



15 June 2024

National and International News

<p>Nagastra-1</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Indian Army has recently acquired the Nagastra-1, a groundbreaking addition to its arsenal, marking the introduction of high-precision, man-portable suicide drones.• These drones, developed by EEL, boast a range of approximately 30 kilometers and can execute GPS-enabled precise hits with a remarkable accuracy of two meters. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nagastra-1, a UAV-based system, operates like an aerial ambush and can abort an attack if necessary, ensuring safe retrieval.• It is named a loitering munition due to its ability to hover above the target.• In "Kamikaze mode," it can neutralize any hostile threat with GPS-enabled precision strike, achieving an accuracy of 2 meters.• Nagastra-1 is the first indigenized weapon of its class, capable of hovering in the air and striking when the target arrives.
<p>Kavli Prize</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The 2024 Kavli Prize, distinct from the Kavli Medal, honored eight winners for their contributions to astrophysics, neuroscience, and nanoscience.• This prestigious award, named after Norwegian-American businessman Fred Kavli, mirrors the Nobel Prize in recognizing groundbreaking scientific achievements. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Kavli Prize, first awarded in 2008 and given biennially, includes a \$1 million cash prize per field, a scroll, and a 7 cm diameter medal.• The 2024 winners include David Charbonneau and Sara Seager from Harvard University and MIT, respectively, for their discoveries and characterization of exoplanets and their atmospheres.



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



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



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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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