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1. Amidst controversy Amit shah inaugurates Hyderabad Liberation Day celebration (Sept. 17, 2022)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the year-long celebrations of Hyderabad Liberation Day at the parade grounds in Hyderabad, Telangana on 17 September 2022. However the celebration has become controversial after the Telangana Chief Minister announced to observe the day as [Telangana National Integration Day](#). The center move has also been criticized by the Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi.

Both the Chief Minister and Owaisi considers Centre's move as communal.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- Speaking on the occasion, Amit Shah said for the first time liberation day is being held officially on the land of Telangana after 75 years. He said some political parties feel ashamed to call September 17 Hyderabad Liberation Day as they still have fear of Razakars (Nizam's para military force) in their mind.
- Maharashtra Chief Minister **Eknath Shinde**, Karnataka Transport Minister Sriramulu and Union Culture minister Kishan Reddy participated in the event while **Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao** stayed away from the event.
- Telangana Liberation Day is observed on 17 September to mark the popular rebellion against the ruler of Hyderabad, Nizam after Independence. It subsequently led to the Police action by India, code named '**operation polo**' in 1948 and the Hyderabad princely state was merged with India.

2. AN-32 Transport Aircraft (Sept. 17, 2022)

To reduce its carbon footprint, the Indian Air Force (IAF) is planning to fly a modified AN-32 transport aircraft operating on 10% blended biodiesel for 200 flight hours in the next six months.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The aircraft flew on biodiesel mixed with **aviation turbine fuel (ATF)** for the first time in December **2018**.
- So far, one **AN-32** has flown 65 hours with **10% biofuel** mixture and the performance has been quite satisfactory.
- Another aircraft, the **Dornier**, is undergoing ground testing after being approved by the engine's original manufacturer Honeywell to use **50% biofuel**.
- The global aviation industry is one of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases that cause global warming.

- The **indigenous bio-jet fuel was first produced in 2013** by the CSIR-IIP laboratory in Dehradun, but could not be tested for commercial use on aircraft.
- This fuel is made from **Jatropha oil** procured from **Chhattisgarh Biodiesel Development Authority (CBDA)** and then processed at **CSIR-IIP, Dehradun**.

About AN-32 :

- It is a twin-engine, tactical light transport aircraft designed and manufactured by Antonov Design Bureau of Ukraine for the Indian **Air Force (IAF)**.
- The AN-32 is derived from the **AN-26 transport aircraft**.
- The current total number of AN-32 transport aircraft operating around the world is **240**.
- It can fly at a maximum speed of **530km/h** and its cruise speed is **470km/h**.
- It has **ten variants**.

3. India Discrimination Report 2022 (Sept. 17, 2022)

Oxfam India recently released the 'India Discrimination Report 2022'. The report highlights that women and marginalized communities face discrimination in the job market.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

Key Highlights of the report :

Labour force participation rate (LFPR) :-

- The labor force participation rate (LFPR) of women in India was just 25 per cent in 2021.
- It is considerably lower than Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa.
- Low participation was mainly due to gender discrimination in wages and opportunities.

Wage Gap :-

- Self-employed urban men earn 2.5 times more than their female counterparts.
- 83 percent of this pay gap is attributable to gender-based discrimination.
- In rural areas, the income gap between men and women is 93 percent due to gender discrimination.

Discrimination with Educational Qualification :-

- The employment status of women does not depend on their educational qualifications.

Social Norms :-

- A large section of qualified women is not available in the labor market due to family responsibilities.
- Women from well-educated and economically well-off households often withdraw from the labor force due to socio-cultural reasons.
- Women do not enter the labor market due to insecurities during travel and the need to go to office on time and due to family reasons.

Lack of salaried jobs :-

- 60 percent of urban men are engaged in salaried jobs or are self-employed, while among women this figure has come down to just 19 percent.

Status in SC, ST communities :-

- SC and ST women start working at an early age without any formal education due to poor socio-economic conditions.
- This means that more than educational qualification or age, social factors are the determinant factor for rural women to opt out or stay away from work.
- Individuals belonging to SC and ST communities earn Rs 5,000 less than the national average.

Oxfam India :-

- It is a organisation of people working to end discrimination and create a free and just society.
- It is a part of the Oxfam Global Confederation in which 21 countries are working together as partners to build a better world.

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5. SCO summit 2022 : India to host SCO summit next year (Sept. 17, 2022)

The SCO summit was held two years later in Samarkand, Uzbekistan on 15 and 16 September. The next meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State will be held in 2023 in India.

Agenda of the summit :

- The technological and digital divide, continued turbulence in global financial markets, instability in supply chains, increased protectionist measures and uncertainty in the global economy.
- Member States also highlighted the impacts of global climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, which have posed additional challenges to economic growth, social welfare and food security.

Samarkand Declaration :

- The leaders of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) signed the Samarkand Declaration at a meeting of the **Council of Heads of State**.
- The declaration states that the SCO will be headed by India for the next period.
- In the declaration, the member states supported the efforts of the countries of the region to ensure prosperity, peace and sustainable development.
- They advocated for strengthening the role of SCO in promoting stability and socio-economic development in the region.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The leaders stressed the need to adopt new approaches to promote more equitable and effective international cooperation and sustainable economic development.
- Member States expressed deep concern over the security threat posed by terrorism, separatism and extremism and strongly condemned terrorist acts around the world.
- They also resolved to take measures to contain the spread of terrorism, to eliminate terrorist financing channels.
- They supported the establishment of Afghanistan as a free, neutral, united, democratic and peaceful state, free from terrorism, war and drugs.
- Member States called for strengthening the effectiveness of the World Trade Organization as the principal forum for discussing the international trade agenda and adopting the rules of the multilateral trading system.
- Member States have decided to set up an expert working group on start-ups and innovation, poverty reduction and traditional medicine.

PM Modi's participation in the Summit :

- In the summit PM Modi said the Indian economy is expected to grow by 7.5 per cent this year and thus will be the highest among the largest economies in the world.
- PM Modi holds bilateral talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) :

- It is a permanent intergovernmental international organization.
- It was founded in **2001**.
- The **SCO Charter was signed in 2002, and came into force in 2003**.
- It is a Eurasian political, economic and military organization.
- Its aim is to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.
- China, Russia and four Central Asian states - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan - were founding members of the SCO.
- Its members include China, Russia, India and Pakistan, as well as 4 Central Asian countries - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.
- Official Languages - Russian and Chinese
- **Chairmanship - On the basis of rotation for a year by Member States**

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7. PM Narendra Modi releases 8 Cheetahs in MP's Kuno National Park (Sept. 17, 2022)

The first batch of cheetahs, translocated from Namibia to India, has been released into the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 17.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- Cheetahs (**5 females and 3 males**) have been brought from Namibia in Africa as part of '**Project Cheetah**'.
- Eight cheetahs were brought in a cargo plane to Gwalior as part of an intercontinental **cheetah translocation project**.
- Later, helicopters from the Indian Air Force transported the cheetahs from Gwalior Air Force Station to **Kuno National Park**.
- This is the first time in the world that a large carnivore has been transferred from one continent to another.
- The cheetahs have been brought under a memorandum of understanding signed earlier this year.

Reintroduction Action Plan :

- Reintroduction of a species means releasing it in an area where it is capable of surviving.
- Under the scheme, 50 cheetahs will be released in various national parks of the country over a period of 5 years.

Extinction of cheetahs :

- The last cheetah of the country was found dead in the year **1947 in Chhattisgarh** and in the year **1952** it was declared extinct in the country.
- Habitat loss, conflict with humans, poaching and high susceptibility to diseases are the major causes of their extinction.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -

About 'Project Cheetah' :

- This is a one of its kind project in which a species is being brought out of the country (from **South Africa / Namibia**) and restored to the country.
- The subspecies of the extinct cheetah in India was the **Asiatic cheetah (Acinonyx jubatus venaticus)** and the subspecies of the cheetah being brought back to the country is the **African cheetah (Acinonyx jubatus jubatus)**.
- Research has shown that the genes of both these subspecies are similar.

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9. 'Swachhta Hi Seva' (SHS) campaign (Sept. 17, 2022)

The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti launched a fortnightly campaign 'Swachhta Hi Seva' (SHS) on 16 September to accelerate efforts towards complete sanitation in rural India.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- Its objective is to accelerate the efforts being made towards total sanitation in rural India.
- This is a massive campaign for old waste cleaning and solid waste management activity.
- The campaign will culminate on **October 2**, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Major activities to be organized in villages under the campaign :

- Cleaning of old waste sites in villages.
- Construction of waste collection and segregation sheds/centres
- Keeping the areas around water bodies clean and planting trees around them
- Procurement of waste collection vehicles such as tricycles/e-carts (battery operated vehicles) through GeM
- Door to door collection of non-biodegradable waste such as plastic
- To create awareness about the ill-effects of Single Use Plastic (SUP) by organizing Gram Sabha meetings
- Promoting the 4 R's for Plastic Waste Management – Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

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