



15 June 2024

National and 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 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></ul>




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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Robert Langer</b> from MIT was recognized for nano-engineering materials for 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> <li>● <b>Chad Mirkin</b> from Northwestern University was honored for introducing spherical nucleic acids (SNAs), with applications in intracellular detection, gene regulation, and immunotherapy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>CCRAS-NIIMH, Hyderabad</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The <b>National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH), located in Hyderabad</b> and operating under the <b>Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Ministry of Ayush,</b> has been designated as a <b>WHO Collaborating Centre (CC) for "Fundamental and Literary Research in Traditional Medicine"</b> (CC IND-177) by the <b>World Health Organization (WHO).</b></li> <li>● This recognition, valid for <b>four years starting from June 3, 2024,</b> marks NIIMH as the <b>first WHO Collaborating Centre for such research.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● NIIMH's role as a WHO Collaborating Centre includes assisting WHO in <b>standardizing terminologies for Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, and Sowa-Rigpa,</b> and updating the Traditional Medicine Module-II for the Eleventh edition of the <b>International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11).</b></li> <li>● The Centre will also support Member States in developing research methodologies for Traditional Medicine.</li> <li>● The WHO Collaborating Centre for <b>"Fundamental and Literary Research in Traditional Medicine"</b> will be led by Prof. Vaidya Rabinarayan Acharya, Director General, CCRAS, along with a dedicated team in coordination with the <b>Literary and Fundamental Research team of CCRAS Headquarters.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Established in <b>1956,</b> NIIMH is a unique institution dedicated to documenting and showcasing medico-historical research in various healthcare disciplines, including <b>Ayurveda, Yoga</b></li> </ul>



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	<p>Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, Homoeopathy, Biomedicine, and others in India.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NIIMH has been involved in various <b>digital initiatives</b>, such as the <b>AMAR Portal</b>, which catalogs <b>16,000 Ayush manuscripts</b>, the <b>SAHI Portal</b> showcasing <b>793 medico-historical artifacts</b>, and the <b>Ayush Research Portal</b> indexing <b>42,818 published Ayush research articles</b>.</li> <li>• The Institute also houses more than <b>500 physical manuscripts</b>, alongside the <b>Medical Heritage Museum and Library</b>, featuring rare books and manuscripts dating back to the <b>15th century AD</b>.</li> <li>• Additionally, the Journal of <b>Indian Medical Heritage</b> is published by NIIMH.</li> </ul>
<p><b>World Blood Donor Day</b></p> 	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This year, the theme is <b>"20 years of celebrating giving: thank you, blood donors!"</b> marking the <b>20th anniversary of the event</b>.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Hawkish economic policy</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With the upcoming presidential election in November, the <b>Federal Reserve, America's central bank, has made it clear that it is not eager to quickly lower interest rates</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Hawkish economic policy, embraced by central banks and economic policymakers</b>, emphasizes the importance of curbing inflation, often at the expense of other economic objectives such as full employment or economic expansion.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those who adhere to a hawkish stance tend to <b>advocate</b></li> </ul>



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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.

### 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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