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### **1. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates Department of Integrative Medicine at Safdarjung Hospital ( Feb. 8, 2023 )**

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates Department of Integrative Medicine at Safdarjung Hospital

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, Waterways and AYUSH **Sarbananda Sonowal** and Health Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** jointly inaugurated the **Department of Integrated Medicine** at **Safdarjung Hospital**, New Delhi on 7 February.

#### **An overview of the news**

- This Department of Integrated Medicine will further the **collaboration between traditional and modern systems of medicine** to provide better service to the citizens.
- These centers will treat patients using both **Ayurveda and modern medicine**.
- Integrative medicine aims to harness the potential of India's rich heritage and medical knowledge, along with using modern advances in **allopathy**.
- The government will also set up a Department of Integrated Medicine in **AIIMS Delhi**.
- The Central Government has decided to open **Integrated Medical Centers** in all government medical establishments, especially all AIIMS in the country.

#### **Integrative Medicine**

- Integration of **AYUSH** with Modern Medicine for Holistic Health is Integrative Medicine.
- The Ministry of AYUSH was set up on the **9 November 2014** to revive the knowledge of traditional Indian systems of medicine.
- AYUSH focuses on education and research in the fields of **Ayurveda, Yoga Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy**.

### **2. Reliance introduces India's first Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (H2-ICE) truck ( Feb. 8, 2023 )**

Reliance introduces India's first Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (H2-ICE) truck

**India's first Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (H2-ICE) truck was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi** during the 'India Energy Week' in Bengaluru.

#### **An overview of the news:**

- The **ICE** in the H2-ICE **stands for Internal Combustion Engine**.
- It is **developed by Reliance Industries (RIL)** in **association with Ashok Leyland**.

- The H2-ICE truck is the first of its kind in India to be powered by hydrogen.
- The truck uses hydrogen instead of conventional diesel fuel or liquefied natural gas (LNG), reducing carbon emissions to almost zero.
- Hydrogen is considered the cleanest fuel. This emits only water and oxygen.
- It is quieter compared to conventional diesel trucks while delivering the same performance. Its operating cost is also less.

**The combustion principle in H2-ICE is as follows:**

- **$2H_2 + O_2 \rightarrow 2H_2O$**
- Two hydrogen atoms combine with one oxygen atom to form water. The heat energy released during this reaction is used to ignite the spark plug.
- The first H2-ICE was developed by Francois Isaac de Rivaz in the year 1806. It ran on a mixture of hydrogen and oxygen.

**3. India ranks first with 24 percent contribution to global milk production ( Feb. 8, 2023 )**

**India** is the **world's largest milk producer**, contributing **24 per cent** to **global milk production** in the year 2021-22, according to production data from the **Food and Agriculture Organization Corporate Statistics Database (FAOSTAT)**.

**An overview of the news**

- India's milk production has registered a growth of **51 per cent** during the **last eight years** - 2014-15 and 2021-22 and has increased to **220 million tonnes** in the year 2021-22.
- The **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying** runs various schemes to benefit the economically weaker farmers in the dairy sector.
- The **National Program for Dairy Development** aims to enhance the quality of milk and milk products and increase the share of organised procurement, processing, value addition and marketing.

**National Programme for Dairy Development**

- It was launched in **February 2014** by merging three existing schemes- Intensive Dairy Development Programme, Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production and Assistance to Cooperatives.
- In **July 2021**, it was restructured with the objective of enhancing the quality of milk and milk products and increasing the share of organised procurement, processing, value addition and marketing for implementation of the program from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

## **Government Initiatives to the Dairy sector**

- **Rashtriya Gokul Mission** - launched in December 2014 with an outlay of Rs 2025 crore for the development and conservation of indigenous breeds through selective breeding.
- **National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP)** - It is a flagship scheme launched in September 2019 for control of Foot & Mouth Disease and Brucellosis by vaccinating 100% cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat and pig population.
- **Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development** - It has been approved for incentivizing investments by entrepreneurs, private companies, MSME, Farmers Producers Organizations for Dairy sector.

## **Indian Dairy Sector**

- India ranks first in milk production and contributes 24% to global milk production.
- **The top 5 milk-producing states are:** Uttar Pradesh (14.9%), Rajasthan (14.6%), Madhya Pradesh (8.6%), Gujarat (7.6%) and Andhra Pradesh (7.0%).
- Dairy is the single largest agricultural commodity contributing 5% of the national economy, witnessing 6.4% in the past 5 years.
- About 80 million people are directly or indirectly employed in the dairy industry.

## **4. For the first time, Indian-American woman elected as president of Harvard Law Review ( Feb. 7, 2023 )**

**Apsara A Iyer**, a second year student at **Harvard Law School**, has been elected as the **President of the prestigious Harvard Law Review**.

### **An overview of the news**

- Apsara A Iyer, 29, has become the **first woman** to be named to the post in the prestigious publication's **136-year-long history**.
- Iyer will replace **Priscilla Coronado**.
- Iyer was elected the 137th president of the Harvard Law Review, which was founded in 1887 and is one of the oldest student-run legal scholarship publications.
- The Law Review, operated under the Harvard Law School, is an organisation that reviews and selects articles published in the legal field.

### **Who Is Apsara Iyer?**

- She graduated from **Yale in 2016** with a B A in **Economics and Math, and Spanish**.

- She then did an **MPhil at Oxford** as a Clarendon Scholar because of his dedication to archeology and indigenous communities.
- In 2018, Iyer joined the **Manhattan District Attorney's Antiquities Trafficking Unit (ATU)** which tracks down stolen art and artifacts.
- She has previously been a contributor to the Law School's Harvard Human Rights Journal and the National Security Journal.
- She is also a member of the **South Asian Law Students Association**.

## **5. Visva-Bharati University to get the status of world's first "Living Heritage University" ( Feb. 7, 2023 )**

Visva-Bharati University is expected to get the status of the world's first "Living Heritage University" from UNESCO by April-May 2023.

### **An overview of the news:**

- Usually the heritage tag is given by UNESCO to the intangible monument. But for the first time in the world, a tangible university will be given the legacy tag.

### **Visva-Bharati University:**

- It was **established in the year 1921 by Rabindranath Tagore**. It is **located in Santiniketan, West Bengal**.
- Until the Visva-Bharati Society was registered as an organisation in May 1922, it was named after Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore.
- According to UNESCO, Visva-Bharati was inaugurated in the year 1922 as a cultural centre with explorations in arts, languages, humanities, music.
- The institute was granted the **status of a Central University in the year 1951** through a Central Act.
- It is the only university whose Vice-Chancellor is the Prime Minister.

### **About UNESCO:**

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialised agency of the United Nations (UN).
- It is also a member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UN SDG), a coalition of United Nations agencies and organisations that aims to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Headquarters:- Paris, France
- Director General: -Audrey Azoulay
- Founded - 16 November 1945 in London, United Kingdom

The organisation has -193 members and 11 associate members.

## **6. Bhupender Yadav Launched 'Save Wetlands Campaign' For Wetland Conservation ( Feb. 7, 2023 )**

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Bhupender Yadav** on 4 February launched the '**Save Wetlands Campaign**' in the presence of Chief Minister of Goa, Pramod Sawant.

### **An overview of the news**

- The campaign is based on a "**whole of society**" approach to wetland conservation.
- It enables positive actions for wetland conservation at all levels of society and involves all levels of society.
- This campaign will provide an opportunity to sensitise people about the value of wetlands, increase the coverage of wetlands and citizen participation for wetland conservation in the years to come.
- During the occasion two publications were also released '**India's 75 Amrit Dharohar- India's Ramsar Sites Factbook**' and '**Managing Climate Risks in Wetlands - A Practitioner's Guide**.
- The factbook provides information on **75 Ramsar sites**, including their value, the threats they face and management arrangements in place.
- The Practitioner's Guide on Climate Risk Assessment provides step-wise guidance on the integration of adaptation and mitigation responses into **wetland management planning**.

### **Number of Wetlands Sites in India**

- There are a total of **75 wetland sites** in India that are included in the **Ramsar sites**.
- About **49 wetland sites** in India have been included in Ramsar sites in the last **9 years**.
- India's **13 lakh hectares of land** comes under Ramsar sites. The largest wetland site in India is the **Sundarbans site**.
- The theme of this year's Wetland Day is '**It's time for wetlands restoration**'.

## **7. Agriculture Ministry signs MoU to develop national level digital extension platform ( Feb. 7, 2023 )**

The **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** signed an MoU in New Delhi on 6 February with **Digital Green** under a public-private partnership framework to build a **national-level digital extension platform**.

### **An overview of the news**

- The platform will operate a digital library having material available in **different languages and in different formats** which will be helpful to the extension functionaries.
- Through this material will also be available to the **farmers**. The proposed digital platform will make the **extension system** more effective.
- Through this, skill development of the network of people associated with the areas of **fisheries, agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry and rural livelihood mission** will also be done through certified online courses.
- Through this, farmers will be linked to the strong base of the digital agricultural environment being created by the government.

### **Digital Green**

- It is an **award winning social enterprise**.
- It is leveraging modern technology to help small and marginal farmers increase their productivity and income, strengthen their agency, and build community-level resilience.
- It was founded by **Rikin Gandhi**, a technocrat and a social development enthusiast.
- It is working with the State Governments in **Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**.
- It is serving more than **25 lakh farmers** and has increased the capacity of more than 4000 front line workers.

### **8. “Yaya Tso” declared as Ladakh's first Biodiversity Heritage Site ( Feb. 7, 2023 )**

Recently **Yaya Tso** has been declared as the **first Biodiversity Heritage Site of Ladakh**.

#### **An overview of the news:**

- **Yaya Tso is a lake** situated at an **altitude of 4,820 metres in Ladakh** which is known as the paradise of birds.
- It is a nesting site for birds and animals such as bar-headed goose, black-necked stork and Brahminy duck. It is one of the highest breeding grounds of black-necked stork in India.
- Yaya Tso Lake has been declared as the first Biodiversity Heritage Site of Ladakh under Biodiversity Act by Chumathang Village Panchayat, Biodiversity Management Committee in association with Secure Himalaya Project.

### **Secure Himalaya Project:**

- It is a scheme of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.
- It was launched in the year 2017 in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).
- This is a 6 year project and will be functional till the year 2023.
- The main objective of this project is to conserve snow leopards in the area.
- Under this project, 4 Himalayan states of Jammu and Kashmir (now Union Territory), Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim come.

### **Biodiversity Heritage Site:**

- Biodiversity Heritage Sites are areas that contain unique, vulnerable ecosystems in terrestrial, coastal and inland waters and wild species with rich biodiversity, as well as endemic, rare, threatened and keystone species.
- As per Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, State Governments are empowered to notify, in the Official Gazette, areas of biodiversity importance as Biodiversity Heritage Sites, in consultation with local bodies.

### **India's first BHS:**

- **India's first Biodiversity Heritage Site was declared in 2007 at Nallur Tamarind Grove in Bengaluru, Karnataka.**
- Recently the Tamil Nadu government has declared Arittapatti in Melur block of Madurai district as Tamil Nadu's first and India's 35th Biodiversity Heritage Site.

### **Recently added 5 BHS:**

- Debari or Chabimura in Tripura (September 2022)
- Betling Shib in and around Tripura (September 2022)
- Hejong Tortoise Lake in Assam (August 2022)
- Borjuli Wild Rice Site in Assam (August 2022)
- Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh (July 2022)

## **9. National School of Drama to organise the 22nd edition of the Bharat Rang Mahotsav ( Feb. 7, 2023 )**

**National School of Drama (NSD)** will organise the **22nd edition of Bharat Rang Mahotsav (BRM)** from February 14 to 26, 2023.

### **An overview of the news**

- This International Theater Festival will be held in **Delhi, Rajahmundry, Jaipur, Ranchi, Jammu, Guwahati, Srinagar, Bhopal, Nashik and Kevadia.**
- The closing ceremony will be held on February 26 at **Kevadia.**
- This will be the first BRM after a break of two years due to Covid.
- The 22nd Bharat Rang Mahotsav will see a scintillating display of plays and cultural performances, panel discussions on several topics of global and strategic importance of theatre in a global perspective.
- The plays will be performed in **16 different Indian languages.**

### **Bharat Rang Mahotsav**

- Bharat Rang Mahotsav was established two decades ago by the National School of Drama to encourage the development of theater across the country.
- It hosts theater companies from around the world, and is the **largest theater festival in Asia.**
- It aims to strengthen international tie-ups and cultural exchange programs with other nations.
- It creates a platform to know more about theater traditions across the country.

### **10. First G20 Tourism Working Group meeting at Dhordo in Kutch region of Gujarat ( Feb. 7, 2023 )**

As part of India's G20 Presidency, **Gujarat** is hosting the **first Tourism Working Group (TWG) meeting** at **Dhordo Tent City in the Rann of Kutch** from 7 February.

### **An overview of the news**

- Union Tourism Minister **G Kishan Reddy**, Union Fisheries Minister **Purushottam Rupala** and Chief Minister **Bhupendra Patel** will officially inaugurate the meeting.
- The participants will be senior representatives from G20 member states, invited countries and international organisations.
- This will be the second G20 event in the state after the '**Business 20 Inception**' event held in **Gandhinagar** last month.

### **First Global Tourism Investors' Summit (GTIS)**

- The Ministry of Tourism will organise the **first Global Tourism Investors Summit (GTIS)** in April/May 2023 in **New Delhi.**



- The aim of the conference is to attract global investment in the Indian tourism and hospitality sector along with investments in tourism infrastructure, technology, skill development, startups and more.

**Five priority areas in the tourism sector**

- **Green Tourism** -Greening of the tourism sector of India for a sustainable, responsible and resilient tourism sector.
- **Digitalization** -Harnessing the power of digitalization to promote competitiveness, inclusion and sustainability in India's tourism sector.
- **Skills Development** -Empowering youth with skills for jobs and entrepreneurship in the tourism sector.
- **Tourism MSMEs** -Nurturing tourism MSMEs. Startups and the private sector to unleash innovation and dynamism in the tourism sector.
- **Destination Management** -Rethinking the strategic management of destinations towards a holistic approach that delivers on the SDGs.