

### Bihar Special

#### Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025



#### Why in the news?

Bihar is set to host the Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025.

- ❖ Scheduled for March 2025, the tournament will be held at the Rajgir Sports Academy.
- ❖ Features 14 nations from Asia, Europe, Africa, and South America.

#### Participating Nations:

- ❖ Asia: India, China, Japan, South Korea, and Nepal confirmed; Pakistan's participation is under discussion.
- ❖ Global Representation: Six nations from Europe, Africa, and South America, with Poland and Argentina as notable contenders.

### International Relations

#### Russia Declares Federal Emergency Why in the news?



#### Why in the news?

- ❖ Russia declared a federal emergency over an oil spill caused by two Russian tankers in the Black Sea.
- ❖ On December 15, 2024, the tankers were hit by the storm due to which they were damaged and leakage started..
- ❖ The resulting spill has coated sandy beaches at and around Anapa and caused serious problems for wildlife including seabirds, dolphins and porpoises.
- ❖ More than 10,000 people have been trying to clear it up.

### Environment And Geography

#### World's largest hydropower dam in Tibet

#### Why in the news?

China approved the construction of potentially the world's largest dam on the Yarlung Zangbo River in Tibet. estimated cost of at least \$137 billion.



- ❖ The dam, which will be located in the lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo River, could produce 300 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity annually, according to an estimate provided by the Power Construction Corp of China in 2020.
- ❖ That would more than triple the 88.2 billion kWh designed capacity of the Three Gorges Dam, currently the world's largest, in central China.

#### Earlier Projects on the Brahmaputra in China

- ❖ In 2015, China operationalized its first hydropower project at Zangmu in Tibet.
- ❖ Brahmaputra Three additional dams Dagu, Jiexu, and Jiacha are under development on the upper and middle reaches of the river.

#### Science And Technology

##### Parker solar probe

##### Why in the news?

Parker Solar Probe became the first man-made object to make the closest-ever approach to the Sun.

- ❖ On 24 December 2024, at precisely 6:40 am Eastern Time, Parker Solar Probe ventured to within just 3.8 million miles of the Sun's surface, breaking its previous record and reaching more than seven times closer than any other spacecraft in history.

#### Key Features of the Encounter

- ❖ Region Explored: The outer atmosphere of the Sun, known as the corona.
- ❖ Speed: The spacecraft traveled at 430,000 mph.
- ❖ Temperature Endured: Withstood extreme heat up to 1,800°F.

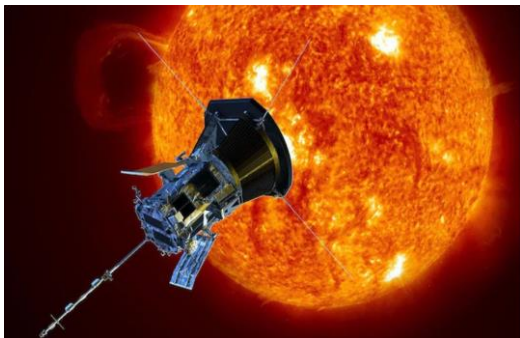
#### About Parker Solar Probe:

- ❖ Nasa's Parker Solar Probe is a program aiming to explore aspects of the Sun-Earth system that directly affect life and society. The Living with a Star program is managed by the agency's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, for NASA's Science Mission Directorate in Washington.

#### Launch and Milestones:

- ❖ Launched in 2018.
- ❖ Completed 21 close passes of the Sun, with the Christmas Eve 2023 visit setting a record

- ❖ The mission aims to study the outermost part of the sun's atmosphere, an ultrahot region which is known as the corona. Investigate why the corona is 100 times hotter than the Sun's surface.



### Defence And Security

#### EXERCISE SURYA KIRAN

Why in the news?

The Indian Army contingent comprising **334 personnel** departed for Nepal to participate in the **18th edition** of Battalion Level Joint Military Exercise **SURYA KIRAN**.

- ❖ The exercise will be conducted in Saljhandi, Nepal from **31st December 2024 to 13th January 2025**.
- ❖ It is an annual training event conducted alternatively in the two countries.

- ❖ The Indian Army contingent is being led by a Battalion from the **11th Gorkha Rifles**. The Nepal Army contingent will be represented by the **Srijung Battalion**.



### Miscellaneous

**Punjab becomes fifth state to achieve 100 percent piped water supply**

Why in the news?

Punjab has become the fifth state in the country to provide **100 percent piped water supply** to rural households.

- ❖ This has been done under the 'Har Ghar Jal', a central government scheme.
- ❖ To address water quality and water scarcity issues **15 major canal water projects** covering **1706 villages** are underway with a cost of **Rs. 2174 Cr**. These projects will benefit about **25 lakh population** and **4 lakh families**.





### Malaria-Free Status by 2030

#### Why in the news?

The number of annual malaria cases declined from 7.5 crore at the time of independence to 20 lacs by 2023, with over a 97 percent reduction.

- ❖ In 2023, zero malaria cases were reported in 122 districts across various states.
- ❖ The government is working with the vision of achieving malaria-free status by 2030, with comprehensive and multi-pronged strategies like the National Framework for Malaria Elimination and the National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination.

### AICTE and NQM launch India's first UG minor programme

#### Why in the news?

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) in collaboration with the National Quantum Mission (NQM) under the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has launched an Undergraduate (UG) minor programme in 'Quantum Technologies' aiming to prepare India's workforce for the quantum revolution and positioning the nation as a global leader in cutting-edge quantum innovation.

#### Launch Details:

- ❖ India's first UG minor programme in quantum technologies is to begin in the next academic session.
- ❖ Open to engineering students from the third or fourth semester.

#### Curriculum Highlights:

- ❖ Students choose 18 credits from over 30 credits to fit institutional resources.
- ❖ Focus on hands-on practical applications.

#### Covers four areas:

- ❖ Quantum computation and simulation.
- ❖ Quantum communication and cryptography.
- ❖ Quantum sensing.
- ❖ Quantum materials and devices.

**Eligibility and Skills Required**– Foundational knowledge in engineering, mathematics, physics, and basic programming skills.

**Faculty Support**– AICTE and IITs to conduct Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs) for quality quantum education delivery.

### News in Short

- ❖ Osamu Suzuki, the former President & CEO of Suzuki Motor Corporation, died.
- ❖ Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the torch procession of the 38th National Games from Haldwani in Nainital district.
  - The torch procession will start from Haldwani and will travel three thousand eight hundred 23 kilometers in 35 days and visit ninety-nine places in all the districts of Uttarakhand. Its objective is to spread awareness about the National Games.

- ❖ Dr. Sandip Shah, an eminent medical professional and visionary leader, has been appointed as the Chairperson of the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), a constituent board of the Quality Council of India (QCI).
  - NABL works to improve the quality of testing and calibration services, ensuring trust in the products and services used by consumers, businesses, and regulators.
- ❖ Indian batting great Sachin Tendulkar has become an honorary member of the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC).
  - MCC is one of the oldest sports clubs in Australia and is responsible for managing the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).



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