

Current Affairs search results for tag: international-news

1. 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

2. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is sworn in as the Philippines 17th president (July 2, 2022)

Ferdinand Marcos Jr. sworn in as the 17th President of the Philippines.

- Ferdinand Marcos Jr took the oath at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Manila.
- Ferdinand Marcos Jr. will serve as president until 2028.
- Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has replaced Rodrigo Duterte, who served as the President of the Philippines from 2016 to 2022.
- Sara Duterte Carpia has been elected Vice President.

- Marcos Jr. won the presidential election in May with 60 percent of the vote over rival Maria Leonor Robredo.
- The President is the head of the executive branch of the Philippine government. The President is directly elected by the people.
- The term of the President in the Philippine Constitution is six years.

- **About Philippines**

- The Philippines is a country located in Southeast Asia.
- It got complete independence on 4 July 1946 after the Second World War.
- It is the country with the fifth longest coastline in the world.
- The Philippines is the second largest producer of geothermal energy in the world, after the United States.
- Capital - Manila
- Currency - peso

3. Habitat World Cities Report 2022 (July 2, 2022)

Recently the United Nations published its report titled "Habitat World Cities Report 2022".

- The urban population in India is projected to reach 675 million in 2035. This will be the second highest figure after China.
- After the COVID-19 pandemic, the global urban population is on the rise again. This will increase to 2.2 billion by 2050.
- India's urban population is expected to reach 675,456,000 in 2035 as compared to 483,099,000 in 2020.
- The percentage of population in India's urban areas will be 43.2 percent by 2035.

- **Global scenario**

- The urban population in China is projected to reach 1.05 billion in 2035.
- The urban population in Asia will increase to 2.99 billion in 2035.
- In the past two decades, India and China experienced rapid urbanisation and economic growth. As a result, the number of people living in poverty has decreased.
- Large economies like China and India account for the bulk of the world's population. The growth trajectory in these countries has affected global inequality.

- **About United Nations Human Settlement Program (UN-Habitat) -**

- It was established in 1978.

- UN-Habitat is the United Nations agency for human settlements assigned by the United Nations General Assembly the task of promoting socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities towards the goal of providing affordable housing for all.
- Headquarters- Nairobi, Kenya
- Executive Director- Maimunah Mohammad Sharif

4. Russia quits Snake Island (July 1, 2022)

Ukrainian forces have taken control of Snake Island in the Black Sea, which was occupied by Russia at the beginning of the war.

- The quitting of the Russians from the island is a major setback, and possibly undermines their control over shipping routes that are vital to Moscow's strategic objectives.
- Last week Ukraine said it had inflicted "significant damage" on Russia in air strikes on the island.
- Ukraine had claimed the first successful use of Harpoon anti-ship missiles.

• About Snake Island

- It is also known as Zmiinyi Island, Snake or Serpent Island.
- It has a small piece of rock less than 700 metres from, that has been described as being "X-shaped".
- It is located 35 km from the coast in the Black Sea.
- The island is marked on the map as a small village and belongs to Ukraine.
- The island is close to the coast of Romania, with which Ukraine has had a dispute and which was settled in 2009 by the International Court of Justice.
- It drew a new maritime border between the two countries.
- Parts of the Black Sea around Snake Island are believed to have significant oil and gas reserves.
- On 24 February, Russia invaded Ukraine and attacked Snake Island with two modern warships.

• About Black Sea

- It is a marginal sea of the Atlantic Ocean.
- It is located between Eastern Europe and Western Asia.
- It is bound by Ukraine to the north and northwest, Russia and Georgia to the east, Turkey to the south, and Bulgaria and Romania to the west.
- The Black Sea drains into the Mediterranean Sea via the Turkish Straits and the Aegean Sea.

• It has traditionally been Russia's warm water gateway to Europe.

5. 'Partners in the Blue Pacific' program launched by US and allies (June 30, 2022)

Recently the US and its allies - Australia, New Zealand, Japan and the United Kingdom have launched a new initiative called 'Partners in the Blue Pacific' for "effective and efficient cooperation" with the small island states of the Blue Pacific region.

- The purpose of the PBP is to promote cooperation in the areas of "climate crisis, connectivity and transport, maritime safety and security, health, prosperity and education".
- **Partners in Blue Pacific (PBP) Initiative:**
 - The PBP is an "informal mechanism" of five countries to support the Pacific islands and promote diplomatic, economic ties in the region.
 - It focuses on increasing "prosperity, resilience and security" in the Pacific region through closer cooperation.
 - That is, through the PBP, these countries together and individually will provide more resources to the Pacific Island countries to counterbalance China's aggressive outreach.
 - Former members will "promote Pacific regionalism" and forge strong ties with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).
- **Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) -**
 - The Pacific Islands Forum is the region's premier political and economic policy organisation.
 - It was established in 1971.
 - It consists of 18 members including Australia, the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. countries are included.

6. Establishment of an India Centre to promote India-centric activities in South Korea (June 30, 2022)

The India Centre has been established at Busan University of Foreign Studies, South Korea to promote activities related to India.

- This centre will act as a major organisation for India related programs in Busan.

- It will provide necessary resources for interested students in India and will emphasise on increasing academic and cultural cooperation with Busan University.
- An MoU was also signed on the occasion to promote cooperation in the field of education and cultural exchange between Busan University and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in Seoul.
- Busan University of Foreign Studies and Hanuk University of Foreign Studies in South Korea are the two higher educations where Hindi is taught as a full-time subject.
- The Department of Hindi Language was established in 1983 at Busan University of Foreign Studies (BUFS).

- **About South Korea**

- South Korea is a country located in East Asia that is known as the 'Land of Quiet Mornings'.
- The nation's capital, Seoul, is the world's second largest metropolitan area and a major global city.
- North Korea is the only country bordering this country.
- Martial arts Taekwondo originated in Korea.
- President- Yoon Suk-yol
- Currency- South Korean won

7. Gabon and Togo join the Commonwealth of Nations (June 29, 2022)

Two African countries, Togo and Gabon, were inducted into the Commonwealth of Nations as the 55th and 56th members, respectively, at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting held in Rwanda's capital, Kigali, chaired by Rwandan President Paul Kagame.

- Rwanda was the last country to join the Commonwealth in 2009.
- Togo and Gabon were historically French colonies that were never British colonies.

- **New members Togo and Gabon**

- The formal Commonwealth member process for the Central African nation of Gabon began in 2017 while the process for the West African nation of Togo began in 2014.
- Gabon is surrounded by Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, and the Republic of the Congo, which is also a member of the Commonwealth.
- Togo is bordered by Ghana, a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, as well as by Benin and Burkina Faso.

- **About Commonwealth -**

- The Rashtramandal, commonly referred to as the Commonwealth, is a political union of previously 54 and now 56 member states.
- It was originally created as the British Commonwealth of Nations through the Balfour Declaration at the royal convention of 1926.
- The current Commonwealth of Nations was formally formed in 1949 by the London Declaration.
- The current head of the Commonwealth is Queen Elizabeth II.
- Secretary General – Patricia Scotland
- Headquarters- London

8. Discovery of high grade lithium in Nigeria (June 29, 2022)

Recently high grade lithium has been discovered in Nigeria.

• Lithium

- Lithium is an element and is abundantly concentrated in nature in two minerals, spodumene and lepidolite.
- They are usually found in special rocks called rares and greases.
- The Geological Agency described lithium as high grade because it is found with an oxide content of 1–13%. Exploration usually starts at a low of 0.4%.
- Lithium has an atomic number of 3 and an atomic mass of 6.941.
- It is the lightest known metal.

• USE

- Lithium disilicate ($\text{Li}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5$) is a chemical compound from which glass and ceramic objects are made.
- Lithium metal is used to make useful alloys.
- Lithium is used in rechargeable batteries for mobile phones, laptops, digital cameras and electric vehicles.

• ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -

- The Greenbush mine in Western Australia is the largest hard-rock lithium mine in the world.
- The largest importers of lithium are South Korea, China, Japan, the United States and Belgium.

- Recent surveys by researchers from the Directorate of Atomic Minerals (under the Atomic Energy Commission of India) have estimated the presence of lithium reserves of 14,100 tonnes in a small stretch of land in southern Karnataka's Mandya district.

9. G7 announces \$600 billion global infrastructure programs (June 28, 2022)

The G7 group has announced USD 600 billion global infrastructure programs for poor countries.

- Under the program, the US government and its allies will try to touch the USD 600 billion mark during the years 2022 and 2027.
- The move is intended to compete with China's Belt and Road Initiative.
- The proposed G7 funding would rely largely on private companies, in contrast to the Chinese government-run Belt and Road Initiative.
- The partnership has been unveiled by US President Joe Biden and G7 allies from Germany, Canada, Japan, Italy and the European Union.

• Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

- The Belt and Road Initiative is formally known as the One Belt One Road initiative.
- It is a global infrastructure development strategy, launched by China in 2013.
- Under this, China had planned to invest in about 70 countries and international organisations.
- The project is the centrepiece of Chinese leader Xi Jinping's foreign policy.
- As of March 2022, 146 countries have signed the BRI.
- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank is dedicated to providing loans for infrastructure projects.

• About the G7

- The G7 or Group of Seven is a grouping of the seven most advanced economies.
- The seven countries are Canada, USA, UK, France, Germany, Japan and Italy.
- It was formed in 1975.
- The G7 countries meet annually to discuss issues of common interest such as global economic governance, international security and energy policy.
- All G7 countries and India are part of the G20.
- The G7 has no fixed headquarters.

10. "Global Liveability Index" 2022 (June 27, 2022)

Austria's capital Vienna has been ranked first as the world's most livable city in the annual Global Liveability Index released by The Economist magazine.

- 140 cities of the world have been assessed in this index.
- The cities in this list have been ranked on the basis of many factors including political and social stability, crime, access to education and healthcare.
- Delhi (112) topped the 6 South Asian cities followed by Mumbai (117).
- Pakistan's financial capital Karachi and Bangladesh's capital Dhaka were ranked among the least livable cities in the world.
- The Chinese capital Beijing is at number 71.
- Damascus, the capital of Syria, is ranked at the bottom of the list.
- **Top 10 Cities -**
 - 1. Vienna (Austria)
 - 2. Copenhagen (Denmark)
 - 3. Calgary (Canada)
 - 4. Zurich (Switzerland)
 - 5. Vancouver (Canada)
 - 6. Geneva (Switzerland)
 - 7. Frankfurt (Germany)
 - 8. Toronto (Canada)
 - 9. Amsterdam (Netherlands)
 - 10. Osaka (Japan)