

**INTERNATIONAL**

**Signing of Donor Agreement between Ministry of Ayush, Government of India and WHO**



**About News :-**

- ❖ The Ministry of Ayush, Government of India and the World Health Organization signed a Donor Agreement during a signing ceremony organized at WHO Headquarters in Geneva on 31st July, 2024.
- ❖ This agreement, which outlines the financial terms for implementing the activities of the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre (GTMC) in Jamnagar, Gujarat was signed by H.E Mr. Arindam Bagchi, Permanent Representative of India to the UN, Geneva and Dr. Bruce Aylward, Assistant Director-General for Universal Health Coverage and Life Course on behalf of Ministry of Ayush and WHO respectively.

**Concerning the Donor Agreement:-**

- ❖ Part of India's USD 250 million contribution, this donor agreement will help to create the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre (GTMC) in 2022.
- ❖ In accordance with this agreement, India would provide USD 85 million over ten years (2022-2032) to assist the WHO GTMC's operations in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ With the goal of enhancing human and environmental health and well-being, evidence-based Traditional Complementary and Integrative Medicine (TCIM) has established the WHO GTMC as a major knowledge hub, which is acknowledged by this agreement.

**Concerning GTMC:-**

- ❖ With the signing of a Host Country Agreement on March 25, 2022, the GTMC was formally founded and became the first and only out-posted center for traditional medicine in the world.
- ❖ The temporary office of the WHO-GTMC is currently up and running, and it carries out capacity-building and training initiatives pertinent to its goals.
- ❖ These initiatives include residential, online, and on-campus training in association with the WHO Academy and other key partners.

**About the World Health Organisation (WHO):-**

- ❖ **Established** - 1948
- ❖ **Headquarters** Geneva, Switzerland
- ❖ **Director** :- General (DG) Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

**NATIONAL**

**President Droupadi Murmu inaugurates Conference of Governors at Rashtrapati Bhavan**

**About News :-**



- ❖ The 52nd Conference of Governors was presided over by President Droupadi Murmu on August 2, 2024, in Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. The 51st Conference of Governors took place in Rashtrapati Bhavan in 2021. President Ram Nath Kovind presided over the conference at the time.
- ❖ President Murmu was chairing the Conference of Governors for the first time.

### Key Points:-

- ❖ Known as the Government House at the time, Rashtrapati Bhavan hosted the first Conference of Governors in 1949. The conference was chaired by C. Rajagopalachari, the Governor General of India at the time.
- ❖ The appointment and removal of State Governors, Lieutenant Governors, and Administrators of Union Territories in India are under the purview of the President of India.
- ❖ Lieutenant Governors oversee the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, Puducherry, the Union Territory of Ladakh, and Delhi, the National Capital Territory.
- ❖ Administrators oversee the Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Chandigarh, and Lakshadweep.
- ❖ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, President of India, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, and several other cabinet officials of the Modi administration are in attendance for the two-day 52nd Conference of Governors.
- ❖ The administrators of the Union Territories, lieutenant governors, and governors of the states also attend the conference.
- ❖ Senior representatives from the PMO and Cabinet Secretariat in the Home Affairs Ministry, as well as NITI Ayog CEO B.V.R. Subramanyam and Vice Chairman Suman Bery, are also attending the conference.

### The Conference's Agenda:-

- ❖ The Conference will cover a wide range of national issues, including the role of governors in campaigns like "Ek Vriksha Maa ke Naam," "MYBharat," and "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat," as well as reforms in higher education and university accreditation, the implementation of three criminal laws, and the development of focus areas like tribal areas, aspirational districts and blocks, and border areas.

- ❖ It will also cover the role of governors in advancing natural farming, strengthening public ties, and encouraging improved coordination among the state's many central institutions.

### Economic

#### Paytm launches India's first NFC card soundbox

##### About News :-

The parent company of Paytm, One 97 Communications Limited (OCL), with its headquarters in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, UP, introduced the Near Field Communication (NFC) Card Sound Box, the first of its kind in India. It is a dual-purpose mobile Quick Response (QR) payment device that combines NFC card payment technology with mobile QR payments.

##### Key Points :-

- ❖ With the Paytm NFC Card Sound Box, consumers may pay with their debit or credit card or by scanning a QR code, offering offline retailers an affordable alternative.
- ❖ It has a lengthy battery life of up to 10 days, an audio confirmation that plays instantly, and a display screen that shows the transaction amounts.
- ❖ With a single device, the businesses may accept NFC-based debit and credit cards as well as mobile payments from any UPI app.
- ❖ With alerts accessible in 11 languages (English, Hindi, Gujarati, Bangla, Odia, Marathi, Punjabi, Telugu, Malayalam, Tamil, and Kannada) and a range of device types, the Paytm Soundbox is made to meet the diverse needs of offline retailers throughout India.
- ❖ With the use of NFC technology, devices that are near to one another—typically within a few centimeters (cm)—can wirelessly communicate data.

##### About Paytm :-

- ❖ Founded :- August 2010
- ❖ Headquarters :- Noida, Uttar Pradesh

**Appointment**

**Prabodh Seth and RN Parbat Appointed As New Members Of CBDT**

**About News :-**

Prabodh Seth and Ramesh Narain Parbat, Income Tax (IT) officers with the Indian Revenue Service (IRS) from the 1989 batch, have been appointed as new members of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).



**About Prabodh Seth:-**

- ❖ Sanjai Kumar Verma has been replaced as CBDT, Delhi's Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax (PCCIT), International Taxation by Prabodh Seth.
- ❖ He has held a number of posts in the Income Tax Department, including Commissioner of Income Tax in Delhi, Deputy Commissioner, Additional Commissioner, and Assistant Commissioner.

**Ramesh Narain Parbat:-**

- ❖ In lieu of Ravi Agrawal, Ramesh Narain Parbat has been named Director General of Income Tax (DGIT), Investigation in CBDT, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- ❖ On June 30, 2024, Ravi Agrawal took over as CBDT Chairman following Nitin Gupta's extended term.
- ❖ The Income Tax Department's (ITD) highest policy-making body is the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). It operates under the Ministry of Finance's (MoF) Department of Revenue.
- ❖ The Chairman and six other members handle income tax and revenue, audit, and judicial matters, among other things.
- ❖ The members of IRS, India's premier civil service, who make up the upper echelons of ITD management, are chosen to serve as the Chairman and Members of CBDT.

**About Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT):-**

- ❖ Established :- 1963
- ❖ Headquarters :- New Delhi, Delhi
- ❖ Chairman :- Ravi Agrawal

**Award**

**CWC wins Global WaterTech Award for water management**



**About News :-**

- ❖ At the Global Water Tech Summit 2024, which was hosted in New Delhi, Delhi by the Global Energy and Environment Foundation (GEEF), the Central Water Commission (CWC) was presented with the GEEF Global WaterTech Award in the category of "Water Department of the Year."
- ❖ The CWC's contributions to flood forecasting, water quality monitoring and reservoir storage, coastal area management, monitoring water resources projects, and settling interstate water disputes are recognized with this honor.

**Principal Projects of CWC :-**

- ❖ In order to improve synergy in the work being done by CWC, the GEEF acknowledged CWC's engagements with the Water Resources (WR), Irrigation, and Jal Shakti Departments of all the States and Union Territories (UT).
- ❖ It was also commended for its creative projects, which included creating the mobile app "Floodwatch India" to alert the public about floods and Urban Hydrology Capacity Building for State Officials in Extended Hydrological Prediction (EHP).
- ❖ This award shows how dedicated CWC is to quality work and how far the company has come in water technology and resource management.

**Concerning the GEEF Global Water Tech Awards:-**

- ❖ The Global WaterTech Summit, the water industry's business conference, is where the GEEF Global WaterTech Awards are given out.

- ❖ In order to honor and promote activities in the water, wastewater, and desalination sectors on innovation, technology, conservation, and sustainable development, it recognizes the most significant accomplishments in the water industry.
- ❖ A trophy and citation will be presented to the winners of this award.

**About the Central Water Commission (CWC):-**

- ❖ Established :- 1945
- ❖ Headquarters :- New Delhi, Delhi
- ❖ Chairman :- Kushvinder Vohra

**Science & Technology**

**World's first thorium molten salt nuclear power station to be launched in Gobi Desert by China in 2025**

**About News :-**

In the Gobi Desert, China intends to construct the first nuclear power plant (NPP) in history, powered by liquid fuel made from molten thorium salt. In order to generate nuclear energy that is safer and more ecologically friendly, building on the facility is scheduled to start in 2025.



**Key Points :-**

- ❖ The reactor doesn't need water for cooling because it transfers heat and produces energy using liquid salt and carbon dioxide.
- ❖ It will run on fuel that has been enriched with roughly 50 kg of thorium and less than 20% uranium-235 (U-235).
- ❖ It will run on uranium tetrafluoride (UF4) as fuel and FLiBe, a combination of lithium fluoride and beryllium fluoride that has 99.95% lithium-7.
- ❖ The reactor is expected to be finished and put into service in 2029, producing heat with a 60 megawatt (MW) maximum power.

- ❖ In the event of its success, this would be the first nuclear reactor using molten salt to operate since the United States of America (USA) closed its test reactor in 1969.
- ❖ The second-biggest desert in Asia and the fifth largest in the globe is the Gobi Desert, which spans northern China and southern Mongolia.

**Defence**

**Indian naval ship tabar conducts maritime partnership exercise (mpx) with russian naval ship soobrazitelny**



**About News :-**

- ❖ Indian Navy's frontline frigate, INS Tabar arrived St. Petersburg, Russia on 25 Jul 24 for a four day visit to participate in 328th Russian Navy Day Parade celebrations.
- ❖ India and Russia share warm bilateral relations and maritime co-operation that span diverse fields.
- ❖ The visit by INS Tabar aimed to strengthen this longstanding friendship and also explore newer avenues of bolstering the relationship between the two countries.

**Key Points :-**

- ❖ INS Tabar, on departure from St. Petersburg, Russia successfully conducted Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with the Russian Navy Ship Soobrazitelny on 30 Jul 2024.
- ❖ Participation of Indian Navy Ship Tabar in the 328th Russian Navy Day Parade and conduct of MPX marks a significant milestone in the maritime cooperation between India and Russia, reinforcing the commitment of both nations to maintain peace, stability and security in the region.
- ❖ The MPX involved a series of complex naval manoeuvres, including communication drills, Search & Rescue tactics and Replenishment at Sea serials. Ships from both navies demonstrated high levels of professionalism and interoperability.

- ❖ The Indian Navy remains committed to fostering partnerships with navies across the world.
- ❖ The MPX with the Russian Navy reinforces the strong bilateral naval ties, further strengthening our resolve and commitment towards ensuring enhanced cooperation in the maritime domain.

### Miscellaneous

#### Bhopal hosted the 4th Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan in 2024



#### About News :-

- ❖ The capital city of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal, hosted the 4th Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024 on July 30 and 31, 2024. The primary goals of the Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan are to popularize science and technology through Hindi, enhance scientific and technology-based research in Hindi, and give researchers a forum to present and discuss their work.
- ❖ Six sessions covering a variety of subjects in Science, Technology, Ayurveda, Engineering, and Science Communication were held throughout the conference.

#### Key Points :-

- ❖ The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute (CSIR-AMPRI), Bhopal, was the organizer of the 4th Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024.
- ❖ In collaboration with the CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR), New Delhi, the Madhya Pradesh Council of Science and Technology, Bhopal, the Madhya Pradesh Bhoj (Open) University, Bhopal, and the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Hindi University, Bhopal, the CSIR-AMPRI organized the 4th Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024.

- ❖ On July 30, 2024, Dr. Mohan Yadav, the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, officially opened the 4th Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024.
- ❖ Rajendra Shukla, the Deputy Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, oversaw the
- ❖ The 4th Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024 will have its last session on July 31, 2024.
- ❖ The theme of the 4th Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024 was "Upgradation of National Scientific Consciousness in Amrit Kaal."

#### Curaçao Joins as 6th Associate Member of CARICOM

#### About News :-

- ❖ The oldest surviving integration project in the developing world, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), has welcomed Curaçao as its sixth Associate Member.
- ❖ During the opening ceremony of the 47th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government held in St. George's, Grenada, the agreement was signed by Gilmar Simon Pisas, Prime Minister of Curaçao, and Dickon Mitchell, Chairman of CARICOM, the Prime Minister (PM) of Grenada.



#### Key Points :-

- ❖ As a result, CARICOM currently has 15 full member nations and 6 associate members.
- ❖ Curacao is dedicated to supporting a number of CARICOM programs, such as climate resilience, innovative kinds of agriculture, and renewable energy.
- ❖ Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, and Turks and Caicos are the other five associate members of CARICOM.

### Concerning CARICOM:-

- ❖ The Caribbean Community and Common Market, or CARICOM, was founded on July 4, 1973, when Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) signed the Treaty of Chaguaramas. It became operative on August 1, 1973.
- ❖ Later, in 2002, the Treaty was amended to make room for the ultimate creation of a single market and economy.

### Important Day

#### World Breastfeeding Week 2024: August 1st to 7<sup>th</sup>

##### About week:-

- ❖ Every year, from August 1st to August 7th, the world observes World nursing Week (WBW), a global effort aimed at raising public awareness of the value of nursing, the reasons behind it, and its advantages.
- ❖ The purpose of this campaign is to raise awareness about breastfeeding as a critical component of a mother's and child's health and wellbeing.
- ❖ Every year, World Breastfeeding Week is organized by the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA).



##### The theme of WBW 2024 is,

"Closing the gap: Breastfeeding support for all" and 2024 campaign theme is "Breastfeeding support for all".

##### History :-

- ❖ In honor of the Innocenti Declaration on the protection, promotion, and support of breastfeeding, which was adopted at the Spedale degli Innocenti in Florence, Italy, on July 30–August 1, 1990, World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) was established in 1992.
- ❖ In 1992, the first WBW was recorded.
- ❖ At the WHO/UNICEF policymakers' meeting on "Breastfeeding in the 1990s: A Global Initiative," which was co-sponsored by the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), the United States of America (USA), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Washington, D.C., a declaration was created and adopted.
- ❖ The WABA 7th Global Breastfeeding Partners' Meeting in Malaysia in 2016 saw the WBW campaign synchronized with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (UN).
- ❖ Through the WBW-SDGs campaign, it advocates for a number of breastfeeding-friendly tactics.

##### Significance:

- ❖ It acknowledges nursing moms, giving them a voice, and draws attention to the necessity of multifaceted care.
- ❖ Among the policies and viewpoints that encourage breastfeeding and women are:
- ❖ a healthcare system that is accommodating to women and nursing mothers;
- ❖ honoring women's independence and their freedom to breastfeed wherever and whenever they like;
- ❖ solidarity as well as communal backing.

