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1. India-Nepal India gaurav Tourist Train (June 24, 2022)

The first India-Nepal Bharat Gaurav tourism train has been flagged off from Delhi's Safdarjung Railway Station.

- This tourist train will connect India and Nepal for the first time.
- 500 Indian tourists are on board this train.
- The Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train between India and Nepal will provide an opportunity to people across the country to visit the country's architectural, historical and cultural sites.
- The first journey of this train (Ramayana Circuit) covered the religious destination of Janakpur (in Nepal) apart from other popular destinations like Ayodhya, Nandigram, Varanasi, Sitamarhi, Chitrakoot, Prayagraj, Hampi, Panchavati (Nashik), Rameshwaram and Bhadrachalam.
- Bharat Gaurav Trains is an attempt to showcase the rich spiritual, cultural and historical heritage of India to its people.
- This unique idea was conceived by the Ministry of Railways.
- This train will return to Delhi after completing an 18 days journey.
- It will cover a distance of about 8000 km in the entire Ramayana tour.
- The theme of Bharat Gaurav Train is 'Dekho Apna Desh'.
- IRCTC has fixed a fee of Rs 62370/- per person for this 18 days journey.
- **About Bharat Gaurav Scheme**
 - In November 2021, Indian Railways introduced Bharat Gaurav trains which will be operated by private operators and will run on theme-based circuits.
 - Through this scheme operators have the "Right of Use" of railway rakes and infrastructure.
 - Under this scheme, private players and tour operators can buy trains on lease from the Railways and operate them on any circuit of their choice and decide the fares, route and quality of services.
 - Till now, railways used to operate the passenger section and goods section but now the tourism section has also been added under this scheme.
 - The scheme has been developed after extensive discussions with several state governments including Odisha, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and stakeholders.
 - The first train to be operated between Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) and Shirdi (Maharashtra) by a private operator under the "Bharat Gaurav" scheme was flagged off on June 14.

2. World Bank approves project to promote rainfed farming in Uttarakhand (June 24, 2022)

The World Bank has approved a Rs 1,000 crore project to take rainfed farming to new heights in the hilly regions of Uttarakhand.

- The Climate Responsive Rain-fed Farming Project will be implemented by the Watershed Department of Uttarakhand.
- The Uttarakhand government had proposed the project which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for funding by the World Bank.
- The project will be financed by the World Bank.
- Additionally, it will encourage eco-friendly agricultural practices so that youth and farmers have an economically viable option.

• About World Bank

- The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund were established together in 1944 during the Bretton Woods Conference in New Hampshire, USA.
- The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development is also called the World Bank.
- At present, 189 countries are members of the World Bank.
- Its headquarter is in Washington DC, the capital of America.
- **The World Bank Group is a group of the following five international organisations that provide economic-financial assistance and financial advice to member countries-**
 - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
 - International Finance Corporation
 - international development association
 - International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
 - Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
- President- David Malpass
- CEO- Anshula Kant

3. India is the fourth largest gold recycling country in the world : World Gold Council (June 23, 2022)

According to the World Gold Council (WGC) report, India has emerged as the fourth largest recycler in the world and the country has recycled 75 tonnes in 2021.

- The report was titled 'Gold Refining and Recycling'.
- According to the WGC's 'Gold Refining and Recycling' report, China tops the global gold recycling chart by recycling 168 tonnes of the yellow metal, followed by Italy with 80 tonnes and the US with 78 tonnes .
- According to the WGC report 'Gold Refining and Recycling' from 300 tonnes in 2013, India's gold refining capacity increased by 1,500 tonnes (500%) in 2021.
- Despite being the fourth largest recycler in the world, India recycles very little of its own gold stock - about 8% of the global scrap supply.
- In the last five years, 11% of the country's gold supply has come from 'old gold'.
- The names of China, America, Australia, South Africa and Russia are included in the 5 largest gold producing countries in the world, while on the other hand, India is far ahead of other countries in terms of gold consumption.
- According to one figure, out of 52 percent of the world's jewellery consumption, most of the consumption is done in India.

- **About World Gold Council**

- The World Gold Council is a market development organisation for the gold industry.
- It aims to boost the demand for gold and maintain it.
- Most of the world's gold mining companies are involved as its members.
- Its headquarter is in the United Kingdom.

4. Santhals community in spotlight after NDA named Draupadi Murmu as their Presidential candidate (June 23, 2022)

The Santhal community is back in the spotlight after the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) named Draupadi Murmu as their Presidential candidate for the upcoming election on July 18.

- Community leaders termed it the 'Golden Age' for the Santhals in the country.
- If elected, Draupadi Murmu will become India's first tribal woman president.

- **Who are the Santhals?**

- The Santhals are the third largest scheduled tribe community in India after the Gonds and Bhils.
- Santhal population is found in Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- Mayurbhanj, the home district of Draupadi Murmu, is one of the districts with the largest concentration of the tribe.
- In Odisha, apart from Mayurbhanj district, Santhals are found in Keonjhar and Balasore.
- The literacy rate of this tribe is very high as compared to other tribes of Odisha.

- Santhal's tribal language is called Santhali, which is written in a script called Ol chiki, developed by Santhal scholar Pandit Raghunath Murmu.

- **Other notable Santhal personalities**

- Hemant Soren, the Chief Minister of Jharkhand belongs to santhal tribes.
- Girish Chandra Murmu, the first Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, is now Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
- Mayurbhanj MP, Biseshwar Tudu, is a Santhal who is the Union Minister for Tribal Affairs and Jal Shakti.

5. PM Modi to attend G-7 summit in Germany (June 23, 2022)

PM Narendra Modi will visit Germany on 26 and 27 June to attend the annual summit of the G-7.

- Modi is attending the G7 summit following an invitation by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.
- Germany currently holds the presidency of the G7, a grouping of the seven richest countries in the world.
- Top leaders attending the summit include US President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, French President Emmanuel Macron and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.
- During the summit, Prime Minister Modi is expected to address two sessions covering environment, energy, climate, food security, health, gender equality and democracy.
- From Germany, he will travel to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on June 28 to condole the passing of former Gulf President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

- **The Group of Seven (G-7)**

- It includes Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- The group meets annually to discuss issues of common interest, such as global economic governance, international security and energy policy.
- It was formed in 1975 by the top economies of the time as an informal forum to discuss global issues.
- Canada joined the group in 1976, and the European Union began participating in 1977.
- It represents about 70% of the world economy.
- It currently accounts for about 40% of the global GDP.
- All the G7 countries and India are a part of G20.
- The G-7 became the G8 in 1997 when Russia was invited to join.

• It does not have a fixed headquarters.

6. Vanijya Bhawan and NIRYAT Portal launched by PM (June 23, 2022)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new premises of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry 'Vanijya Bhawan' on 23 June.

• NIRYAT Portal

- He also launched a new portal, NIRYAT (National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade).
- This portal has been developed as a one stop platform for the stakeholders to get all the necessary information related to India's foreign trade.

• Vanijya Bhawan

- Constructed near the India Gate, Vijayar Bhawan has been designed as a smart building, incorporating the principles of sustainable architecture with a special focus on saving energy.
- It will work as an integrated and modern office complex.
- It will be used by the two Departments under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce and Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

7. Defence Ministry approves 'BRO cafes' in border areas (June 23, 2022)

The Defence Ministry has approved setting up of facilities under the brand 'BRO Cafe' at 75 locations on various roads with Border Roads Organization (BRO) in 12 states and union territories.

- Its purpose is to provide basic amenities to tourists and to encourage economic activities in the border areas.
- These roadside establishments will be known as 'BRO Cafe'.
- It is proposed to provide parking for vehicles, food plazas, restaurants, separate public facilities for women, men and differently abled, first aid facilities etc. in these cafes.
- For this, the agreement will be for 15 years which can be extended for five more years later.
- This scheme will be done in collaboration with agencies on a licence basis.
- The agencies will build and operate BRO Cafe as per the guidelines given by the BRO.
- This will speed up the development of tourism as well as traffic in the border areas.
- For this, approval has been given in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Manipur, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

Border Roads Organization (BRO)

- It functions under the control of the Ministry of Defence since 2015.
- The Organisation was established on May 7, 1960.
- It is responsible for maintaining the road networks in the border areas of India.
- This organization plays an important role in the infrastructure development of the border areas of the country.
- One of the biggest infrastructural achievements of BRO is the construction of the longest highway tunnel, The Atal Tunnel in Himachal Pradesh.
- Director General Border Roads Organisation - Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry

8. Mongolia's Khuvsgul lake added to UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves (June 22, 2022)

Recently Mongolia's Khuvsgul Lakes National Park has been included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves by UNESCO.

- The decision was taken during the 34th session of the International Coordinating Council of Man and Biosphere Program in Paris, France.
- The Man and Biosphere Program is an intergovernmental scientific programme. It was established by UNESCO in the early 1970s.
- The primary objective of this program is to establish a scientific basis for enhancing the relationship between people and their environment.

• About Khuvsgul Lake

- Khuvsgul Lake is located in the northern Mongolian province of Khuvsgul near the Russian border.
- It is the source of 70% of Mongolia's fresh water and is situated at an altitude of about 1645 m above sea level which is 135 km long and 262 m deep lake.
- It is the second largest lake in Mongolia in terms of area.
- This lake is located about 200 km west of Lake Baikal.
- According to the ministry, a total of nine sites from Mongolia have been registered in the network so far.

9. Govt launches NIPUN scheme to train over 1 lakh construction workers (June 22, 2022)

The Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, launched the National Initiative for Skill Training of Construction Workers, an innovative project named 'Nipun', in New Delhi.

- The project 'NIPUN' (NIPUN) is an initiative of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under its flagship scheme of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAI-NULM).
- Under the scheme, more than 1 lakh construction workers will be trained through new skilling and upskilling programs, which will give them work opportunities abroad.
- **NIPUN Project**
- The Nipun project will enable construction workers to find better job opportunities, increase their wages and even for overseas placements, indicating a new ecosystem.
- The transformative impact of the National Urban Livelihoods Mission has certainly reduced the vulnerability of urban poor households by providing skills and employment opportunities to urban residents, especially the youth.
- The implementation of the NIPUN project is divided into three parts, training through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) at construction sites, training through fresh skilling by plumbing and infrastructure, and international placement through industries, builders and contractors. .

10. 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Summit - 2022 (June 22, 2022)

26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Summit 2022 organised on 20-25 June 2022, in Kigali, Rwanda.

- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar attended the meeting.
- The meeting had been postponed twice due to Covid-19 pandemic.
- During the meeting, leaders of Commonwealth member states will deliberate on global challenges such as climate change, food security and health.
- **Theme** of the summit - **Delivering a Common Future - Connecting, Innovating, Transforming.**
- **About Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)**
- It brings together delegations from 54 countries in Africa, the Caribbean, the Americas, Europe, Asia and the Pacific.
- It aims to strengthen multilateral cooperation, explore new opportunities and tackle common challenges for the betterment of future generations.
- It is hosted alternately by different member countries.
- This meeting has been held Since 1971.
- **Members of the Commonwealth of Nations**
- The head of the Commonwealth is the Queen of Great Britain **Elizabeth II.**
- He received this title as a result of elections following the resignation of his father.

- The title of head cannot be inherited, so the new head of the Commonwealth of Nations is elected by voting at each meeting.
- The Commonwealth comprises **54 countries** of the world in all 6 continents.
- The members have a total population of 2.1 billion, which is about a third of the world's population.
- Of its total population, 1.17 billion live in India.
- After India, the next largest Commonwealth countries by population are Pakistan (176 million), Bangladesh (156 million), Nigeria (149 million).
- The land area of the Commonwealth of Nations accounts for about 21% of the total world land area.
- The largest Commonwealth nations by area are Canada, Australia and India.