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ADDAPEDIA

## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

06 May 2024

### National and International News

#### Integrated Pensioners' Portal

#### Why in news?

- The Centre has started an **Integrated Pensioners' Portal** in collaboration with **Bank of India**.
- The portal combines the pension processing and payment services of five banks into a single window.

#### Key points:

- The platform has been launched to digitalise pension services and enhance the welfare of pensioners.
- **Retirees can access:**
  - 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 digitisation 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.



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### Atlas V rocket and Starliner

#### Why in news?

- 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**.

#### Key points:

- 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.**
- 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 a period of 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 **specialised bodies to handle disputes related to GST**, providing a **timely and efficient resolution mechanism**.



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**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**.

**International Election Visitors' Programme (IEVP)**

**Why in news?**

- **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**.

**About IEVP:**

- 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**, the **transparency and accessibility** of the electoral system.

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