

Daily Current Affairs

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International Solar Alliance

- **Malta, a small yet significant player** in the global arena, recently took a remarkable step towards sustainable energy by joining the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- This move underscores the country's commitment to reducing reliance on non-renewable energy sources and embracing environmentally friendly alternatives.
- **Malta's accession to the ISA** marks a significant milestone in the global push towards renewable energy adoption.



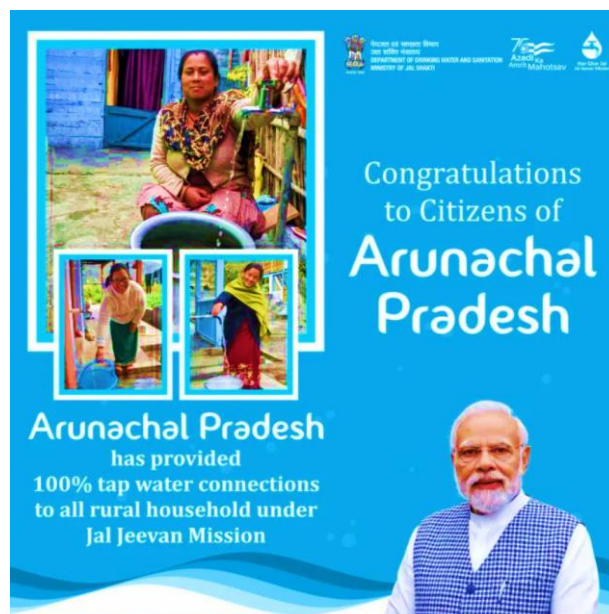
- With this development, Malta becomes the **119th nation to join the alliance**, reinforcing the collective effort to combat climate change through solar energy deployment.
- Christopher Cutajar, the Permanent Secretary at the Maltese Foreign Ministry, signed the ISA Framework Agreement.
- This formal endorsement highlights Malta's intent to actively participate in promoting solar energy initiatives on the international stage.

- The International Solar Alliance originated from a joint effort by India and France. It aims to reduce global dependence on fossil fuels by promoting the widespread adoption of solar energy.
- **The alliance prioritizes the development** of cost-effective solar solutions to facilitate sustainable growth, particularly in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).



Har Ghar Jal

- **Arunachal Pradesh achieved 100% saturation** in 'Har Ghar Jal' scheme under Jal Jeevan Mission. sets Arunachal Pradesh apart as **first state in northeast** and 10th in India to fully embrace the central government's initiative, aimed at ensuring clean and safe piped water for every household.



- The **Centre contributed ₹3,965.41 crore, with the state adding ₹455.51 crore** towards the scheme.
- Chief Minister Khandu expressed thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the central and state government's support, which was crucial for the project's success.
- **Launched in 2019, the JJM aims** to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections across rural India by 2024.
- The mission is a key initiative to enhance the **health and well-being of millions** of Indian citizens by ensuring access to clean drinking water.



Himalayan Basket

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami** unveiled the '**Himalayan Basket**' initiative from his residence.
- Initially conceived by local entrepreneurs **Sumit and Sneha Thapliyal** in **2018**, this innovative project aims to **harness the agricultural riches of Champawat** district, propelling it towards becoming an ideal district through the enhancement of local employment opportunities.



- The **'Himalayan Basket' initiative** is designed to boost local employment by capitalizing on the district's abundant agricultural resources.
- By focusing on the procurement of milk, turmeric, and mint from local farmers, the project endeavors to produce and export high-demand products such as **'churpi' and ghee**.
- This approach not only supports the local farming community but also taps into a lucrative market, thereby opening new economic avenues for the region's inhabitants. Beyond its **agricultural focus, the 'Himalayan Basket' embodies** a broader vision of economic empowerment and sustainability for the Himalayan region.



Badri A2
Ghee



Bilona Badri A2
Ghee



Himalayan Cow
Ghee

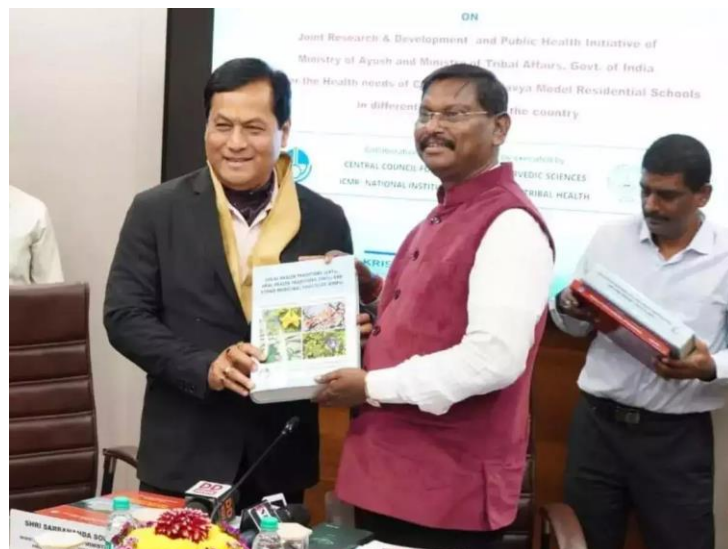
- The initiative, spearheaded by the Thapliyal couple, has already made significant strides by providing employment to over 200 individuals.
- This achievement marks a crucial step towards **addressing the economic challenges** faced by the district, offering a sustainable model for community development and prosperity.
- The launch event highlighted the Uttarakhand government's strong commitment to nurturing grassroots initiatives like the **'Himalayan Basket.'**
- Chief Minister Dhama underscored the importance of such projects in achieving regional **self-sufficiency and economic independence**.
- By backing these initiatives, the government plays an instrumental role in equipping local enterprises with the necessary support and infrastructure to expand their reach and impact.



- The **'Himalayan Basket' project transcends** traditional agricultural boundaries, aiming to establish a sustainable ecosystem that benefits the entire community. The initiative's success in providing substantial employment opportunities serves as a catalyst for regional development, improving the quality of life for many.
- Moreover, by **promoting the export of locally manufactured products**, it positions Champawat on the international stage, highlighting the untapped potential of Himalayan agriculture.

AYUSH And Tribal Affairs Ministries

- **Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Tribal Affairs** announced a Joint Initiative on Public Health of Tribal Students.
- The joint National Level Project of **Health Screening and Management** through Ayurvedic Interventions will benefit over 20 thousand Tribal Students.



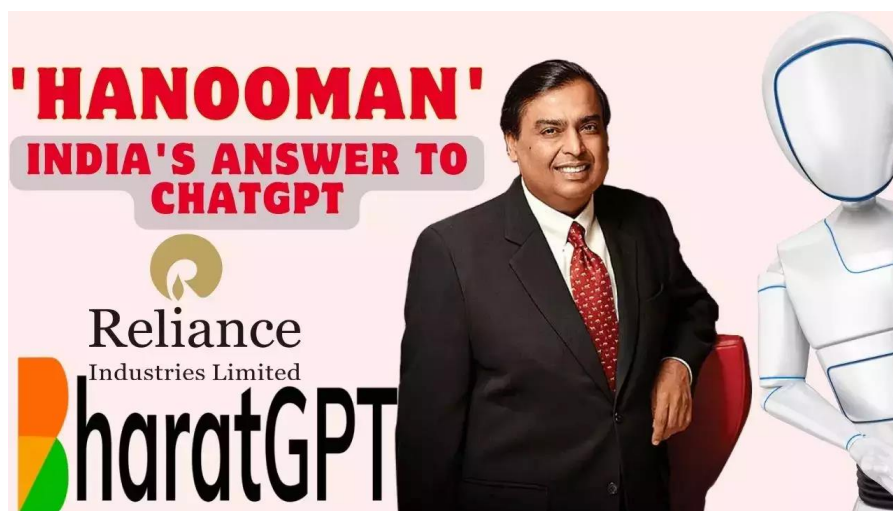
- The **Ministry of Ayush through its research council CCRAS** has taken this health Initiative for Tribal Students with the joint initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and ICMR-NIRTH Jabalpur.
- Union Minister for AYUSH Sarbananda Sonowal and Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda together announced initiative to **address the health needs of children in Eklavya Model Residential Schools** across tribal areas through public health initiatives.
- Mr Sonowal said, to make India a **self-reliant nation, every Indian has to be disease free.**
- He said that both the Ministries have joined hands to study the health needs of Tribal population and cater to the public health-care services in major thrust areas in Malnutrition, Iron deficiency Anaemia and Sickle Cell Diseases through Ayurveda interventions, which are already prevalent and effective to address these health needs.



- He informed that this project aims to cover the students of 10 to 18 years of age group enrolled in **classes 6th to 12th in identified 55 EMRS** across 14 states of the country.
- Mr Munda said, the initiative will help in developing healthy lifestyle practices in children as per the **principles of Ayurveda**, thereby improving and protecting their **health and overall well-being** with emphasis on prevention of diseases. He added that there should be a **medicinal plant garden** in the schools to make the future generation aware about the importance of traditional medicines in our citizen's life.

Hanooman BharatGPT- Style AI service

- **Reliance Industries, led by Mukesh Ambani**, in collaboration with some of the country's premier engineering institutions, is poised to unveil its pioneering **ChatGPT-style service named 'Hanooman' next month**.
- This initiative marks a significant milestone in the **advancement of AI capabilities within India**, promising to bring a new era of digital innovation and accessibility.



- **The development of 'Hanooman'** is a result of a concerted effort between Reliance Jio Infocomm, Centre, and several Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT), including IIT Bombay.
- This **collaborative endeavor**, featuring a consortium of Reliance and eight affiliated universities, underscores the synergy between India's leading corporate powerhouse and its academic institutions in pushing the frontiers of technology.
- During a recent technology conference in Mumbai, attendees were offered a glimpse into the **capabilities of 'Hanooman'**.
- Demonstrations included a motorcycle mechanic interacting with the **AI in Tamil**, a **banker using Hindi** to converse with the tool, and a developer from Hyderabad employing the tool for coding.
- This preview highlighted **'Hanooman's' proficiency in handling complex** interactions across various professional fields. One of the defining features of 'Hanooman' is its ability to operate **across 11 local languages**, catering to a wide spectrum of fields including healthcare, governance, financial services, and education.

- This multilingual capability, coupled with speech-to-text functionalities, positions **'Hanooman'** as a **highly user-friendly and versatile AI model**, ready to transform the digital landscape in India.
- The **launch of 'Hanooman'** comes at a time when the AI sector in India is witnessing substantial growth, with startups like **Sarvam and Krutrim**, backed by notable investors such as Lightspeed Venture Partners and Vinod Khosla's fund, also venturing into the development of open-sourced AI models tailored for the Indian context.
- Reliance Jio's vision extends **beyond 'Hanooman'**, with plans to develop customized models for specific applications **through 'Jio Brain'**, leveraging AI to enhance its services for a subscriber base of approximately 450 million.

Japan Commits Diverse Projects In India

- In a significant move to bolster India's infrastructure and innovation landscape, the Japanese government has **pledged a substantial loan of 232.209 billion yen** (approximately Rs 12,800 crore) to **fund nine distinct projects** across various sectors in India.
- This financial assistance marks a notable step in enhancing the strategic and global partnership between India and Japan, **a relationship that has been thriving since 1958.**



- Aiming to upgrade infrastructure in **India's northeastern region to boost economic development and connectivity.**

- **Innovation and Start-up Promotion in Telangana:** Focused on identifying and nurturing entrepreneurial skills, especially among women and the rural populace, alongside supporting the growth of MSMEs.
- **Chennai Peripheral Ring Road Construction:** Designed to reduce traffic congestion and enhance connectivity within the southern parts of the state, thereby facilitating smoother transportation.



- **Sustainable Horticulture in Haryana:** This initiative seeks to promote environmentally sustainable horticulture practices, ensuring long-term agricultural viability.
- **Climate Response and Ecosystem Enhancement in Rajasthan:** Aimed at combating climate change effects and improving ecosystem services in the region for a sustainable future.
- **Tertiary Medical Services in Nagaland:** The project focuses on developing a medical college hospital in Nagaland to elevate tertiary level medical services and contribute to universal health coverage.
- **Dedicated Freight Corridor Project – Fifth Tranche:** This initiative will support the construction of a new dedicated freight railway system, modernizing the intermodal logistics system to accommodate increased freight traffic efficiently.

France's Highest Civilian Medal

- French authorities awarded Indian Member of Parliament and author Shashi Tharoor the distinction of '**Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur**' (Knight of the Legion of Honour) – the highest French civilian honour.
- It recognizes his long-standing contribution in fostering **Indo-French ties**. **Dr. Tharoor** is an acclaimed writer, former diplomat and currently a parliamentarian

affiliated to Indian National Congress party representing Thiruvananthapuram constituency in the Lok Sabha.



- He has authored over **20 fiction and non-fiction literary works** with a recent political book on Hindu nationalism sparking intense debates.
- As former Under-Secretary General of United Nations, he has championed humanitarian causes internationally.
- The **Legion of Honour medal created in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte** as a military order was later expanded to cover eminent services advancing French interests globally.



- It is the **highest civilian award** given by the French Republic for outstanding service to France, regardless of the nationality of the recipients.
- The President of the French Republic is the Grand Master of the Order of the Legion of Honour. The prestigious order bears the **motto “Honneur et Patrie” (Honour and Fatherland)**.
- In his illustrious career, Tharoor has engaged extensively with several French leaders and advanced bilateral strategic ties. He also admires French values greatly.



- Chairman of the French Senate said that ‘Dr Tharoor is also a true friend of **France, a Francophone with a keen understanding of France** and its culture’. In the course of his career at the United Nations, Sr Shashi Tharoor has worked with a large number of French foreign ministers.
- The list of distinguished Indians who have been honored with the Legion of **Honour includes influential figures** such as JRD Tata, Satyajit Ray, Pandit Ravi Shankar, Zubin Mehta, E Sreedharan, Amitabh Bachchan, Lata Mangeshkar, Shah Rukh Khan, and many others.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which Country Last Till Date To Join International Solar Alliance

- A. Malta
- B. Cyprus
- C. Swaziland
- D. Uruguay

ANSWER: A

2. International Solar Alliance Launched In

- A. 2014
- B. 2015
- C. 2016
- D. 2017

ANSWER: B

3. Hanooman ChatGPT Is Launched By

- A. Microsoft
- B. Infosys
- C. Reliance
- D. TCS

ANSWER: C

4. Who Is Awarded With France's Highest Civilian Medal Recently

- A. Pankaj Tripathi
- B. Neeraj Chopra
- C. Smriti Irani
- D. Shashi Tharoor

ANSWER: D

5. Bharat 5G Portal- An Integrated Portal", Is Launched By Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Communication
- B. Ministry of Finance
- C. Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- D. Ministry Of Information & Broadcasting

ANSWER: A

6. Which Country's Instant Payment Platform AANI Linked With India's UPI

- A. Qatar
- B. Nepal
- C. UAE
- D. Myanmar

ANSWER: C

7. Where Was Statue Of Khasi Freedom Fighter U Tirot Sing Recently Unveiled

- A. Kathmandu
- B. Dhaka
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Kolkata

ANSWER: B

8. What Is MnBi₂S₄, Recently Mentioned In The News

- A. Invasive plant
- B. Mineral
- C. Black hole
- D. Asteroid

ANSWER: B

9. Which Of Following Litterateurs Have Been Named Recipients Of 58th Jnanpith Award

- A. Kiran Desai and Arvind Adiga
- B. Kedarnath singh and Vikram Seth
- C. Gulzar and Jagadguru Rambhadracharya
- D. Vikram Seth and Arvind Adiga

ANSWER: C

10. Which Among Following Best Describes About Rhodamine B

- A. Toxic And Carcinogenic Chemical Used In Various Industries For Dyeing
- B. Protein Found In The Flower Rhododendron, Used In Treating Joint Pain
- C. Recently Developed Vaccine Against Arthritis
- D. Water Molecules On The Surface Of Asteroids

ANSWER: A

11. Which Country Hosted 3rd Meeting Of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement

- A. Indonesia
- B. India
- C. Myanmar
- D. Malaysia

ANSWER: B

12. Which Organization Released Report Titled 'Asia And The Pacific SDG Progress Report 2024

- A. UNESCO
- B. UNESCAP
- C. UNDP
- D. IMF

ANSWER: B

13. Reality Tech Firm Unveiled A Digital Twin Of Mohammed Quli Qutb Shah's Tomb In Which City

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Lucknow
- C. Delhi
- D. Bhopal

ANSWER: A

14. Which Institute Created An Anti Drone System Relies On Sound Technology

- A. IIT Roorkee
- B. IIT Bombay
- C. IIT Jammu
- D. IIT Kanpur

ANSWER: C

15. Where Was Kalughat Inland Waterway Transport Terminal Inaugurated

- A. Haryana
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Bihar
- D. Gujarat

ANSWER: C

16. Gabon Which Was Seen In The News, Is Located In Which Region

- A. Africa
- B. Europe
- C. Australia
- D. Asia

ANSWER: A

17. Which Organisation Has Recently Conducted The BSE EXPO-2024

- A. Broadcast Engineering Society
- B. Securities And Exchange Board Of India
- C. Ministry Of Economic Affairs
- D. Ministry Of Information & Broadcasting

ANSWER: A

18. Mission Basundhara Is An Initiative Of Which State

- A. Mizoram
- B. Manipur
- C. Assam
- D. Sikkim

ANSWER: C

19. Prabowo Subianto, Became New President Of Which Country

- A. Indonesia
- B. Malaysia
- C. Vietnam
- D. Egypt

ANSWER: A

20. Section 125 Of The Criminal Procedure Code Primarily Deals With

- A. Promoting hatred among classes
- B. Maintenance of wives, children and parents
- C. Culpable homicide
- D. Juvenile Justice

ANSWER: B