



The ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

LANGUAGE - ENGLISH

CURRENT AFFAIRS BOOSTER

04-03-22

THURSDAY



LANGUAGE - ENGLISH



68th
BPSC

Batch Starting From
▶▶▶ 1st March ◀◀◀

Admission Open



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1. Herath Festival celebrated in Jammu and Kashmir 2022



Herath or the 'Night of Hara (Shiva)', generally known as Maha Shivratri, is the main festival celebrated by the Kashmiri Pandits across Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). The festival marks the marriage anniversary of Lord Shiva and Goddess Uma (Parvathi). 2022 Herath Festival was celebrated on 28th February 2022.

About the festival:

Herath Festival is celebrated on "Trayodashi" or the 13th day of the dark half of the month of Phalguna (Hindu calendar), between February and March. The Kashmiri Pandits celebrate the festival by distributing walnuts as a mark of respect to the Hindu deities. The rest of the nation celebrates the Maha Shivratri on Chaturdashi or the 14th of Phalguna.

Festivals of Jammu and Kashmir:

- Dosmoche
- Hemis Festival
- Kanchoth festival
- Tulip Festival
- Spituk Gustor
- Har Navami
- Chhari

- Bahu Mela

2. Ujjain creates Guinness Record by Lighting 11.71 Lakh Diyas



Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh has created a Guinness record by lighting 11.71 lakh clay lamps (diyas) in 10 minutes. The diyas were lighted as part of the 'Shiv Jyoti Arpanam Mahotsava' on the occasion of Mahashivratri. With this they broke the earlier record of lighting 9.41 lakh diyas created in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh on 03 November 2021. Ujjain is also known as the 'Land of Mahakal'. The certificate was received by Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

It was a zero-waste programme. The clay from the lamps will be used to prepare idols, while the oil left in the lamps will be offered to gaushalas. The plastic used for the I-cards will be used to make chairs and other items for public gardens.

3. Union Bank of India and Ambit Finvest tie-up

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Ambit Finvest has announced the signing of a co-lending agreement with Union Bank of India (UBI) for financing to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) customers. Ambit Finvest is the Ambit Group's non-deposit-taking Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC). This collaboration will enable underwriting for businesses in 11 states now served by Ambit Finvest. Ambit Finvest and Union Bank of India hope to speed up credit disbursement across multiple geographies with this partnership, according to Sanjay Dhoka, COO and CFO of Ambit Finvest.

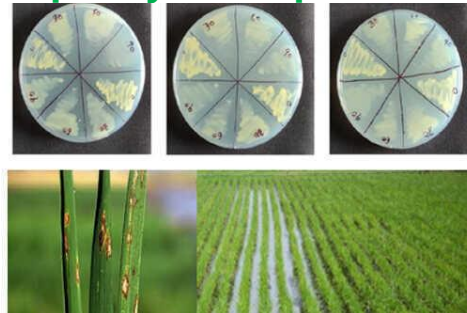
KEY POINTS:

- MSMEs that face higher interest rates or are unable to access banking services would benefit from lower rates of interest, which will translate into cheaper cost of funds, allowing them to deploy capital more effectively in their businesses, according to the company's statement.
- Lal Singh, Union Bank's CGM, said that the collaboration with Ambit Finvest Pvt Ltd. is part of UBI's aim to create synergy between the two organisations, allowing us to better serve the most deserving and underserved enterprises.
- Lal Singh also added that the effort is part of Union Bank's commitment to support

MSMEs by offering tailored financial solutions and speeding MSMEs' growth in order to contribute to the country's economic development

- Ambit Finvest will be able to further grow its reach in the MSME category as a result of its co-lending agreement with a large organisation like Union Bank of India, according to Dhoka.

4. Biodegradable nanoparticle developed by IIT Kanpur



Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur have created a biodegradable nanoparticle that can be used as an alternative to chemical-based insecticides to protect crops from bacterial and fungal illnesses. Abhay Karandikar, who is the director of IIT Kanpur said that because farmers suffer a variety of issues, IIT Kanpur has worked tirelessly to improve the farming environment as a whole. Nanoparticles would reduce the risk of crop infection while also increasing agricultural productivity.

KEY POINTS:

- The nanoparticle, dubbed Biodegradable Carbonoid Metabolite (BioDCM), can be active at low concentrations and be as effective as pesticides while having no

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detrimental effects on soil or consumer health. It operates quickly because it is administered in bioactive form and can resist high temperatures.

- The nanoparticle was produced in collaboration with C. Kannan and D. Mishra of ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research, and also with R Balamurugan and M. Mandal of the Hyderabad University's School of Chemistry.
- Given the nanoparticle developed by IIT Kanpur's biodegradable and non-harmful nature, it is likely to attract a lot of interest from farmers looking to reduce their use of chemicals in farming, particularly pesticides.

PROBLEMS FACED:

- According to a report released by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in June 2021, farmers around the world lose up to 40% of their crops to insects and illnesses each year, resulting in a \$290 billion loss to the global economy.
- Natural ingredients are increasingly being used in organic farming and exporting goods.

NOTE:

- IIT Kanpur has devised a number of ways to increase agricultural output and address many of the issues that plague Indian agriculture.
- In December 2021, the institute released Bhu Parikshak, a soil testing equipment that can detect soil health in 90 seconds. It was created to address the issue of time spent having solid health examined in labs. In

most cases, farmers must wait days for lab results.

5. MoWCD launches 'Stree Manoraksha' Project



The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) and NIMHANS Bengaluru launched the 'Stree Manoraksha Project' on Wednesday with the goal of improving women's mental health in India. The project would concentrate on increasing the ability of OSC (One-Stop Center) officials in terms of tools and procedures for dealing with women who come to One-Stop Centers, particularly those who have experienced violence and distress, with compassion and care.

KEY POINTS:

- One-Stop Center performed admirably during the COVID time. There are already over 700 One-Stop Centers operating across the country.
- People who work in these one-stop shops will be taught how to appropriately operate the Self Defense Shaheed Women Helpline and counsel them.
- The advanced training programme will be delivered in all of the regional languages that they want to be able to comprehend. NIMHANS has also built a website dedicated

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to this, which contains a wealth of information on training.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- The project, which has been painstakingly described by NIMHANS based on the Ministry's expected requirements, will be delivered in two formats.
- All OSC functionaries, including security guards, cooks, helpers, caseworkers, counsellors, centre administrators, paramedical staff, and others, will receive basic training in one format.
- The second format will emphasise the advanced course, which will focus on various components such as multi-generational implications and lifetime trauma in cases of violence against women as well as professional principles in counselling.

6. SDG Index 2021: India ranks 120th position



India has been ranked at 120th position in the Sustainable Development Report 2021 or Sustainable Development Index 2021. In this Index, countries are ranked by a score out of 100. India has a score of 60.07. Last year India's rank was 117. The Index measures the country's total progress

towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The Index has been topped by Finland.

The top 5 countries in this ranking are:

- 1-Finland;
 - 2-Sweden;
 - 3-Denmark;
 - 4-Germany;
 - 5- Belgium
- These 17 Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015 as a part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) to transform our world:

- GOAL 1: No Poverty
- GOAL 2: Zero Hunger
- GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being
- GOAL 4: Quality Education
- GOAL 5: Gender Equality
- GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality
- GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- GOAL 13: Climate Action
- GOAL 14: Life Below Water
- GOAL 15: Life on Land
- GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions
- GOAL 17: Partnerships to Achieve the Goal

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7. Tata Motors launches 'Anubhav'-showroom on wheels



Tata Motors has launched a mobile showroom (showroom on wheels) named 'Anubhav,' to target rural customers by increasing their reach in rural areas and providing them with a doorstep car buying experience. Tata Motors will deploy a total of 103 mobile showrooms across the country, to enhance the Tata Motors brand awareness in rural India.

About the 'Anubhav,' mobile showrooms:

- These mobile showrooms will be operated by dealerships under Tata Motors' supervision and guidance. All the dealerships will define monthly routes for these vans on which they will ply and cover the targeted village or tehsil.
- A total of 103 mobile showrooms are being deployed across the country to enhance the Tata Motors brand awareness in rural India.
- These mobile showrooms will help existing dealerships offer a doorstep sales experience to customers and assist them with information about Tata Motors' products.

- These products include a new forever range of cars and SUVs, accessories, avail finance schemes, book a test drive and evaluate existing cars for exchange.

8. Noted film critic, writer Jaiprakash Chouksey passes away



Film critic, writer Jaiprakash Chouksey has passed away due to cardiac arrest at the age of 82 years. He has penned scripts and dialogues for several films including 'Shayad' (1979), 'Qatl' (1986) and 'Bodyguard' (2011), and was also involved in writing for television serials. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, state Congress chief Kamal Nath and several other leaders condoled Chouksey's death.

9. ISSF World Cup: Shri Nivetha, Esha, Ruchita win gold in women's 10m air pistol



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India's Shri Nivetha, Esha Singh, and Ruchita Vinerkar have won the gold medal in the women's 10m air pistol team event of the ISSF World Cup in Cairo, Egypt. With this win, India is leading the medal table with three medals, including two gold and silver. Andrea Katharina Heckner, Sandra Reitz and Carina Wimmer of Germany settled for the silver medal.

Germany and Italy are joint seconds on the table with one gold, two silver and one bronze medal each. A total of 17 countries have won medals so far.

10. National Security Day observed on 04th of March



In India, March 4 is celebrated as National Security Day (Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas) every year, in the honor of the Indian Security Forces. The day aims to show gratitude to all the security forces, including policemen, para-military forces, commandos, guards, army officers, and other persons involved in security, who sacrifice their life in maintaining the peace and security of the people of the country. Apart from this, National Security Week 2022 is being celebrated from March 4 to March 10, 2022.

History of the day:

4 March also marks the day when the National Security Council (NSC) of India was established, in 1966 by the Ministry of Labour under the Government of India. The first National Security Day (NSD) was held in 1972.

ONE LINER

- Madhya Pradesh Capital: **Bhopal**;
- Madhya Pradesh Governor: **Mangubhai C. Patel**;
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister: **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**.
- Tata Motors Headquarters: **Mumbai**;
- Tata Motors Founder: **J. R. D. Tata**;
- Tata Motors Founded: **1945, Mumbai**.
- National Security Council of India Founded: **19 November 1998**;
- National Security Council of India head: **Ajit Kumar Doval**.