

My Notes....

NATIONAL

FIRST TRADITIONAL MEDICINE SUMMIT

- **First summit on global traditional medicine** was held in Gujarat and co-hosted by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **Ministry of Ayush**.
- This summit is designed to **foster political commitment** and **evidence-based action** in the field of **traditional medicine**.
- The **UN health agency** defines **traditional medicine** as the **knowledge, skills** and **practices** used over time to **maintain health** and prevent, diagnose and **treat physical and mental illness**.

DIGITAL INDIA PROJECTS EXTENDED

- The programme is now extended to a **period of five years** starting **from 2021-2022 to 2025-2026**.
- The **Digital India programme** was launched in July 2015 to **enable the digital delivery of services** to citizens.

VALIDITY OF 'SELF-RESPECT' MARRIAGES

- The **Supreme Court** on 28 August 2023 observed that there is **no blanket ban** on advocates solemnising "**self-respect**" marriages under **Section 7(A) of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955**.
- The amendment modified the **Hindu Marriage Act of 1955**, by inserting **Section 7-A** into it. However, it extended **only to the state of Tamil Nadu**.
- **Section 7-A** deals with the special provision on "**self-respect and secular marriages**"

INTERNATIONAL

BRICS CURRENCY IN BRICS SUMMIT

- Brazil's President called for the **BRICS nations** to create a **common currency for trade and investment between each other**, as a means of **reducing their vulnerability** to dollar exchange **rate fluctuations**.

BRICS GETS SIX NEW MEMBERS

- The **five-member BRICS** invited **six more countries** to join the alliance, in a move which can strengthen its claim of being a '**voice of the Global South**' on one hand, while raising concerns about **China's increasing dominance on the other**.
- **BRICS** consists of **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**. In its ongoing summit at **Johannesburg, South Africa**, it has invited **Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Egypt, and Ethiopia**. Their membership will begin in January.

NET ZERO CARBON EMISSION COUNTRY

- **Bhutan** has emerged as a country with **net zero emissions** and not only **curbed its carbon footprints**, but has also **transformed into a carbon sink**, absorbing more **carbon dioxide (CO2)** than releasing.
- **Bhutan** is **one among the 196 nations** that committed to the **Paris Agreement** during the **UN Climate Change Conference** focused to **restrict global temperature** increases to **1.5 degree Celsius** above pre-industrial levels.

ECONOMY

RBI'S PILOT PROJECT FOR FACILITATING FRICTIONLESS CREDIT

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** launched a pilot project in the form of a "**Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit**".
- The move seeks to give **digital information** to lenders to expedite access to credit or loans.
- It is an **end-to-end digital platform** that will have an **open architecture**, open **Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)**, and standards to which all banks can connect in a "**plug and play**" model.

EU'S NEW DIGITAL SERVICES ACT

- The **new Digital Services Act (DSA)** is a **landmark legislation** that aims to **regulate the online activities** of tech giants like **Google, Facebook, Amazon, and more**, and to create a **safer and more transparent internet** for everyone.
- It applies to **online platforms** that offer **goods, services, or content to EU citizens**, such as **social media, e-commerce, or cloud services**.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

CHANDRAYAAN-3 CREATES HISTORY

- The **Chandrayaan-3 lander** made a **successful soft landing** on the surface of the Moon, making **India the first country** to reach close to the **lunar South Pole**.
- **India** has also become the **fourth nation in history** to **land on the lunar surface**, after the **United States**, the **erstwhile Soviet Union**, and **China**.
- **India** was also the **first Asian nation** to put a **craft into orbit around Mars** in 2014.

NATIONAL SPACE DAY

- To mark **Chandrayaan-3 success**, India will celebrate **23 August** as '**National Space Day**'.
- To commemorate the success of **Chandrayaan-3 lander**, the spot of landing of Vikram lander will be known as '**Shivshakti**'.
- The name of the **crash landing site of Chandrayaan-2** as '**Tiranga point**'

FIRST EVER QUANTUM SUPERCHEMISTRY OBSERVED

- **Researchers** have achieved a **groundbreaking milestone** as they observe "**quantum superchemistry**" for the **first time** within a laboratory setting.
- **Quantum superchemistry** refers to the **application of quantum mechanics** to the study of **chemical reactions and processes** at the **molecular level**.

INDIA'S FIRST 3D-PRINTED POST OFFICE INAUGURATED

- **India's first 3D-printed post office** was inaugurated by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in Bengaluru's Cambridge Layout.
- Multinational company **Larsen & Toubro Limited** built the **post office** with **technological support** from **IIT Madras**.
- **3D printing**, also known as **additive manufacturing**, is a process that uses **computer-created design** to make **three-dimensional objects layer by layer**.

INDIGENOUS ASTRA MISSILE TESTED

- **LIGHT COMBAT Aircraft (LCA) Tejas** on 24 August 2023 successfully fired the **ASTRA indigenous Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air missile** off the **coast of Goa**.

- **ASTRA** is a **state-of-the-art BVR air-to-air missile** to engage and destroy highly maneuvering **supersonic aerial targets**.
- It is designed and developed by **Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL)**, **Research Centre Imarat (RCI)** and **other laboratories of DRDO**.

CREW-7 MISSION TO SPACE STATION

- **Four astronauts** from **four countries**, including the **US, Denmark, Japan, and Russia**, launched aboard a **SpaceX rocket** towards the **International Space Station (ISS)** from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
- The **International Space Station Program** involves the **US, Russia, Canada, Japan, and the participating countries of the European Space Agency**, and is one of the most ambitious international collaborations ever attempted.

WORLD'S FIRST 100% ETHANOL-RUN VEHICLE

- Union road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari unveiled a **100 per cent ethanol-fueled variant of Toyota's Innova HyCross car**.
- This car is said to be the **world's first BS-VI (Stage-II), electrified flex-fuel vehicle**.
- **Flexible fuel vehicles (FFVs)** have an **internal combustion engine** and are **capable of operating on petrol and any blend of petrol and ethanol**.

RUSSIA'S LUNA-25 CRASHES

- **Russia's Moon mission ended in failure** after its spacecraft **Luna-25** spun out of control and **crashed into the moon**.
- **Luna-25** was **supposed to land on the Moon** on 21 August 2023, **days ahead of India's Chandrayaan-3**. Its intended landing site was **close to Chandrayaan-3's**, near the **lunar south pole**.

JWST DISCOVERED EARENDEL

- The **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)** discovered a **most distant star ever observed - Earendel**.
- This **celestial entity** came into the scientific spotlight after its discovery by the **Hubble Space Telescope** in the previous year.
- **Earendel** is a **distant star** that holds the distinction of being the **most distant star ever detected**.

IITG PRODUCES PLURIPOTENT STEM CELLS

- Researchers from the **Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG)** in collaboration with scientists from **Christian Medical College, Vellore**, have reported a method **to convert regular human skin cells into pluripotent stem cells** (called Induced pluripotent stem cells, iPSCs).
- The researchers have used a safe, **integration-free method**, and have introduced genes such as **OCT3/4, SOX2, KLF4, L-MYC, LIN28** and a **p53 shRNA** into skin cells to transform them into iPSCs.

'PM-EBUS SEWA' APPROVED

- **The Cabinet**, chaired by Prime Minister approved **PM-eBus Sewa initiatives** to augment the **use of electric buses in 169 cities**.
- These include **all the capital cities of Union Territories (UTs)**, north eastern and hill states. The **e-buses** will be provided under the **public-private partnership (PPP)** mode **for 10 years**.

MISCELLANEOUS

MATERNAL VACCINE TO PREVENT RSV IN INFANTS

- **The United States** became the **first country** to approve a **vaccine for pregnant women** that prevents **severe disease** caused by **Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)** in their **babies**.
- **RSV is a common cause of illness in children** and infants are among those at highest risk for **severe disease**, which can lead to hospitalization.

POOR NATIONS FORCED TO RELY ON FOSSIL FUELS

- **Poor countries with heavy debts** have been forced to continue **to rely on fossil fuels** for **generating revenue** to return the loans taken from richer countries and private lenders to meet various economic exigencies like the **pandemic three years ago**.
- The report, **'The Debt-Fossil Fuel Trap'**, published by the anti-debt campaigners **Debt Justice and partners in affected countries**.

INDORE NAMED BEST CITY IN SMART CITIES MISSION

- The **Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry** named **Indore the best city** and **Madhya Pradesh the best state** in the **Smart Cities Mission** in its **India Smart Cities Awards 2022**.
- The cities were selected based on their ranking in terms of **progress of projects, project outcomes** and **presentations** submitted for the awards.

FIRST INDIGENOUS ELECTRIC TRACTOR

- **India** has launched the **country's first indigenous fully-electric tractor**, named **CSIR-PRIMA ET11**.
- The tractor was developed by India's state-owned **Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and Central Mechanical Research Engineering Institute (CSIR-CMERI)**.
- The **CSIR-PRIMA E11** is designed to cater to **small and marginal farmers** with around **two hectares or less of farmland**.

BIRD SPECIES PLUMMETING IN INDIA

- A **large number of bird species in India** are either **currently declining** or **projected to decline** in the long term, according to a report based on data from **about 30,000 birdwatchers** that was released.
- **Out of the 942 bird species** that were assessed, **142 are diminishing** and **only 28 are increasing**, the **State of India's Birds (SoIB) report** said.