The scheme, Namo Shetkari Mahasanman Yojana under which more than one crore farmers in the state will be paid 6,000 rupees annually.
2. The amount was in addition to Rs 6,000 paid to farmers in installments per year by the Centre under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana. The money will be deposited in the bank accounts of farmers in three instalments of ₹ 2,000 during April to July, August to November and December to March.
3. To promote natural farming in the state, the decision to extend the Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Natural Farming Mission and to extend the scope across the state was also taken in the Cabinet meeting.
4. The cabinet also approved another proposal where farmers can avail of crop insurance by paying only one rupee towards premium while rest of the amount will be paid by the government.
5. The decision to implement all inclusive crop insurance scheme in the state was taken in the cabinet meeting.
6. The scheme will be implemented through a tender process for a period of three years from Kharif and Rabi seasons 2023-24 to 2025-26.



(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)



Mahakumbh 2025: Digital Kumbh Museum on the anvil

Why in news: 'Digital Kumbh Museum' will be erected at a cost of 60 crore. It will not only showcase the culture of the country and state, but it will also provide insights into the mythical and historical significance of the Kumbh Mela.



1. The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh, is making enormous preparations for 'Mahakumbh 2025,' which would be hosted at Prayagraj's City of Sangam. The Tourism Department is working on improving tourism destinations and beautifying temples, in addition to providing public amenities for the 'Mahakumbh 2025.'
2. Digital Kumbh Museum will give visitors with a modern Kumbh experience by providing amenities like Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning (HVAC), along with audio-video rooms.
3. It will also have spiritual-themed galleries such as the Spiritual and Kumbh Mela Interpretation Gallery, Samudra Manthan Gallery and Akhada Gallery.
4. The museum will have a food plaza and a souvenir store, where visitors may buy Kumbh Mela-related books and merchandise. There will also be a Cultural Haat (Akshayavat), a museum, gallery, and theatre (Amrit Kalash), and a guest house.
5. The 'sangam' river would be presented in the entry lobby via digital projection, according to the proposed concept of the Digital Kumbh Museum.

(SOURCE – HINDUSTAN TIMES)

Important News: Day

International Labour Day

Why in news: International Labour Day, popularly known as International Workers' Day or May Day is observed on May 01 every year.

1. It is celebrated every year on May 1 to commemorate the struggles and sacrifices of the workers and workers' movement. And it is also known as May Day.
2. It is celebrated in more than 80 countries including India, Cuba and China, people in different parts of the world march on this day to promote the rights of working class people and protect them from exploitation.
3. The first Labour Day in India was celebrated in Chennai on May 1, 1923. The first May Day celebrations were organised by the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan.



4. It is celebrated by many different names in different Indian states. For example, it is known as Kamgar Din in Hindi, Karmika Dinacharane in Kannada and Karmika Dinotsavam in Telugu.

(SOURCE – TIMES OF INDIA)

World tuna day

Why in news: World Tuna Day is observed every year on 2 May to raise awareness about the importance of tuna fish and promote sustainable fishing practices.



1. The purpose of this day is to promote the importance of sustainable fishing practices and to educate people about how tuna has become an endangered species due to high demand.
2. In 2016, the United Nations General Assembly declared this day as World Tuna Day to create awareness among people to conserve the species.
3. More than seven million metric tons of tuna and tuna-like species are harvested annually.
4. These migratory tuna species account for 20 percent of the value of all marine capture fisheries and more than eight percent of all globally traded seafood. Tuna is rich in omega-3s and also contains minerals, protein, and vitamin B12, among other benefits.

(SOURCE – TIMES OF INDIA)

World asthma day

Why in news: World Asthma Day is an annual event celebrated on the first Tuesday of May. It aims to raise awareness and encourage better management and care of asthma globally.



1. The day is coordinated by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) in partnership with healthcare providers, patient groups and public health agencies. And in 2023, World Asthma Day was celebrated on 2 May.
2. The Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) has designated "Asthma Care for All" as the theme for the 2023 World Asthma Day.
3. World Asthma Day 2023 has critical importance in raising awareness about asthma and promoting better asthma management and care globally.



4. The day provides an opportunity for health professionals, patient organizations and public health agencies to collaborate and raise awareness of the impact of asthma on individuals and communities. The program also highlights the latest developments in asthma research and treatment, providing valuable information to healthcare providers, patients, and advocates.
5. World Asthma Day was first established in 1998 by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) as "World Asthma Awareness Day". To promote care.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)

World press freedom day

Why in news: Every year on 3rd May we celebrate World Press Freedom Day to increase understanding about the importance of press which is free and not influenced by external forces.



1. World Press Freedom Day emphasizes the importance of unrestricted journalism and advocates the fundamental right to freedom of expression.
2. This year's World Press Freedom Day focuses on the theme of "Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of Expression as a Driver for All Other Human Rights," which emphasizes the critical role of freedom of expression in safeguarding and promoting other human rights.
3. World Press Freedom Day is a reminder of the important role of a free and independent media in promoting democracy, human rights and sustainable development.
4. This day provides an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the work of journalists and media professionals who strive to provide accurate and reliable information to the public, often facing great risks and adversity.
5. In addition, World Press Freedom Day is an opportunity to draw attention to the many challenges and threats faced by journalists and media personnel around the world, including censorship, harassment, intimidation, and violence. The day provides a platform to call for greater protection of journalists and to advocate for reforms that protect press freedom and ensure the free flow of information.
6. Finally, World Press Freedom Day provides a platform for governments, civil society organizations, media professionals and the public to come together to discuss and reflect on issues related to press freedom and media development.

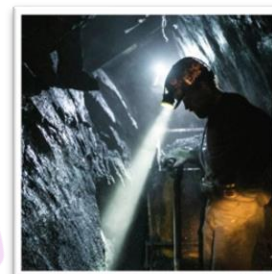


7. Through workshops, conferences and other activities, the day promotes dialogue and cooperation among stakeholders and promotes a better understanding of the important role of a free and independent media in society.

(SOURCE – TIMES OF INDIA)

Coal MINER's day 2023

Why in news: Coal Miners' Day is observed every year on May 4 to acknowledge and appreciate the hard work and remarkable contribution of coal miners in the extraction of coal.



1. Coal is an important fossil fuel that is extensively used for various purposes, such as power generation and industrial production, especially in the manufacture of steel and cement.
2. Coal mining is a laborious industry that provides employment to millions of people worldwide. As a carbon-rich primary fossil fuel, coal is instrumental in the production of electricity, steel and cement.
3. Coal Miners Day serves as a dedicated occasion to honour their contributions and pay tribute to the tragedies that they have endured throughout their lives. Many awareness programs are organized on this day to promote the health and safety needs of the workers.
4. These initiatives attempt to educate the workers about the various laws and regulations of the Government of India which are meant to enhance their working conditions and wages. It aims to empower workers with knowledge about their rights so that they can work in a safe and healthy work environment.

(SOURCE – TIMES OF INDIA)

World firefighter day

Why in news: International Firefighters Day is a day dedicated to recognizing and honouring the brave individuals who put their lives on the line every day to save others.



1. International Firefighters' Day is dedicated to recognize and honor the brave individuals who put their lives on the line every day to save others.

These firefighters demonstrate courage, strength, and selflessness as they work tirelessly to protect their communities, often harming themselves. Each year on



May 4, we have the opportunity to express our gratitude and appreciation for their unwavering commitment to keeping us safe from fire and other hazards.

2. The importance of International Firefighters' Day lies in recognition of the extraordinary bravery and selflessness of firefighters who have risked their safety to protect the public from fire and other emergencies.
3. This day serves as a powerful reminder of their unwavering dedication and sacrifice towards their communities. It also highlights the importance of promoting fire safety awareness and ensuring that firefighters are provided with the necessary resources and equipment to effectively carry out their critical responsibilities.
4. In 1999, International Firefighters' Day was established to pay tribute to the courage and sacrifices made by firefighters around the world. The inspiration for this annual commemoration came from the tragic loss of five Australian firefighters who lost their lives in a wildfire while fulfilling their duties. Despite being sent to assist, Jason Thomas, Chris Evans, Gary Werewald, Matthew Armstrong and Stuart Davidson died battling the fire. As a result of this unfortunate incident, International Firefighters' Day was created.

(SOURCE – TIMES OF INDIA)

International Leopard Day 2023

Why in news: International Leopard Day is a new annual event that was officially announced by the Cape Leopard Trust (CLT) on May 3, 2023, with the launch of a dedicated portal, "internationalleopardday.org".



1. The leopard is the smallest of the Big Cats (genus Panthera namely tiger, lion, jaguar, leopard and snow leopard), and is known for its ability to adapt to a variety of habitats.
2. It is a nocturnal animal (hunting at night). Melanism is a common phenomenon in leopards, in which the entire skin of the animal is black, including its spots. A melanistic leopard is often called a black panther or jaguar, and is mistakenly considered a separate species.
3. It occurs in sub-Saharan Africa, in small parts of western and central Asia, from the Indian subcontinent to Southeast and East Asia in a wide range.
4. According to a recent report 'Status of Leopards in India, 2018' (by MoEFCC), "the number of leopard population in India has increased by 60% from the 2014 estimates". It currently numbers around 13000, with the highest population in Madhya Pradesh> Karnataka> Maharashtra



- Threats of poaching for illegal trade of skins and body parts. Road killing, habitat loss and fragmentation. Human-leopard conflict.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)

World athletics day

Why in news: World Athletics Day, established by the International Amateur Athletic Federation, is celebrated on May 7 each year.



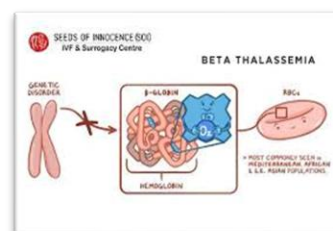
- It aims to promote sports and exercise as a means of preventing diseases and maintaining good health. The focus is on encouraging people to participate in athletics and other fitness activities to keep themselves healthy.
- The theme of World Athletics Day 2023 is "Athletics for All – A New Beginning", which focuses on promoting diversity and inclusivity in athletics and making the sport accessible to people regardless of their gender, age, ability or background.
- The primary purpose of World Athletics Day is to encourage sports and physical activities around the world, although the theme of the event may change every year.
- The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) created World Athletics Day in 1996 to promote the importance of sport for physical and mental well-being. Every year on May 7, the IAAF hosts a number of activities to encourage people to engage in sports and exercise for their health. The purpose of these events is to raise awareness about the benefits of physical activity.

(SOURCE – TIMES OF INDIA)

Thalassemia

Why in news: World Thalassaemia Day is observed every year on May 8.

- It is the name of a group of hereditary conditions that affect a substance in the blood called hemoglobin.
- People with thalassemia produce either NO or very little hemoglobin, which is used by red blood cells to carry oxygen around the body. Thalassemia can cause anemia, which can make you tired.
- It mainly affects people of Mediterranean, South Asian, Southeast Asian and Middle Eastern origin. It is caused by faulty genes that affect the production of



hemoglobin. A child can only be born with thalassemia if they inherit these faulty genes from both parents. It is also possible to be a "carrier" of thalassemia, also known as the thalassemia trait.

4. Symptoms: The main health conditions associated with thalassemia are, Anemia - pale skin due to severe fatigue, weakness, shortness of breath, palpitations or irregular heartbeat (palpitations) and hemoglobin deficiency.
5. Too much iron in the body – This is caused by regular blood transfusions used to treat anemia and can cause problems with heart, liver, and hormone levels when untreated.

6. Medical treatment:

Blood transfusion - regular blood transfusion treating and preventing anemia; In severe cases, they are needed about once a month.

7. Chelation therapy - treatment with medication to remove excess iron from the body that forms as a result of having a regular blood transfusion

The only possible treatment for thalassemia is a stem cell or bone marrow transplant, but it is not done very often due to the risks involved.

(SOURCE – TIMES OF INDIA)

International day of argania 2023

Why in news: Every year on May 10, the International Day of Argania or the International Day of Argan Trees is celebrated worldwide to promote awareness and understanding of the environmental importance of argan trees.



1. In 1988, UNESCO declared the Organery Biosphere Reserve, which is the endemic production area of the argon tree, as a designated area. Additionally, in 2014, UNESCO inscribed all knowledge and information about the argon tree in the representative list of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity.
2. In addition, in December 2018, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) acknowledged the argon-based agro-silvo-pastoral system within the Et Souabet Mansur region in Morocco as a globally important agricultural heritage system.
3. Finally, in 2021, the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution submitted by Morocco, co-sponsored by the UN's 113 member states, to declare May 10 as the International Day of Argentina, recognizing the importance of the argan tree and raising awareness of its global environmental significance.



4. The argan tree, which is native to Morocco's sub-Saharan region, especially the southwest, grows in arid and semiarid regions and is known for its resilience to harsh environments marked by water scarcity, erosion risk, and poor soil.
5. It is the defining species of the organerie woodland ecosystem, which is rich in endemic flora and is of vital importance not only in terms of conservation, but also for research and socio-economic development.
6. Argan Tree Woodlands offer forest products, fruits and fodder, all of which are vital to the economy and livelihood of people in the region. The leaves and fruits are edible and highly valued, and serve as an important fodder reserve for livestock during periods of drought.
7. Trees are also used as fuel wood for heating and cooking. Argan oil, which is extracted from the seeds of the tree, is world-renowned and has various applications, especially in traditional and complementary medicine, as well as in the culinary and cosmetic industries.

(SOURCE – TIMES OF INDIA)

National Technology Day

Why in news: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone and dedicate to the nation multiple scientific projects worth over five thousand eight hundred crore rupees on the occasion of National Technology Day in New Delhi.



1. The Technology Development Board (TDB) a statutory body of the Department of Science & Technology (DST) celebrates May 11 every year as National Technology Day to commemorate achievements of innovations and technological excellence in the country.
2. On May 11, 1998, India successfully carried out nuclear tests at Pokhran.
3. The first indigenous aircraft "Hansa-3" was test flown at Bangalore on this day.
4. India also performed successful test firing of the Trishul missile on the same day.
5. Since 1999, the day is being celebrated as National Technology Day.

(SOURCE – TIMES OF INDIA)



International nurses day

Why in news: International Nurses Day 2023: The day is observed every year on May 12 to highlight the contribution of nurses in the healthcare sector.



1. International Nurses Day marks the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, who is considered the founder of modern nursing. The day is observed on May 12 every year to highlight the contribution of nurses in the healthcare sector.
2. The theme of this year's International Nurses Day is "Our Nurses, Our Future". According to the International Council of Nurses (ICN), Our Nurses, Our Future is a global campaign that aims to address global health challenges and achieve better global health for all.
3. In 1974, the International Council of Nurses announced that the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale be celebrated as International Nurses Day. Florence Nightingale was a British nurse and social reformer who is credited with laying the foundation of modern nursing. She is known worldwide as "Lady with the Lamp".
4. Nurses all over the world strive to take care of their patients and have a great contribution to the global healthcare system. International Nurses Day honours all such nurses who work continuously and provide their important services.

(SOURCE –NEWS ON AIR)

International day of planet health

Why in news: The United Nations has designated May 12 as International Plant Health Day (IDPH) to raise global awareness of how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect biodiversity and the environment, and promote economic growth.



1. Plants are essential for life on earth. They provide us with food, oxygen and shelter. They also play an important role in the environment, helping to regulate the climate and prevent soil erosion.
2. However, plants are also vulnerable to pests and diseases. These can cause significant damage to crops, leading to food shortages and economic losses. They can also have a negative impact on the environment.
3. International Plant Health Day is an opportunity to learn more about plant health and the threats it faces. It's also time to take action to protect plants and ensure a sustainable future for our planet.



The theme of this year's International Plant Health Day celebration is "Plant Health for Environmental Protection",

4. The IPPC is a 1951 multilateral treaty overseen by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations that formulates action plans to prevent and control the introduction and spread of pests of plants and plant products.
5. International Plant Health Day in 2023 continues to highlight the critical importance of plant health for global well-being. It underlines the need for collective action and awareness to protect plants from pests, diseases and invasive species.

Healthy plants are essential for food security, environmental sustainability and economic prosperity. The day serves as a reminder to individuals, organizations and governments to prioritize and invest in plant health management, research and education. By promoting plant health, we can ensure resilient agricultural systems,

Can protect biodiversity, mitigate the effects of climate change, and protect the livelihoods of millions of people dependent on plants for sustenance and income

6. International Plant Health Day was established by the United Nations in 2022. The idea was promoted by Zambia and then adopted unanimously by the UN General Assembly. Bolivia, Finland, Pakistan, the Philippines and Tanzania had co-signed the resolution. This day is considered the "Major Legacy of the International Year of Plant Health".

(SOURCE – TIMES OF INDIA)

World migratory bird day

Why in news: World Migratory Bird Day is a global event held twice a year on the second Saturday of May and October.

1. It brings together bird enthusiasts to promote conservation of migratory birds and raise awareness about their importance. In 2023, the focus is on water and its importance for these birds.
2. Today, May 13, World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated. World Migratory Bird Day 2023 will be officially held on May 13 and October 14.
3. World Migratory Bird Day 2023 will focus on the theme of water and its importance for migratory birds.
4. World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is an annual global campaign that aims to raise awareness about the importance of migratory birds and their conservation.



The campaign highlights the ecological importance of migratory birds, the threats they face and the need to take action to protect them.

5. Migratory birds play an important role in maintaining the balance of nature and the functioning of ecosystems around the world. They also provide significant cultural and economic benefits to many communities. WMBD provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and governments to come together and take action to protect migratory birds and their habitats.
6. It encourages people to learn more about migratory birds, their migration routes and the challenges they face.
7. World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is a worldwide initiative launched in 2006 by the AEWA and CMS Secretariats. It originated from International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) in the United States and Migratory Waterfowl Day (MWD) in parts of Africa, Europe, and Asia. The first WMBD took place in Kenya in 2006 and has been celebrated annually since then,

(SOURCE – TIMES OF INDIA)

International day of families 2023

Why in news: International Day of Families is observed on May 15 to raise awareness about the importance of families and their role in society.

1. The day focuses on the important role of families in our society, while also highlighting the issues faced by them. International Day of Families is a global observance that is celebrated by countries around the world.
2. In the United States, the day is celebrated by various organizations, including the National Family Relations Council, the Family Resources Coalition of America, and the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association.
3. International Day of Families is celebrated annually, with each year having a different theme. The theme of International Day of Families 2023 is 'Demographic Trends and Families'. The theme of the International Day of Families last year was 'Families and Urbanization'.
4. The International Day of Families is important because it raises awareness about the importance of families as the basic unit of society. Families play an important role in the development of children and young people, and they provide support and care for their members throughout their lives.



5. Families also play an important role in the economy, as they provide labor and care for children and elderly family members. The International Day of Families is also important because it provides an opportunity to address the challenges faced by families.
6. These challenges include poverty, inequality, social exclusion and violence. By raising awareness of these challenges, we can work to create a world where all families have the opportunity to thrive.

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the International Day of Families in 1993, with the aim of promoting awareness of the importance of families as a basic unit of society and raising awareness of issues affecting families around the world.

7. The first International Day of Families was celebrated in 1994. This day is celebrated every year on May 15. The United Nations has identified a number of challenges facing families around the world, including poverty, inequality and social exclusion. The International Day of Families provides an opportunity to raise awareness of these challenges and to promote policies and programs that support families.

(SOURCE – TIMES OF INDIA)

International day of living together in peace

Why in news: The International Day of Living Together in Peace is observed annually on May 16 to encourage peace, tolerance, inclusivity, understanding and solidarity among individuals and communities globally.

1. It aims to emphasize the importance of creating peaceful coexistence, mutual respect and harmony among people of different backgrounds. The International Day of Living Together in Peace is an opportunity for people around the world to come together and celebrate peace. It is also time to reflect on the challenges we face in building a more peaceful world.
2. This day holds great significance in promoting diversity, dialogue and cultural bridges. It encourages rejection of violence, discrimination and exclusion while promoting a culture of peace and understanding. It reminds us of the crucial role of peaceful coexistence in creating a just, inclusive and sustainable world.
3. Governments, organizations and individuals can participate in various activities to promote living together in peace. These include interfaith dialogue, cultural exchanges, peace education programmes, community-building initiatives and campaigns against prejudice and discrimination. The day serves as a moment of reflection on the importance of unity, empathy and compassion in building peaceful and resilient societies.

(SOURCE – TIMES OF INDIA)



World Telecommunication and Information Society Day

Why in news: To help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICTs) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide.



1. It is celebrated marking the founding of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865.
2. It has a membership of 193 countries and nearly 800 private sector entities and academic institutions.
3. India has been an active member of the ITU since 1869 and has been a regular member of the ITU Council since 1952.
4. It focuses on "Empowering the least developed countries through information and communication technologies." The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) calls on the public and private sectors to make pledges for universal connectivity and digital transformation in these countries through its Partner2Connect Digital Coalition.

(SOURCE – TIMES OF INDIA)

HIV vaccine awareness day

Why in news: World AIDS Vaccine Day May 18 is recognized as World AIDS Vaccine Day, an occasion that emphasizes the importance of making a vaccine for the incurable disease.



1. The day, also known as HIV Vaccine Awareness Day, not only raises awareness but also pays tribute to dedicated scientists and researchers who are working towards HIV/AIDS. Committed to developing a vaccine to prevent AIDS.
2. According to the World Health Organization, 40.1 million people have lost their lives so far as a result of HIV. HIV transmission is happening globally, with some countries seeing a surge in new cases. Despite the absence of a cure for HIV infection, proper and efficient treatment and health care can significantly extend life spans and improve the well-being of individuals living with HIV.
3. In a speech delivered on May 18, 1997, at Morgan State University in Maryland, former U.S. President Bill Clinton emphasized the need for a truly effective preventive HIV vaccine to combat transmission and ultimately eliminate HIV.
4. In recognition of President Clinton's address, May 18 was designated as World AIDS Vaccine Day, which was inaugurated the following year in 1998.



5. HIV is a viral infection that specifically targets and weakens the immune system, making individuals susceptible to diseases such as tuberculosis, certain infections, and even cancer. The most advanced stage of HIV infection is known as acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).
6. Transmission of HIV occurs through the exchange of certain body fluids such as breast milk, semen, blood, and vaginal fluids. However, it is important to note that HIV is not spread through activities such as kissing, hugging or sharing food. Effective treatment and prevention of HIV can be achieved through antiretroviral therapy (ART). By undergoing ART, individuals can acquire viral suppression, which prevents them from transmitting the virus to others.

(SOURCE – TIMES OF INDIA)

World bee day

Why in news: World Bee Day is an annual event held on May 20 to increase understanding and recognition of the important role of bees and other pollinators in our ecosystem.

1. This observance was established by the United Nations in 2017 with the aim of emphasizing the importance of bees in maintaining both ecosystems and food production. The celebration of World Bee Day seeks to encourage efforts to protect bees and their habitats, while also emphasizing the importance of pollinators in preserving biodiversity and ensuring worldwide food security.
2. The theme chosen for World Bee Day 2023 is "Engage in pollinator-friendly agricultural production".
3. World Bee Day holds great significance as it draws attention to the huge value given by bees and other pollinators. Bees have a central role in the pollination of flowering plants, which is important for the reproduction and diversity of plant species.
4. Through their pollination activities, they contribute to the development of various crops, such as fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds, thereby supporting food systems and guaranteeing food security worldwide.
5. By accepting World Bee Day, we show appreciation for the essential role of bees in maintaining ecosystem balance and promoting biodiversity.

(SOURCE – TIMES OF INDIA)



National ant terrorism day

Why in news: India celebrates National Anti-Terrorism Day on May 21 every year. The day commemorates the death of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who was assassinated on this day in 1991.



1. The day is also celebrated to spread awareness about the dangers of terrorism and reaffirm India's commitment to combat terrorism.
2. On National Anti-Terrorism Day, government offices and other public institutions organize special events to celebrate this day. These events often include speeches by government officials, laying wreaths at memorials of victims of terrorism, and reading the anti-terrorism pledge.
3. On this day, various programs and activities are organized across the country to educate people about the destructive impact of terrorism and to emphasize the importance of peace, harmony and national security. It aims to raise public awareness about the threats posed by terrorism and promote a sense of solidarity among citizens in combating this global threat.
4. In response to this heinous act of terrorism, the Government of India decided to observe May 21 as National Anti-Terrorism Day. The aim was to raise awareness about the devastating consequences of terrorism and promote unity and resilience in the face of this global threat.

(SOURCE – TIMES OF INDIA)

World thyroid day 2023

Why in news: World Thyroid Awareness Day 2022 observed on May 25 World Thyroid Day is observed on May 25 to promote awareness and understanding about thyroid diseases, their symptoms, prevention and treatment.



1. World Thyroid Day is observed on May 25 to promote awareness and understanding about thyroid diseases, their symptoms, prevention and treatment. The day came into existence in 2008 on a resolution from the European Thyroid Association (ETA).
2. Globally, more than 200 million people are estimated to suffer from thyroid disorders and 50 percent of these cases remain undiagnosed.
3. There is no separate theme for World Thyroid Day this year. However, for the Thyroid Awareness Week celebrated between May 22 and 28, Thyroid Federation International has announced the theme, "It's not you." This is your thyroid. The



theme focused on making sure people understand the most common symptoms of thyroid disorders and take the necessary steps to correct it.

4. May 25 was officially adopted as World Thyroid Day during the Annual General Meeting before the European Thyroid Association (ETA) Congress in September 2007.
5. May 25 also marks the anniversary of ETA's foundation in 1965. Therefore, it was chosen as a day dedicated to creating awareness about thyroid disorders.

(SOURCE – ECONOMIC TIMES)

World Schizophrenia Awareness Day, 2023

Why in news: The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD) celebrated schizophrenia to raise awareness and reduce stigma about mental illness.



1. It uncovers the challenges that thousands of people with schizophrenia around the world face on a day-to-day basis.
2. With a vision to create awareness about schizophrenia among the public, the department celebrated World Schizophrenia Day, organizing various events at more than 30 locations across India through institutions associated with it.
3. Awareness and sensitization sessions special audio-video and radio programmes and panel discussions by experts, street plays, poster making and quiz competitions.
4. Webinar on early intervention in schizophrenia—TLM delivery to children with a psychological and psychiatric perspective ID. Short-term training program on "Early Symptoms of Schizophrenia and its Management"
5. Demonstration of commercial stalls through which products made by individuals with schizophrenia, a drama therapy camp about awareness on schizophrenia.

(SOURCE – ECONOMIC TIMES)

World No Tobacco Day 2023

Why in news: This year the theme for World No Tobacco Day is "We need food, not tobacco". The 2023 global campaign aims to raise awareness about alternative crop production and marketing opportunities for tobacco farmers and encourage them to grow sustainable, nutritious crops.



1. The World No Tobacco Day is celebrated every year on May 31. This day is observed as an initiative led by the World Health Organization (WHO) to raise awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use and to have policies to reduce tobacco consumption.
2. This yearly celebration informs the public on the dangers of using tobacco, the business practices of tobacco companies, what WHO is doing to fight the tobacco epidemic, and what people around the world can do to claim their right to health and healthy living and to protect future generations.
3. This year No Tobacco global campaign aims to raise awareness about alternative crop production and marketing opportunities for tobacco farmers and encourage them to grow sustainable, nutritious crops.
4. It will also aim to expose the tobacco industry's efforts to interfere with attempts to substitute tobacco growing with sustainable crops, thereby contributing to the global food crisis.

(SOURCE – NEWS18)

World Multiple Sclerosis Day

Why in news: The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India is the nodal body to look after all the development agenda of Persons with Disabilities of the country.



1. Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a potentially disabling disease of the brain and spinal cord (central nervous system). In MS, the immune system attacks the protective sheath (myelin) that covers nerve fibers and causes communication problems between your brain and the rest of your body.
2. With the vision to create awareness about Multiple Sclerosis among the masses, the Department observed World Multiple Sclerosis Day on 30th May 2023, through the institutions associated with it by conducting various events at more than 40 places across India.
3. The theme for World MS Day 2020-2023 is 'connections'. The MS Connections campaign is all about building community connection, self-connection and connections to quality care.
4. The campaign tagline is 'I Connect, We Connect' and the campaign hashtag is MS Connections. MS Connections challenges social barriers that leave people affected by MS feeling lonely and socially isolated. It is an opportunity to advocate for better services, celebrate support networks and champion self-care.

(SOURCE – NEWS ON AIR)



Important News: Sports

IPL Orange Cap Winner 2023 “Shubman Gill”

Why in news: IPL Orange Cap Winner 2023: Gujarat Titans opener Shubman Gill won the Orange Cap in IPL 2023.



1. Gujarat Titans opener Shubman Gill won the Orange Cap in IPL 2023 with 890 runs in 17 matches.
2. He scored 4 fifties and 3 centuries. Gill was in top form throughout the tournament, scoring runs at a strike rate of 157.80. He was particularly impressive in the second half of the tournament, scoring 600 runs in his last 8 matches.
3. The Orange Cap in the Indian Premier League (IPL) is awarded to the player who scores the most runs in a season. The player who holds the Orange Cap at the end of the season is awarded the cap.
4. The Orange Cap is a prestigious award, and is seen as a mark of excellence for batsmen in the IPL. The Orange Cap was first awarded in the 2008 season, and has been won by 12 different batsmen since then.
5. The most successful batsman in Orange Cap history is David Warner, who has won the award three times. Other multiple winners include Chris Gayle and Virat Kohli, who have each won the award twice.

(SOURCE – TIMES OF INDIA)

