

### Bihar Special

#### Sharda Sinha

##### Why in the news?

Folk legend Sharda Sinha passed away at AIIMS Delhi on 5th November 2024.

##### About Sharda Sinha:

- ❖ She was born on 1st October 1952 in the village of Hulas, nestled in the Supaul district of Bihar.
- ❖ She received training under classical singer Pandit Ram Chandra Jha and later Raghu Jha of the Panchgachiya Gharana, and also learnt music from Sitaram Hari Dandekar of Gwalior Gharana, and thumri dadra from Panna Devi of Kirana Gharana.
- ❖ She was known for her repertoire of songs in Maithili, Bhojpuri, Magahi, Sanskrit and Hindi.
  - She was popularly known as "Bihar Kokila (cuckoo).
- ❖ She was awarded Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian honour in 2018.
  - In 1991, she was also awarded the Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian honour and the Sangeet Natak Akademi award



### Science And Technology

#### Proba-3 Mission

##### Why in the news?

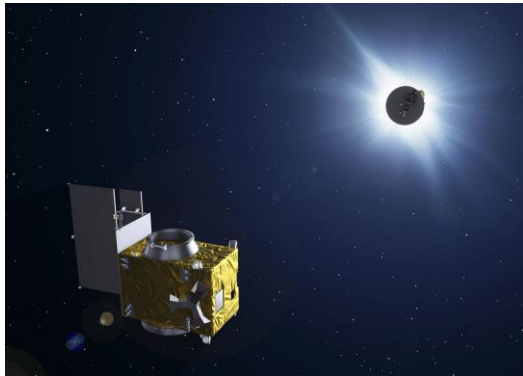
India will launch the European Union's Proba-3 Space Satellite in the first week of December 2024.

- ❖ The two Proba-3 spacecraft will be launched together by the PSLV-XL launcher
- ❖ It will be placed in the highly elliptical orbit which will ascend to 60,000 km away from Earth before coming as low as just 600 km.
- ❖ This is the first time that an ESA mission has been launched from India since the original Proba-1 Earth-observing mission in 2001.

##### Proba-3's satellites:

- ❖ The mission will demonstrate formation flying in the context of a large-scale science experiment.

- ❖ The two satellites will together form a 144-m long solar coronagraph to study the Sun's faint corona closer to the solar rim than has ever before been achieved.



### World's First Wooden Satellite

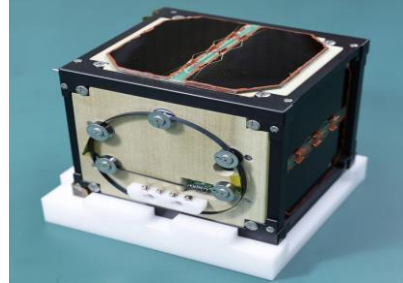
#### Why in the news?

The world's first wood-panelled satellite named "LingoSat" has been launched into space by Japan.

#### About the satellite:

- ❖ It has been designed by researchers at Kyoto University in Japan,
- ❖ LignoSat is made of honoki, a kind of magnolia tree that was traditionally used to make sword sheaths.
- ❖ It will measure how wood endures the extreme environment of space, where temperatures fluctuate from -100 to 100 degrees Celsius every 45 minutes as objects orbit through darkness and sunlight.

- ❖ It will also gauge timber's ability to reduce the impact of space radiation on semiconductors.



### Defence And Security

#### MAHASAGAR

#### Why in the news?

The third edition of the high-level virtual interaction MAHASAGAR was conducted by the Indian Navy on 05th November 2024.

- ❖ Theme: 'Training Cooperation to Mitigate Common Maritime Security Challenges in IOR'.

#### About MAHASAGAR:

- ❖ It stands for the vast ocean in Hindi.
  - It is the Indian Navy's flagship outreach for high-level virtual interaction between Maritime Heads for Active Security And Growth for All in the Region.
- ❖ The initiative was started by the Indian Navy in 2023.
  - It is conducted bi-annually and has garnered wide acceptance among the participating nations.

- ❖ It includes Indian Ocean Region littorals viz., Bangladesh, Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Tanzania.



### Asmi Machine Pistols

#### Why in the news?

The Indian Army has inducted 550 'Asmi' machine pistols into its Northern Command.

#### About the Asmi Pistols:

- ❖ It was developed by Colonel Prasad Bansod of the Indian Army in partnership with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ❖ It is specifically designed for close-quarter combat and specialized operations.
- ❖ Its unique semi-bullpup design allows for versatile single-handed operation, functioning effectively as both a pistol and a submachine gun.

#### Advantages:

- The benefit of a bullpup weapon is that the weapon's overall length can be significantly decreased without reducing the barrel length.

- ❖ **Significance:** This Made-in-India weapon underscores the Army's commitment towards Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.



### Schemes/Campaigns In News

#### Jal Utsav

#### Why in the news?

NITI Aayog launched a 15-day 'Jal Utsav' on 6th November 2024.

- ❖ **Objective:** To create awareness and sensitivity towards water management, conservation and sustainability.
- ❖ It is being implemented in 20 Aspirational Districts/Blocks between November 6-24, 2024 in partnership with the National Jal Jeevan Mission.

#### About the Jal Utsav:

- ❖ It is the brainchild of the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi.



- He mooted the idea of 'Jal Utsav' on the lines of 'Nadi Utsav' during the 3rd Chief Secretaries Conference held in December 2023.



- ❖ It will be launched with 'Jal Bandhan' – the symbolic tying of a sacred thread on water assets by eminent personalities and local leaders.
- They would also launch a "Fact Sheet on Jal Sampada (water assets)" of their respective blocks and districts.

#### Persons In News

#### Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes

##### Why in the news?

Dr Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes will take up the role of Secretary General of the World Agriculture Forum in mid-November 2024.

- ❖ At present, she is the Director General of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

##### About Dr Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes:

- ❖ She has over 30 years of experience in agricultural research for development.
- ❖ She is highly regarded for her leadership in tackling the pressing global challenges of food insecurity, sustainable agriculture, and rural development in some of the world's most vulnerable regions.
- ❖ Under her leadership, ICRISAT (HQ: Hyderabad) was honoured with the Africa Food Prize 2021.

#### World Agricultural Forum

- ❖ It is a global platform connecting diverse stakeholders to drive sustainable agricultural development through policy advocacy, trade facilitation, and technology-driven solutions.
- ❖ HQ: St. Louis, Missouri, United States of America.
- ❖ In September 2024, Former Union Minister and Rajya Sabha member Suresh Prabhu was nominated to the World Agriculture Forum (WAF) Board.



### Index and Report

#### Henley Passport Index 2024

##### Why in the news?

According to the latest Henley Passport Index released in October 2024:

- ❖ Singapore has been named the world's most powerful passport again, offering its citizens visa-free access to 195 countries.
- ❖ France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Spain shared the second place, granting their citizens visa-free access to 192 countries.
- ❖ The United States has been ranked 8th, giving its citizens visa-free entry to 186 countries.
- ❖ India has been ranked 83rd, providing its citizens with visa-free access to 58 countries.

- ❖ Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Somalia and India's neighbour Pakistan are the least powerful indexes in the world, as per the rankings.

### News in Short

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu released three publications of the Supreme Court of India in New Delhi
  - Justice for the Nation: Reflections on 75 years of Supreme Court.
  - Prisons in India: Mapping Prison Manuals and Measures for Reformation and Decongestion.
  - Legal Aid through Law Schools: A Report on Working of Legal Aid Cells in India.
- ❖ President Maia Sandu has been re-elected for a second term in Moldova.



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