

Daily Current Affairs

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New Scheme For Medical Device Industry

- **Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers** Jagat Prakash Nadda launched the Scheme for Strengthening the Medical Device Industry in New Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Nadda said the scheme will be a game-changer, and its impact will be immense.
- He added that it will make **India self-reliant in the sector** and that the Government's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme has opened a new path for the industry.



- Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers Anupriya Patel and Secretary of Pharmaceuticals Arunish Chawla were also present at the event.
- In her address, **MoS Anupriya Patel** said it is a comprehensive scheme touching all areas and that there is significant scope for the industry within it. Secretary of Pharmaceuticals Arunish Chawla said the new scheme has an outlay of 500 crore rupees.
- **It consists of five components:** common facilities for medical device clusters, capacity building and skill development, a scheme to reduce import dependence, a clinical studies support programme, and a promotion scheme for medical devices.

Minority Status To AMU

- A seven-judge bench of the Supreme Court, by a 4-3 majority today overruled the 1967 judgment in **S. Azeez Basha vs. Union Of India** case that became the basis for **denying the minority status** to the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).
- The 1967 judgment in the case had held that an **institution incorporated by a statute cannot claim** to be a minority institution.



- The Apex court today said that an institution will not lose its minority status merely because it was created by a statute.
- The majority held that the Court must examine who established the University and **who was the “brain” behind it.**
- If that enquiry is **pointing towards minority community**, then the institution can claim minority status as per **Article 30 of the Constitution.**
- For this factual determination, the Constitution Bench relegated the matter to a regular bench.
- **Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud**, who headed the bench, said there were four separate opinions, including three dissenting verdicts.
- **The CJI said he has written the majority verdict** for himself and Justices Sanjiv Khanna, JB Pardiwala, Manoj Misra. Justices Surya Kant, Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma had penned their separate dissenting verdicts.



Susie Wiles As First Female White House Chief Of Staff

- US President-elect Donald Trump has appointed his campaign manager, **Susie Wiles**, as his **Chief of Staff**, making her the **first woman to hold** this influential cabinet position, heading the White House executive office.



- Mr Trump described it as a well-deserved honour to have **Ms Susie** as the **first-ever female Chief of Staff** in US history.
- The appointment marks the first of **several expected staffing announcements** as Trump prepares for his return to the White House on January 20.
- The **Chief of Staff serves as the gatekeeper** for the President, the liaison to Congress and government departments, and plays a key role in steering policy decisions.

Relaxations In Export Import Operations

- **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** has introduced key relaxations for Customs Cargo Service Providers (CCSPs).
- The relaxations include reducing the **number of days for insurance of storage goods** from ten days to five days and the withdrawal of the licence renewal process for **Authorized Economic Operator-compliant CCSPs**.



- The Finance Ministry, in a statement, said that the relaxations will reduce costs and compliance burdens, improve the efficiency of export-import operations, and facilitate global trade.
- These relaxations have been made in line with the **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan's** goals of improving logistics infrastructure, and efficiency, and promoting sustainable development.

Ancient Fortified Town Discovered In Saudi Arabia

- Archaeologists have **uncovered a 4,000-year-old fortified town** in northwest Saudi Arabia. This site, **called al-Natah**, reveals vital information about early urbanisation.
- The discovery was led by French archaeologist **Guillaume Charloux**. The findings were **published in PLOS One earlier this year**. Al-Natah is situated in **Khaybar's walled oasis**.
- This lush area is surrounded by a dry desert. The town was hidden for centuries, now revealing its historical importance. The site includes a **remarkable 14.5-kilometre wall**.



- This ancient barrier encircled a residential area, **indicating organised occupancy**. The wall suggests that the town was fortified for protection.
- The town dates **back to around 2400 BC**, during the early Bronze Age. It is believed to have housed a population of up to **500 residents**. This marks the town's significance in the region's history.



- The discovery marks a pivotal shift from nomadic to urban lifestyles. The authors of the study describe the town as a fortified area measuring 2.6 hectares. It **functioned from 2400 to at least 1500 BC**, with possible interruptions until 1300 BC. The town featured nucleated dwellings built on a standard plan.
- **Small streets connected these homes**. The layout indicates a degree of planning and organisation typical of urban centres. The findings enhance our understanding of social dynamics during this period.

- The site includes a **probable decision-making zone** and a necropolis. This suggests a structured society with defined roles.

Karnataka Waqf Board Claims 17 Monuments Bidar Fort

- **Karnataka Board of Waqfs declared 17 monuments** within the historic Bidar Fort as its property. This announcement has raised concerns and confusion among local authorities and the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**, which manages the fort.
- **Bidar Fort is an important historical** site located in Karnataka. It houses numerous monuments, including mosques and tombs.



- The fort is a major landmark and a point of interest for both tourists and historians. **The Karnataka Board of Waqfs identified 17 monuments** as its own.
- This includes the famous **16-Khamba mosque and tombs of Bahmani rulers**. The Waqf Board claims these properties belong to them, out of a total of 60 properties within the fort.
- The ASI, which has been responsible for the preservation of Bidar Fort for decades, was not informed about the Waqf Board's claim. This lack of communication has led to confusion regarding the ownership and management of these historical sites.



- A senior official from the Waqf Board expressed **concerns over misinformation related to their actions**. They stated that **no notices had been issued to the ASI**, questioning how the Waqf Board could serve notices to an established custodian of historical monuments.
- The situation has **prompted concerns among local farmers**. Allegations have surfaced that the Waqf Board marked some farmers' lands as Waqf properties without due process.



- Farmers from **Vijayapura district** have reported receiving notices and changes to their land records.

- **Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah** assured farmers that they would not be evicted. He confirmed that any notices issued would be rescinded, aiming to alleviate fears among the agricultural community.



Lebanon Files Complaint With UN

- **Lebanon filed a complaint with the UN labour agency** over deadly attacks on communication devices in September, which it blames on Israel.
- **Lebanese Labor Minister Mustafa Bayram** called the attack an “egregious war against humanity, against technology, against work.”



- The move comes after Israel escalated air raids and ground troops in southern Lebanon **following sabotage attacks on pagers** and walkie-talkies used by Hezbollah, killing dozens and injuring thousands.
- **Bayram said filing the complaint** was a moral obligation to prevent such crimes from being normalized. Lebanon may file additional complaints in other international forums over the extensive list of crimes committed by Israel in the country.

Arjun Erigaisi

- **Arjun Erigaisi, India's rising chess sensation**, has made history by climbing to **No. 2 on the FIDE World Chess Rankings** after his impressive third-round victory over Alexey Sarana at the Chennai Grand Masters.



- This remarkable achievement is the **latest milestone in the 21-year-old's meteoric rise**.
- Erigaisi's triumph against Sarana not only boosted his ranking but also propelled him to the lead in the Masters category, where he is tied at the top of the table with **Iranian grandmaster Amin Tabatabaei** after three rounds of intense competition.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Bidar Fort, Is Located In Which State

- A. Karnataka
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Madhya Pradesh

ANSWER: A

2. Which State Has Recently Approved A 35% Reservation For Women In All State Government Recruitments

- A. Odisha
- B. Jharkhand
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Rajasthan

ANSWER: C

3. Where Was The 4th LG Horse Polo Cup 2024 Inaugurated

- A. Ladakh
- B. Jaipur
- C. Mussoorie
- D. Shimla

ANSWER: A

4. Okinawicius Tekdi, Belongs To Which Species

- A. Butterfly
- B. Fish
- C. Spider
- D. Frog

ANSWER: C

5. What Is Agrivoltaic Farming, Which Was Highlighted In International Solar Alliance Event

- A. The simultaneous use of land for agriculture and solar energy generation
- B. The practice of growing crops with no water usage
- C. Growing crops in underground farms
- D. None of the Above

ANSWER: A

6. Which Organization Release The Global TB Report 2024

- A. Global Forum for Health Research
- B. Global Health Council
- C. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- D. World Health Organization (WHO)

ANSWER: D

7. Chronic Wasting Disease Primarily Affect Which Animals

- A. Deer, elk, and moose
- B. Cattle and sheep
- C. Pigs and Wolves
- D. Dogs and cats

ANSWER: A

8. Which Tennis Player Has Won The Paris Masters Title 2024

- A. Jannik Sinner
- B. Daniil Medvedev
- C. Alexander Zverev
- D. Andrey Rublev

ANSWER: C

9. Al Nattah Seen In The News, Is Located In Which Country

- A. Israel
- B. Saudi Arabia
- C. Australia
- D. Greece

ANSWER: B

10. Which Ministry Organized The 'Kaveri Meets Ganga' Program Under Amrit Parampara Initiative

- A. Ministry of Jal Shakti
- B. Ministry of Tourism
- C. Ministry of Urban Development
- D. Ministry of Culture

ANSWER: D

11. Hingot War Festival Is Associated With Which State

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

ANSWER: C

12. Meluri Seen In News New District located in

- A. Mnipur
- B. Nagaland
- C. Mizoram
- D. Tripura

ANSWER: B

13. Which Tribe Primarily Inhabits Meluri, Newly Declared District Of Nagaland

- A. Angami Naga
- B. Pochury Naga
- C. Sumi Naga
- D. Lotha Naga

ANSWER: B

14. Which Indian Boxer Won World Boxing Federation's Super Featherweight World Title

- A. Vikas Bhardwaj
- B. Gavireddy Ramayya
- C. Shubham Yadav
- D. Mandeep Jangra

ANSWER: D

15. Which Organizations Released 'Hunger Hotspots Outlook Report'

- A. Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Programme
- B. World Health Organization and International Monetary Fund
- C. International Labour Organization and European Union
- D. World Bank and International Monetary Fund

ANSWER: A

16. Maia Sandu Has Been Elected As The President Of Which Country

- A. Belgium
- B. Moldova
- C. Czechia
- D. Spain

ANSWER: B

17. Where Was First Integrated Check Post Along The India Bhutan Border Inaugurated

- A. Rangpo, Sikkim
- B. Darranga, Assam
- C. Asansol, West Bengal
- D. Khonsa, Arunachal Pradesh

ANSWER: B

18. What Kind Of Disease Is Spinal Muscular Atrophy

- A. A Genetic Disorder Affecting Nervous Systems And Voluntary Muscle Movement
- B. An Infectious Disease Impacting The Heart
- C. A Disease Affecting Only The Digestive System
- D. A Type Of Arthritis

ANSWER: A

19. Which Country's Space Agency Launched Two Iranian Satellites, Kowsar And Hodhod , Into Orbit

- A. China
- B. India
- C. Russia
- D. United States of America

ANSWER: C

20. What Is The Local Name For The Main Worshippers In Chhath Puja

- A. Vrati
- B. Bhakta
- C. Sadhak
- D. Parvaitin

ANSWER: D