

Daily Current Affairs

20 November 2023

WHO And Ministry Of AYUSH

- **WHO & Ministry of Ayush Signed Traditional and Complementary Medicine 'Project Collaboration Agreement'**
- The signing event took place in **Geneva, Switzerland**, with both parties optimistic about the positive impact of this collaboration on global healthcare.
- The primary objective of this agreement is **to standardize Traditional and Complementary Medical Systems, incorporating their quality and safety aspects into the National Health System**, and disseminating these practices on an international scale.



- The collaboration **aims to bridge** Traditional and Complementary Medical Systems with the mainstream of the National Health System, a key initiative outlined in the Traditional Medicine Global Strategy 2025-34 to be prepared by the WHO with the support of the Ministry of Ayush.
- This strategy will play a crucial role in achieving the objective of elevating Traditional and Complementary Medical Systems within the national health framework.

Ladakh Secures 4th GI Tag For ‘Sea-buckthorn’

- The Geographical Indication Registry, operating under the Department for the Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, has **granted the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag to the Department of Industries & Commerce, Ladakh.**
- The approval designates them as the Registered Proprietor for ‘**Ladakh Seabuckthorn**’ in Class 31.



- This latest GI tag underscores Ladakh’s commitment to preserving and promoting its unique and healthful products.
- The GI tag serves as a mark of authenticity, ensuring that consumers can identify and trust the origin of ‘Ladakh Seabuckthorn.’ This **acknowledgment on the national stage highlights Ladakh’s contribution** to the promotion of indigenous products and reinforces the significance of geographical indications in preserving and promoting cultural heritage.



- ‘Ladakh Seabuckthorn’ Becomes The 4th Product From The Union Territory To Receive The Coveted GI Tag After Ladakh Pashmina, Ladakh Apricot (Raktsey Karpo), And Ladakhi Wood Carving.

Alok Sharma

- **Alok Sharma**, a senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, has been named the **new director of the Special Protection Group (SPG)**, taking over from the late SPG chief Arun Kumar Sinha. This crucial appointment comes in the wake of the unfortunate **demise of SPG chief Arun Kumar Sinha**.



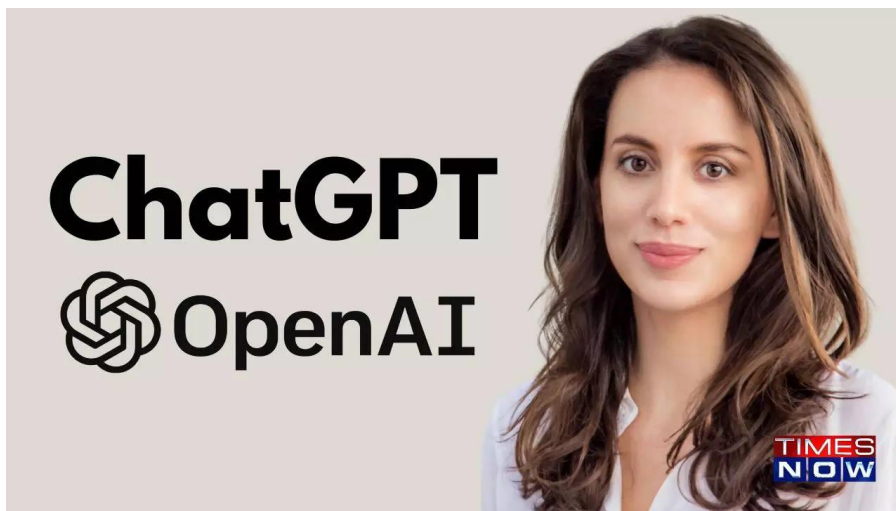
- Alok Sharma, who currently serves as the additional director general of SPG, assumes the leadership role with immediate effect, according to a government order approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

Sam Altman Fired As Open AI CEO

- **Sam Altman** was fired as the **chief executive officer (CEO)** of Open AI, the tech company announced on Friday.
- The company said its board no longer has confidence in Altman's ability to continue leading OpenAI.

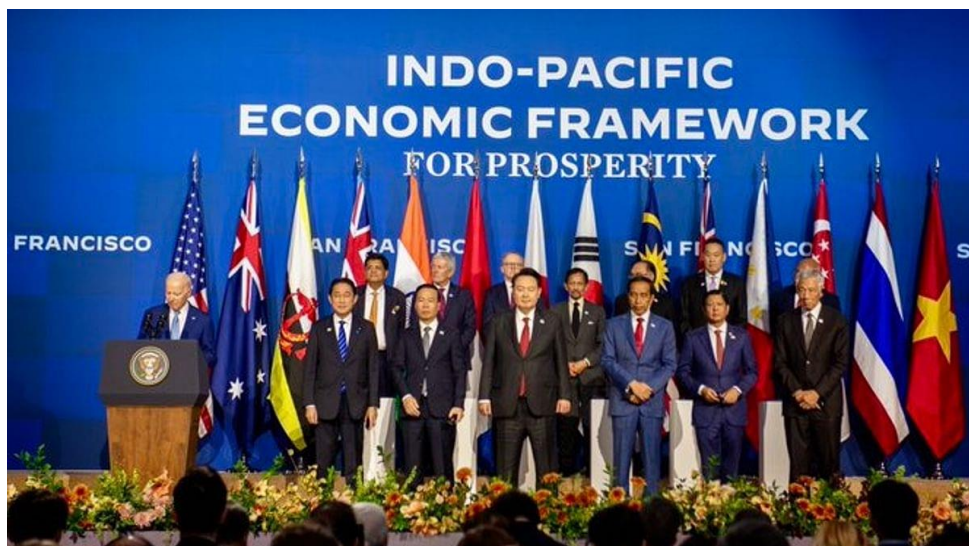


- Altman's departure follows a deliberative review process by the board, which concluded that **he was not consistently candid in his communications** with the board, hindering its ability to exercise its responsibilities, the company said in its blog post.
- Chief Technology Officer **Mira Murati will be the interim CEO**, effective immediately.



Indo Pacific Economic Framework

- India, the United States, and 12 other members of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) have successfully concluded negotiations on the **IPEF Clean Economy Agreement and the IPEF Fair Economy Agreement**.
- This follows the signing of the Supply Chain Resilience Pact, showcasing a collaborative effort towards economic resilience.



- The member countries, including Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, the US, and Vietnam, will now proceed with necessary steps, including domestic consultations and legal reviews, to prepare the final texts of the agreements.
- The proposed agreements will then undergo domestic processes for signature, ratification, acceptance, or approval.
- The IPEF Clean Economy Agreement commits the countries to actively pursue **shared climate objectives** and pathways to **net-zero emission economies**.
- The agreement covers critical issues related to transitioning to clean economies, including energy security, climate resilience, greenhouse gas emissions mitigation, and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods.
- The countries aim to **increase investment flows to the region**, addressing the need for financing climate-related infrastructure, technologies, and projects.

International Event SAMBHAV

- A **two day international event 'Sambhav- 2023'** by Divyang (Physically and Mentally Challenged) Artists has been **organised by A.L.P.A.N.A.** (Association for Learning Performing Arts & Normative Action Society).
- Divyang Artists from Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Iran, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Sri Lanka and Thailand were participating in this two days event.



- Includes webinars, art & craft workshop, Yoga workshop, seminar on Yoga, workshops on Dance & Music Therapy, exhibition of paintings and artifacts made by disabled artists and most importantly international event of performances.

NASA's DSOC Achieves "First Light"

- A NASA experiment called **Deep Space Optical Communications (DSOC)** has marked a key milestone in achieving "first light," successfully transmitting and receiving data to and from far beyond the Moon using a near-infrared laser.
- The experiment, which is seeking **to revolutionise spacecraft communication**, is part of the recently launched Psyche spacecraft.



- A **near-infrared laser encoded** with test data was sent from a distance of nearly 10 million miles to **the Hale Telescope** at Caltech's Palomar Observatory in San Diego County, California.
- The distance even surpassed the **Moon-Earth distance by about 40 times**. This marked the farthest-ever demonstration of optical communications.
- The experiment utilised a cutting-edge laser transceiver aboard the **Psyche spacecraft** to send and receive signals.
- This groundbreaking achievement signified a leap forward in high-bandwidth data transmission, crucial for future space missions.



Southern India's Reservoirs Face Depleting Water Levels

- The **Central Water Commission's** recent report highlights growing concerns as water levels in reservoirs across southern Indian states, including Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, continue to decline.
- **The collective storage capacity of 53.334 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM)** is witnessing a sharp drop in reserves, sounding alarm bells for the region.
- The CWC's monitoring of 42 reservoirs in the southern states reveals a troubling trend.



- In September 2023, water stocks stood at 48% of the total storage capacity, dropping to 46% in October, and further plummeting to 44% in November. This starkly contrasts with last year when water reserves were at 87% around the same time.
- **Factors Contributing to Low Stocks : Erratic Rainfall and Climatic Conditions**
- Inter-seasonal rainfall variability during the southwest monsoon led to significant deficits in southern India. The region experienced normal or above-normal rainfall only during a brief period, resulting in a cumulative shortfall of 8%. October, a critical month for rainfall, saw the sixth driest conditions in 123 years, aggravating the water scarcity situation.
- **Impact of Cyclone Hamoon** - Cyclone Hamoon's development in the Bay of Bengal during the onset of the northeast monsoon further hampered rainfall activities, particularly over Tamil Nadu and coastal Andhra Pradesh. The collective rainfall deficiency in south peninsular India reached 60%, amplifying concerns about water scarcity.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Deep Space Optical Communications Seen In News Is Of

- A. Russia
- B. Italy
- C. Japan
- D. USA

ANSWER: D

2. Central Water Commission's Comes Under

- A. Ministry of Environment and Forests
- B. Ministry of Agriculture
- C. Ministry of Jal Shakti
- D. Ministry Of New and Renewable Energy

ANSWER: C

3. Who Is Appointed As Director Of The Special Protection Group

- A. Alok Sharma
- B. Arun Sharma
- C. Anil Rathor
- D. Suresh Verma

ANSWER: A

4. Who Is Appointed As Interim CEO Of Open AI Chat GPT

- A. Sam Altman
- B. Mira Murati
- C. Greg Brockman
- D. Kara Swisher

ANSWER: B

5. Name Of 1st Ever AI -powered Solution For Automated Agricultural News Analysis, Developed In India

- A. Krishi 24/7*
- B. Kisan 24/7*
- C. Krishak AI 24/7*
- D. Fasal AI 24/7*

ANSWER: A

6. DAY-NRLM Signed A MoU With Which Organisation To Enhance The Capacity Of Women Entrepreneurs

- A. RBI
- B. NABARD
- C. SIDBI
- D. NHB

ANSWER: C

7. Which Institution Released The Report On 'Report On Management Of Foreign Exchange Reserves

- A. RBI
- B. SEBI
- C. NHB
- D. NPCI

ANSWER: A

8. Who Is Set To Host 96th Academy Awards In 2024 For Fourth Time

- A. Ellen DeGeneres
- B. Stephen Colbert
- C. Jimmy Fallon
- D. Jimmy Kimmel

ANSWER: D

9. Ministry Is Associated With 'Limited Liability Partnership Rules, 2023

- A. Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- B. Ministry of Finance
- C. Ministry of External Affairs
- D. Ministry of MSME

ANSWER: A

10. 'Stopgap Spending Bill', Seen In News, Is Associated With Which Country

- A. USA
- B. Russia
- C. China
- D. India

ANSWER: A

11. New Bhandu - New Sanand Section', Which Was Recently Inaugurated, Is A Part Of Which Freight Corridor

- A. Central Dedicated Freight Corridor
- B. Western Dedicated Freight Corridor
- C. Southern Dedicated Freight Corridor
- D. Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor

ANSWER: B

12. Which Institution Releases The Annual Greenhouse Gas Bulletin

- A. UNEP
- B. FAO
- C. WMO
- D. CPCB

ANSWER: C

13. Which Country Is Associated With The "Rwanda Plan"

- A. USA
- B. UK
- C. The Netherlands
- D. Russia

ANSWER: B

14. A.T. 'State Of Economy' Report RBI Primary Challenge To Achieve 4% Consumer Price Index Target

- A. Rising food prices
- B. Fluctuating oil prices
- C. Currency devaluation
- D. Unemployment

ANSWER: A

15. Who Recently Secured Re-election As The Prime Minister Of Spain

- A. Pedro Sanchez
- B. Pablo Iglesias
- C. Mariano Rajoy
- D. Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero

ANSWER: A

16. Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited Functions Under Which Union Ministry

- A. Ministry of Ayush
- B. Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers
- C. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- D. Ministry of Health

ANSWER: A

17. 'Kepler-385', Which Was Seen In The News, Is A

- A. Asteroid
- B. Seven-planet System
- C. Satellite
- D. Star

ANSWER: B

18. Gunung Padang Is A Massive Underground Pyramid In Which Country

- A. Japan
- B. Indonesia
- C. Italy
- D. Papua New Guinea

ANSWER: B

19. U.S. Development Finance Corporation Pledged USD 553 Million Funding For Which Indian Project

- A. Narmada Valley Development Project
- B. Colombo West International Terminal Project
- C. Inland Development Waterways Project
- D. Mumbai Trans Harbour Link

ANSWER: B

20. Toxoplasma Gondii Is An Infection Which Transmits Through Which Species

- A. Mosquito
- B. Cat
- C. Rat
- D. Bat

ANSWER: B