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1. Earthquake devastation in Turkiye (Feb. 9, 2023)

Earthquake devastation in Turkiye

On 6 February a major **earthquake struck Turkey and Syria**, killing more than **15,000 people**.

An overview of the news

- The **Indian Army** has set up a field hospital in **Iskenderun, Hatay province of Turkey**. The field hospital will treat people affected by the earthquake.
- Three earthquakes measuring **7.8, 7.6 and 6.0 on the Richter scale** hit different regions of **Turkey and neighbouring Syria**.
- The epicentre of the earthquake was **26 km east of the Turkish city of Nurdagi** at a depth of about 18 km on the East Anatolian Fault.
- The earthquake moved northeast, causing devastation in central Turkey and Syria.
- It is the most powerful earthquake to shake the region in more than **100 years**.

Reasons of Turkey's Earthquakes

- **About 95%** of the country's territory is sensitive to earthquakes.
- Major cities of Istanbul and Izmir and the region of East Anatolia are in high risk.

About Earthquake

- In simple words, earthquake refers to the **vibration of the earth**.
- It is a natural phenomenon, in which waves are generated due to the release of energy from inside the earth which spreads in all directions and vibrates the earth.
- The waves produced by an earthquake are called **seismic waves**, which move on the surface of the earth.
- The instruments used to measure earthquakes are called **seismographs**.
- The place below the Earth's surface where the epicenter of an earthquake is located is called the **hypocenter**.
- The place above the surface of the earth where the seismic waves first reach is called the **epicenter**.
- It is measured in the **Richter scale**.

2. 108 Buddhist Pilgrims from Republic of Korea on 43-day walking tour (Feb. 8, 2023)

108 Buddhist Pilgrims from Republic of Korea on 43-day walking tour

A **43-day walking tour of sacred Buddhist sites in India and Nepal is being organised by the Sangwol Society of the Republic of Korea** from February 9 to March 23, 2023.

An overview of the news:

- **108 Buddhist pilgrims** from the Republic of Korea will **travel over 1,100 kilometres** in 43 days as part of the pilgrimage on foot.
- The aim of the pilgrimage is to enhance friendship and cooperation between the two countries.
- Pilgrims will pay obeisance at eight major Buddhist holy sites during the journey.

During the pilgrimage, Buddhist followers will visit the following sites:

- **Bodh Gaya:** Here **Mahatma Buddha attained enlightenment under the Bodhi tree.**
- **Nalanda University:** Nalanda University is one of the ancient universities. It was **founded by the Gupta ruler Kumaragupta I.**
- **Mahaparinirvan Temple:** The Mahaparinirvan Temple, located in Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh, is considered one of the most sacred temples of Buddhism in the whole world. In this temple, a 6.1 metre high idol of Lord Buddha is kept in the lying posture.
- It is believed to be the **death place of Lord Buddha.**
- **Rajgir:** Rajgir is located in the Nalanda district of Bihar. It is a pilgrimage centre for Jains, Buddhists and Hindus.
- **Rambhar Stupa:** Lord Buddha was cremated at this place in 483 BC. This stupa was built by the Malla king
- **Lumbini:** Lumbini is the **birth place of Lord Buddha.** It is located in Nepal.

3. India received highest ever foreign inward remittances in a single year of \$89,127 million in FY 2021-22 (Feb. 8, 2023)

During the **financial year 2021-22**, India received foreign inward remittance of **\$89,127 million** which is the **highest ever inward remittance** received in a single year.

An overview of the news

- Union Minister of State for Finance **Pankaj Chowdhary** said this in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on 7 February.

Data for the past five years on inward remittances

Year	Inward Remittances (US \$ million)
2017-18	69,129
2018-19	76,396
2019-20	83,195
2020-21	80,185
2021-22	89,127

Share of different countries in inward remittances, 2020-21

Source Country	Share in Total Remittances (Percent)
United States	23.4
United Arab Emirates	18.0
United Kingdom	6.8
Singapore	5.7
Saudi Arabia	5.1

4. Indore becomes the first civic body in the country to launch green bonds (Feb. 8, 2023)

Indore Municipal Corporation has **become the first civic body in the country to issue green bonds.**

An overview of the news:

- The **corporation plans to raise Rs 244 crore through green bonds.**
- This **amount will be used to set up a 60 MW solar plant at Juladh Pumping Station** in Hum Samraj and Ashukhedi villages on the banks of river Narmada falling in Khargone district with **an investment of about Rs 305 crore.**
- Indore Municipal Corporation pumps water from Juladh Pumping Station for drinking water supply in the city. For this, 25 crore rupees are spent on electricity bill every month. After the commissioning of this plant, the cost of electricity will be reduced by five to six crore rupees annually.
- This bond of Indore Municipal Corporation will open between 10-14 February 2023. And later it will be listed on the National Stock Exchange.

What is Green Bond?

- Green bonds are a means of obtaining debt through which funds are raised for 'green' projects, mainly related to renewable energy, clean transportation, sustainable water management, etc.
- A green bond is issued by an organisation for the purpose of financing or refinancing projects that make a positive contribution to the environment and/or climate.
- Green bonds were first announced by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman while presenting the budget for the financial year 2022-23.

5. Nearly 600 sea lions die due to bird flu outbreak in Peru (Feb. 8, 2023)

In Peru, about **585 sea lions** and **55,000 wild birds** have died in recent weeks due to the **H5N1 bird flu virus.**

An overview of the news

- According to the **Sarnap Natural Area Conservation Agency**, after discovering 55,000 dead birds in eight protected coastal areas, rangers found that all of them died due to bird flu.
- Along with this, 585 sea lions have also died in 7 protected marine areas.
- Dead birds include **pelicans, different types of gulls and penguins.**
- H5N1 has also been confirmed in dead sea lions in laboratory tests. After this the authorities announced the **Biological Vigilance Protocol.**

- Peru's National Forest and Wildlife Service has urged people and their pets to avoid and stay away from sea lions and seabirds at the beach.

Avian Influenza (H5N1)

- **Bird flu**, also known as avian influenza (AI), is a highly **contagious viral disease** that affects species of food-producing birds (chickens, turkeys, quail, guinea fowl, etc.), as well as domesticated birds and wild animals.
- Avian influenza virus subtypes are **A(H5N1), A(H7N9), A(H9N2) and A(H10N3)**.
- Types **B and C** mostly infect **humans** and usually cause mild illness.

About Peru

- Peru is the **third largest country in South America**, after Brazil and Argentina.
- President: **Dina Boluarte**
- Capital: **Lima**
- Currency : **Nuevo Sol**
- Major Mountain Ranges: **Andes**
- Major Rivers: **Amazon, Ucayali, Madre de Dios**

6. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates Department of Integrative Medicine at Safdarjung Hospital (Feb. 8, 2023)

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates Department of Integrative Medicine at Safdarjung Hospital

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, Waterways and AYUSH **Sarbananda Sonowal** and Health Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** jointly inaugurated the **Department of Integrated Medicine** at **Safdarjung Hospital**, New Delhi on 7 February.

An overview of the news

- This Department of Integrated Medicine will further the **collaboration between traditional and modern systems of medicine** to provide better service to the citizens.
- These centers will treat patients using both **Ayurveda and modern medicine**.
- Integrative medicine aims to harness the potential of India's rich heritage and medical knowledge, along with using modern advances in **allopathy**.
- The government will also set up a Department of Integrated Medicine in **AIIMS Delhi**.

- The Central Government has decided to open **Integrated Medical Centers** in all
- government medical establishments, especially all AIIMS in the country.

Integrative Medicine

- Integration of **AYUSH** with Modern Medicine for Holistic Health is Integrative Medicine.
- The Ministry of AYUSH was set up on the **9 November 2014** to revive the knowledge of traditional Indian systems of medicine.
- AYUSH focuses on education and research in the fields of **Ayurveda, Yoga Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy.**

7. Reliance introduces India's first Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (H2-ICE) truck (Feb. 8, 2023)

Reliance introduces India's first Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (H2-ICE) truck

India's first Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (H2-ICE) truck was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 'India Energy Week' in Bengaluru.

An overview of the news:

- The **ICE** in the H2-ICE **stands for Internal Combustion Engine.**
- It is **developed by Reliance Industries (RIL) in association with Ashok Leyland.**
- The H2-ICE truck is the first of its kind in India to be powered by hydrogen.
- The truck uses hydrogen instead of conventional diesel fuel or liquefied natural gas (LNG), reducing carbon emissions to almost zero.
- Hydrogen is considered the cleanest fuel. This emits only water and oxygen.
- It is quieter compared to conventional diesel trucks while delivering the same performance. Its operating cost is also less.

The combustion principle in H2-ICE is as follows:

- **$2\text{H}_2 + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$**
- Two hydrogen atoms combine with one oxygen atom to form water. The heat energy released during this reaction is used to ignite the spark plug.
- The first H2-ICE was developed by Francois Isaac de Rivaz in the year 1806. It ran on a mixture of hydrogen and oxygen.

8. India ranks first with 24 percent contribution to global milk production (Feb. 8, 2023)

India is the **world's largest milk producer**, contributing **24 per cent** to **global milk production** in the year 2021-22, according to production data from the **Food and Agriculture Organization Corporate Statistics Database (FAOSTAT)**.

An overview of the news

- India's milk production has registered a growth of **51 per cent** during the **last eight years** - 2014-15 and 2021-22 and has increased to **220 million tonnes** in the year 2021-22.
- The **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying** runs various schemes to benefit the economically weaker farmers in the dairy sector.
- The **National Program for Dairy Development** aims to enhance the quality of milk and milk products and increase the share of organised procurement, processing, value addition and marketing.

National Programme for Dairy Development

- It was launched in **February 2014** by merging three existing schemes- Intensive Dairy Development Programme, Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production and Assistance to Cooperatives.
- In **July 2021**, it was restructured with the objective of enhancing the quality of milk and milk products and increasing the share of organised procurement, processing, value addition and marketing for implementation of the program from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Government Initiatives to the Dairy sector

- **Rashtriya Gokul Mission** - launched in December 2014 with an outlay of Rs 2025 crore for the development and conservation of indigenous breeds through selective breeding.
- **National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP)** - It is a flagship scheme launched in September 2019 for control of Foot & Mouth Disease and Brucellosis by vaccinating 100% cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat and pig population.
- **Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development** - It has been approved for incentivizing investments by entrepreneurs, private companies, MSME, Farmers Producers Organizations for Dairy sector.

Indian Dairy Sector

- India ranks first in milk production and contributes 24% to global milk production.
- **The top 5 milk-producing states are:** Uttar Pradesh (14.9%), Rajasthan (14.6%), Madhya Pradesh (8.6%), Gujarat (7.6%) and Andhra Pradesh (7.0%).

- Dairy is the single largest agricultural commodity contributing 5% of the national economy, witnessing 6.4% in the past 5 years.
- About 80 million people are directly or indirectly employed in the dairy industry.

9. For the first time, Indian-American woman elected as president of Harvard Law Review (Feb. 7, 2023)

Apsara A Iyer, a second year student at **Harvard Law School**, has been elected as the **President of the prestigious Harvard Law Review**.

An overview of the news

- Apsara A Iyer, 29, has become the **first woman** to be named to the post in the prestigious publication's **136-year-long history**.
- Iyer will replace **Priscilla Coronado**.
- Iyer was elected the 137th president of the Harvard Law Review, which was founded in 1887 and is one of the oldest student-run legal scholarship publications.
- The Law Review, operated under the Harvard Law School, is an organisation that reviews and selects articles published in the legal field.

Who Is Apsara Iyer?

- She graduated from **Yale in 2016** with a B A in **Economics and Math, and Spanish**.
- She then did an **MPhil at Oxford** as a Clarendon Scholar because of his dedication to archeology and indigenous communities.
- In 2018, Iyer joined the **Manhattan District Attorney's Antiquities Trafficking Unit (ATU)** which tracks down stolen art and artifacts.
- She has previously been a contributor to the Law School's Harvard Human Rights Journal and the National Security Journal.
- She is also a member of the **South Asian Law Students Association**.

10. Visva-Bharati University to get the status of world's first "Living Heritage University" (Feb. 7, 2023)

Visva-Bharati University is expected to get the status of the world's first "Living Heritage University" from UNESCO by April-May 2023.

An overview of the news:

- Usually the heritage tag is given by UNESCO to the intangible monument. But for the first time in the world, a tangible university will be given the legacy tag.

Visva-Bharati University:

- It was **established in the year 1921 by Rabindranath Tagore**. It is **located in Santiniketan, West Bengal**.
- Until the Visva-Bharati Society was registered as an organisation in May 1922, it was named after Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore.
- According to UNESCO, Visva-Bharati was inaugurated in the year 1922 as a cultural centre with explorations in arts, languages, humanities, music.
- The institute was granted the **status of a Central University in the year 1951** through a Central Act.
- It is the only university whose Vice-Chancellor is the Prime Minister.

About UNESCO:

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialised agency of the United Nations (UN).
- It is also a member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UN SDG), a coalition of United Nations agencies and organisations that aims to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Headquarters:- Paris, France
- Director General: -Audrey Azoulay
- Founded - 16 November 1945 in London, United Kingdom
- The organisation has -193 members and 11 associate members.