

August - 03

NATIONAL

Weapons of Mass Destruction Bill



- ❖ The Parliament passed a bill which seeks to ban funding of weapons of mass destruction.
- ❖ The bill known as “The Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill, 2022”.
- ❖ It also empowers the Centre to freeze, seize or attach financial assets and economic resources of people engaged in such activities.
- ❖ This Act passed in 2005 and it only banned manufacture of weapons of mass destruction.
- ❖ The amendment bill seeks to insert a new Section 12A in the existing law.

Point 5140

- ❖ Point 5140 at Drass in Kargil in Jammu Kashmir has been named as ‘Gun Hill’.
- ❖ It aims to commemorate the victory of Indian armed forces and pay tribute to the supreme sacrifice of the gunners in 'Operation Vijay'.

- ❖ The capture of Point 5140 was the key factor in the early completion of operations in the 1999 Kargil war.
- ❖ Point 5140 is the highest point on the Tololing ridgeline.
- ❖ It is the most formidable feature in the Drass sub-sector.




PMLA provisions verdict

On ED's power under PMLA

An upshot of the judgment by the Supreme Court on the validity of certain provisions under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act

- The offence of money laundering is as heinous an offence as terrorism
- Section 3 (definition of money laundering), Section 24 (reverse burden of proof), and Section 5 (attachment of property) to stay
- Stringency in granting bail under the Act is legal and not arbitrary
- It is not mandatory to give an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) in every case as it was not an FIR
- The statements made to ED are considered admissible
- Provision of attachment of property of accused as proceeds of crime 'balances' the interests of the accused and the State
- The question of enactment of PMLA amendments through the Money Bill route is to be decided by a larger Bench



- ❖ The Supreme Court upheld the validity of the stringent Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and the vast powers enjoyed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).
- ❖ The verdict came on an extensive challenge raised against the amendments introduced to the 2002 Act.
- ❖ Many petitions were filed against the amendments which claimed it violates personal liberty, procedures of law and the constitutional mandate.
- ❖ As per the provision, ED could arrest a person even without informing him of the charges.

- ❖ This power was violative of the right to 'due process' enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution.
- ❖ Besides, Article 22 mandated that no person can be arrested without informing him or her of the grounds of the arrest.

FMCG company in India



- ❖ Biscuit brand 'Parle' continued to be the most popular brand among fast-moving consumer goods in India in 2021.
- ❖ It sustains in the top rankings for the eleventh year in a row.
- ❖ The other top brands on the list are Amul, Britannia, Clinic Plus, and Tata Consumer Products.
- ❖ This is released by Kantar India's annual Brand Footprint study.
- ❖ Based on Consumer Reach Points, the report assessed the FMCG brands that consumers will choose in 2021.

Conference on Drug Trafficking and National Security



- ❖ The home minister inaugurated a “conference on drug trafficking and national security”.
- ❖ During the conference, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) will burn and dispose of more than 30,000 kg of drugs across Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Guwahati.
- ❖ NCB started the drug disposal campaign on June 1, 2022.

INTERNATIONAL

VINBAX 2022



- ❖ The 3rd edition of Vietnam-India Bilateral Army Exercise “Ex VINBAX 2022” is conducted in Haryana.
- ❖ The theme of Ex VINBAX 2022 is the “Employment and deployment of an Engineer Company and a Medical Team as part of United Nations Contingent for Peace Keeping Operations”.
- ❖ The exercise will further strengthen the bilateral relations between India and Vietnam.

Chabahar Day Conference

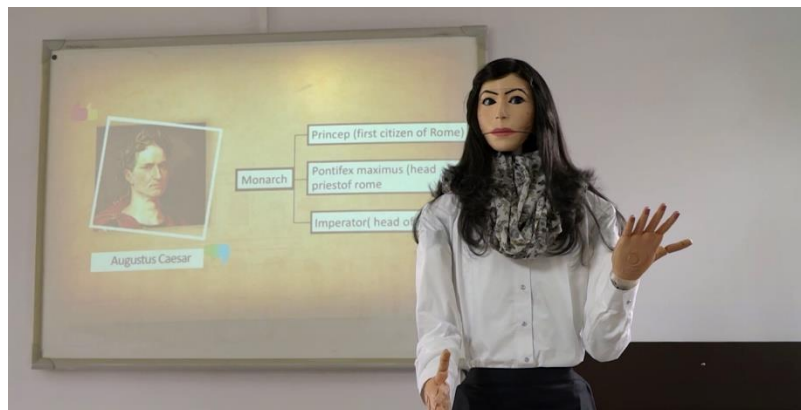
- ❖ Chabahar Day Conference was launched in Mumbai.
- ❖ The Inauguration event was attended by dignitaries from Kazakhstan, Iran, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Afghanistan.
- ❖ India and Iran had inked the bilateral agreement in May 2016.

- ❖ India agreed to refurbish one of the berths at Shahid Beheshti port.
- ❖ India also agreed to reconstruct a 600-meter-long container handling facility at this port.
- ❖ In October 2017, India sent first shipment of wheat to Afghanistan via the Chabahar Port.
- ❖ India, Iran and Afghanistan had inked a tripartite agreement for developing Chabahar port in 2016.
- ❖ They also agreed to set up a trilateral transport and transit corridor.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

India's first teaching robot

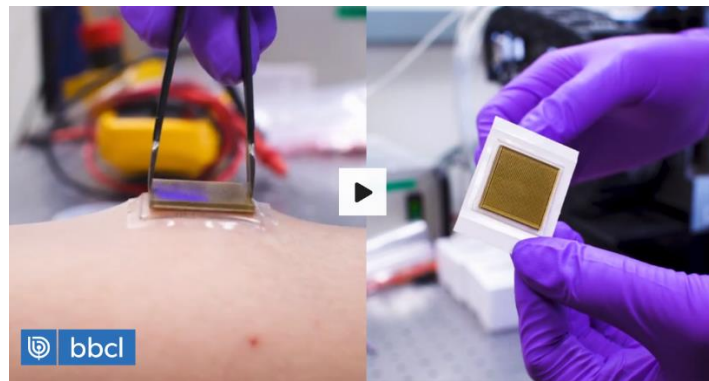


- ❖ Indus International School has launched the innovative and first Teaching Robot in India, the Eagle Robot.

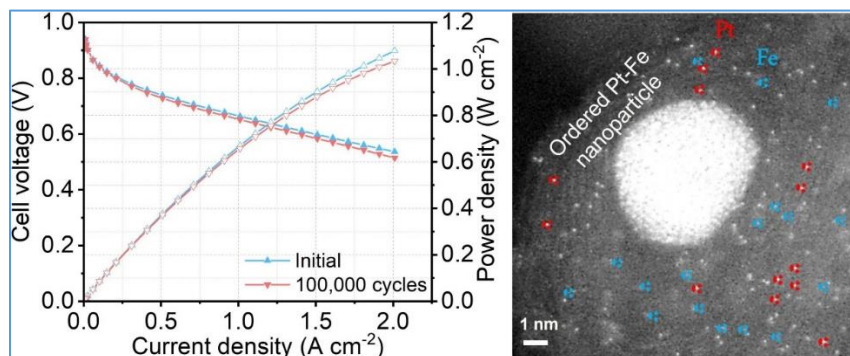
- ❖ Three of the Indus Schools have 21 Eagle Robots deployed, with seven in each of Hyderabad, Bangalore, and Pune.
- ❖ Eagle Robot is very interactive, personalises the experience, and emulates emotions through the digital face.

Ultrasound Adhesives for Imaging Organs

- ❖ The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has developed a postage stamp-sized device.
- ❖ This device can create live, high-resolution images.
- ❖ This device can be affixed to the skin and is capable of transmitting images continuously for 48 hours.
- ❖ For now, the stickers are needed to be connected to instruments.
- ❖ Researchers are working to find a way to operate them wirelessly.



Most durable Hydrogen Fuel Cell

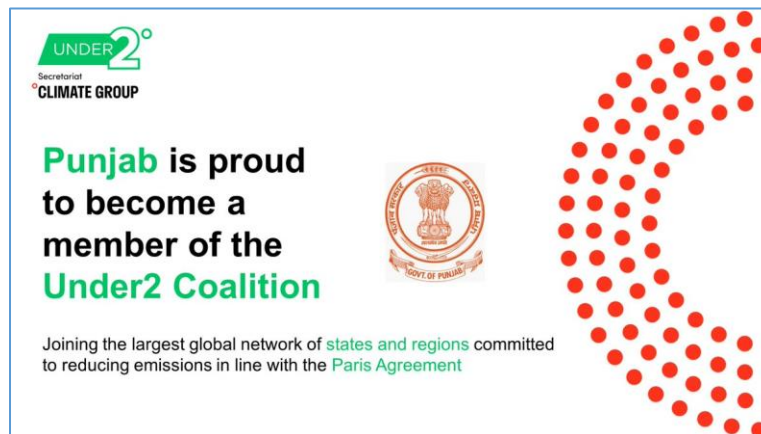


- ❖ World's most durable Hydrogen Fuel Cell developed recently.
- ❖ This hydrogen fuel is also more cost-effective.

- ❖ It makes ways for wider application of green energy in chasing carbon-neutral world.
- ❖ They generate power efficiently by converting hydrogen and oxygen into electricity.
- ❖ Zero carbon dioxide, particulate matter and other air pollutants are emitted in the process.

STATES

Under2 Coalition



- ❖ Punjab has recently joined the Under2 Coalition.
- ❖ It is becoming the sixth Indian state to be a part of this international network of states and regions.
- ❖ The other states are Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Telangana and West Bengal.
- ❖ It committed to aligning their climate action plan with the Paris Agreement.
- ❖ Punjab is popularly referred to as the 'food bowl of India'.
- ❖ It provides around 40% of India's surplus food stocks.
- ❖ 1°C rise could reduce crop production by around 3% to 7%.

SPORTS

Commonwealth games 2022

- ❖ Anahat Singh of Delhi is the youngest (14) badminton player at the Commonwealth Games 2022.

- ❖ Indian weightlifter Achinta Sheuli of West Bengal wins the gold medal in Men's 73kg weightlifting finals.
- ❖ Mirabai Chanu of Manipur wins India's first gold in women's 49kg weightlifting final.
- ❖ Jeremy Lalrinnunga of Mizoram won gold in men's 67 kg category weightlifting.
- ❖ Sanket Mahadev Sargar of Maharashtra wins India's first silver in Weightlifting.
- ❖ Bindyarani Devi of Manipur wins silver in weightlifting.
- ❖ India's Harjinder Kaur of Punjab claimed the bronze medal in the women's 71kg weightlifting.
- ❖ In Judo, Shushila Devi Likmabam of Manipur won the silver medal while Vijay Kumar of Uttar Pradesh bagged the bronze.
- ❖ Weightlifter Gururaja Poojary of Karnataka wins bronze.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES
MEDAL TALLY



RANK	COUNTRIES	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1	 AUSTRALIA	31	20	20	71
2	 ENGLAND	21	22	11	54
3	 NEW ZEALAND	13	7	4	24
4	 CANADA	6	11	18	33
5	 SOUTH AFRICA	5	3	4	12
6	 INDIA	3	3	3	9
7	 SCOTLAND	2	8	13	23
8	 MALAYSIA	2	2	2	6
9	 NIGERIA	2	0	2	4
10	 WALES	1	2	7	10

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Breastfeeding Week – August 1-7

- ❖ It is organised by World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) in association with WHO and UNICEF.

- ❖ It aims to create safeguards for breastfeeding, and increase breastfeeding awareness.
- ❖ The World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) was established in 1991.
- ❖ This year's theme for World Breastfeeding Week is 'Step Up for Breastfeeding: Educate and Support.'

