

Daily Current Affairs

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Iran Launches 'Pars 1' Satellite

- Iran's venture into space exploration and satellite deployment continues with the launch of the "Pars 1" satellite, facilitated by Russia from the **Vostochny Cosmodrome**.
- This event underscores the technological **collaboration between Iran and Russia**, occurring against a backdrop of heightened scrutiny and concern from Western nations.
- **Purpose is to Remote sensing** and imaging, focused on scanning Iran's topography This launch is part of Iran's broader efforts in space technology, following its claim of launching three satellites into orbit using its own rocket earlier in January.



- Such developments have sparked international debates over the **dual-use nature of satellite launch technologies**, which could be repurposed for **ballistic missile capabilities**, including those potentially carrying nuclear warheads.
- Western nations, notably the **United States**, have expressed concerns over **Iran's satellite launches**, citing the potential military applications of the technology involved.

- These apprehensions are situated within a larger context of tensions surrounding Iran's nuclear ambitions and its compliance with international agreements designed to curb such capabilities.
- **Iran, facing sanctions from the United States**, especially after the 2018 withdrawal from the nuclear deal by the US, maintains that its space activities are for civilian or defensive purposes and not for developing nuclear weapons.
- The launch of Pars 1 follows the **August 2022 deployment of Iran's Khayyam satellite**, also facilitated by Russia.



- This pattern of collaboration indicates a strengthening of scientific and technological ties between Iran and Russia, amidst broader geopolitical tensions.
- There's speculation and concern about the potential military advantages such cooperation might afford Russia, particularly in the context of its military activities in Ukraine.
- Moreover, **Iran's alleged support for Russia**, including the provision of armed drones, has led to announcements of forthcoming sanctions by the US, aimed at penalizing Iran for its role in the Ukraine conflict.

1st Green Hydrogen Plant In Stainless Steel Sector

- Union Steel Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia virtually inaugurated **India's 1st Green Hydrogen Plant in the Stainless Steel Sector** at Jindal Stainless Limited, Hisar.
- This plant will be **the world's first off-grid Green Hydrogen** plant for the stainless steel industry and the world's first Green Hydrogen plant with rooftop and floating solar.



- This project will **reduce carbon emissions** by around two thousand 700 Metric Tonnes per annum and 54 thousand tons of carbon dioxide emissions over the next two decades.
- Mr Scindia highlighted **India's commitment to a green and sustainable future**, emphasizing the need for responsible economic progress in the post-COVID era.
- He also highlighted **India's progress in the steel sector**, evolving from a net importer to a net exporter and aiming to become the world's largest producer of crude steel.
- The **National Green Hydrogen Mission was launched** last year with an outlay of around twenty thousand crore rupees to make India a Global Hub for the production, usage and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.



Digital Intelligence Platform and CHAKSU

- Union Minister for Communications **Ashwini Vaishnav** launched the **Digital Intelligence Platform and CHAKSHU** - Report Suspected Fraud Communication Facility on **Sanchar Saathi Portal** at a function in New Delhi.
- **Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP)** developed by the Department of Telecommunications aims at facilitating coordination among the Stakeholders to Curb the **Misuse of Telecom Resources in Cybercrime and Financial Fraud**.



- While the **Chakshu facilitates citizens to report suspected** fraud communication received over call, SMS or WhatsApp to defraud. These include **KYC expiry** or update of bank account, gas connection and impersonation as a government

official or relative for sending money and disconnection of all mobile numbers by the Department of Telecommunications.

- Mr Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the Government has laid **special focus on cyber security** to provide safeguards against cyber frauds.
- These two initiatives will further strengthen the Government's efforts in the fight against **cyber fraud**.



- Mr Vaishnaw said that since the launch of the Sanchar Saathi Portal in May last year, more than **one core fraudulent mobile connections** were delisted.
- The Portal detects fraudulent connections and triggers re-verification. He said, every day more than 2 thousand 500 such connections are being disconnected.
- On the occasion, Union Minister of State for Communications Devusinh Chauhan was also present.

e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi

- **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** Minister Piyush Goyal stated that the agriculture sector will be the foundational pillar spearheading the nation towards becoming **'Viksit Bharat' by 2047**.
- He was addressing the gathering at the launch ceremony of **'e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi'** (Digital Gateway) of the **Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority** (WDRA) in New Delhi.
- **'e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi'** initiative will ease the farmers' **warehousing logistics** with the help of technology and aid the farmers in receiving fair prices for their produce.



- He said that the initiative with its **simplified digital process** can ease the procedure of farmers' storage at any registered WDR warehouse.
- Mr. Goyal announced that the **security deposit charges at WDR registered** warehouses will soon be reduced to encourage more farmers, especially small farmers, to utilise the warehouses and enhance their income.
- He said that the **farmers stocking their produce** at these warehouses would need to pay only one percent security deposit instead of the earlier three percent.



MPs & MLAs Privileges

- Supreme Court has ruled that **MPs and MLAs do not enjoy immunity** from prosecution for taking bribes to make a speech or cast a vote in the legislature.
- A **seven-judge constitution bench** headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud unanimously overruled the **1998 verdict delivered** by a five-judge bench in the

JMM bribery case by which MPs and MLAs were granted immunity from prosecution for taking bribes to make a speech or vote in the legislature.



- The apex court said, **bribery is not protected by parliamentary privileges** and the interpretation of the 1998 verdict is contrary to **Articles 105 and 194** of the Constitution.
- Articles 105 and 194 deal with the powers and privileges of MPs and MLAs in Parliament and legislative assemblies.
- Supreme Court said that bribery is not immune under the articles as it erodes probity in public life.

Right To Abortion

- **France is poised to become the first country** in the world to enshrine the **right to abortion in its Constitution**.
- Parliamentarians from the upper and lower chambers will meet on Monday (4th March 2024) in a special session summoned by President Emmanuel Macron.
- If, as expected, they vote for the **government's motion** by a three-fifths majority, then the country's 1958 Constitution will be revised to enshrine women's guaranteed freedom to abort.
- It will be the **25th amendment to the Fifth Republic's** founding document, and the first since 2008.
- Mr. Macron said he had promised to make women's freedom to choose an abortion irreversible.



Indian Pharma Standards

- Nicaragua has become the first nation in the Spanish-speaking world to recognise Indian Pharmacopoeia, as India and Nicaragua signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on **Pharmacopoeia on cooperation** in the field of the regulation of medicines.
- India's Ambassador to Nicaragua Sumit Seth and Nicaragua's Minister of Health Martha Reyes signed the MoU between the two nations.
- Countries either have their **own Pharmacopoeia** or recognise the Pharmacopoeia of another country for referring to the standards of drugs manufactured or consumed in that country, according to the Indian Embassy in Nicaragua.



- **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)** is an autonomous institution under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, created to set standards for drugs in the country.
- IP is the **official book of standards** for drugs defining the specified limits and testing methods for crude drugs and finished formulations.
- **IP has a legal status** within the Second Schedule of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- **All the drugs imported, manufactured and distributed** in India must conform to the standards codified in the IP.
- The IP has been recognised as a book of **standard by five nations** - Afghanistan, Ghana, Nepal, Mauritius and Suriname.

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.

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