

December - 08

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ IDFC FIRST Bank announced the launch of FIRST Private Infinite in partnership with Visa.
 - It is the country's first-ever standalone metal debit card.
- ❖ India has revoked a patent for a potato variety grown exclusively for PepsiCo Inc's popular Lay's potato chips.
 - This is according to an order issued by the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPVFR) Authority.

NATIONAL

India – Russia 2+2 Dialogue



- ❖ The India – Russia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ It was held by the defence ministers and external affairs ministers of the two countries.
- ❖ This is the first 2+2 Dialogue held between India and Russia.
- ❖ During this dialogue, the countries discussed the ongoing situation in Afghanistan.
- ❖ The dialogue expanded military cooperation and joint development between the countries.
- ❖ During the dialogue, India signed a contract with Russia to procure more than six lakh AK – 203 rifles.

India's focus

- ❖ India aims at greater engagements in central Asia.
- ❖ To achieve self-reliance
- ❖ Free and open Indo – Pacific region.

Genesys International's digital twin platform

- ❖ Genesys International has launched its pan India program to make the Digital Twin of entire Urban India.
- ❖ The launch program was inaugurated by Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog.
- ❖ The creation of this very accurate 3D data will mean a host of applications would open up in high-definition mapping for smart cars, e-commerce, logistics, gaming, utilities planning for next-generation networks in telecom, renewable energy, and in disaster management and emergency response.

Genesys International Corporation Limited



Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2020

Regulating ART

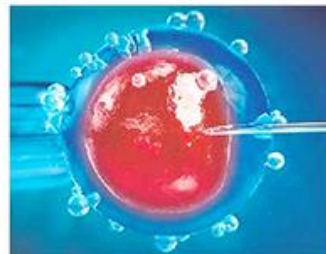


Illustration of in vitro fertilisation

- The Bill establishes the National Board, the State Boards, and the National Registry to

regulate and supervise Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) clinics. It establishes ART banks to promote ethical practices

- It proposes stringent punishment for those who attempt to control the offspring's sex, sell embryos or gametes

- As of Feb. 20, there are 517 ART clinics under the National Registry of ART clinics and banks in India, according to the ICMR

- ❖ The bill aims to provide for the regulation of ART (Assisted Reproduction Technology).
- ❖ ART is used to treat infertility.
- ❖ In ART, the eggs are removed from a woman's body, mixed with sperm to form embryos.
- ❖ The bill was recently passed in Lok Sabha.

Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0

- ❖ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding.
- ❖ The agreement was signed under the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0.
- ❖ It was signed to strengthen the waste management sector in the country.
- ❖ Under the MoU, the UNDP will help in setting up 75 Smart Swachhata Kendras in the country.
- ❖ Also, the UNDP will help India on integrating the informal waste pickers.
- ❖ It will assist India in linking them with government welfare schemes.
- ❖ According to the MoU, the UNDP will assist India in solid waste management and used water management.
- ❖ Also, the UNDP will help India to promote and replicate a sustainable model for waste management.

President's Standard Award



- ❖ The 22nd President's Standard Award was presented to the 22nd Missile Vessel of the Indian Navy.
- ❖ During the 1971 India – Pakistan War, the vessel bombed the Karachi port and sunk Pakistani ships.
- ❖ The 22nd Missile Vessel Squadron is also called "The Killer".

- ❖ It is being awarded in 2021 as this year marks the 50 years of successful deployment of the squadron.
- ❖ The President's Standard is the highest honour awarded in the military.
- ❖ It has the same honour as that of the President's Colours awards.

INTERNATIONAL

Aung San Suu Kyi



- ❖ Aung San Suu Kyi is a Burmese politician.
- ❖ She was called the “Children of Gandhi”.
- ❖ She is a Nobel Peace Prize laureate.
- ❖ The Myanmar special court sentenced her to 4 years of prison for violating corona virus restrictions.

Cambridge Dictionary - Word of the Year



- ❖ Perseverance is the Cambridge Dictionary's Word of the Year 2021.

- ❖ Perseverance has been looked up more than 243,000 times on the website in 2021.
- ❖ NASA's Perseverance Rover made its final descent to Mars on 18 February.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

IXPE Mission



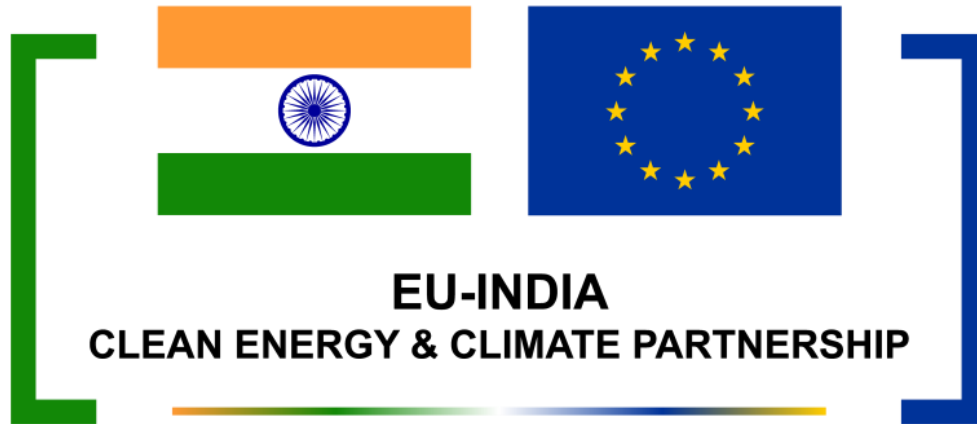
- ❖ The Imaging X-Ray Polarimetry Explorer is called IXPE.
- ❖ It is a NASA Space Observatory.
- ❖ It has three identical telescopes that measure the polarization of cosmic X – Rays.
- ❖ The Mission studies exotic astronomical objects.
- ❖ The main goal of the mission is to understand the high-energy astrophysical processes and their sources.
- ❖ This supports the first science objective of NASA, which is, How the Universe works.

ENVIRONMENT

Clean Energy and Climate Partnership

- ❖ India and European Union (EU) have agreed to step up their Clean Energy and Climate Partnership.
- ❖ They jointly agreed on a detailed work program until 2023 to implement the 2016 India-EU Clean Energy and Climate Partnership.

- ❖ The Panel also agreed to explore further avenues to strengthen India-EU cooperation within the context of the International Solar Alliance.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Best Bank for Women Entrepreneurs



- ❖ ESAF Small Finance Bank (SFB) got Honourable Mention in Best Bank for Women Entrepreneurs at 4th Global SME Finance Awards 2021.
- ❖ It is a Kerala-based bank in Thrissur.
- ❖ The award is constituted by the United States (US)-based SME Finance Forum.
- ❖ This acknowledgment is due to the gender-equal opportunities provided by SFB through universal financial access, livelihood, and economic development

including providing microloans to women in unserved and underserved households in India.

SPORTS

BWF World Tour 2021



HSBC *BWF* World Tour Finals Bali



- ❖ The BWF World Tour 2021 finals was held between PV Sindhu of India and Seyoung of Korea at Bali in Indonesia.
- ❖ Seyoung won the cup and Sindhu settled in for a silver medal.
- ❖ In Men's Singles of the BWF World Tour 2021, Viktor Axelsen won the cup.
- ❖ The BWF World Tour is a Grade 2 Badminton tournament series.
- ❖ It is held by the BWF, Badminton World Federation.
- ❖ It is held among the top world-ranked players in singles (men and women) and doubles (men, women, and mixed).

Asian team squash championships

- ❖ Malaysia won against India in the men's final of the Asian team squash championships.
- ❖ India had lost in the summit clash before in 1981 and 2012 also.



- ❖ Malaysia's women's team also won by defeating Hong Kong in the final.
- ❖ The last time Malaysian men's and women's teams won was in the 2008 championships in Kuwait.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Civil Aviation Day - December 07

- ❖ The day is celebrated to recognize the importance of aviation to the social and economic development of the world.
- ❖ It has been decided that from now until 2023, the theme will be: "Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development".
- ❖ The Day was established in 1994 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the International Civil Aviation Organization.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the day in 1996.

