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ISRO To Launch NISAR Today

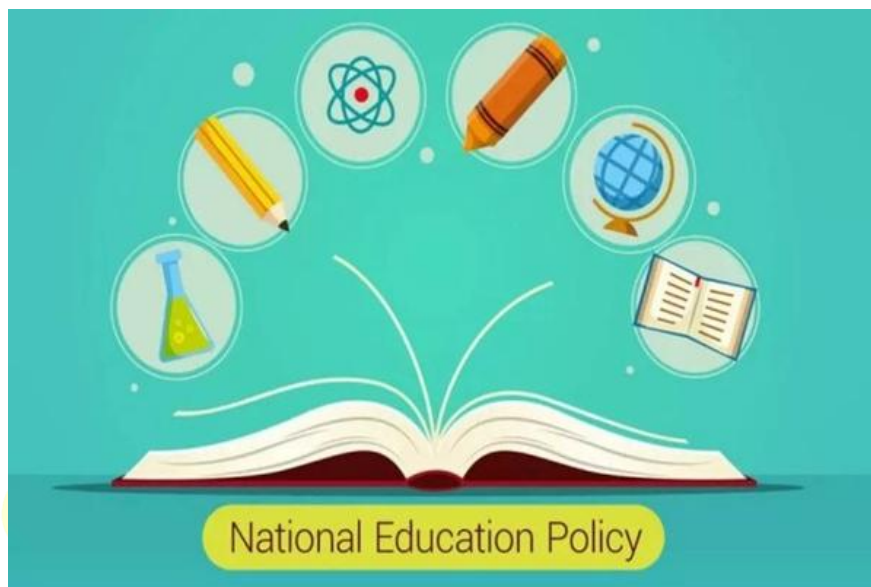- **Indian Space Research Organisation will launch the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar** (NISAR), an earth observation satellite, today. It will be launched from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota** at 5:40 pm using the **GSLV-F16 rocket**.

- **The NISAR satellite is capable of mapping the Earth**, day and night, round-the-clock under any weather condition. Once in every 12 days the satellite will scan the entire globe to provide very detailed images of the Earth's surface capturing minute changes which are smaller than a centimetre.

- The **much-anticipated launch of NISAR into the Sun Synchronous Polar Orbit is being carried** out by GSLV instead of the usual PSLV as the satellite is heavier. NISAR is a **unique Earth observation satellite and the mission** marks the first hardware collaboration between the Indian and the US space agencies, with each providing a different radar system for the satellite.

NEP 2020 Completes 5 Years

- **National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) completes its 5 years**. The launch of NEP laid out an ambitious roadmap to **transform India's schools into spaces where learning** is no longer confined to textbooks, marks or memorisation. Over the **past five years, the Policy has laid the foundation** for a more inclusive, learner-focused and future-ready education system in India.

National Education Policy

- **National Education Policy 2020's impact is visible** across every stage of learning through meaningful reforms. **Initiatives like NIPUN Bharat and Vidya Pravesh** have benefitted over 4.2 crore students across 8.9 lakh schools. . The Nipun Bharat Mission Targets Universal Literacy And Numeracy By Class 3.

#NIPUNBHARAT

- Recent Surveys Show **Average Proficiency Scores Around 60-64%, Indicating** Progress But Also The Need For Improvement Indian Sign Language is now a subject, with over a thousand ISL videos and talking books developed. The **"5+3+3+4" structure and National Curriculum Framework** for School Education 2023 promote experiential and competency-based learning. The traditional 10+2 system has been replaced with four stages – foundational (pre-primary to class 2), preparatory (classes 3-5), middle (6-8), and secondary (9-12).

- **The National Curriculum Framework for School Education** (NCFSE) 2023 defines learning outcomes for each stage. NCERT has introduced new textbooks for classes 1-8. CBSE board exams now include 50 per cent competency-based questions, and subjects are offered at two levels. Over 4 lakh teachers have also been trained under **the NISHTHA Teacher Training Programme**.

- **Other initiatives, including Bal Vatikas, Jadui Pitara and PRASHAST App**, have further promoted multilingual, inclusive and holistic education. Whether through support for girls and children with special needs, the promotion of

Indian languages, or efforts to reduce regional disparities, NEP 2020 is creating a system where every learner has the chance to thrive

UK To Recognise Palestinian State

- **UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer** has announced that Britain will recognise a Palestinian state unless Israel takes steps to relieve suffering in Gaza, where starvation is spreading, and reaches a ceasefire in the nearly two-year war with Hamas.

- In a cabinet meeting **focused on the Gaza conflict, Starmer told ministers** that the UK would support Palestinian statehood ahead of the United Nations General Assembly if Israel fails to meet a set of conditions. These include ending the ongoing **military operations in Gaza, halting plans for annexation** in the West Bank, and committing to a peace process aimed at a two-state solution.
- **About 140 countries formally recognise a Palestinian** state, and last week, France pledged to do so at the same UN meeting.

Scheme For Promotion Of Culture Of Science In India

- **Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science** (SPoCS) is a key initiative launched by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. As of mid-2025, it has **established 27 Science Centres across** the country.
- These centres aim to encourage **scientific temper and spread awareness among** the general public and students. The scheme supports the creation of Science

Cities, Innovation Hubs, Digital Planetariums, and Science Centres. It focuses on inclusive development by targeting underrepresented and remote regions.

- **SPoCS aims to promote scientific temper and curiosity nationwide**. It seeks to enhance informal science education outside traditional classrooms. The scheme encourages innovation and hands-on learning. It also strives to make science accessible to all sections of society, especially youth and students. This aligns with India's broader educational and developmental goals.

- The **National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture**, is the nodal agency responsible for implementing the scheme. NCSM oversees the establishment and functioning of Science Centres and related facilities. It ensures adherence to guidelines and provides technical and administrative support.

- **SPoCS supports the development of Science Cities,** Science Centres, Innovation Hubs, and Digital Planetariums. Science Centres include interactive exhibits, mobile exhibitions, and science workshops. Innovation Hubs encourage creativity and problem-solving skills. **Digital Planetariums offer immersive astronomy education**. These components collectively create an engaging scientific environment.

- **The scheme targets areas with populations below five lakhs to ensure** wider reach. Special emphasis is placed on the North-East region and other underrepresented areas. Centres have been set up in Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, and Manipur, among others. The Ministry provides 90% project funding for these locations to promote regional inclusion.

- **Since its inception, SPoCS has recorded over 15 lakh visitors in 2024-25**. The centres attract students, educators, and the general public. Regular activities include interactive demonstrations, science workshops, and outreach programmes. These efforts have successfully popularised science and encouraged youth participation in scientific pursuits.
- **Locations are selected based on population size and regional needs**. The scheme offers substantial financial support, covering up to 90% of project costs in priority regions. This **ensures that even remote areas can access** modern scientific infrastructure. The guidelines for funding and project selection are publicly available on the Ministry of Culture's website.

170- Hour Bharatanatyam Performance

- **Remona Evette Pereira, a 20-year-old Catholic student** from Mangalore, has entered the Golden Book of World Records by performing Bharatanatyam, the ancient Indian classical dance form, continuously for 170 hours. Her extraordinary feat, **accomplished between July 21 and July 28, 2025**, has set a new benchmark in the world of performing arts.
- **Remona, a student of St. Aloysius College, Mangalore,** danced tirelessly for seven consecutive days, completing an unprecedented 10,200 minutes of Bharatanatyam. The **performance concluded on July 28, 2025, breaking** the previous record of 127 hours set in 2023 by 16-year-old Sudhir Jagpath.

Global Tiger Day 2025

- **Global Tiger Day, also known as International Tiger Day**, is observed every year on July 29 to raise global awareness about the urgent need for tiger conservation. The day emphasizes the protection of tiger habitats, reducing human-wildlife conflicts, and curbing poaching, while promoting collective action to safeguard the species. In 2025, the day falls on Tuesday, July 29.

- **According to the World Wildlife Fund** (WWF), a century ago, nearly 100,000 tigers roamed freely in the wild. However, today their numbers have alarmingly **dropped to around 4,000, and the decline continues** due to habitat loss, poaching, and human interference. This shrinking population reflects the urgent need for coordinated global conservation efforts.

- **Global Tiger Day was first established in 2010** at the **Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit,** a historic gathering attended by representatives from 13 tiger-range countries, including India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Malaysia, and Russia. The summit aimed to highlight the critical decline in tiger populations and the need for international cooperation.

- **One of the landmark outcomes of the summit was the Tx2 Program**, which set an ambitious target to double the global tiger population by 2022 through international collaboration, strict anti-poaching laws, habitat restoration, and awareness campaigns. **While the target has not been fully achieved**, the program significantly contributed to raising global commitment towards tiger conservation.

- The theme for this year is **"Securing the future of Tigers with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities at the heart.",** previous themes and slogans such as "Roar for Tigers" and "Save Tigers, Save Forests, Save Life" highlight the interconnectedness of tiger conservation with ecological balance and human survival. The focus remains on building strong community participation and global support for saving the species.

- The day is not just symbolic but plays a vital role in **generating public awareness and ensuring policy-level action.** Tigers are considered a keystone species, meaning their survival is crucial for maintaining the health of ecosystems. Preserving tigers helps protect forests, which in turn support biodiversity and regulate climate. **Through educational campaigns, media outreach**, and conservation activities, Global Tiger Day encourages governments and citizens alike to contribute to the cause.

Image Source: WWF

- India, home to the largest population of wild tigers, has been a global leader in conservation through initiatives such as Project Tiger, launched in 1973. Today, India **hosts nearly 75% of the world's wild tigers**, a testament to its sustained efforts in preserving the big cat through protected reserves, anti-poaching measures, and habitat restoration.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **Remona Pereira Made World Record By Performing Bharatanatyam, For _____ Hours.**
A. 127
B. 150
C. 165
D. 170
   ANSWER: D

2. **Global Tiger Day Marked On**
A. 28 July
B. 29 July
C. 30 July
D. 31 July
   ANSWER: B

3. **Primary Objective Of 'Veer Parivar Sahayata Yojana' Launched By NALSA?**
A. Financial support for martyrs' families
B. Free housing for soldiers
C. Strengthening legal aid for defence personnel and their families
D. Pension reform for veterans
   ANSWER: C

4. **Where Was The Indian Army's Military Drill, Exercise Drone Prahar, Conducted**
A. Arunachal Pradesh
B. Sikkim
C. Assam
D. Meghalaya
   ANSWER: A

5. **Which country has launched its major naval exercise "July Storm"**
A. China
B. Russia
C. India
D. Israel
   ANSWER: B

6. **SPARSH System For Pension Administration Raksha Initiative Of Which Ministry**
A. Ministry of Law and Justice
B. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
C. Ministry of Defence
D. Ministry of Home Affairs
   ANSWER: C

7. **On Which Date Is World Hepatitis Day Observed Every Year**
A. July 14
B. June 1
C. July 28
D. June 12
   ANSWER: C

8. **Who Won UEFA Women's Euro 2025 Tournament Held In Switzerland**
A. Spain
B. France
C. England
D. Germany
   ANSWER: C

9. **Which Country Launched The Nahid-2 Telecommunications And Research Satellite Aboard A Russian Soyuz Rocket**
A. Iran
B. North Korea
C. China
D. India
   ANSWER: A

10. **On which date is World Hepatitis Day observed every year**
A. July 14
B. June 1
C. July 28
D. June 12
   ANSWER: C

11. Who Are The Primary Beneficiaries Of Nalsa's 'Veer Parivar Sahayata Yojana'

A. Tribal Communities

B. Legal Professionals

C. Defence Personnel and Families

D. Government Employees

ANSWER: C

12. Which Organisation Released Note Titled "Growing Retail Digital Payments: Value Of Interoperability", Highlighting Impact Of UPI

A. World Bank

B. Asian Development Bank

C. International Monetary Fund

D. Financial Action Task Force

ANSWER: C

13. By Approximately What Percentage Did The Coral Cover In Lakshadweep Decline Between 1998 And 2022

A. 37%

B. 50%

C. 75%

D. 19%

ANSWER: B

14. Who Won India's First Gold Medal In Archery At The FISU World University Games 2025

A. Avneet Kaur and Sahil Rajesh Jadhav

B. Hritik Sharma and Madhura Dhamangaonkar

C. Parneet Kaur and Kushal Dalal

D. Sahil Rajesh Jadhav and Avneet Kaur

ANSWER: C

15. Who Won PEN Translates Award 2025 For Book "Once Elephants Lived Here"

A. Arundhati Roy

B. Geetanjali Shree

C. Jhumpa Lahiri

D. Anita Desai

ANSWER: B

16. On which date is World Mangrove Day observed annually

A. June 5

B. August 12

C. September 16

D. July 26

ANSWER: D

17. Which State Launched Monthly Stipend Scheme For Unemployed Youth, Offering ₹6,000 For Women And ₹5,000 For Men

A. Madhya Pradesh

B. Uttar Pradesh

C. Maharashtra

D. Rajasthan

ANSWER: A

18. AT World Bank Report, By Which Year Are Indian Cities Expected To Generate 70% Of All New Employment

A. 2030

B. 2040

C. 2050

D. 2070

ANSWER: A

19. Name Of The Third Confirmed Interstellar Object Discovered, Originating From The Constellation Sagittarius

A. 2I/Borisov

B. 3I/ATLAS

C. 1I/'Oumuamua

D. 4I/Galileo

ANSWER: B

20. Which Of The Following Is An Example Of Piedmont Plateau?

A. Tibetan Plateau

B. Bolivian Plateau

C. Malwa Plateau

D. Ladakh plateau

ANSWER: C