

Current Affairs search results for tag: national

1. Smriti Irani gets additional charge of Minority Affairs and Jyotiraditya Scindia of Steel Ministry (July 7, 2022)

Women and Child Development Minister **Smriti Irani** has been given the charge of **Minority Affairs Ministry** in addition to her existing portfolio.

Civil Aviation Minister **Jyotiraditya Scindia** has been given additional charge of the **Ministry of Steel**.

- After the resignation of Ram Chandra Prasad Singh and Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi from the Union Cabinet, both the ministers have been given this additional charge.
- Singh and Naqvi resigned from the cabinet a day before their term in the Rajya Sabha ended.
- The President of India has accepted the resignation of Naqvi and Singh from the Union Council of Ministers, with immediate effect, under clause (2) of Article 75 of the Constitution.
- Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi was Minority Affairs Minister and Ram Chandra Prasad Singh was Steel Minister in the Union Council of Ministers.
- Singh, who comes from an ally party in Bihar, JD(U), had sworn in as a minister in the Modi government a year ago in July 2021.
- There is no Muslim face in the Union Council of Ministers and 395 MPs of BJP.
- This is also the rare occasion when there is no Muslim member in the Union Council of Ministers.

2. PM launches Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Agradoot Newspaper Group (July 6, 2022)

Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Agradoot Newspaper Group were launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi through video conference on July 06, 2022.

• Important facts

- Agradoot is an Assamese language newspaper published in India.
- The Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Bishwa Sharma is the Chief Patron of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations Committee of the pioneer.
- Agradoot started as an Assamese fortnightly.
- It was founded by Kanak Sen Deka, a senior journalist from Assam.
- It started publication as a regular daily newspaper in the year 1995 and soon became the trusted and influential voice of Assam.
- The headquarters of Dainik Agradoot is at Dispur, Guwahati.

Newspapers in India

- India's first newspaper was published by James Augustus Hickey in 1780 AD, whose name was 'The Bengal Gazette' or 'The Calcutta General Advertiser'.
- The 'India Gazette' was the second Indian newspaper published in November 1780.
- Udan Martand is India's first Hindi newspaper published in Hindi by Jugalkishore from Kanpur in 1826.
- Sulabh Samachar published by Keshavchandra Sen was an important Hindi daily paper in Bangla.
- Balakrishna Bhatt's 'Hindi Pradeep' was published from Allahabad in 1877.
- The credit for the establishment of the national press is given to Raja Rammohun Roy.
- Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar published the weekly newspaper Som Prakash.

3. Start-Up Ranking of States 2021 (July 6, 2022)

The results of the third edition of the Ranking of States on Supporting the Startup Ecosystem were released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has been conducting the Startup Ranking of States since 2018.
- The Startup India initiative of the Government of India envisages building a strong startup ecosystem in the country to foster innovation and provide opportunities to budding entrepreneurs.
- This exercise plays a vital role in easing the business environment for startups in the country.
- **Classification:** States and Union Territories are classified into **5 categories** best exhibitor

1. top performers
2. Leader
3. aspiring leader
4. Emerging Startup Ecosystem.

• About Ranking 2021

- In terms of developing the 'Start-up Ecosystem for Entrepreneurs', Gujarat, Karnataka emerged as the best performers among the states.
- Meghalaya ranks first among union territories and north-eastern states.
- Gujarat has been recognized as the best performing state for the third consecutive year.

- The states of Kerala, Odisha, Maharashtra and Telangana were the top performers.
- Among the union territories and northeastern states, Jammu and Kashmir was ranked as the top performer.
- Assam, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh emerged as the winners in the "leaders category" among the states.
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh and Goa emerged as the winners in the "leader's category" among union territories and northeastern states.
- This year's ranking was given on the basis of the period 1 October 2019 to 31 July 2021.

4. CBSE has launched the Pariksha Sangam portal (July 6, 2022)

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has launched the Pariksha Sangam portal for the convenience of the students.

- Pariksha Sangam will provide at one place various examination related procedures to be conducted by the School Regional Offices and CBSE Headquarters.
- It has 3 parts – School (Ganga), Regional Office (Yamuna) and Head Office (Saraswati).
- Here complete information will be given from the registration of the student to the declaration of the board's examination results.
- Almost all the processes of CBSE are online which is going on through various portals. Now all these activities will be integrated in the Pariksha Sangam portal by CBSE.
- Students will be able to register their request for revaluation, photocopy of answer sheets through this portal.
- Apart from all this, this portal will also be used in the registration process of class 9th and 11th.

• About Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)

- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is a national level board of education in India for public and private schools, controlled and managed by the Government of India.
- The first education board to be set up in India was the Uttar Pradesh Board of High School and Intermediate Education in 1921
- Formation- 2 July 1929
- Headquarters- New Delhi
- Chairperson- Nidhi Chibber

5. Australia is Killing Millions Of Bees To Save Its Honey Industry (July 6, 2022)

Australian authorities have killed millions of bees over the past two weeks in an effort to stop a devastating parasitic plague called the Varroa mite.

- The parasite named Varroa mite has spread to the south-eastern part of the country.
- Now because of this, the honey industry worth crores of rupees is under threat.
- In view of this, an alert was issued for the beekeepers.
- The decision to kill bees could adversely affect the development of many crops including almonds, macadamia nuts and blueberries that depend on bees for pollination.
- Bees are the most important pollinators.
- **What is Varroa Mite?**
- It is a parasitic insect that infects and feeds on honeybees.
- It is often known as the varroa destructor.
- It is reddish-brown in color and is capable of destroying entire colonies of bees.
- This organism can spread five types of viruses in the hive which can destroy the entire colony of bees.
- After clinging to one bee, it reaches another and thus takes the entire hive under its control.

6. Odisha tops first national food security ranking, Tripura best among smaller states (July 6, 2022)

Union Food Minister Piyush Goyal released on 5 July the first State Ranking Index for implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013.

- **Odisha** has been placed at the top position in the 'State Ranking Index for NFSA' among the general category states.
 - In the ranking, **Uttar Pradesh** is second and **Andhra Pradesh** is at third position.
 - **Tripura** ranks first among special category states/UTs followed by **Himachal Pradesh** and **Sikkim** respectively.
 - In addition, among the 3 union territories where Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)-cash driven, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu are in top position.
 - **Three key pillars for ranking**
 - The index for ranking of states and union territories is built on three major pillars-
1. NFSA - Coverage, Targeting and Provisions of the Act
 2. Delivery platform
 3. nutritional initiatives

- These pillars cover end-to-end implementation of NFSA through TPDS.
- **State Ranking Index for NFSA**
- It attempts to document the status and progress of implementation of NFSA across the country and various reform initiatives in consultation with the states.
- It highlights the reforms undertaken by States and UTs and creates a cross-learning environment and scale-up reform measures by all States and UTs.
- The index largely focuses on NFSA distribution and will include future buyouts, PMGKAY distributions.
- **National Food Security Act (NFSA)**
- It was enacted on July 5, 2013.
- NFSA provides a legal right to persons belonging to "eligible households" to receive food grains at subsidized prices under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).
- It provides rice at Rs 3/kg, wheat at Rs 2/kg and coarse grain at Re 1/kg under the TPDS.
- Overall, the NFSA caters to 67% of the total population.
- It is responsible for the provision of subsidized food grains to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population of all states and union territories.
- The Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Public Distribution System (PDS), and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) are covered under this Act.

7. Finland, Sweden sign protocol to join NATO (July 6, 2022)

30 NATO allies have signed the protocol to make Sweden, Finland members.

- It will allow them to join the nuclear-armed alliance once parliaments of all NATO countries ratify the decision.
- It is the most significant expansion of the alliance since 1990.
- The signing at NATO headquarters follows an agreement with Turkey at the NATO summit in Madrid last week.
- The protocol means that Helsinki and Stockholm can participate in NATO meetings and obtain intelligence, but will not be protected by a NATO defence clause.
- NATO defence clause means that an attack on one ally is an attack against all until ratification.
- It is likely to take up to a year to become part of the NATO defence clause.
- All 30 allies signed accession protocols for Sweden and Finland at a ceremony in Brussels on 5 July, making the countries formal invitees and allowing them access to almost all NATO meetings.

Russia warning

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- Moscow has repeatedly warned both countries against joining NATO.
- On 12 March, the Russian Foreign Ministry said there would be "serious military and political consequences".

Turkish warning

- Turkey is threatening to veto NATO membership for Sweden and Finland.
- Turkey will not ratify membership of the NATO for these countries if they don't fulfill their promises to combat terrorism and extradite suspects under a memorandum of understanding reached at an alliance summit in Madrid last week.

About North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

- NATO is an intergovernmental military alliance consisting of 30 member states belonging to Europe and North America (28 European states, the US and Canada).
- NATO aims to guarantee the security of its members through political and military means.
- According to Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, an armed attack against any NATO member in Europe or North America shall be deemed an attack against all NATO members.
- Article 5 has been invoked only once so far after the 9/11 terrorist attacks against the US.
- The last country to join NATO was North Macedonia in 2020.
- Headquarters- Brussels, Belgium

Kindly also see 23 May 2022 post

8. Ukrainian mathematician becomes second woman to win Fields Medal (July 6, 2022)

On July 5, a jury of the International Mathematical Union awarded the prestigious Fields Medal to four mathematicians, including Ukraine's Marya Vyazovska.

Marya Vyazovska

- Wiazowska is the head of number theory at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne.
- Wiazowska is the second woman to win the award in its 80-year history.
- She is known to be an expert in solving spherical packing problems.
- She was awarded the prize for solving a version of a centuries-old mathematical problem where she proved the densest packing of equal regions in eight dimensions.
- Wiazowska was born in 1984 in Ukraine, which was part of the Soviet Union, and has been a professor at the cole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne in Switzerland since 2017.

The other three winners are -

1. **James Maynard** - number theorist at the University of Oxford, UK
2. **June Huh** - specialist in combinatorics at Princeton University in New Jersey
3. **Hugo Duminil Copin** - studies statistical physics at the Institute of Advanced Scientific Studies (IHES) near Paris.

- 35-year-old James Maynard was presented this award for his contribution to "**analytical number theory**".

- June Huh, 39, was awarded the prize for "**changing**" the field of geometric combinatorics.

- Duminil-Coppin was awarded for solving "**long-standing problems in the probabilistic theory of phase transitions**".

- **First women winner**

- The first woman to win the prize was Mariam Mirzakhani in 2014, an Iranian-born mathematician who died of cancer three years later in 2017.

- **Indian-origin winners**

- Two of the winners are of Indian origin.

- Akshay Venkatesh of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton – was awarded the award in 2018.

- Manjul Bhargava of the Department of Mathematics at Princeton University was honored in 2014.

- **About Fields Medal**

- Fields Medal is often described as the Nobel Prize in mathematics.

- This highest honours in mathematics is conventionally awarded to people aged under 40.

- The medal, along with \$15,000 Canadian dollars (\$11,600), is awarded every four years to between two to four candidates for "outstanding mathematical achievement".

- Of the 60 mathematicians who won the Fields Medal earlier this year, 59 were men.

- The prizes are normally announced at the opening of the International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM).

- This year's congress was scheduled to begin on 6 July in St. Petersburg, Russia, but the plan was scrapped following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

- The award ceremony was held in Helsinki and the Congress concluded as a virtual event.

- **International Mathematical Union**

- It is an international non-governmental and non-profit scientific organization.

- Its purpose is to promote international cooperation in mathematics.
- It is a member of the International Science Council (ISC).
- founded - in 1920 and has existed in its current form since 1951
- Location - Berlin, Germany
- President - Carlos E. Kenig

9. Airports Authority of India inks pact with UP government to operate 5 airports (July 5, 2022)

The Airports Authority of India has signed an operation and management agreement to operate five airports owned by the UP government for a period of 30 years.

- These five airports are Aligarh, Azamgarh, Chitrakoot, Mirpur and Shravasti.
- The airport will be developed by the state government and will be operated and managed by the Airports Authority of India as a service provider.
- In the presence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, a letter of agreement (MoU) was exchanged between Additional Chief Secretary of Civil Aviation Department SP Goyal and AAI President AK Pathak.
- The communication navigation monitoring services will also be provided by the Airports Authority of India, for which the state government will enter into a separate agreement.
- After the MoU, now the process of licensing of these airports will be done and soon all the five airports will start air service.
- **About Airports Authority of India**
 - Airports Authority of India is an organisation/authority functioning under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India.
 - The Airports Authority of India (AAI) manages a total of 125 airports which include 11 international airports, 8 customs airports, 81 domestic airports and 25 civil enclaves in defence airfields.
 - Established- 1st April, 1995
 - President- Sanjeev Kumar
 - Headquarters - New Delhi

10. UK Parliament honours Tanuja Nesari with Ayurveda Ratna award (July 5, 2022)

All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) Director Tanuja Nesari has been conferred with the Ayurveda Ratna Award by the UK Parliament.

- The UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on Indian Traditional Science (ITSappg) presented the award in recognition of his contribution to promoting the development of Ayurveda in India and abroad.
- The award was presented on the occasion of International Day of Yoga (June 21).
- The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Indian Traditional Science was formed in 2014 with the aim of spreading the knowledge of Ayurveda, Yoga, Astrology, Vastu, Unani and Sangeet to the United Kingdom and abroad.

- **About All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)**

- Establishment - 2017
- Headquarters - New Delhi