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1. For the first time, India votes against Russia in UNSC during procedural vote on Ukraine (Aug. 27, 2022)

India for the first time on August 24 voted against Russia during a “procedural vote” at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on Ukraine.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The UNSC held a meeting to take stock of the six-month-old Russia-Ukraine conflict on the 31st anniversary of Ukraine's independence.
- A procedural vote was requested regarding the participation of the Ukrainian President in the meeting held by video tele-conference.
- The **15-member UNSC** invited Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to address a meeting through a video tele-conference.
- This is the first time India has voted against Russia on the Ukraine-Russia issue since Russian military action began in February.
- So far, India has not participated in the UN Security Council on Ukraine due to the displeasure of the Western powers led by the United States.
- Western countries, including the US, have imposed major economic and other sanctions on Russia after the attack on Ukraine.
- India has so far not criticised Russia for its aggression against Ukraine.
- India has repeatedly called on Russia and Ukraine to return to the path of diplomacy and dialogue.
- India has also expressed its support for all diplomatic efforts to end the conflict between the two countries.

About UNSC :

- It was established in 1945 by the United Nations Charter.
- It is one of the six major organs of the United Nations.
- The other 5 organs of the United Nations are - the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the Trusteeship Council, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice and the Secretariat.
- It has five permanent members - **China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States**, collectively known as the P5.
- India is currently a non-permanent member of the UNSC for a two-year term, which expires in December.
- Any one of them can veto a resolution.

Headquarters - **New York**

2. Argentina shows interest in Made in India 'Tejas' fighter aircraft (Aug. 27, 2022)

Argentina has shown interest to buy Tejas fighter aircraft manufactured in India under Make in India.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar acknowledged Argentina's interest in Tejas fighter aircraft and highlighted the importance of the proposal to enhance strategic cooperation of bilateral ties.
- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Argentina Minister of Foreign Affairs Santiago Cafiero jointly presided over a Joint Commission Meeting in Buenos Aires.
- During the meeting, both sides underlined the importance of bilateral relations in defence, nuclear energy, space, pharma, science and technology, yoga, climate change and economic cooperation.
- **Australia, Egypt, the United States, Indonesia and the Philippines** are also interested in Tejas jets.

TEJAS fighter aircraft :

- It is an 'Indigenous Light **Combat Aircraft**'.
- It has been jointly developed by '**Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)**' and '**Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**'.
- It is the smallest-lightweight single-engine 'Multirole Tactical Fighter Aircraft'.
- It has been designed with an aim to reduce India's dependence on Russia's MiG-21 fighter jets and move towards self-reliance in the field of national security.
- It is designed to carry a range of **air-to-air, air-to-surface weapons**.
- It is capable of refueling in the sky during the journey and has a maximum payload capacity of 4000 kg.
- It can achieve a maximum speed of Mach 1.8 and has a range of 3,000 km.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -

Types of tejas :

1. Tejas Trainer
2. LCA Navy

3. LCA Tejas Navy MK2
4. LCA Tejas Mk-1A

Argentina :

- President - **Alberto Fernández**
- Capital - **Buenos Aires**
- Currency - **Argentine peso**
- Official Language - **Spanish**
- location - **South America continent**

3. Arth Ganga Model (Aug. 27, 2022)

The Director General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga mentioned the Arth Ganga model during his virtual keynote address to the Stockholm World Water Week 2022 on 26 August.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

About Arth Ganga Model :

- PM Modi first introduced the concept of Arth Ganga Model during the first National Ganga Council meeting in Kanpur in 2019.
- During the meeting he urged for a shift from **Namami Gange** (cleaning of Ganga) to the model of Arth Ganga.
- Arth Ganga focuses on the sustainable development of the Ganga and its surrounding areas, by focusing on economic activities related to the river.
- The Arth Ganga model seeks to use economics to connect people to the river.
- The scheme seeks to contribute at least 3% of the GDP from the Ganga basin.

Features of Arth Ganga Model :

- **Zero Budget Natural Farming** - This includes chemical free farming on 10 km on either side of the river and promotion of use of cow dung as manure through Govardhan Yojana.
- **Monetization and Reuse of Sludge & Wastewater** - It envisages reuse of treated water for irrigation, industries and revenue generation for Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

- **Creation of livelihood opportunities** - For example- 'Ghat Mein Haat', promotion of local products, Ayurveda, medicinal plants, capacity building of volunteers like Ganga Praharis.
- **Increase public participation** - To enhance synergy among the stakeholders associated with the river.
- **Promotion of cultural heritage and tourism** - To promote cultural heritage and tourism in and around the Ganga through conduct of boat tours, adventure sports and yoga activities.
- **Improved water governance** - To promote institutional building by empowering local administration for better water administration.

4. Centre identifies 75 tribal districts for focused TB interventions (Aug. 27, 2022)

Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TB Division of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare organised a National Conference to publicise the features of 100 Day Assurance Campaign under 'Tribal TB Initiative' on 24th August at National Tribal Research Institute (NTRI), New Delhi.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- On the occasion of 75 years of India's independence, **75 overburdened tribal districts** have been selected to focus on TB in the coming months.

Three tier strategy for 75 districts :

1. Creating demand for TB services through community mobilisation, increasing awareness of TB symptoms, prevalence and treatment procedures, and continuing engagement with community influencers involved in the recovery process.
2. Improving the delivery of TB services by provision of customised solutions by leveraging PIPs and other sources of funding to bridge implementation gaps by augmenting TB testing and diagnostics infrastructure.
3. Reducing the risk of spreading the disease through active case detection campaigns.

Tribal TB Initiative :

- It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Central TB Division of the Ministry of Health, supported by USAID as a technical partner and by Piramal Health as an implementation partner.
- Through this initiative, the Assurance Campaign was launched on 7 January 2022 to detect active cases of TB in 174 tribal districts of India.
- The initiative was flagged off in Nandurbar district of Maharashtra.

- Under this, door-to-door screening of TB was done in 68,019 villages.
- Based on oral test of 1,03,07,200 persons during the campaign, 3,82,811 people were identified as having TB.
- Of these, 2,79,329 (73 per cent) samples were tested for TB and 9,971 people tested positive for TB.
- All of them were treated as per the protocol of the Government of India.

What is Tuberculosis (TB) ?

- It is caused by a bacterium called Mycobacterium tuberculosis.
- The bacteria generally attack the lungs, but TB bacteria can attack any part of the body, such as the kidneys, spine, and brain.
- Tuberculosis infections began increasing in 1985 because of the emergence of HIV.
- HIV weakens a person's immune system, so it can't fight the TB germs.

Transmission :

- Its bacteria spread from person to person through the air.
- When people with pulmonary (Lung) TB cough, sneeze or spit, they spread TB germs into the air.

Symptoms of TB :

- cough for three or more weeks
- coughing up bloody sputum
- Chest pain, pain with breathing and coughing
- weight loss, Fatigue, Fever and Night sweats etc.

Government Initiatives to Combat TB :

- National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Tuberculosis (TB) Elimination (2017-2025)
- Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY- financial support)
- TB Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign
- Universal Immunisation Programme
- The government of India aims to have a TB-free India by 2025.
- Revised National TB Control Program under National Health Mission
- Ending the TB epidemic by 2030 under United Nations SDG target 3.3.
- Every year World TB Day is celebrated on 24 March.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -***TB Burden :***

- Every year one crore people fall ill with TB and 1.5 million people die from TB every year.
- About half of all people with TB are found in eight countries – Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines and South Africa.
- It is one of the top 10 leading causes of death worldwide.
- India accounts for 30 percent of the world's TB cases, the highest in the world, followed by Indonesia and China.

5. Thailand constitutional court suspends PM Prayuth Chan-ocha (Aug. 25, 2022)

The constitution court of Thailand on 25 August temporarily suspended prime minister Prayuth Chan-ocha over allegations that he has continued in the post after the expiry of his term.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The court ruled that the PM would remain suspended until the allegations were investigated.
- According to the Constitution of Thailand, the prime minister cannot hold office for more than eight years.
- Prayuth Chan-ocha became prime minister after a coup in 2014, and eight years have passed since then.
- As military leader, Prayuth seized power after a coup in May 2014 and, in August 2014, appointed himself prime minister of the new military government.
- Hence the opposition argues that his term as prime minister began in August 2014 and ended this week.
- The court considered the petition and supporting documents and gave this decision on the basis of factual doubts.
- The court, with a majority of four out of five judges, with effect from 24 August 2022, said that Prayuth be suspended as prime minister until the court issues a final decision.
- Deputy Prime Minister Pravit Wongsuwan will currently be the interim head of government.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -***About Thailand :***

- Capital - Bangkok
- Official Language - Thai

6. Bangladesh-born Fahmida Azim wins 2022 Pulitzer prize (Aug. 25, 2022)

Bangladesh-born illustrator and story writer Fahmida Azeem, who works for America's online magazine 'Insider', has been selected for the Pulitzer Prize for the year 2022.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- He will be given this award for the category of Illustrated, Interpretive Reporting and Commentary.
- Fahmida Azeem has been selected to work on the persecution of Uighurs in China.
- Four journalists of Insider magazine including Fahmida Azeem have been selected for the award -
 - fahmida azeem
 - Anthony Dale Colonel
 - Josh Adams
 - Walt Hickey
- Fahmida Azeem was born in Bangladesh and later settled in America.
- His work has focused on themes of identity, culture and autonomy.
- His works are published in many international magazines like Glamour, Scientific American, The Intercept, Vice, The New York Times.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -

About Pulitzer Prize :

- The award was established in the year 1917 by provisions written in the will of Joseph Pulitzer.
- Columbia University administers the award.
- The Pulitzer Prize is considered America's most prestigious honour in the field of journalism.
- The award is given in a total of 22 categories. In which 15 categories of journalism and 7 categories of book, drama, music etc. are included.

- In 21 categories, each winner receives USD 15,000 and a certificate. A gold medal is awarded to the winner in the Public Service category of the award.
- Govind Bihari Lal was the first Indian to receive the Pulitzer Prize in 1937.

7. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky to be awarded the 'Liberty Medal' award for the year 2022 (Aug. 25, 2022)

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky has been nominated for the 'Liberty Medal' for the year 2022 by the 'National Constitution Centre'.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- He has been chosen for this honour for his heroic defence of freedom in the face of Russian tyranny.
- He will be honoured in October 2022 at the National Constitution Centre (NCC), Philadelphia, USA.

Other awards given to Volodymyr Zelensky :

- **Ronald Reagan Freedom Award 2022** - It is given to those who have made a great contribution to the cause of freedom.
- **John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award 2022**

About Liberty Medal Award :

- The '**Liberty Medal**' award is an annual award given by the NCC of the United States of America.
- It was founded by the Philadelphia Foundation.
- The major winners of this award are Nelson Mandela, Kofi Annan, Malala Yousafzai and Colin Powell.
- This award is given to a person of courage and conviction who has fought to protect the cause of freedom of the people.

8. Smart India Hackathon 2022 (Aug. 25, 2022)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the Grand Finale of Smart India Hackathon 2022 through video conferencing on 25 August.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The grand finale of the software edition of Smart India Hackathon-2022 is being held from **August 25-26** at **JSS Science and Technology University, Mysuru.**

- It aims to inculcate a culture of product innovation, problem-solving and out-of-the-box thinking among the students.
- The hardware edition of Smart India Hackathon (SIH) will be held from **August 25 to 29**.
- Smart India Hackathon is gaining in popularity as this fifth edition has witnessed a four-fold increase in the number of teams registered for the Hackathon.
- Around 15,000 students from a total of 2,033 winning teams of the Campus-Level Hackathon organised under SIH 2022 are participating in this national level Grand Finale.
- One lakh rupees will be awarded to the winner of each problem description in the Smart India Hackathon.
- Students will get prizes of Rs 1 lakh, Rs 75,000 and Rs 50,000 under the innovation category.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -

About Smart India Hackathon (SIH) :

- It is a nationwide initiative by the **Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell**.
- It provides students a platform to solve the pressing problems of the government, ministries, departments, industries, and other organisations.
- It has been acclaimed as one of the "**world's largest open innovation models**" and is held every year since 2017.
- It is organised in two formats, **software and hardware editions** for higher education students.

9. National Conference of Labour Ministers of all States and Union Territories (Aug. 25, 2022)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the National Conference of Labour Ministers of all States and Union Territories on 25 August via video conferencing.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The two-day conference is being organised by the **Union Ministry of Labour and Employment** on August 25-26 at **Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh**.
- The conference was presided over by Union Labour Minister **Bhupendra Yadav**.
- It has been named **Vision Shramev Jayate @2047**.
- The last session of the conference was held in **July 2015** under the chairmanship of the then Labour Minister **Bandaru Dattatreya**.

- This is the first Labour Ministers' Conference in the eight years of the Narendra Modi government's tenure.
- It is being organised in the spirit of **cooperative federalism** to discuss various important labour related issues.
- This conference will help in creating more synergy between the Central and State Governments in making better policies and ensuring effective implementation of schemes for the welfare of the workers.

Four Thematic Sessions of the Conference :

1. Integration of e-Shram portal for on-boarding social security schemes to make social security universal
2. 'Swasthya se Samridhi' for improving medical care through ESI hospitals run by state governments and integration with PMJAY
3. Formulation of rules under the four labour codes and the modalities of implementation of those rules
4. Vision 'Shramev Jayate @ 2047' To focus on equitable and equal working conditions, social security to all workers and other issues

10. 8th India-Brazil Joint Commission Meeting (Aug. 25, 2022)

External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar who is on his first ever visit to South America, co-chaired the 8th India-Brazil Joint Commission Meeting on 24 August with his Brazilian counterpart, Carlos Franca.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The two leaders held wide-ranging discussions on trade, investment and other consular domains.
- The two ministers signed agreements in the field of **broadcasting and taxation, exchanging views on BRICS, IBSA, UN, G20 and Ukraine conflict.**
- The Joint Commission meeting saw wide-ranging discussions on trade and investment, petroleum, biofuels, edible oils and minerals, health, pharma, traditional medicine, science and technology, agriculture and livestock, space, defence, terrorism and consular.
- The Brazilian Government released a **commemorative stamp** on the occasion of India's 75th Independence day.
- On 22 August, Jaishankar concluded his first ever official visit to Paraguay where he inaugurated the **newly-opened Indian Embassy** in the capital city Asuncion.

- He also unveiled a **bust of Mahatma Gandhi** in Paraguay on 21 August and appreciated the Asuncion Municipality's decision to locate it at the prominent waterfront of the city.
- He also visited the historic Casa de la **Independencia**, from where Paraguay's independence movement began more than two centuries ago.

India-Brazil Relations :

- Diplomatic relations were established between India and Brazil in 1948, both countries opened embassies in the same year.
- India's strategic partnership with Brazil continues to intensify with several high-level partnerships.
- President Bolsonaro was the chief guest at India's Republic Day parade in 2020.
- As strategic partners, India and Brazil have several institutional mechanisms to coordinate various aspects of their bilateral relations.
- This includes Joint Commission Meeting, Strategic Dialogue, Foreign Office Consultations, Trade Monitoring Mechanism, Economic and Financial Dialogue, Dialogue on Consular and Mobility Issues, Joint Defence Commission, Joint Committee on Science & Technology and India-Brazil Business Leaders Forum.
- In Brazil, the Brazil-India Parliamentary Friendship Group has been established.
- President - **Jair Bolsonaro**
- Capital - **Brasília**
- Official Language - **Portuguese**
- Currency - **Brazilian real**