



CURRENT AFFAIRS 24 AUGUST 2021

International News

1. World Bank Opens New Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund



- The World Bank has launched a new 'Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund', to better roll out cybersecurity development agenda in a systematic manner. The new fund has been developed as an associated trust fund under the broader Digital Development Partnership (DDP) umbrella program.
- World Bank has partnered with four countries, namely Estonia, Japan, Germany, and the Netherlands, to launch the fund.
- The main aim of this new fund is to enhance cyber and digital security capability and capacity in World Bank member countries, with the

development of global knowledge, country assessments, technical assistance, capacity building and training, along with necessary investments in infrastructure and technology.

- World Bank Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States.
- World Bank Formation: July 1944.
- World Bank President: David Malpass.

2. Ismail Sabri Yaakob appointed as new Prime Minister of Malaysia



- Ismail Sabri Yaakob has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Malaysia. Before this, he was the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia.
- He will succeed Muhyiddin Yassin as the PM, who resigned from the post after losing majority support in the lower house of parliament. The appointment of Yaakob was done by Malaysia's King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah.
- Malaysia Capital: Kuala Lumpur.
- Malaysia Currency: Malaysian Ringgit.

States News

3. Hisar Airport renamed as Maharaja Agrasen International Airport



- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has announced to rename the Hisar Airport as Maharaja Agrasen International Airport.
- The Hisar Airport is a domestic airport and the first DGCA licensed Public Aerodrome of the State. This airport is presently under up-gradation to be transformed as an international airport by 30 March 2024.
- Haryana Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya;
- Haryana Capital: Chandigarh;
- Haryana Chief Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar.

4. Onam, Harvest Festival of Kerala



- Onam is the most revered and celebrated festival of Kerala, is celebrated every year by the Malayali community across the world.
- The 10-day long festival marks the beginning of harvest season as well as the appearance of the Vaman avatar of Lord Vishnu along with the homecoming of King Mahabali.

- The festival begins from Atham (Hasta) nakshatram, and ends on Thiruvonam (Shravana) nakshatram. This year, the harvest festival began on August 12 and will conclude on August 23. The 10 days of the festival are named on the names of astrological stars as per the Malayalam calendar.

5. India's highest herbal park inaugurated in Uttarakhand



- India's highest altitude herbal park has been inaugurated at Mana village in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand. The herbal park is situated at a height of 11,000 feet and is close to the Indo-China border.
- Mana is the last Indian village in Chamoli bordering China and is adjacent to Badrinath temple. The herbal park has around 40 species found in high altitude alpine areas in the Himalayan region.
- The main aim of this high altitude herbal park is to conserve various medicinally and culturally important alpine species and to do research on their propagation and habitat ecology.
- The park has been developed on an area of three acres given by Mana Van Panchayat by the Research Wing of Uttarakhand Forest Department.
- It has been developed in three years under the central government's Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) scheme.
- Uttarakhand Founded: 9 November 2000;
- Uttarakhand Governor: Baby Rani Maurya;
- Uttarakhand Chief minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami;
- Uttarakhand Capitals: Dehradun (Winter), Gairsain (Summer).

Appointments News

6. Nakul Chopra appointed as Chief Executive Officer of BARC India



- Television monitoring agency Broadcast Audience Research Council (Barc) has announced the appointment of Nakul Chopra as its chief executive officer (CEO) effective 25 August 2021.
- Former CEO Sunil Lulla has resigned to pursue his ambition as an entrepreneur. This announcement comes as Sunil Lulla has decided to resign from the position of CEO to pursue his entrepreneurial ambitions.
- Chopra had joined the BARC India Board in 2016 and had been elected as the Chairman during 2018-19. In January 2020, he was appointed as a member of BARC's Oversight Committee. The media and advertising industry veteran had earlier served as the CEO, India and South Asia of Publicis Worldwide for over a decade.
- Broadcast Audience Research Council Founded: 2010;
- Broadcast Audience Research Council Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Chairman of Broadcast Audience Research Council: Punit Goenka.

7. CVC re-appoints T M Bhasin as Chairman of Advisory Board



- The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has announced the re-appointment of T M Bhasin as chairman of the Advisory Board for Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF).
- The panel was constituted to examine bank frauds of over Rs 50 crore and recommend action. The former vigilance commissioner, CVC, Mr Bhasin will now continue to head the board for a further period of two years, with effect from August 21, 2021.
- Central Vigilance Commission formed: February 1964.
- Central Vigilance Commission Headquarters: New Delhi.

Business News

8. BPCL launches AI-enabled chatbot 'URJA'



- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) launched (after pilot test) an AI-enabled chatbot, named Urja to provide its customers with a platform for seamless self-service experience and faster resolution of queries/issues.
- URJA is the first such chatbot in the oil and gas industry in India. URJA has been launched under the Project Anubhav of BPCL and it currently supports 13 languages.
- With the objective of making BPCL's customer interface comprehensive and integrated digitally, Urja, the chatbot is now available on the company website for any queries for both B2B & B2C.
- Under Project Anubhav, Urja represents an integrated communication platform that connects all BPCL communication to any channel, unifying all customer touchpoints with a single and cohesive voice.
- CMD Of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd: Arun Kumar Singh;

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd Founded: 1952.

Schemes and Committees News

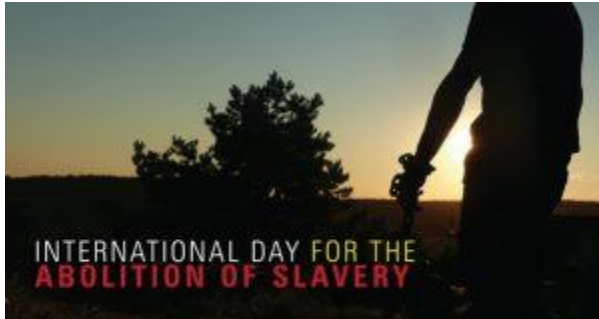
9. Finance Ministry launched 'Ubharte Sitaare Fund'



- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has launched an ambitious 'Ubharte Sitaare Fund' -USF for export-oriented firms and startups in a program at Lucknow.
- The Fund aims at arranging funds for the promotion of micro, small and medium companies. The fund has been set up by Exim Bank and SIDBI. This scheme will be successful in Uttar Pradesh as the state has the highest number of MSMEs.
- India Exim Bank's Ubharte Sitaare Programme (USP) identifies Indian companies that have the potential to be future champions in the domestic arena while catering to global demands.
- The fund is a mix of structured support, both financial and advisory services through investments in equity or equity-like instruments, debt (funded and non-funded) and technical assistance (advisory services, grants and soft loans) to the Indian companies.

Important Days

10. International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition



- United Nations observes 23 August every year as “International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition”. The Day is observed to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples.
- It is a day to honour the memory of the men and women who, in Saint-Domingue in 1791, revolted and paved the way for the end of slavery and dehumanization.
- UNESCO headquarters: Paris, France.
- UNESCO Head: Audrey Azoulay.
- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945.

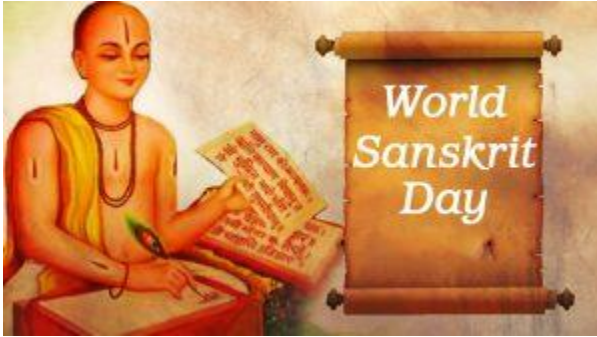
11. International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief



- The International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief is observed on August 22 every year since 2019.
- The day aims to remember the victims and survivors of evil acts on the basis of or in the name of religion or belief.

- The day was adopted at the 73rd UN General Assembly on 28 May 2019 as proposed by Poland. It spreads awareness that international communities must work together to achieve justice for the survivors of past abuses by holding perpetrators accountable and demonstrating to governments that action must be taken to 'never again' tolerate genocide or other atrocities.

12. World Sanskrit Day 2021: 22 August



- World Sanskrit Day, (also known as Sanskrit Diwas), is celebrated every year on Shraavanapurnima, which is the Purnima day of the Shraavana month in the Hindu calendar, which is also marked as Raksha Bandhan. In 2021, this day is being observed on August 22, 2021.
- The day commemorates the ancient Indian language of Sanskrit and aims to promote its revival and maintenance. The Government of India decided to celebrate World Sanskrit Day in 1969, on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan that falls on the full moon day of the Hindu month of Shravana.

Obituaries News

13. Renowned athletics coach Om Nambiar passes away



- O.M. Nambiar, the man who transformed a village girl P.T. Usha into Asia's Golden Girl, passed away. One of India's most famous coaches, Nambiar spotted Usha at a very young age in 1976 and soon began coaching her at the Kannur Sports Division.
- Under his guidance, Usha began winning medals at the Asian level but his best move was making the sprinter switch to the 400m hurdles before the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

14. Former UP CM Kalyan Singh passes away



- Former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Kalyan Singh passed away. He had served as the CM of Uttar Pradesh twice — June 1991 to December 1992 and September 1997 to November 1999 and was the CM of UP during the demolition of the Babri Masjid.
- He's a two-time Member of Parliament and a former governor of Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh.

Miscellaneous News

15. India's largest Floating Solar PV Project commissioned in Andhra Pradesh



- NTPC has commissioned the largest floating solar PV project in India of 25MW power on the reservoir of its Simhadri thermal station in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. This is also the first solar project to be set up under the Flexibilisation Scheme.
- This scheme was notified by the Government of India in 2018. NTPC is also planning to set up a hydrogen-based micro-grid system on a pilot basis at Simhadri.
- NTPC's floating solar installation covers 75 acres of the Simhadri reservoir's surface. It will produce power from more than a lakh of solar PV modules for lighting 7,000 households.
- The project will annually save 46,000 tonnes of CO₂ emission and 1,364 million litres of water, which is adequate to meet the requirement of 6,700 households in a year.
- NTPC Chairman and Managing Director: Shri Gurdeep Singh;
- NTPC Founded: 1975.
- NTPC Headquarters: New Delhi, India.

BY SOHIL SINGH