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15th to 21st April 2023

WEEKLY Current Affairs

For

UPSC / RPSC

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EXAMS

- ◆ Starship's First Uncrewed Flight Test
- ◆ NCPDR's Guidelines for Conducting Preliminary Assessment for
- ◆ Age Determination
- ◆ Water Footprint of Large AI Models
- ◆ Ambedkar Circuit Tourist Train
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- ◆ Thales Data Threat Report 2023



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Current Affairs 15 to 21 May 2023

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- Digital Kumbh Museum

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WMO's Updated Figures of Mortality and Economic Losses from from Natural Hazards

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) recently released the updated data in the Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water-related hazards.

Key Findings:

Bangladesh had the highest number of climate-related casualties between 1970 and 2021. With 520,758 deaths due to 281 events, the country has experienced the devastating consequences of extreme weather conditions.

India recorded a total of 138,377 casualties during the same period.

Myanmar recorded the third-highest number of human casualties in Asia. The devastating Cyclone Nargis that struck its Irrawaddy delta region in 2008 caused the majority of casualties, resulting in the loss of 138,366 lives.

China also faced significant casualties due to climate-related events. With 88,457 deaths resulting from 740 events, China has experienced the destructive power of extreme weather. Notably, a flood in 1975 accounted for almost a quarter of the casualties.

On a global scale, an astonishing 11,778 reported disasters occurred between 1970 and 2021, all attributed to extreme weather, climate, and water-related events. These events resulted in over 2 million deaths and \$4.3 trillion in economic losses. Developing countries bore the brunt of over 90% of these casualties.

Asia reported the highest number of disasters related to weather, climate, and water extremes. With 3,612 reported disasters, the continent experienced 984,263 deaths, accounting for 47% of all deaths worldwide. Tropical cyclones emerged as the leading cause of reported deaths in Asia.

After Asia, the region comprising North America, Central America, and the Caribbean had the second-highest number of extreme weather events. These events resulted in 77,454 deaths and \$2 trillion in economic losses. Storm-related disasters, including tropical cyclones, contributed significantly to the economic losses in this region.

Across the globe, storm-related disasters, particularly tropical cyclones, accounted for the majority of reported economic losses. The destructive power of these storms not only resulted in loss of life but also caused significant damage to infrastructure, agriculture, and economies.

What is Sengol?

In the upcoming inauguration of the new Parliament building, a significant item called the 'Sengol' sceptre will be installed at a prominent spot.

The 'Sengol' sceptre carries significant historical significance as it was gifted to Jawaharlal Nehru, India's inaugural Prime Minister, representing the handover of authority from the British colonial rule. Derived from the Tamil word 'semmal,' which means excellence, the 'Sengol' represents the embodiment of power and authority.

Suggested by C Rajagopalachari

The idea of using the 'Sengol' sceptre for the symbolic transfer of power emerged when Lord Mountbatten, the then Viceroy of British India, inquired about a suitable symbol. Seeking advice from C Rajagopalachari, the last Governor-General of India, it was Rajaji who suggested the use of the 'Sengol' sceptre. Inspired by a similar





ceremony in the Chola dynasty, where power was transferred between kings, Rajaji believed the 'Sengol' would be a fitting symbol for India.

The Role of the 'aanai' Order

During the transfer of power ceremony, in addition to the presentation of the sceptre, an order called 'aanai' in Tamil was bestowed upon the new ruler. This order symbolizes the responsibility to govern with unwavering adherence to the principles of 'dharma,' ensuring justice and fairness in the realm.

Crafted by Vummidi Bangaru Chetty

To bring the 'Sengol' sceptre to life, Chennai-based jewellers Vummidi Bangaru Chetty undertook the task of crafting this historic symbol. They meticulously designed the five-foot-long sceptre, featuring the majestic figure of Nandi, the divine bull, atop it. Nandi symbolizes 'nyaya,' representing the ideals of justice and fairness.

A Momentous Occasion

On August 14, 1947, a momentous occasion unfolded as three priests from a religious body in Tamil Nadu's Tanjore district carried the 'Sengol' sceptre with great reverence. This sacred ceremony marked the transfer of power from the British to an independent India, with Nehru receiving the 'Sengol' and symbolizing the nation's newfound sovereignty.

G20 High-Level Principles on Hydrogen :

The global shift towards clean and sustainable energy sources is gaining momentum as countries strive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change. In this context, India has proposed a discussion on global standards for 'green, clean, and low carbon' hydrogen at the recent G20 Energy Transition Working Group meeting.

Promoting Green, Clean, and Low Carbon Hydrogen

India's proposal aims to establish global standards for hydrogen production that align with sustainability goals. The proposed emission limit for hydrogen production is up to 2 kg of carbon dioxide equivalent per kg of hydrogen. Initially, the proposal focused on 'green hydrogen,' but after suggestions from member countries, considerations for 'clean and low carbon' hydrogen were also included.

Laying Down Carbon Emissions Standard

India's proposed draft of the 'G20 High-Level Principles on Hydrogen' underscores the importance of establishing the carbon emissions standard specifically at the production stage. This means that the proposed standard does not include emissions incidental to distribution to end-users or life-cycle greenhouse emissions. By focusing on production emissions, the aim is to incentivize the adoption of cleaner and more sustainable production methods.

Diverse Sources of Hydrogen

During the discussions, some countries advocated for the inclusion of nuclear, hydro, and low carbon energy as additional sources for hydrogen production. Recognizing the importance of diversifying energy sources, these suggestions highlight the need to explore various options to produce hydrogen in an environmentally friendly manner.

Defining Green Hydrogen





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India's National Green Hydrogen Mission, launched in January, provides a clear definition of green hydrogen as hydrogen produced from renewable energy sources. With India's abundant solar and other renewable energy resources, the country sees an opportunity to become a leading producer and exporter of green hydrogen. This aligns with the global push for sustainable energy solutions.

The Importance of Consensus

As the world moves towards a net-zero emissions future, reaching a consensus on the definition and standards for green hydrogen is crucial. Green, clean, and low-carbon hydrogen is expected to be traded internationally in the coming years. Establishing uniform standards will ensure transparency, facilitate trade, and enable the integration of hydrogen into the global energy system.

Emission Caps and International Standards

Different regions have set varying emission caps for hydrogen production. The European Commission has established a cap of 3.4 kg of carbon dioxide equivalent per kg of hydrogen produced and distributed. The UK defines 'low carbon' hydrogen as 2.4 kg of CO₂ per kg of hydrogen, excluding distribution. The US Department of Energy initially defined "clean hydrogen" as up to 2 kg of CO₂ equivalent per kg of hydrogen at the site of production, which was later extended to up to 4 kg of CO₂ equivalent, considering lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions.

MRPL-HPCL Merger

The oil ministry is considering a merger between Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL), both subsidiaries of Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC). This proposal, which had been suggested shortly after ONGC acquired HPCL five years ago, is now gaining traction. The merger is expected to be structured as a share-swap deal, benefiting MRPL shareholders with fresh shares from HPCL. Presently, ONGC holds 71.63% of MRPL, while HPCL holds 16.96%, and the public holds 11.42%. To proceed with the merger, the oil ministry is anticipated to seek approval from the cabinet. However, regulatory requirements may cause a delay, pushing the merger into the next year.

Benefits and Tax Gains

The proposed merger aims to consolidate most of the downstream assets of the ONGC group under HPCL. It is expected to provide tax benefits by reducing the central sales tax (CST) outgo for MRPL. HPCL, with its vast retail network, will have in-house access to MRPL's products, contributing to increased efficiency in the fuel industry.

What is C-KYC Database?

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently classified the Centralised Know Your Customer (c-KYC) database as high risk, posing challenges for financial institutions. This move has prompted banks to explore alternative methods for customer authentication, such as video KYC or physical KYC.

c-KYC, or Centralised Know Your Customer, simplifies the Know Your Customer process for financial institutions. It allows them to fetch customer details from a centralized data repository, eliminating the need for repeated document submissions. This system gained popularity due to its utility and customer convenience.

RBI's High-Risk Tag

In a recent update to the master direction on KYC, the RBI declared customers onboarded through c-KYC as high-risk. This classification requires enhanced monitoring of such customers until their identity is verified





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through face-to-face interaction or video-based customer identification process (V-CIP). The move aims to ensure robust customer authentication and risk mitigation.

Implications for Financial Institutions

Banks and other lenders are concerned about the increased cost associated with customer authentication. While c-KYC offered a cost-effective solution, the new directive necessitates video KYC or physical KYC, which are more expensive methods. Video KYC costs between Rs 15 to Rs 30 per customer, leading to additional expenses for financial institutions. Moreover, high-risk customers need to undergo re-KYC every six months, resulting in recurring costs for lenders.

Data Quality Concerns

Concerns have been raised about the quality of data in the c-KYC repository. It is claimed that the scanned documents are often illegible or unreadable, making fraud detection challenging. The repository's search API relies on easily available information like PAN numbers and dates of birth, which can be replicated by fraudsters. These concerns highlight the need for stringent measures to ensure data accuracy and prevent identity frauds.

Future Outlook

While c-KYC continues to be used by fintechs and many non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), large banks are reconsidering its usage due to the regulatory diktat. The RBI's classification of c-KYCd customers as high-risk has prompted banks to lean towards video KYC. It remains to be seen how the system evolves to address data quality issues and build confidence in the accuracy of customer information.

What is Forum Shopping?

Forum shopping is a legal term that refers to the deliberate choice made by litigants or lawyers to bring their case before a particular judge or court in the hope of obtaining a more favorable outcome. This practice has drawn criticism from courts worldwide, including the Supreme Court of India.

Forum shopping, as defined by Webster's dictionary, is the practice of selecting a court from several that have jurisdiction over a case, based on the expectation that it will provide a more favorable outcome. Lawyers strategically consider the appropriate forum to approach, such as the Supreme Court, to gain greater visibility for their case through avenues like public interest litigation. However, blatant attempts to circumvent due process or avoid specific judges are generally disapproved of.

The Principle of Non-Conveniens

In common law countries, including the United States and the United Kingdom, the principle of non-conveniens is employed to prevent forum shopping. This principle grants courts discretionary powers to refuse jurisdiction over a matter if another court or forum is more convenient and suitable to hear the case. By utilizing this power, courts can dismiss cases in the interests of justice and fairness while directing them to the appropriate bench.

Supreme Court's Strong Stance

The Supreme Court of India has unequivocally denounced forum shopping. In the landmark case of Chetak Construction Ltd. vs. Om Prakash, the court stated that "every attempt at forum shopping must be crushed with a heavy hand." This ruling emphasizes the court's commitment to curbing this practice and upholding the integrity of the judicial system.





The Disreputable Practice

In the case of Vijay Kumar Ghai vs. State of W.B., the Supreme Court described forum shopping as a disreputable practice that lacks legal sanction and paramountcy. The court criticized the respondent for filing multiple complaints in different courts, indicating malicious intent to harass the petitioners and exert pressure on them to settle.

The Functional Test

To determine if a litigant is engaging in forum shopping, the Supreme Court established a functional test. In Union of India & Ors. vs. Cipla Ltd., the court explained that the test examines the functional similarity between the proceedings in different courts and identifies any subterfuge employed by the litigant. This test serves as a measure to differentiate legitimate legal strategies from forum shopping attempts.

Consequences of Forum Shopping

The Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh High Court, in the case of Dr. Khair-Un-Nisa and Ors vs. UT of Jammu and Kashmir and Ors, imposed costs worth one lakh rupees on petitioners for indulging in forum shopping. The court emphasized that forum shopping undermines the fairness of the judicial process and imposes additional burdens on specific courts.

Bench Hunting and Implications

Another term associated with forum shopping is “bench hunting,” where petitioners strive to have their cases heard by a particular judge or court to secure a favorable order. The Delhi High Court, in Rosmerita HSRP Ventures Pvt. Ltd. vs. Govt. of NCT of Delhi & Anr., imposed costs on a private company that was found guilty of indulging in forum hunting in an arbitration matter. This ruling highlights the court’s commitment to preventing manipulative practices in the legal system.

Regulation of Big Tech

The world of Big Tech has been under increasing regulatory scrutiny due to concerns surrounding privacy violations, data protection, abuse of market dominance, and geopolitical issues. Several major companies have faced fines, bans, and legal battles as governments and enforcement agencies seek to address these concerns.

The European Union (EU) recently fined Meta, the parent company of Facebook, a staggering \$1.3 billion for violating privacy norms related to the transatlantic flow of data from the EU to the US. The fine was imposed due to concerns about the protection of personal data and the risks posed to fundamental rights and freedoms. Additionally, the Irish Data Protection Commission demanded that Meta suspend data transfers to the US and stop the unlawful processing of EU data in the US.

TikTok Bans and Security Concerns

India was the first country to ban TikTok, the popular short-video streaming platform, following border clashes with China in 2020. The United States has also taken a strong stance against TikTok due to concerns that the data it collects could be under the control of China, potentially enabling global surveillance. Several other countries, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Canada, Belgium, and Taiwan, have either banned TikTok or restricted its use on government-owned devices.

Google’s Abuse of Dominance





Google, the world leader in search, has faced legal challenges related to its alleged abuse of market dominance. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) fined Google over Rs 2,200 crore in separate rulings for its practices in India. The company has also faced criticism for its billing systems and alleged predatory pricing norms on its Play Store for local app developers. Similar concerns have led to fines imposed by the European Union.

Microsoft's Blocked Acquisition

The Competition and Markets Authority in the UK blocked Microsoft's proposed \$69-billion acquisition of Activision Blizzard, the maker of the popular game 'Call of Duty.' The decision was based on concerns that the merger would hinder competition in the emerging cloud gaming market. The US Federal Trade Commission has also opposed the merger, leading to further legal battles.

Germany's Action Against Twitter

Twitter, under the leadership of Elon Musk, has faced criticism for its handling of hate speech and misinformation. In Germany, the platform is facing potential multi-million-euro fines for failing to remove hateful content. The country has introduced mechanisms to tackle violations under its hate speech takedown law, and fines can amount to up to €50 million per case.

PARAS Spectrograph Discovers Dense Exoplanet

The exploration of the universe continues to unveil exciting discoveries, and the recent detection of a dense exoplanet has sparked immense interest among scientists and space enthusiasts alike.

One of the key aspects of this newly discovered exoplanet is its density. Recent calculations estimate the density to be approximately 14 g/cm³, making it considerably denser than many other known exoplanets. This finding raises intriguing questions about the composition and formation of this celestial body.

International Collaboration: A Joint Effort

The discovery of the exoplanet involved a collaborative effort between multiple countries. Scientists from India, Germany, Switzerland, and the USA contributed their expertise and resources to unravel the mysteries of this distant world. Such international collaborations in the field of astrophysics highlight the significance of global cooperation in advancing our understanding of the universe.

The Star: TOI4603 or HD 245134

The exoplanet was found orbiting a star known as TOI4603 or HD 245134. This star has captured the attention of astronomers due to its role as the host to this dense exoplanet. Further studies are underway to explore the relationship between the star and the exoplanet, shedding light on the mechanisms of planetary formation.

Characteristics of Massive Giant Exoplanets

The newly discovered exoplanet belongs to the category of massive giant exoplanets. These exoplanets possess a mass greater than four times that of Jupiter, the largest planet in our solar system. Such massive giants challenge our understanding of planetary formation and provide valuable insights into the diversity of celestial bodies throughout the universe.

Proximity to the Host Star





In terms of distance from its host star, the exoplanet orbits at a remarkably close range. It is located less than 1/10th the distance between our Sun and Earth, signifying the challenging conditions under which it exists. The proximity to the star contributes to the unique characteristics and conditions experienced by the exoplanet.

Mass Relative to Jupiter

Comparing the mass of the new exoplanet to that of Jupiter reveals a striking disparity. The newly discovered exoplanet is approximately 13 times more massive than Jupiter, emphasizing its significant size and gravitational influence within its planetary system.

Surface Temperature: A Harsh Environment

The exoplanet's surface temperature is estimated to be around 1670 K, making it an extremely hot and inhospitable environment. Such high temperatures challenge the limits of human understanding and exploration, yet they offer valuable insights into the extreme conditions that planets can endure.

India's Contributions to Exoplanet Discoveries

India has made remarkable strides in the field of exoplanet discoveries. Thus far, Indian scientists have contributed to the detection of three exoplanets, including this recent discovery. These achievements highlight India's growing prowess in the field of astrophysics and its commitment to pushing the boundaries of scientific knowledge.

The PARAS Spectrograph: An Indispensable Tool

The discovery of this exoplanet was made possible by the instrumental role played by the PARAS (PRL Advanced Radial-velocity Abu-sky Search) Spectrograph. This ground-based device is designed for the purpose of detecting extrasolar planets. Located at the Mt. Abu observatory in India, it operates on a 1.2m telescope. The spectrograph used in PARAS operates at a resolution of 67000, allowing for precise measurements of radial velocity.

Artifacts Unearthed at Delhi's Purana Qila

Delhi's Purana Qila, also known as the Old Fort, has recently been the site of significant archaeological findings that shed light on the city's ancient history. The ongoing excavations have revealed a treasure trove of historical artifacts, providing insights into the continuous history of the region.

The recent excavations at Purana Qila have unearthed several noteworthy historical artifacts. Among them are shards of Painted Gray Ware pottery, which are typically dated to the period between 1200 BC and 600 BC. These pottery pieces offer a glimpse into the artistic traditions of the pre-Mauryan era.

Significance of Purana Qila

Purana Qila holds immense significance in Indian mythology, with many believing it to be the legendary city of Indraprastha mentioned in the Mahabharat. The fort was originally constructed by Sher Shah Suri and later renovated by Mughal emperor Humayun. Its rich historical and mythological associations make it a captivating archaeological site.

Cultural Levels and Chronology

The ongoing excavation at Purana Qila aims to establish a complete chronology of the site by uncovering multiple cultural levels representing different historical periods. So far, nine cultural levels have been identified, including pre-Mauryan, Mauryan, Sunga, Kushana, Gupta, post-Gupta, Rajput, Sultanate, and Mughal periods.





This comprehensive exploration promises to provide a more nuanced understanding of the ancient city of Indraprastha.

Future Plans

Once the excavation is completed, the findings will be compiled and submitted this year. As part of future plans, the site will be reopened and transformed into an open-air museum, where the excavated remains will be preserved, conserved, and showcased. This initiative aims to offer visitors a captivating experience that brings Delhi's rich historical legacy to life.

Anert's Solar City Project

The Kerala government has initiated a groundbreaking project aimed at transforming every rooftop in Thiruvananthapuram into a solar energy-producing station. This ambitious venture, led by the Agency for New and Renewable Energy Research and Technology (Anert), seeks to position the state capital as one of the largest 'solar cities' in the country. The project aims to harness the immense potential of solar energy and leverage the cost advantage offered by the availability of cheap labor in the region.

By tapping into this vast network, Thiruvananthapuram has the potential to generate a remarkable 800 MW of solar energy.

Already, 600 government buildings have undergone solar panel installations, with an additional 150 commissioned recently.

The remaining government buildings are expected to be equipped with solar panels within the next couple of months. Furthermore, if private buildings join the initiative, an additional 700 MW of solar energy can be produced, making a significant contribution to the state's renewable energy goals.

Promoting Solar Energy Adoption through Incentives

The Central government plays a crucial role in supporting this project by offering a substantial subsidy of 40% for 3-KW solar systems.

With this subsidy, the cost of installing a 3-KW solar system can be reduced to approximately Rs 1.6 lakh.

To further encourage the adoption of solar systems, Anert has arranged for bank stalls at the expo, enabling individuals to avail loans for their solar system purchases.

The Kerala government has also stepped in to incentivize the renewable energy option by offering up to 4% interest on bank loans for solar system purchases.

Electronics Repair Pilot Project

The government of India will launch a pilot project with the objective of capturing a significant share of the global electronics repair industry. Led by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), this initiative aims to promote India as a hub for repairing electronic goods. The country's abundant availability of cheap labor is considered a key advantage in achieving this goal.

Recommendations for electronics repair services outsourcing (ERSO) were submitted to MeitY by the Manufacturers Association of Information Technology (MAIT). In response, the government has undertaken this





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pilot project to assess the feasibility and potential of capturing 20% of the global repair service market within five years. The current value of the global repair service market stands at a substantial \$100 billion.

Duration and Customs Rules Changes

The pilot project is set to run for two months, commencing on June 1. During this period, customs rules will be relaxed to facilitate the import and export of electronics products. Previously, the approval process for such transactions took approximately 10-15 days. Under the new rules, the approval process will be expedited, reducing the timeframe to just one day. This change aims to improve efficiency and promote the ease of doing business in India.

Restrictions and Cost Advantages

Although the repaired goods will not be permitted to be sold in the domestic market, provisions will be made to allow their exportation to regions other than their country of origin. In addition, India's e-waste policy will be modified to enable repair companies to domestically recycle 5% of imported goods by weight on a trial basis. This change will reduce logistics costs associated with sending non-repairable products back for disposal. India holds significant cost advantages over other countries in the repair services sector. Compared to China, India boasts a 57% cost advantage, and when compared to Malaysia, it offers a 26% cost advantage. These cost differentials make India an attractive destination for outsourced repair services.

ADB's Country Partnership Strategy for India

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) recently rolled out its 2023-27 country partnership strategy for India. This new strategy focuses on key areas to accelerate the country's development and promote inclusive growth.
- Partnership strategy for India emphasizes three key focus areas.
- Accelerate structural transformation and job creation
- Promote climate-resilient growth
- Deepen social and economic inclusiveness
- ADB's Headquarters and Vision for India

ADB, headquartered in Manila, is committed to strengthening its engagement with India over the next five years. It aims to support India's pursuit of robust, climate-resilient, and inclusive growth. This aligns with the country's own vision for progress and development.

Support for Climate Agenda

ADB's new strategy places a strong emphasis on supporting India's climate agenda. The bank plans to intervene in energy transition, transport decarbonisation, climate adaptation, and disaster risk management. By doing so, ADB aims to contribute to India's efforts in addressing climate change and building a sustainable future.

Education, Health, and More

In addition to climate-related interventions, ADB will increase its support for education, health, and social protection in India. The strategy also focuses on improving urban liveability and rural development. ADB recognizes the importance of gender empowerment and environmental sustainability in achieving inclusive growth. Hence, these aspects are also incorporated into its objectives for India.

ADB's Projections and Contributions

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ADB projects that India's economy will grow at a rate of 6.4% in FY24. ADB intends to aid the nation's progress by participating in major national initiatives such as industrial corridors, multimodal logistics systems, urban infrastructure, skill ecosystem, and small enterprises. The bank intends to leverage public-private partnerships as a means to achieve its objectives effectively.

Digital Kumbh Museum

The Tourism Department in Uttar Pradesh has proposed the construction of a remarkable project called the 'Digital Kumbh Museum.' This museum aims to offer visitors a modern and immersive experience, providing insights into the mythological and historical significance of the renowned Kumbh Mela.

The proposed 'Digital Kumbh Museum' is estimated to cost around Rs 60 crores. It will serve as a captivating attraction for the devotees who come to experience the grandeur of the Kumbh Mela. The museum will provide a deep understanding of the culture of both the state and the country.

State-of-the-Art Facilities

The 'Digital Kumbh Museum' will be equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, including heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems. Additionally, it will feature audio-video rooms, ensuring a captivating and immersive experience for the visitors. The museum will comprise various galleries, each dedicated to different spiritual themes.

Galleries and Exhibits

The museum will house a range of galleries showcasing the rich heritage and mythology surrounding the Kumbh Mela. One such gallery is the 'Spiritual and Kumbh Mela Interpretation Gallery,' which will provide insights into the spiritual essence of the event. The 'Samudra Manthan Gallery' will mesmerize visitors by presenting the epic tale of 'Samudra Manthan' through floor projection. Another captivating exhibit will be the 'Akhada Gallery,' highlighting the vibrant Akhada culture prevalent in the country. Visitors will have the opportunity to explore the remarkable journey of Shankaracharya through an interactive wall within the gallery.

Additional Facilities

The 'Digital Kumbh Museum' will go beyond offering a spiritual experience. Moreover, the museum will feature a 'Cultural Haat' (Akshayavat), a dedicated museum, a gallery and theatre (Amrit Kalash), and a guest house, providing a comprehensive experience for the visitors.

ONE LINER

- U.T. Khader, 54, was unanimously elected Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, becomes the first Muslim to hold the post in Karnataka.
- INSV Tarini entered Goa harbour after successfully completing a 17,000 NM trans-ocean inter-continental voyage after 188 days.
- India is set to scale up its supercomputing prowess and install an 18-petaflop system.
- Chief Ministers of Assam and Meghalaya initiated the second phase of talks to resolve boundary disputes.
- FSSAI to conduct nationwide surveillance of milk and milk products.
- PM Modi flags off Delhi-Dehradun Vande Bharat Express.



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- Arunachal Pradesh govt to set up Institute for Transforming Arunachal with NITI Aayog.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) tightens norms for offshore funds.
- BSE and NSE put the securities of Adani Enterprises under the short-term ASM framework.
- India and Australia aim to conclude comprehensive trade deal by end of 2023.
- SEBI approves HDFC Bank as new owner of HDFC AMC.
- Florida Governor, Republican Ron DeSantis launches his US presidential campaign.
- UK Visa Policy Update: New Immigration Rule restricts Indians from bringing dependents.
- China appoints new envoy to U.S. ,filling a post that unusually remained vacant for close to five months.
- Bulgarian writer Georgi Gospodinov and translator Angela Rodel won the International Booker Prize for Time Shelter.
- Indian Junior hockey team defeats Chinese Taipei 18-0 at Men's Asia Cup 2023.
- P V Sindhu defeats Aya Otori to enter Malaysia Masters quarterfinals.
- Indian Long jumper Murali Sreeshankar wins gold and Jeswin Aldrin takes silver at International Jumping Meeting in Greece
- India's Ministry of Railways in India handed over 20 broad- gauge locomotives to Bangladesh.
- A cheetah cub died at the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh.
- A judicial panel probing the killing of six people on the Assam-Meghalaya boundary in November 2022 is scheduled to resume.
- Tamil Nadu extends ban on manufacturing, sale of tobacco-containing chewable food products.
- Guru Arjan Dev Ji Shaheedi Diwas is observed to commemorate the martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji, the fifth Guru of Sikhism.
- Centre to release first draft of Digital India Act in early June; more concrete version of the law by December.
- Denmark to help Rajasthan in managing water sector, to replicate its waste water management system.
- Parliamentary Affairs Ministry is set to organize a National Workshop on the National e-Vidhan Application, NeVA in New Delhi.
- Goa and Uttarakhand signed MoU to promote tourism between the states as part of the 'Dekho Apna Desh' initiative.
- More than 90% of the funds allocated under the Smart Cities Mission (SCM) have been utilised till now, while 73% of the projects have been completed.
- No Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) is required for a player if the net winning does not exceed Rs 100 in Online Gaming.
- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das: GDP growth for FY23 could top 7 per cent.
- Russia and China sign economic pacts despite Western criticism.
- India and Australia sign migration pact; to open new consulate in Brisbane.
- Bulgarian writer and translator win International Booker Prize for darkly comic memory novel.
- Australia offers strong support for India's permanent membership to UN Security Council.
- Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra became the World No. 1 for the first time in his career.
- Carlos Alcaraz replaced Novak Djokovic at the No. 1 spot in the latest ATP rankings.





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