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15 June 2024

National & International News

<p><b>Nagastra-1</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Indian Army has recently acquired the <b>Nagastra-1</b>, a groundbreaking addition to its arsenal, marking the introduction of <b>high-precision, man-portable suicide drones</b>.</li><li>• These drones, developed by <b>EEL</b>, boast a range of approximately <b>30 kilometers</b> and can execute <b>GPS-enabled precise hits with a remarkable accuracy of two meters</b>.</li></ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nagastra-1, a <b>UAV-based system</b>, operates like an aerial ambush and can abort an attack if necessary, ensuring safe retrieval.</li><li>• It is named a loitering munition due to its ability to hover above the target.</li><li>• In "<b>Kamikaze mode</b>," it can neutralize any hostile threat with a GPS-enabled precision strike, achieving an accuracy of <b>2 meters</b>.</li><li>• <b>Nagastra-1 is the first indigenized weapon of its class, capable of hovering in the air and striking when the target arrives.</b></li></ul>
<p><b>Kavli Prize</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>2024 Kavli Prize</b>, distinct from the Kavli Medal, honored eight winners for their <b>contributions to astrophysics, neuroscience, and nanoscience</b>.</li><li>• This prestigious award, named after <b>Norwegian-American businessman Fred Kavli</b>, mirrors the Nobel Prize in recognizing groundbreaking scientific achievements.</li></ul> <p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Kavli Prize, first awarded in <b>2008</b> and given <b>biennially</b>, includes a <b>\$1 million cash prize per field, a scroll, and a 7 cm diameter medal</b>.</li><li>• The 2024 winners include <b>David Charbonneau and Sara Seager from Harvard University and MIT</b>, respectively, for their discoveries and characterization of <b>exoplanets and their atmospheres</b>.</li><li>• <b>Robert Langer</b> from MIT was recognized for nano-engineering materials for the controlled release of therapeutic bio-molecules.</li><li>• <b>Armand Paul Alivisatos</b> from the University of Chicago was awarded for his work on <b>semiconductor crystals ("quantum dots") used as multi-color fluorescent probes in bio-imaging</b>.</li></ul>



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- **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:

- 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**.



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- 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.

#### 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**.



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### 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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