

NEWS TODAY

INDIAN PRIME MINISTER'S STATE VISIT TO EGYPT

● Key highlights

- Both sides signed an agreement to **elevate the bilateral relationship to a "Strategic Partnership"**.
 - Strategic partnership will have broadly **four elements** i.e., political, defense, and security; economic engagement; scientific and academic collaboration; and cultural and people-to-people contacts.
- Three **MoU in fields of agriculture, archaeology and antiquities, and competition law** were also signed.
- Indian **Prime Minister conferred with 'Order of the Nile' award**, the Egypt's highest state honour.
- Prime Minister visited **Al Hakim mosque**, 11th-century mosque in Cairo, an important cultural site for Dawoodi Bohra community.



● Significance of Egypt for India

- **Geopolitical:** Egypt is significant to multilateral forums comprising **developing countries**, such as **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)** and **G77**.
- **Geostrategic:** Egypt is strategically located, making it **a hub for trade routes between Europe, Africa, and Asia**. 12 percent of **global trade** passes **through Suez Canal**.
- **Boost Defence Industries:** Egypt is interested in procuring defense equipment from India, which includes Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, missiles like Akash, etc.
- **Bilateral trade** expanded rapidly in 2021-22, amounting to 7.26 billion in favor of India.
- **Energy Security:** Egypt is an oil and gas exporter.

US TO RETURN OVER 100 INDIAN ANTIQUITIES

- US government has decided to return more than 100 Indian antiquities that had been stolen from India.
 - **Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) in Criminal Matters** between India and US allows for mutual assistance on antiquities repatriation.
 - MLATs is a mechanism whereby **countries cooperate with one another** to provide and obtain formal assistance **to ensure that criminals do not escape or sabotage the due process of law**.
 - **Ministry of Home Affairs is nodal ministry** for executing court orders under MLATs.
- Some of these antiquities such as **Shiva, Parvathi, Nataraja etc. belong to Chola-era temples in Tamil Nadu**.
- **Antiquities and Art Treasures Act (AATA)**, 1972 makes the export of such items without licence, from Archaeological Survey of India, a criminal offence.
 - Also, **Customs Act 1962 prevents the export of antiquities**.
- **Chola Bronze Nataraja sculpture (refer image)**, dancing Shiva, is **presiding deity of Chola dynasty**.
 - **Upper right hand holds damaru** (hand drum that made first sounds of creation).
 - **Upper left hand holds agni** (fire that will destroy the universe).
 - **Lower right hand makes abhayamudra** (gesture that allays fear).
 - **Dwarflike figure** being trampled by his right foot **represents apasmara purusha** (illusion, which leads mankind astray).
 - **Front left hand**, pointing to his raised left foot, signifies **refuge for troubled soul**.



PARIS FINANCE MEET: SUMMIT FOR A NEW GLOBAL FINANCING PACT CONCLUDED

- Summit's objective is to **boost crisis financing for low-income states** and ease their debt burdens, **reform post-war financial systems** and **free up funds to tackle climate change**.
- **Key announcement made at summit**
 - An additional lending capacity of **\$200 billion of Multi-Development Banks (MDBs) would be unlocked for emerging economies**.
 - World Bank announced **disaster clauses for debt deals** that would suspend debt payment in case of extreme weather events.
 - **\$100bn is to be provided to poorer countries** through SDRs (an international reserve provided by IMF).
 - **Recycling of SDRs from rich countries to poor countries** has been proposed to expand the amount of concessional finance to developing countries.
 - New **2.5 billion Euro Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETP) deal was announced** for Senegal to increase renewable share in energy mix.
 - Momentum on **polluter taxes accelerated**. Pollution tax is a **tax levied on persons who pollute** environment.
 - **Proposed a Global Expert Review on Debt, Nature, and Climate** to assess impact of debt on low- and medium-income countries' capacity.
 - EU unveiled a call to action on **'Paris Aligned Carbon Markets'** with the goal of **covering at least 60 percent of global emissions** with carbon pricing mechanisms.
 - Long overdue **\$100 billion climate finance goal will be delivered this year (2023)**.

US GRANTS APPROVAL TO MAKE AND SELL CELL-CULTIVATED CHICKEN

- **Cellular agriculture** is the process by which **animal-based products are produced directly from cell cultures** rather than from animals.

➢ It comprises two different approaches: **cell cultivation (cellular)** and **precision fermentation (acellular-** contain no cellular or living material in final product like Milk).

➢ In 2020, **Singapore became the first country to approve** the sale of cell-cultivated meat.

- **Benefits of cell-cultivated meat**

➢ **Reduce GHGs emissions:** FAO has estimated that **global livestock** is responsible for **14.5%** of all anthropogenic GHGs emissions.

- Compared to conventional beef, lab-grown meat requires **45% less energy use**.

➢ **Animal Rights will be protected.**

➢ Without changing dietary habits, it provides **Nutritional security**.

➢ It can be customised to be **healthier than their animal counterpart**, such as being designed to contain **less fat**.

- **Challenges associated with cell-cultivated meat**

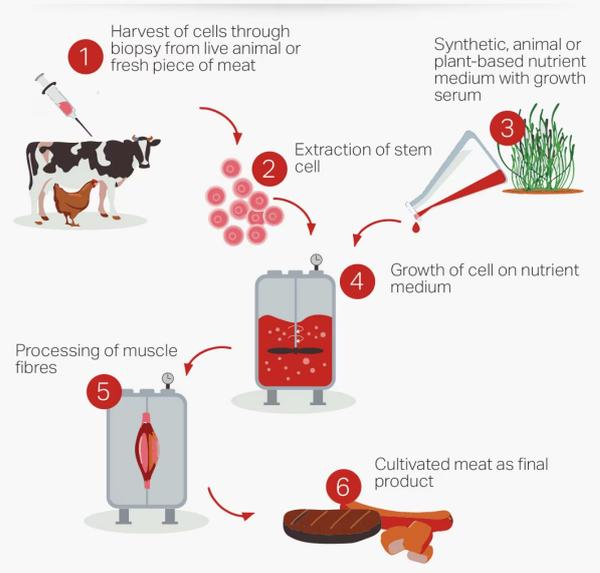
➢ **Cost of cell-cultivated meat** is expected to remain **high** in the near future.

➢ **Resource Constraints** like availability of high quality cells, suitable growth-medium.

➢ **Difficulty in replicating** taste, texture, fat content like bovine meat.

➢ **Uncertainty of consumer acceptance** due to lack of awareness.

Cultivated meat production process



FIRST ABORT MISSION OF 'GAGANYAAN' TO BE CONDUCTED IN AUGUST-END: ISRO CHAIRMAN

- Abort missions are meant to **test the systems that can help the crew escape from spacecraft mid-flight** in case of a failure.

➢ In 2018, **ISRO had already conducted a pad abort test** where the crew can escape from spacecraft in case of an emergency at launch pad.

➢ For abort missions, ISRO has **developed test vehicles** that can **send the systems up to a certain height, simulate failure, and then check escape system**.

➢ Gaganyaan's escape system was **designed with five "quick-acting" solid fuel motors** with a high burn rate propulsion system, and fins to maintain stability. This system will be separated from crew module.

- Gaganyaan mission aims to demonstrate **indigenous capability to undertake human space flight missions to Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** at altitude of 400km.

➢ As part of it, **two unmanned missions and one manned mission are approved** by the government.

➢ **LVM3 (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk III)** is identified as the **launch vehicle for Gaganyaan mission**. It consists of **solid stage, liquid stage and cryogenic stage**.

➢ Until now, **only US, Russia and China have managed to send manned missions** to outer space.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE IN START-UP

- India's G20 Sherpa, Amitabh Kant, along with others released a **Start-Up Governance Playbook**, prepared by Indian Venture and Alternate Capital Association in partnership with Deloitte India.
- **Corporate governance** is the **system of rules, practices, and processes by which a company is directed** and controlled.
 - **Benefits of good corporate governance:** Improved financial performance, better accountability, attracting and retaining investors, enhancing reputation and brand value, and proactive risk management.
- **Need for corporate governance in Start-up**
 - **Unconventional nature:** Start-ups focus beyond conventional strategies for smart solutions to problems in a cost-effective manner.
 - **Young age of founders, limited business exposure, and short-term interests** like funding rather than long-term sustainability.
 - **Sectoral omnipresence:** They are present in almost every conceivable space.
 - **Large and growing numbers:** There are now 98,000 registered start-ups and 108 unicorns.
- **Recommendation for good corporate governance in start-ups**
 - **Laid out clear norms of start-up self-regulation** from inception to early, evolving, growing and mature stage.
 - **Code of ethics and conduct** should be adopted.
 - **Expanding the board** by adding an independent director.
 - **Organizational purpose and values** should be defined so that people can relate to it.
 - **External and internal audit** for financial lapses.

ALSO IN NEWS

<p>National Centre of Good Governance (NCGG)</p>	<h3>National Centre of Good Governance (NCGG)</h3> <p> New Delhi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Genesis: Set up in 2014 under Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. Governing Body: Headed by Cabinet Secretary. Objective: Improve governance, policy reforms, capacity building and training of civil servants and technocrats of India and other developing countries. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Function as a national repository of information on best practices, initiatives and methodologies that promote good governance.
<p>Gas Based Economy (GBE)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India achieved 101 Million Metric Standard Cubic Metres per Day in gas production, significant step towards becoming GBE. ● Status of Gas Based Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Production of natural gas in India is not sufficient to meet our requirement. Therefore, around 50 percent of our demand is met through import of LNG. ➤ India aims to increase the share of natural gas in India's primary energy basket to 15 percent (presently 6.3 percent in 2021). ➤ India's gas demand is expected to be driven by fertilizer, power, city gas distribution, and steel sectors.
<p>National Green Tribunal (NGT) panel on Yamuna River</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NGT has appointed a High Level Committee (HLC) which identifies three focus areas to expedite the clean-up of Yamuna River (major tributary of river Ganges). Focus areas are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Delinking of sewerage lines and storm water drains. ➤ Prevention of dumping of waste from 10 major bridges. ➤ De-silting of sewer lines below 1,000 millimetre (mm) in diameter. ● NGT, statutory body, is established under NGT Act 2010. It is guided by principles of natural justice. ● Important tributaries of Yamuna River are Tons, Chambal, Hindon, Betwa and Ken.



 <p>Tundra</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per researchers, tundra diversity, including plants, lichens, and fungi, declined due to warming temperatures mediated by the disappearance of sea ice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ However, presence of large herbivores such as caribou and musk oxen slowed this decline. About Tundra Biome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is the coldest of the biomes. ➤ It is found in regions just below ice caps of Arctic, extending across North America, to Europe, and Siberia in Asia. ➤ Vegetation: Mosses, sedges, lichens, etc. ➤ Animals: Musk ox, Arctic hare, polar bear, Arctic fox, caribou, etc.
 <p>Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High prey density was recorded in Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary of Odisha. It is located near the reservoir of Hirakud Dam, built on Mahanadi River. Important Fauna: Indian Bison's, Tiger, Leopard, Wild Boars, Sambhar and Chausingha Important Flora: Dry Deciduous forest species like Palas, Kher, Bel etc.
 <p>Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 100 Cows have died of LSD in Meghalaya. LSD is an infectious viral disease mainly affecting cattles, causing fever, nodules on skin and occasionally death. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It also causes reduced milk yield of animals. Originally found in Africa, it has also spread to countries in Middle East, Asia, and Eastern Europe. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is transmitted by blood-feeding insects, such as certain species of flies and mosquitoes, or ticks. ➤ Its spread can be controlled through attenuated virus vaccines.
 <p>Auroras</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researchers have revealed global observations of auroras associated with carbon dioxide using satellites. Auroras are caused by interaction of charged particles (electrons and protons) of solar wind with atoms of upper atmosphere. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ When charged particles crash into planet's atmosphere, they interact with many different atoms and molecules including Carbon dioxide. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ When CO2 molecules about 90 km above Earth become excited during an aurora, they emit infrared radiation. ➤ Aurora occurs primarily in high latitudes of both hemispheres. ➤ Polar lights (aurora polaris) are a natural phenomenon found in both the northern and southern hemispheres.
 <p>Places in News</p>	<p>Guinea-Bissau (Capital: Bissau)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guinea-Bissau exports almost the entire cashew crop (around 98 percent) to India for processing. Political Boundaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bounded by Senegal (north), Guinea (east and south), and Atlantic Ocean (west). ➤ It includes Bijagós (Bissagos) archipelago and other islands that lie off the coast. Geographical features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Major River: Geba, Corubal. ➤ Highest point: Dongol Ronde.  <p>Mali (Capital: Bamako)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN Mission backs constitutional referendum in Mali. Political Boundaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Landlocked country of western Africa. ➤ Bounded by Algeria (north), Niger and Burkina Faso (east), Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea (south), and Senegal and Mauritania (west). Geographical features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Landscape is largely flat and monotonous. ➤ Major River: Niger, Sénégal. ➤ Terrain: Savannah and desert. ➤ Highest point: Hombori Tondo. 