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1. 6th Deputy NSA level meeting of Colombo Security Conclave held in Kochi (July 7, 2022)

The 6th Deputy National Security Advisor-level meeting of the Colombo Security Conference is being held in Kochi, Kerala.

- The seven-member Indian delegation is led by Deputy National Security Advisor Vikram Misri.
- Apart from India, delegations from Maldives, Sri Lanka and Mauritius are participating in the meeting.
- Representatives of Bangladesh and Seychelles are also attending the meeting as observers.
- The delegates called for cooperation among member states on issues such as maritime defense and security, counter-terrorism, countering radicalization, smuggling and organized crime, as well as protecting critical infrastructure.
- **Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)**
 - It started in 2011 as a trilateral maritime cooperation mechanism between India, Maldives and Sri Lanka.
 - The Secretariat of CSC is located in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
 - The membership of the group was extended with the inclusion of Mauritius in March 2022.
 - So far five meetings of the CSC have been held at the level of National Security Advisor and Deputy National Security Advisor.
 - Since 2011, the mandate of the CSC mechanism has been enhanced to cover other issues of mutual interest.
- **Five pillars for cooperation**
 - Maritime Safety and Security
 - Countering Terrorism and Radicalization
 - Combating trafficking and organized crime
 - Cyber Security
 - Protection of critical infrastructure, technology, humanitarian aid and disaster relief

2. 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.

3. 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**
- 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

4. 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

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

All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) Director Tanuja Nesri 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

6. India-Armenia sign MoU on High Impact Community Development Projects (July 5, 2022)

India and Armenia signed a Memorandum of Understanding on high impact community development projects with financial and technical assistance from India in Armenia on 4 July.

- The MoU was signed at the 8th India-Armenia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical, Cultural and Educational Cooperation (IGC) held in Yerevan.
- The Indian delegation was led by Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs.
- The Armenian delegation was led by the Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan.
- The two sides discussed and reviewed the current status of cooperation in various fields such as trade, investment, health, tourism, infrastructure, culture, connectivity, information technology, agriculture, fintech and education.
- Later Mahatma Gandhi Auditorium was inaugurated at Yerevan State Medical University (VSMU).

- More than 700 students from the Indian community are pursuing medical education at Yerevan State Medical University in Armenia.

- **India-Armenia Intergovernmental Commission (IGC)**

- The 7th IGC was held in April 2016 and the 6th IGC and FOC were held in New Delhi on 25 September 2013.

- **About Armenia**

- It is a landlocked country located in the Armenian Highlands of Western Asia.
- Head Of Government - Prime Minister- Nikol Pashinyan
- Capital - Yerevan
- President - Vahagn Kachaturyan
- Currency - Dram

7. Yair Lapid Officially Becomes New Prime Minister Of Israel (July 4, 2022)

Yer Lapid, the leader of the Yesh Atid party, has been officially elected as the 14th Prime Minister of Israel.

- Lapid's term could be shortened as he is made the head of the caretaker government ahead of the November 1 election.
- Lapid replaces outgoing Prime Minister Naftali Bennett.
- Lapid is an Israeli politician and a former journalist.
- He has also previously served as the alternate Prime Minister of Israel and Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2021 to 2022.
- Before joining politics in 2012, Lapid was a writer, TV presenter and news anchor.

- **About Israel**

- Israel is a country located in Southwest Asia. It is located at the eastern end of the Southeast Mediterranean Sea.
- The modern nation of Israel was established in 1948.
- Parliament is elected on the basis of universal suffrage by proportional representation method every four years.
- Israel is considered the most advanced country in Southwest Asia and the Middle East in economic and industrial development.
- Capital- Jerusalem
- President- Isaac Herzog
- Currency- Israeli new shekel

8. QS Best Student Cities Ranking 2023 (July 4, 2022)

QS Best Students City Ranking 2023 was published recently. London is ranked the best city in this ranking.

- The QS ranking has been released for 140 cities across the world.
- London was ranked the best for students looking to study abroad in terms of university standards, affordability and student facilities.
- **Indian city**
 - The highest ranked student city of India is Mumbai.
 - Globally it is ranked 103rd.
 - Bengaluru is at 114th position after Mumbai.
 - Chennai and Delhi have made their own entries in the list and are ranked 125th and 129th respectively.
 - According to the All India Survey of Higher Education (AISHE) 2018-19, the number of international students enrolled in Indian universities was just 47,427.
 - India has set a target of attracting 200,000 international students by 2023, which is four times the current total.
- **world cities rank**
 - Seoul and Munich are in second and third place after London.
 - Zurich and Melbourne are ranked fourth and fifth.
 - Buenos Aires took the top spot in Latin America. It has been ranked 23rd.
 - The best student city in the Arab region is Dubai. It is ranked 51st globally.

9. Asia Pacific Sustainability Index 2021 (July 4, 2022)

Recently the Asia Pacific Sustainability Index 2021 was launched by Knight Frank, a global property advisor.

- The index ranks 36 cities on the basis of urbanisation pressure, carbon emissions, climate risk and government initiatives.
- Four Indian cities, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Delhi and Mumbai have been ranked in the top 20 sustainable cities in this index.
- **Indian cities rank**
 - Bangalore ranks first among Indian cities. Whereas it is ranked 14th in the Asia-Pacific region.

- Bengaluru is the only Indian city to have achieved the 'Gold' standard category.
- Bengaluru is followed by Delhi, which is ranked 17th in the Asia Pacific region.
- Hyderabad is ranked 3rd in India and 18th in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Mumbai ranks 4th among Indian cities and 20th in the Asia-Pacific region.
- **World cities rank**
- Singapore tops this index.
- It is followed by Sydney, Wellington, Perth and Melbourne.
- **Green bond in india**
- According to the report, there has been an increase of 523% year-on-year in issuance of green bonds in India.
- It was USD 1.1 billion in 2020 and has increased to USD 6.8 billion in 2021.
- Currently, India has become the sixth largest country in the Asia-Pacific region in terms of the total amount of green bonds issued in 2021.
- **Green Bonds in the Asia-Pacific Region**
- The sector issued USD 126 billion in green bonds in 2021, according to estimates from the Climate Bonds Initiative.
- China issued the largest amount of bonds worth USD 68 billion.

10. India's Participation in Seychelles Independence Day Celebrations (July 4, 2022)

The Indian Navy contingent joined Seychelles Defence Force personnel and Seychelles citizens for the Independence Day celebrations.

- INS Kolkata, an indigenously built stealth guided missile destroyer of the Indian Navy, was deployed at Port Victoria, Seychelles on the occasion of Seychelles Independence Day on 29 Jun 22.
- A marching contingent of Indian Navy personnel accompanied by a musical band participated in the military parade held at the Unity Stadium in Roche Caiman on 3 July.
- The deployment marked the continued participation of the Indian military contingent in the Seychelles National Day since 1976.
- **INS Kolkata**
- It is a stealth guided missile destroyer.
- BrahMos missile and Barak 8 missiles were test fired from INS Kolkata in 2015.
- It was constructed at Mazagon Dock Limited and was handed over to the navy on 10 July 2014 after completing its sea trials.

- It was officially commissioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a ceremony held on 16 August 2014.

- **Seychelles**

- It is an island republic in the Western Indian ocean . It is a part of Eastern Africa .
- Capital : Victoria
- President : Wavel Ramkalawan
- Currency : Seychelles rupee