

### NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The sky over Rajpath lit up in a kaleidoscope of colours as a swarm of 1,000 drones painted 3D images of Bapu with his walking stick, the Tricolour and the map of India. The brain behind the event were two IIT - Delhi alumni and their professor who spent six months to design and manufacture the drones and prepare different animations to be recreated in the sky. Start-up's aim Tanmay Bunkar and Anuj Kumar Barnwal, physics graduates from IIT Delhi, cofounded their startup Botlab Dynamics along with Dr. Sarita Ahlawat in 2016. Their aim was to replace big, expensive drones with simpler and cheaper drones that can perform the same tasks and carry the same payloads by forming a network or collaborative aerial system.

The government has invited stakeholder comments on a proposal that seeks to establish 'Federated Digital Identities' to optimise the number of digital identities that a citizen needs to have, by linking various consumer identification data into a single unique ID for digital transactions such as authentication and eKYC services. The proposal is part of the Electronics and IT Ministry's India Enterprise Architecture 2.0 (IndEA 2.0) framework that aims to enable the governments and the private sector enterprises to design IT architectures that can span beyond organisational boundaries for delivery of integrated services.

Ahead of the Union Budget 2022-23, Indian industry has urged the government to offer incentives for creating jobs, including special sops under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes already announced. The plea assumes significance amid growing concerns about high unemployment levels in the country, even as a FICCI survey of manufacturing firms showed that 75% of firms don't plan to hire in this quarter. "With the imperative to support jobs and create new employment as the country recovers from the pandemic, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) suggests that the Budget add a job creation component to the PLI incentives for 13 sectors," the industry chamber's director general Chandrajit Banerjee said.

Israel's President Isaac Herzog started his first visit to the United Arab Emirates on Sunday, the latest

### INDIA-CENTRAL ASIA RELATION

1. Ancient kingdoms like the Kushana Empire had territory in parts of both regions creating historical and civilizational linkages. The relationship strengthened in the medieval ages with the advent of Islam and establishment of Muslim rule in India, many of whose rulers had their origins in Central Asia. Modern Central Asia consists of five nations: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan which became independent after the collapse of the USSR in 1991. The Central Asian region is considered to be the part of India's "extended neighbourhood."

2. Summit about- The first India-Central Asia coincided with the 30th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Central Asian countries. The leaders of the five central Asian countries were likely to be the chief guest, but the country saw a rise in COVID-19 cases which led to curtailed celebrations. Objectives of the summit- to make it clear that cooperation between India and Central Asia is essential for regional security and prosperity. to give an effective structure to India- Central Asia cooperation by establishing a framework of regular interactions at different levels .to create an ambitious roadmap for the cooperation

3. Outcome of the summit- **Institutionalisation of the Summit- The Leaders agreed to institutionalize the Summit mechanism by deciding to hold it every 2 years.** They also agreed on regular meetings of Foreign Ministers, Trade Ministers, Culture Ministers and Secretaries of the Security Council to prepare the groundwork for the Summit meetings. Secretariat- An India-Central Asia Secretariat in New Delhi would be set up to support the new mechanism. Areas of discussion- The Leaders discussed to further cooperation in areas of trade and connectivity, development cooperation, defence and security and on cultural and people to people contacts.

4. Areas of concern noted in the joint statement- Trade- There is the problem of retreating trade with only 2 billion dollars, spent mostly on Kazakhstan's energy exports to India. In comparison, China's CAR trade figures have exceeded 41 billion dollars apart from the money invested in the Belt and Road Initiative. Connectivity- Pakistan is denying India transit trade. New Delhi's option is to smoothen the route through Iran's Chabahar port, but that will involve greater investment in rail and road routes. Afghanistan- Afghanistan is the delicate link between Central Asia and South Asia. With Taliban takeover, there is no official government, a humanitarian crisis is building, and there are worries of terrorism and radicalism spilling over its boundaries.

### JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE

1. The telescope, which moved into its final position this week, has already begun its work of looking for answers to some of humanity's most pressing questions, including about the possibility of life elsewhere in the universe. What is James Webb Space Telescope? The James Webb Space Telescope is an infrared telescope formerly known as the "Next Generation Space Telescope". It was launched on December 25, 2021 on a mission to study the earliest stars and peer back farther into the universe's past than ever before. Webb is an international collaboration between NASA, ESA (the European Space Agency), and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA).

2. The Webb telescope is said to be the scientific successor to the Hubble Space Telescope. It is NASA's largest and most powerful space science telescope ever constructed. Webb is now orbiting Lagrange point 2 (L2) located between Earth and Sun nearly 1 million miles (1.6 million km). The telescope will Hunt for the unobserved formation of the first galaxies, and Look inside dust clouds where stars and planetary systems are forming today. The telescope's four instruments - cameras and spectrometers have detectors that are able to record extremely faint signals.

3. The collected data will help find answers to questions in 4 areas of modern astronomy First light, Assembly of galaxies,

high profile diplomatic trip since the countries normalised ties. It follows a visit by Naftali Bennett last month, the first by an Israeli premier.

The government is not against Ed-Tech companies but they cannot be allowed to delve into areas that are not their domain like offering diploma and degree courses, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Chairman Anil Sahasrabudhe said. The comments come after the technical education regulator and the University Grants Commission warned universities and colleges against offering courses in distance learning and online mode in association with EdTech companies, saying no “franchise” agreement is permissible as per norms.

While the Philippines signed a \$375 million deal for BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles last week to be operated by the Philippines Marines, there is another long pending deal under discussion for BrahMos missiles for the Philippines Army, which could see progress in the near future, according to defence and diplomatic sources.

Blinding snow whipped up by powerful winds pummeled the eastern United States, as one of the strongest winter storms in years triggered transport chaos and power outages across a region of some 70 million people. Major cities like New York and Boston bore the brunt of the blizzard, which the National Weather Service (NWS) confirmed intensified into a “bomb cyclone” — characterized by the explosive power of rapid drops in atmospheric pressure.

North Korea tested its most powerful missile since 2017, ramping up the firepower for its record breaking seventh launch this month as Seoul warned nuclear and long range tests could be next.

Ahead of the 60th anniversary of the 1962 India-China war which falls in October this year, official Chinese military researchers have compiled a new history of the war reassessing its significance and legacy, bringing the spotlight back to the war amid the current tensions in relations. Previous anniversaries of the war received only modest attention in China — far less than in India — and some Chinese military scholars have in the past viewed the war with India as one of China’s forgotten wars. Unlike the Korean War or war with Japan, the India-China war hasn’t been covered as extensively in Chinese films, television dramas or in the media.

Supreme Court judges seem to have a mixed view about what is said on social media. They have often

Birth of stars and protoplanetary systems and Planetary systems. The origin of life. Significance of Lagrange points: **Help objects to stay put as the gravitational pull of two large masses precisely equals the centripetal force required for a small object to move with them. Reduce the fuel consumption of spacecrafts.**

#### **PROTOCOL ON VISITS TO RELIGIOUS SHRINES 1974**

1.The Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines 1974 is a bilateral agreement between India and Pakistan facilitating Indian and Pakistani nationals to visit certain religious shrines in both countries. As of November 2018, fifteen locations in Pakistan and five in India are covered under this protocol.

2.Locations covered in India: Ajmer Sharif Dargah, dedicated to sufi saint Moinuddin Chishti in Ajmer, Rajasthan. Nizamuddin Dargah, dedicated to sufi saint Nizamuddin Auliya, in Delhi. Amir Khusro, dedicated to Sufi musician Amir Khusro in Delhi. Sirhind Sharif, Mujaddid Alf Sani in Sirhind, Punjab, India. Kalyar Sharif, dedicated to sufi saint Alauddin Ali Ahmed Sabir, near Haridwar.

3.Why in the News? India has said that it is willing to engage in talks with Pakistan on upgrading the 1974 protocol to allow air travel as well as increase the number of shrines pilgrims from both countries could visit.

#### **NeoCoV**

1.Context: Scientists in China have warned about a new strain of coronavirus, NeoCov, related to the Middle East respiratory syndrome MERS-coronavirus. NeoCoV carries with it the potentially combined high mortality rate of MERS-CoV (where one in three infected people die on average) and the high transmission rate of the current SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus.

2.NeoCoV is a bat coronavirus that was first identified in 2011. It was identified in a species of bats known as Neoromicia, which is where the name NeoCoV was derived from.

3.Commonly known as aloe bats, this species is distributed in the Afro-Malagasy region. NeoCoV shares an 85% similarity to MERS-CoV in the genome sequence, making it the closest known relative of MERS-CoV.

#### **DURGABAI DESHMUKH**

1.Durgabai Deshmukh, a tireless worker for the emancipation of women in Andhra Pradesh, she was also an eminent freedom fighter and member of the Constituent Assembly.

2.She is popularly known as ‘Iron Lady’. This tough self-disciplined Satyagrahi was ready to sacrifice anything to make her country free from the clutches of colonial rule.

3.She was given the title of ‘Mother of Social Work in India’ by late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

#### **ARUNA ASAF ALI**

1.Aruna Asaf Ali was an inspirational freedom fighter who is perhaps best remembered for hoisting the Indian National flag in Mumbai during the Quit India Movement in 1942. **She is popularly known as the ‘Grand Old Lady’ of the Independence Movement. She was greatly influenced by Mahatma Gandhi’s ideals and beliefs.**

2.She was arrested while participating in the Salt Satyagraha in 1930. In 1932, she had gone on a hunger strike in Tihar Jail against the mistreatment of the political prisoners, which led to an improvement in their living conditions.

3.During Quit-India movement to evade arrest she continued her struggle through underground radio, pamphlets, and magazines such as ‘Inquilab’ to continue the struggle. Post-independence she started a weekly journal ‘Weekly’ and newspaper ‘Patriot’ for upliftment of the status of women by encouraging women education. She was honoured with the Bharat Ratna in 1997.

#### **ACCAMMA CHERIAN**

1.Accamma Cherian, is an inspirational leader of the freedom movement in Travancore, Kerala, she was given the name ‘Jhansi Rani of Travancore’ by Mahatma Gandhi. Though a teacher by profession, her actual dream was to see her nation free.

2.She quit her well-respected job to join India’s freedom movement. In October 1938, Accamma was entrusted by the Travancore State Congress to organise the Desasevika Sangh (Female Volunteer Corps).

3.**Accamma autobiography is Jeevitham: Oru Samaram (Life:**

faulted social media of being a pliant tool at the hands of forces who want to “villainise” judges, launch personal attacks and troll them for their work. There are some who believe that an attack on judges is an attack on the institution itself. The government has rushed to support the court. **A Protest).**

Israel and India have a “gehri dosti” (deep friendship), Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett has said and thanked his Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi, for his “deep commitment” to the “strong and robust friendship”.

