




08 August 2024

National and International News

<p>Sucralose</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A recent Indian study found that replacing sucrose (table sugar) with sucralose (an artificial sweetener) had no adverse effects on glucose or HbA1c levels and led to a slight improvement in body mass index (BMI). <p>About Sucralose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sucralose is a no-calorie sweetener used to reduce added sugar intake while still enjoying sweetness. • Sugar substitutes include low-calorie (e.g., aspartame) and no-calorie sweeteners (e.g., sucralose, monk fruit, stevia). • Sucralose is about 600 times sweeter than sugar. • It can be used as an ingredient in any food or beverage. • Production of Sucralose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sucralose is made from regular table sugar (sucrose). ○ Digestive Resistance: Sucralose's structure prevents digestive enzymes from breaking it down, contributing to its safety. • Excretion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approximately 85% of consumed sucralose is not absorbed and is excreted unchanged in the feces. ○ About 15% is absorbed but is not metabolized for energy, hence sucralose provides no calories. • Elimination: All absorbed sucralose is rapidly excreted in the urine.
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<p>QCI Surajya Recognition & Ranking Framework</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Quality Council of India recently introduced the QCI Surajya Recognition & Ranking Framework to drive excellence in key sectors. <p>About QCI Surajya Recognition & Ranking Framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: Drive excellence among states to improve the quality of life of citizens and create a developed India by recognizing and rewarding states and organizations that excel in quality and innovation. Framework Categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shiksha (Education) Swasthya (Health) Samridhi (Prosperity) Sushasan (Governance) Surajya Recognition: Acknowledges outstanding performance and commitment to quality by states and organizations in the four vital areas.
<p>e-rupee</p>  <p>PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI to launch digital payment solution e-RUPI on 2nd August</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment developed by National Payments Corporation of India Connects sponsors of the services with beneficiaries & service providers in a digital manner without any physical interface Assures timely payment without involvement of any intermediary. It can also be used for delivering services meant for providing drugs & nutritional support under Mother & Child welfare schemes, TB eradication programmes, etc 	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fintech companies aim to participate in the Indian central bank's digital currency project, enabling users to transact in e-rupee through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). <p>About e-rupee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issuance and Launch: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital currency issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Launched on a pilot basis in December 2022. Availability and Usage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered by select public and private banks in major cities. Usable for both person-to-person and person-to-merchant transactions. Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides an additional option for using money. Entirely in electronic form, does not leave a computer network. Legal Tender: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similar to banknotes issued by the RBI. Can only be transacted online. Interest and Conversion:



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Does not attract interest payments from the central bank. ○ Deposits in banks can be converted into digital rupees and vice versa.
<p>Earth Observation Satellite-8</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ISRO's Earth Observation Satellite-8 (EOS-8) is set to launch on August 15 from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, via the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)-D3. <p>About Earth Observation Satellite-8:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Launch Vehicle: Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)-D3 ● Primary Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Design and develop a microsatellite. ○ Create payload instruments compatible with the microsatellite bus. ○ Incorporate new technologies for future operational satellites. ● Applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Satellite-based surveillance. ○ Disaster monitoring. ○ Environmental monitoring. ○ Fire detection. ○ Volcanic activity observation. ○ Industrial and power plant disaster monitoring. ● Mission Life: One year.



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Asset Management Companies (AMCs)

Why in the news?

- **SEBI** stated in a recent circular that **CEOs, Managing Directors (MDs), or equivalent officials of Asset Management Companies (AMCs)** will be held **accountable for implementing mechanisms to prevent potential market abuse.**

About AMCs:

- **Definition:** A **financial institution that pools funds from multiple investors to invest in various financial instruments** (stocks, bonds, real estate) to generate returns in exchange for a fee.
- **Types of AMCs:**
 - Hedge Funds
 - Mutual Funds
 - Index Funds
 - Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs)
 - Private Equity Funds
 - Other Funds
- **Role and Functions of AMCs:**
 - **Investment Decisions:** Make decisions on investors' behalf, manage assets in portfolios.
 - **Portfolio Management:** Choose suitable investments, help investors grow their money.
 - **Professional Fund Managers:** Appoint qualified fund managers with investment expertise.
 - **Investment Strategies:** Employ strategies and risk management techniques to manage portfolios and protect assets.
 - **Support System:** Have research analysts to assist fund managers.
- **Regulation:** Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

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