



CURRENT AFFAIRS

≡ 07 APRIL, 2022 ≡

NATIONAL

1. Separate Time Zone For The Northeast

Why in news - Congress MP from Assam's Nagaon, Pradyut Bordoloi, has demanded a separate time zone for the Northeast region.

Imp points –

- Countries across the world keep different times because of Earth's rotation and revolution around the Sun.
- As Earth turns by 15° around its axis, time changes by one hour; a 360° -degree rotation yields 24 hours. As a result, the world is divided into 24 time zones shifted by one hour each.
- Indian Standard Time is 5 hours 30 minutes ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), now called the Universal Coordinated Time (UTC).
- IST is based on longitude 82.5° , which passes through Mirzapur, near Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh.
- Northeast lose important daylight which can be used productively as the sun rises as early as 4 am in summer and offices open at 10.
- Bagaan time or tea time is a reference to an informal practice followed in tea

gardens in Assam which is an hour ahead of IST.

2. 'Untold Kashmir Files'

Why in news - The Jammu and Kashmir Police has posted a 57-second video, which aims to underline how all Kashmiris - cutting across faith - were victims of militancy.

Imp points –

- Jammu and Kashmir has become an Union territory since 31 October 2019.
- Special status under Article 370 abrogation on 5th August, 2019.
- In March 2020, the Delimitation Commission was constituted for J&K to delimit (Delimitation is the act of redrawing boundaries of Lok Sabha and Assembly Constituencies) the constituencies of the Union Territory.
- Current Delimitation Commission is headed by Justice (retired) Ranjana Desai.
- India International Kashmir Saffron Trading Center constructed at Pampore (Pulawama).

3. Covid XE Variant of Corona Virus

Why in news - Suspected to have infected a patient in Mumbai, it is a sub-variant of Omicron.

Imp points –

- The Omicron variant has two prominent sub-variants, called BA.1 and BA.2.
- The XE variant is called a 'recombinant'. This means it contains the mutations found in BA.1 as well as BA.2 varieties of Omicron.
- This was first discovered in the United Kingdom.

4. Virtual e-museum

- **Why in news** - Kashmir gets its first virtual e-museum.

Imp points –

- Location – Sopore (Kashmir)
- It showcases the lifetime collection of a woman Kashmiri educationist, Atiqa Bano, who has created a huge repository of artefacts through door-to-door collections.

5. Air Force Commanders' Conference

Why in news - Defense Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Air Force Commanders' Conference AFCC at Air Headquarters in New Delhi.

Imp points –

- Defense Minister Rajnath Singh launched the “MEHAR BABA COMPETITION – II” – to develop technology for a “Swarm Drone based system to detect Foreign Objects on Aircraft Operating Surfaces”.
- The theme for this Conference is 'Optimizing human resources'.

6. HAL in Tie up to Convert Aircraft

Why in news - Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to convert civil passenger aircraft to multi mission tanker transport (MMTT) aircraft in India.

Imp points –

- The aircraft likely to be converted was a Boeing 767 passenger jet.
- The IAF at present has six Russian IL-78 tankers.
- Mid-air refuelling significantly enhances the range and payload of fighter jets.

INTERNATIONAL

1. AUKUS Hypersonic Deal

Why in news - The United States, United Kingdom and Australia have announced they will work together via the recently created security alliance known as AUKUS to develop hypersonic missiles.

Imp points –

- AUKUS is a new trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific, between Australia, the UK and the US (AUKUS)
- Hyper sonic missile flies at least at the speed of Mach 5 i.e. five times the speed of sound and is manoeuvrable.
- Most of the hypersonic vehicles primarily use the scramjet technology.
- India operates approximately 12 hypersonic wind tunnels and is capable

of testing speeds upto Mach 13.

- In Hyderabad, the DRDO also established a Hypersonic Wind Tunnel (HWT) test facility.
- China launched hypersonic medium-range missile called “DF-17” in the year 2019.
- Russia also launched a hypersonic missile called the Zircon.

2. Hong Kong's next leader

Why in news - John Lee an ex police officer to become Hong Kong's next leader.

Imp points –

- John Lee has served as Chief Secretary since June 2021.
- He will succeed current leader Carrie Lam.

3. Burkina Faso Ex-President gets life term.

Why in news - A military court in Burkina Faso handed down a life term to former president Blaise Compaoré over the 1987 assassination of revolutionary leader Thomas Sankara.

Imp points –

- Burkina Faso is a former French colony.
- In Jan 2022 The African Union (AU) had suspended Burkina Faso's participation in the organization's activities for a week.

AWARDS

1. Saraswati Samman 2021

Why in news - Ramdarash Mishra selected for Saraswati Samman 2021 (In Hindi language).

Imp points –

- Prof Ramdarash Mishra will be awarded the prestigious Saraswati Samman for his collection of poems 'Mein to Yahan Hun'
- Born in Dumri village in Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur district on August 15, 1924.
- His collection 'Mein to Yahan Hun' was published in 2015.
- Instituted in 1991, Saraswati Samman is one of the most prestigious literary awards in the country.

2. O. Henry Award

Why in news - Veteran Bengali writer Amar Mitra wins O. Henry Award.

Imp points –

- Amar Mitra wrote short story - titled Gaonburo in Bangla in 1977.
- It was translated by Anish Gupta in 1990 as The Old Man of Kusumpur in English.
- Mr. Mitra is also a recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award.
- past winners of O. Henry Award include William Faulkner, Saul Bellow and Raymond Carve.

3. Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject (12th edition)

Why in news - Over 35 programmes offered by Indian institutes make it to top-100 list.

Imp points –

- Engineering courses account for the maximum number of programmes

offered in India that made it to the top 100 list.

- IIT Bombay leads the pack with as many as eight of its engineering programmes finding a place in the top 100.
- Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences(Rank 18)(dentistry programme) and Indian School of Mines (Rank 26) (ISM) University (dentistry programme), Dhanbad, two institutes that broke into the top 100 category for the first time.
- The only private higher educational institute that made it to the top 100 is the OP Jindal Global University,(Rank 70) with its law programme.

BIHAR

1. 'Poshan Pakhwada'

Why in news - Poshan Pakhwada held between March 21 to April 4 in all 38 districts in Bihar.

Imp points –

- Recording an impressive 126%, Purnia has bagged the first rank in the activities organized at Anganwadi centres (AWCs).
- Organized by Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).

2. Domestic Air Service May Start From Bhagalpur

Why in news - A delegation of 'Hawaijahaj Sangharsh Samiti' led by MP Ajay Mandal met Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia in Delhi on Wednesday.

Imp points –

- Bhagalpur is included in the UDAN scheme.
- UdeDesh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) was launched as a Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2016.
- The scheme is operational for a period of 10 years.

3. Training Institute For Rugby Players Proposed

Why in news – Decision was taken in a meeting of Departmental ministers with Indian Rugby football union president at Patliputra sports complex.

Imp points –

- Training institutes will be setup in districts where Rugby players are in abundance.
- Sepaarate training institutes for male and female players.
- Art culture and youth minister Alok Ranjan assured all possible help in development of soprts.

4. Arsenic in Gangetic valley

Why in news – Arsenic is spoiling the health of people of Patna

Imp points –

- Health problems – Gall bladder stones, Cancer, Skin diseases, Arthrities, Liver toxicity etc
- Other heavy metals present in water – Lead, Fluoride and Mercury.