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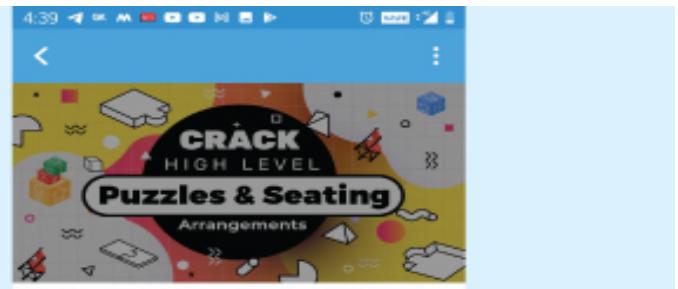
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AFFAIRS CLOUD TODAY ENGLISH



Dr S Jaishankar
Visited Two Countries
Russia & Georgia

एनटीपीसी NTPC to set up India's single largest solar park at Rann of Kutch

CURRENT AFFAIRS 15 JULY 2021

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

NTPC REL to set up India's Single Largest Solar Park at Rann of Kutch, Gujarat

On July 12, 2021, the NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL), a 100% subsidiary of NTPC (formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation Limited), has received an approval from **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** to set up **India's single largest Solar Park, 4750 MW** (megawatt) renewable energy park at **Rann of Kutch** in Khavada, Gujarat.



- This approval has been provided under **Mode 8** (Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Power Park) of Solar Park Scheme.

About Project:

- This will be India's largest solar park to be built.
- NTPC REL will produce green hydrogen on a commercial scale from the park.
- This project will be almost twice the capacity of the **Bhadla solar park** in Rajasthan, currently the largest single-location solar power project in the country.

Point to be noted:

- It should be noted that NTPC aims to build **60 Giga Watt (GW)** renewable energy capacity (wind and solar) by **2032** as part of its plans to reduce 10% of its net energy intensity by 2032.
 - With this, NTPC Ltd became **India's 1st** energy company to declare energy compact goals as part of HLDE 2021.
- NTPC has also commissioned **India's largest Floating Solar of 10MW** on the reservoir of **Simhadri Thermal Power Plant**, Andhra Pradesh.
- As of now, NTPC has 70 power plants with a total installed capacity of 66 GW and an additional 18 GW capacity is under construction.
- Further, a 100 MW Floating Solar Project on the reservoir of Ramagundam Thermal Power Plant, Telangana is in the advanced stage of implementation.

Recent Related News:

NTPC Limited, India's leading power utility under the **Ministry of Power** signed with UN Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate, an initiative to mobilize business leaders on water security and sanitation as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.

About NTPC Ltd:

Establishment-1975

Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)- Gurdeep Singh

Headquarters- New Delhi

NCRTC implements iDREAMS system to manage Rail assets

The **National Capital Regional Transport Corporation (NCRTC)** announced plans to implement "**Integrated Real-time Enterprise Asset Management System (iDREAMS)**" in Indian Railways to digitally manage all rail assets.



- iDREAMS provides digital solutions for cost effective measures in asset management. This will remove the shortcomings in data handling thereby providing hassle-free travel experience for customers.
- iDREAMS will be used for improving the safety standards of **Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)** trains, automatic ticket collection system & other electronic infrastructure in the Indian Railways.

Note - **RRTS Trains** are those that can run at a maximum speed of 180 kmph, which will eventually reduce Vehicular pollutants from Road traffic.

What is iDREAMS?

iDREAMS is a system designed to collect real-time data from BIM, GIS, IoT sensors and other subsystems in Railways to provide data driven solutions for asset management & avoid upcoming risks.

i. This will reduce the time taken to manually collect and input the asset data in the Asset Management System and also ensures to maintain a quality database.

Recent Related News:

Mobile Train Radio Communication (MTRC) system (also known as Global System for Mobile Communications – Railway (GSM-R)) was inaugurated in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**. For the 1st time **Indian Railways** has commissioned the MTRC system – an instant communication system used to avoid train accidents.

About National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC):

Managing Director – Vinay Kumar Singh

Established – 2013

Headquarters – New Delhi

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

A New Global Framework for Managing Nature Through 2030: 3rd ACB 2020

The 5th and final session of the **3rd ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Conference on Biodiversity in 2020 (ACB 2020)**, held in July 2021, focused on the theme '**Towards 2050: Living in Harmony with Nature**'.

Key Points:

- i. The ACB represented a milestone for Member States of the ASEAN to implement the **Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)**.



ii. At the session, the ASEAN members mentioned the need for resources, financial support, and technology transfer for the developing countries to implement the Post-2020 GBF.

iii. The 5th Session of 3rd ACB 2020 was organized by the Government of Malaysia and its Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources with the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity.

Note – 4 sessions of the 3rd ACB 2020 were earlier conducted virtually from September to December 2020. The 1st ACB took place from 21-23 October 2009.

Overview of the 1st Draft of The Post-2020 GBF:

i. On 12 July 2021, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat released the **1st draft of a Post-2020 GBF** to guide actions worldwide through 2030 to preserve and protect nature and its essential services to people.

ii. The framework includes **21 'action targets' for 2030** to reduce the threats to biodiversity and meet people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing. The draft also proposed 4 goals to achieve by 2050.

iii. List of some of the Targets:

- To mitigate the emission of Gigatonnes of CO₂ equivalent (GtCO₂e) by **10 percent/year**.
- To eliminate plastic discharge, and reduce pesticides by at least two thirds.
- To conserve at least **30 percent of land and sea areas** globally, especially areas of importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people.
- To reduce the rate of introduction of invasive alien species by 50 percent, and control its eradication.
- A **\$US 200 billion** increase in **international financial flows** to developing countries.

iv. As the 'United Nations(UN) Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020' comes to an end, the '15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity' (CBD COP 15) that is scheduled to take place in Kunming, China, from October 11-24, 2021, would involve into the development of GBF for 2020-2050 i.e Post-2020 GBF.

Recent Related News:

On 28th April 2021, Ministry of External Affairs Secretary (East) Mrs Riva Ganguly Das virtually co-chaired the 23rd ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting with Permanent Secretary of Thailand Mr Thani Thongphakdi.

About Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN):

i. It is an economic union founded to promote intergovernmental cooperation between Southeast Asian nations.

ii. **The 10 ASEAN Member States:** Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

iii. The ASEAN region occupies 3 percent of the Earth's land.

Establishment – 1967

Headquarters – Jakarta, Indonesia

Secretary-General – H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi (2018 -2022)

Chair for 2021 – Brunei Darussalam

EAM S Jaishankar visited Russia and Georgia

Union External Affairs Minister (EAM) Subrahmanyam Jaishankar visited Russia and Georgia to strengthen ties and cooperation. The details of his visit are explained as below:

Visit to Russia:

Subrahmanyam Jaishankar was on a 3-day visit to Moscow, Russia on July 7-9, 2021 to prepare ground for the annual India-Russia summit 2021.



EAM Jaishankar discusses nuclear, space and defence cooperation with Russian counterpart

Indian EAM with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov reviewed the progress on the cooperation between the two nations on space, nuclear, energy and defence sectors.

- They also discussed global and regional issues like Afghanistan, Iran and Syria.
- It should be noted that India is a partner of Russia in production and use of Sputnik V vaccine.
- Russia also supports India's candidacy for permanent membership of a reformed United Nations Security Council and of the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

India, Russia to hold 2+2 dialogue in 2021

India and Russia will hold the 2+2 Dialogue of Foreign and Defence Ministers as per mutual convenience in 2021. This dialogue will be on the same pattern as with India-United States (US)

- It will be held on the lines of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi telephonic discussion with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission-TEC (IRIGC-TEC)

S. Jaishankar and Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, Yury Borisov Co-Chaired India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission-TEC (IRIGC-TEC).

It should be noted that Russia Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) is piloting Russia's Sputnik V vaccine, which has partnered with the Hyderabad-based Dr Reddy's Laboratories to supply COVID-19 doses vaccine in India.

Visit to Georgia:

S Jaishankar was on a two days visit to Georgia on July 9-10, 2021 where he landed in its capital Tbilisi. Notably, this was the first visit by an Indian External Affairs Minister (EAM) to Georgia since it gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. This was also the first visit by an Indian EAM to Georgia in the last 40 years as Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited Georgia in June 1978 as EAM.

S Jaishankar handed over relics of 17th century Georgian Queen St. Ketevan to Georgia

On the request of Georgia, EAM handed over the holy relics of 17th century Georgian Queen St. Ketevan nearly 16 years after they were found in Goa.

About St. Ketevan:

She was from Kakheti, a kingdom in eastern Georgia. She was tortured and killed in 1624 in Shiraz during the rule of the Safavid dynasty and her relics were brought to Goa in 1627. In 2005, after years of research and study of medieval Portuguese records, the relics were found at the St. Augustine Church in Old Goa.

India, Georgia agree to work jointly to strengthen their ties

During talks with Georgia's Vice Prime Minister and Finance Minister David Zalkaliani, both sides agreed to work jointly to strengthen their relationship.

- They also discussed bilateral economic cooperation, trade and connectivity.
- Indian EAM invited David Zalkaliani to India with a business delegation and also invited Georgian companies to invest in India.

Indian EAM also congratulated Pravasi Bharatiya Samman awardee Darpan Prasher who is a Vice President at the Indian Chamber of Commerce in Georgia.

EAM Jaishankar unveils statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Georgia

S Jaishankar and David Zalkaliani unveiled a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Tbilisi Park, Georgia.

Recent Relate News:

S Jaishankar visited the United States (US) from 24th May to 28th May 2021 where he met Antonio Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) and participated in a productive strategy session with the team in the Permanent Mission of India to the UN.

About Russia:

Capital- Moscow

Currency- Russian ruble

About Georgia:

Capital- Tbilisi

Currency- Georgian lari

Interweave & UN Women Joined Hands to Implement UNWEP in India

Interweave, Diversity Consulting Organisation became partner with UN Women (**United Nations entity for Gender Equality and Ladies' Empowerment**) to implement the United Nations Women's Empowerment Principles (UNWEP) via corporates in India.



- This principle was established by **UN Women and UN Global Compact** in 2010 to enhance women's empowerment through a set of below 7 principles offering practical guidance to businesses on promoting gender equality.
- High-Level Corporate Leadership
- Treat all Women and Men Fairly at Work without Discrimination
- Employee Health, Well-Being and Safety
- Education and training for career advancement
- Enterprise development, supply chain and marketing practices
- Community initiatives and advocacy
- Measurement and Reporting
- Under this partnership, Interweave Consulting will provide technical support to corporates to implement these principles ranging from establishing high-level leadership commitment for gender equality to fair work practices that include equal access to opportunities.
- The implementation of the program to all over the world is being funded by the European Union under the regional WeEmpower Asia Programme.

T-Hub, Atal Innovation Mission partners to boost Healthcare Startups

Hyderabad based Startup incubator 'T-Hub' in partnership with NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has launched a new program called '**AIC T-HUB Foundation**'. The program is launched with an aim to support deep tech startups in the field of **life science & healthcare sector**.

AIC T-HUB Foundation:

i. It is a **3-month long foundational course**, which is conducted in collaboration with various Industrial and education organisations.

ii. A series of workshops will be conducted in the 3-months program, covering various sectors like - Financial Planning, Lead Generation, Value proposition, among others.

iii. The program module focuses on improving Digital Healthcare Infrastructure compiling to both Domestic & Global Compliance framework to make Indian Healthcare sector globally competent.

T-HUB, AIM.

LAUNCH COHORT FOR

**HEALTHTECH
START-UPS**


iv. This will also act as a forum towards exchange of ideas between leading professionals from healthcare startups across the country.

About Atal Innovation Mission (AIM):
Mission Director - Dr Chintan Vaishnav
Headquarters - New Delhi
About T-Hub:
Established - 2015
Founder - Srinivas Kollipara
CEO - Ravi Narayan
Headquarters - Hyderabad, Telangana

NMDC Board Approved De-merger of NMDC Steel

On July 13, 2021, India's largest iron ore miner, National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) Ltd's board has approved the 'scheme of arrangement for demerger' between NMDC and NMDC Steel Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of NMDC Ltd.

- Under demerging, the entire share capital of the NMDC Steel Limited held by NMDC Limited would be cancelled and new equity shares of it would be issued to all the shareholders of NMDC Ltd in the same proportion.
- NMDC Steel Ltd was engaged in the exploration of a wide range of minerals.
- The Government of India plans to augment India's steel production to 300 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) by 2025.

BANKING & FINANCE

New NABARD schemes launched by Manipur CM Biren Singh; NABARD Sanctioned Development Projects in Kerala

On July 13, 2021, N. Biren Singh, the Chief Minister of Manipur, virtually launched various welfare schemes that are implemented under the 'National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development' (NABARD) in the state.



Manipur Chief Minister
N. Biren Singh
launched
Various Welfare Schemes
Implemented Under
NABARD

The schemes include Comprehensive Scheme for development of MSCB Ltd. and PACS

Key Points:

- i.The scheme includes the '**Comprehensive Scheme for development of Manipur State Cooperative Bank (MSCB) Ltd. and Primary Agriculture Co-operative Societies (PACS)**' in Manipur.
- ii.The Comprehensive Scheme for development of MSCB Ltd. and PACS would provide infrastructure support to 10 PACS, 2 Tribal Development Fund (TDF) projects in Churachandpur and Pherzwal districts, and 46 Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies in the State.
- iii.Under MSCB Ltd, financial support of Rs 10 lakh has been sanctioned to 10 PACS to strengthen the basic infrastructure.
- iv.TDFs was intended to achieve stable horticulture-based farming for promoting sustainable agriculture and better livelihoods for the communities.

-NABARD Sanctioned Development Projects in Kerala

On **July 13, 2021**, on the eve of the **40th Foundation Day of NABARD**, the Kerala Regional Office has launched different promotional and developmental projects to various agencies across the state.

i.1st Project: A project with the financial assistance of **Rs 18.50 lakh** for **evaluation of vaccine against bacterial disease 'Riemerellosis' in ducks** to Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (KVASU), Thrissur, Kerala was sanctioned by NABARD.

- **About Riemerellosis:** It is a bacterial disease that causes high mortality in ducks. In September 2020, for the 1st time, the Department of Veterinary Microbiology, KVASU developed a vaccine for Riemerellosis in India.

ii.2nd Project: Providing Long-distance **Wireless Connectivity** to **Tribal Settlements in Nilambur, Malappuram District, Kerala** with grant **assistance of Rs 5 lakh**.

iii.3rd Project: Up-skilling of Fishermen Youth in Out Board Motor (OBM) Engine **Repair work**.

- This project was sanctioned by the South Indian Federation of Fisherman Societies (SIFFS) with grant assistance of **Rs 4.50 lakh**, to train 90 fishermen in Out Board Motor (OBM) Engine Repair.

iv.NABARD has also sanctioned **4 training programmes** with grant **assistance of Rs 15 lakhs** to **Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP)**, Govt of Kerala for Graphic designer programme and AWS (Amazon Web Services) cloud programme for 290 trainees.

Recent Related News:

Mahratta Chamber of Commerce Industries & Agriculture (**MCCIA**) in partnership with **NABARD** has launched India's 1st Agriculture Export Facilitation Center (**AEFC**) in Pune, Maharashtra (at MCCIA office, Senapati Bapat Road).

About National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD):

NABARD was established on the recommendations of the B.Sivaraman Committee (by Act 61, 1981 of Parliament) to implement the NABARD Act 1981.

Establishment – 12 July 1982

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman – Govinda Rajulu Chintala

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

China-India Trade Crossed USD 57 billion H1 2021 Despite Disturbed Bilateral Ties

As per the data released by China's General Administration of Customs, the **China-India bilateral trade** in the first half (H1) of 2021 (January – June 2021) totaled USD 57.48 billion, increased by **62.7 percent** (year-on-year) despite the standoff between the two countries' militaries at eastern Ladakh since May 2020.

Key Points:

- i.India's exports to China in H1 of 2021 increased by **69.6 percent** to USD 14.724 billion, and India's imports from China in the same period also increased by 60.4 percent to USD 42.755 billion.
- ii.Even Though there was an increase in exports to China, the trade deficit of India increased to **55.6 percent**.
- iii.In H1 of 2021, China's import of iron ore from India amounted to a total of **20.28 million tonnes**, increased by 66 percent when compared with H1 of 2020. It also accounts for nearly **90 percent** of India's total iron ore export.

India - China

Trade on Rise Despite

Chill in bilateral ties,
crosses

**USD 57
Billion in H1**



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iv. The 62.7 percent increase in India-China trade was the highest among China's major trading partners, in 2020 the bilateral trade totaled USD 77.67 billion, lower than the USD 85.47 billion of 2019.

Trade Deficit: It is the difference between the monetary value of a nation's exports and imports over a time period.

About China:

Capital – Beijing

President – Xi Jinping

Currency – Renminbi

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Journalist Omchery N N Pillai Honoured with BKS Literary Award for 2021

Malayalam Journalist, playwright, novelist and poet **Omchery N N Pillai** have been honoured with the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (**BKS**)'s **Literary Award for 2021** for his contribution to the Malayalam language and literature. NN Pillai hails from Vaikom, Kottayam, Kerala.

The award constitutes a cash prize of Rs 50000 and a citation.

- The award was announced by P V Radhakrishna Pillai President of BKS, Varghese Karakal, general secretary of BKS and Firoz Thiruvathra, literary wing secretary.
- The jury panel headed by novelist M Mukundan consist of Literary critic Dr K S Ravikumar, writer and Kerala Chief Secretary Dr V P Joy, and Radhakrishna Pillai

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Sher Bahadur Deuba Sworn in as Nepal's PM for 5th Time

Sher Bahadur Deuba (75 years old), President of Nepali Congress, sworn in as the Prime Minister(PM) of Nepal for the 5th time. He took over the office from the incumbent KP Sharma Oli.



- The 5 members constitutional bench of the Supreme Court of Nepal led by Chief Justice Cholendra Shumsher Rana, appointed him as the PM in line with Article 76(5) of the Constitution of Nepal.
- Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of Nepal administered the oath of office and secrecy during the swearing-in ceremony.

According to the constitutional provisions, Sher Bahadur Deuba has to get a vote of confidence from the 275-member House of Representatives within 30 days of his appointment as PM.

About Sher Bahadur Deuba:

Previously, Sher Bahadur Deuba has served as the Prime Minister of Nepal 4 times between 1995 to 2018.

About Nepal:

President- Bidya Devi Bhandari

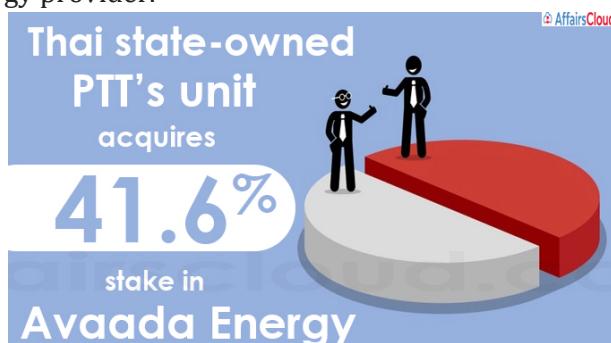
Capital- Kathmandu

Currency- Nepali Rupee

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Thailand's PTT GRSC acquired 41.6% stake in India's Avaada Energy Pvt

Global Renewable Synergy Company Ltd (**GRSC**) the subsidiary of Global Power Synergy Public Company Limited (**GPSC**), a unit of Thailand's state-owned **PTT Group**, has acquired 41.6% stake in **Avaada Energy Private Limited**, India's renewable energy provider.



- The GRSC has purchased the 41.6% stake of equity interest in Avaada Energy Pvt through subscription of new shares for around 14.8 billion Baht (around 453 Million USD or Rs 3381 crore).

Avaada Energy Private Limited:

- Avaada Energy develops and operates solar power plants in India with purchase agreements with central and state governments of India and also with commercial customers.
- Avaada Energy Private Limited, has a total committed capacity of around 3744 megawatts(MW) including 2,352 MW which is under construction with expected commercial operations by 2021 – 2022.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

China Started Construction of World's 1st Commercial SMR: Linglong One

The China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) has announced the official beginning of the construction of the **world's 1st** commercial **Small Modular Reactor (SMR)** named '**Linglong One**' at the **Changjiang Nuclear Power Plant** in China's **Hainan Province**.



Key Points:

- Originally CNNC aimed to start building the project in 2017 but it was delayed due to regulatory issues.

ii.Linglong One, also known as the ACP100, was the **1st SMR** that was **approved by** the International Atomic Energy Agency (**IAEA**) in **2016**.

iii.Each unit of it has a **power generating capacity of 125 megawatts (MW)** and once completed, it might increase up to 1 billion kilowatt-hours, thereby catering to more than 500,000 households in China.

iv.The Linglong One was designed to complement the CNNC's larger third-generation 'Hualong One' reactors, which has a generation capacity of 1,170 MW.

v.China plans to use the SMR to provide urban heating in the north and run desalination facilities along the country's coastal line.

About Small Modular Reactor (SMR):

i.The **World Nuclear Association** defines SMRs as **nuclear reactors** with a capacity equivalent to **300 Megawatt electric (MWe)** or less, designed with modular technology using module factory fabrication, pursuing economies of series production and short construction times.

ii.The **IAEA** defines 'small reactors' capacity under 300 MWe, and 'medium reactors' as capacity up to 700 MWe.

iii.SMRs are **cheaper and quicker to build** than traditional reactors, they **could be deployed in remote regions**, even in ships and aircraft. Through the 'modular' feature, the SMR could be shipped by container from the factory and installed in any location.

iv.SMRs could minimize the consumption of fossil fuels in China and also could promote energy conservation and carbon emission reduction.

Recent Related News:

As per the report of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), titled 'Complicit: 2020 Global Nuclear Spending', the worldwide Nuclear-armed countries' overall spending on atomic weapon arsenals in 2020 was increased by \$1.4 billion (1.2-billion-euro) to \$72.6 billion from \$71.2 billion of 2019.

About International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):

Establishment – 1957

Headquarters – Vienna, Austria

Director General – Rafael Mariano Grossi (Argentina)

Total Members – 173

ENVIRONMENT

Polar Biologists Discovered New Species of Moss from Antarctica: **Bryum bharatiensis**, Named After India

Polar Biologists from the **Central University of Punjab** discovered **Bryum bharatiensis**, a new native species of moss from Antarctica. The **species** is named after India as a **tribute to India and its Antarctic Station "Bharati"**.



New plant species **Bryum bharatiensis**
discovered in Antarctica named after India

- **Bryum bharatiensis** is the **first plant species discovered** from Antarctica during the Indian Antarctic Mission which began in **1981**.
- **Bryum bharatiensis** has been confirmed as the **new species of moss discovered for the first time in the world**.
- The description of the discovery has been published in the **Journal of Asia-Pacific Biodiversity (Elsevier)**, an International journal.

Discovery of Bryum bharatiensis:

- i.The new species was discovered by **Felix Bast**, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Botany, Central University on the rocks near **Bharati Station** at Larsemann Hills, East Antarctica.
- ii.Felix Bast was a part of the Ministry of Earth Sciences's "Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica-36" delegation from December 2016 to April 2017.
- iii.Bryum bharatiensis is the **6th species** discovered by the research group led by Felix Bast. The other discoveries were species of marine seaweed from Indian coasts.
- iv.Felix used a combined approach of morphology-based traditional techniques with DNA sequence-based modern tools for formalizing the discovery.

2 new Spider species discovered in Assam's Chirang Reserve Forest

2 new Spider species – **Gravelyia boro & Dexippus kleini** were discovered in **Chirang Reserve Forest in Assam's** Bodoland Territorial region. Gravelyia boro, a spider species that lives underground, is new to science and Dexippus Kleini's discovery comes after 129 years since its last record in **Sumatra Islands**.



From Assam, a new underground spider found
Gravelyia boro

Dulur Brahma & Paris Basumatary – Researchers from Assam's Bodoland University have published their findings in the science journal 'Acta Arachnologica'

Note - '**Araneae**' is the scientific name of Spider

Gravelyia boro:

i.It is a burrow spider, classified under Nemesiidae family, that lives 10-15 cm below the sandy-loam surface

Dexippus kleini – These are large spiders that are members of Salticidae family

i.Researchers from Mizoram University have also discovered a non-venomous snake near Aizawl. It has the capability to jump up to 25 mm length while hunting.

Additional Info – The new snake is named as 'Stoliczka vanhnuailianai', to honour Vanhnuailiana, a Mizo warrior.

SPORTS

India to host BWF World Badminton Championships 2026; Sudirman Cup 2023 switched to China

India is all set to host the BWF's (Badminton World Federation) World Badminton Championships in 2026. This information was provided by the sport's global governing body, **Badminton World Federation** (BWF). This will be the **2nd time that India will host** this event after 2009 in Hyderabad, Telangana.



Key Points:

- i. It should be noted that India were scheduled to organise the TotalEnergies BWF Sudirman Cup Finals 2023, a mixed team championship but as per BWF decision, its hosting rights has been awarded to **Suzhou**, China.
- This led to India grabbing the opportunity of hosting BWF World Championships in 2026.
- ii. The **2021 Sudirman Cup** was originally scheduled to be held in Suzhou, China but it was shifted to **Vantaa, Finland** due to the Covid-19 situation.

About Badminton World Federation (BWF):

It is recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) as the world governing body for badminton. It is registered under the International Organizations (Privileges and Immunities) Act 1992 in Malaysia

Establishment- 1934 as International Badminton Federation (IBF)

Members- 196

Headquarters- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

President- Poul-Erik Hoyer (2021 – 2025)

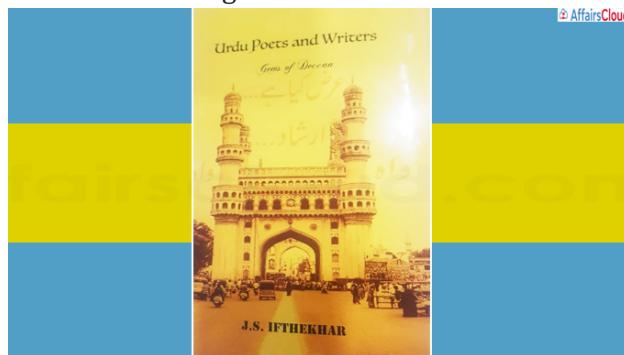
Babar Azam becomes fastest Cricketer to score 14 ODI centuries

Captain of Pakistan Cricket team, **Babar Azam** became the fastest batsman to score **14 centuries** in the history of One Day International (**ODI**) cricket. He attained this feat on his 81st innings during the ongoing Pakistan vs England ODI series, thereby overtaking South Africa's **Hashim Amla (84 innings)** who previously held the record. While Indian Captain Virat Kohli took 103 innings to reach his 14th century.

i. Notably, the record for highest number of Centuries is held by **India's Sachin Tendulkar (49)** followed by Virat Kohli (43).

BOOKS & AUTHORS**VP M Venkaiah Naidu Received the Book "Urdu Poets and Writers – Gems of Deccan" Authored by J.S. Ifthekhar**

M Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India, received the book titled "**Urdu Poets and Writers – Gems of Deccan**" authored by J.S. Ifthekhar, a senior Journalist from Hyderabad, Telangana. The book highlights the literature and cultural traditions of the Deccan region.



The book is published by Woven Words Publishers OPC Pvt. Ltd.

About the book:

- i. The book "Gem of Deccan" is a collection of prose and poetry that features the life and works of various eminent poets and writers from the Deccan region.
- ii. The book traces the literature and cultural traditions from the time of Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, founder of Hyderabad to the present times.

About JS Ifthekhar:

JS Ifthekhar has around 40 years of experience in journalism who has worked in renowned newspapers like Indian Express and The Hindu and he was also associated with Deccan chronicle, Telangana Today, Detective Digest and others.

Other Books: Haj: The Spirit Behind It, Hyderabad- The Nawabi City on the Move.

Other releases:

i.VP Venkaiah Naidu also received the Telugu books “**Nallagonda Kathalu**” authored by Mallikarjun and “**Manavottama Rama**” authored by Satyakasi Bhargava.

- The book “**Nallagonda Kathalu**” published by Aju Publications is a children’s book that features **rural folklore and local stories**.
- The book “**Manavottama Rama**” explains the **16 qualities of Lord Sri Rama** that led to worship him as an ideal human being.

ii.He also received the **books on former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao** from Mamidi Harikrishna, Director of Telangana state Language and Culture Department.

Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar Unveiled Book – ‘UNTOLD stories’ of Haryana Police

Manohar Lal Khattar, Chief Minister of Haryana unveiled a Coffee Table Book titled **‘UNTOLD stories’ of Haryana Police** while inaugurating the newly-built state-of-the-art State Emergency Response Centre (SERC) in Panchkula, Haryana.

About the Book:

- i.This book exhibits the **brave work** of officers and men of Haryana Police during **COVID-19** from 2020, and it also pays tribute to the 49 police martyrs who passed away due to the pandemic.
- ii.The book specially features the **‘Karamveers’** of the Police department, who have made extraordinary efforts in enforcing the lockdown, providing assistance to the public, and making them aware of COVID-19 safety measures.
- iii.The preface of the book contains an overview of the role of the police, which was written by Haryana DGP Manoj Yadava.
- iv.The book also **explains ‘Operation Samvedna’**, a drive which was undertaken by Haryana Police Department for sending back the migrant workers and labourers during the lockdown to their home States (4 lakh migrant workers were sent under the drive).

STATE NEWS

DSEU Signed MoU with HI-NO-DE & Ichishin to train Students in Japan

Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (**DSEU**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the **HI-NO-DE Foundation** and **Ichishin Holdings Co. Ltd** to implement the Technical Intern Training Program (**TITP**) to train and place the students from India (especially from Delhi) in Japan.



**Delhi Skill and
Entrepreneurship University**
Govt. of NCT of Delhi

AffairsCloud

Signs MoU

**Train and Place
students
in Japan**



Through this MoU of DSEU with HI-NO-DE and Ichishin, Students from India will be sent to Japan.

Aim:

To transform the skill ecosystem through an exchange programme between students from India and Japan.

Features of partnership:

- i.The trainees under this programme will gain skills of international standards and will also get better placement through their internship from Japan.
- ii.The students will also learn Japanese from the instructors from Japan.
- iii.The TITP program is set to be launched in October 2021.

About Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU):

Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (**DSEU**) was established in **August 2020** by the Government of NCT of Delhi.

Chancellor- Anil Baijal (Lt Governor of Delhi)

Vice-Chancellor- Prof. (Dr.) Neharika Vohra

Location- New Delhi

WFP & Rajasthan Govt Became Partners to Improve Targeted Public Distribution System

United Nations **World Food Programme (WFP)** in India and the Rajasthan government's Department of **Food and Civil Supplies** established a partnership to improve the **Targeted Public Distribution System (TDPS)**, world's largest food safety net scheme in Rajasthan.



- It helps to create digital dashboard of supply and food grains received by beneficiaries for monitoring and evaluation of TDPS.
- The partnership will enhance the use of digitisation, data aggregation, performance dashboards for monitoring of the **TDPS**, thus providing a real-time and long-term solution to improve the food and nutritional security for millions towards the goal of better food.
- Rajasthan covers nearly **45 million beneficiaries** under the **National Food Security Act**, served through a network of 26,657 fair price shops.
- It will easily identify the targeting data about the **status of the beneficiaries who are to be included at risk** and those who are in need **not to get excluded from the scheme**.

World Food Programme (WFP)

A food-assistance branch of the United Nations, a world's largest humanitarian organization, the largest one focused on hunger and food security.

Headquarters - Rome, Italy

Executive Director - David Muldrow Beasley

Ladakh Signed MoU with Sikkim to Turn the UT Organic by 2025

On July 14, 2021, the Union Territory (UT) of **Ladakh** administration signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with '**Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency' (SSOCA)** regarding the implementation of '**Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana' (PKVY)**' and '**Mission Organic Development Initiative (MODI)**' in the Ladakh region.



Key points:

- i.**Objective:** To convert Ladakh into a certified **organic UT by 2025.**
- ii. **3 Phases:** The **UT** plans to achieve the organic status through **3 phases**, in the **first phase**, **85 villages** will be identified to convert **5000 hectares** of land into organic and in the **2nd phase**, **82 villages** will be covered with **10,000 hectares** and under the **3rd phase**, **79 villages** (the remaining areas) will be covered.
- iii. The MoU was signed by Stanzin Chospel, Executive Councillor, Agriculture, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC); Ravinder Kumar, Agriculture Secretary; Shrikant Suse, Deputy Commissioner and CEO, LAHDC, along with the representatives of SSOCA.

Note – Recently, Ladakh has signed an MoU with the Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI) for forest cover development in the region. UT Principal Secretary Pawan Kotwal and HFRI Director SS Samant signed the MoU.

Sikkim – the organic state:

- i. **Sikkim** was declared as the **1st '100 percent organic state' in the world** by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (**UN FAO**).
- ii. Sikkim's policies that led to achieving the target viz, State Policy on Organic Farming (2004) and Sikkim Organic Mission (2010) were recognized with the Future Policy Gold Award 2018 from the UN FAO.
- iii. The **state made all of its farms organic** by banning the use and sale of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in the state.

About Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY):

- i. It is a sub-component of the Soil Health Management (SHM) scheme under the National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), it aims to develop sustainable models of organic farming through a mix of traditional wisdom and modern science to ensure long term soil fertility.
- ii. Fifty or more farmers will form a cluster having 50-acre land to take up organic farming under the scheme and every farmer will be provided **Rs 20,000** per acre in 3 years for the seed to harvesting of crops.

Recent Related News:

In April 2021, Ladakh UT Administration, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh (LAHDC) & Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI Ltd) signed a Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting up a 50 MW solar power project at Taru (Taroo) in Leh District.

About Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency (SSOCA):

Establishment – 2015

Headquarters– Gangtok, Sikkim

About Ladakh:

Capital – Leh

Lieutenant Governor – Radha Krishna Mathur

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- [GA Questions asked in SBI PO Mains 2021 – Jan 29](#)
- [SBI Clerk Mains 2020](#)
- [IBPS RRB Officer Scale II GBO Exam 2020](#)
- [RBI Assistant Mains 2020](#)
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All The Best for Your Exams!!!

Suggestions & Feedback are welcomed

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