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National and International Current Affairs

<p>Nagastra-1</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Indian Army has recently acquired the Nagastra-1, a groundbreaking addition to its arsenal, marking the introduction of high-precision, man-portable suicide drones.• These drones, developed by EEL, boast a range of approximately 30 kilometers and can execute GPS-enabled precise hits with a remarkable accuracy of two meters. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nagastra-1, a UAV-based system, operates like an aerial ambush and can abort an attack if necessary, ensuring safe retrieval.• It is named a loitering munition due to its ability to hover above the target.• In "Kamikaze mode," it can neutralize any hostile threat with GPS-enabled precision strike, achieving an accuracy of 2 meters.• Nagastra-1 is the first indigenized weapon of its class, capable of hovering in the air and striking when the target arrives.
<p>Kavli Prize</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The 2024 Kavli Prize, distinct from the Kavli Medal, honored eight winners for their contributions to astrophysics, neuroscience, and nanoscience.• This prestigious award, named after Norwegian-American businessman Fred Kavli, mirrors the Nobel Prize in recognizing groundbreaking scientific achievements. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Kavli Prize, first awarded in 2008 and given biennially, includes a \$1 million cash prize per field, a scroll, and a 7 cm diameter medal.• The 2024 winners include David Charbonneau and Sara



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Seager from Harvard University and MIT, respectively, for their discoveries and characterization of **exoplanets and their atmospheres**.

- **Robert Langer** from MIT was recognized for nano-engineering materials for controlled release of therapeutic bio-molecules.
- **Armand Paul Alivisatos** from the University of Chicago was awarded for his work on **semiconductor crystals ("quantum dots") used as multi-color fluorescent probes in bio-imaging**.
- **Chad Mirkin** from Northwestern University was honored for introducing spherical nucleic acids (SNAs), with applications in intracellular detection, gene regulation, and immunotherapy.

CCRAS-NIIMH, Hyderabad

Context:

- The **National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH)**, located in **Hyderabad** and operating under the **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)**, Ministry of Ayush, has been designated as a **WHO Collaborating Centre (CC)** for "**Fundamental and Literary Research in Traditional Medicine**" (CC IND-177) by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.
- This recognition, valid for **four years starting from June 3, 2024**, marks NIIMH as the **first WHO Collaborating Centre for such research**.

Key points:

- NIIMH's role as a WHO Collaborating Centre includes assisting WHO in **standardizing terminologies for Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, and Sowa-Rigpa**, and updating the Traditional Medicine Module-II for the Eleventh edition of the **International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11)**.
- The Centre will also support Member States in developing research methodologies for Traditional Medicine.
- The WHO Collaborating Centre for "**Fundamental and Literary Research in Traditional Medicine**" will be led by Prof. Vaidya Rabinarayan Acharya, Director General, CCRAS, along with a dedicated team in coordination with the **Literary and Fundamental Research team of CCRAS Headquarters**.

About:



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- Established in **1956**, NIIMH is a unique institution dedicated to documenting and showcasing medico-historical research in various healthcare disciplines, including **Ayurveda, Yoga Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, Homoeopathy, Biomedicine, and others in India.**
- NIIMH has been involved in various **digital initiatives**, such as the **AMAR Portal**, which catalogs **16,000 Ayush manuscripts**, the **SAHI Portal** showcasing **793 medico-historical artifacts**, and the **Ayush Research Portal** indexing **42,818 published Ayush research articles.**
- The Institute also houses more than **500 physical manuscripts**, alongside the **Medical Heritage Museum and Library**, featuring rare books and manuscripts dating back to the **15th century AD.**
- Additionally, the Journal of **Indian Medical Heritage is published by NIIMH.**

World Blood Donor Day



Context:

- World Blood Donor Day, observed annually on 14th June, aims to raise awareness about the critical need for safe blood and blood products to save lives.

Key points:

- This year, the theme is **"20 years of celebrating giving: thank you, blood donors!"** marking the **20th anniversary of the event.**
- Despite the universal need for blood, access to safe blood remains a challenge in many countries, particularly in low- and middle-income nations. This lack of access affects all patients, especially those who require regular transfusions.
- World Blood Donor Day serves as a reminder of the invaluable contribution of blood donors to society and encourages more people to donate blood regularly to save lives.

Hawkish economic policy

Context:

- With the upcoming presidential election in November, the **Federal Reserve, America's central bank, has made it clear that it is not eager to quickly lower interest rates.**
- Hawkish economic policy, embraced by central banks and economic policymakers,** emphasizes the importance of curbing inflation, often at the expense of other economic objectives such as full employment or economic expansion.



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Key points:

- Those who adhere to a hawkish stance tend to **advocate for higher interest rates to rein in inflation and maintain price stability.**
- This stands in contrast to **dovish economic policy**, which prioritizes **stimulating economic growth and reducing unemployment, even if it means tolerating higher inflation.**

About:

- This involves **increasing interest rates** to raise the cost of borrowing, which in turn can dampen spending and investment, thereby cooling down an overheated economy.
- Measures are taken to **decrease the money supply or slow its growth, aiming to control inflation.**
- **Low inflation** is set as a primary objective, often with explicit inflation targets and corresponding actions to ensure these targets are met.
- Efforts are made to **scale back fiscal or monetary stimulus measures that could potentially fuel inflation**, such as cutting government spending or winding down quantitative easing programs.

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