

Current Affairs search results for tag: popular

1. Microplastics found in Antarctica for first time (June 13, 2022)

Scientists have found microplastics in fresh ice in the Antarctic for the first time.

- Scientists have warned that the microplastics in the fresh snow of Antarctica would accelerate the process of melting of ice.
- The researchers found an average of 29 microplastic particles per litre of melted snow.
- There were 13 different types of plastic found.
- The findings, published in The Cryosphere Journal, point to a serious threat to the Antarctic region.
- **Impact of microplastic on environment**
- Studies have shown that microplastics negatively impact the health of the environment, as well as limit the growth, reproduction and normal biological functions of organisms.
- Studies show that the global usage of plastic is set to increase by three fold by the year 2060.
- Microplastics have been discovered inside fish and under Arctic ice in the deepest ocean depths.
- Microplastics if found in humans have negative health effects.
- In 2019, Alex Aves, a PhD student at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand, collected ice samples from the Ross Ice Shelf in Antarctica.
- The researchers found in the laboratory that every sample from even remote sites on the Ross Ice Shelf contained plastic particles.
- Microplastics were found in ice samples from 19 sites in the Ross Island region of Antarctica.
- **What are Microplastics?**
- These are defined as plastics less than five millimetres in diameter.
- They are small plastic particles that result from commercial product development and the breakdown of larger plastics.
- Microplastics are non-degradable and insoluble in water.
- As a pollutant, microplastics can be harmful to the health of the environment, humans and organisms.

2. Amit Shah chairs the Western Zonal Council in Diu (June 11, 2022)

Union Home and Co-operation Minister Amit Shah chaired the Western Zonal Council meeting at Diu on 11 June.

- Various issues related to border, security, infrastructure, transport and industries in western states were discussed in the meeting.
- **About zonal council**
- In 1956 first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru give the idea of creation of Zonal Councils.
- In the light of Pandit Nehru's vision, five Zonal Councils were established under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956.
- **These are is as under-**
- 1. **The Northern Zonal Council** - States of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, National Capital Territory of Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh are included.
- 2. **The Central Zonal Council** - States of Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are included.
- 3. **The Eastern Zonal Council** - States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Sikkim and West Bengal are included.
- 4. **The Western Zonal Council** - States of Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra and the Union Territories of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli are included.
- 5. **The Southern Zonal Council** - States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry are included.
- A Standing Committee is constituted by each Zonal Council consisting of the Chief Secretaries of their respective Zonal Councils of the Member States.
- These Standing Committees meet from time to time to resolve the issues.
- Chairman - The Union Home Minister is the Chairman of each of these Councils
- **Objectives of the Zonal Councils**
- National integration
- Enabling Centre and States to collaborate and exchange ideas and experiences
- Stopping the growth of regionalism, linguism and specific tendencies
- To establish an environment of cooperation among the states for successful and speedy execution of development projects

3. Presidential elections on July 18 : Election Commission (June 10, 2022)

On 9 June, the Election Commission announced the election date as 18 July for the election of the 16th President of India.

- The notification for the election will be issued on June 15, the last date for nomination is scheduled June 29.
- Counting of votes, if required, will be done on July 21.
- The term of President Ram Nath Kovind will end on July 24, 2022, and according to Article 62 of the Constitution, elections are required to be completed before term to fill a vacancy caused by the expiration of the term.

- **The President of India**

- The President of India is recognized as the first citizen of the country and the head of state.
- He is a part of the Central Executive along with the Vice President, Prime Minister, Council of Ministers and Attorney General of India.

- **How is the President elected?**

- There is no direct election for the Indian President, an electoral college elects The President.
- Votes are cast by national and state level MPs and MLAs.
- The electoral college is made up of all the elected members of both Houses of Parliament.
- Elected Members of the Legislative Assemblies of States and Union Territories are also part of the electoral college.
- The provisions of the election of the President are given in Article 54 of the Constitution of India.

- **Status of The electoral college**

- There will be a total of 4,809 members in the electoral college for the elections.
- Rajya Sabha MPs - 233
- Lok Sabha MPs - 543
- MLAs of State Assemblies and the Assemblies of the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry - 4,033
- Total value of the votes - 10 lakh 86 thousand 431

- **Constitutional provisions**

- Article 54 - Election of President
- Article 55 - Manner of election of President.
- Article 56 - Term of office of President
- Article 57 - Eligibility for re-election.

Article 58 - Qualifications for election as President

4. NCPCR launches “CiSS application” under Baal Swaraj portal (June 9, 2022)

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has launched a “CiSS Application” under Bal Swaraj Portal to help in the rehabilitation process of Children in Street Situations (CiSS).

- **About CiSS Application**

- It is used to collect data of children found abandoned on roads from all states and union territories.
- The application tracks their rescue and rehabilitation process.
- This initiative has been started under the direction of the Supreme Court of India.
- This program is in conformity with the provision given in Article 51(a) of the Constitution of India.
- This platform serves to collect data and report to the District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) for taking necessary action for such children.
- It also provides a platform for professionals and organizations to provide any help to children in need.

- **Its working framework**

- It categorises any child under ‘Children in Street Situation’ if the child -

is living on the streets alone

is living on the streets during the day

or living on the streets with the family.

- The root cause of this phenomenon is the migration of families from rural to urban areas in search of better living standards.

5. PM Modi inaugurated Biotech Startup Expo 2022 (June 9, 2022)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Biotech Startup Expo – 2022 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on 9 June.

- The Biotech Startup Expo – 2022 is a two-day event being held on **June 9 and 10**.
- The organiser of the expo is the Department of Biotechnology and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (**BIRAC**).
- This expo is being organised to commemorate the ten years of the establishment of BIRAC.

- The theme of the Expo - **‘Biotech Startup Innovations: Towards AatmaNirbhar Bharat’**.
- The expo will act as a platform to connect entrepreneurs, investors, industry leaders, scientists, researchers, bio-incubators, manufacturers, regulators, government officials, etc.
 - Around 300 stalls will be set up at the expo, showcasing the applications of biotechnology in various sectors such as healthcare, genomics, biopharma, agriculture, industrial biotechnology, waste-to-value, clean energy.
 - The event will also witness the launch of an e-portal of 750 biotech products.
 - **About Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)**
 - It was set up by the Department of Biotechnology on 20th March, 2012.
 - It is an industry-academia interface agency to strengthen and empower the emerging biotech enterprise.
 - It conducts strategic research and innovation while addressing nationally relevant product development needs.
 - DBT and BIRAC have been at the forefront of India's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic by intervening in the development of indigenous vaccines etc.
 - India ranks among the top 12 biotechnology destinations in the world and third in the Asia-Pacific.

6. Environmental Performance Index 2022 (June 8, 2022)

Recently, India has been ranked 180th out of 180 countries in the 'Environmental Performance Index' released biennially by 'Yale University'.

- The 'Environmental Performance Index' is a joint initiative of Yale University's Centre for Environmental Law and Policy and Columbia University's Centre for International Earth Science Information Network.
- The 'Environmental Performance Index'(EPI) is prepared in collaboration with the 'World Economic Forum'.
- The EPI scores 180 countries based on climate change performance, environmental health and ecosystem status using 40 performance indicators across 11 categories.
- **Denmark tops the list**
- Denmark topped the Environmental Performance Index (EPI), followed by Britain and Finland.
- These countries have received the highest scores for greenhouse gas emissions reductions in recent years.
- **India ranks lowest**
- According to the report, India stood at the bottom (180th) with the lowest score (18.9).

- India's neighbouring countries have performed better, with Pakistan at 176th and Bangladesh at 177th.

- **Ranking of other major countries**

- In the Environmental Performance Index, America was ranked 43rd, France 12th, Germany 13th, Australia 17th, Italy 23rd and Japan 25th.
- China has been ranked 161 in the report with 28.4 points.

- **Top 10 countries**

Country	Ranking
Denmark	1
United Kingdom	2
Finland	3
Malta	4
Sweden	5
Luxembourg	6
Slovenia	7
Austria	8
Switzerland	9
Iceland	10

7. Tamil Nadu tops food safety index (June 8, 2022)

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under the Union Health Ministry has released the State Food Safety Index 2021-2022.

Tamil Nadu topped the State Food Safety Index this year.

- **Top three big states in the index**

1. Tamil Nadu
2. Gujarat

Maharashtra

3.

- **Top three smaller states in the index**

1. Goa

2. Manipur

3. Sikkim

- **Top three UTs in the index**

1. Jammu and Kashmir

2. Delhi

3. Chandigarh

- **New Eat Right India initiatives launched**

- Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya launched various innovative initiatives by FSSAI including Eat Right Research Awards and Grants Phase II, Eat Right Creativity Challenge Phase III, a competition at school level.
- He unveiled the logo for the Ayurveda diet, which includes the initials of Ayurveda and Ahara, with 5 leaves symbolizing the five elements of nature.

- **About State Food Safety Index**

- The index is developed by FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India).
- It was started in 2018-19.
- Its aim is to create a competitive and positive change in India's food safety ecosystem.
- It measures the performance of states on five significant parameters of Food Safety.
- These parameters are - Human Resources and Institutional Data, Compliance, Food Testing - Infrastructure and Surveillance, Training & Capacity Building and Consumer Empowerment.

[For more information please visit 7th June 2022 news.](#)

8. The National Food Laboratory of FSSAI was inaugurated at Raxaul, Bihar (June 7, 2022)

The National Food Laboratory of FSSAI was inaugurated at Raxaul, Bihar by the Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilisers, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya.

- Under the bilateral agreement between India and Nepal, this laboratory has been established in Raxaul to reduce the time taken in testing the samples of food items imported from Nepal.
- The building for the laboratory was constructed in the year 2009, but due to lack of skilled personnel and departmental neglect, the institute till now functioned only as a collection centre.
- In the laboratory, there is a system of testing products like oil, fatty goods, water, fruits and vegetables, beverages, grains etc.
- In this, the quality of the product and its impact on public life are examined, after which permission for business and use is granted.

- **About Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India was constituted by the Central Government under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
- It is operated under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.
- Headquarter- Delhi

- **Work**

- FSSAI works to ensure safe arrangements for production, storage, distribution, sale and import of nutritious food items for human consumption.
- Apart from this, it helps in maintaining the prescribed standards of production and sale of food items at all the state, district and gram panchayat level of the country.

9. THE Asia University Rankings 2022 (June 2, 2022)

Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore has been ranked highest (42nd) among 71 Indian universities in the Asia University Rankings 2022 released by Times Higher Education (THE).

- 616 universities from 31 countries have been included in this latest edition.
- India is the third-represented country in the Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2022, which includes 71 universities in India.
- Only 4 Indian universities have been ranked in the top 100.
- There has been a decline in the ranking of all the Indian institutions in the top-100 as compared to the previous year.
- **Major Indian Institutions and their Ranks in Asia University Rankings 2022**

Institute	Rank
Indian Institute of Science	42

JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research	65
IIT Ropar	68
IIT Indore	87
IIT Gandhinagar	120
Banaras Hindu University	153
Jamia Millia Islamia	160
JNU	167
IIIT Delhi	177

10. President inaugurates Late Smt Laxmibai Dagdusheth Halwai Dutta Mandir Trust in Pune (May 27, 2022)

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the 125th Anniversary Celebrations of Late Smt Laxmibai Dagdusheth Halwai Dutta Mandir Trust in Pune on 27 May.

• Laxmibai Memorial Awards 2022

- Laxmibai Memorial Awards 2022 were presented to three eminent women achievers from different fields on the occasion.
- The awardees are Dr. Madhuri Kanitkar, Vice Chancellor, Maharashtra University of Health Sciences; International Bonsai expert Dr. Prajakta Kale; and Dr. Bhagyashree Patil, Chairman and Executive Director, Dr. D.Y. Patil Abhimat University, Pimpri.

• About Laxmibai Dagdusheth Halwai Datta Mandir

- It is a Hindu temple established by Laxmibai Dagdusheth, wife of Dagdusheth Gadve.
- She was originally a Lingayat trader from Karnataka.
- After settling in Pune and setting up a business of sweet and savoury snacks, the family came to be known as Dagdusheth Halwai.
- Shrimant Dagdusheth Halwai and his wife Lakshmi Bai played an important role during the freedom struggle and created a tradition of social service.
- This temple was established on 4 July 1904 and is dedicated to Sri Dattatreya.
- In Maharashtra, Dattatreya is considered to be an avatar of the three Hindu Gods, Trimurti—Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva.

- It is believed that the deities are especially awakened in this temple, making it a popular
- spot among devotees.
 - The temple is located in Budhwar Peth near Dagdusheth Halwai Ganpati Temple.
 - In 2017, Laxmibai Dagdusheth Halwai Datta Temple became the first temple in Pune to be completely solar powered.