17th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas Convention 2023

❖ Context

➢ The 17th PBD Convention is being **organized from January 08-10, 2023 at Indore, Madhya Pradesh**, in collaboration with the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

About Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)

- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas or NRI Day is formally observed on 9 January to celebrate the day when **Mahatma Gandhi** returned from South Africa to Mumbai, India.
- It is important to note that this event took place in **the year 1915.**
- The day is also observed to highlight the **contribution of the Non-Resident Indian community** to the development of India.
- NRI Day was **first observed in 2003** by the people of the Republic of India.

About 17th PBD 2023:

- The 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention is being organized in **partnership with the Madhya Pradesh** Government.
- **The theme of this PBD** Convention is "Diaspora: Reliable partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal".
- **A Commemorative Postal Stamp** 'Surakshit Jaayen, Prashikshit Jaayen' will be released **to underline the importance of safe, legal, orderly and skilled migration**.
- Prime Minister will also inaugurate the **first-ever digital PBD Exhibition** on theme "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - Contribution of Diaspora in Indian Freedom Struggle" to highlight the **contribution of our diaspora freedom fighters in India's Independence.**
- On 10 January 2023, President, will confer **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards 2023** and preside over the Valedictory Session.
- The PBD Convention will have five thematic Plenary sessions-
  - **First Plenary session** on 'Role of Diaspora Youth in Innovations and new Technologies.
  - **Second Plenary session** on 'Role of Indian Diaspora in promoting Indian Healthcare Eco-system.
  - **Third Plenary session** on 'Leveraging the soft power of India.
  - **Fourth Plenary session** on 'Enabling global mobility of Indian workforce.
  - **Fifth Plenary session** on 'Harnessing the potential of diaspora entrepreneurs towards an inclusive approach to nation building.

Draft UGC (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations 2023

❖ Context

➢ Recently, higher education regulator **University Grants Commission (UGC)** released draft regulations to allow foreign universities to enter India.

Key Highlights:

- The **National Education Policy, 2020**, envisages a legislative framework to allow top global universities to operate in India.
- According to draft norms **Foreign universities can set up their campuses in India,** decide their admission process, fee structure, and will also be able to repatriate funds to their parent campuses.
- It seeks to **offer considerable freedom to foreign education players** willing to explore the Indian market.
- It underlines that they shall not offer any such "programme of study that jeopardises the national interest of India or the standards of higher education in India.
- The draft says the operation of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions **shall not be contrary to** -
  - The sovereignty and integrity of India.
  - The security of the State.
  - Fiendly relations with foreign States.
  - Public order, decency, or morality.
- **Eligibility**
  - Universities that participate in global rankings **will require a place in the top 500** — either in the overall or subject-wise category — to apply to set up campuses in India.
  - Those that do not participate in such rankings will need to be "reputed" in their respective countries.
  - The draft regulations do not specify a metric to judge the 'reputation' of the university.
- **Approval**
  - Initially, universities will be granted approval to operate **for 10 years**.
  - At the end of the ninth year, they will have to file for renewal of approval.
- **Working of Finances**
  - Cross border movement of funds under **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999.**
- **Validity of the Degree**
  - Equivalence with degree awarded by foreign HEI in their country of origin.

News in Between the Lines

Sagol Kangjei

❖ **Context**

➢ Recently, Home Minister of India inaugurated a **122-feet-high Sagol Kangjei (Polo) Statue of a polo player** at the Ibudhou Marjing complex at Heingang in Imphal East district.

❖ **Key Highlights**

- Modern polo is said to have **originated from Sagol Kangjei, a sport indigenous to Manipur.**
- In this sport players ride horses, specifically the Manipur Ponies, which are referenced in records dating back to the 14th century.
- The Manipur Pony is one of five recognised **equine breeds of India,** and has a powerful cultural significance for Manipuri society.
- The Marjing Polo Complex has been developed as a way to conserve the Manipur Pony.
- The Manipur Pony features in mythological stories, and is celebrated in oral tradition, ballads, and rituals.

Indian Army Deploys Its Largest Contingent Women Peacekeepers In United Nation Mission

❖ **Context**

➢ The Prime Minister has expressed pride as **Indian Army deploys its largest contingent of women peacekeepers** in United Nation mission at **Abyei, UNISFA.**

❖ **About United Nations Peacekeeping:**

- Peacekeeping has proven to be one of the **most effective tools available to the UN** to assist host countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace.
- **Peacekeeping has unique strengths**, including legitimacy, burden sharing, and an ability to deploy and sustain troops and police from around the globe, integrating them with civilian peacekeepers to advance multidimensional mandates.
- UN peacekeepers **provide security and the political and peacebuilding** support to help countries make the difficult, early transition from conflict to peace.
- UN Peacekeeping is guided by **three basic principles**:
  - **Consent** of the parties.
  - **Impartiality**.
  - **Non-use of force** except in self-defense and defence of the mandate.
- Peacekeeping is **flexible and over the past two decades** has been deployed in many configurations.
- There are currently **12 UN peacekeeping operations** deployed on three continents.
- Peacekeeping demonstrable record of success over our 60 years of existence, **including winning the Nobel Peace Prize.**

Purple Fest: Celebrating Diversity

❖ **Context**

➢ Recently, India's first-of-its-kind inclusivity, **'Purple Fest: Celebrating Diversity'** began in a glorious ceremony in Goa.

❖ **Key Highlights:**

- The Purple Fest will be **hosted by the Goa State Commission for Persons with Disabilities** in association with the Directorate of Social Welfare and Entertainment Society of Goa.
- The festival aims to showcase how we can come together to create a welcoming and inclusive world for everyone.
- It will go long way in **furthering the agenda of empowerment of Divyangjan.**
- Such festivities that **celebrate the spirit of inclusivity** are essential for boosting the confidence of persons with disabilities as well as sensitizing society towards their needs and issues.

Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)

❖ **Context**

➢ The sugarcane farmers in Haryana sat on dharnas outside the sugar mills across the State recently kicking off the agitation to **seek hike in the crop's support price.**

❖ **About FRP**

- FRP is the price **declared by the government**, which mills are legally bound to pay to farmers for the cane procured from them.
- It was **introduced in 2009** and replaced the concept of Statutory Minimum Price (SMP).
- **Determination of FRP**
  - Since sugar pricing comes under the **concurrent list**, the Supreme Court has held that **both the center and the state have the power to fix sugarcane prices** — while the center's price is the minimum price, states can set an **SAP** that will always be higher than the center's FRP.

- The Central Government announces Fair and Remunerative Prices in c**onsultation with state governments** and sugar industries.
- These prices are determined on the **recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)** and are **announced by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**, which is chaired by the Prime Minister.
- **SAP-** State Advised Price or SAP is the price announced by the state government, over and above the FRP.

Deepor Beel

❖ **Context**

➢ Recently, The Assam Cabinet approved the **construction of elephant underpasses** in seven jumbo corridors along the boundary of **Deepor Beel.**

❖ **Key Highlights:**

- Deepor Beel is a **perennial freshwater lake** located 10 km south-west of Guwahati city.
- It is the **only wetland in Assam designated as a site of importance for "conservation and sustainable use"** under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
- It is **known for its fish and bird diversity** and rich aquatic vegetation that attracts wild elephants, faces conservation threats from garbage dumping, quarrying, and the construction of a railway line.
- It sustains over **200 species of birds,** including about **70 species of migratory birds.**
- Some globally threatened birds are supported, including **Spot-billed Pelican, Lesser Greater Adjutant Stork and Baer's Pochard.**
- The Rani and Garbhanga hills, the habitat of the Asiatic elephants in the southern side of the beel , are part of this ecosystem.
- In 2021, the Environment Ministry notified it as an **Eco-sensitive zone.**

India Is Hosting The Y20 Summit For The First Time

❖ **Context**

➢ Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports **launched the themes of Y20 summit, logo** and website in the Curtain raiser event of Y20 Summit India.

❖ **Key Highlights:**

- **India is hosting** the Y20 summit for the **first time.**
- Panel discussions of young achievers will also take place in the second session of the event.
- **Youth 20 (Y20)** is an official consultation forum for youth from all G20 member countries to be able to dialogue with each other.
- **For the next 8 months**, there will be Pre summits on the five Y20(Youth 20) themes along with various discussions and seminars at different Universities across states in India in a run up to the final Youth-20 Summit.
- India's key focus is to **bring young leaders from all across the globe together** and discuss ideas for a better tomorrow and draft an agenda for action.
- The activities to be undertaken by Y20 during India's presidency will focus on **global youth leadership and partnership.**
- India is playing a significant role in finding workable solutions at the international level to ensure holistic well-being embodying the idea of **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**.

Astro Tourism- A Sky Gazing Event At India Gate

❖ **Context**

➢ National Council of Science Museums **(NCSM)** in association with Nehru Memorial Museum & Library **(NMML)** organises Astro Tourism- **A Sky Gazing event at India Gate**.

❖ **Key Highlights:**

- The event was inaugurated by **Minister of state for Culture**.
- The programme will help in **developing scientific temper among the people** which is a **fundamental duty** as per our constitution.
- **The Astro Tourism event includes various activities** like Astro Talks by expert Astronomers, Exhibition on Astronomy, Storytelling related to celestial objects, Experience of using telescope to see craters of Moon, **Astronomy Activities, Photographic Panel Exhibition, Astro-Photography.**
- This 3-day program will be a great learning experience for children of all age groups, as it will be interactive & practical & will be the best way to present science in a popular manner.
- The program will continue on 7th and 8th January with various activities.

Hawaii's Kilauea Volcano Erupts Again

❖ Context

- **Hawaii's Kilauea began erupting** inside its summit crater, the U.S. Geological Survey said, less than one month after the volcano and its larger **neighbor Mauna Loa stopped releasing lava**.

❖ Key Highlights:

- Kilauea's summit is inside **Hawaii Volcanoes National Park** and away from residential communities.
- Kilauea is one of the **world's most active volcanoes.**
- **Hawaii had two volcanoes spewing lava** side by side when **Mauna Loa** erupted for the first time in 38 years. **Both volcanoes stopped erupting at about the same time**.
- Scientists planned to look at data to study the **relationship between the two volcanoes.**
- **For Native Hawaiians**, volcanic eruptions have deep cultural and spiritual significance.
- During Mauna Loa's eruption, many **Hawaiians took part in cultural traditions,** such as singing, chanting and dancing to honor Pele, the deity of volcanoes and fire, and leaving offerings known as "**hookupu**."

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