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1. Israel, Haryana Government Sign Joint Declaration On Water Cooperation (June 21, 2022)

Recently, the Government of Israel and Haryana signed a Joint Declaration on Capacity Building and Integrated Water Resource Management.

- Under this agreement, Israel will share its most advanced and state-of-the-art water technologies, expertise and know-how with the Government of Haryana.
- Through this joint declaration, the Government of Israel and Haryana will endeavour to strengthen existing ties in the water management sector, improve public health in the region and conserve water resources in public water areas in Haryana.

• India-Israel Diplomatic Relations

- India officially recognized Israel in 1950, but the two countries established full diplomatic relations on January 29, 1992.
- India was one of the 164 members of the United Nations that had diplomatic relations with Israel.

• Economic relations

- During April 2020-February 2021, the bilateral trade between the two stood at \$4.14 billion, with the balance of trade in favour of India.
- India is Israel's third largest trading partner in Asia, while the 7th largest worldwide partner.

• Defence relations

- India is the largest buyer of military equipment from Israel. Israel is India's second largest defence supplier, Russia's largest defence supplier.

• Agriculture relations

- India and Israel signed a three-year work program agreement for agricultural cooperation in May 2021.
- The program seeks to develop existing Centres of Excellence, bring Centres of Excellence into self-sustaining mode and encourage private sector companies and collaborations.

• About israel

- Israel is a country located in Southwest Asia.
- Capital - Jerusalem,
- Israel's Tel Aviv city is the most expensive city in the world
- President- Isaac Herzog
- Prime Minister- Naftali Bennett

• Currency- Israeli shekel

2. Qatar's Hamad International Airport named best airport in the world (June 21, 2022)

Qatar's Hamad International Airport has been named the best airport in the world for the second year in a row. This was announced at the Skytrax 2022 World Airport Awards held at the Passenger Terminal Expo in Paris, France.

• Airports Winners in Other Major Categories

Category	Winner
Best regional airport in India and South Asia	Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (BLR Airport)
World's Best Airport Staff Service & World's Best Airport Food	Changi Airport, Singapore
Best airport in the world Shopping and most family friendly airport	Istanbul Airport
Cleanest airport in the world, Best domestic airport in the world, Best airport in Asia	Haneda airport, Tokyo
World's best airport	King Khalid International Airport, Riyadh
World's Best Regional Airport	Chubu Centrair International Airport, Nagoya
World's Best Airport Immigration Processing	Copenhagen Airport
World's Best Airport Security Processing	Zurich Airport

• Top 5 airports in the world in 2022

1. Hamad International Airport
2. Tokyo International Airport (Haneda)
3. Singapore Changi Airport
4. Narita International Airport
5. Incheon International Airport

3. Prime Minister's Awards for Development and Promotion of Yoga for the Year 2021 (June 21, 2022)

The Prime Minister's Award for the year 2021 has been announced for outstanding contribution to the promotion of Yoga.

- The winners will be awarded a trophy, certificate and a cash prize of Rs 25 lakh.
- The award was announced by the Prime Minister on the occasion of the 2nd International Day of Yoga celebrations in Chandigarh in 2016.

- **Name of the awardees**

1. Bhikkhu Sanghasena from Ladakh
2. Marcus Vinicius Rojo Rodrigues from Brazil
3. The Divine Life Society from Uttarakhand
4. British Wheel of Yoga from the United Kingdom

4. UNDP lauds Aspirational District Program (June 21, 2022)

A report released by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) lauded the Aspirational District Program (ADP) as a very successful model of local area development.

- **About Aspirational Districts Programme**

- It was launched by NITI Aayog in 2018.
- The program aims to transform districts that have made relatively little progress in key social areas.
- Aspirational districts are those districts of India which are affected by poor socio-economic indicators.
- Under this, 115 districts from 28 states have been transparently identified.
- NITI Aayog coordinates and manages the program with the support of Central Ministries and State Governments.
- **5 broad socio-economic indicators** - Under the programme 5 broad socio-economic indicators are included -

1. Health & Nutrition (30%)
2. Education (30%)
3. Agriculture & Water Resources (20%)
4. Financial Inclusion & Skill Development (10%)

Infrastructure (10%)
5.

- **Significance of the programme**

- The government is committed to raising the standard of living of the citizens and ensuring inclusive growth for all "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas".
- Districts are also encouraged to develop and replicate best practices that improve socio-economic issues.
- The objective of the program is to localize the Sustainable Development Goals, so that the nation can progress.

- **About NITI Aayog**

- It is the premier policy think tank of the Government of India, it provides directional and policy inputs.
- It designs strategic and long-term policies.
- It also provides relevant technical advice to the Centre, States, and Union Territories.
- The Governing Council of NITI Aayog is chaired by the Prime Minister and includes the Chief Ministers of all the States and Union Territories and the Lieutenant Governors of other Union Territories.
- It was constituted on January 1, 2015.
- NITI stands for National Institution for Transforming India.
- The Government of India constituted the NITI Aayog to replace the Planning Commission, which was set up in 1950.
- This step was taken to better meet the needs and aspirations of the people.

5. Govt declares ICICI, HDFC, NPCI's IT resources as critical information infrastructure (June 21, 2022)

The government has declared the IT resources of ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and UPI managing entity NPCI as 'critical information infrastructure' under Section 70 of the IT Act, 2000.

- Damage to them will have implications for national security and any person who tampers with or accesses them unauthorizedly can be jailed for up to 10 years.

- **About Critical Information Infrastructure (CII)**

- According to the Information Technology Act of 2000, 'critical information infrastructure' as a computer resource means its inability or loss to have a disastrous effect on national security, economy, public health or security.
- The government has the power, under the Act, to declare any data, database, IT network or communication infrastructure as a CII for the protection of that digital asset.

- **Why is CII classification and protection necessary?**

- Governments around the world are moving quickly to protect their critical information infrastructure.
- IT resources are the backbone of many important functions in a country's infrastructure, and given their interrelationship, any disruption can have cascading effects across sectors.
- For example, failure of information technology in power grids can lead to prolonged disruptions in other sectors like healthcare, banking services.
- In October 2020, as India grappled with the pandemic, Mumbai's electricity grid supply suddenly snapped, affecting hospitals, trains and businesses in the big city.
- It was caused by a cyber attack.
- **National Critical Information Infrastructure Sectors-** National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) has identified the following critical information infrastructure-
 - Electricity and Energy
 - Banking, Financial Services & Insurance
 - Telecom
 - Transport
 - Government
 - Strategic & Public Enterprises
- **National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC)**
 - It is the nodal agency for taking all measures to protect the nation's critical information infrastructure.
 - It was established in January 2014.
 - It guards CII from unauthorised access, modification, use, disclosure, disruption, incapacitation or distraction.

6. West Seti power project (June 20, 2022)

India will take over the ambitious hydroelectric project in Nepal nearly four years after China pulled out of the West Seti project.

- The Government of Nepal has decided to hand over the West Seti Hydropower Project and 308 MW SR6 Storage Hydroelectric Project to India's National Hydro Power Company Limited (NHPC).
- **West Seti hydropower project**
 - West Seti is a 750MW hydro power project.
 - It is planned to start this project on Paschim Seti river/basin in Nepal.

- Specifically, it is a storage project designed to produce and export large amounts of electrical energy to India.
- The project is envisaged to provide 31.9% of electricity to Nepal free of cost.
- No work has progressed on this for the last six decades.
- The project was earlier awarded to a Chinese company.
- China's Three Gorges Corporation informed the Nepal government in August 2018 that it would not be able to execute the 750 MW West Seti hydroelectric project.
- India -Nepal Power Relations**
- Nepal is rich in power sources with approximately 6,000 rivers and an estimated capacity of 83,000 MW.
- India has formally approached Nepal on several occasions.
- India is seen as a viable market for Nepal, but there remains some uncertainty in Nepal over India's inability to complete projects on time.
- India has expressed its intention to use the major rivers in the north.
- An ambitious Mahakali treaty was signed in 1996 to generate 6,480 MW, but India is yet to submit a detailed project report.
- West Seti has the potential to become a defining model for Nepal-India power relations in the future.

7. India, Bangladesh - Teesta Water Sharing Issue (June 20, 2022)

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said during the seventh round of the India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission on June 19 that India and Bangladesh should work together for comprehensive management of rivers.

- The Foreign Minister of Bangladesh is on a visit to India.
- The two ministers discussed the long-running disputes over Teesta river water sharing.
- About Teesta River**
- It is a tributary of the Brahmaputra, flowing through India and Bangladesh.
- It is also known as Jamuna in Bangladesh.
- It originates in the Himalayas near Chunthang, Sikkim and flows to the south through West Bengal before entering Bangladesh.
- It is a 315 km long river.
- It is the fourth largest transboundary river shared between India and Bangladesh after the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna river systems.

- Teesta is the lifeline of North Bengal and about half a dozen districts of West Bengal
- depend on the water of Teesta.
 - **What is the dispute?**
 - The river is perhaps the most contentious issue between two friendly neighbours, India and Bangladesh.
 - The river covers almost the entire floodplains of Sikkim, while controlling the lives of thousands of people living in 2,800 square kilometres of Bangladesh.
 - Teesta is equally important for West Bengal, which is considered the lifeline of half a dozen districts of North Bengal.
 - Bangladesh demanded an "equitable" distribution of Teesta water from India on the lines of the 1996 Ganges Water Treaty, but to no avail.
 - The failure to sign an agreement had an impact on the country's politics, putting PM Sheikh Hasina's ruling party in trouble.

8. India-Bangladesh holds 7th Round of Joint Consultative Commission in New Delhi (June 20, 2022)

The seventh round of the India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission was held in New Delhi on 19 June.

- It was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar and his Bangladesh counterpart Dr AK Abdul Momen.
- The previous edition was held virtually in 2020.
- The Ministers welcomed the further strengthening of bilateral ties with the unprecedented visits of the President and Prime Minister of India last year.
- These visits were made in memory of three epoch-making events -

1. The birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
2. The 50th anniversary of the independence of Bangladesh
3. The golden anniversary of India-Bangladesh diplomatic ties.

- The Ministers appreciated that the trust and mutual respect shared between the two countries has strengthened over the past decade.
- The latest proof of this was the launch of the trailer of 'Mujib-Making of a Nation' at the Cannes Film Festival in May this year.
- It was a jointly produced biopic on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- The two ministers agreed to work together to further strengthen cooperation in the areas of shared rivers and water resources management, IT and cyber security, renewable

energy, agriculture and food security, sustainable trade, climate change and disaster management.

9. Government clears the appointment of new chief justices in 5 high courts (June 20, 2022)

The government has approved the appointment of new Chief Justices in five High Courts.

- The Ministry of Law and Justice has released the notification for the appointment of Chief Justices of the High Courts of Uttarakhand, Telangana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Guwahati.
- **Uttarakhand High Court** - Justice Vipin Sanghi of the Delhi High Court will be appointed as the Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court.
- **Gauhati High Court** - Gujarat High Court judge Rashmin Manharbhai Chhaya has been appointed Gauhati Chief Justice.
- **Telangana High Court** - Telangana High Court judge Ujjal Bhuyan has been appointed Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court.
- **Himachal Pradesh High Court** - Bombay High Court Chief Justice AA Sayed has been appointed Himachal Pradesh High Court Chief Justice.
- **Rajasthan High Court** - Bombay High Court Justice SS Shinde has been appointed Rajasthan High Court Chief Justice.
- **Judicial vacancies**
 - As of June 1, the number of judicial vacancies in high courts remains at 400, while the number of serving judges is 708.
 - The sanctioned strength of judges in 25 High Courts is 1,108.
- **Important facts about High Courts**
 - Number of High Courts in India - 25
 - Newest High Court of India - Andhra Pradesh High Court established on 1st January 2019.
 - The High Court is the highest court in a state in India.
 - Article 217 of the Constitution states that the Judge of a High Court shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice of India, the Governor of the State.
 - There is a High Court for Haryana, Punjab and the Union Territory of Chandigarh.
 - There is only one High Court for the northeastern states.
 - The first High Court in India is the Calcutta High Court, it was established in 1862.
 - The Gauhati High Court has the largest number of benches in India.

10. Ministry of Culture and ASI organise 'Yoga Mahotsav' at Purana Qila in New Delhi (June 18, 2022)

The Ministry of Culture in collaboration with Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) organised 'Yoga Mahotsav' on 18 June at Purana Qila, New Delhi.

- The objective of this program is to instil the everlasting value of cultural welfare among the people.
- The event was attended by over 500 people, including officials from the Ministry of Culture and foreign representatives from over 40 countries.
- **The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**
- It is the premier organisation for archaeological research and conservation of the nation's cultural heritage.
- It works under the Ministry of Culture.
- It manages more than 3650 ancient monuments, archaeological sites and remains of national importance.
- It was founded in 1861 by Alexander Cunningham.
- Alexander Cunningham was the first Director-General of ASI.
- He is also known as the "Father of Indian Archaeology".
- It is headed by a Director-General and is headquartered in New Delhi.