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18 September 2023

International & National News

<p>International Day of Democracy</p>	<p>In news:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 15th of September was celebrated as an international day of democracy. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This year's theme of the day was “Empowering The Next Generation”. • The theme focuses upon the young people's essential role in advancing democracy. <p>Did you know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The United Nations has developed a democracy fund which is used to finance those projects which ensure a vibrant democracy .
<p>PM launches Vishwakarma scheme</p>	<p>PM Vishwakarma Yojana:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a Central Sector Scheme with a financial outlay of Rs.13,000 crore. • Time period: Five years (FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28). • Aim: To strengthen and nurture the Guru-Shishya parampara or family-based practice of traditional skills by artisans and craftspeople working with their hands and tools. • The scheme also aims at improving the quality, as well as the reach of products and services of artisans and craftspeople and to ensure that the Vishwakarmas are integrated with the domestic and global value chains. • Under this scheme, the artisans and craftspeople will be provided recognition through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card, Credit Support upto Rs.1 lakh (First Tranche) and Rs.2 lakh (Second Tranche) with a concessional interest rate of 5%. • The Scheme will further provide Skill Upgradation, Toolkit Incentive, Incentive for Digital Transactions and Marketing Support. • Under the scheme, there will be two types of skilling programmes -- Basic and Advanced and a stipend of Rs 500 per day will also be provided to beneficiaries while undergoing skills training.
<p>Project Cheetah</p>	<p>Key facts about Cheetah</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cheetah is the fastest land animal, which has the fastest running speed record of 93 and 98 km/h (58 and 61 mph). • It is considered to be a big cat and belongs to the Felidae family.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have a small rounded head, a lightly built body, and a roundly spotted coat. • They have long thin limbs and long tails. <p>Project Cheetah</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The introduction of cheetahs in India is being done under Project Cheetah, which is the world's first intercontinental large wild carnivore translocation project.
<p>Santiniketan declared UNESCO World Heritage site</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Santiniketan, the famed place in West Bengal where poet Rabindranath Tagore built Visva-Bharati over a century ago, has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established in 1901 by poet and philosopher Tagore, Santiniketan was a residential school and centre for art based on ancient Indian traditions and a vision of the unity of humanity transcending religious and cultural boundaries. • A 'world university' was established at Santiniketan in 1921, recognising the unity of humanity or "Visva Bharati". • Distinct from the prevailing British colonial architectural orientations of the early 20th century and of European modernism, Santiniketan represents approaches toward a pan-Asian modernity, drawing on ancient, medieval and folk traditions from across the region.
<p>Former French Colonies Mali, Niger And Burkina Faso Create Military Alliance</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders of the former French colonies Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger inked a charter to form a military alliance of Sahel states in defiance to the Western nations after overthrowing the ruling governments and forging closer cooperation amongst the Junta rulers. <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African states have decided to militarily assist each other, individually or collectively to depose external aggression or internal threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of their nations. • The document signed by the three nations read that an "attack on the sovereignty or territorial integrity of one or more parties to the charter will be regarded as aggression against the other parties and will require their assistance, including the use of military force." • The charter also stated that the signatories would effectively fight terrorism and any organised terror activity in the Sahel states.



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For sickle cell patients, an elusive disability certificate

Context

- A plan to issue permanent disability certificates to those above the age of five with sickle-cell disease has been stuck in a quagmire at three Union Ministries for nearly three years.
- In a report tabled during the Monsoon Session of Parliament, a Standing Committee of Parliament urged the government to take a quick decision.

Key points

- The Health Ministry is responsible for determining the criteria and rules for disability certificates, while the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry issues the certificates, which are required for getting reservation and benefits of schemes.
- Given that sickle cell disease, a debilitating genetic blood disorder, is especially prevalent among tribal populations across India, the Tribal Affairs Ministry is keen on ensuring that the certificates are issued to patients with chronic anaemia, pain, and complications arising out of tissue and organ damage.

India becomes 13th nation that can issue OIML certificates

Context

- India joins an exclusive club of 12 nations, today. India is now authorized to issue the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) – an international standard-setting body– approval certificates.

Key points

- India now can support its domestic manufacturers of weighing and measuring products like weighing devices, taxi meters, speedometers, agricultural measuring devices such as cereal moisture meters, health-related devices such as exhaust measurements and alcohol content of drinks, etc., to export to the international market.

The International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML)

- It is an intergovernmental organisation that was created in 1955 to promote the global harmonisation of the legal metrology (science of measurement) procedures that underpin and facilitate international trade.
- It has 63 Member States and 64 Corresponding Members. India became a member in 1956.
- India is now an exclusive group of nations, including



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Australia, Switzerland, China, Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, France, United Kingdom, Japan, Netherlands, Sweden, and Slovakia, as the 13th country worldwide, authorized to issue OIML approval certificates.

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