

06.05.2022 Daily Current Affairs

1. National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) Bengaluru campus inaugurated by Amit Shah

Home Minister, Amit Shah inaugurates the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) campus in Bengaluru. According to Home Minister Amit Shah, the Narendra Modi government has had a zero-tolerance attitude toward terrorism since the beginning.

Mr Shah remarked during the inauguration of the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) premises in Bengaluru that security requirements have increased dramatically in terms of data, scope, and complexity compared to past issues.

According to him, legal and security authorities require automated, secure, and quick access to data gathered from credible sources.

The government has tasked NATGRID with establishing and operating a cutting-edge and innovative information technology infrastructure for obtaining data from data collection agencies.

The Union Government will soon build a national database to track hawala transactions, terrorist funding, counterfeit cash, narcotics, and bomb threats, illicit arms smuggling, and other terrorist operations.

The Home Minister stated that intelligence and legal agencies should now be able to fully utilise information due to the removal of impediments to essential data.

There should be a paradigm shift in the way agencies work thanks to data analytics and information technology.

C-DAC is implementing NATGRID, according to Shah, in keeping with the Prime Minister's vision of a self-sufficient India.

2. FAO's flagship released its publication "The State of the World's Forests"

The State of the World's Forests 2022 explores the significance of three forest pathways for achieving green recovery and addressing environmental crises such as climate change and biodiversity loss, against the backdrop of the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use and 140 countries' pledge to end forest loss by 2030 and support restoration and sustainable production and consumption.

Stopping deforestation and sustaining forests, repairing degraded lands and increasing agroforestry, managing forests responsibly and establishing green value chains are the three interconnected pathways.

Balanced, the concurrent pursuit of these paths can provide countries and their rural populations with long-term economic and social benefits, as well as assist in fulfilling the growing global demand for materials and managing environmental issues.

The State of the World's Forests 2022 includes evidence on the paths' feasibility and value, as well as the first steps that may be made to pursue them further.

There is no time to waste; immediate action is required to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius, reduce the risk of future pandemics, ensure food security and nutrition for all, eradicate poverty, conserve the planet's biodiversity, and give young people hope for a better world and a better future.

Important Takeaways For All Competitive Exams:

- Headquarters of FAO: Rome, Lazio
- Director-General of FAO: Qu Dongyu
- Parent organization of FAO: United Nations Economic and Social Council

3. Nand Mulchandani named as 1st-ever chief tech officer of CIA

Indian-Origin, Nand Mulchandani has been appointed as the first-ever Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the first line of defence for the United States.

Prior to this, he served as the CTO and acting director of the Joint Artificial Intelligence Centre under the US Department of Defence. He served as the CEO of multiple successful startups like Oblix (acquired by Oracle), Determina, OpenDNS, and ScaleXtreme.

Mulchandani completed his schooling in Delhi. He studied at the Bluebells School International between 1979 and 1987 and then went to Cornell University for his undergraduate course in Computer Science and Math. He then went on to secure a Master of Science degree in Management from Stanford, and a Master in Public Administration degree from Harvard.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Central Intelligence Agency Founder: Harry S. Truman;
- Central Intelligence Agency Founded: 26 July 1947;
- Central Intelligence Agency Headquarters: Langley, McLean, Virginia, United States;
- Central Intelligence Agency Director: William J. Burns;
- Central Intelligence Agency Deputy Director: David S. Cohen.

4. RBI Monetary Policy: RBI hikes Repo Rate by 40 bps to 4.40 percent

In an unscheduled meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee, the central bank, however, retained the accommodative monetary policy. The sudden RBI move — the first hike after August 2018 — is expected to push up interest rates in the banking system. Equated monthly instalments (EMIs) on home, vehicle and other personal and corporate loans are likely to go up. Deposit rates, mainly fixed term rates, are also set to rise.

All six members of the MPC unanimously voted for a rate hike while maintaining the accommodative stance. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the decision was taken in view of rising inflation, geopolitical tensions, high crude oil prices and shortage of commodities globally, which have impacted the Indian economy.

Consequently, the various rates are as under:

- Policy Repo Rate: 4.40%

- Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)= 4.15%
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 4.65%
- Bank Rate: 4.65%
- CRR: 4.50% (Effective from May 21, 2022.)
- SLR: 18.00%

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikanta Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.

5. India ranked 21st in Chainalysis 2021 Cryptocurrency Gains by Country

According to the data released by crypto analytics firm Chainalysis, investors around the world realized total Crypto gains of \$162.7 billion in 2021, compared to \$32.5 billion in 2020.

This is 2nd consecutive data by Chainalysis. Ethereum is the most noteworthy gainer among the crypto assets. The report highlights that Ethereum edged out Bitcoin in total realized gains globally at \$76.3 billion to \$74.7 billion.

However, India ranked lowly at 21st with realized gains of around \$1.85 billion while it is topped by the United States with an estimated realized Crypto gain of \$49.95 billion.

The US is followed by the United Kingdom at 2nd with estimated realized Crypto gains of \$8.16 billion, Germany (\$5.82 billion), Japan (\$5.51 billion), and China (\$5.06 billion).

6. Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2022: India ranked 4th

The Times Higher Education (THE) has released the 2022 edition of its Impact Rankings. 8 Universities from India are placed in the top 300 universities in the world.

The ranking is topped by Western Sydney University (Australia); followed by Arizona State University (The US), Western University (Canada). This year, a record 1,524 institutions from 110 countries participated in the rankings. Australia's Western Sydney University secured the top position globally in the overall ranking.

India is the joint fourth most-represented nation across the rankings, with 64 universities featuring in total (the same number as Turkey).

In South Asia, India breaks through into the world's top 50, with Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham claiming 41st place in the overall table. Lovely Professional University makes the top 100 at joint 74th place in the overall table.

Calcutta University has been ranked first among all the central and state-aided public universities in the country by Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2022. Calcutta University grabbed 14th position globally in the 'Decent Work and Economic Growth' sub-category.

7. World Press Freedom Index 2022: India ranked 150th

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has released the 20th World Press Freedom Index 2022, which assesses the state of journalism in 180 countries and territories. The Index highlights the disastrous effects of news and information chaos – the effects of a globalised and unregulated online information space that encourages fake news and propaganda.

India's ranking in the Index has fallen down to 150th position from last year's 142nd rank.

The ranking of India's neighbours, except that of Nepal, has also slid down, with the index placing. Nepal has climbed up by 30 points in the global ranking at 76th position.

Pakistan at 157th position, Sri Lanka 146th, Bangladesh 162nd and Myanmar at 176th position.

Norway (1st) Denmark (2nd), Sweden (3rd) Estonia (4th) and Finland (5th) grabbed the top positions, while North Korea remained at the bottom of the list of the 180 countries and territories.

Russia was placed at 155th position, down from 150th last year, while China climbed up by two positions with the Reporters Without Borders placing it at 175th position. Last year, China was placed at 177th position.

The invasion of Ukraine (106th) by Russia (155th) at the end of February reflects this process, as the physical conflict was preceded by a propaganda war.

8. DD National Pet Show 'Best Friend Forever' Wins ENBA Award 2021

Doordarshan has won ENBA Award 2021 for the best in-depth Hindi series for its TV series based on pet care 'Best Friend Forever' at the 14th edition of the Exchange4media News Broadcasting Awards (ENBA). The show is aired every Sunday at 7 pm and is also available on the YouTube channel of DD National.

Best Friend Forever is a half-an-hour weekly live phone-in show on DD National, wherein two pet experts guide people on how to take care of their pets, about their food, nutrition, routine health check-ups, vaccination and other pet-related issues.

The objective of the show is to maintain a two-way communication where viewers can directly call and talk to the experts, and share their worries and experiences. From the first day, phone calls started pouring in from across the country. Apart from other age groups, youngsters and kids engage the most with the show.

The show also features stories which explain the unique relationship one develops with their pets and how pets not only take the modern-day stress away but are also life-savers.

9. IIT Bombay and IMD signed MOU to develop user-friendly weather forecasting app

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT Bombay) has partnered with the Ministry of Earth Sciences' India Meteorological Department (IMD) to develop climate solutions for stakeholders at the village, city, and district levels.

The partnership will aid the institute in the development of sensors and drone-based smart monitoring systems, climate-smart agriculture technology for water and food security,

intelligent and automated early warning systems, climate and health, smart power grid management, wind energy forecasting, and heat wave forecasting.

IIT Bombay is intending to build a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Climate Services and Solutions within the Interdisciplinary Program in Climate Studies (IDPCS), given the country's ambitious goal of reaching net zero by 2070.

"IDPCS at IIT Bombay was established in 2012 and has finished its 10-year journey with considerable financial backing from the Department of Science and Technology."

IIT Bombay's IDPCS is a fantastic effort that is critical for climate science research. Science is interdisciplinary in nature, involving mathematics, engineering solutions, and social sciences, among other disciplines, all of which are necessary to comprehend climate studies.

10. Khelo India University Games 2021 won by JAIN University

JAIN (Deemed-to-be University) with 20 gold, 7 silver and 5 bronze medals has won the 2nd edition of the Khelo India University Games 2021. Lovely Professional University (LPU) with 17 golds has placed second and Punjab University placed third with 15 gold medals.

Siva Sridhar has emerged as the star swimmer by winning 11 gold. The closing ceremony of KIUG was held at Sri Kanteerava Outdoor Stadium, Bengaluru. Veera was the mascot of KIUG 2021.

A total of 20 games were played and participated by 3900 students from 210 Universities in the second edition of the Khelo India University Games. The Games introduced indigenous sporting competitions such as Yogasana and Mallakhamba for the first time in the history of national sports.