

NATIONAL

1. Quantum telecom network

Why in news – India’s first quantum computing-based telecom network link is now operational in New Delhi.

Key Points –

- The first international quantum enclave held in New Delhi.

About Quantum Computing –

- It uses laws of quantum mechanics to solve problems too complex for classical computers.
- It mimics the behaviour of atoms and subatomic particles to drastically increase processing speed.
- Quantum superposition - Particles can exist in several states simultaneously.
- It involves qubits.
- Unlike a normal computer bit, which can be either 0 or 1, a qubit can exist in a multidimensional state.
- Quantum supremacy (claimed by Google) - It describes the point where quantum computers can do things that classical computers cannot. E.g., Google developed a processor that took 200 seconds to do a calculation that would have taken a classical computer 10,000 years.
- Sycamore - Google’s quantum computer.

| Quantum Computing | Vs. | Classical Computing |
|---|-----|--|
| <p>Calculates with qubits, which can represent 0 and 1 at the same time</p> | | <p>Calculates with transistors, which can represent either 0 or 1</p> |
| <p>Power increases exponentially in proportion to the number of qubits</p> | | <p>Power increases in a 1:1 relationship with the number of transistors</p> |
| <p>Quantum computers have high error rates and need to be kept ultracold</p> | | <p>Classical computers have low error rates and can operate at room temp</p> |
| <p>Well suited for tasks like optimization problems, data analysis, and simulations</p> | | <p>Most everyday processing is best handled by classical computers</p> |

2. Upward lightning

Why in news - Brazilian researchers recently took pictures of Upward lightning.

Key Points –

- Upward lightning – Positive upward discharges of electricity from lightning conductor rods, travelling to connect with the negative discharge from lightning in the clouds.
- The vertical elevation of a tall object accentuates the electric field locally on the ground, resulting in conditions favourable for the initiation of an upward streak (called a leader) from a tall object



3. Swimming from the Gateway of India to Elephanta caves

Why in news - IPS officer Krishna Prakash swam from Gateway of India to the Elephanta caves.

Key Points –

- He is the “first person in the world to do so”.
- Distance covered - 16.20 kilometres in 5 hours 26 minutes.

INTERNATIONAL

1. Pearl town

Why in news - Archaeologists have found the world’s oldest pearl town on an island in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Key Points –

- Island - Siniyah Island (Umm al-Quwain emirate).
- Date - late 6th century (pre-Islamic age).
- This is the first time that a physical town has been found across Gulf nations.

- Earlier, archaeologists had discovered an ancient Christian monastery on Siniyah Island.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

1. Urban Climate Film Festival

Why in news – The first Urban Climate Film Festival was organised in New Delhi through the CITIIS program.

Key Points –

- Organised by - National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) with support from the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.
- The inaugural session was chaired by Shri Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa.

National Institute of Urban Affairs –

- A Central Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.
- A national think-tank undertaking cutting-edge multi-disciplinary research in the domain of urban development.

CITIIS (City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain) –

- Joint program of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the French Development Agency (AFD), the European Union (EU), and NIUA.
- It is assisting 12 Smart Cities in India to implement sustainable urban infrastructure projects.

ECONOMY

1. GI (Geographical Indication) tag

Why in news – The Geographical Indication Registry under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has accorded GI tag to 3 products.

Key Points –

Products –

- Sundarja mangoes (Rewa, Madhya Pradesh)
 - Gajak (Morena, Madhya Pradesh)
 - Nagari Dubraj rice (Dhamtari, Chhattisgarh).
- Sundarja mango – It is fiber-free and its sugar can be consumed even by sugar patients.
 - Gajak is a type of sweets.
 - GI tag was started in 2003. First GI tag in India -

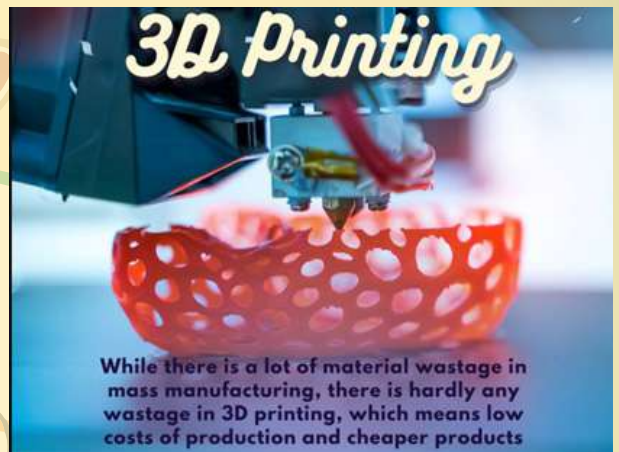
Darjeeling Tea of West Bengal (2004).

2. \$750 billion exports

Why in news – India's overall exports crossed an all time high of \$750 billion

Key Points –

- Exports increased from US\$ 500 billion in 2020-21 to US\$ 676 billion in 2021-22.



SCIENCE – TECHNOLOGY

1. 3D printed rocket

Why in news - A rocket made almost entirely of 3D-printed parts made its launch debut.

Key Points –

- Launched by - Relativity Space.
- Lifted off from - Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida, USA.
- But, it crashed into the Atlantic ocean

About 3D printing (additive manufacturing) –

- It uses computer-aided design (CAD) to create three-dimensional objects
- It is achieved using additive processes
- Additive process - An object is created by laying down successive layers of material until the object is created.
- It enables us to produce complex shapes using less material than traditional manufacturing methods.
- 3-D Printer - It builds up a 3D model one layer at a time, from the bottom upward using fused depositional modeling (FDM) method
- 3D printing ink - Plastic, resin, thermoplastic, metal, fiber or ceramic.



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- Applications - Preparation of confectionery items, Manufacture of bionic ears, Automotive industry etc.

National Strategy for Additive Manufacturing (2022) –

- By - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- Aim - to increase India's share in global additive manufacturing to 5% by 2025.

AWARDS & HONOURS

1. Forbes India Leadership Awards 2023

Why in news – It was held on March 24 in Mumbai.

Key Points –

- “Gennext Entrepreneur” award - Isha Ambani, chairperson of Reliance Retail.

- 'CEO of the Year' award - CK Venkataraman, MD of Titan Company.
- 'Entrepreneur of the Year' award - Abhay Soi.

BIHAR

1. Patna High Court.

Why in news – Justice Krishnan Vinod Chandran took oath as the Chief Justice of Patna High Court on March 29, 2023.

Key Points –

- He took oath as the 44th Chief Justice of Patna High Court.
- The oath was administered by Bihar Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar.
- Chief Justice Vinod Chandran's tenure would end in April 2025.

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POINTERS

- Who has been appointed by Reliance Industries as its Chief Financial Officer (CFO) - **Srikanth Venkatachari**.
- What is the new interest rate increased by Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) for the financial year 2022-23 - **8.15%**.
- The Chief Minister of which state has launched the "Pathashree-Rastashree" scheme for the development of rural roads - **West Bengal**.
- Which country's electric vehicle (EV) maker Nio Inc has started trials for high-speed electric-vehicle battery swapping stations - **China**.
- IMF has provided \$80.77 million in Emergency Financing Support to which African country - **Burkina Faso**.
- A pocket-friendly device has been developed by the researchers of which IIT to detect adulteration in milk in 30 seconds - **IIT Madras**.
- In which country Russia has announced to deploy nuclear weapons - **Belarus**.
- Who has been honored with a special literary award by the Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (OSWAAL) - **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**.
- Where has 'Aerator cum Dancing Fountain' been inaugurated - **Srinagar**.
- Who will be the next Ambassador of India to the Islamic Republic of Iran - **Rudra Gaurav Shresth**.

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