

Current Affairs search results for tag: national

### **1. Nirmala Sitharaman announces 'Millet Challenge' for startups ( Aug. 30, 2022 )**

**Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on August 27 announced 'Millet Challenge' for startups engaged in coarse cereals.**

#### **IMPORTANT FACTS -**

- Nirmala Sitharaman also announced Rs 25 crore funding for the University of Agricultural Sciences at Raichur, Karnataka under NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development).
- This amount will be used for value addition and capacity building to promote coarse cereals and for setting up of incubation centers for coarse cereals value chain and processing.
- She attended the Millet conclave 2022 which was held at the agricultural university, Raichur, Karnataka.

#### ***What is the 'Millet Challenge' for startups ?***

- NITI Aayog will soon announce this challenge for startups related to coarse cereals.
- In this, any startup providing solutions in **innovative ways** will be able to participate.
- The names of the winners will be announced before **December**.
- A basic grant of **Rs 1 crore** each will be given to three winners, **Rs 20 lakh** each to 15 selected candidates and **Rs 10 lakh** each to other 15 selected candidates.
- The Union Finance Minister asked the major millet processing companies to focus on Karnataka to make the state a brand in this sector.

#### ***About Millets :***

- Millets are **high nutrient cereal crops** and are classified as small seeded grasses.
- They include **jowar (sorghum), ragi (finger millet), korra (foxtail millet), arke (kodo millet), sama (little millet), bajra (pearl millet), chena/barr (proso millet) and sanwa (barnyard millet)**.
- India is one of the major producers of millets in the world with an estimated share of about **41%** in the global production.
- Major producers of millets are **Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Haryana**.
- Millet has been notified as a **nutritional cereal** by the government in April 2018.
- They are a rich source of **protein, fiber, minerals, iron, and calcium and have a low glycemic index**.

- The production of millets in India has increased by **16 % to 17.26 million tonnes (MT)** in the 2019-20 crop year (July-June) from 14.5 MT in 2015-16.
- In March 2021, India led a UN General Assembly resolution to declare **2023 as the International Year of Millets.**
- India's proposal was supported by **72 countries.**
- India is the **5th largest** exporter of Millets globally.

## **2. NASA postpones launch of Artemis 1 mission to Moon due to malfunctioning core stage engine ( Aug. 30, 2022 )**

NASA has postponed the launch of the **Artemis 1** mission to the Moon on August 29 due to a faulty core stage engine.

### **IMPORTANT FACTS -**

- The launch was postponed due to fuel leakage and engine problems.
- After many years of hard work, the US space agency was going to send its mission to the Moon.
- The mission is important because in view of its success, humans have to be sent to the moon in the future.
- Once launched, Artemis 1 will test the Orion spacecraft, which will orbit the Moon and one day take human crew members there.
- The cost of Artemis 1 is estimated at \$4 billion.

### ***What is Artemis 1?***

- It is named after the mythical twin sister of **Apollo, Artemis.**
- This spacecraft is the world's most powerful rocket, capable of carrying more payloads into deep space than any other vehicle.
- The first flight of the new **Space Launch System (SLS)**, Artemis 1 is a heavy-lift vehicle.
- Artemis 1 is an uncrewed mission.
- It will have three test dummies – **Helga, Zohar and Moonikin Campos** – equipped with sensors to measure vibrations, cosmic radiation and other conditions.
- During the six-week long mission, Artemis 1 and the capsule will cover a distance of about 65,000 km to the Moon.

### ***Why was the launch postponed?***

- The launch was postponed due to a fault in the RS-25 engine, which had to be mixed with liquid hydrogen and oxygen to condition it before launch.
- One of its engines was not bleeding as expected.
- The launch was postponed because the launch team was unable to resolve these issues.
- A crack was also visible on the side of the inner tank.

### ***About Artemis 1 mission :***

- For the first time in 50 years since the end of the Apollo program, the launch of Artemis 1 is an ambitious US mission to return astronauts to the surface of the Moon.
- The Artemis 1 launch will also be the first flight of NASA's 21st century moon-exploration program.
- With Artemis 1 on the surface of the Moon, NASA aims to demonstrate new technologies, business approaches and capabilities that are essential for future explorations, including Mars.
- The launch aims to further aid in the study of the Moon, its origin and history.

***ISRO's Moon Exploration Mission :***

- Chandrayaan 1
- Chandrayaan-2
- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) recently announced India's third lunar mission **Chandrayaan-3**, which will consist of a lander and a rover.

**3. First convocation of National Forensic Science University ( Aug. 29, 2022 )**

**Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah attended the first convocation of the National Forensic Science University (NFSU) in Gandhinagar on 28 August.**

**IMPORTANT FACTS -**

- More than one thousand students were awarded master's degrees during the ceremony.
- He also laid the foundation stone of the new southern campus of the university.
- He also inaugurated the Training and Skill Development Centre, an International Guest House at NFSU and three Centres of Excellence in Cyber Security, DNA Forensics and Investigative and Forensic Psychology.
- The three Centres of Excellence that have been set up will strengthen the students as well as the judicial system.
- These three centres will become major centres of research and development as well as teaching, training and consultancy and India will be the centre of the world in forensic science research.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -*****National Forensic Science University, Gandhinagar :***

- The Gandhinagar campus is the first campus of the National Forensic Science University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

- It has the status of Institute of National Importance, the first and only university in the world dedicated to forensic science.
- Gandhinagar Campus has the following Centres-

1. Center for International Relations Cyber Defence Center (CDC)
2. Cyber Defence Centre (CDC)
3. Center of Excellence for Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS)
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6. Centre for Futuristic Defence Studies
7. Forensic Innovation Centre
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## **5. Supertech's 40-storey Twin Tower in Noida demolished due to violation of construction laws ( Aug. 29, 2022 )**

**After a nine-year-long legal battle, the Supertech Twin Towers of Noida Sector-93 were turned into rubble on August 28.**

### **IMPORTANT FACTS -**

- It is part of the Emerald Court project of Supertech Ltd. Several violations were found regarding the construction of the tower and hence they were demolished.
- It is the tallest structure in India which is about **100 meters taller than Qutub Minar**, comprises about **850 flats** and is located in Sector 93A near the Noida-Greater Noida Expressway.

### ***Why were Noida's Supertech twin towers demolished ?***

- In November 2004, the New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (Noida) allotted a plot of land to Supertech in Sector 93A for the construction of a housing society, known as **Emerald Court**.
- The building construction plan was approved in **2005** under the **New Okhla Industrial Development Area Building Regulations and Directions, 1986**.
- The building plan allowed builders to construct a total of **14 towers** with ten floors each within a height of **37 meters**.

- Following revised regulations in December 2006, a new and revised plan was approved, which now includes the construction of two additional floors for the towers and a shopping complex.
- The authorities had now approved 16 towers and a shopping complex.
- As of 2009, 14 towers had been built.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -*****Court's Order :***

- In 2014, the Allahabad High Court ruled that the towers were illegal and ordered its demolition.
- Challenging this order, Noida Authority and Supertech approached the Supreme Court.
- On August 31, 2021, the apex court upheld the judgement of the Allahabad High Court and ordered the demolition of the buildings.
- The Supreme Court found the construction of the twin towers to be a violation of the minimum distance requirement.
- The court observed that the towers were constructed without complying with the building rules and fire safety norms.

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### **7. Africa adopt PEN-PLUS strategy against non-communicable diseases ( Aug. 27, 2022 )**

**Recently Africa has adopted a new strategy called the Pen-Plus strategy to promote access to diagnosis, treatment and care of serious non-communicable diseases (NCDs).**

#### ***Pen-plus strategy :***

- It is a regional strategy to address serious non-communicable diseases in first-level referral health facilities.
- The strategy aims to bridge the gap in access to care for patients with chronic and severe NCDs.
- It urges countries to establish standardised programs to combat chronic and serious non-communicable diseases to ensure that essential medicines, technologies and diagnostics are available and accessible in district hospitals.

**IMPORTANT FACTS -*****Non-Communicable Diseases :***

- Non-communicable diseases are medical conditions or diseases that are not spread by infectious agents.
- Non-communicable diseases are also known as chronic diseases because they are long-lasting and result from a combination of genetic, physiological, environmental and behavioural factors.
- NCDs include heart disease, cancer, diabetes, asthma etc.
- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), these cause 71% of deaths globally.
- The proportion of mortality due to NCDs in the African region ranges between 27-88%.

***Status of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in India :***

- About 58 million people in India die from NCDs every year (WHO report, 2015) or in other words 1 in 4 Indians are at risk of dying from NCDs before they reach the age of 70.
- Further it has been found that the duration of 'Disability-adjusted Life Years' (DALYs) due to NCDs has increased by 30% in the year 1990 to 55% in the year 2016 and the proportion of deaths due to it has also increased .
- NCDs (for all types of deaths) increased from 37% in 1990 to 61% in 2016.

**8. Anang Tal lake declared monument of national importance ( Aug. 27, 2022 )**

**A gazette notification has been issued to declare Anang Tal, located near Qutub Minar in Mehrauli, National Capital Territory of Delhi, as a national monument.**

**IMPORTANT FACTS -**

- Thousand years ago by Raja Anang Pal Tomar, the founder of Delhi, the mini lake was constructed, which is known as Anang Tal.
- Minister of State for Culture Arjun Ram Meghwal had issued instructions to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to renovate this pool as well as declare it a national monument.

***Anang Tal :***

- This lake is located in Mehrauli, Delhi, which was built by Tomar King Anangpal II in 1060 AD.
- The millennium old Anang Tal marks the early days of Delhi.



- Anang Tal has a strong connection with Rajasthan as Maharaja Anangpal is known as the maternal grandfather of Prithviraj Chauhan, whose fort Rai Pithora, is included in the list of ASI.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -*****Anangpal II :***

- Anangpal II, popularly known as Anangpal Tomar, belonged to the Tomar dynasty.
- The Tomar dynasty is one of the early mediaeval minor dynasties of northern India.
- He was the founder of Dhillika Puri, which eventually came to be known as Delhi.
- Evidence of the early history of Delhi is inscribed on the iron pillar of the Masjid Quwwat-ul-Islam adjacent to the Qutub Minar.
- The study of several inscriptions and coins suggests that Anangpal Tomar was the ruler of Delhi and Haryana between the 8th-12th centuries.
- He got the city built on the ruins and under his supervision got the construction of AnangTal Baoli and Lal Kot.

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**10. Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel wins UNESCO Peace Prize 2022 ( Aug. 27, 2022 )**

**Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel has been awarded the 2022 UNESCO Peace Prize for her efforts to welcome refugees.**

**IMPORTANT FACTS -**

- All jurors, including jury chairman and 2018 Nobel Peace Prize winner Denis Mukwege, have been impressed by Merkel's courageous decision to welcome more than 1.2 million refugees from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Eritrea in 2015.
- Additionally, the jury awarded an honorable mention to Julian Lusanz for his commitment to women victims of sexual violence.

***Angela Merkel :***

- Angela Merkel was born on 17 July 1954 in Hamburg, West Germany.
- In the 2005 national elections, Merkel became the first female chancellor of Germany, and is one of the leading figures in the European Union.
- She became the Chancellor of Germany for the fourth and last time on 14 March 2014.
- Before joining politics, she was working as a research scientist.

***About UNESCO Peace Prize :***

- Officially it is called the Felix Houphouet-Bougain-UNESCO Peace Prize.
- The honour is named after the former President of Ivory Coast.

- UNESCO's Felix Houphouet-Boghen Peace Prize was created in 1989 to honour living
- individuals and active public or private bodies or institutions that have made significant contributions to peace.
  - The award was established by a resolution supported by 120 countries

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -*****About UNESCO :***

- Establishment of UNESCO - 16 November 1945
- UNESCO Headquarters - Paris, France
- UNESCO members - 193 countries
- UNESCO chief - Audrey Azoulay