

❖ First solar city in India - Sanchi of Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the country's first solar city 'Sanchi'.
- Roof-top solar panels have been installed in all institutions like railway stations, schools, government offices, street lights, and post offices in Sanchi.
- Solar study lamps are also being used in homes in the city.
- Annually about 13 thousand 747 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions will be reduced in Sanchi Solar City, which is equivalent to more than two lakh adult trees.
- Along with this, there will be a saving of more than seven crore rupees annually in the energy-related expenditure of the government and the citizens.
- Battery operated e-rickshaws and garbage vehicles will also run in the city. E-vehicle charging stations have also been installed.

❖ IREDA signs MoUs with Union Bank of India and Bank of Baroda

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Union Bank of India and Bank of Baroda to co-finance renewable energy (RE) projects.
- Through the agreement, IREDA will collaborate with the banks in co-lending and loan syndication of emerging and established RE projects.
- The deal will help finance projects in the smaller cities of India, particularly in tier-2 & tier-3 cities and rural areas, enabling IRDEA to provide unique and innovative financial support to existing and new customers.

- The MoU is valid for a period of 5 years and will be extended if both parties consent.
- Union Bank said the collaboration will include co-originating projects including small hydro projects and ethanol projects.

❖ **World's tallest Nataraja statue installed at G20 summit venue**

- The world's tallest Nataraja statue has been installed at Bharat Mandapam, the venue of the G20 summit in Delhi.
- The 28-foot-tall statue weighing 20 tonnes was made in a record time of seven months by sculptor Radhakrishnan Sthapathy and his team at Swamimalai in Thanjavur District of Tamil Nadu.
- The statue was built in Ashtadhatu (8 metals) using the traditional casting method. The statue was transported to the national capital in four days and a special green corridor was created for its transportation.

❖ **Satyajit Majumdar honored with Dr V G Patel Memorial Award 2023**

- Mumbai Professor Satyajit Majumdar, dean of School of Management and Labour Studies from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), received the 'Dr V G Patel Memorial Award-2023 for his work in promoting and strengthening entrepreneurship in India.
- He is widely acknowledged as the Father of Entrepreneurship Movement in India.
- He has mentored more than 350 startups, including 40 in Jammu and Kashmir and group startups in Jhabua, West Bengal.

❖ **TDB partners with Aloe Ecell for ecofriendly primary battery**

- Technology Development Board (TDB) has joined forces with Aloe Ecell Pvt. Ltd., a Lucknow-based startup, to support the project Commercialization of Eco-friendly 1.5V AA size Aloe Vera-based batteries.

➤ It is Valued at Rs. 2.98 crores, TDB's substantial contribution of Rs. 1.91 crores as a soft loan aims to boost green innovation.

➤ Aloe Ecell has already received recognition, including the National Startup Award in the Energy Sector 2020 and the Global Winners 2019 award

❖ **International Literacy Day – September 8th**

➤ The International Literacy Day (ILD) is being observed every year across the world on 8th September to emphasize importance of literacy to individuals, society and communities.

➤ The day was instituted in 1966 by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

➤ The theme for 2023 is "Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies".

➤ On this day in year 1965, World Congress of Ministers of Education had met for first time in Tehran, Iran to discuss the programme of education at international level.

Purpose of this day:

(i) To mobilize public opinion in favour of struggle against illiteracy.

(ii) To disseminate information on literacy.

(iii) To raise public awareness and the significance of literacy for individual and national development.

❖ **Indian-American physician Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee nominated for the Baillie Gifford Prize for non-fiction in London**

➤ Indian-American physician and cancer researcher Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee has been nominated for the Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction in London, a prestigious £50,000 prize.

➤ His book "The Song of the Cell: An Exploration of Medicine and the New Human" is one of 13 books selected for the long list.

- The winner of the prize will be announced at a ceremony at the Science Museum in London on 16 November.
- The award covers several categories of English non-fiction, including current affairs, history, politics, science, sport, travel, biography, autobiography, and art.
- Last year's recipient of the award was Katherine Rundell, who was recognized for her biography of the poet "Super-Infinite: The Transformations of John Donne".

❖ **Hindustani classical singer Malini Rajurkar passed away**

- Renowned Hindustani classical singer Malini Rajurkar has passed away at the age of 82 years.
- She was known for her simplicity and deep artistry in music.
- She was a notable presence in India's major music festivals including Gunidas Sammelan (Mumbai), Tansen Samaroh (Gwalior), Sawai Gandharva Mahotsav (Pune) and Shankar Lal Mahotsav (Delhi).
- Malini Rajurkar was highly regarded for her expertise in Tappa and Tarana styles of music.
- She was an exponent of the Gwalior Gharana and was known for her mastery of the 'Khayal' and 'Tappa' styles in Hindustani classical music.

❖ **SPG Chief Arun Kumar Sinha passed away**

- Arun Kumar Sinha, director of the Special Protection Group (SPG), responsible for the security of Prime Minister Modi, died at the age of 61 in Gurugram.
- Arun Kumar Sinha was an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the 1987 Kerala cadre.
- He assumed the role of Director of SPG in March 2016 and was initially appointed on a contract basis, with a tenure of up to May 31, 2024, in the rank and compensation of Director General of Police.

- His dedication to his responsibilities has resulted in a one-year extension in service till May 31, underlining his commitment to the role.
- Arun Kumar Sinha had a varied career, serving in various positions in his home cadre state Kerala, and in the Border Security Force (BSF) at the Centre.
- The Special Protection Group (SPG) was established in 1985. Its primary mission is to protect the Prime Minister of India.

❖ **United Breweries appoints Vivek Gupta as MD & CEO**

- The UBL board has approved the appointment of Vivek Gupta as MD & CEO of the company.
- Gupta, an engineering graduate with a Master's in business management from IIM, Ahmedabad, has experience in working with homegrown Indian and global companies.
- He shall hold office as MD & CEO for a period of five years with effect from September 25, 2023, which will be extendable subject to approval of the shareholders.

U.K rejoins EU's science research programme

- Britain would rejoin the European Union's flagship Horizon science research programme, ending a two-year post-Brexit standoff with the EU over science funding.
- UK scientists can once more apply for money from the European Union's flagship €95-billion (US\$101-billion) Horizon Europe research-funding programme.
- Under the terms of the deal, the United Kingdom will pay in €2.6 billion per year to be an 'associate' member of Horizon Europe for the rest of the scheme's current term, set to end in 2027.
- The agreement also introduces an threshold, over or under which the UK government will pay an excess or be reimbursed, if its researchers win more or less than 8% funding over two years.

❖ **Uttar Pradesh to release dictionary for regional dialects**

- Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Education (SIE) designed a first-of-its-kind dialects dictionary containing 76,000 words in regional dialects/languages of the State like Bhojpuri, Awadhi, Braj and Bundelkhandi aimed at conserving regional dialects of the State and also promoting and helping in removing linguistic barriers.
- The dictionary consists of four books and is in the publishing stage. The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), the nodal agency, will release the volumes soon.
- The initiative is in line with the new National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which calls for conserving and promoting regional dialects.
- 22,000 words of Braj language are being compiled in one volume. In the other volume, 18,000-odd words, used in Bhojpuri are being compiled with their Hindi meanings given alternately, so students can understand them.
- Similarly, 17,000 words of Awadhi and 19,000 words of Bundelkhandi dialect have been compiled in the respective set of the dictionary, with their meaning given in Hindi.
- Uttar Pradesh believes through these dictionaries, teachers will be able to explain the topics in a more descriptive way to the enrolled students in their local dialects.