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20 July 2024

National and International News

Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI) program

Why in the news?

- The **Union Minister for Youth Affairs** is set to give a fresh boost to the Government's ambitious **Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI) program**.

About KIRTI Program:

- **Target Audience:** School children aged 9 to 18 years.
- **Main Objectives:**
 - **Talent Hunt:** Identify talent from every part of the country.
 - **Curb Addictions:** Use sports to reduce addiction to drugs and gadgetry distractions.
- **Launch Details:**
 - **Initial Launch:** Rolled out across 50 centres in India.
 - **First Phase:** Assessing 50,000 applicants across 10 sports, including athletics, boxing, wrestling, hockey, and football.
- **Assessment Goals:**
 - **Nation-wide Assessments:** Aim to conduct 20 lakh assessments in FY 2024-25.
 - **Talent Identification:** Utilize notified Talent Assessment Centres for evaluations.
- **Selection Methodology:**
 - **Transparency:** Emphasis on transparent selection processes.
 - **Technology Integration:** Use of Information Technology for selection.
 - **AI and Data Analytics:** Employ AI-based data analytics to predict athletic potential.
- **Decentralized Approach:**
 - **Pocket-based Talent Identification:** Focus on localized talent identification.
 - **Khelo India Scheme Objectives:** Align with the goals of achieving excellence in sports and encouraging mass participation.



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<p>The Voicebox Programme</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) has partnered with Netflix India to launch "The Voicebox," an upskilling program for voice-over artists in India. <p>About The Voicebox Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Training for Voice-over Artists: Languages Covered<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ English○ Hindi○ Marathi○ Bengali○ Malayalam○ Tamil○ Telugu○ Gujarati• Eligibility:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Open to professionals with more than two years of experience in the media and entertainment sector.○ Preference given to women.• Funding:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Sponsored by the Netflix Fund for Creative Equity.○ \$100 million per year over five years dedicated to supporting underrepresented communities in TV and film industries globally.• Participant Details:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Each batch accommodates up to 30 candidates.○ 210 participants selected through preliminary screening.○ At least 50% of participants will be women.• Training Partner: Pearl Academy, India's leading design institute.• Special Project:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Seven top participants from each batch will contribute to Netflix's project, "Azaadi ki Amrit Kahaniya".○ They will narrate stories reflecting the Indian independence movement.
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UN Water Convention

Why in the news?

- **Ivory Coast** recently joined the **United Nations Water Convention**, becoming the **10th African nation to do so**.

About UN Water Convention:

- **Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes:**
 - **Adopted:** Helsinki, 1992
 - **Entered into force:** 1996
 - **Known as:** Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
- **Purpose:**
 - **Legally binding instrument promoting:**
 - Sustainable management of shared water resources
 - Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
 - Prevention of conflicts
 - Promotion of peace and regional integration
- **History and Accession:**
 - Originally a **regional framework for the pan-European region**.
 - Amendments **allowed all UN Member States to accede from March 2016**.
- **Requirements for Parties:**
 - Prevent, control, and reduce transboundary impact
 - Use transboundary waters in a reasonable and equitable way
 - Ensure sustainable management of transboundary waters
 - Cooperate through specific agreements and joint bodies for shared waters
- **Framework Agreement:**
 - Does not replace bilateral and multilateral agreements
 - Fosters establishment, implementation, and further development of agreements.



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<p>Last Common (LUCA)</p> <p>Universal Ancestor</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scientists in a new study suggest that the Last Universal Common Ancestor (LUCA) could have formed just a few hundred million years after the Earth was formed. <p>About LUCA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• LUCA (Last Universal Common Ancestor):<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Hypothesized common ancestor of all modern cellular life.○ Descendants include single-celled organisms (bacteria) and complex organisms (redwood trees, humans).• Significance: Represents the root of the tree of life before splitting into Bacteria, Archaea, and Eukarya.• Common Features:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Same amino acids used for protein synthesis in all cellular organisms.○ Shared energy currency (ATP).○ Presence of cellular machinery like the ribosome for protein synthesis from DNA information.○ Universal use of DNA for information storage.• Timeline: Existed about 4.2 billion years ago, 400 million years after Earth and Solar System formation.• Characteristics:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Similar to modern prokaryotes.○ Possessed an early immune system.• Research Methods: Genetic analysis and evolutionary modeling pinpointed LUCA's existence.
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Enemy Property in India

Why in the news?

- The **Indian government** has **started auctioning properties classified as 'enemy properties'**.

About Enemy Property in India:

- Enemy property includes **immovable and movable assets left behind by people who took citizenship of Pakistan and China after leaving India** during the **partition and post the 1962 and 1965 wars**.
- **Assets** include **real estate, bank accounts, shares, gold, and other valuables**.
- **Custodian of Enemy Property for India (CEPI):**
 - The CEPI is an authority created under the **Enemy Property Act, 1968**.
 - It is responsible for managing enemy properties in India.
- **Enemy Property Act, 1968:** Established the framework for managing properties of individuals who migrated to Pakistan and China.
- **Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2017:**
 - Stated that **successors of those who migrated to Pakistan and China have no claim over the properties left behind in India**.
 - Ensured that the **law of succession does not apply to enemy property**.
 - Prohibited the transfer of any property vested in the custodian by an enemy, enemy subject, or enemy firm.
 - Mandated that the custodian preserve enemy property until its disposal as per the Act's provisions.
- **Statistics:**
 - There are 13,252 enemy properties in India, valued at over Rs 1 lakh crore.
 - Most properties belong to people who migrated to Pakistan; over 100 belong to those who migrated to China.
- **State-wise Distribution:**
 - **Uttar Pradesh:** 5,982 enemy properties.
 - **West Bengal:** 4,354 enemy properties.



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