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FAO Recognizes Three Indian Sites as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems: Koraput (Odisha), Kuttanad (Kerala), and Saffron Heritage of Kashmir

- As informed by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), India currently hosts three Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS): the Koraput region in Odisha, the Kuttanad farming system in Kerala, and the Saffron Heritage of Kashmir.
- The Koraput region is renowned for its subsistence paddy cultivation, predominantly on highland slopes, and is home to a vast diversity of paddy landraces and farmer-developed varieties.
- The Kuttanad system in Kerala stands out as a unique belowsea-level farming landscape, comprising wetlands for paddy cultivation and fish catching, garden lands for coconut and food crops.
- Meanwhile, the Saffron Park of Kashmir represents a rich agro-pastoral system characterized by traditional saffron cultivation, intercropping, and the use of organic farming practices, all of which contribute to maintaining local biodiversity and soil health.
- GIAHS are unique land use systems and landscapes full of life and biodiversity, resilient ecosystems, and valuable cultural heritages managed by farmers, herders, fisherfolk, and tribals.
- Since 2005, FAO has designated 72 systems in 23 countries as agricultural heritage sites.



IEPFA Opens Three Niveshak Seva Kendras in Hyderabad, Two more centres to be operational soon

- The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, in collaboration with SEBI, CDSL, NSDL, BSE and NSE, has successfully opened three Niveshak Seva Kendras in Hyderabad.
- The Niveshak Seva Kendras have been set up to provide faster, easier and more accessible solutions to investors, particularly in matters related to unclaimed dividends and KYC/nomination updates.

Key services offered at the centre include:

- Direct facilitation of unpaid dividend transfers. (pending for 6–7 years)
- Hassle-free updates of KYC and nomination details.
- For Physical Folios: Submit ISR-1/ ISR-2/ISR-3 forms to update KYC. Once updated, all pending dividends will be credited.
- For Demat Accounts: Update bank details with your Depository Participant (DP) to receive unpaid dividends.

Recent IEFPA related news:

- The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) has launched a 100-day nationwide campaign, "Saksham Niveshak," to help shareholders claim unclaimed dividends, and update their KYC and nomination details.
- IEPFA, in partnership with SEBI, launched the first "Niveshak Shivir" in Pune, Maharashtra



COAS and AWWA President Pledge Organ Donation

- Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi along with his wife Mrs Sunita Dwivedi, President AWWA pledged to donate their organs at Army Hospital (Research & Referral), giving a significant boost to the Armed Forces Organ Retrieval & Transplantation Authority (AORTA).
- The initiative aims to encourage awareness and inspire the Armed Forces community to lead the nation in organ donation.
- AORTA has emerged as a national leader in organ retrieval and transplant efforts. The Indian Army has already created a record, with more than 26,000 personnel pledging organ donations in a single campaign.



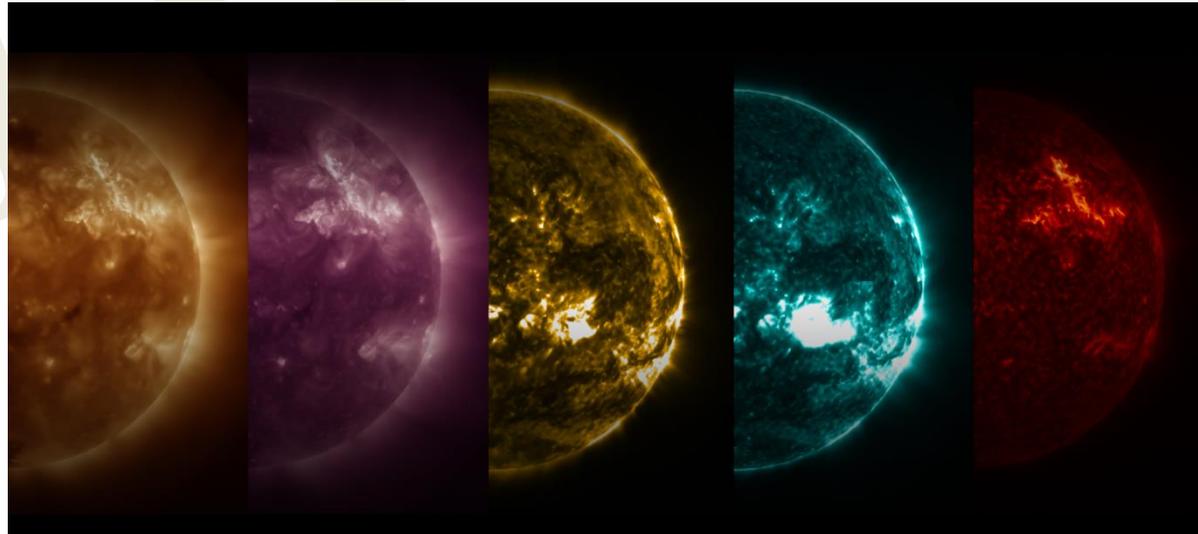
28th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) to be held at Visakhapatnam

- The 28th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) will be held on the 22nd and 23rd of September, 2025, at Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- The event is being jointly organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and the Government of Andhra Pradesh.
- IIM Visakhapatnam will be the knowledge partner for the 28th National eGovernance Conference 2025.
- The theme of the two-day conference, is “Viksit Bharat: Civil Service and Digital Transformation”



NASA and IBM Created 'Surya': Advanced-AI to Predict Solar Storms

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration has introduced 'Surya Heliophysics Foundational Model (Surya)', an advanced Artificial Intelligence system designed to understand and forecast space weather.
- Surya, a groundbreaking open-source AI foundation model (helio-AI), was developed by Interagency Implementation and Advanced Concepts Team (IMPACT) under the Office of Data Science of NASA in collaboration with International Business Machines (IBM) Corporation and other partners.
- The design of Surya is built on the success of NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO), launched in 2010.
- SDO has provided an un-broken, high-resolution record of the Sun for around 15 years through capturing images every 12 seconds in multiple wavelengths along with detailed magnetic field measurements.
- It was trained on 9 years of continuous observations from SDO. This new system is capable of generating visual forecasts up to two hours in advance with greater accuracy than conventional methods.



EXIM Bank signs USD 40 million credit line deal with Africa's ECOWAS Bank

- Export-Import Bank of India signed a USD40 million commercial credit line agreement with the Africa based ECOWAS Bank for Investment Development to support developmental projects across Africa.
- A total of 6 facilities aggregating to USD 1.14 billion have been extended by the Bank to EBID to support the export of goods and services from India to Africa.
- The EBID is a financial institution established by the 15 member states of the ECOWAS.

Recent EXIM bank related news:

- Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has entered into an agreement with the Government of Mongolia for Line of Credit of USD 700 Million for financing construction of Crude Oil Refinery Plant in Mongolia.



Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Announced Nationwide Roll Out of IT 2.0- APT

- Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Ministry of Communications officially announced the nationwide rollout of Advanced Postal Technology (APT) by the India Post or the Department of Posts
- A Rs.5,800 crore project under India's Information Technology (IT 2.0) program enabling faster, smarter, and customer-centric postal services.
- This new system was designed and developed indigenously by the Centre for Excellence in Postal Technology (CEPT)
- APT is hosted on MeghRaj 2.0 cloud platform of the Government of India and is supported by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
- It offers some unique features such as: single, unified user interface, Quick Response (QR)- code-based payments, One Time Password Time (OTP)- based delivery, and 10-digit alphanumeric Digital Postal Index Number (DIGPIN) to improve delivery accuracy, among others.



IIT-M, FedEx Launched SMART Centre for AI-driven Logistics Solutions

- Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) in collaboration with American transportation company, Federal Express Corporation (FedEx) launched the FedEx SMART Centre (Supply, Chain Modelling, Algorithms, Research and Technology Centre) at IIT-M campus in Chennai
- This first-of-its-kind facility is supported by a 5-year, USD 5 million (Rs 44 crore) from FedEx.
- The centre will promote research in interdisciplinary projects spanning from carbon neutral operations, autonomous delivery systems, Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure and predictive analytics to AI-driven worker safety.



Raksha Mantri interacts with global women peacekeepers taking part in UN Women Military Officers Course 2025 in New Delhi

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh interacted with the women officers of 15 countries alongside India, who are participating in a nearly two-week long United Nations Women Military Officers Course (UNWMOC-2025) being held at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi.
- Organised by the Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping under the aegis of Ministry of Defence and Ministry of External Affairs, the course aims to build professional capacity of women military officers for effective participation in multidimensional UN missions.
- UNWMOC -2025 has brought together participants from Armenia, DR Congo, Egypt, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Liberia, Malaysia, Morocco, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uruguay and Vietnam, alongside 12 Indian women officers and five interns, making the course a vibrant international platform for training and exchange
- During the event, Raksha Mantri also unveiled the UN Journal 2025 - 'Blue Helmet Odyssey : 75 Years of Indian Peacekeeping' - a Platinum Jubilee edition which captures India 's legacy, innovations, and future vision in UN Peacekeeping



India Elected as Chairman of AIBD Executive Board at 23rd General Conference in Thailand

- India has been elected as the Chairman of the Executive Board of Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) with the highest number of votes during the 23rd AIBD General Conference, held in Phuket, Thailand.
- This marks a significant milestone, as India last held the position of AIBD Executive Council Chairman in 2016.

About AIBD:

- Founded in 1977 under the auspices of UNESCO, the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) is a unique regional inter-governmental organization. It currently has more 92 member organizations from 45 countries.



AU Small Finance Bank unveils UPI for NRE, NRO account holders

- AU Small Finance Bank has extended UPI services to its NRE (NonResident External) and NRO (Non-Resident Ordinary) account holders, enabling digital transactions from abroad.
- Users can now link international mobile numbers—without needing an Indian SIM—to access UPI.
- The facility is available to NRIs in 12 countries: Australia, Canada, France, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, UAE, UK, and USA.
- NRIs can perform domestic payments such as utility bill payments, merchant purchases, and money transfers to India—via UPI.
- The service is offered free of cost, making it a cost-effective solution for NRI banking.

