

Current Affairs search results for tag: national-news

### **1. Four holy relics of Lord Buddha from Kapilvastu placed at Gandan Monastery in Mongolia ( June 15, 2022 )**

Four sacred relics of Lord Buddha were kept at the Gandan Monastery in Mongolia from Kapilvastu, India, to mark the Mongolian Buddha Purnima celebrated on June 14.

- Four sacred Kapilavastu relics brought from India by a delegation led by Union Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijju, and other relics from Mongolia will be displayed at Gandan for Buddhist devotees to visit till June 24.
- Four holy relics from India were brought to Mongolia on 13 June.
- A 25-member delegation led by Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijju has arrived in Mongolia with the holy relics.
- The main Buddha statue at Gandan Monastery was gifted to the people of Mongolia by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015 and was installed in 2018.
- The Kapilvastu relic is one of the 22 special relics housed in the National Museum of the Ministry of Culture.
- **What are the holy relics?**
- According to Buddhist belief, Buddha attained salvation at the age of 80 in Kushinagar (Uttar Pradesh).
- The Mallas of Kushinagar performed his last rites as a universal king.
- The relics from the funeral pyre were collected and divided into eight shares.
- It was distributed among the Licchavis of Vaishali, Sakyas of Kapilavastu, Ajathasatrus of Magadha, Mallas of Kushinagar, Mallas of Pava, Bullies of Allakappa, Koliyas of Ramagrama and a Brahmana of Vethadipa.
- Its purpose was to build stupas over the sacred relics.
- The stupas over the bodily remains of Buddha (Sarrika Stupa) are the oldest surviving sacred places of Buddhism.
- Ashoka (272-232 BCE), an ardent follower of Buddhism, is believed to have built seven stupas.
- **Kapilvastu Relics**
- The discovery of an inscribed coffin at the stupa site at Piprahwa (near Siddharthnagar in Uttar Pradesh) helped identify ancient Kapilavastu.
- The inscription on top of the coffin mentions the relics of the Buddha and his community, the Shakyas.
- Records from the Union Ministry of Culture show that this discovery was followed by several explorations.

- The excavation of the stupa by the Archaeological Survey of India in 1971-77 led to the discovery of two other relic coffins containing 22 sacred bone remains, which are now under the supervision of the National Museum.
- This was followed by the discovery of more than 40 terracotta ceilings which establish that Piprahwa was the ancient city of Kapilvastu.

## **2. First National Conference of Chief Secretaries begins in Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh ( June 15, 2022 )**

A three-day first National Conference of Chief Secretaries is being organized in Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh from 15th June.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will preside over the first National Conference of Chief Secretaries.
- More than 200 participants representing the Central Government, all States/UTs and domain experts will participate in the conference.
- Conference will focus on the fast and sustained economic growth in partnership with the States.
- This conference will lay the foundation for collaborative action for sustainable agriculture, employment generation, education, ease of living and higher development with self-reliance.
- The conference will lay emphasis on the development agenda and implementation and will lay down a roadmap for cohesive action to achieve the aspirations of the people.
- The concept and agenda of the conference has been prepared after more than 100 rounds of talks in six months.
- The result of the conference will be discussed later in the Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog, in which Chief Ministers and Administrators of all the States and Union Territories will be present.
- Thereafter an action plan will be finalized with broad consensus at the highest levels.
- **Three themes identified for detailed deliberations-**
  1. Implementation of the National Education Policy
  2. Urban governance
  3. Crop diversification and achieving self-sufficiency in oilseeds, pulses and other agri-commodities.

## **3. 38th India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol in Andaman Sea and Straits of Malacca ( June 14, 2022 )**

The 38th India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) is being conducted from June 13 to 24 2022 in the Andaman Sea and Straits of Malacca.

- **About India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol**

- It is the first post pandemic Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) between the two countries.
- The navies of both the countries have been operating CORPAT along their International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) since 2002.
- This has helped in building understanding and interoperability between the two navies.
- It has facilitated measures to prevent and suppress illegal fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery and piracy etc.
- India and Indonesia have enjoyed particularly close ties, which include a broad spectrum of activities and interactions that have strengthened over the years.
- This CORPAT contributes to the strong ties between the two countries in the Andaman Sea and the Straits of Malacca.

- **Aim of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol**

- Keeping the Indian Ocean Region safe for commercial shipping, international trade and conduct of legitimate maritime activities.

- **Other Exercises between India and Indonesia**

- **Garuda Shakti** - A joint military exercise
- **Samudra Shakti** - A bilateral maritime exercise

#### **4. Russia overtakes Saudi Arabia to become India's second largest oil supplier ( June 14, 2022 )**

Russia has overtaken Saudi Arabia to become India's second largest oil supplier after Iraq.

- Indian refiners bought about 25 million barrels of Russian oil in May, which is more than 16% of all Russian oil imports.
- India is the world's third largest oil importer and consumer.
- Iraq remained India's top oil supplier in May and Saudi Arabia is now the third largest supplier.
- India has taken advantage of concessional prices to increase oil imports from Russia at a time when global energy prices are rising.
- After the US and China, India is the world's third largest oil consumer, importing more than 85% of its oil.

- **Largest Oil Producer countries in the world**

1. United States

- Russia
- 2.
3. Saudi Arabia
4. Canada
5. Iraq
6. China
7. United Arab Emirates
8. Brazil
9. Kuwait
10. Iran

## **5. PM will inaugurate the Sant Tukaram Shila Mandir at Dehu in Pune ( June 13, 2022 )**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Sant Tukaram Shila Mandir in the temple town of Dehu in Pune district on 14 June.

### **• About the Shila Mandir**

- The shila refers to a rock that is currently in the Dehu Sanatan temple complex, and has been the starting point of Wari, the annual pilgrimage to Pandharpur for centuries.
- Bhakti saint Tukaram sat on this rock for 13 consecutive days when challenged about the authenticity of the abhyangas he had written.

### **• About Sant Tukaram**

- Tukaram was born in Maharashtra. His full name was Tukaram Bolhoba Ambile.
- He was a 17th-century poet-saint who lived with Maratha ruler Shivaji Maharaj.
- His poetry was dedicated to Vithoba or Vitthala, an avatar of Vishnu (Hindu God).
- He is best known for his Marathi Abangas (dohas), a rich legacy of gathas (devotional poetry).
- He was also instrumental in laying the foundation of Maratha nationalism.
- He emphasised community based worship through spiritual melodies called Kirtans.

### **• The Warkari sect**

- Sant Tukaram and his works are at the heart of the Varkari sect spread across Maharashtra.
- His message about a casteless society and his denial of customs had given rise to a social movement.

• Sant Tukaram has credit for starting the Wari pilgrimage.

## **6. e-Vidhan system in Uttar Pradesh ( June 13, 2022 )**

A delegation of MLAs from Gujarat visited the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly on 9th June to learn about the e-Vidhan system for paperless proceedings which has been recently adopted by the UP State Legislative Assembly.

- Uttar Pradesh is one of the few state legislatures in India to have implemented the digital assembly system, and its last session was fully digitised.
- Earlier in May, a training program was organized to familiarize the delegates with the technology.

### **• What is the E-Vidhan System?**

- The E-Vidhan System is also called The National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA).
- It is a system to digitize the legislative bodies of all the Indian states and Parliament through a single platform.
- It consists of a website and a mobile app.
- House proceedings, starred/unstarred questions and answers, committee reports etc. will be available on the portal.
- By 2023, the proceedings of all the Legislative Assemblies, both the Houses of Parliament and the State Assemblies and Legislative Councils will be available on a single platform.

### **• Other states that implemented this system**

- Nagaland became the first state to implement NeVA, in March 2022.
- The Legislative Assembly of Himachal Pradesh implemented the pilot project of NeVA in 2014.
- Although both the houses of Parliament are not fully digital yet, governments across the world are moving towards adopting digital mode.
- In December 2021, the Government of Dubai became the world's first government to go 100 percent paperless.

### **• Significance**

- There has been a significant shift towards digitization by the government in recent years.
- NeVA aims to streamline the information related to various state legislatures and eliminate the use of paper in day to day functioning.
- The idea of "one nation one legislative platform" was mentioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November 2021.
- A digital platform provides the necessary technological boost to our parliamentary system and at the same time connects all the democratic units of the country.

**7. QS World University Rankings 2023 ( June 11, 2022 )**

In the 2023 University Rankings released by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the United States (US) has been ranked first, followed by the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom (UK) and Stanford University (US).

- **Indian Institute**

- Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (IISc) was ranked highest (155th), followed by IIT Bombay(172nd) and IIT Delhi(174th) respectively. Globally, the total number of Indian institutions in the top 1,000 has increased from 22 to 27.
- IISc Bangalore is the top research university in the world with a score of 100/100 for this metric.
- In addition, IISc Bangalore is the fastest growing South Asian University in the QS World University Rankings Top-200.
- Apart from IISc, eight IITs (Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Roorkee, Guwahati, Indore) have been ranked in the top 500 globally.
- The report shows that India's presence in the top 500 category proves that India's IITs are run like other IITs across the world.

- **QS World University Rankings 2023: List of Top Universities in India**

<b>National Rank</b>	<b>Name of the University</b>	<b>Global Rank</b>
1	IISc Bangalore	155
2	IIT Bombay	172
3	IIT Delhi	174
4	IIT Madras	250
5	IIT Kanpur	264
6	IIT Kharagpur	270
7	IIT Roorkee	369
8	IIT Guwahati	384
9	IIT Indore	396
10	Delhi University	521-30

**8. India's FDI rank rises to 7th position : UNCTAD ( June 11, 2022 )**

According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), India jumped one place to the 7th position among the top recipients of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the last calendar year (2021) despite a fall in FDI inflows into the country.

**• Key points of the report**

- Despite a 30% decline in 'foreign direct investment' (FDI) in the country, India is at the seventh position.
- The United States (\$367 billion) became the top recipient of FDI.
- China (\$181 billion) and Hong Kong (\$141 billion) also retained the second and third positions respectively in the list of FDI recipients.
- Among the top 10 FDI recipient economies, only India has seen a decline in inflows.
- However, outward FDI from India has increased by 43 percent to \$15.5 billion in 2021.

**• What is FDI?**

- Foreign direct investment or FDI is an investment made by a party of one country in a business or corporation operating in another country with the intention of earning long-term profits. Through FDI, foreign companies are directly involved in the day-to-day operations of another country.

**• About United Nations Convention on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**

- UNCTAD is a permanent intergovernmental body established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964.
- It is a part of the United Nations Secretariat.
- UNCTAD reports to the United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, but has its own budget, members and leadership.
- It is also a part of the 'United Nations Development Group'.

**9. BJP wins eight out of 16 Rajya Sabha seats while Congress bags five seats ( June 11, 2022 )**

The BJP won eight of the 16 Rajya Sabha seats in four states, while the Congress won five in a tight contest.

- Biennial elections to the Upper House of Parliament were held on June 10 for six seats in Maharashtra, four each in Karnataka and Rajasthan and two in Haryana.
- Winners from BJP include Union Minister Piyush Goyal, former state minister Anil Bonde and party leader Dhananjay Mahadik.
- NCP's Praful Patel, Congress' Imran Pratapgadi and Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut were also elected to Rajya Sabha.

- In Haryana, BJP candidate Krishan Lal Panwar and Independent candidate Kartikeya Sharma, have won the two Rajya Sabha seats.
- BJP got three seats and Congress got one seat from Karnataka.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, actor Jaggesh and MLC Lehar Singh Siroya have been elected to Rajya Sabha from BJP.
- Jairam Ramesh of Congress won the remaining one seat.
- The Congress won three of the four Rajya Sabha seats while one seat was won by the BJP In Rajasthan.
- Randeep Singh Surjewala, Mukul Wasnik and Pramod Tiwari are the winners from Congress.
- Ghanshyam Tiwari won a seat for the BJP in Rajasthan.
- **Important facts about Rajya Sabha**
- Article 80 of the Constitution provides provisions for members of the Rajya Sabha.
- Members - 245 - including 233 elected members and 12 nominated members
- Upper House of parliament strength cannot exceed 250
- Nominated members - nominated by the President of India in the field of art, literature, science and social service
- Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha - Vice-President
- Tenure of members - six years
- Elections to one-third seats are held every two years
- Process of election - members are elected indirectly by the people, that is, by the MLAs.
- Voting is by single transferable vote
- NOTA button is available in the Upper House polls

## **10. Russia supplies new fuel for Kudankulam reactors ( June 11, 2022 )**

Russia's Rosatom State Corporation has supplied the first batch of TVS-2M nuclear fuel, which is a more reliable and cost-effective nuclear fuel, to India for Units 1 and 2 of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP).

- Once the new TVS-2M fuel is in use, the reactor will start operating with a fuel cycle of 18 months.
- This means that the reactor, which has to be shut down every 12 months to remove spent fuel and insert new fuel bundles and associated maintenance, will now have to shut down every 18 months.
- **Benefits of TVS-2M fuel**



- TVS-2M fuel assemblies have several advantages that make them more reliable and cost-effective.
- The fuel combinations in the reactor core maintain their geometry.
- one TVS-2 M assembly contains 7.6% more fuel material than that of UTVS.
- Its main feature is the new generation anti-debris filter ADF-2, which protects the bundles from damage caused by debris (small objects in the reactor core).
- Operating in a longer fuel cycle also increases the economic efficiency of a plant.
- **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP)**
  - located - coastal Tamil Nadu
  - built by - India in joint-collaboration with Russia.
  - Construction on the plant began on 31 March 2002
  - it is India's Critical Information Infrastructure
  - It has an installed capacity of 6,000 MW of electricity