

Daily Current Affairs

27 June 2024

Om Birla Elected As Speaker

- **Senior BJP MP Om Birla** was re-elected as the **Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha**. He was elected with a **voice vote as the opposition**, which fielded Congress MP K. Suresh for the post, did not press for voting in the House.
- After his election, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju escorted Mr. Birla to the Speaker's chair. Mr. Birla had previously served as the Speaker in the last Lok Sabha.



- In his address, Mr. Om Birla thanked all the members of the House for giving him the opportunity to serve as Speaker again and for their trust in him. He emphasized that enriching parliamentary values and democratic traditions will be his priorities.
- **Mr. Birla highlighted that the 18th Lok Sabha represents** the world's largest celebration of democracy, with over 64 crore voters participating in the elections with great enthusiasm. He stressed that MPs have a responsibility to collectively fulfill the expectations, hopes, and aspirations of the people effectively.

International Solar Alliance

- **Paraguay has become the 100th country** to join as full member of the International Solar Alliance. External Affairs Ministry said that Paraguay handed over the Instrument of Ratification, during the meeting of Ambassador Fleming Raul Duarte of Paraguay with Head of Depository, Joint Secretary in the Ministry, Abhishek Singh in New Delhi .



**INTERNATIONAL
SOLAR ALLIANCE**

- **International Solar Alliance is an action-oriented**, member-driven, collaborative platform for increased deployment of solar energy technologies as a means for bringing energy access, ensuring energy security, and driving energy transition in its member countries.
- Initially conceived as a **joint effort by India and France**, ISA was conceptualized during the **21st Conference of Parties (COP21)** in 2015. With its framework Agreement amended in 2020, all UN member states are eligible to join ISA. Currently, 116 countries are signatories, with 94 having completed the necessary ratification to become full members.
- The ISA is guided by its **'Towards 1000' strategy** which aims to mobilize USD 1,000 billion of investments in solar energy solutions by 2030, while delivering energy access to 1,000 million people using clean energy solutions and resulting in installation of 1,000 GW of solar energy capacity.



India's First 'Chadwick House

- **Comptroller and Auditor General of India** inaugurated the '**Chadwick House: Navigating Audit Heritage**' Museum at Shimla.
- A significant milestone in the preservation and celebration of the institution's rich heritage and contributions to **the nation's governance**.



- Chadwick House, a significant landmark in Shimla, boasts a rich and extensive history. Its historical significance is further highlighted by **Mahatma Gandhi's stay in 1946** during his visit to Shimla for the Cabinet Mission.
- Post-independence, in 1950, a **training school for the Indian Audit and Accounts Service** was started here.



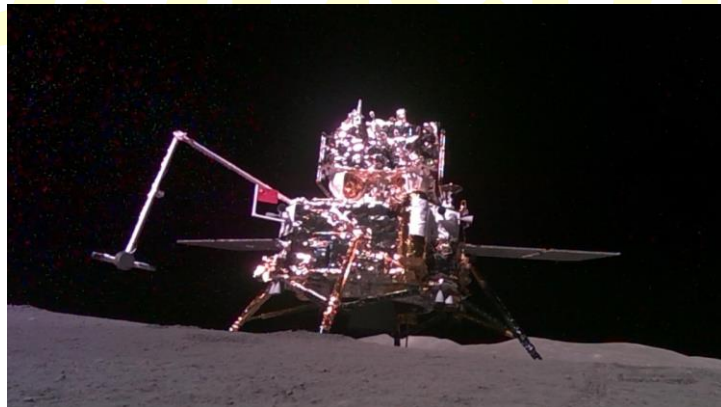
- With the training establishment moving, Chadwick House gradually fell into disrepair. Without proper care and maintenance, it was on the brink of demolition in 2018. At that juncture, the Supreme Audit Institution of India stepped in to safeguard its heritage.
- **Museum features cutting-edge** interactive displays, diorama sets, including digital archives, audio-visual presentations, and interactive kiosks. It has 10 galleries, each highlighting a different aspect of the institution's history and contributions.
- The museum is open to the public and welcomes visitors from all walks of life to explore and learn about the legacy and continuing journey of the institution of CAG.

China Becomes First Country To Retrieve Rocks

- **China's Chang'e 6 spacecraft** has successfully brought samples from the far side of the moon back to Earth, marking the first-ever return of materials from this scarcely seen lunar region.
- The historic feat signals not only China's soaring ambitions as a rising space-exploration superpower but also the next phase of a new space race with the U.S. and its allies to establish outposts at the strategically valuable lunar south pole.



- Wrapping up **Chang'e 6's 53-day mission**, the spacecraft's sample-return capsule parachuted down to a preselected site in the rolling grasslands of China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.
- Packed inside the capsule are approximately **two kilograms of rock and soil** that were scooped or drilled from the surface and subsurface of Chang'e 6's lunar landing site in the northeastern quadrant of the moon's **South Pole-Aitken (SPA) Basin**.



- Thought to have been gouged from the moon's crust and underlying mantle by a giant impact more than four billion years ago, the **2,500-kilometer-wide SPA Basin** is one of the largest and oldest craters in the solar system. Samples from its depths could help solve numerous lunar mysteries-chief among them the enigma of why the moon's far side is so relatively bereft of the craters and vast plains of frozen lava that are strewn across the Earth-facing near side.
- **Chang'e 6 was China's second lunar sample-return mission**, as well as its second landing on the far side, following the far-side touchdown of Chang'e 4 in 2019 and the retrieval of near-side samples by Chang'e 5 in 2020.

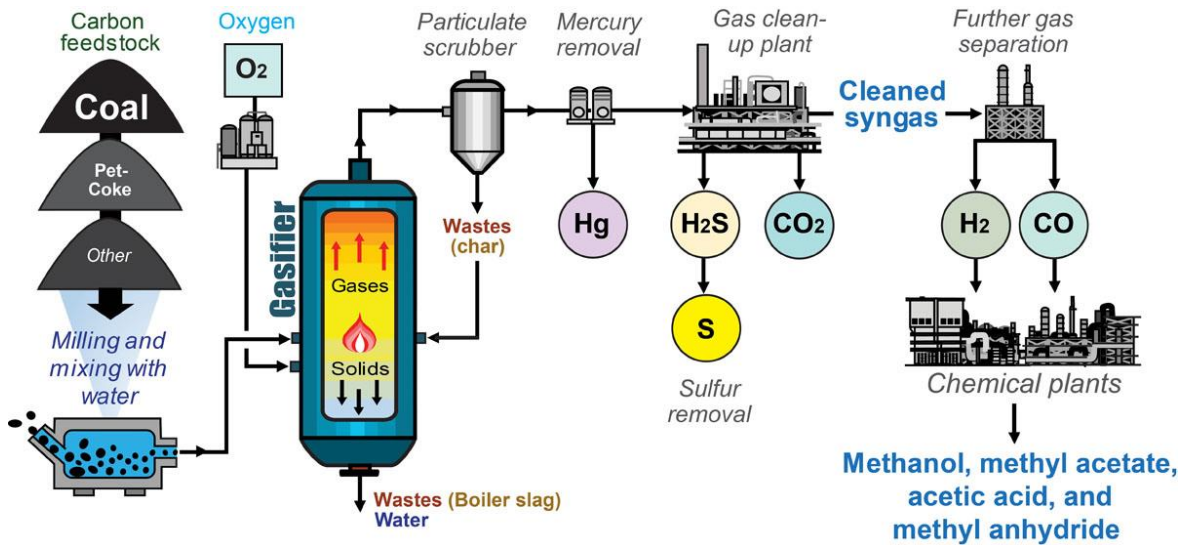
- No other nation has landed on the far side, let alone gathered specimens there. That makes Chang'e 6's batch of rocks and soil a hot commodity for scientists around the globe who are vying for a chance to study them.

India's First Coal Gasification Pilot Project

- **Ministry of Coal** has initiated India's inaugural pilot project for underground **coal gasification in Jharkhand**. Located at the Kasta coal block in Jamtara District, this innovative venture by Eastern Coalfields Limited aims to transform the coal industry.
- Rather than extracting coal, the process will occur underground, converting coal into valuable gases like **methane, hydrogen, and carbon monoxide**.
- These gases can then be used to produce synthetic natural gas, chemical feedstocks, and more, potentially revolutionizing India's energy sector. The pilot project, launched on June 22, 2024, is being implemented in two phases over two years.



- It is funded by the **Coal India Limited Research and Development Board** and executed in collaboration with the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) Ranchi and Canadian company Ergo Exergy Technologies Inc. The project aims to demonstrate the economic viability of underground coal gasification at the Kasta coal block.
- If successful, it could establish India as a leader in this field and pave the way for sustainable and efficient utilization of the country's coal resources. Eastern Coalfields Limited, a subsidiary of Coal India Limited, operates primarily in West Bengal and Jharkhand.



- **Established during British rule in 1774**, it has since played a significant role in India's coal mining sector. The company's headquarters are located in Sanctoria, Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal, under the leadership of Chairman cum Managing Director Samiran Dutta.

Secretary General Of NATO

- **North Atlantic Council** decided to appoint outgoing **Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte** as the next Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).
- **Romanian President Klaus Iohannis** officially announced his withdrawal from the race for NATO's Secretary General. Consequently, Rutte has gained the support of all 32 member countries.



- **Mark Rutte (57), whose 14-year term** as Dutch Prime Minister is set to end within weeks, will be the fourth Dutchman to head the 75-year-old alliance. The Netherlands is a founding member of NATO.
- NATO's Secretary General is responsible for coordinating the alliance and is one of NATO's most important officials, alongside the chair of the NATO Military Committee and the Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

Dhinidhi Desinghu & Srihari Nataraj

- In swimming, young Indian talent **Dhinidhi Desinghu** and seasoned campaigner **Srihari Nataraj** have qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics through the Universality quota, as announced by the Swimming Federation of India.
- In February, 14-year-old **Dhinidhi set a record-breaking swim**, clocking the 'Best Indian Time' in the girls' **100m freestyle event** and finishing fourth at the 11th **Asian Group Aquatics Championships in the Philippines.**



- Her performance surpassed that of **Olympian Maana Patel** and **21-year-old** Shivangi Sarma at the event. Dhinidhi, also a **national record holder** in women's 200m freestyle, has been in exceptional form in 2024, winning two gold and two silver medals across events in **Singapore, India, and Malaysia.**
- Meanwhile, ace swimmer **Srihari Nataraj**, the national record holder in 200m freestyle, secured a gold medal in the men's 100m backstroke at the same event, further boosting his chances of qualifying through the Universality Place.
- **The Universality quota aims** to enhance the diversity of sports at the Olympics by providing opportunities for athletes from countries with traditionally smaller delegations.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. HQ Of International Solar Alliance

- A. Paris
- B. Gurugram
- C. Nairobi
- D. Lagos

ANSWER: B

2. Headquarters of NATO is situated at

- A. New York
- B. London
- C. Brussels
- D. Paris

ANSWER: C

3. Which Country Withdrew From NATO's Integrated Military Command In 1966 But Remained A Member Of The Organization

- A. Germany
- B. France
- C. Italy
- D. United Kingdom

ANSWER: B

4. India Announced Medical E-visa Facility For Citizens Of Which Country

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

ANSWER: A

5. Where Was The '43rd World Medical And Health Games' Held

- A. China
- B. France
- C. India
- D. Germany

ANSWER: B

6. Who Won Two Bronze Medals For India At Archery World Cup 2024

- A. Pravin Jadhav
- B. Abhishek Verma
- C. Dhiraj Bommadevara
- D. Limba Ram

ANSWER: C

7. What Is The Theme Of 'International Olympics Day 2024'

- A. Together, For a Peaceful World
- B. Let's Move and Celebrate
- C. Together for a better world
- D. Moving Forward: United by Emotion

ANSWER: B

8. Who Was Elected Unanimously As The Speaker Of The 16th Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly

- A. Ashok Bendalam
- B. C Ayyannapatrudu
- C. Koyye Moshenu Raju
- D. Jagan Mohan Reddy

ANSWER: B

9. How Many Medals Were Won By India In 'Under- 17 Asian Wrestling Championship 2024

- A. 11
- B. 12
- C. 13
- D. 14

ANSWER: A

10. Where Was 64th International Sugar Organization Council Meeting Organized

- A. Beijing, China
- B. Paris, France
- C. New Delhi, India
- D. London, UK

ANSWER: C

11. Which Ministry Recently Launched National STOP Diarrhoea Campaign 2024

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- C. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- D. Ministry of Agriculture

ANSWER: B

12. Which State Government Approved Establishment Of One Prime Minister College Of Excellence In All Districts Of State Under NEP

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

ANSWER: D

13. Khalubar War Memorial Museum, Is Located In Which Region Of India

- A. Bengaluru
- B. Ladakh
- C. Chandigarh
- D. New Delhi

ANSWER: B

14. How Many Medals Were Won By India At Taiwan Athletics Open 2024

- A. 6
- B. 7
- C. 8
- D. 9

ANSWER: B

15. Which Organization Recently Hosted '12th Plenary Assembly Of The Global Soil Partnership

- A. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- B. World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- C. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- D. World Bank

ANSWER: A

16. Which Organization Launched New Initiatives For “Greening Education” In Classrooms

- A. World Bank
- B. UNICEF
- C. UNEP
- D. UNESCO

ANSWER: D

17. Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project Is Located In Which State

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

ANSWER: B

18. Ministry Of Health Along With Which Organization Launched National Health Claim Exchange A Digital Platform

- A. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research
- B. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India(IRDAI)
- C. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- D. NITI Aayog

ANSWER: B

19. Which State Announced Development Of Maharana Pratap Tourist Circuit

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

ANSWER: B

20. The Battle Of Chillianwalla Was A Part Of

- A. Anglo-Maratha Wars
- B. Anglo-Carnatic Wars
- C. Anglo-French Wars
- D. Anglo-Sikh Wars

ANSWER: D