

NATIONAL

1. Bharat Mandapam

Why in news - PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) complex on July 26, 2023.

Key Points –

- The convention centre has been renamed as 'Bharat Mandapam' which is set to host the 18th G20 Leaders' Summit (September 9-10).
- Location - India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) complex, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- India's largest meeting, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE) destination.
- The elliptical design of the building was influenced by the shankha, or conch shell.
- Developed by – Aedas and Arcop.
- Project carried out by - NBCC (India) Ltd and its subcontractor, Shapoorji Pallonji.
- The Commerce Ministry oversees the ITPO as a body.
- Project cost - Rs 2,700 crore.
- Area - 123 acres.

Value Addition –

- Hannover Exhibition Centre – Germany.
- National Exhibition and Convention Centre (NECC) – Shanghai, China.
- Opera House – Sydney, Australia.

2. World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF)

Why in news - Bengaluru became the first Indian city to become part of WCCF.

Key Points –

- It is a global network of cities that share research and intelligence, and explore the role of culture in future prosperity.
- Current total cities - 40 cities (e.g., New York, London, Paris, Tokyo and Dubai)
- WCCF was founded in 2012 by Justine Simons OBE (London's Deputy Mayor).

3. Creche Policy 2022

Why in news - Haryana became India's first state to introduce creche policy.

Key Points –

- It will allow the working women to admit their children (6 months and 6 years) into the creche facility operational for 6-8 hours.
- Creche - a place where small children are looked after while their parents are working, shopping, etc.

4. SAUNI Yojana

Why in news – PM Modi inaugurated the SAUNI (Saurashtra Narmada Avataram Irrigation) Yojana in Gujarat.

Key Points –

- Aim – to provide water to 52,398 acres of irrigable land and potable water to around 98,000 people of Saurashtra from the Narmada River.
- Saurashtra is a drought-prone region.

5. 600-million-year-old ocean water

Why in news – IISc Bengaluru and Niigata University, Japan discovered 600-million-year-old ocean water from the Himalayas.

Key Points –

- Droplets of water trapped in mineral deposits were likely left behind from an ancient ocean that existed around 600 million years ago (mya).
- Scientists explored the western Kumaon Himalayas (Amritpur to Milam glacial) and Dehradun to the Gangotri glacier region.
- Snowball Earth glaciation (700 to 500 mya) - One of the major glacial events in Earth's history.
- Second Great Oxygenation Event - Increase in the amount of oxygen in the Earth's atmosphere which led to the evolution of complex life forms.
- Paleo oceans (ancient oceans) - Sedimentary basins were deprived of calcium for an extended period, probably due to low riverine input.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

1. Sulphur Coated Urea (Urea Gold)

Why in news - PM Narendra Modi launched "Urea Gold" during an event in Rajasthan's Sikar.

Key Points –

- PM Modi said urea is cheaper in India than Pakistan, Bangladesh and China.

About Urea Gold -

- New variety of urea that is coated with sulphur.
- Aim - to address sulphur deficiencies in the soil.
- More economical and efficient than neem-coated urea.
- Benefits - improved nitrogen use efficiency, reduced consumption, and enhanced crop quality.
- Urea coated with sulphur helps in slow release of nitrogen, therefore increasing its availability and uptake.
- Urea Gold has added humic acid to enhance longevity of the fertiliser.



SCIENCE – TECH

1. Jupiter 3

Why in news - SpaceX launched world's largest private communications satellite Jupiter 3.

Key Points –

- Aim - to deliver internet services to customers in North and South America.
- Developed by - Maxar Technologies, California.

2. Markarian 421

Why in news - Supermassive black hole Markarian 421 is throwing out a high-energy jet of particles aimed directly at Earth.

Key Points –

- Supermassive black holes that are active at the centers of galaxies (active galactic nuclei) are surrounded by "accretion disks" that feed them.
- But not all materials are consumed by the black hole. Some of it is channeled towards the black hole's "poles" and blasted out at a speed near that of light.
- The "blazar" (black hole systems having jets pointed at Earth) is about 400 million light-years away in the constellation Ursa Major.
- Blazars can outshine all the stars in the galaxy that they inhabit.

3. Miniaturised multi-payload satellites

Why in news - Space startup Pixxel secured a multi-crore rupee grant from the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) under M/o of Defence.

Key Points –

- Purpose - to manufacture miniaturized multi-payload satellites for the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- Pixxel will develop small satellites weighing up to 150 kgs.
- The grant is part of the SPARKS initiative, which falls under Mission DefSpace (October, 2022).
- Pixxel's CEO - Awais Ahmed.

Value Addition –

- Mission DefSpace was launched with 75 Defence Space challenges.
- Challenges are classified into 5 categories: launch system, satellite system, communication and payload system, ground system, and software system.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. International Tiger Day 2023

Why in news – It is observed annually on July 29.

Key Points –

- It was first observed in 2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia.
- In 2010, 13 tiger range nations banded together to join Tx2, to increase the tiger population from 3,200 to at least 6,000 tigers.
- Global Tiger Initiative (GTI) - a group of nations, international organisations, and conservation organisations committed to tiger conservation.
- Tiger IUCN status – Endangered.

About Project Tiger –

- Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- Launch date – April 1, 1973.
- Launched at - Jim Corbett National Park.
- Initially, the project covered 9 tiger reserves (now, the project includes 54 tiger reserves).

APPOINTMENTS

1. James Ferguson 'Jim' Skea

Why in news – He was elected as the new chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on July 26, 2023.

Key Points –

- Skea beat his nearest rival, Thelma Krug of Brazil.
- Skea belongs to United Kingdom.
- The election took place at the headquarters of UNEP in Nairobi, where the IPCC is holding its 59th Session.

SPORTS

1. ICC Code of Conduct breach

Why in news – Harmanpreet Kaur suspended for

two matches for breaching ICC Code of Conduct against Bangladesh.

Key Points –

- Reason - Kaur smashed stumps with her bat and called the umpiring "pathetic" in the post-match presentation.
- Harmanpreet Kaur is Indian women's cricket team captain.
- She breached article 2.8 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players relating to "showing dissent at an umpire's decision".

BIHAR

1. Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR)

Why in news – As per the latest Status of Tigers, 2022, VTR in West Champaran has 54 tigers.

Key Points –

- VTR is Bihar's lone tiger reserve.
- 75% rise in the number of big cats has been recorded from the last 4-yearly tiger census held in 2018.
- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) rated VTR in "good" category in terms of management effectiveness evaluation (MEE) system under 'Status of Tigers-2022' summary report.
- VTR stood at 23rd position among the 51 tiger reserves assessed.





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➤ CURRENT AFFAIRS ONE LINERS ◀

- The Chief Minister of which state has released a book named Raag Prakash - **Himachal Pradesh.**
- Which state's Gopalpur port has created a national record in cargo handling – **Odisha.**
- Which bank has overtaken SBI in CRISIL's Corporate Banking Rankings for 2023 - **HDFC Bank.**
- Which state has topped the list of missing women in India - **Maharashtra.**
- Which day is celebrated all over the world on 31st July 2023 - **World Ranger Day.**
- Who has been honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award - **Prem Prakash**
- Who has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of South Africa - **Prabhat Kumar.**
- Recently which country has announced the successful eradication of 'Rubella' – **Bhutan.**
- According to the recent report, in the year 2022, the population of which country has decreased by 8 lakhs – **Japan.**
- Recently 'Ruchira Kamboj' has chaired the which session of the United Nations Conference on Social Development - **62nd.**

PATNA CENTRE: NEW BATCHES FOR **BPSK ENGLISH MEDIUM** STARTING FROM 23RD AUGUST 2023.
NEW BATCHES FOR **UPSC ENGLISH & HINDI MEDIUM** IS STARTING FROM 13TH SEPTEMBER 2023.

DELHI CENTRE: NEW BATCHES FOR **BPSK ENGLISH & HINDI MEDIUM** STARTING FROM 23RD AUGUST 2023.
NEW **UPSC FOUNDATION BATCH** IS STARTING FROM 16TH AUGUST 2023.