

CURRENT AFFAIRS 30th June 2022

National News

1. India successfully tests high-speed expendable aerial target Abhyas off Odisha coast



- India has successfully flight-tested the indigenously developed high-speed expendable aerial target - ABHYAS, from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the Odisha coast.
- The performance of the aircraft at low altitude, including sustained level and high maneuverability, was demonstrated during the test flight.
- The target aircraft was flown from a ground-based controller in a pre-designated low-altitude flight path, which was monitored by various tracking sensors deployed by the ITR, including radar and an electro-optical targeting system.
- ABHYAS is designed and developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO and the armed forces for the successful flight trial of ABHYAS.
- He said that the development of this system will meet the requirements of aerial targets.

2. ISRO to launch rocket PSLV-C53, carrying three Singapore satellites this evening



- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is set to launch the rocket PSLV-C53, carrying three Singapore satellites at 6.02 pm today.
- The launch vehicle will lift off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota.
- The 25 hours countdown for the mission that began yesterday evening is progressing well.
- Six nano-satellites including those belonging to India's two private space start-ups also will go to space, in today's mission.
- "The second launch pad is bustling with activities in preparation of today's launch.
- PSLV-C53 is the second dedicated commercial mission of the NewSpace India Limited, a public sector unit under the Department of Space.
- It was formed after the recent space sector reforms. For the workhorse launch vehicle PSLV, this will be the 55th mission.
- Its primary payloads are the 365 kg earth observation satellite called DS-EO, a 155 kg NeuSAR satellite and the 2.8 kg Scoob-1 nano-satellite of the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

3. Vice Presidential Election to be held on August 6



- The Vice Presidential Election will be held on the 6th of August. In a statement, the Election Commission of India ECI said, notification for the election will be issued on 5th July and nominations can be filed till 19th of next month.
- The scrutiny of nominations will be done on 20th July.
- The Commission said, the Electoral College for the Vice Presidential Election consists of 233 elected members of Rajya Sabha, 12 nominated members of Rajya Sabha and 543 elected members of Lok Sabha.
- The Secretary-General of Lok Sabha will be the Returning Officer for the Election.

4. Iran applies to join BRICS group of emerging countries



- Iran has submitted an application to become a member of the BRICS, an Iranian official said yesterday.
- Iran, which holds the world's second-largest gas reserves, wants to join the BRICS group of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- The term BRIC was coined by Goldman Sachs economist Jim O'Neill in 2001 to describe the startling rise of Brazil, Russia, India, and China.
- The BRIC powers had their first summit in 2009 in Russia. South Africa joined in 2010.
- Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson said that Tehran's membership in the BRICS group would result in added values for both sides. Russia said, Argentina had also applied to join.
- Argentine President Alberto Fernandez, currently in Europe, has in recent days reiterated his desire for Argentina to join BRICS.
- China has by far the largest economy in the BRICS grouping, accounting for more than 70 of the group's collective 27.5 trillion US dollars in economic might.
- India accounts for about 13 per cent, with Russia and Brazil each accounting for about seven per cent, according to IMF data.

5. Uddhav Thackeray resigns as Supreme Court refuses to stay floor test



- Uddhav Thackeray has resigned as the Chief minister of Maharashtra.
- This comes immediately after the Supreme Court refused to stay Maharashtra Governor's direction to the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government to take a floor test in the Assembly.
- Late in the evening, Mr. Thackeray submitted his resignation to Mr. Bhagat Singh Koshyari at the Raj Bhavan in Mumbai.
- The Governor accepted the resignation of Mr. Thackeray and asked him to officiate as the Chief Minister until alternate arrangements are made.
- With Mr. Thackeray's resignation, the unique three-party experiment of the MVA, in which the Shiv Sena tied up with the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), has come to an end.
- The BJP, which is the single-largest party in the Assembly with 106 MLAs, is likely to stake claim to form the government.

6. England captain Morgan retires



- Eoin Morgan has announced his immediate retirement from international cricket, according to the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).
- Morgan was the captain of England's men's white-ball team.
- The 35-year-old captained England Men to their first-ever ICC Men's Cricket World Cup victory at Lord's in 2019 throughout his 13-year international career with England.
- He also competed for England in the 2010 ICC Men's T20 Cricket World Cup, which was held in the Caribbean.
- In all ODI and T20I games, Morgan has scored the most runs for England Men overall and has received the most caps.
- He led England to the top of the ICC world rankings throughout his seven years as the Men's ODI captain, winning noteworthy series against all the major countries.
- He earned a record-breaking 225 ODI caps and amassed 6,957 runs—including 1300 at an average of 39.75—during that time.
- The highest win record by any England Men's ODI Captain in the history of the game was 76 victories in 126 games Morgan managed, with a win rate of 60%.

7. Inauguration of Honey Testing Lab in Nagaland by Union Agriculture Minister



- During his visit to Nagaland, the Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, officially inaugurated the Dimapur Honey Testing Laboratory.
- The honey testing facility will support beekeepers and producers in testing their produced honey.
- At the North-East Agri Expo, Chumaokedlma, Tomar was attending an event.
- Among others, G. Kaito, the Nagaland Agriculture Minister, Chief Secretary J. Alam, and Central Horticulture Commissioner Prabhat Kumar attended the ceremony.
- Speaking at the event, Tomar stated that when it comes to overall growth, the Northeast Region cannot be ignored.
- Therefore, the government aims to make the north east region self-sufficient through its plans, initiatives, funds, and institutions.

By Sameer Singhal