

Daily Current Affairs

05 March 2024

SWAYAM Plus

- In alignment with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has announced the launch of the **SWAYAM Plus platform**, operated by IIT-Madras.
- This initiative aims to provide industry-relevant courses to enhance the employability of learners, including working professionals.
- Key Features of SWAYAM Plus Platform:
- **Collaboration with industry leaders** such as L&T, Microsoft, CISCO, and others to develop courses aligned with industry needs.
- **Multilingual content**, AI-enabled guidance, credit recognition, and pathways to employment are integrated into the platform.

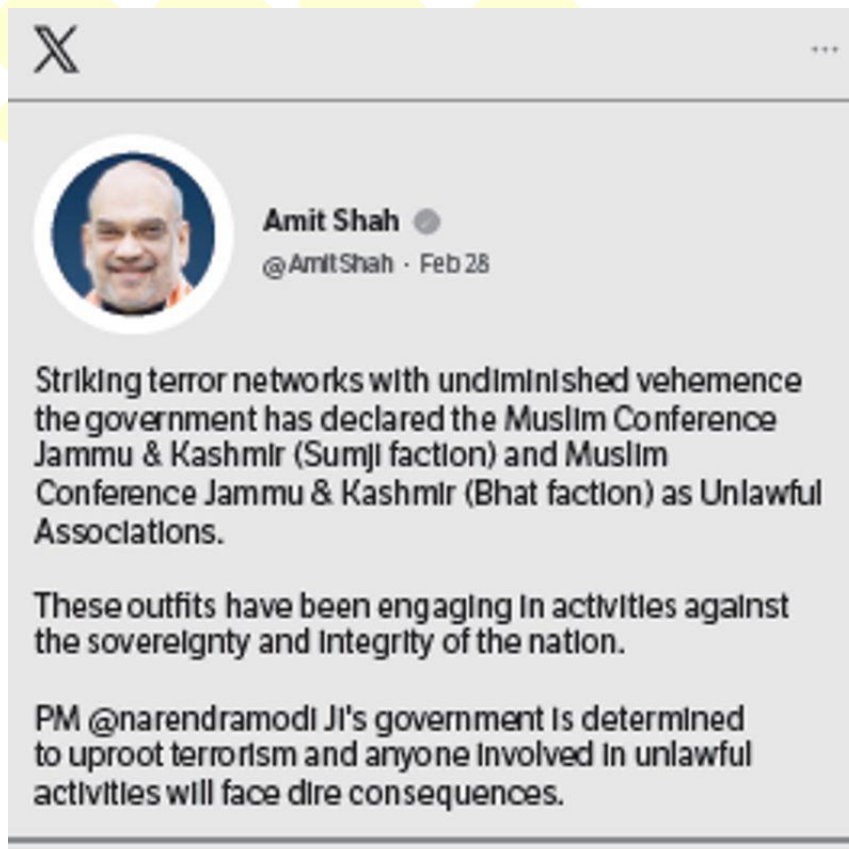


- Focus on building a **comprehensive ecosystem for professional and career development**, involving learners, course providers, industry, academia, and strategic partners.

- **Providing credit recognition for high-quality certifications** and courses offered by industry and academia partners.
- Targeting learners from tier 2 and 3 towns and rural areas, offering employment-focused courses in vernacular languages.
- **Facilitating mentorship**, scholarships, and job placements as value-added services.
- Enabling upskilling and re-skilling at all levels – certificate, diploma, or degree.

Sumji faction & Bhat faction as Unlawful Associations

- The **central government, under Section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967**, has declared two factions of the Muslim Conference in Jammu & Kashmir as unlawful associations.
- This measure aims to **combat terrorism and preserve national security**.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah made the announcement via a statement on social media platform X, highlighting the government's dedication to dismantling terror networks and safeguarding the nation's integrity.



- **Muslim Conference Jammu & Kashmir (Sumji Faction):**
- Engaged in activities detrimental to India's sovereignty and integrity.

- Actively supporting terrorist activities to separate Jammu and Kashmir from the Indian union.
- Numerous criminal cases, including those under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, registered against the Sumji faction and its members.
- **Muslim Conference Jammu & Kashmir (Bhat Faction):**
- Implicated in promoting, aiding, and abetting secessionist movements in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Accused of supporting terrorism and participating in unlawful activities threatening India's sovereignty, security, and integrity.
- Multiple criminal charges under various sections of the law, including the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, against the Bhat faction and its members.

Urban Frame Survey Using Bhuvan

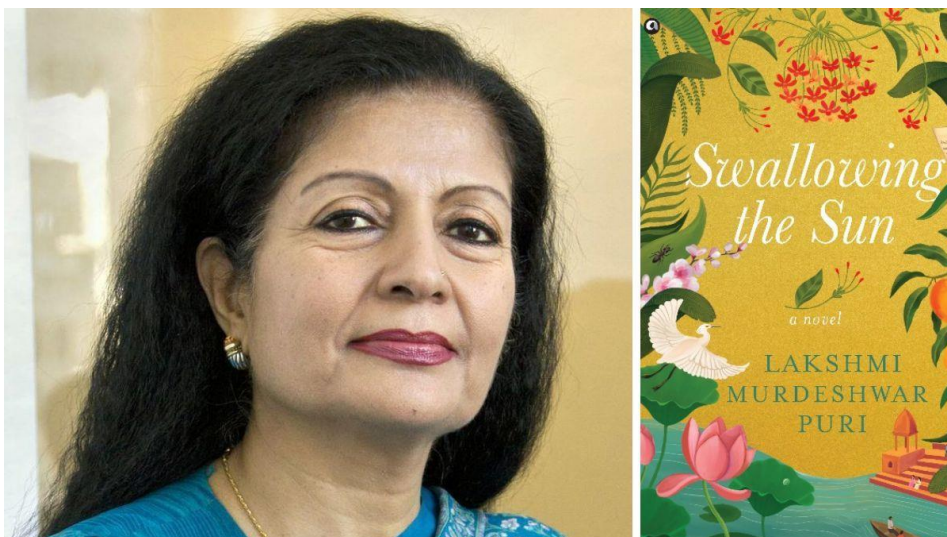
- In a significant move toward modernization, the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has partnered with the **National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC)** under the **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** to digitize the Urban Frame Survey (UFS) using advanced Geo ICT tools and techniques through the Bhuvan Platform.
- Facilitating the **Urban Frame Survey (UFS)** in a digital mode to enhance efficiency and accuracy in data collection and maintenance.



- Signed by Shri Subash Chandra Malik, Additional Director General, NSSO, MoSPI, and Dr. Srinivasa Rao S, Deputy Director, BGWSA, NRSC, in the presence of key officials.
- Development/improvement of **mobile application for Geo-tagging** of NSSO Urban Frame Survey data.
- Creation of a **web portal for visualization**, data scrutiny, editing, etc., of data submitted through the mobile application.
- **QGIS plug-in development** for accessing captured polygons.
- Fine-tuning of Block, IV-unit, Ward, and Town boundaries of UFS using High-Resolution Satellite Imagery.
- Capacity building of NSSO officials by NRSC.
- Digital UFS conducted for the first time during Phase 2017-22, covering more than 5300 towns.
- In the current phase (2022 – 2027), survey works of around 8134 towns are planned with improved digital solutions.
- **Transformation** of UFS from analogue to digital mode.
- **Timely updating of Urban Frame** to meet MoSPI's targets.

Swallowing The Sun

- **Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri**, former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations and wife of Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, celebrated the launch of her debut book **“Swallowing the Sun” in Mumbai**.
- The novel, set during the time of independence, draws inspiration from Puri's parents and her roots in Maharashtra, aiming to illuminate themes of women empowerment and cultural heritage.



- “**Swallowing the Sun**” is deeply rooted in Lakshmi Puri’s personal history and heritage, drawing inspiration from her upbringing in Maharashtra.
- The novel explores **themes of women empowerment** through its protagonist, shedding light on the struggles and triumphs of women during a pivotal period in Indian history.
- Puri expressed that the book is influenced by various **Abhangas, spiritual hymns composed by renowned Maharashtrian saints and poets**, enriching the narrative with cultural depth and resonance.
- The launch event in Mumbai was attended by prominent figures, including industrialist Anand Mahindra, who commended Lakshmi Puri’s talent and celebrated the successful release of “**Swallowing the Sun.**”
- Puri’s literary debut marks a significant milestone in her career, showcasing her multifaceted talents beyond her distinguished tenure at the United Nations.

Pharmacopoeia Recognition

- **India and Nicaragua** have forged a significant partnership in the field of pharmaceutical regulation through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Pharmacopoeia recognition.
- This milestone agreement marks **Nicaragua as the first nation in the Spanish-speaking world** to recognize the Indian Pharmacopoeia, showcasing the growing global recognition of India’s pharmaceutical standards.



- India’s Ambassador to Nicaragua, Dr. Sumit Seth, and Nicaragua’s Minister of Health, Dr. Martha Reyes, signed the MoU on Pharmacopoeia cooperation

between the two nations. This MoU underscores the commitment of both countries to collaborate in regulating medicines and ensuring quality healthcare for their citizens.

- With this MoU, **Nicaragua joins a select group of nations** that recognize the Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP).
- The IP, maintained by the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), sets standards for drugs in India, ensuring their quality, efficacy, and safety.
- The recognition of IP by Nicaragua reflects its adherence to global standards and its confidence in India's regulatory framework.
- **Pharmacopoeias play a crucial role in regulating** the quality of drugs manufactured and consumed within a country. They provide standards for drug composition, purity, and testing methods, guiding regulatory authorities and pharmaceutical industries in ensuring the safety and efficacy of medications.
- **Major Pharmacopoeias in the world** include the United States Pharmacopoeia (USP), British Pharmacopoeia (BP), European Pharmacopoeia (Ph Eur), and Japanese Pharmacopoeia (JP).
- Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) **The IP, established in 1955**, is the official book of standards for drugs in India. It defines specifications and testing methods for both crude drugs and finished formulations, ensuring uniformity and quality in the pharmaceutical sector.



Drug & Cosmetic Act 1940 & Rules 1945



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- The IP holds legal status within the **Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940**, and compliance with its standards is mandatory for all drugs imported, manufactured, and distributed in India.

- The **IP has gained recognition beyond India's borders**, with several nations acknowledging it as a book of standards for pharmaceuticals. Prior to Nicaragua, **Afghanistan, Ghana, Nepal, Mauritius, and Suriname** had recognized the IP.
- With Nicaragua's inclusion, the IP now enjoys recognition in six nations, further enhancing India's standing in the global pharmaceutical landscape.

RIL Signs Deal With Disney

- **Reliance Industries (RIL)** has unveiled a significant merger deal with Viacom18 Media and The **Walt Disney Company**, aimed at forming a joint venture (JV) that will integrate the **operations of Viacom18 and Star India**.
- This strategic move is poised to reshape the landscape of the Indian entertainment and sports industry.
- Merger Agreement and Investment **RIL, Viacom18 Media, and Disney** sign binding definitive agreements for the merger. Viacom18's media business to be merged into Star India through a court-approved scheme of arrangement.
- RIL commits to investing **Rs 11,500 crore** (approximately US\$ 1.4 billion) into the JV to support its growth strategy.



- Transaction values the **JV at Rs 70,352 crore** (approximately US\$ 8.5 billion) on a post-money basis, excluding synergies.

- Ownership structure: RIL to control 16.34%, Viacom18 46.82%, and Disney 36.84%.
- Potential contribution of additional media assets by Disney, subject to regulatory approvals.
- **Nita M. Ambani appointed as Chairperson** of the JV, bringing her visionary leadership to the forefront.
- Uday Shankar named Vice Chairperson, providing strategic guidance to the JV based on his extensive industry experience.
- The JV poised to become a leading TV and digital streaming platform for entertainment and sports content in India.
- Iconic media assets from both Viacom18 and Star India, including Colors, StarPlus, StarGOLD, and Star Sports, will be consolidated.
- Potential viewership of over 750 million across India and catering to the Indian diaspora globally.
- **Combination of Viacom18 and Star India's** expertise to offer diverse and appealing entertainment content and sports livestreaming services.
- **Integration of Disney's acclaimed** films and shows with Viacom18's productions and sports offerings to create a novel digital-focused entertainment experience.
- Commitment to delivering innovative and convenient digital entertainment at affordable prices.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. CHAKSU PLATFORM IS LAUNCHED BY

- A. Ministry Of Health
- B. Ministry Of Agriculture
- C. Ministry Of Communications
- D. Ministry Of Home Affairs

ANSWER: C

2. Pars 1' Satellite Is Launched By

- A. China
- B. Japan
- C. India
- D. Iran

ANSWER: D

3. 1st Country In World To Enshrine Right To Abortion In Constitution

- A. Sweden
- B. Italy
- C. France
- D. Denmark

ANSWER: C

4. 1st Green Hydrogen Plant In India in Stainless Steel Sector Made In

- A. Haryana
- B. Gujarat
- C. Kerala
- D. Odisha

ANSWER: A

5. What Is 'Homosep Atom', Recently Seen In The News

- A. Ancient Irrigation Technique
- B. Septic Tank/Manhole Cleaning Robot
- C. Nuclear Ballistic Submarine
- D. Ancient Medicinal Practice

ANSWER: B

6. Krishna Raja Sagara Reservoir Is Located In Which State

- A. Karnataka
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Odisha

ANSWER: A

7. What Is The Theme Of 'World NGO Day 2024

- A. Building a Sustainable Future: Role of NGOs in Achieving the SDGs
- B. Building a More Equitable World
- C. Empowering Communities for Sustainable Development
- D. Celebrating Community Heroes

ANSWER: A

8. Feleti Teo Became A New Prime Minister Of Which Country

- A. Tuvalu
- B. Tonga
- C. Palau
- D. Fiji

ANSWER: A

9. Which State Government Introduced A Bill To Hold Rioters Responsible For Damage To Both Government And Private Property

- A. Bihar
- B. Odisha
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Madhya Pradesh

ANSWER: C

10. Where Was 2nd State Level Shehri Samridhi Utsav Inaugurated

- A. Kohima
- B. Shillong
- C. Gangtok
- D. Agartala

ANSWER: D

11. Rank Of India In Global Intellectual Property Index 2024

- A. 42nd
- B. 45th
- C. 44th
- D. 46th

ANSWER: A

12. Which State Government Decided To Repeal Muslim Marriage And Divorce Registration Act, 1935

- A. Tripura
- B. Assam
- C. Kerala
- D. Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER: B

13. Ayutthaya City Is Located In Which Country

- A. Thailand
- B. Vietnam
- C. Egypt
- D. Sudan

ANSWER: A

14. Neil Wagner Retired From International Cricket, Is From Which Country

- A. New Zealand
- B. Australia
- C. South Africa
- D. England

ANSWER: A

15. What Is Agasthyagama Beddomii

- A. Wolf spider
- B. Kangaroo lizard
- C. Desert Rain Frog
- D. Invasive weed

ANSWER: B

16. Ahobilam Paruveta Festival, Is Celebrated In Which State

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Karnataka
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Tamil Nadu

ANSWER: C

17. Primary Role Of The Chinook/CH-47F Helicopter

- A. Attack And Armed Reconnaissance
- B. Search And Rescue
- C. Medical Evacuation
- D. Heavy Troop And Supply Transport

ANSWER: D

18. Who Became First Nationalist First Minister Of Northern Ireland

- A. Norma Foley
- B. Catherine Martin
- C. Michelle O'Neill
- D. Helen McEntee

ANSWER: C

19. Which Company Has Partnered With Indian Institute Of Science For 6G Research And Development In Bengaluru

- A. Intel
- B. Qualcomm
- C. Nokia
- D. Ericsson

ANSWER: C

20. Chachnama Is The Oldest Chronicle Of Which Of The Following Regions

- A. Kashmir
- B. Gandhar
- C. Sindh
- D. Punjab

ANSWER: C