A SpaceX Mars rocket prototype just exploded

Context:

A giant experimental rocket built by Elon Musk's SpaceX successfully soared eight miles above the testing facilities in South Texas and came back down as planned, but **crashed** into the ground in an enormous plume of flames and smoke.

What is SpaceX?

Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (SpaceX) is an American aerospace and space transportation services company headquartered in California. It was founded in 2002 by **Elon Musk** with the goal of reducing space transportation costs to enable the colonisation of Mars.

About SpaceX Mars Mission

- SpaceX Mars program is a development program initiated by SpaceX of Elon Musk in order to facilitate the eventual colonisation of Mars.
- SpaceX's aspirational goal for an uncrewed mission to land by 2024, with a crewed mission to follow later.

Timeline:

- SpaceX launched a prototype of its Starship spaceship thousands of feet into the air above its Texas facilities.
- The 16-story vehicle exploded upon landing.

- Elon Musk previously estimated a 2-3 chance that the test flight would fail because it pushed Starship faster and farther than ever before.
- Musk described the flight as successful in a tweet.
- The flight helps advance the development of Starship toward a two-stage vehicle that may one day send people to the Moon and Mars.
- But the first SpaceX has to clear several more earthly hurdles, including a new environmental analysis of its launch-site use.

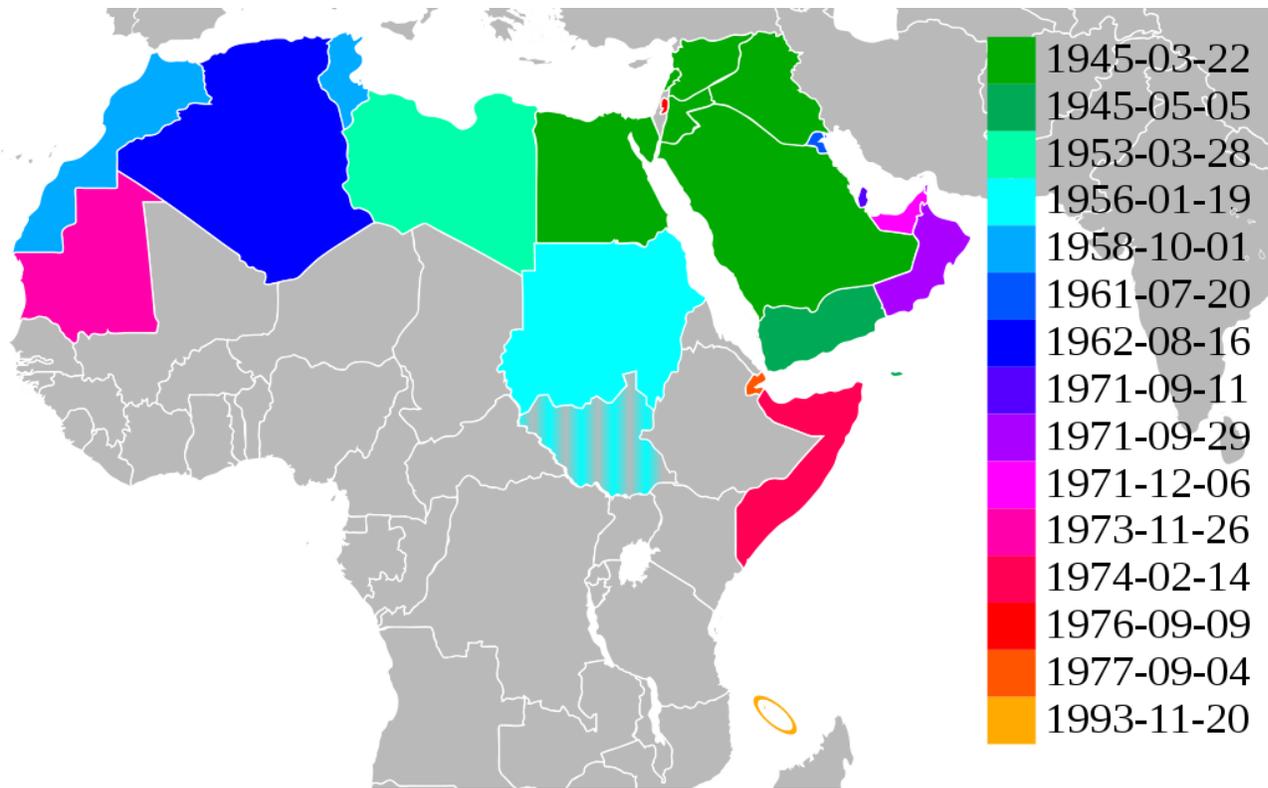# Morocco to normalise relations with Israel.

Context:

Morocco has become the latest Arab League country to agree to normalise relations with Israel in a deal brokered with US help.

What is Arab League?

The Arab League, is a regional organization in the Arab world, which is located in Africa and Western Asia. The Arab League was formed in Cairo on 22 March 1945 with six members.Now it has 22 members.

Arab League Map

1945-03-22
1945-05-05
1953-03-28
1956-01-19
1958-10-01
1961-07-20
1962-08-16
1971-09-11
1971-09-29
1971-12-06
1973-11-26
1974-02-14
1976-09-09
1977-09-04
1993-11-20

Background:

Since the formation of Israel, all Arab League Countries and some Muslim Majority countries did not recognise the existence of Israel till 1979 when Egypt became the first Arab League country to recognise Israel and in 1994 Jordan also normalised relation with Israel.

Recent Development:

But recently with the intervention of the USA, many Arab League countries have normalised relations with Israel in this year.

1. United Arab Emirates
2. Bahrain
3. Sudan
4. Morocco

 Along with these Arab League countries, Kosovo also normalised relations with Israel this year.

Deal with Morocco:

Morocco was having decades old territorial dispute over western Sahara with Algeria backed polisorio group.

As part of the Agreement, the USA changed its long standing policy and recognised Morocco's sovereignty over the Western Sahara, and Morocco normalised relations with Israel.

Tourism Minister inaugurates Association of Buddhist Tour Operator (ABTO) International Convention

The Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture virtually inaugurated the ABTO (Association of Buddhist Tour Operators) International Convention in New Delhi.

What is ABTO?

ABTO Convention a three-day event is being held in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism from 10th to 12th Dec in Bodhgaya, Bihar.

Other schemes to promote pilgrimage tourism:

- The Swadesh Darshan scheme and PRASAD Yojana was launched to develop the tourism industry in the country.

- Under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, more than 350 crores of Rupees have been sanctioned for the development of Buddhist sites
- More than 900 crores of Rupees have been sanctioned under the PRASAD scheme.
- Currently the Archaeological Survey of India is revising its list of monuments and in coming days the number of monuments under Archaeological Survey of India is to increase significantly.
- The Ministry of Tourism is planning to register accommodation units under the National Integrated database of hospitality industry, a portal that operates under the Ministry of Tourism. So far more than 32000 accommodation units have been registered under the postal.

Indian Railways Launched Hospital Management Information System Trial Project:

Context:
Indian Railways has launched an IT initiative towards priority for the well-being of its workforce.

- The Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) will bring a huge shift in the health care systems maintained by Indian Railways.
- HMIS will improve the quality of health services and will help in utilization of resources in a transparent & accountable manner.
- Not only the waiting time of patients at the hospitals will be minimized but medical records will also be available to the team of doctors at all times.
- The HMIS has been developed by Indian Railways in coordination with RailTel Corporation Limited.

Background of Indian Railways:

- The first railway on Indian sub-continent ran over a stretch of 21 miles from Bombay to Thane.
- The first passenger train steamed out of Howrah station destined for Hooghly, a distance of 24 miles, on 15th August, 1854.
- Thus the first section of the East Indian Railway was opened to public traffic, inaugurating the beginning of railway transport on the Eastern side of the subcontinent.

About Hospital Management Information System:
- Hospital Management & Information System (HMIS) is a system for patient care and hospital management.
- HMIS facilitates financial, administrative and patient care activities of hospitals, generates extensive management reports, operational statistics & provides a query module.
- It maintains Electronic Medical Records and makes it accessible across the hospitals.
- It assists the doctors and medical staff to improve health services with readily referenced patient's EMR.

Uttarakhand minister asks Centre to introduce 'Covid insurance' policy to revive tourism

Context:

- The **Kumbh Mela** is scheduled to begin in **Haridwar district** in January and the state government expects that the religious fair will revive the tourism-backed economy of the state.

What did the Uttarakhand Tourism Minister of Uttarakhand write?

- In a bid to increase the footfall of foreign tourists in the state ahead of the Kumbh Mela, Uttarakhand Tourism and Culture Minister Satpal Maharaj on Friday wrote to the Centre, **suggesting the introduction of a 'Covid insurance' policy.**

- Maharaj, in a letter to Minister of State (Independent charge) for Culture and Tourism Prahlad Singh Patel, "To reduce the fear of the pandemic among the foreign tourists and attract them to visit India and assure them of safety, the introduction of a Covid tourist insurance policy appears necessary."

- The minister added that such an insurance policy should also be introduced for pilgrims visiting Haridwar.

Named after Sharad Pawar, govt to launch app for persons with disabilities

Context:

- Maharashtra has developed a digital platform **to improve access of persons with disabilities to free assistive care devices.** To be named after Sharad Pawar, the app will be launched on the NCP president's 80th birthday on Saturday.

About MahaSharad App:

- **Maharashtra System for Health and Rehabilitation Assistance** or **MahaSharad app** will act as a bridge between physically challenged persons in need of equipment with private companies, vendors and people interested in donating such equipment.

- It will also provide a platform for registration of those in need for such care. Currently, the department has data of 29 lakh people with disabilities.

- While the department will launch a web portal, **http://www.mahasharad.in**, to launch the facility on Saturday, Munde said the same facility will also be offered through a mobile app by March next year.

- Modern equipment like Braille kit, hearing machines, prosthetic limbs and battery-operated wheelchairs that can help persons with disabilities lead a better life are available in the market, but not everyone can afford these. On the other hand, several people, organisations, private companies and industrialists are willing to donate such equipment. The MahaSharad platform will act as a bridge to bring them together.

- Saturday, the department will also launch another mobile application, e-Barti, which is aimed at providing people with easy access to various social welfare schemes being implemented by the Pune-based Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Research and Training Institute.

India welcomes 'fruitful discussions' among Gulf countries towards resolving rift in their region

Context:

- Recently, the spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, India said that India welcomed the recent "fruitful discussions" among the Gulf countries towards resolving the rift in their region and hoped for harmonious relations between those nations.
- India shares close civilisational, economic, political and cultural ties with all the Gulf countries.

Additional Information:

- Responding to a media query on the statement by Kuwait Foreign Minister Sheikh Ahmed Nasser Al-Sabah that there has been progress in resolution of intra-GCC crisis, Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said, "We have seen the statement from the Kuwait side that fruitful discussions have taken place towards resolving the rift in the region."

- According to media reports, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Ahmed Nasser Al-Sabah had said last week that "fruitful discussions have taken place in recent days to resolve the Gulf crisis".