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1. IREDA signs MoU with MAHAPREIT to provide loans for Green Energy projects (Aug. 23, 2022)

Indian Renewable Energy Development Association Limited (IREDA) yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mahatma Phule Renewable Energy and Infrastructure Technology Limited (Mahapreet).

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The MoU was signed by Shri Pradeep Kumar Das, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of IREDA and Shri Bipin Shrimali, CMD, Mahapreet.
- As per this MoU, IREDA will provide financial facilities to Mahapreet for the renewable energy projects to be implemented for developing the infrastructure of state utilities, local bodies and renewable energy parks.
- Under this partnership, IREDA will also bear the appropriate techno-financial responsibility of renewable energy and energy efficiency and conservation projects for Mahapreet.
- Through this partnership, we will be able to assist the Government of India in achieving its target of 50% share of energy from non-fossil fuels by 2030.
- This is IREDA's ninth MoU in the last two years to provide consultancy services for the sustainable development of the country.

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) :

- It was incorporated as a Public Limited Company in the year 1987 as a 'Non-Banking Financial Institution'.
- It is a Miniratna (Category 1) type company functioning under the administrative control of 'Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India.
- Its function is to encourage projects related to new and renewable energy sources and to provide them financial assistance for their development.
- It has been notified as a 'Public Financial Institution' under section 4'A' of the 'Companies Act, 1956'.

2. MoU between Indian Navy and Space Applications Center (ISRO) (Aug. 23, 2022)

Recently a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Space Applications Centre (ISRO) and the Indian Navy on data sharing and cooperation on satellite based naval applications in oceanography and meteorology.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- This will enhance cooperation and usher in a common platform of mutual cooperation.
- Scientific advances by the Space Applications Centre will be synergized with the efforts of the Indian Navy to ensure the nation's defence with the rapid development in the field of satellite data retrieval and applications.

The collaboration will cover various dimensions :

- Sharing of non-confidential observational data.
- Includes provision of subject experts (SMEs) for processing satellite data for use in military operations and development of new equipment, calibration and validation of ocean models for use of meteorological information generated from the Space Applications Centre (SAC).
- Providing calibration and validation of ocean models.

Space Applications Centre :

- The Space Applications Centre is a premier R&D centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- It is a one-of-a-kind centre that deals with various disciplines ranging from payload development to social use.
- It is located in Ahmedabad in the state of Gujarat, India.

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4. World Water Week - 2022 (Aug. 23, 2022)

World Water Week - 2022 is being held in Stockholm, Sweden from 23 August to 1 September.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- Theme of World Water Week 2022 - **“Seeing the unseen: The value of water”**.
- The event has been organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).
- The theme of World Water Week 2022 is covered under three main approaches -

1. The value of water for people and sustainable development
2. the value of water for nature and climate change
3. the financial and economic value of water

- The event will provide many opportunities for people around the world to unite, promote ideas, innovate and discuss the future.
- Around 300 sessions will be organised under World Water Week on water related topics including food security, health, agriculture, technology, biodiversity, climate change etc.

- World Water Week will attract top scientists, UN experts, local community groups, entrepreneurs, top politicians, students, CEOs and many more.
- This will help in achieving reforms towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

5. India nominates GARBA to be inscribed on UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list (Aug. 23, 2022)

India has nominated the dance form Garba to be inscribed in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- After including 'Durga Puja' in UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage last year, India has now nominated 'Garba' dance for 2022.
- India was selected by UNESCO in July 2022 to serve on the Specialized Intergovernmental Committee on the 2003 Convention for the Protection of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- India received 110 votes from 155 state parties making the selection final.

Garba Dance :

- It is a type of Indian dance usually performed on festivals and other special occasions in the state of Gujarat, India.
- Traditionally this nine day Hindu festival is performed during Navratri.
- It is a dance performed by women around it by filling an earthen pot, called a garbo, with water.
- A betel nut and silver coin are kept inside the pot, which is called Kumbh. A coconut is placed on top of it.
- The dancing women move round the pot and a singer and a dholak or tabla player give the music.
- 'Garba' is born according to a lamp, which is called Garbhadeep, which means the lamp placed inside the pot.

India's 'Intangible Cultural Heritage' recognized by UNESCO :

- (1) Tradition of Vedic chanting (3) Ramlila, traditional performance of Ramayana (3) Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre (4) Ramman, religious festivals and rituals of the Garhwal Himalayas, India (5) Mudiyettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala (6) Kalbelia Folk Songs and Dances of Rajasthan (7) Chhau Dance (8) Buddhist Chanting of Ladakh: Recitation of Sacred Buddhist Scriptures in the Ladakh Region of the Himalayas, Jammu and Kashmir, India (9) Sankirtana, Traditional Singing, Nagade of Manipur and dance (10) Brass and copper utensils made by Thathers of Punjab (11) Yoga (12) Navroz, (13) Kumbh Mela (14) Durga Puja, Kolkata.

- UNESCO was established in the year 1945 to develop the "intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind" in the form of lasting peacekeeping.
- UNESCO officially recognizes sites of cultural and natural importance as World Heritage.
- India has a total of 40 Tangible Heritage Sites (31 Cultural, 8 Natural and 1 Mixed) and 14 Intangible Cultural Heritages recognized by UNESCO.

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7. India handed over 21,000 tonnes of urea to crisis-hit Sri Lanka (Aug. 23, 2022)

India on 22 August handed over 21,000 tonnes of chemical fertiliser to the crisis-ridden neighbour Sri Lanka.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- This has been done under a special assistance program that will help farmers in Sri Lanka and help strengthen bilateral cooperation for food security,
- This is India's second such aid to the beleaguered island nation in recent months.
- In May 2022, India had assured to supply 65,000 metric tonnes of urea to Sri Lanka immediately to avoid any disruption in the current **Yala farming** season in Sri Lanka.
- **Yala** is the paddy cultivation season in Sri Lanka which lasts between May and August.

Ban of Fertiliser in Sri Lanka :

- To move towards a green economy, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa last year decided to ban imports of chemical fertilizers, causing a food shortage that has reduced crop yields by 50%.
- This decision of the government badly affected the food production.
- As a result, the President of Sri Lanka declared an economic emergency to curb rising food prices.

India's support to Srilanka :

- India has pledged about \$4 billion in loans, lines of credit and credit swaps to the debt-ridden Sri Lanka from January this year.
- Sri Lanka's annual fertilizer imports cost is USD 400 million.
- India has provided financial assistance of about USD 3.5 billion to help safeguard Sri Lanka's food, health and energy security by supplying food, medicines, fuel, kerosene and other essential commodities.

- In addition, India has recently supplied around 40,000 tonnes of rice under the extended USD 1 billion line of credit.

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9. Inauguration of the 10th National Conference of Women Police Officers (NCWP) in Shimla (Aug. 22, 2022)

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai inaugurated the 10th National Conference of Women in Police (NCWP) on 21 August at Shimla.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- This conference is being organised in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh on 21st and 22nd August.
- This national level conference is being organised in collaboration with the Union Home Ministry, Bureau of Police Research and Development and Himachal Police.
- Hundreds of women constables to DGP and Para Military officers are participating in this conference.
- This conference provides a platform for women police officers.
- The conference showcases the achievements of women police officers and the issues and challenges faced by women in the 21st century.
- The conference also discussed the changing crimes and new roles and responsibilities of women in the age of technology.

Objective of the conference :

- The objective of organising this conference is to further develop the quality of leadership among women and to discuss the challenges faced by women police officers and personnel.

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