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1st Indian In Space, Deep Sea By 2025

- Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh today said that the world will witness 1st Indian in Space and other Indian in Deep Sea by 2025.
- He said, that four astronauts three Group Captains and one Wing Commander have been selected for India's 1st Human Space Mission, Gaganyaan. Speaking on India's progress in Space and Marine sector, Dr. Singh said that India's Deep-Sea mission will send three Indians to deep sea in 2025.



Sampoornata Abhiyan

- NITI Aayog has launched Sampoornata Abhiyan, a three-month campaign from today till 30th September to undertake a sustained effort to achieve saturation of six key indicators in Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks across the country. It seeks to achieve saturation in each of the six identified indicators in the 112 Aspirational Districts and 500 Aspirational Blocks under the Aspirational Districts Programme and Aspirational Blocks Programme.
- Sampoornata Abhiyan will focus on the six identified Key Performance
 Indicators KPIs across all Aspirational Blocks.



These are percentage of pregnant women registered for Antenatal Care within
the first trimester, percentage of persons screened for Diabetes against the
targeted population in the Block, percentage of persons screened for
Hypertension against the targeted population in the Block, percentage of
pregnant women taking Supplementary Nutrition under the ICDS Programme
regularly, percentage of Soil Health Cards generated against the soil sample
collection target and percentage of Self Help Groups SHGs that have received a
Revolving Fund against the total SHGs in the block.



Abhiyan are the percentage of pregnant women registered for Antenatal Care within the first trimester, percentage of pregnant women taking Supplementary Nutrition under the ICDS Programme regularly, percentage of children fully immunized, number of Soil Health Cards distributed, percentage of schools with functional electricity at the secondary level and percentage of schools providing textbooks to children within one month of the start of the academic session.

 Districts or Blocks will develop a three-month Action Plan to saturate the six indicators, districts or blocks will track progress on saturation each month, implement awareness and behaviour change campaigns and district officials will conduct concurrent monitoring field visits.

NIC And Spices Board Of India Signed MoU

National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the Spices Board of India have signed a
Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop Artificial intelligence (AI)
tools for detecting and classifying large cardamom diseases in Sikkim.



• The project, spearheaded by NIC's Centre of Excellence in AI in Kolkata, aims to analyze images of cardamom leaves to identify diseases early. This initiative follows three months of discussions and marks a significant step in leveraging AI for agricultural advancements in Sikkim.

57th ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting

- Laos authorities have discussed preparations for the 57th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' Meeting and related meetings, which will take place in the Laos capital Vientiane from the 21st to the 27th of July.
- The preparatory work covers accommodation for ministers and delegations from more than 34 countries, delegate vehicles, transport, communication and internet facilities, among others. Speaking at the meeting, Saleumxay urged relevant authorities to continue their efforts in preparing for the upcoming regional events.



46th UNESCO World Heritage Committee Session

- In a landmark event for India's cultural diplomacy, the nation is set to host the
 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee from July 21-31, 2024.
 This prestigious gathering will take place at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi,
 bringing together delegates from around the world to discuss and decide on
 matters of global cultural significance.
- This convergence of minds promises to foster rich discussions and collaborations in the field of cultural preservation and recognition.



- The choice of Bharat Mandapam as the venue underscores India's commitment to showcasing its modern infrastructure while celebrating its rich cultural heritage.
- Sources indicate that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to inaugurate the
 event on July 21, highlighting the national importance accorded to this
 international gathering. The World Heritage Committee plays a crucial role in
 safeguarding humanity's most precious cultural and natural sites.



- Key facts about the committee include: Comprises representatives from 21
 States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, Elected by the General
 Assembly of UNESCO, Current members include diverse nations such as
 Argentina, Belgium, India, Japan, Kenya, and Ukraine, Responsible for
 implementing the World Heritage Convention, Decides on inscriptions to the
 World Heritage List, Allocates financial assistance from the World Heritage
 Fund.
- The committee's roots trace back to the UNESCO General Conference of November 16, 1972, when the convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage was adopted. The Rules of Procedure were last updated at the 39th session in Bonn, Germany, in 2015.



RBI's 29th Financial Stability Report

Reserve Bank of India has released the 29th issue of the Financial Stability
Report (FSR). FSR is published biannually by the RBI. It reflects the collective
assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development
Council (FSDC – headed by the Governor of RBI) on risks to financial stability and
the resilience of the financial system. The Report also discusses issues relating to
the development and regulation of the financial sector.



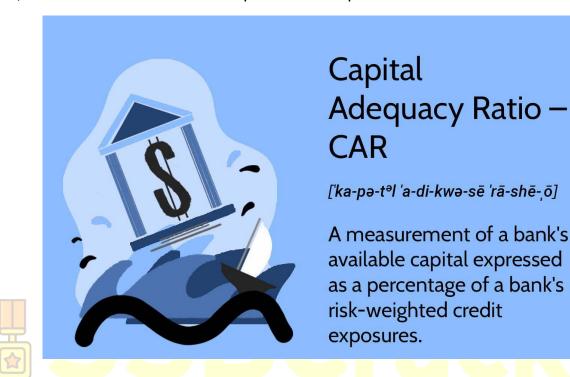
Global Economic Context

- Heightened Global Risks: The global economy faces significant challenges, such as:
- Geopolitical Tensions: Conflicts or political disagreements between countries that can affect global stability.
- Elevated Public Debt: Many countries owe large amounts of money, which can be risky if they struggle to repay it.
- Slow Progress in Disinflation: Prices of goods and services are not decreasing quickly, which can affect economic stability.
- Resilience: Despite these challenges, the global financial system (how money moves around the world) remains strong and stable.

• Indian Economy and Financial System

- Robust and Resilient: India's economy and financial system are strong and able to handle shocks or problems.
- Banking Sector Support: Banks and financial institutions (like insurance companies) are in good health and are lending money to support economic activities.

- Financial Metrics for Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)
- Capital Ratios: Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR): This is a measure of a bank's financial strength. A CRAR of 16.8% means that for every 100 units of risk, the bank has 16.8 units of capital to cover potential losses.



- Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) Ratio: This is a stricter measure of a bank's core capital. A CET1 ratio of 13.9% means the bank has a strong base of high-quality capital.
- **Asset Quality**: Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) Ratio: This measures the percentage of a bank's loans that are not being repaid. A GNPA ratio of 2.8% means that 2.8% of the total loans are in trouble.
- **Net Non-Performing Assets** (NNPA) Ratio: This is similar to GNPA but considers the money the bank has already set aside to cover bad loans. An NNPA ratio of 0.6% means that 0.6% of the total loans, after accounting for provisions, are in trouble.

'Colombo Process'

- India chaired its first meeting as Chair of the 'Colombo Process' at the Permanent Representative Level Meeting in Geneva, marking a significant moment in regional migration cooperation.
- The Colombo Process, comprising 12 Asian member states, focuses on enhancing governance and opportunities for overseas employment. Under India's leadership, priorities include financial sustainability, membership expansion, and collaboration with regional bodies like the Abu Dhabi Dialogue.



- At the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Headquarters, India led discussions on future strategies and outlined a comprehensive two-year action plan.
- Secretary Muktesh Pardeshi underscored India's commitment to advancing the Colombo Process goals, emphasizing skill enhancement and partnership building.
- India's agenda includes, Reconfiguring technical collaborations, Broadening membership and observers, Reviewing financial sustainability, Implementing structured chairmanship rotation, Engaging with regional dialogues, Conducting a regional review of the Global Compact for Migration.

K. Saraswathi Amma Award

- In a significant recognition of **feminist literature and studies**, writer, critic, and feminist activist P. Geetha has been awarded the first K. Saraswathi Amma Award.
- This prestigious accolade, **instituted by WINGS** (Women's Integration and Growth Through Sports) Kerala, marks a pivotal moment in the acknowledgment of feminist contributions to literature and social discourse.



- P. Geetha's groundbreaking work "Aan Thachukal" (male creations), an analysis
 of M.T. Vasudevan Nair's scripts, earned her this distinguished award.
- The book exemplifies the critical examination of gender representations in literature, a theme that resonates deeply with the award's namesake, K.
 Saraswathi Amma.
- K. Saraswathi Amma, the inspiration behind this award, was a trailblazer in feminist writing. Her contributions include: A dozen volumes of short stories, A novel, A play, A collection of essays. Saraswathi Amma began her literary journey in 1938 with her first published short story. Her work on gender equality was revolutionary, especially considering the societal norms of her time.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. Sampoornata Abhiyan Is Launched By
- A. NITI Aayog
- B. Ministry of Education
- C. HPCL
- D. IOCL

ANSWER: A

- 2. 'Colombo Process' 2024 Held In
- A. Paris
- B. Geneva
- C. New York
- D. New Delhi

ANSWER: B

- 3. Which Organization Approved A \$1.5 Billion Loan To Support India's Green Hydrogen Initiatives
- A. World Bank
- B. International Monetary Fund
- C. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- D. International Development Association

ANSWER: A

- 4. Indian Army Conducted Joint Military Exercise 'Maitree'
- A. Indonesia
- B. Egypt
- C. Thailand
- D. Vietnam

ANSWER: C

- 5. Where Was Third United Nations Conference On Afghanistan Held
- A. Doha, Qatar
- B. Astana, Kazakhstan
- C. New Delhi, India
- D. Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

ANSWER: A

- 6. Space Exploration & Research Agency Announced Which Country As A Partner Nation For Human Spaceflight Programme
- A. Australia
- B. India
- C. Japan
- D. Pakistan

ANSWER: B

- 7. Which Organization Captured View Of Largest Volcano In Our Solar System Named Olympus Mons Using The Mars Odyssey Orbiter
- A. ROSCOMOS
- B. JAXA
- C. NASA
- D. CNSA

ANSWER: C

- 8. Where Was 16th Edition Of India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise 'Nomadic Elephant' Held
- A. Kolkata, West Bengal
- B. Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- C. Umroi, Meghalaya
- D. Guwahati, Assam

ANSWER: C

- 9. Kirkuk Which Was Seen In The News, Is Located In Which Country
- A. Israel
- B. Iraq
- C. Australia
- D. Greece

ANSWER: B

- 10. Primary Objective Of Low Frequency ARray (LOFAR)
- A. To study the Earth's core
- B. To observe the Universe at low radio frequencies
- C. To monitor climate change
- D. To track asteroid movements

ANSWER: C

11. What Is 'Senna Spectabilis'

- A. Invasive Plant
- B. Species Of Fish
- C. Traditional Irrigation Method
- D. Communication Satellite

ANSWER: A

12. What Is Down Syndrome

- A. A Genetic Disorder Caused By Missing Chromosomes
- B. A Condition Caused By An Extra Chromosome Or Piece Of A Chromosome
- C. A Viral Infection Affecting The Nervous System
- D. A Type Of Muscular Dystrophy

ANSWER: B

13. 29th Edition Of Biennial Rim Of The Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise Held

- A. Auckland, New Zealand
- B. Hawaii, USA
- C. Paris, France
- D. Kolkata, India

ANSWER: B

14. Central Railway Inaugurated Its First Ever Floating Solar Plant With A 10 MwP Capacity In Which Lake Of India

- A. Lonar lake
- B. Periyar lake
- C. Venna lake
- D. Igatpuri lake

ANSWER: D

15. Gandhi Sarovar, Due To Avalanche, Originates From Which Glacier

- A. Dokriani Glacier
- B. Chorabari Glacier
- C. Milam Glacier
- D. Namik Glacier

ANSWER: B

16. Which State Has Set A Record By Generating One Crore Tokens Through The Ayushman Bharat Health Account ID

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

ANSWER: D

17. Nirman Shramik Mrtyu Evam Divyaang Sahaayata Yojana, Is Associated With Which State

- A. Jharkhand
- B. Haryana
- C. Chhattisgarh
- D. Bihar

ANSWER: C

18. MK Ranjitsinh & Ors V. Union Of India & Ors Case, Is Related With Which Issue

- A. Poverty and Hunger
- B. Climate change
- C. Triple Talaq
- D. None of the Above

ANSWER: B

19. Conkouati Douli National Park Is Located In Which Country

- A. Nigeria
- B. Congo
- C. Kenya
- D. Brazil

ANSWER: B

20. Who Was The Author Of Aihole Inscription

- A. Ravikirti
- B. Hiuen Tsang
- C. Bharavi
- D. Dandin

ANSWER: A