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(Preliminary Examination)

Current Issues

(August - 2022)

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23 All India 1st Ranks in ESE

67 All India 1st Ranks in GATE

Current Issues

(August - 2022)

POLICY OF GOVERNANCE

TIRANGA UTSAV



Why in News?

On 2nd August the ministry of culture has organized Tiranga Utsav to mark 146th birth anniversary of freedom fighter Pingali Venkayya in New Delhi.

KEY POINTS

- This event is being organised to celebrate the freedom fighter Pingali Venkayya who designed the national flag and made a huge contribution to the nation.
- The event includes the release of a commemorative Postal Stamp in honor of Pingali Venkayya for his invaluable contribution to the country.
- The Home Minister will launch the “Har Ghar Tiranga” anthem and video during the 'Tiranga Utsav'.

Who is Pingali Venkayya?

- He was an Indian freedom fighter and a Gandhian.
- He was first to sketch out India's national flag design in 1921 on which the Indian National Flag was based. He was also a lecturer, author, geologist, educationalist, agriculturist, and a polyglot.
- He was born on August 2, 1876, in the village of Bhatlapenumarru, near Machilipatnam, the part of Madras Presidency that is now the state of Andhra Pradesh. Born to a Telugu Brahmin family, Venkayya went to Cambridge to study and had interests in geology, agriculture, education and languages.

BADHE CHALO



KEY POINTS

- As a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, Ministry of Culture organized “Badhe Chalo” since the 5th of August 2022.
- Badhe Chalo is a youth centric activation by Ministry of Culture to instil a deeper sense of love for the country amongst young hearts.
- Jan Bhagidari’ initiative, the Ministry of Culture also intends to amplify and support the ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ movement.
- This movement has been initiated by the Honourable Prime Minister and Home Minister and it calls upon every Indian to hoist a Tiranga in their homes between August 13th– 15th, 2022.
- To connect and to bring the youth and people together from across the country on one platform, Badhe Chalo will feature Flash Dances, where dancers will perform on a specially created ‘Youth Anthem’.
- The energetic foot-tapping anthem has been specially written and composed on the theme of ‘Badhe Chalo’ and it encourages everyone to come forward and hoist a Tiranga in their homes.
- This trendy and youthful activation will feature Flash Dances happening across 75 cities, at prime locations all over India. Through these Flash Dances the Ministry aims to spread the message and spirit of the Amrit Mahotsav in an entertaining and enthusiastic manner.

OPERATION YATRI SURAKSHA



Why in News?

RPF has launched Operation Yatri Suraksha with the aim of improving the security of passengers travelling by Indian Railways.

KEY POINTS

- As a part of this initiative, several steps are being taken to provide foolproof security to passengers i.e. Train Escorting, CCTV surveillance, surveilling active criminals and increasing police presence at stations.
- One Month ago in order to give an impetus to operation yatri suraksha a month long pan India drive was launched against criminals targeting passengers in July 2022 by RPF.
- The drive conducted in July by RPF around 365 suspects nabbed and stolen property of passengers worth over Rs 1 crore recovered.
- RPF will continue its efforts to enhance security of passengers over Indian Railways in future too by launching drives, improving response, infusing technology and innovation in its working to enhance its response, effectiveness and reach and to realize its objective of SEWA HI SANKALP.

What is Railway Protection Force (RPF)?

- Railway Protection Force is a security force under the ownership of Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways, Government of India established by the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957
- Railway Protection Force motto of “Yasho Labhasva”.
- It has been discharging responsibility as mandated by the Standardized Operating Procedure for rescue of children issued by Ministry of Railways and working with other stakeholders.

GATI SHAKTI UNIVERSITY BILL



Why in News?

- On 4th August 2022 parliament passes the bill known as Gati Shakti bill The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

KEY POINTS

- The lok sabha recently passed a bill that seeks to transform the national Rail and Transportation University into a central University to be called Gati Shakti University (Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya) which will be an autonomous central institution.
- The National Rail and Transportation University at Vadodara in Gujarat is currently functioning as a deemed-to-be institution.
- The Bill also seeks to expand the scope of the deemed university from beyond the railways to cover the entire transport sector to support the ambitious growth and modernisation in the field as announced in the Union Budget this year.
- Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya would be a multi-disciplinary and multi-dimensional institute, and the first Central university after the rollout of the National Education Policy.
- The plan is to unify different departments to create a new infrastructure where various transport sector elements — railways, road, waterways, aviation and port along with information and technology — will coordinate with each other on the platform of Gati Shakti Mission,
- The establishment of the Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya would address the need of talent in the strategically important and expanding transportation sector and meet the demand for trained talent to fuel the growth and expansion of the sector.
- The focus of the institute would be on five major aspects — transport-focused courses, skill development, applied research, technology development and transport economics and infrastructure financing.
- It seeks to incorporate infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and State governments such as Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry and land ports, UDAN.

ANTARTICA BILL



Why in News?

The Government has introduced the Antarctic Bill in the Lok Sabha which envisages regulation visits and activities to Antarctica as well potential disputes that may arise among those present on the continent on 1st August 2022.

KEY POINTS

- It aims at having India's own national measures for protecting the Antarctic environment as also the dependent and associated ecosystem.
- The Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022, passed in the Lok Sabha on 22 July: The Bill aims to extend India's jurisdiction to the country's research stations at the South Pole and hold its citizens working there accountable to the country's law. There has been no specific legislation in this regard so far, 41 years since India's Antarctic expeditions began in 1981.
- The bill is in pursuant to India's accession to Antarctic Treaty, the Protocol on Environment Protection (Madrid Protocol) to the Antarctic Treaty and to the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.

CHEERAG SCHEME



KEY POINTS

- This Scheme is launched by Haryana Government to Offer free Education to Economically Weaker Section Students.
- Under this Cheerag “Chief Minister Equal Education Relief, Assistance and Grant (Cheerag)” Scheme government school students whose parents have an annual verified income of less than Rs 1.8 lakh can enroll in private schools from class II to XII.

- It was introduced in place of a similar scheme launched by Bhupinder Singh Hooda's government in 2007 under Rule 134 A of the Haryana School Education Rules, 2003.
- The government will reimburse Rs 700 per student from Classes II to V, Rs 900 per student from Classes VI to VIII, and Rs 1,100 per student from Classes IX to XII
- Around 533 budget private schools, in villages and small towns, had applied under the Cheerag scheme. However, only 381 schools were found to be eligible because of different technical reasons.
- Eligible schools provided 24,987 seats to EWS students from government schools. But only 1665 students have opted for the scheme, accounting for 6.66 % of total provided seats.

MUKHYAMANTRI UDYOG KHILADI UNNAYAN YOJANA



KEY POINTS

- On National Sports Day Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama launched "Mukhyamantri Udyog Khiladi Unnayan Yojana.
- Mukhyamantri Udiyaman Khiladi Unnayan Yojana 2022 launched, budding sportspersons of Uttarakhand to get monthly scholarship of Rs. 1,500 for 8 to 14 years.
- Under this scheme total 3900 budding sportspersons of 14 to 23 Years will be given scholarship each year this includes 1950 boys and 1950 girls.
- Cash prize money earlier payable to sportspersons who have won medals at national and international level has been increased by almost 100%.

REVAMPED DISTRIBUTION SECTOR PROGRAM

Why in News?

Prime Minister launched Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme it is a flagship scheme of Ministry of Power and it aimed at improving the operational efficiencies and financial sustainability of Distribution Companies.



KEY POINTS

- This Scheme is launched with an outlay of Rs.3, 03,758 crore over a period of five years from FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26.
- The scheme aims to provide financial assistance to DISCOMs for modernization and strengthening of distribution infrastructure, aiming at improvement of the reliability and quality of supply to end consumers.
- It is also proposed to provide 25 crore Smart Prepaid meters to consumers all over the country.
- This scheme also aims to reduce the AT&C (Aggregate Technical and Commercial) losses to pan-India levels of 12 per cent to 15 per cent and ACS-ARR (Average Cost of Supply - Average Revenue Realized) gap to zero by 2024-25 by improving the operational efficiencies and financial sustainability of all state-sector DISCOMs and power departments.
- This scheme is launched as part of program “UJJAL BHARAT UJJAL BHAVISHYA @POWER2407” organized by Ministry of Power and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy as a part of AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV to recognize the achievements and transformation in the Power Sector in last 8 years.
- During the Program PM also launched the national portal for Rooftop solar it is designed by National Informatics Center at Kandukur Village.
- Umbrella programme: It merges other existing power sector reforms schemes - Integrated Power Development Scheme, DDU Gram Jyoti Yojana, and Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA)

- Nodal Agency: Under Ministry of Power (Rural electrification cooperation and Power finance corporation)
- Eligibility: All state-owned DISCOMs
- Other programs to be taken under it are: Part A (Prepaid Smart Meter, solarization of agriculture feeders, segregation of feeders, use of AI etc.) and Part B (Training and Capacity Building)

"SWACHH SAGAR, SURAKSHIT SAGAR



Why in News?

- The "Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar/Clean Coast Safe Sea "campaign is a 75-day citizen-led campaign for improving ocean health through, This event also coincides with the celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in 75th year of the country's independence.

KEY POINTS

- The campaign started on July 5th, 2022 and has 3 strategic underlying goals that target transformation and environmental conservation through behavior change.
- The three underlying goals of the campaign are to
 1. Consume Responsibly
 2. Segregate waste at home
 3. Dispose Responsibly.
- The coastal cleanup drive will be carried out at 75 beaches across the country with 75 volunteers for every kilometre of the coastline.
- The campaign will culminate with the largest beach cleaning event on Sept 17, 2022 (International Coastal Cleanup Day) covering 75 beaches across India's 7500+km coastline.
- An estimated expenditure of about Rs 10 crores is envisaged for this programme.

- 75 beaches have been identified all over India and from Tamil Nadu about 8 beaches have been identified.
- It is the first-of-its-kind and longest running coastal cleanup campaign in the world with highest number of people participating in it.
- A mobile app “Eco Mitram” has been launched to spread awareness about the campaign and also for the common people for voluntary registration for the beach cleaning activity on the 17th September 2022.
- The target of the programme is to remove 1,500 tonnes of marine litter from the sea-coasts which will be a huge relief to marine life and the people staying in coastal areas.

BEST ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICT ON FIVE PARAMETERS



KEY POINTS

- The NITI Aayog has declared the holy city of Haridwar in Uttarakhand as the best aspirational district on five parameters.
- And the parameters are:
 1. Health and Nutrition
 2. Education
 3. Financial Inclusions and skill Development
 4. Agriculture and Water Resources
 5. Basic Infrastructure
- The district has secured the first rank in basic infrastructure theme and has become entitled to receive an additional allocation of Rs 3 crore.
- “One parameter in which haridwar lagging behind in aspirational districts is the health sector. the allocated money will be used to improve the health sector including the sub district hospitals in Roorkee and district hospital Haridwar.

- As per the aspirational districts scheme norms, the districts are supposed to prepare a plan of action in consultation with the state and central Prabhari Officers and send the same to NITI Aayog for final approval of the Empowered Committee of Secretaries constituted for the programme
- The competition between these districts is maintained through equated monthly delta rankings, so that they are eager to make it a success.

'PANCH PRAN' TARGETS



Why in News?

During the celebration of 75th Independence day Prime Minister Narendra Modi discuss Panch Pran Goals.

KEY POINTS

- This 'Panch Pran' Targets aims at to make India a developed country by the time it celebrates its 100th Independence Day in 25 years.
- He refer next 25 years as Amrit Kaal, "This Amrit Kaal is providing the Indians a golden opportunity to fulfill the dreams and goals of an aspirational society."
- And the Panch Pran Goals are:

First pran:

- The first pran is about inculcating a culture of thinking big and at scale.
- The first vow is for the country to move ahead with a big resolve and that big resolution is of a developed India, and now we should not settle for anything less than that. Big resolution.
- Some Examples include the World's largest financial inclusion programme, the largest vaccination drive, and the largest health insurance programme and a largest social security schemes.

Second pran:

- The second Pran is that in no part of our existence, not even in the deepest corners of our mind or habits should there be any ounce of slavery. It should be nipped there itself.
- Now 100% this slavery of hundreds of years has kept us bound, has forced us to keep our emotions tied up have developed distorted thinking in us.
- We have to liberate ourselves from the slavery mind set which is visible in innumerable things within and around us.

Third pran:

- The third Pran is that we should feel proud of our heritage and legacy.
- The heritage and Legacy which had given India its golden period in the past.
- And it is this legacy that has an innate capability of transforming itself with time
- It is this rice heritage that transcends tests of tide and times.
- It embraces the new and hence we should be proud of this heritage.

Fourth pran:

- Fourth pran which is equally important is unity and solidarity.
- Amongst 130 million countrymen when there is harmony and bonhomie, unity becomes its strongest virtue.
- Ek Bhart Shreshtha Bharat- is one of the unifying initiative to actuate the dream of the fourth pran.

Fifth pran:

- Fifth Pran is the duty of the citizens, in which even the Prime Minister, Chief Minister cannot be an exclusion.
- As they are also responsible citizens and have a duty towards the nation, this virtue is going to be the vital life force if we want to achieve the dreams we have for the next 25 years

PORTAL–NIDAAN

KEY POINTS

- The portal–NIDAAN or the National Integrated Database on Arrested Narco-offenders–has been developed by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).
- It is a first-of-its kind database of arrested narcotics offenders has been made operational for use by various central and state prosecution agencies tasked to enforce anti-drugs laws in the country.
- It is part of the narcotics coordination mechanism (NCORD) portal that was launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on July 30 in Chandigarh during the national conference on ‘Drug trafficking and national security’.

How it Works?

- The NIDAAN platform sources its data from the ICJS (inter-operable criminal justice system) and the e-Prisons (a cloud-based application) repository and it is planned to integrate it in the future with the crime and criminal tracking network system or CCTNS.
- The ICJS, an initiative of the Supreme Court e-committee, was created to enable seamless transfer of data and information among different pillars of the criminal justice system, like courts, police, jails and forensic science laboratories, from one platform.

Benefits of this Portal?

- Such portal enhance the capability of all the law enforcement agencies working against drug crimes
- NIDAAN hosts data about those accused who have been arrested and jailed for drugs offences and those who are "directly or indirectly involved in the produce, manufacture, possession, selling, purchase, transport, warehousing, usage, consumption, inter-state import and export, import into India, export from India or transshipment of any narcotics or psychotropic substance.
- According to the blueprint prepared for the operation and usage of the portal, any agency can search for the crime history, personal details, fingerprints, court cases and appeals made etc. with regard to a drug offender from any part of the country.

WORLD'S HIGHEST RAILWAY BRIDGE



Why in News?

The golden joint of the world's highest railway bridge over River Chenab in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir was inaugurated recently.

KEY POINTS

- The Chenab Bridge is now being built, and when it is finished, it will be 35 meters higher than the Eiffel Tower.
- This project will integrate Jammu and Kashmir with entire mainland of India and boost socio economic conditions.
- The project is part of the ambitious 272-km long railway line from Udhampur to Baramulla joining Jammu with the Kashmir valley as an all-weather high-speed alternative, named the 'Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project'.
- By December 2024, the train will pass over this bridge on way to Srinagar.
- The 1.3-km bridge, which is being constructed at a cost of Rs 1,250 crore, is 98 per cent complete with the completion of the 'golden joint'.

UTTAR PRADESH PARIWAR KALYAN CARD SCHEME



Why in News?

Recently the central government has approved the implementation of Pariwar kalian card scheme in Uttar Pradesh.

KEY POINTS

- The UP Parivar Kalyan Card (PKC) Scheme was announced by the Yogi Adityanath-government to establish a comprehensive database of the state's family units and identify beneficiaries for its various schemes including employment, pensions, and housing benefits.
- This scheme will provide a unique 12-digit ID number for each family, and the initial collection of data for families will be conducted through ration cards.
- In its 2022 election manifesto, the Bharatiya Janata Party promised to provide at least one source of employment for each of the state's families. However, the UP government has long faced a challenge in identifying families eligible for its schemes, including the proposed employment scheme.
- The PKC was proposed as a way of preventing leakages in its existing schemes and duplication of beneficiaries.
- The UP government also launched a pilot programme in Prayagraj, where families in the district were identified through their ration card data and beneficiaries for the various government schemes were mapped successfully.
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) has allowed the Adityanath-government to link Aadhaar data with the PKC.
- The initial registration for the PKC has been kept voluntary, and those seeking avail of the various government schemes will be able to register with their Aadhaar numbers.
- Once registered, the data for each member of the family would be verified against the centralized database, and they would then be individually linked to specific government schemes according to their eligibility.

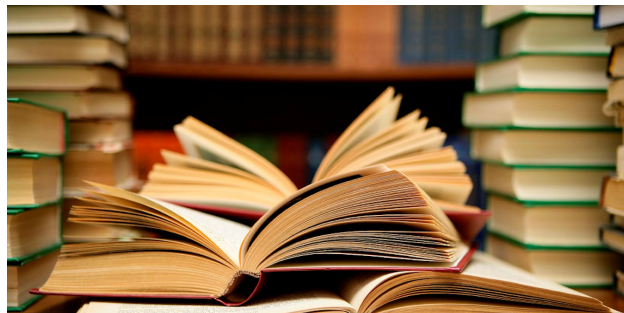
MAHILA NIDHI YOJANA



KEY POINTS

- Rajasthan becomes the second state in the country to implement Mahila Nidhi Yojana
- On 26 August 2022, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot established the 1st Mahila Nidho for the social and economic advancement of women in the state level women's Equality Day.
- This fund will provide easy loans to women for business growth and entrepreneurship in addition to daily needs.
- Rs 1 crore 42 lakh as a loan from Rajasthan Mahila Nidhi was provided to the members of 286 self help groups of 6 districts.
- He also awarded 8 women of Rajivika community cadre for their distinguished work at the community level.
- Rajasthan is the 2nd state in India after Telangana where women's fund has been established.
- Mahila Nidhi has been established to strengthen the women self help groups get loans from banks, increase the income of poor, propertyless and marginal women and social and economic progress of women by skill development.
- Under this scheme loans up to Rs 40000 will be deposited in 48 hours and loans above Rs 40000 will be deposited in the bank account of the group of members applied within a time limit of 15 days.

PARAKH



Why in News?

Recently, a regulator named as PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) is constituted to look after the conduct periodic tests like National Achievement Survey and State Achievement Surveys.

KEY POINTS

- PARAKH will be "setting norms, standards and guidelines for student assessment and evaluation for all recognized school boards of India, encouraging and helping school boards to shift their assessment patterns towards meeting the skill requirements.
- The main aim of this framework is to ensure uniformity across the state and central boards which are currently following different criteria for evaluation.
- PARAKH is a part of STARS Project (Strengthening Teaching Learning and Results for States) that mainly aims at improving the overall quality and governance.
- PARAKH will aim to do away with rote learning, as mentioned in the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- NEP 2020 will replace the National Policy on Education, 1986.
- It introduce a New Curricular and Pedagogical Structure (5+3+3+4)
 - 5 years of foundational stage for ages 3 to 8.
 - 3 years of preparatory stage for ages 8 to 11 or 3 to 5 classes.
 - 3 years of middle stage for ages 11 to 14 or 6 to 8 classes.
 - 4 years of secondary stage for ages 14 to 18 or 9 to 12 classes.

INTERNATION ISSUES

"Ex VINBAX 2022"



Why in News?

Recently, the 3rd edition of Vietnam-India Bilateral Army Exercise “Ex VINBAX 2022” is conducted at Chandimandir, Haryana from August 1 to 20, 2022.

KEY POINTS

- India and Vietnam share a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and defence cooperation is a key pillar of this partnership.
- Vietnam is an important partner in India’s Act East policy and the Indo-Pacific vision.
- The theme of Ex VINBAX – 2022 is employment and deployment of an Engineer Company and a Medical Team as part of United Nations Contingent for Peace Keeping Operations.
- India has a rich legacy of deployment of troops in United Nations missions and has some of the best capacities to impart United Nations peace operations training incorporating best practices and hands on training to prospective United Nations peacekeepers at tactical, operational & strategic levels.
- The conduct of Ex VINBAX – 2022 as a field training exercise with enhanced scope from previous editions of bilateral exercise will strengthen mutual confidence, inter-operability and enable sharing of best practices between the Indian Army and Vietnam People's Army.
- The joint exercise will also provide an opportunity to the troops of both the Contingents to learn about the social and cultural heritage of each other. Indian Army is being represented by troops from the 105 Engineer Regiment.

- A 48 hours Validation Exercise is part of the schedule to assess the standards achieved by both contingents while executing technical military operations under similar scenarios in UN missions.
- A Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief demonstration and equipment display will showcase India's capacity to undertake rescue and relief operations during natural and manmade disasters utilising indigenous solutions.

'AL NAJAH-IV'



Why in News?

Recently the fourth edition of the Indo-Oman joint Military Exercise between Indian Army and Royal Army Contingents is being conducted from 01 August to 13 August 2022.

KEY POINTS

- The joint military exercise aims to enhance the level of defence co-operation between Indian Army and Royal Army of Oman.
- India and Oman conduct regular biennial bilateral exercises between all three services:
 1. Army exercise: Al Najah
 2. Air Force exercise: Eastern Bridge
 3. Naval Exercise: Naseem Al Bahr
- The scope of the exercise includes professional interaction, mutual understanding of drills & procedures, establishment of joint command & control structures and elimination of terrorist threats.
- The joint exercise would focus on Counter Terrorism Operations, Regional Security Operations and Peace Keeping Operations under United Nations charter apart from organizing joint physical training schedules, tactical drills, techniques and procedures
- The previous edition of Ex AL NAJAH IV was organised at Muscat from 12 to 25 March 2019.

INTERNATIONAL NORTH-SOUTH TRANSPORT CORRIDOR (INSTC)



KEY POINTS

- International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is a multi-modal transport corridor established in the year 2000 for the purpose of promoting transportation cooperation among the Member States.
- This corridor connects India-Ocean and Persian-Gulf to the Caspian Sea via Iran and is then connected to Saint Petersburg and North European via Russia.
- The agreement has been ratified by 13 countries namely, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Armenia, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Oman, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Ukraine. The legal framework for the INSTC is provided by a trilateral agreement signed by India, Iran and Russia at the Euro-Asian Conference on Transport in 2000. Since then Kazakhstan, Belarus, Oman, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Syria have signed instruments of accession to become members of the INSTC.

PITCH BLACK 2022



Why in News?

India will be part of the mega air combat exercise “Pitch Black 2022” among 17 nations, to be held in the Northern Territory of Australia conducted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) starting August 19 to September 6.

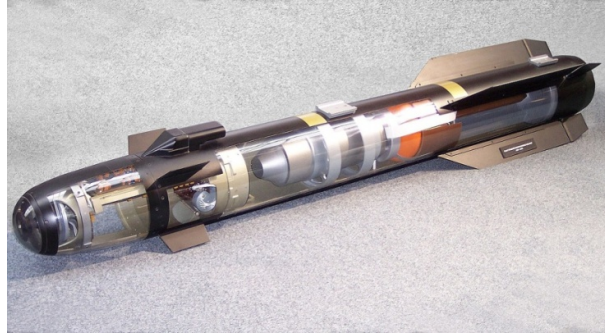
KEY POINTS

- Almost 2,500 personnel from over 17 countries and 100 aircraft will engage in both Offensive Counter Air (OCA) and Defensive Counter Air (DCA) combat drills.
- In the 1980s, this first started in Australia’s Northern Territories between different RAAF units. Australia has been inviting international partners since then to practice new doctrines, combat and most importantly interoperability
- For the first time India participated in Pitch Black was in 2018 along with other countries like Germany, Indonesia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Australia, Canada, France (New Caledonia), and the United States.

Where is Pitch Black conducted?

- It is conducted on RAAF’s Bradshaw Field Training Area and Delamere Air Weapons Range — one of the largest training airspaces in the world. Usually the drills are out of RAAF’s Base Darwin and Base Tindal, this year Base Amberley will also be used.
- In this edition of the exercise, Australia will establish themselves as key players in regional security and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.
- Australia is the host, and others attending include India, Germany, France, UAE, Malaysia, the US, New Zealand, Indonesia, Singapore, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the UK, the Philippines, Thailand, Canada, and the Netherlands.
- For the first time Japan, Germany and the Republic of Korea are participating and there will be an International Observer Group Programme which allows other countries to be present to observe the planning and execution of the exercise.
- It is a biennial (every two years) multi-national (17 countries) large force employment exercise by the Australian Air Force.
- Other exercises:
 - AUSINDEX (a bilateral navy exercise)
 - MALABAR (India, Australia, US, Japan)

HELLFIRE R9X MISSILE



Why in News?

US military used its 'secret weapon' — the Hellfire R9X missile ('Ninja missile') – to kill Al Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri on the balcony of a safe house in Kabul. Better known in military circles as the AGM-114 R9X.

KEY POINTS

- The Hellfire R9X is a US-origin missile known to cause minimum collateral damage while engaging individual targets.
- It weighs about 45 kg and the missile can also be launched from helicopters, aircraft and Humvees.
- The range of these missiles varies from 500 metres to 11 km.
- Hellfire means Heliborne, Laser, Fire and Forget Missile Al-Zawahiri, an Egyptian surgeon who had a \$25 million bounty on his head, had helped coordinate September 11, 2001, attacks that had killed nearly 3,000 people.

IN QUICK RELEASE OF IMF FUND PAKISTAN SEEKS USA HELP



KEY POINTS

- Pakistan Army Chief Bajwa had conversation with the US Deputy Secretary of State and appealed to the White House and the US Treasury Department to push the IMF to immediately expedite the nearly USD 1.2 billion loan.

- Pakistan and the IMF originally signed the bailout accord in 2019. But the release of a USD 1.7 billion tranche has been on hold since earlier this year.

What is IMF?

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is a major financial agency of the United Nations, and an international financial institution, headquartered in Washington, D.C., consisting of 190 countries.
- Managing Director: Kristalina Georgieva.
- Its mission is "working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world.
- Formed in 1944, started on 27 December 1945 at the Bretton Woods Conference.
- It came into formal existence in 1945 with 29 member countries and the goal of reconstructing the international monetary system.
- It now plays a central role in the management of balance of payments difficulties and international financial crises.

10TH NATIONAL MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE SAREX-22



KEY POINTS

- The 10th National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise SAREX-22 was carried out by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) in Chennai.
- The exercise was carried out along with other organizations and foreign participants, the chief of the Indian Coast Guard, VS Pathania, assessed the exercise “SAREX-2022.”
- It was a two days (August 27 and 28 August) exercise conducted under the aegis of the National Maritime Search and Rescue Board (NMSARB).

- The Indian Coast Guard the host of exercise act as the nodal maritime SAR coordinating agency for the Indian Search and Rescue Region (ISRR).
- SAREX-22 validates the standard operating procedures and best practices during the conduct of a Mass Rescue Operation (MRO).
- The theme of this edition of the biennial exercise was “Capacity Building Towards Marine Passenger Safety” and signifies the resolve and commitment of the NMSARB and other stakeholder agencies in providing assistance during large scale contingencies within the ISSR and beyond.

INDIA- BANGLADESH FINALIZES MOU ON INTERIM WATER SHARING OF KUSHIYARA RIVER



Why in News?

On 25th August 2022 India and Bangladesh have finalized a Memorandum of Understanding on Interim water sharing of Kushiyara River.

KEY POINTS

- India and Bangladesh share 54 rivers, of which seven were identified earlier for developing a framework of water-sharing agreements on priority.
- Bilateral issues of mutual interest, including sharing of the water of the common rivers, sharing of flood data, addressing river pollution, conducting joint studies on sedimentation management and river bank protection.
- Mutual agreement of adding 8 more rivers in the list was reached. Various other issues like sharing water of common rivers to sharing of flood data, addressing river pollution etc were discussed.
- One of the important areas of cooperation, where India has been assisting Bangladesh, is sharing of real-time flood data. India has recently extended the period of flood data sharing beyond 15th October to help Bangladesh address unforeseen flood events.

- The Joint Rivers Commission of India and Bangladesh was constituted in the year 1972 as a bilateral mechanism.

SOCIAL ISSUES

OPERATION MUKTI



Why in News?

Uttarakhand started a Champaign operation mukti 1430 children have been free from bagging.

KEY POINTS

- This campaign is started for effective prevention of begging by children to make public aware about not giving alms.
- "Operation Mukti" campaign is being run in all the districts for two months from August 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022.
- The theme of the campaign is "Don't beg, give education" and "Support to educate a child".
- This campaign was started in 2017 with the aim of removing the children from the path of begging.

AWARDS

AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND AWARDS



Why in News?

Recently, Narendra Singh Tomar gave out Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Awards in New Delhi.

KEY POINTS

- Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) was launched two years ago under the ambitious Aatmanirbhar Bharat Package as a dedicated Central Government scheme that provides medium-long term credit facility for investment in creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets.
- An Award Ceremony is being organised to felicitate the performing Banks, State Governments in New Delhi.
- This facility comes with financial support by way of three per cent Interest subvention from Government and credit guarantee by CGTMSE fee up to two crore rupees.
- This scheme can be converged with the existing Central Government and State Government schemes.
- This has immensely benefitted stakeholders in the agricultural ecosystem - Farmers, Agri-entrepreneur, FPO, SHG, JLG, PACS, APMC, Startup, Central, Marketing Cooperative Society, State Agencies etc.

DISTINGUISHED INDOLOGIST FOR 2021



KEY POINTS

- Jeffrey Armstrong: Canadian scholar has been awarded the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Distinguished Indologist for 2021.
- The award comprises a citation, a gold-plated medallion, and US\$ 20,000.
- The citation for the award states that it has been conferred upon Armstrong “in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the study/teaching/research in India’s philosophy, thought, history, art, culture, Indian languages, literature, civilisation, society, etc”.
- Armstrong is the first Canadian to be awarded the annual prize, which since 2015 has recognized the outstanding contributions of foreign scholars of Indology, the study of Indian history, literature, philosophy, and culture.
- He becomes the seventh recipient of this award and joins the earlier recipients from Germany, China, Japan, the UK, South Korea and the USA.

LANGAT SINGH COLLEGE NOT IN UNESCO HERITAGE LIST



KEY POINTS

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has clarified that it has not included the 106-year-old astronomical observatory at a college in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district on its list of endangered institutions.
- The observatory was established in 1916 in Langat Singh College, north Bihar and the college was set up in 1899.
- UNESCO works in promoting art, culture and heritage sites across different regions.
- Some of the famous UNESCO World Heritage sites in India are the Taj Mahal, Hampi, Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Agra Fort, Kaziranga National Park and more.
- UNESCO Headquarters at paris.

2022 UNESCO PEACE PRIZE



KEY POINTS

- Former German chancellor Angela Merkel has been awarded the 2022 UNESCO Peace Prize.
- She is honored with this award for her courageous decision in 2015 to welcome more than 1.2 million refugees, notably from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Eritrea. This is the legacy she leaves," jury president and 2018 Nobel Peace Prize winner.
- This award has been awarded each year since 1989 to individuals, organizations or institutions that have made a special effort to promote, research or secure peace.
- The honour officially called Félix Houphouët-Boigny UNESCO Peace Prize, is named after the first president of Ivory Coast.
- The Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize has been granted to internationally renowned personalities like Nelson Mandela, Yasser Arafat, King Juan Carlos of Spain, former US president Jimmy Carter and Shimon Peres. For the first time, the award goes to a mayor.

SPORTS

COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022



Why in News?

Recently, India won 61 medals at Birmingham 2022 from July 28 to August 8 nearly 200 Indian athletes competed for medals across 16 different sports at the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham.

KEY POINTS

- Indian athletes won 61 medals, 22 golds, 16 silvers and 23 bronze, at the Commonwealth Games 2022.
- Sanket Sargar was the first Indian to win a medal in Birmingham bagging silver in the men's 55kg weightlifting event.
- Mirabai Chanu was the first Indian to win gold at CWG 2022.
- Jeremy Lalrinnunga was the first Indian man to clinch top podium at Birmingham.
- Sudhir won the first medal for India, a gold, in para sports at the Commonwealth Games 2022.

List of Indian winners in CWG 2022:

Athlete/Team	Medal	Event	Sport
Sanket Sargar	Silver	Men's 55 kg	Weight lifting
Gururaja Poojary	Bronze	Men's 61 kg	Weight lifting
Mirabai Chanu	Gold	Women's 49 kg	Weight lifting
Bindyarani Devi	Silver	Women's 55 kg	Weight lifting
Jeremy Lalrinnunga	Gold	Men's 67 kg	Weight lifting
Achinta Sheuli	Gold	Men's 73 kg	Weight lifting
Sushila Devi Likmabam	Silver	Women's 48 kg	Judo
Vijay Kumar Yadav	Bronze	Men's 60 kg	Judo
Sushila Devi Likmabam	Bronze	Women's 71 kg	Weight lifting
Indian women's team	Gold	Women's fours	Lawn bowls
Vikas Thakur	Silver	Men's 96 kg	Weight lifting
Indian men's team	Gold	Men's team	Table Tennis
Indian mixteam	Silver	Mixed team	Badminton
Lovepreet Singh	Bronze	Men's 109 kg	Weight lifting
Saurav Ghosal	Bronze	Men's singles	Squash
Tulika Maan	Silver	Women's +78 kg	Judo
Gurdeep Singh	Bronze	Men's +109 kg	Weightlifting
Tejaswin Shankar	Bronze	Men's high jump	Athletics
Murali Sreeshankar	Silver	Men's long jump	Athletics
Sudhir	Gold	Men's heavyweight	Para Power lifting
Anshu Malik	Silver	Women's 57 kg freestyle	Wrestling
Bajrang Punia	Gold	Men's 65 kg freestyle	Wrestling
Bajrang Punia	Gold	Women's 62 kg freestyle	Wrestling
Deepak Punia	Gold	Women's 68 kg freestyle	Wrestling
Divya Kakran	Bronze	Women's 68 kg freestyle	Wrestling
Mohit Grewal	Bronze	Men's 125 kg freestyle	Wrestling
Priyanka Goswami	Silver	Women's 10000m race walk	Athletics
Avinash Sable	Silver	Men's 3000 m steeplechase	Athletics
Indian men's team	Silver	Men's fours	Lawn Bowls
Jasmine Lamboria	Bronze	Women's 60 kg lightweight	Boxing
Pooja Gehlot	Bronze	Women's 50 kg freestyle	Wrestling
Ravi Kumar Dahiya	Gold	Men's 57 kg freestyle	Wrestling
Vinesh Phogat	Gold	Women's 53 kg freestyle	Wrestling

Naveen	Gold	Men's 74 kg freestyle	Wrestling
Pooja Sihag	Bronze	Women's 76 kg freestyle	Wrestling
Mohd Hussamudin	Bronze	Men's 57 kg featherweight	Boxing
Deepak Nehra	Bronze	Men's 97 kg freestyle	Wrestling
Rohit Tokas	Bronze	Men's 67 kg welterweight	Boxing
Sonalben Patel	Bronze	Women's singles Classes 3-5	Para Table Tennis
Bhavina Patel	Gold	Women's singles classes 3-5	Para Table Tennis
Women's hockey team	Bronze	Women's Hockey	Hockey
Nitu Ghangas	Gold	Women's 48kg minimum weight	Boxing
Amit Panghal	Gold	Men's 51 kg flyweight	Boxing
Eldhose Paul	Gold	Men's triple jump	Athletics
Abdulla Aboobacker	Silver	Men's triple jump	Athletics
Sandeep Kumar	Bronze	Men's 10000 m race walk	Athletics
Annu Rani	Bronze	Women's javelin throw	Athletics
Nikhat Zareen	Gold	Women's 50 kg light flyweight	Boxing
Sharath Kamal / G Sathiyam	Silver	Men's Double	Table Tennis
Dipika Pallikal / Saurav Ghosa	Bronze	Mixed doubles	Squash
Kidambi Srikanth	Bronze	Men's singles	Badminton
Women's cricket team	Silver	Women's T20	Cricket
Sharath Kamal / Sreeja Akula	Gold	Mixed doubles	Table Tennis
Treesa Jolly / Gayatri Gopichand	Bronze	Women's doubles	Badminton
Sagar Ahlawat	Silver	Men's 92 kg super heavyweight	Boxing
PV Sindhu	Gold	Women's Single	Badminton
Lakshya Sen	Gold	Men's Single	Badminton
Sathiyam Gnanasekaran	Bronze	Men's Single	Table Tennis
Satwiksairaj Rankireddy / Chirag Shetty	Gold	Men's Double	Badminton
Sharath Kamal	Gold	Men's Single	Table Tennis
Men's hockey team	Silver	Men's Hockey	Hockey

INDIAN HOUSE TO BE SET UP IN PARIS OLYMPICS 2024



Why in News?

- Reliance Industries (RIL) has partnered with Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to set up first-ever India House at Paris Olympics 2024.

KEY POINTS

- The Olympic House provides an understanding of a country and its culture and nations across the globe use it as a platform to strengthen their involvement in the Olympic Movement.
- This is going to help the country's athletes to prepare for major multi-sport events including the Olympics, Asian Games and the Commonwealth Games.
- India will host the 140th prestigious IOC Session in June 2023 at the Jio World Centre in Mumbai.

FOURTH EDITION OF THE ONGC PARA GAMES



Why in News?

Recently, the fourth edition of the ONGC Para Games was officially launched in New Delhi's Thyagaraj Sports Complex by Union Minister of Petroleum, Natural Gas, Housing, and Urban Affairs Shri Hardeep Singh Puri.

KEY POINTS

- ONGC conceptualized and started Para Games in 2017 to mainstream the especially-abled persons on their rolls.
- To widen the scope of the games, ONGC roped in athletes from IOCL, BPCL, HPCL, EIL, OIL and GAIL to be part of the grand 3rd edition of ONGC Para Games at Gandhinagar.
- In this current 4th edition, apart from the 192 ONGCians, seven other Public enterprises are participating viz. IOCL (21), GAIL (15), BPCL (13), MRPL (11), EIL (9), OIL (8) and HPCL (6).
- 275 Persons with Disabilities (PwD) – employees of eight central oil and gas public enterprises - are participating in the 4th ONGC Para Games, being organized by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) during 2-4 August 2022. 192 of these are from ONGC.

SUMMITS

UNSC COUNTER TERRORISM MEETING



KEY POINTS

- India will host 15-nation UN Security Council (UNSC) on October 29 for a special meeting on counter-terrorism it will focus on three significant areas including use of technology for spreading terror.
- The meeting in India will be the seventh time and the most recent special meeting of the CTC (outside the UN Headquarters' took place in Madrid Spain in 2015.
- In December India will preside as President of the UNSC for a Month.
- Non- Permanent members of the UNSC are Albania, Brazil, Ghana, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway and the UAE, and the Permanent members are China, France, Russia, the UK, and US.
- The counter Terrorism committee was established in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks of 2001.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NILEKANI CENTRE AT AI4BHARAT



Why in News?

Indian Institute of Technology Madras has launched the 'Nilekani Centre at AI4Bharat' with an aim to advance the state of Indian language technology and create a larger societal impact.

KEY POINTS

- It was set up as an initiative of IIT Madras to build open-source language AI for Indian languages.
- Over the past two years, the team led by Dr. Mitesh Khapra, Dr. Pratyush Kumar and Dr. Anoop Kunchukuttan has made several contributions to Indian language technology including state-of-the-art models for Machine Translation and Speech Recognition.
- AI4Bharat Centre at IIT Madras further contributes and accelerates the Indic language AI work as a public good, fully aligning with the goals of the Bhashini mission.
- It is funded through a grant of Rs. 36 Crore from Nilekani Philanthropies, the Centre has made several cutting-edge language AI resources open-source which can be accessed by anyone.

MULTISPECTRAL MAPS OF MARS



KEY POINTS

- The researchers from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) made the first multispectral maps of Mars' surface public made by Compact Reconnaissance Imaging Spectrometer for Mars (CRISM).
- CRISM uses detectors that see in visible, infrared and near infrared wavelengths to map the kind of mineral residue that appears where water once existed.
- The earliest components of NASA collection are now accessible through the Planetary Data System an open repository for all digital data that the organization has collected from planetary flights and other missions.

SKYLIGHT



KEY POINTS

- Indian Army has tested all its space based assets to ensure operational readiness in the 5 day satellite communication exercise skylight.
- In a five-day-long satellite communication exercise, the Indian Army has tested all of its space-based assets to ensure their operational readiness, sources in the defence establishment.
- The Army has also completed a study on the communication, cyber and electromagnetic effects reported during the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

ASTROBEE



KEY POINTS

- Astrobee is NASA's new free-flying robotic system.
- Astrobee consists of a system that serves as a research platform that can be outfitted and programmed to conduct microgravity experiments.
- It will help to learn more about how robotics can benefit astronauts in space.
- The three free-flying robots are named:
 1. Honey
 2. Queen
 3. Bumble.
- The robots are shaped like cubes 12.5 inches wide.
- The Astrobee system consists of three cube-shaped robots, some software and a docking charging station used for recharging.
- They are about 32 centimetres wide. The three robots propel themselves using electric fans that allow them to fly through the microgravity environment of the International Space Station.

- The Astrobee robots are built on the knowledge acquired from operating SPHERES (Synchronised Position Hold, Engage, Reorient, Experimental Satellite) robots which have been operating on the International Space Station for over a decade.
- They “look around” and navigate their surroundings using cameras and sensors.
- All of the robots are equipped with a perching arm that allows them to grasp handrails to either conserve energy or grab and hold items.
- When they are running low on charge, they can automatically return to their docking station to begin recharging.

“STREET VIEW SERVICE” BY GOOGLE MAPS



KEY POINTS

- Google in association with two local companies Genesys International and Tech Mahindra launched Street view services in India for 1st time.
- Google Street View provides panoramic 360-degree views from designated roads throughout its coverage area.
- The 10 cities in which this service has been launched include; Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Pune, Nasik, Hyderabad, Vadodara, Amritsar and Ahmednagar.
- Google has planned to expand the services to over 50 cities by end of 2022.
- As a part of the Street View Services, Google Maps will showcase speed limits data, that will be shared by traffic authorities. This facility will start from Bengaluru.
- In Bengaluru, Google also partner with traffic police in a bid to deliver models that optimise traffic light timings in a better manner.

ISRO TO LAUNCHED AZAADISAT



KEY POINTS

- ISRO launched its smallest commercial rocket to unfurl tricolor in space.
- To mark country's celebrations of 'Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', the SSLV had a co-passenger satellite called 'AzaadiSAT' comprising 75 payloads built by 750 young girl students from 75 rural government schools across India.
- This project was specially conceptualized for the 75th Independence day to encourage scientific temper and create opportunities for young girls to choose space research as their career.
- The launch took place from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

SURE SCHEME



KEY POINTS

- A New Scheme launched by Science and Engineering Research Board to create robust R&D ecosystem in state and private universities and colleges.
- State University Research Excellence (SERB-SURE) is a new innovative scheme of the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB).

- SERB is a statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), that can foster collaboration for high-end research at state and private universities and colleges.
- The scheme will also provide much needed research opportunities to the faculties of state universities 45% of which are located in rural area.

PHARMA SAHI DAAM 2.0 APP



KEY POINTS

- The Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launched the Pharma Sahi Daam 2.0 App and Integrated Pharmaceutical Database Management System 2.0 during the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).

The Integrated Pharmaceutical Database Management System 2.0

- It is an integrated responsive cloud based application developed by NPPA with technical support from centre for advance computing (C-DAC).
- It provide a single window for submissions of various forms as mandated under Drug Price Control Order, 2013.

Pharma Sahi Daam 2.0 App

- Pharma Sahi Daam 2.0 app have updated features like speech recognition, Share button and bookmarking medicines.
- It also has a facility for launching complaints by consumers through the consumer complaint handling module.
- The app is available in Hindi and English language in both iOS and Android versions.

THIRD POSITIVE INDIGENISATION LIST (PIL)



KEY POINTS

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the third Positive Indigenisation List (PIL) of 780 strategically important Line Replacement Units (LRUs), Sub-systems and components with a timeline beyond which they will only be procured from the domestic industry.
- Indigenisation of these items was taken up through different routes under ‘Make’ category.
- ‘Make’ Category aims to achieve self-reliance by involving greater participation of the Indian industry. Projects involving design and development of equipment, systems, major platforms or upgrades thereof by the industry can be taken up under this category.

NASA'S ARTEMIS III MISSION



KEY POINTS

- NASA announced the 13 potential landing sites for its upcoming Artemis III mission, under which the US space agency will send the first woman and person of colour to the Moon.

- NASA has identified the following 13 regions as candidates for the landing of its Artemis 3 lunar mission:
 - Faustini Rim A, Peak Near Shackleton, Connecting Ridge, Connecting Ridge Extension, de Gerlache Rim 1, de Gerlache Rim 2, de Gerlache-Kocher Massif, Haworth, Malapert Massif, Leibnitz Beta Plateau, Nobile Rim 1, Nobile Rim 2, and Amundsen Rim.
- Each region is located within six degrees of the latitude of the lunar South Pole, and this proximity makes these sites scientifically significant.
- This is because the lunar South Pole has permanently shadowed regions rich in resources; it also has terrain unexplored by humans.

IRANIAN SATELLITE NAMED KHAYYAM



Why in News?

- Russian rocket has successfully launched an Iranian satellite into orbit from southern Kazakhstan.

KEY POINTS

- An Iranian satellite named Khayyam into orbit by the Soyuz rocket from the Russia-leased Baikonur launch facility in Kazakhstan.
- The name of the satellite was named after Omar Khayyam, a Persian scientist who lived in the 11th and 12th centuries.
- The satellite fitted with the high-resolution camera will be used for environmental monitoring and will remain fully under its control.

ENERGY SECTOR

SECOND GENERATION (2G) ETHANOL PLANT



KEY POINTS

- Narendra Modi will dedicate to the nation via video conferencing a second generation (2G) ethanol plant built at an estimated cost of Rs 900 crore in Haryana's Panipat.
- It is based on indigenous technology the project will utilize about two lakh tones of rice straw annually to generate around three crore litres of ethanol annually.
- The project provide direct employment to people operation and indirect employment will generated in the supply chain for rice straw cutting, handling, storage, etc.
- The reduction in burning of rice straw, the project will contribute to a reduction of greenhouse gases equivalent to about 3 lakh tones of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions per annum, which can be understood as equivalent to replacing nearly 63000 cars annually on the country roads.

REPORTS

ANNUAL REVIEW OF STATE LAWS 2021



Why in News?

Recently, PRS Legislative Research has released a report Annual Review of State Laws 2021

KEY POINTS

- As per report Kerala got first place in 2021 with its house sitting for 61 days it is highest for any state.
- States such as Manipur, Odisha, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh have laid down a minimum number of sitting days through the Rules of Procedure, varying from 40 days in Punjab to 90 days in Uttar Pradesh.

FI-INDEX



KEY POINTS

- The FI-Index is responsive to ease of access, availability and usage of services and quality of services, consisting of 97 indicators.
- The index comprises of three parameters including access, usage and quality.
- The quality parameter includes aspects such as financial literacy, consumer protection, and inequalities and deficiencies in services.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said that India's financial inclusion index (FI-Index) for the year ended March 31, 2022 improved to 56.4 from 53.9 in the previous year, with growth seen across all its sub-indices, the central bank.

ECONOMIC SCENARIO

UNFOLD 2022'



Why in News?

UNFOLD 2022 is hosted in Bangalore by CoinDCX.

It is a mega event for developers and investors to know more about web3.0.

KEY POINTS

- CoinDCX, an Indian homegrown crypto exchange company, has announced to host 'UNFOLD 2022' from 26th August 2022 to 28th August 2022 in Bangalore.
- The event aimed to showcase and discuss how India can leverage its Web3.0 talent and knowledge to be a global leader.
- UNFOLD 2022 provided a platform for industry stalwarts to discuss the trends of Web 3.0.
- The theme was innovation and it is supported by builders tribe and Devfolio and it is introduce the first edition of the Unfold 2022.

COMPETITIVENESS ROADMAP FOR INDIA@100



KEY POINTS

- The Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100 was released by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).
- The roadmap is a collaborative endeavour between the EAC-PM and The Institute for Competitiveness.
- the 'Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100' that will guide the path of India to become a higher-income economy by 2047

PERSONS IN NEWS

DELHI POLICE AS DELHI POLICE COMMISSIONER.



KEY POINTS

- Sanjay Arora, a Tamil Nadu-cadre IPS officer who oversaw the paramilitary ITBP, will assume control of the Delhi Police as Delhi Police commissioner.
- Sanjay Arora replaces Rakesh Asthana.
- He is a bachelor's degree in electrical and electronics engineering from Malviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur and He belongs to Rajasthan.
- He was awarded the Police Medal for Meritorious Service in 2004, President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service in 2014

PRINCIPAL DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (PIB)



KEY POINTS

- Senior Indian Information Service officer, Satyendra Prakash has been appointed as the Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau (PIB).
- He is an Officer of the Indian Information Service, Batch of 1988.
- He has represented Government of India in various national and international forum like UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP etc

COUNTRY DIRECTOR FOR INDIA BY WORLD BANK



KEY POINTS

- The World Bank has appointed Auguste Tano Kouamé as the Country Director for India.
- India is the World Bank Group's largest client with a portfolio that includes lending of \$3.98 billion from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), and \$83 million (or 0.08 billion) from the International Development Association (IDA) last fiscal (July 2021-June 2022).
- As of July 2022, the Bank's net commitments to the country stood at \$21.86 billion (IBRD \$18.76 billion, IDA \$3.0 billion) across 99 projects.

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE



KEY POINTS

- Sashastra Seema Bal's director general in New Delhi, Dr. Sujoy Lal Thaosen assumed the additional responsibility of Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police.
- Dr. SL Thaosen is an IPS Officer of the 1988 batch, Madhya Pradesh Cadre.
- The ITBP established in 1962 patrols the Indo-Chinese border. Additionally, it is used for a number of internal security tasks such as anti-Naxal operations in Chhattisgarh.

CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSIONER



KEY POINTS

- Vigilance Commissioner, Suresh N. Patel was appointed as the Central Vigilance Commissioner.
- He sworn in as the chief of Central Vigilance Commission by President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- The post had remained vacant for a year during which Patel had been working as the acting CVC since June this year.

CFO OF FINTECH STARTUP BHARAT PE



KEY POINTS

- The Fintech Platform BharatPe appointed former SBI Card CFO Nalin Negi as its New Chief Financial Officer.
- He is incharge of finance function for BhartPe and working towards making the company EBITDA positive by March 2023.
- EBITDA stands for earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization.

NEW CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR (CMD) OF OIL INDIA LIMITED (OIL)



KEY POINTS

- Ranjit Rath has taken over as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Oil India Limited (OIL) on 2nd August.
- He is an alumnus of IIT Bombay and IIT Kharagpur and with an experience of more than 25 years in the field of geosciences.

DIRECTOR IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (PMO)



Why in News?

- Recently on Aug 2 2022 , 2008 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer Shweta Singh appointed as a director in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved her appointment for a period of three years from the date of her joining at present there are total 11 directors.

KEY POINTS

Highlights of PMO (Prime Minister's Office):

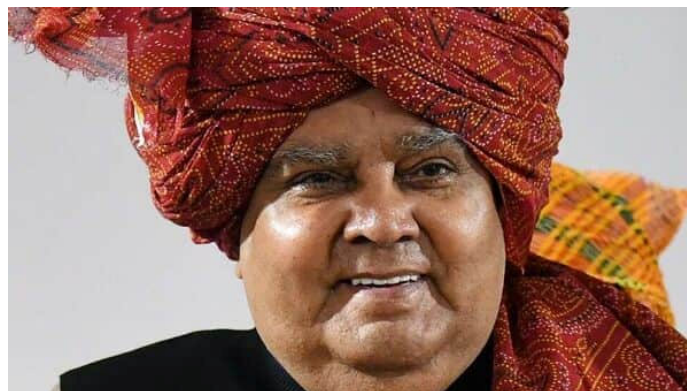
The Prime Minister's Office consists of the immediate staff of the Prime Minister of India, as well as multiple levels of support staff reporting to the Prime Minister.

PMO Staff:

- Principal Secretary to PM
- National Security Advisor
- Advisor to PM
- Additional Secretary to PM
- Joint Secretary to PM
- Private Secretary to PM
- OSD (Communications & Information Technology)
- OSD (Research & Strategy)
- Director

- OSD (Media Research)
- Deputy Secretary
- OSD (Appointment & Tour)
- Joint Director
- Communication Officer
- Under Secretary (Admin)
- Under Secretary (Public)
- Under Secretary (HR)
- Under Secretary (TG)
- Under Secretary (Parliament)
- Under Secretary (FS)
- Under Secretary (AR)
- Under Secretary (IR)
- Under Secretary (SW)
- Under Secretary (Funds)
- Under Secretary (FE)
- Reference Officer

14th VICE PRESIDENT OF INDIA



Why in News?

Jagdeep Dhankhar is an Indian politician and lawyer, who is serving the nation as the 14th as well as current vice president of India since 11 August 2022.

KEY POINTS

- Jagdeep Dhankhar was elected vice-president after defeating the opposition candidate Margaret Alva.
- He secured 528 votes against Alva's 182.
- Mr. Dhankhar took the oath in Hindi in the name of God.

Who is Jagdeep Dhankar?

- He was born on 18 May 1951 in Kithana village of Jhunjhunu district.
- He is a Physics graduate of University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, also pursued LLB from same University.
- He practice law at Rajesthan High Court and the Supreme Court along with that he wa also act as a former president of Rajesthan High Court Bar Association.
- He elected as MP from Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu in 1989.
- He also elected to Rajasthan assembly from Kishangarh in the 1993 state polls than in July 2019.
- He was appointed as governor of West Bengal and currently he is Vice President of India.

Vice President of India?

- There have been 14 Vice-presidents of India since the inception of the post in the Constitution from 1950 to 2022.
- Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was the first Vice-President of India.
- He took oath at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 13 May 1952.
- The vice president is also a member of the Parliament of India and the ex-officio chairman of the Rajya Sabha and he also acts as the chancellor of the central universities of India.
- Article 66 of the Constitution of India states the manner of election of the vice president.
- The necessary qualifications required for this post are listed below:
 1. Citizen of India who has completed the age of 35 years.
 2. He should not hold any office of profit under union government, state government, public authority and local authority.

SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU



KEY POINTS

- Rajesh Verma has been appointed as the Secretary to President Droupadi Murmu.
- He is an 1987 batch Odisha Cadre IAS Officer his appointment approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinets.
- The President's Secretariat provides secretarial assistance to the President in discharging constitutional, ceremonial and other State responsibilities.

WORLD'S THIRD RICHEST MAN



KEY POINTS

- Gautam Adani is the world's third richest man and the first Asian to make it to the top three ranking of the Bloomberg Billionaires Index trailing only SpaceX chief Elon Musk and Amazon's Jeff Bezos.

- According to the latest listing on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Gautam Adani's net worth stands at USD 135 bn, behind Jeff Bezos's USD 138 bn net worth. Tesla's Elon Musk leads the list with a net worth of USD 245 bn.
- The Bloomberg Billionaires Index is a daily ranking index of the world's billionaires updated at the close of every trading day in New York.

MISS DIVA UNIVERSE 2022



KEY POINTS

- On 28th august 2022 divita rai of Karnataka has won the title of Miss diva universe.
- She will now represent India at the Global Pageant of Miss Universe.
- She was crowned by the Miss Universe 2021 Harnaaz Sandhu, at the ceremony that celebrated the 10th anniversary of the coveted pageant.

IMPORTANT DATES

WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK



KEY POINTS

- From 1 August to 7 August is observed as breastfeeding week for this year all around the World.
- This year theme is “Step Up for Breastfeeding: Educate and Support”.
- World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) is a global network of individuals and organizations dedicated to the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding worldwide.
- WABA coordinates and organizes the World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) between Aug 1-7 since 2016; we have aligned our WBW campaign to United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

MUSLIM WOMEN’S RIGHTS DAY



KEY POINTS

- 1st August is celebrated as Muslim Women Rights Day.
- Muslim Women's Rights Day is observed across the nation on August 1 to celebrate the enactment of the law against triple talaq.
- The central government enacted the law on August 1, 2019, that has made the practice of instant triple talaq a criminal offence.
- Triple Talaq, which is also known as Talaq-e-Biddat, is a form of divorce that was practiced in Islam, in which a man could divorce his wife by pronouncing Talaq three times.

WORLD LUNG CANCER DAY



KEY POINTS

- World Lung Cancer Day is observed on August 1 each year to raise awareness about lung cancer.
- This is an initiative of the American Lung Association's LUNG FORCE creates awareness on the diseases and highlights the importance of early detection through lung cancer screening.
- Lung Cancer is a silent killer as there are rarely any symptoms of lung cancer in its early stages and the signs start showing once the disease is advanced.

HIROSIMA DAY



KEY POINTS

- Every year August 6 is observed as Hiroshima Day across the world to mark the atomic bombing of the Japanese cities during World War II.
- It aims to promote peace politics against war; this year marks the 77th anniversary of the Hiroshima nuclear bombing.
- This year youth from across Japan had a heart-to-heart talk with António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, about their ideas and solutions for achieving a peaceful, more secure, and sustainable world one without nuclear weapons.

NATIONAL HANDLOOM DAY



KEY POINTS

- Every year, 7th August is observed as the National Handloom Day in India to highlight the contribution of the handloom industry in the socio-economic development and create awareness about the sector.
- The handloom sector played an important role during the Swadeshi Movement, which was launched as part of the Indian independence movement, on August 7, 1905. The movement was started to curb dependency on foreign goods and to boost domestic production.
- The Indian handloom sector exports its products to more than 20 countries across the globe, including the USA, the UK, Germany, France, and South Africa, as per a report by Indian Brand Equity Foundation.

PARTITION HORRORS REMEMBRANCE DAY



KEY POINTS

- Last year on Independence Day Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared August 14 to be observed as “Partition Horrors Remembrance Day” to remind the nation of the sufferings and sacrifices of Indians during the partition in 1947.
- The day also coincides with Pakistan’s Independence Day.
- This day reminds us the need to remove the poison of social divisions, disharmony and further strengthen the spirit of oneness, social harmony and human empowerment.

76TH INDEPENDENCE DAY



KEY POINTS

- India is celebrating 76th Independence Day on 15th August 2022 to mark the country’s freedom from nearly two centuries of British colonial rule.

- India achieved its Independence from British colonial rule on August 15, 1947.
- This day honours our freedom fighters, the history of our country, its culture, and the nation's achievements as a whole.
- It also reminds every Indian citizen about the dawn of a new beginning of an era of deliverance from the clutches of British colonialism for more than 200 years.
- Nation celebrates Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- On 15th August 2022 for the first time home grown howitzer gun, ATAGS was used in the ceremonial 21 gun salute.
- For the first time as part of Independence Day celebrations, a special Youth Exchange Programme has been organised between August 09-17, 2022.

INTERNATIONAL DOG DAY



KEY POINTS

- International Dog Day is celebrated annually on August 26 to promote the adoption of dogs instead of buying them from pet shops.
- The day encourages people to adopt dogs, instead of buying them from pet shops.
- This day was founded in 2004 by Pet and Family Lifestyle Expert, Animal Rescue Advocate, Colleen Paige.
- The date 26 signifies as it's the date Paige's family adopted her first dog Sheltie from a local shelter when the animal rescue advocate was 10 years old.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY



KEY POINTS

- Women's Equality day is celebrated on 26th August.
- This day commemorates the gaining of right to vote for women in the United States of America.
- Women's Equality Day 2022 theme is Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow.
- In 1973, the first Women's Equality Day was celebrated across the world.

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST NUCLEAR TESTS



KEY POINTS

- International Day Against Nuclear Tests is observed on 29th August.
- This day is celebrated to raise awareness about the devastating effects of testing nuclear weapons.
- On 2 December 2009, the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly declared 29 August the International Day against Nuclear Tests.
- The first nuclear test called Trinity was conducted on July 16, 1945, by the United States military in a desert in New Mexico.

NATIONAL SPORTS DAY



KEY POINTS

- National Sports day is observed on 29th August.
- The day commemorates the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand, the hockey wizard of India.
- Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award will be renamed as Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.
- Major Dhyan Chand is the greatest hockey player of India born on 29th august 1905 in Praygraj, U.P.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE VICTIMS OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES



KEY POINTS

- On August 30, the United States marks the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances.
- The United Nations General Assembly for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and decided to declare 30 August the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances to be observed beginning in 2011.

INTERNATIONAL WHALE SHARK DAY



KEY POINTS

- August 30 is recognized as International Whale Shark Day.
- For this year 2022 theme is “The Future of Sharks: Guardians of Our Seas.”
- Recently, Delhi-based non-profit, Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) launched ‘Save the Whale Shark Campaign’ along Karnataka, Kerala and Lakshadweep in Mangaluru.
- The International Whale Shark Day was first commemorated in 2008 at the International Whale Shark Conference in Isla Holbox

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN



KEY POINTS

- The International Day for People of African Origin is observed every year on 31 August to celebrate the enormous contribution of the African diaspora in the field of human endeavour.
- The day was first celebrated in 2021, halfway through the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024).
- The International Decade aims to celebrate the important contributions of people of African descent worldwide, advance social justice and inclusion policies, eradicate racism and intolerance, promote human rights, and assist in creating better, more prosperous communities, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals spearheaded by the United Nations.