

Daily Current Affairs

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CBI & Europol

- The **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** and European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) on Thursday signed a Working Arrangement for establishing cooperative relations between the law enforcement authorities of these two organisations.
- The Working Arrangement was signed by CBI Director Praveen Sood and **Executive Director of Europol, Catherine De Bolle.**



- This arrangement promotes **direct cooperation between both organizations** to build on their respective mandates, strategies and to explore the potential for synergies.
- During the signing ceremony, Director, CBI expressed his appreciation for the collaborative spirit demonstrated by both parties. He said, this moment marks a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to combat crime and enhance cooperation between these two agencies.



- CBI in a statement said that this **working arrangement not only brings together CBI and Europol** but also enables wide cooperation between all law enforcement agencies in India and all law enforcement agencies of 27 European countries that Europol represents as well as third countries and organizations associated with Europol.
- This will **enhance cooperation in jointly tackling** various forms of crime including organized crime, financial crimes, terrorism, cybercrime, human and drug trafficking and money laundering.

UNDP

- The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** has unveiled its latest findings, revealing a stark reality of multidimensional vulnerability plaguing significant portions of the Northern and Eastern region of Sri Lanka.
- As a solution, Indian investments in the entire Sri Lanka in general and the region in particular are being seen as a way to help ameliorate the living conditions by creating job opportunities.
- The **Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI)** indicates that a substantial percentage of individuals residing in these areas are struggling below the poverty line and facing various vulnerabilities. Disturbingly, certain districts within these regions stand out as among the worst affected across the entire island nation.



- The recent developments in **collaboration between Sri Lanka and India** offer a potential pathway towards ameliorating these challenges. There is optimism that collaborative efforts between Sri Lanka and India could pave the way for

tangible improvements in the lives of those most affected by poverty and vulnerability.

- Last year, **Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremasinghe** engaged in discussions with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, culminating in the formulation of a joint vision document that charts the course for bilateral relations in the time to come.
- Central to this vision is the mutual commitment to develop Trincomalee on the eastern coast into a national and regional hub for industry, energy, and economic activities.



Navigating Vulnerability: Insights from Sri Lanka's Multidimensional Vulnerability Index

Co-authored by Azusa Kubota, (Resident Representative, UNDP Sri Lanka)
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- The **ambitious development plans for the eastern** part of the island hold promise for generating employment opportunities and enhancing living standards for residents. In addition, India has already executed several projects across the island that have been instrumental in improving living conditions of the people. Earlier this month, a contract was signed for the implementation of Hybrid Renewable Energy Systems in Delft, Nainativu and Analaitivu islands off Jaffna. In addition, projects at Mannar and Pooneryn will further help the northern region in manifold ways.
- The **UNDP's data highlights the severity of the situation**, especially in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, and the development plans for Trincomalee and other projects both spearheaded by India, offer hope for communities facing various challenges in these areas.

Waste From Electronics

- **UN agencies have warned that waste from electronics** is piling up worldwide while recycling rates remain low and are likely to fall even further. The agencies were referring to **“e-waste,”** which is defined as **discarded devices** with a plug or battery, including mobile phones, electronic toys, TVs, microwave ovens, e-cigarettes, laptop computers and solar panels. It does not include waste from electronic vehicles, which fall into a separate category.



- **UN’s International Telecommunications Union and research arm UNITAR** in a report yesterday said that some 62 million tons of “e-waste” was generated in 2022, enough to fill tractor-trailers that could be lined up bumper to bumper around the globe. It’s on track to reach 82 million tons by 2030.
- **Metals – including copper, gold and iron** – made up half of the 62 million tons, worth a total of some 91 billion dollars, the report said. Plastics accounted for 17 million tons and the remaining 14 million tons include substances like composite materials and glass.



- The **UN says 22 percent of the e-waste** mass was properly collected and recycled in 2022. It is expected to fall to 20 percent by the end of the decade because of “staggering growth” of such waste due to higher consumption,

limited repair options, shorter product life cycles, growing “electronification” of society, and inadequate e-waste management infrastructure, the agencies said.

- **About half of all e-waste is generated in Asia**, where few countries have laws on e-waste or collection targets, according to the report. Recycling and collection rates top 40 percent in Europe, where per-capita waste generation is highest: nearly 18 kilograms.



Russian And Belarusian Athletes

- **The International Olympic Committee (IOC)** has announced that the Russian and Belarusian athletes will not be allowed to participate in the parade of nations at the **opening ceremony of the Paris Games**.
- The IOC director James McLeod said , the athletes who will be competing in the Games under a neutral flag will not participate in the parade and teams during the opening ceremony since they are individual athletes.



- He said, a decision on whether they would participate in the closing ceremony had not yet been made.
- Meanwhile, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that the move amounted to the destruction of the Olympic idea.
- Russian and Belarusian athletes who qualify for the Games will do so without their flags and anthems. Following Russia's conflict with Ukraine, athletes from Russian and Belarusian were banned from many international sporting events.

Trinetra App

- The **Uttar Pradesh police force** is set to adopt the advanced **Trinetra app 2.0**, a cutting-edge digital platform that promises to revolutionize crime prevention and investigation in the state.
- **With over 9.32 lakh criminal records** digitized within the Trinetra database, frontline officers will now have the capability to swiftly identify suspects during security checks.
- The integration of this innovative app will expedite access to crucial information, enhancing operational efficiency, according to UP DGP Prashant Kumar.
- The **Trinetra app 2.0 offers seamless accessibility** via Android and iOS mobile applications.



- Police personnel can input and access comprehensive **crime-related information, including**: Crime histories , FIR details , Interrogation reports, Audio recordings, Photographs, Rewards, Incarceration details, Seizure records. The app empowers law enforcement with facial recognition capabilities, enabling swift identification of suspects based on photographic data.
- Leveraging **audio-based search functionality**, Trinetra 2.0 can also identify criminals based on voice samples, which will be particularly beneficial in cybercrime cases where only the criminal's voice is available.

- The Crime GPT feature enables instant access to comprehensive information regarding criminals and criminal activities, streamlining investigative processes. **Trinetra 2.0 also facilitates** the inclusion of seizure details and related documentation, allowing for in-depth analysis through the Crime GPT feature.



- **State police stations can generate QR codes** for seized goods, simplifying the retrieval of pertinent information regarding confiscated items.
- The app also facilitates the search for missing individuals through photograph linking and facial recognition technology, bolstering efforts to locate and reunite missing persons with their families.
- With its **comprehensive features and integration of cutting-edge technologies like facial and voice recognition**, the **Trinetra app 2.0** aims to empower law enforcement in UP with advanced tools for efficient crime prevention, investigation, and public safety.

Dr. Sultan Al Jaber

- **Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, the President of COP28** (the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference), received the **“CERAWeek Leadership Award for Building Global Consensus towards a Sustainable Energy Future”** from CERAWeek by S&P Global.
- This prestigious award recognized his extraordinary leadership in delivering the **UAE Consensus, a groundbreaking agreement** that outlined concrete pathways for countries and industries to transition to sustainable energy systems and keep **global warming within 1.5°C**. The UAE Consensus, achieved during COP28 in Dubai, was a historic achievement in global climate action.



- It secured several critical commitments from all participating countries, including: A commitment to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems in a just, orderly, and equitable manner.
- Time-bound targets to triple global renewable energy capacity and double **energy efficiency by 2030**.
- The consensus was reached through a spirit of multilateralism, inclusivity, and partnership, bringing together governments, industries, civil society, and other stakeholders.



- During COP28, Dr. Al Jaber also launched the **Oil and Gas Decarbonization Charter (OGDC)**, which aims to decarbonize the oil and gas industry. The charter has gained significant support, with 52 companies representing almost 40% of global oil production signing up.

- These companies have committed to **achieving net-zero emissions by or before 2050**, eliminating routine flaring by 2030, and reducing methane emissions to zero by 2030.
- Dr. Al Jaber emphasized the need for **“smart policies to commercialize clean technologies”** and stressed the importance of mobilizing finance to support the energy transition. He called for increased climate finance to ensure that renewable energy capacity is tripled by 2030 and that developing countries are not left behind.



International Telecommunication Union

- **India Leads Digital Innovation Board with Dr Neeraj Mittal as Co-Chair:** Dr Neeraj Mittal was unanimously elected as co-chair of the Digital Innovation Board of ITU formed under the aegis of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development.



- **The Digital Innovation Board** comprises of Ministers and Vice Ministers of Telecom/ICT of 23 Member Countries of ITU spanning Asia, Europe, Africa, North and South America.
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has started **Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development** to respond to significant unmet needs of ITU Membership in the area of innovation, as articulated in the **Kigali Action Plan adopted** at the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2022 (WTDC-22) and the Outcomes of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022 (PP-22).
- **The Alliance has three main vehicles:** - Digital Transformation Lab, Network of Acceleration Centres, Digital Innovation Board.



- The Alliance establishes the Digital Innovation Board to provide strategic guidance, expertise and advocacy regarding its mission of building critical local enablers and fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in digital development, to create a more inclusive and equitable digital future for all.
- **The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has selected 17 organizations** from around the world to host Network of Acceleration Centres with the Global Innovation Centre at ITU Area Office and Innovation Centre, New Delhi, India to coordinate the efforts of Network Acceleration centres around the globe.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Trinetra App Is Launched By

- A. Gujrat
- B. UP
- C. Kerala
- D. Tamil Nadu

ANSWER: B

2. Who Co Chaired Digital Innovation Board Of ITU From India

- A. Neeraj Mittal
- B. Suresh Kashyap
- C. Heeta Mandana
- D. Sultan Zaber

ANSWER: A

3. CBI Collaborated With Which Agency For Law Enforcement Cooperation

- A. Federal Bureau of Investigation
- B. United States Department of Justice
- C. Hellenic Police
- D. Europol

ANSWER: D

4. National Commission For Women Signed An Mou With Which Security Force To Control Human Trafficking

- A. Central Armed Police Force
- B. Central Reserve Police Force
- C. Railway Protection Force
- D. Central Industrial Security Force

ANSWER: C

5. State Of Global Climate Report Is Released By Which Organization

- A. International Labour Organization
- B. World Meteorological Organization
- C. World Health Organization
- D. United Nations Development Programme

ANSWER: B

6. Who Has Been Appointed As Ambassador Of India To Russia

- A. Saurabh Kumar
- B. Vinay Kumar
- C. Amal Kumar Goswami
- D. D.B. Venkatesh Varma

ANSWER: B

7. Valmiki Tiger Reserve is located in which state

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Bihar
- C. Odisha
- D. New Delhi

ANSWER: B

8. What is 'BioTRIG', recently seen in the news

- A. Waste management technology
- B. Method used for environmental conservation
- C. Tank cleaning robot
- D. Technique to remove pest from crop

ANSWER: A

9. Theme Of 'International Women's Day (IWD) 2024'

- A. Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress
- B. Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow
- C. DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality
- D. Think equal, build smart, innovate for change

ANSWER: A

10. Which Country Hosted The 17th Annual International Biocuration Conference

- A. Myanmar
- B. Nepal
- C. India
- D. Bangladesh

ANSWER: C

11. What Is 'Haiper', Recently Mentioned In The News

- A. Climate Monitoring Satellite
- B. Semiconductor Fabrication technology
- C. AI-powered video generation tool
- D. New island discovered off the coast of Indonesia

ANSWER: C

12. Kinmen Islands Is Located In Which Country

- A. Taiwan
- B. Japan
- C. Vietnam
- D. Philippines

ANSWER: A

13. Gorsam Kora Festival 2024', Is Celebrated In Which State

- A. Assam
- B. Arunachal Pradesh
- C. Manipur
- D. Mizoram

ANSWER: B

14. PM Of India Inaugurated The Kochrab Ashram In Which State

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Punjab
- C. Gujarat
- D. Madhya Pradesh

ANSWER: C

15. Who Has Been Appointed As The Chairman Of The National Commission For Scheduled Castes

- A. Vijay Sampla
- B. Kishor Makwana
- C. Subhash Ramnath Pardhi
- D. Anju Bala

ANSWER: B

16. Prime Minister Of India Recently Laid The Foundation Stone Of Petronet LNG's Petrochemicals Complex At Which Place

- A. Pune, Maharashtra
- B. Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- C. Bikaner, Rajasthan
- D. Dahej Gujarat

ANSWER: D

17. Bhojshala Temple Is Located In Which State

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

ANSWER: B

18. Kazhuvveli Watershed Region, Is Located In Which State

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

ANSWER: D

19. What Is 'Heterobilharzia Americana', Recently Seen In The News

- A. Virus
- B. Whipworm
- C. Flatworm
- D. Bacteria

ANSWER: C

20. Which Greek Ambassador Set Up A Pillar In Honour Of Vishnu

- A. Megasthenes
- B. Heliodoros
- C. Theodorus
- D. Plato

ANSWER: B