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NATIONAL

New Model to Develop Vaccines – Dept of Biotech

- ❖ The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) is to develop new influenza vaccines using a Controlled Human Infection Model (CHIM).
- ❖ Under CHIM, volunteers who take part in trials will be infected with infectious viruses or bacteria but under expert supervision.
- ❖ This approach will speed up the process whereby scientists can quantify whether potential vaccine candidates can be effective in people.
- ❖ It also identifies the factors that determine why some vaccinated people fall sick and others do not.

Objective

- ❖ To use CHIM protocols to study bacterial or enteric viruses (residing in the intestine) such as cholera or typhoid.
- ❖ If successful, these would serve to create back-ups to the existing cholera and typhoid vaccines.

Handbook on Fisheries Statistics – 2018

- ❖ The Handbook on Fisheries Statistics - 2018 has been published by the Department of Fisheries of Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India.
- ❖ The last (12th edition of) Handbook was published in 2014.
- ❖ India is currently world's second largest producers of fish.
- ❖ It is also world number two in aquaculture production as well as in inland capture fisheries.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh has recorded the highest production of inland fish (34.50 lakh tones)
- ❖ Gujarat is the leading state in Marine fish (7.01 Lakh tonnes) in the country.

NEAT Scheme 2019 – AI in Higher Education

- ❖ HRD Ministry has announced a new scheme called NEAT for using technology to get better learning outcomes in Higher Education.



- ❖ National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) aims to use Artificial Intelligence to make learning more personalised and customised as per the requirements of the learner.
- ❖ AICTE would be the implementing agency for NEAT programme.
- ❖ The scheme will be implemented in PPP (Public Private partnership Model) - EdTech (Education Technology) companies will be roped in as partners.
- ❖ They will be responsible for developing solutions and manage registration of learners through the NEAT portal.

Khanderi Submarines

- ❖ Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) delivered the second Scorpene Class submarine “INS Khanderi “to the Indian Navy at an event held in Mumbai.
- ❖ The fully automated sub will be commissioned into the Indian Navy on September 28 at the Naval Dockyard by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- ❖ The submarine ‘KHANDERI’ is named after the wide snouted Saw fish, a deadly sea predator of the great Indian Ocean.
- ❖ The earlier version of Submarine Khanderi was commissioned into the Indian Navy in “1968” and decommissioned in 1989.

Tech Partner

- ❖ MDL builds the submarines under a transfer of technology agreement with the Naval Group of France.

NCG Vishwam Cancer Care Connect

- ❖ NCG Vishwam Cancer Care Connect (NCG-Vishwam 3C) was launched in Vienna on the sidelines of 63rd General conference of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) by K. N. Vyas, Secretary DAE & Chairman AEC.
- ❖ NCG-Vishwam 3C envisages integration of the hospitals and relevant cancer care institutes from partner countries with the National Cancer Grid (NCG) of India.

About

- ❖ NCG was established in 2012 by Tata Memorial Trust and funded by and is funded by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India.
- ❖ It aims to establish uniform standards of patient care for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer.

Buddha Statue Unveiled at Mongolia

- ❖ PM Modi and Mongolian President Khaltmaagiin Battulga have jointly unveiled through video conferencing Buddha statue at the historic Gandan Tegchenling Monastery, Ulaanbaatar.
- ❖ The statue depicts Buddha in a sitting posture along with his two disciples conveying the message of compassion along with peace and coexistence.



- ❖ It was installed and consecrated at the Gandan Monastery earlier this month during the third edition of "SAMVAAD" dialogue held in Ulaanbaatar.
- ❖ 3rd SAMVAAD was a discussion on contemporary Buddhism by world Buddhist scholars and monks.
- ❖ Mongolian President is on a 5-day state visit to India.

Digital Payment Abhiyan

- ❖ Union Communications and Electronics & IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has launched the 'Digital Payment Abhiyan' at the 'Google for India' event.
- ❖ Collaborators: NASSCOM's Data Security Council of India (DSCI), Union Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) and Google India.
- ❖ It aims at increasing awareness about cashless payment, educate end-users on the benefits of making digital payments.
- ❖ It also promotes online financial security and urges citizens to adopt best security and safety practices.
- ❖ It is pan-India campaign that will be conducted in seven languages
 - English

- Tamil
- Telugu
- Kannada
- Bengali
- Marathi
- Hindi

ECONOMY

Tax Reduction for Corporates

- ❖ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced big cuts in corporate tax rates.
- ❖ She has announced a ₹1.45 lakh crore stimulus aimed at reviving private investment and lifting growth from a six-year low.

Type of Company	Rate
Basic corporate rate tax for domestic companies that don't avail any exemption/incentive.	Reduced to 22% from 30%. Effective Tax Rate: 25.17%
Domestic companies incorporated on or after 1st October 2019 making fresh investment in manufacturing.	Reduced to 15% from 25%

- ❖ Minimum Alternate Tax or MAT reduced to 15% from 18%.
- ❖ Surcharge on Capital Gains is withdrawn.
- ❖ Total revenue foregone for the reduction in corporate tax rate and other relief are estimated to be at 1.45 lakh crore rupees.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

India's first Digital Capability Centre (DCC)

- ❖ The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) has selected McKinsey & Company to set up India's first Digital Capability Centre (DCC).
- ❖ It will showcase advanced technologies and provide a test bed for emerging innovations.



- ❖ DCC is a unique digital manufacturing learning centre.
- ❖ It will be offering company leaders and their workforces' hands- on experience and workshops in next generation technology.
- ❖ McKinsey supports only five such digital capability centres across the globe – Aachen, Chicago, Singapore, Venice, and Beijing.

ENVIRONMENT

WAVE Summit 2019 – Women Entrepreneurs

- ❖ Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokriyal has launched the Waste Management Accelerator for Aspiring Women Entrepreneurs (WAVE Summit 2019).
- ❖ The WAVE Summit will be held in November-December 2019.
- ❖ It will be the largest gathering of young women students to promote entrepreneurship in waste management and providing alternatives to single use plastic carry bags.
- ❖ Theme of the Event: Make Your Own Bag
- ❖ This program is to empower women to take up income generation activity and entrepreneurship in waste management through making a business out of this concept.

