

## **1. Operation Dost**

- India started "Operation Dost" to provide aid to Turkey and Syria after a terrible earthquake that has already claimed more than 12,000 lives.
- India deployed four C-17 Globemaster military transport planes with relief supplies, a mobile hospital, and specialised search and rescue personnel to Turkey on February 7.
- Additionally, India supplied aid to Syria aboard a C-130J aircraft of the Indian Air Force. Syria has received emergency medical supplies and equipment from India, including patient monitors, portable ECG machines, and other crucial medical supplies.
- Firat Sunel is a Turkish diplomat who serves as Ambassador to India.
- At the Hindon Airbase in Ghaziabad, where a C17 Globemaster aircraft from the Indian Air Force had just taken off to aid Turkey's earthquake victims, Firat Sunel delivered the statements.
- Union Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan.
- Since May 30, 2019, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, an Indian diplomat and politician, has been the government of India's minister of external affairs.

## **2. CAR T-Cell Therapy**

- CAR T-Cell therapy has recently been discovered to be an effective treatment for ovarian cancer. When the treatment was tested on mice, it was successful. The immune-suppressive characteristics of cancer cells in the ovary presented a significant challenge for researchers. This contest has been won by the recently developed CAR T-Cell treatment. The CD3 chain is altered as part of the treatment.

## What is CAR T-Cell Therapy:-

- A novel form of cancer treatment called CAR-T therapy kills cancer cells by stimulating the immune system. Where other therapies have failed, it has occasionally been able to heal patients.
- CAR-T therapy works by removing some T cells from your blood, genetically modifying them in a lab so they are much better at locating and eliminating cancer cells, and then reintroducing them into your blood to fight the cancer. T cells are blood cells that help to protect you from infection and disease.

## **3. NASA selects Joe Acaba to serve as its Chief Astronaut:-**

- Veteran astronaut Joe Acaba has been chosen by NASA to lead the Astronaut Office at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. Acaba, the first person of Hispanic descent chosen to oversee the office, is a decorated veteran of several space missions, a former U.S. Marine, a former educator, and a former teacher.
- Acaba served as a mission specialist on the STS-119 mission of the space shuttle Discovery and as a flight engineer on Expeditions 31 and 32 in 2012, as well as Expeditions 53 and 54 in 2017–2018, all while spending 306 days in space. He participated in three spacewalks during that period to build and upgrade the space station, and he helped facilitate the May 2012 arrival of SpaceX's Dragon, the first commercial resupply vehicle.
- The government of the United States has entrusted NASA with overseeing all air and space-related research and technology. The Soviet satellite Sputnik was launched in 1957, ushering in the Space Age. In 1958, NASA was founded. The organisation was established to manage American research in aeronautics and space exploration.

#### **4. Pudhumai Penn Scheme:-**

- To increase the enrollment of females from government schools in higher education institutions, the Tamil Nadu government has introduced the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance Scheme. Through this programme, ladies will receive financial support in the amount of Rs. 1000 each month till they have finished their UG degree, diploma, ITI, or other accredited course. The incentive sum will be paid out in accordance with this plan immediately into the student's bank account.

#### **5. Digital Payments Utsav:-**

- A three-month campaign called "Digital Payments Utsav" aims to hasten the adoption of digital payments across the nation. All ecosystem participants, including banks, payment service providers, and central, state, and local governments are urged to work together to provide convenient digital payment options for all customers and business owners.
- The Digital Payments Utsav will be introduced by Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw.
- It is to be held in Lucknow, Pune, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru
- The Utsav's primary emphasis will be the G20 and its operations.

#### **6. India is building border infrastructure and enhancing connections with its friendly neighbours due to China's worries.**

- According to S. Jaishankar, minister of external affairs, India's connectivity initiatives with Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Myanmar have advanced as a result of its "clear" worries about the Chinese border.

- According to the Union minister, work started last month on the important 135 km Chushul-Dungti-Fukche-Demchok route in the Ladakh area. Earlier than expected and in record time, he said, 16 crucial passes needed to keep soldiers along the China border were opened, saving a lot of money on air support for remote locations.

## **Sela Tunnel**

- Between Guwahati in Assam and Tawang, Sela Tunnel, a road tunnel now under construction measuring 3,000 metres (9,800 feet), will provide all-weather connection.
- The tunnel would provide the Indian Army with all-weather access to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) close to Tawang.

## **Line of Actual Control (LAC)**

- In the Sino-Indian border dispute, the Line of Actual Sovereignty (LAC) is a hypothetical line that divides land under Chinese and Indian control. boundaries of patrolling.

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## **7. Reserve bank of India(RBI):- Repo Rate**

- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), at its meeting today (February 8, 2023) decided to: Increase the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 25 basis points to 6.50 percent with immediate effect. This decision was made based on an assessment of the current and changing macroeconomic situation.

## **8. Kalaingar Pen Monument:-**

*The planned "Muthamizh Arignar Dr Kalaingar Pen Monument" off Marina beach is subject to coastal regulation under Section 4(ii)(j) of the Union Environment*

*Ministry's Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011. It is located within CRZs IA, II, and IVA (amended up to March 22, 2016)*

- The M. Karunanidhi Pen Memorial is an homage to him.
- The image of a monument floating on the water comes from Karunanidhi's comparison of himself to a metaphorical catamaran.
- After completion, the 360-meter-off-the-coast Pen Monument, which cost Rs 81 crore, is anticipated to become a landmark in Chennai.

## **About Muthuvel Karunanidhi**

- Between 1969 and 2011, Karunanidhi, a politician and writer from India, had five consecutive terms as Tamil Nadu's chief minister for over two decades.
- For his contributions to Tamil literature, he was known as Mutthamizh Arignar (Tamil Scholar) and Kalaigarnar (Artist).
- With 6,863 days in power, he held the record for the longest chief ministerial term in Tamil Nadu.
- With 13 victories since his first victory in 1957, Karunanidhi holds the record for never losing an election for the Tamil Nadu Assembly.

## **9. QR code-based Coin Vending Machine**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is putting up a pilot project on QR code-based Coin Vending Machines (QCVM) in partnership with a few top banks to enhance how coins are distributed to the general people.
- "The QCVM is a cashless coin dispensing machine that will deliver coins against a debit to the customer's bank account utilising Unified Payments Interface (UPI),"

- In contrast to typical cash-based coin vending machines, the QCVM would do away with the requirement for authenticating and physically presenting banknotes. Customers will also have the choice to withdraw coins from QCVMs in the necessary amounts and denominations.

**According to the Keeladi report, the Sangam age was 800 BCE.**

- In Tamil Nadu, there is a hamlet called Keeladi that is close to Madurai. It is situated near the River Vaigai's banks.
- The Archaeological Survey of India and the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology are currently excavating a Sangam era village at Keezhadi.
- K. Amarnath Ramakrishna was discovered Keeladi in 2014
- Between 300 BCE and 300 CE was thought to be the Sangam era. The Sangam age is now placed between 800 BCE and 300 CE in the latest research.

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