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6 May 2024

National & International News

<p>Integrated Pensioners' Portal</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Centre has started an Integrated Pensioners' Portal in collaboration with the Bank of India.• The portal combines the pension processing and payment services of five banks into a single window. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The platform has been launched to digitalize pension services and enhance the welfare of pensioners.• Retirees can access:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Monthly pension slips,○ Check the status of life certificates,○ Submit Form 16, and○ View statements of arrears paid.• The pension portals of SBI, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, and Canara Bank have also been integrated with the Bhavishya portal.• The portal is designed to ensure complete digitization of the pension processing and payment system.• The portal's primary objective is to achieve transparency and efficiency in pension-related services.• The portal has a Bhavishya platform and CPENGRAMS, an online complaint redressal system.
<p>Atlas V rocket and Starliner</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An Atlas V rocket is set to launch with two veteran astronauts, Barry Wilmore and Sunita Williams.• They will be inside a crew capsule called Starliner, built by Boeing. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is the third test flight of the Starliner and the first with astronauts on board.• The astronauts are destined for the International Space Station (ISS) in low-earth orbit.• If successful, the U.S. will have two spacecraft capable of launching astronauts to space for the first time in its history.



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- The **Starliner** is a spacecraft that **transports astronauts in space**.

Goods & Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)

Why in news?

- The **Goods & Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)** has been initiated by the Centre with the **appointment of retired Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra as its President**.
- The **tribunal aims to help businesses resolve various disputes efficiently**.

Key points:

- Justice Mishra, **former Chief Justice of the High Court of Jharkhand**, will hold the **post for 4 years** or until he **attains the age of 70 years**, whichever is earlier.
- The **Centre plans to set up 31 GSTAT benches** across the country, with **one Principal Bench in Delhi**.
- **Uttar Pradesh will have the highest number of benches (three)** among all states. Other larger states will have two benches each.
- The **Principal Bench will handle inter-state disputes**, while **Benches in States will handle all other issues**, including **rates**.
- GST Tribunals are envisioned as **specialized bodies to handle disputes related to GST**, providing a **timely and efficient resolution mechanism**.

Artificial General Intelligence (AGI)

Why in news?

- **Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI**, has committed to **investing billions of dollars** in the development of **Artificial General Intelligence (AGI)**.

About AGI:

- Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) refers to a **type of artificial intelligence** that can **understand, learn, and apply knowledge across a wide range of tasks**, much like a human.
- It **integrates cognitive abilities** like **reasoning, problem-solving, planning, and learning**.
- **Unlike narrow AI**, which is **designed for specific tasks** (e.g., facial recognition, internet searches), **AGI can generalize its intelligence across unfamiliar tasks**.
- **AGI adapts to new environments and tasks without needing additional programming**.



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<p>International Election Visitors' Programme (IEVP)</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">75 delegates from 23 countries are in India to observe the Indian General Elections as part of the International Election Visitors' Programme (IEVP).The event was inaugurated in New Delhi by CEC Shri Rajiv Kumar and ECs Shri Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu. <p>About IEVP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The International Election Visitors' Programme (IEVP) is a flagship program of the Election Commission of India for international cooperation and engagement with the Election Management Bodies (EMBs) of other countries and International Organizations.It provides participants with a broad picture of the Indian election process, new initiatives in voter facilitation, and the transparency and accessibility of the electoral system.
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