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1. 1,800 Bangladeshi Civil Servants to be trained at NCGG by 2025 (Oct. 14, 2022)

The **53rd Capacity Building Program** for Civil Servants of **Bangladesh** was inaugurated on 11 October 2022 at the **National Center for Good Governance** (NCGG) in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand.

Important facts

- Under this, 1,800 Bangladeshi civil servants will be trained by India under a capacity building program by **2025.**

- Before 2019, 1500 civil servants of Bangladesh have been trained at NCGG.

- It is the only institute in the country which has trained around 1,700 field level officers of Bangladesh Civil Service including Assistant Commissioners, SDMs and Additional Deputy Commissioners etc.

About National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG)

- It was set up in 2014 by the Government of India as an apex institution in the country.

- It is governed by a governing body headed by the **Cabinet Secretary.**

- Its other members include secretaries of various departments of the Government of India.

- It focuses on good governance, policy reform, training and capacity building, and also acts as a think tank.

- It has undertaken capacity building of civil servants from several countries in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs.

- It has trained civil servants from **15 countries** such as Bangladesh, Kenya, Tanzania, Tunisia, Seychelles, Gambia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Laos, Vietnam, Bhutan, Myanmar and Cambodia.

- It helps in initiating governance reforms through study, training, knowledge sharing and promotion of good ideas.

2. Living Planet Report 2022 (Oct. 14, 2022)

Recently the **Living Planet Report 2022** has been jointly released by the **World Wildlife Fund and the Zoological Society of London.**

Important facts

- According to this report, the global wildlife population has **declined by 69%** between **1970 and 2018.**

* The report has been prepared by tracking about **32,000 organisms** of more than **5,230 vertebrate species** between 1970 and 2018 in the 'Living Planet Report'.

* The Living Planet Index has been used to calculate the **decline in vertebrate species** in the Living Planet Report.

'Living Planet Index'

• It assesses the state of biodiversity of the world based on population trends of vertebrate species in terrestrial, freshwater and marine habitats.

• It is issued by the **Institute of Zoology (Zoological Society of London).**

Other key findings of the report

• According to this report, **Latin America and the Caribbean region** that hosts the **Amazon rainforest** saw the highest wildlife decline of **94 percent** between 1970 and 2018.

• **Africa** recorded the **second biggest decline** with 66 percent, followed by the Pacific (55 percent).

• **North America and Europe** recorded declines of **20 percent and 18 percent**, respectively.

• The population of freshwater species has declined by **83 percent.**

3. 9th World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo (Oct. 14, 2022)

Union Minister of AYUSH **Sarbananda Sonowal** inaugurated the **Curtain Raiser** (a small event that happens before a bigger one and is a preparation for it) for the **9th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC) and Arogya Expo** in **Panaji** on 13 October.

Important facts

• The event will be held in Goa from **December 8 to December 11, 2022.**

• The event is supported by the Central Government and State Governments as well as the Union Ministry of AYUSH.

• **The four-day event** will see participation from over 5000 Ayurveda stakeholders – industry stalwarts, practitioners, traditional healers, academics, students, drug makers, medicinal plant growers as well as marketing strategists from across the globe.

• Due to the efforts of the Government of India, the market turnover of AYUSH sector has grown from USD 3 billion to more than USD 18 billion in the last 8 years.

• Every year on **October 23, Ayurveda Day** is celebrated by the Ministry of AYUSH on **Dhanwantri Jayanti.**

• The motto of this year's celebration is "**Har Din Har Ghar Ayurveda" (Ayurveda Everyday, Ayurveda Everywhere).**

- All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi is the nodal agency for the implementation of this programme.

- Speaking on the occasion, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said that Goa is planning to become a premier Ayurveda and Health Tourism Center based on several initiatives.

4. 70th Standing Committee meeting of National Board for Wildlife (Oct. 14, 2022)

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister **Bhupender Yadav** chaired the **70th Standing Committee meeting** of the **National Board for Wildlife** on 13 October, 2022.

Important facts

- Various policy matters related to wildlife conservation and protection of **Great Indian Bustard** were discussed in the meeting.

- During the meeting the state governments of **Gujarat, Karnataka and Maharashtra** were requested to submit proposals for setting up conservation breeding centres for Great Indian Bustards in their respective states.

- Considering the need for uninterrupted mobile connectivity in **nine tribal villages in the Narmada and Vadodara** districts of Gujarat and the nearby villages of the **Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary** in Uttar Pradesh, the Standing Committee recommended the construction of telecom towers and the laying of optical fiber cables.

- The committee also recommended the construction of a **bridle track** from Rambara to Garud Chatti in Uttarakhand.

- The committee has also recommended the development of **ropeway** between Sonprayag to Kedarnath Dham in Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand for the convenience of thousands of pilgrims visiting Kedarnath during Kedarnath Yatra.

About National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)

- It is a **statutory Board** constituted in 2003 under the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.**

- It is presided over by the **Prime Minister.**

- It is responsible for promoting the conservation and development of wildlife and forests.

- This board performs the role of **'advisory'** and advises the state governments on policy making for the conservation of wildlife.

- The Standing Committee of NBWL is chaired by the **Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.**

5. External Affairs minister S.Jaishankar to visit Egypt on his first official tour (Oct. 13, 2022)

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, External Affairs Minister **Dr S.Jaishankar** will be on his **first official visit** to Egypt from 15-16 October 2022. He is going there on the invitation of Egypt's Foreign minister **Sameh Hassan Shoukry**. According to the ministry both the leaders will discuss a range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

India and Egypt traditionally enjoy warm and friendly relations underpinned by historical and cultural linkages. India is trying to deepen its relation with Egypt.

 Recently in the month of September Defence minister Rajnath Singh was on a visit to Egypt to deepen defence ties.

 Both countries are celebrating **75 years of establishment of diplomatic relations this year**.

Egypt has been invited as a 'Guest Country' during India's Presidency of G-20 in 2022-23.

Economic relations

Egypt has been one of India's largest trading partners in Africa and the promotion of bilateral trade, commerce and investments will be one of the focus areas during the visit.

India - Egypt bilateral trade touched a record high at US$ 7.26 billion during the financial year 2021-22.

Indian investment in Egypt exceeds US$ 3.15 billion. Over 50 Indian companies are actively present in Egypt in a range of sectors like manufacturing, chemicals, energy, infrastructure, retail etc.

Arab Republic of Egypt

It is an Arab country which is located on the African continent.

President: **Abdel Fattah al-Sisi**

Capital**: Cairo**

Currency: **Egyptian pound**

6. Meenaskshi Lekhi leads Indian delegation at the 6th CICA Summit meeting at Astana (Oct. 13, 2022)

Union Minister for External Affairs **Meenaskshi Lekhi** led the Indian delegation at the 6th Conference on Confidence Building Measures and Interaction in Asia (CICA) summit held on 12-13 October 2022 at the Kazakhstan capital, **Astana**.

Replying to the Statement of the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif on Kashmir she said that Pakistan is misusing the CICA for propagating malicious propaganda against India. She said that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India.

Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

The Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is a multi-national forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.

The idea of convening CICA was first proposed by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan **Nursultan Nazarbayev**, on 5 October 1992, at the 47th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

27 countries including India, China, and Pakistan are members of CICA.

Summit meetings of CICA

The First summit meeting was held in **Almaty, Kazakhstan** on 4 June 2022. It was attended by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The second CICA summit was held in **Almaty, Kazakhstan** on June 17, 2006

The third CICA Summit was held in **Istanbul, Turkey** on 8 June 2010

The Fourth CICA Summit, was held in **Shanghai, China** on 21 May 2014

The Fifth CICA Summit was held in **Dushanbe, Tajikistan,** on 15 June 2019.

7. IAEA chief Rafael Gross calls for protecting Zaporizhzhia nuclear power in a meeting with President Putin in Russia (Oct. 13, 2022)

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael **Gross** met the Russian President **Vladimir Putin** in **St Petersburg**, amid concern over the safety of the Russian-held Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Ukraine.

Rafael Gross met Putin after his meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv last week.

Rafael Gross called for setting up a protection zone around the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear power plant and asserted that they cannot lose any more time. He emphasised that Russia and Ukraine must do everything to help in ensuring that a nuclear accident does not occur during the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine.

Concern over the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant

The 6000 MW Zaporizhzhia nuclear power complex is the **largest European nuclear power complex** which has been occupied by the invading Russian forces since early March 2022.

The area has been heavily fortified by the Russian military and the Ukrainian forces are also launching a counter attack. This has led to the fear that the nuclear complex could be hit in an attack which could lead to a nuclear catastrophe in the area.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

The IAEA was set up in 1957 as an agency of the United Nations.

The IAEA was set up to work with the member countries and multiple partners worldwide to promote safe, secure and peaceful nuclear technologies.

The International Atomic Energy Agency is the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical co-operation in the nuclear field.

Member Countries: **175**

The IAEA headquarters is at **Vienna, Austria** and it has two regional offices located in Toronto, Canada and Tokyo, Japan,

Director General: **Rafael Gross**

8. Two day conference of Power and renewable energy ministers of States (Oct. 13, 2022)

Power Ministry to hold a **two day conference of Ministers of Power and New & Renewable Energy** of States and Union Territories in **Udaipur, Rajasthan** on 14 October 2022.

Important facts

- The two-day conference will discuss the emerging issues in the power sector.

- The conference will be inaugurated by **Union Energy Minister RK Singh.**

- The conference is expected to deliberate on strengthening the power sector with a focus on energy conservation, renewable energy and reforms in the power sector.

- In the conference, discussions will also be held on ensuring round the clock power supply through investments, feasibility of state power distribution companies, smart metering, rights of consumers and future power systems.

Agenda of discussion

- Viability of DISCOMs

- Smart Metering

- Renewable Energy and Storage

- Power Sector Reforms

- Ensuring 24 x 7 power supply through timely investment

- Rights of Electricity Consumers

- Future power system in the year 2030

- Energy Conservation

9. World's first space tourist Dennis Tito to ride to moon again on SpaceX (Oct. 13, 2022)

World's first space tourist, **Dennis Tito**, has signed up with the Elon Musk Company SpaceX, to fly around the Moon aboard the Starship rocket.

The SpaceX Company on 12 October 2022 said that the rocket will take Tito and his wife, Akiko, within 200km (125 miles) of the far side of the Moon without landing on its surface. The date of the launch has yet to be announced as the Starship is yet to be tested.

Dennis Tito, an American engineer and entrepreneur became the first human space tourist to visit the International Space Station in 2001.

He was launched onboard a Russian rocket with the help of US-based Space Adventures in 2001.

Few companies in the world are striving to make space travel a reality. They are **SpaceX** , Richard Branson-founded **Virgin Galactic SPCE.N**, and **Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin** which currently offers suborbital joyrides that hit an altitude of about 106km (66 miles) above the Earth.

90 year old American actor, **William Shatner**, who played the role of Captain James T Kirk on the TV series Star Trek, became the **oldest person** to ride a rocket into space when he travelled on a Blue Origin flight last year.

Human Space Flight

The first person to go into space was **Yury Gagarin** of the Soviet Union on 12 April 1961 onboard the Vostok Rocket.

The first woman to go into space was **Valentina Tereshkova** of the Soviet Union on 16 June 1963 onboard the Vostok 6 Rocket.

The first American to go into space was **Alan Shepard** in 1961.

Wing Commander **Rakesh Sharma** is the only Indian to go into space. He was part of the Soviet mission aboard Soyuz T-11 on 3 April 1984.

10. Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022 gets Cabinet approval (Oct. 13, 2022)

The Union Cabinet on 12 October 2022 has approved the **Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022.**

Important facts

- This bill has been brought to amend the **Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002.**
- The aim of the amendment bill is to strengthen the cooperative movement in the country.
- The amendment to the Act will improve governance, increase transparency and accountability and reform the electoral process in multi-state cooperatives.

Election authority will be constituted to ensure fair, free and timely elections.

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• This amendment is an attempt to improve the ease of doing business and bring in more transparency.

Highlight of the bill

- The Bill includes provisions relating to representation of **women** and members of the **Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes** on the boards of multi-state cooperatives.

- The bill will include provisions of the **97th** Constitutional Amendment.

- The Constitution (97th Amendment) Act, 2011 deals with the cooperative societies operating in India.

- The bill will expand the composition of the board and ensure **financial discipline**, apart from enabling multi-state cooperatives to raise funds.

- The Bill has specific provisions for the establishment of a Co-operative Election Authority, a Co-operative Information Officer and a Co-operative Ombudsman.

- There is a provision to ban the offenders for three years to bring more electoral discipline.

- The Bill provides for bringing in selected directors with experience in the fields of banking, management, cooperative management and finance.

Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002

- Co-operative is a state subject, but there are many societies such as sugar and milk, banks, milk unions etc. whose members and areas of operation are spread over more than one state.

- This act was passed to govern the multi state cooperative societies.

- For example, the **Karnataka-Maharashtra** border has most of the sugar mills that procure sugarcane from both the states.

- **Maharashtra** has the highest number of such cooperative societies followed by **Uttar Pradesh and New Delhi.**