

Daily Current Affairs

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India to Host 81st IATA Annual General Meeting

- India will host the prestigious **81st International Air Transport Association (IATA) Annual General Meeting (AGM)** in 2025, marking its return after a 42-year hiatus. This significant event, scheduled for June 8 to 10, will convene in Delhi, the third time the city has hosted the **AGM after 1958 and 1983**.



- IATA AGM brings together **top executives from global airlines**, aircraft manufacturers, and aviation stakeholders to address critical issues in the industry. IATA's Director General, Willie Walsh, expressed anticipation for the event, citing India's remarkable aviation growth. IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers highlighted India's rise in the global aviation landscape.

IPEF Clean Economy Investor Forum

- India participated in the inaugural **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Clean Economy Investor Forum** underway in Singapore.
- The Indian delegation was led by Secretary, Department of Commerce, Sunil Barthwal. Mr. Barthwal acknowledged the **forum as a unique platform that brought global investors**, project proponents, policy makers, academia under one roof which would be instrumental in advancing sustainable infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific Region.



- He underlined the huge investment opportunities that India offers of more than **500 billion US dollars, particularly** in clean energy value chain including renewables, green hydrogen and Electric Vehicle and its infrastructure transition by 2030.
- The Ministry informed that **ten Indian companies among the top 100 climate tech start-ups** have been selected by IPEF for participation. More than 25 Indian companies got opportunity to pitch Indian projects to more than 100 global Investors at the forum.

‘Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam’ Campaign

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the ‘**Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam**’ campaign to commemorate the **World Environment Day**.
- He planted a Peepal tree sapling at Buddha Jayanti Park in Delhi. On World Environment Day, P.M started a campaign ‘**EK PED MAA KE NAAM**’ and called upon everyone, in India and around the world, to **plant a tree in the coming days** as a tribute to our mother.



- P.M planted a tree in line with our commitment to protecting Mother Nature and making sustainable lifestyle choices.
- It would make we all very happy that in the last decade, India has undertaken **numerous collective efforts** which have led to increased forest cover across the nation. This is great for our quest towards sustainable development. It is also commendable how local communities have risen to the occasion and taken a lead in this.

Sheikh Sabah

- **Sheikh Meshal recently dissolved** parliament for as many as four years amid the widespread political dysfunction that's gripped Kuwait.
- Kuwait Emir named the small nation's new crown prince, nearly six months after he took the throne. **Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al Sabah** will become next in line to the throne. The first cabinet position that Sabah held was that of minister of labor and social affairs in July 2006.



- During this time, he also held the position of acting foreign minister. Prior to being appointed minister of information in October 2007, he served as minister of labor and social affairs. He was thereafter designated as an Amiri Diwan advisor.
- Following the **resignation of his predecessor**, Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Sabah was appointed as Kuwait's eighth prime minister by emiri decree.
- Sabah was appointed Crown Prince of Kuwait, marking the first time a member from the Hamad branch of the Al Sabah ruling family has held this position in the country's history.

King Charles III currency notes

- **Bank of England is replacing old banknotes** featuring Queen Elizabeth with new ones featuring King Charles III.



- The portrait of the 75-year-old British monarch will appear on existing designs of all four banknotes-**GBP 5, 10, 20 and 50**- with no other changes to the existing designs. Polymer banknotes that feature the portrait of his late mother, Queen Elizabeth II, will remain legal tender and co-circulate alongside the new King Charles III notes.

Zero Debris Charter

- **12 countries signed the Zero Debris Charter**, a landmark initiative led by the European Space Agency (ESA) to address the pressing issue of space debris. Unveiled in 2023, the Charter commits signatories to achieving debris-neutral space activities by 2030.
- The **Zero Debris Charter is a world-leading effort** to become debris neutral in space by 2030 that was unveiled at the ESA Space Summit in Seville meeting in November 2023.



- Since the launch of the Charter at **ESA's Space Summit in Seville**, Spain, in November 2023, more than 100 organisations from around the world, including national space agencies, leading satellite manufacturers, space start-ups and astronomical societies, have confirmed their intent to sign.



- In addition to the 12 countries, the European Space Agency also signed the Zero Debris Charter as an International Organisation (IGO). **Countries Include in Zero Debris Charter** are Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. It will solidify their commitment to the long-term sustainability of human activities in Earth orbit.

Oleg Kononenko

- Roscosmos state corporation cosmonaut **Oleg Kononenko**, who currently works at the International Space Station has booked a **record of 1,000 days** for the first time in the world in terms of total spaceflight duration.
- His current trip to the ISS began Sept. 15, 2023, when he launched alongside **NASA astronaut Loral O'Hara** and compatriot Nikolai Chub. He also added that "I fly into space to do what I love, not to set records. I've dreamt of and aspired to become a cosmonaut since I was a child,".



- Kononenko, a mechanical engineer with an aviation specialty and cosmonaut since 1996, has had a fulfilling career. His family supports him by allowing him to command four Soyuz missions, spend three Christmases and New Years in orbit, and celebrate four off-planet birthdays.
- Kononenko's accomplishments are **significant for humanity**, as space exploration began with several cosmonauts, including Gagarin, Titov, Nikolayev, and Bykovsky. Bykovsky's five-day solo mission in 1963 remains the longest in history. In 1965, the United States led in space exploration with a week-long endurance mission dubbed "8 Days or Bust."
- **Gemini 7's crew, Frank Borman** and Jim Lovell, broke the nearly eight-day record with a 14-day mission, proving humans could survive a round-trip flight to the Moon. Lovell flew three more times, earning 29 days in space by 1970. In 1970, Nikolayev and Vitali Sevastyanov broke Gemini 7's record with a 17-day orbital stay on Soyuz 9. Georgi Dobrovolski, Vladislav Volkov, and Viktor Patsayev spent 23 days aboard the world's first space station, Salyut 1, but tragically died due to premature depressurization of their Soyuz 11 capsule during re-entry.

Sarabjot Singh

- **Indian shooter Sarabjot Singh** won the gold medal in the men's 10m air pistol event at the ISSF World Cup 2024 in Munich, Germany on Thursday (6th June 2024). He won the first medal for India in the event. Singh scored 242.7 to win the gold medal in the final. Shuaihang Bu of China shot 242.5 for the silver

medal while Germany's Robin Walter settled for the bronze medal in the final with a score of 220.0.



- This was the **second individual ISSF World Cup gold** medal for Singh. He had won the same shooting event at the ISSF World Cup in Bhopal last year. He also won the air pistol mixed team gold medal in Baku in 2023.

NPCI International & Reserve Bank of Peru

- **NPCI International and the Reserve Bank of Peru** have joined forces to introduce a UPI-like real-time payments system in Peru, marking a pioneering move for South America.
- This collaboration aims to revolutionize **Peru's financial landscape**, fostering economic growth and financial inclusion by leveraging India's renowned Unified Payment Interface (UPI) technology.



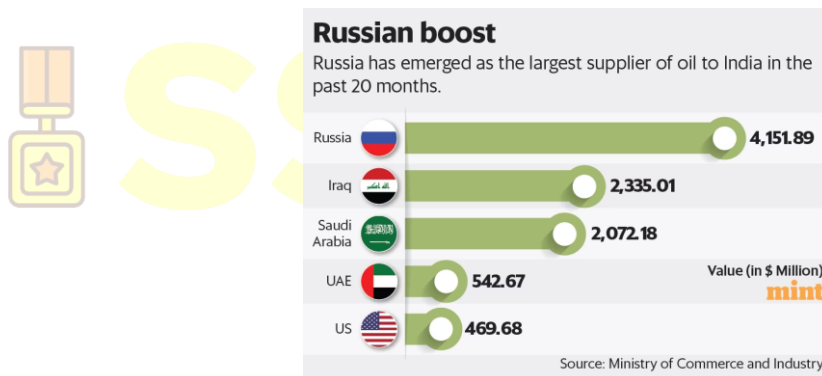
- NPCI International and the Central Reserve Bank of Peru (BCRP) have announced a groundbreaking partnership to deploy a UPI-like real-time payments system in

Peru. This strategic collaboration signifies **Peru's status as the first South American country** to embrace UPI technology, promising enhanced efficiency and accessibility in the country's payment ecosystem.

- The partnership between NPCI International and the BCRP aims to fortify Peru's financial infrastructure, driving economic advancement through digital payments. Together, they seek to promote financial inclusion, cost optimization, and transparency while accommodating future technological advancements and market demands.

India's Shifting Oil Dynamics

- **India's Reliance On Russian Oil** Has Seen A Significant Shift. Despite A Decline In Imports Due To Sanctions-related Challenges, Russia Has Maintained Its Position As **India's Leading Oil Supplier** For The Second Consecutive Year.
- In January, India Witnessed A 12-month Low In Domestic Oil Imports From Russia, Primarily Attributed To The Impact Of Sanctions.



- The Decline In Imports, Particularly Of The **Light Sweet Sokol Grade**, Prompted India To Increase Its Imports From Other Sources, Notably Iraq.
- The Constraints Imposed By Recent U.S. Sanctions On Ships Carrying Russian Oil Above A Designated Price Cap Have Further Complicated The Situation, Leading To Diversions Of Several Tankers Originally Destined For India.
- The **Tightening Of Russian Crude Discounts** Compared To Middle Eastern Alternatives, Coupled With Sanctions-related Disruptions And Rising Tanker Premiums, Has Made Russian Crude Less Attractive For Indian Refiners In Recent Months. This Trend Suggests A Potential Further Decline In India's Imports Of Russian Crude In The Foreseeable Future. Despite Scheduled Deliveries In February, Challenges Persist, Indicating A Continued Dynamic In India's Oil Sourcing Strategy.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. India to Host _____ IATA Annual General Meeting

- A. 81
- B. 82
- C. 83
- D. 84

ANSWER: A

2. Sarabjot Singh Seen In News Who Recently Won Gold Related To

- A. Badminton
- B. Tennis
- C. Shooting
- D. Football

ANSWER: C

3. Zero Debris Charter Is Initiative Lead By

- A. ISRO
- B. NASA
- C. ESA
- D. KASA

ANSWER: C

4. NASA Collaborated With Space Agency To Develop A Time System For Moon

- A. ISRO
- B. ESA
- C. JAXA
- D. CNSA

ANSWER: B

5. Which Space Organization Recently Developed Computational Fluid Dynamics Software Named 'PraVaHa'

- A. ISRO
- B. JAXA
- C. ESA
- D. CNSA

ANSWER: A

6. Department Of Higher Education Signed An Mou With Which Organization For Creating Digital Library Platform, Rashtriya e-pustakalaya

- A. Central Board of Secondary Education
- B. National Book Trust
- C. National Library Association
- D. Ministry of Culture

ANSWER: B

7. Where Was U.S. Led Indo Pacific Economic Framework Ministerial Meeting Held

- A. Vietnam
- B. Mexico
- C. Singapore
- D. Malaysia

ANSWER: C

8. Halla Tomasdottir Has Been Elected As President Of Which Country

- A. Iceland
- B. Ireland
- C. Italy
- D. Greece

ANSWER: A

9. What Is ' Musankwa Sanyatiensis '

- A. Newly discovered fossils of dinosaur species
- B. Invasive weed
- C. New vaccine for TB
- D. Asteroid

ANSWER: A

10. Which Country Launched Multi Mission Communication Satellite

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

ANSWER: A

11. Morni Hills, Seen In News Due To Forest Fire, Is Located In Which State

- A. Odisha
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Haryana
- D. Uttarakhand

ANSWER: C

12. Where Was The World Summit On The Information Society Held

- A. London
- B. Paris
- C. New Delhi
- D. Geneva

ANSWER: D

13. Under The Vulture Reintroduction Programme By BNHS, How Many Vultures Were Soft Released Into Tadoba & Pench Tiger Reserves In Maharashtra

- A. 15
- B. 20
- C. 25
- D. 30

ANSWER: B

14. Akatsuki Mission Is Associated With Space Agency

- A. NASA
- B. JAXA
- C. ISRO
- D. CNSA

ANSWER: B

15. What Is Dictyostelium Discoideum

- A. Amoeba
- B. Algae
- C. Weed
- D. Drug

ANSWER: A

16. Which Country Will Host 81st IATA Annual General Meeting & World Air Transport Summit In Delhi, India, On June 8-10, 2025

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

ANSWER: C

17. Central Government Has Approved Establishment Of An Indian Institute Of Management In Which District Of Assam

- A. Kamrup
- B. Jorhat
- C. Golaghat
- D. Sonitpur

ANSWER: A

18. Ruaha National Park Is Located In Which Country

- A. Tanzania
- B. Kenya
- C. Rwanda
- D. Nigeria

ANSWER: A

19. Which State Hosted 'Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Goa
- D. Rajasthan

ANSWER: C

20. Which Of Following Mughal Rulers Banned Engraving Kalma On Coins

- A. Jahangir
- B. Aurangzeb
- C. Shahjahan
- D. Muhammad Shah

ANSWER: B