

NATIONAL

1. VLTD vehicles with ERSS

Why in news - Himachal Pradesh has launched initiative through which vehicles can be tracked anywhere in the country through VLTD.

Key Points –

- It became the first state in the country to connect all registered commercial vehicles equipped with Vehicle Location Tracking Device (VLTD) with Emergency Response Support System (ERSS).

INTERNATIONAL

1. Ranil Wickremesinghe

Why in news - Acting President Ranil Wickremesinghe was elected President of Sri Lanka by Parliament on July 20, 2022.

Key Points –

- In the 225-member House, Wickremesinghe got 134 votes.
- He replaced Gotabaya Rajapaksa.
- He defeated Dullas Alahapperuma.

ECONOMY

1. WhatsApp banking

Why in news - The State Bank of India launched its WhatsApp Banking services on July 20, 2022 to make banking easier for its customers.

2. Recovery of NPAs

Why in news - Concrete steps taken by the government and RBI helped banks recover bad loans worth over Rs 8.6 lakh crore in the last eight financial years.

Key Points –

- It was said by Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.
- Concrete steps - Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993, Securitisation and

Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).

SCIENCE – TECH

1. Omnivax vaccine

Why in news - US scientists have developed a new COVID-19 vaccine – Omnivax - that offers superior immune protection against two viral subvariants of Omicron.

Key Points –

- It was developed in Chen's lab by a team headed by Zhenhao Fang.

2. SPRINT challenges

Why in news - PM Narendra Modi unveiled "SPRINT challenges" to boost usage of indigenous technology in the Indian Navy.

Key Points –

- SPRINT — Supporting Pole-Vaulting in R&D through iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence).
- Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) and Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO), aims to induct at least 75 new indigenous technologies/products into the Indian Navy.

RANKS & INDICES

1. Forbes real-time billionaires list

Why in news – The list was recently released by Forbes.

Key Points –

- Top 3 (net worth) - Elon Musk (\$234.4 billion), Bernard Arnault (\$154.9 billion), Jeff Bezos (\$143.9 billion).
- Gautam Adani has now become the world's fourth richest person. (\$115.6 billion).
- Adani overtook Bill Gates (\$104.2 billion) as Bill Gates donated \$20 billion to Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

- In June, Adani had pledged to donate Rs 60,000 crore to charity to mark his 60th birthday.

2. Henley Passport Index 2022

Why in news – Henley & Partners released Henley Passport Index 2022. It ranked world's 199 passports.

Key Points –

- Top 3 – Japan (1st), Singapore (2nd) and South Korea (3rd).
- Bottom 3 – Afghanistan (112th), Iraq (111th) and Syria (110th).
- India, Mauritius and Tajikistan have been ranked 87th with its passport providing access to 67 countries.
- China (69th), Bhutan (93rd), Myanmar (99th), Sri Lanka (103rd), Bangladesh (104th) and Pakistan (109th).
- The Japanese passport provides hassle-free entry to 193 countries.

AWARDS & HONOURS

1. World's best SME bank

Why in news – DBS has been recognized as the “world's best SME bank” by Euromoney for the second time since 2018.

Key Points –

Other awards to DBS bank –

- World's Best Financial Innovation of the year 2022.
- Asia's Best Bank for Wealth Management 2022.
- Asia's Best Bank for SME award 2022.

ENVIRONMENT

1. Blackbuck survey

Why in news - Andhra Pradesh has begun the first-ever study of blackbucks along a length of islands in the Godavari between Dowleswaram and Yanam.

Key Points –

- Islands - Gowthami, Vasista, Vainteya, and Bobbarlanka.

About Blackbuck –

- Blackbuck or the Indian Antelope, is native to India and Nepal.
- It is considered as the epitome of grassland.
- It has been declared the State Animal of Punjab, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh.

Protection –

- Wildlife Protection Act 1972 - Schedule I
- IUCN Status - Least Concern
- CITES - Appendix III.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Vineet Saran

Why in news - Former Supreme Court judge Vineet Saran has taken over as the BCCI's ethics officer and ombudsman. He succeeded Justice (Retd) D K Jain.

AGREEMENTS

1. JSW Steel and BCG

Why in news - JSW Steel has collaborated with Boston Consulting Group (BCG) for its decarbonisation and sustainability agenda.

Key Points –

- JSW Steel aims to reduce its carbon emission by 42% (versus base year 2005) by FY30.

WORD IN NEWS

1. Aneurysm

Why in news - Actor Emilia Clarke has said she suffered the condition twice while filming for Game of Thrones (GoT).

Key Points –

About Aneurysm condition –

- It is a swelling of the arteries and veins in any part of the body.



- It occurs most commonly in the aorta, back of the knees, brain or intestines.
- If the aneurysm gets ruptured, it can even cause internal bleeding and stroke.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

1. Book "Beyond the Misty Veil"

Why in news – Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami released the book "Beyond the Misty Veil" written by Ms Aradhana Johri (Senior IAS) on the temples of Uttarakhand.

STATES/UTS

1. CM Udyaman Khiladi Upgradation Scheme

Why in news – Uttarakhand Cm Pushkar Singh Dhami will launch the 'Mukhyamantri Udiyaman Khiladi Unnayan Yojana' on August 29, 2022.

Key Points –

- Under this, 150 boys from each district and an equal number of girls will get a scholarship of Rs 1500 per month.

BIHAR

1. Historical Peepal tree burnt to ashes

Why in news – Hundred years old historic Peepal tree was burnt to ashes in Bihar's Vaishali district.

Key Points –

- There was a figure like Lord Buddha on this tree. It is believed that this tree was the last rain abode of Buddha.
- In 2011, a large part of this tree was broken and a human figure emerged from the tree.

2. MoU for research work

Why in news – Trustee of Research for Resurgence Foundation (RFRF), Nagpur and Patliputa University signed an MoU for upgradation of research work.

3. Dr. Surendranath Sinha

Why in news – Dr. Surendranath Sinha has been appointed as the first Vice- Chancellor of Bihar Health Sciences (Medical University).



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POINTERS

- Which day is observed as International Moon Day – **July 20**.
- Who has taken over as the Managing Director of ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) – **Rajarshi Gupta**.
- India and which country have signed an MoU on Wildlife Conservation and Sustainable Biodiversity use – **Namibia**.
- According to Ookla's Speedtest Global Index, what is the rank of India in Mobile Speed Index 2022 – **118th**
- Which IIT has developed a bio-inspired artificial muscle for the next generation of space robots – **IIT Kanpur**.
- Which IIT institute has inaugurated the Census data workstation - **IIT Delhi**.
- NITI Aayog and World Food Program have launched "Mapping and Exchange of Good Practices" initiative in which two continents - **Africa and Asia**.
- Under which scheme the Chhattisgarh state government will buy cow urine at Rs 4 per liter from 28 July 2022 – **"Godhan Nyay Yojana"**.
- During which seminar India's first manned-carrying drone 'Varuna' has been unveiled - **Swavalamban**.
- Who has become a member of the Union Public Service Commission recently - **Raj Shukla**.



PI

NEW BATCH FOR UPSC (HINDI MEDIUM) STARTS FROM 3RD AUGUST 2022