



CURRENT AFFAIRS 14th October 2022

National News

1. President Droupadi Murmu inaugurates 'PARAM KAMRUPA' Supercomputer facility at IIT Guwahati



- President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, inaugurated 'PARAM KAMRUPA' Supercomputer facility and a high-power active and passive component laboratory of SAMEER at Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati on the first day of her visit to the State.
- The Param Kamrupa, one of its kind supercomputers in the North East region, installed under the National Supercomputing Mission.
- In the same function, the President virtually inaugurated Dhubri Medical College and Hospital, and laid foundation stone for Zonal Institutes of National Institute of Virology at Dibrugarh in Assam and Jabalpur of Madhya Pradesh.
- Addressing the gathering at IIT Guwahati the President Smt. Murmu said that North Eastern states are making big strides towards development and making extraordinary efforts to provide high quality education and healthcare

system to the people of the region. This region should be the torchbearer of the country.

- The President said that the Super Computer Param Kamrupa will provide advance computing, healthcare techniques along with solutions for many issues to this region.
- She also informed that many components of this super computer developed indigenously.

2. 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas to be held at Indore in January 2023



- The 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Convention will be held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh in January next year.
- External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar on Thursday launched the website of 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Convention with Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan through video conferencing.
- Dr. Jaishankar said, the Narendra Modi Government has always accorded the highest priority to the Indian Diaspora which is more than 32 million.
- He said, Government's engagement is founded on the 4Cs- Care, Connect, Celebrate and Contribute.
- The External Affairs Minister expressed confidence that the 17th PBD Convention will be an important landmark event in the post-pandemic world.
- He said, coming January 2023, look forward to Madhya Pradesh's warm hospitality.
- Secretary in Consular, Passport, Visa and Overseas Indian Affairs Division of Ministry of External Affairs Ausaf Sayeed was also present on the occasion.

3. Indian discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur BANNED for three years for doping violation



- Indian discus thrower, Kamalpreet Kaur has been banned from competition for three years, starting March 29, 2022, due to a doping violation, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) announced on October 12.
- The AIU, which is the independent body created by World Athletics that manages all integrity issues – including doping and age fraud, had provisionally suspended Kamalpreet in May this year for testing positive for the banned substance stanozolol, an anabolic steroid that is on the list of banned substances as per the World Athletics.
- Kamalpreet Kaur's samples had been tested at a World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)-accredited lab in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- The 26-year-old had tested her samples at a private lab and was also allowed by the WADA to have them tested at the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) in New Delhi, both of which came up positive for stanozolol.

- The Athlete has failed to demonstrate that the Anti-Doping Rule Violations were not intentional. Therefore, the mandatory period of Ineligibility is a period of Ineligibility of four (4) years,” the AIU said.
- However, Rule 10.8.1 ADR provides that an athlete potentially subject to an asserted period of Ineligibility of four (4) years may benefit from a one (1)-year reduction in the period of Ineligibility based on an early admission and acceptance of sanction,” it added.

4. Israel and Lebanon reach historic agreement to resolve a long-running maritime border dispute



- Lebanon and Israel have reached a “historic” deal to end a long-running maritime border dispute in the gas-rich Mediterranean Sea, according to negotiators from the two countries.
- Lebanon’s deputy speaker Elias Bou Saab said, after submitting the United States-brokered final draft of the deal to President Michel Aoun, that an agreement had been reached that satisfies both sides.
- While limited in scope, an agreement may ease security and economic concerns between the two countries.
- The deal would resolve a territorial dispute in the eastern tip of the Mediterranean Sea in an area where Lebanon aims to explore for natural gas, and near waters where Israel has already found commercially viable quantities of hydrocarbons.

5. Google launches Play Points in India



- Google is set to launch Play Points, a global rewards Programme for users in India.
- Users will earn points when they purchase with Google Play, including in-app items, apps, games, and subscriptions.
- The reward program has four levels known as platinum, gold, silver, and bronze.
- The levels will provide members with perks and prizes. The levels and tiers are based on the number of points they have collected.
- The users can redeem the points awarded in the Play Store.
- Google has partnered with developers of popular apps and games across the world to help users to redeem their points on special in-app items.
- Google Play in partnership with more than 30 titles that include games from global studios like Miniclip, in India.
- It has also partnered with local studios like Gammation, Gameberry labs, Truecaller, etc.

- The Play Points by Google is available in 28 countries and Google claims that more than 100 million people find value in the program.
- Google Play Points will also provide local developers a new avenue to build a local and global user base.

6. 4th Heli-India Summit 2022 inaugurated by Jyotiraditya Scindia



- Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia inaugurated the 4th Heli-India Summit 2022.
- The civil enclave will be built in Jammu for Rs 861 crore and Srinagar's present terminal will be expanded three times from 20,000 square meters to 60,000 square meters for Rs 1500 crores.
- The 4th Heli-India Summit 2022 was inaugurated with the theme of 'Helicopters for Last Mile Connectivity' at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Center, Srinagar in the presence of Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Major Sinha.
- During the summit Scindia highlighted the decrease in VAT on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) from 26.5 percent.
- The Jammu and Kashmir government has set a new project for air connectivity in the Union Territory with a 360 percent increase in refueling, increasing the air connectivity to Jammu and Kashmir.

- From 1947 to 2014, India had only 74 airports, but today there are 141 airports with 67 added in the last seven years according to the Civil Aviation Minister.

7. Nitin Gadkari Unveils Toyota Corolla Altis Flex-Fuel Car in India



- Union Minister for Road, Transport & Highways, Nitin Gadkari has unveiled the Toyota Corolla Altis Flex-fuel car, which has been touted as first of its kind pilot project on Flexi-Fuel Strong Hybrid Electric Vehicles (FFV-SHEV) in India.
- This project intends to examine whether ethanol-powered flex-fuel vehicles can be viable in Indian conditions.
- Collected data will be shared with the prestigious Indian Institute of Science, for conducting a deeper study about the well-to-wheel carbon emissions of FFV / FFV-SHEV in the Indian context.
- In this regard, a Memorandum of Understanding was also signed between Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) and the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.
- The flex-fuel production has already commenced in India with three grades namely E95, E90, E85 initially developed.

- The nomenclature of the aforementioned fuel grades is based on the percentage of petrol against the percentage of ethanol mix.
- The flex-fuel sedan was imported from Toyota Brazil.
- Powered by a 1.8L ethanol petrol hybrid engine, it runs on fuel with ethanol content ranging between 20-100 per cent while generating a power output of nearly 101 bhp and torque performance of 142 Nm.
- The petrol engine is paired with a 1.3 kWh battery which churns out 72 bhp and 163 Nm. This powertrain combination is linked to a CVT gearbox.

8. Himachal Pradesh starts new scheme to help farmers



- The state government of Himachal Pradesh has started a new scheme named 'HIMCAD', to provide irrigation facilities to farmers.
- According to the latest data, about 80% of the agricultural area of Himachal Pradesh is rain-fed.
- The scheme will provide end-to-end connectivity of farmers' fields for better water conservation, crop diversification and integrated farming.
- Under the scheme, it is planned to provide command area development activities to 23,344 hectares of cultivable command area by March 2024, and the State Technical Advisory Committee has approved 379 minor irrigation schemes worth Rs 305.70 crore. About 80 per cent of the agricultural area of the state is rain-fed.
- In order to provide irrigation facilities to the farmers in the state, the government has implemented schemes like Flow Irrigation Scheme, Efficient Irrigation Scheme through

Micro Irrigation, Jal Se Krishi Ka Bal, construction of Lift Irrigation Scheme and Borewell etc.

- **Under the scheme, to provide Command Area Development activities to 23,344 hectares of Cultivable Command Area (CCA) by March 2024, the State Technical Advisory Committee has approved 379 completed Minor Irrigation Schemes worth Rs. 305.70 crores. The development work of these schemes is in various stages.**

By Sameer Singhal

PLUTUS ACADEMY