

DESCRIPTIVE SESSION**❖ International Animation Day**

- International Animation Day is celebrated on 28 October every year. It was in this year when the International Animated Film Association (ASIFA) declared International Animation Day (IAD) as a worldwide occasion to commend the speciality of animation.
- The International Film Association established International Animation Day in 2002, honouring the birth of animation, recognized as the first public performance of projected moving images at Emile Reynaud's Theatre Optique in Paris, on the 28th October 1892.

❖ Govt. appoints Sangeeta Verma as acting chairperson of CCI

- The government appointed Sangeeta Verma as the acting chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
- The appointment follows full-time Chairperson Ashok Kumar Gupta demitting office.

❖ Shefali Juneja named as chairperson of UN's Air Transport Committee

- India's representative to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Shefali Juneja has been elected as the chairperson of the United Nations' specialized aviation agency's Air Transport Committee (ATC).
- India secured this position in ICAO after 28 years.
- International Civil Aviation Organization Headquarters: Montreal, Canada; President: Salvatore Sciacchitano; Founded: 7 December 1944.

❖ RRR wins Best International Film award at 50th Saturn Awards

- RRR has won the Best International Film award at the 2022 Saturn Awards. The movie has been directed by SS Rajamouli.
- Prior to this, SS Rajamouli had received Saturn Awards for Baahubali: The Conclusion.
- Saturn Awards:
 - a) It is awarded for Best in genre fiction film, television and home media releases
 - b) Country: United States
 - c) Presented by: Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Films
 - d) The award was created in 1973.

❖ **Swadesh Chatterjee presented with the highest award by the US state of North Carolina**

- Eminent Indian-American entrepreneur and activist Swadesh Chatterjee has been presented with the highest award by the US state of North Carolina.
- Swadesh Chatterjee is known for his immense contribution to strengthening the US-India relationship over the past three decades.
- North Carolina's Governor Ray Cooper presented the Order of the Long Leaf Pine to Swadesh Chatterjee, 75, at a ceremony in Cary, a town in the state.

❖ **Two new Indian beaches from Lakshadweep receive Blue Flag certification**

- Two beaches from Lakshadweep — Minicoy Thundi Beach and Kadmat Beach has been added to the list of 'Blue Beaches' by the Foundation for Environment Education (FEE).
- The number of beaches certified under this Blue Flag certification now stands at 12 in India.
- Blue Beaches is an eco-label given to the cleanest beaches in the world.
- Both the beaches comply with all the 33 criteria as mandated by the Foundation for Environment Education (FEE).
- The Thundi Beach is one of the most pristine and picturesque beaches in the Lakshadweep archipelago where white sand is lined by turquoise blue water of the lagoon.
- The other Indian beaches in the blue list are Shivrajpur-Gujarat, Ghoghla-Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri-Karnataka, Kappad-Kerala, Rushikonda- Andhra Pradesh, Golden-Odisha, Radhanagar- Andaman and Nicobar, Kovalam in Tamil Nadu and Eden in Puducherry beaches.

❖ **Solar-Powered Village Modhera Becomes India's 1st Net-Zero Energy Community**

- India's first solar-powered village Modhera in the Mehsana district of Gujarat has become India's first 'net-zero' energy community by meeting its 100% energy requirements using onsite solar power.
- This was achieved as a result of Project Suryagram(Sun Village).
- As a part of the project, 1 kilowatt(KW) of solar panels were installed on the roof of every household in Modhera in 2 phases. The first phase of the project was initiated in February 2022 and the solarisation of Modhera was completed in August 2022.
- The project made Modhera India's first 24×7 solar-powered village.

❖ Delhi Airport Emerges as World's 10th Busiest Airport: OAG's Report

- According to the report published by OAG Aviation Worldwide Limited in October 2022, Delhi Airport also known as Indira Gandhi International Airport or IGI Airport in New Delhi, Delhi has been named the world's 10th busiest global airport by seats. The Delhi airport has improved to 10th position (with 3413855 seats) from its 14th position in October 2019.
- In October 2022, Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America (USA) remained the world's busiest airport.
- Following Atlanta, Dubai International and Tokyo International Airport (Haneda Airport) have secured the 2nd and 3rd rank respectively.

❖ GM mustard

- Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) recently approved commercial cultivation of genetically modified mustard variety DMH (Dhara Mustard Hybrid)-11.
- The approval will make GM mustard only the second approved transgenic crop in India after Bt cotton, and the first such food crop that can be commercially cultivated by farmers. The GEAC approval is valid for the next four years.
- Though the GEAC had cleared the proposal in 2017, the Ministry had vetoed it and suggested that the GEAC hold more studies on the GM crop. The recommendation will now again go for the approval of the Environment Ministry.
- Hybridisation involves crossing two genetically dissimilar plant varieties that can even be from the same species. The first-generation (F1) offspring from such crosses tend to have higher yields than what either parent can individually give.
- Scientists at Delhi University's Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants (CGMCP) have developed the hybrid mustard DMH-11 containing two alien genes isolated from a soil bacterium called *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*.
- The CGMCP scientists have deployed the barnase-barstar GM technology to create a robust and viable hybridisation system in mustard. This system was used to develop DMH-11 by crossing a popular Indian mustard variety 'Varuna' (the barnase line) with an East European 'Early Heera-2' mutant (barstar).
- DMH-11 is claimed to have shown an average 28% yield increase over Varuna.
- The move is seen as giving a boost to cultivation of mustard and eventually reducing the country's edible oils import bills.
- India had to import edible oil worth nearly \$19 billion in 2021-22. Though mustard is cultivated in India in around seven million hectares of land, the per

hectare yield of current variety is very low at 1-1.2 tonnes per hectare compared to the global average of around 2.3-3 tonnes.

❖ **‘World’s dirtiest man’ Amou Haji passes away**

- Amou Haji, an Iranian man dubbed the “dirtiest man in the world, “ passed away at the age of 94.
- He was so-called because he had not washed for almost 70 years and he believed that staying dirty kept him alive for so long. Owing to his unique record, a short documentary titled ‘The Strange Life of Amou Haji’ was made in 2013, describing his life.
- In 2009 the Hindustan Times reported that Kailash “Kalau” Singh, from a village outside the holy city of Varanasi, had not washed for more than 30 years in an attempt to help end “all the problems confronting the nation”.