

NEWS TODAY

MINISTRY OF AYUSH AND WHO SIGNS HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENT FOR WHO GLOBAL CENTRE OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE (GCTM)

- WHO GCTM, first and only centre across globe, will be **established in Jamnagar (Gujarat)**.

➤ GCTM aims to **harness the potential of traditional medicine (TM) from across the world through modern science and technology** to improve the health of people and planet.

- **Benefits of GCTM:**

- **focus on building solid evidence base for policies and standards** on TM practices and products
- **help countries integrate TM** as appropriate into their health systems
- **regulate TM quality and safety** for optimal and sustainable impact
- **help harness the power of science** to strengthen the evidence base for TM

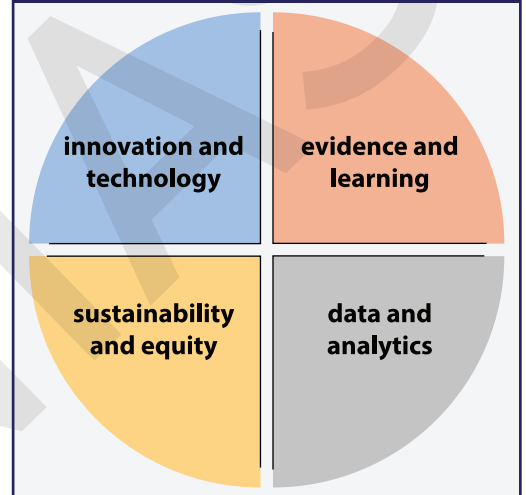
- As per WHO, TM refers to **knowledge, skills and practises based on theories, beliefs and experiences indigenous to different cultures**, used in the maintenance of health and in prevention, diagnosis, improvement or treatment of physical and mental illness.

➤ Its reach encompasses ancient **practices such as acupuncture, ayurvedic medicine and herbal mixtures as well as modern medicines**.

- **TM in India:**

- Composed of **Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)** and **Sowa Rigpa**.
- **Steps taken to promote TM:** National AYUSH Mission, Scheme for Voluntary Certification of Yoga Professionals; Yoga Certification Board (YCB); AYUSH Information Cell etc.

4 MAIN STRATEGIC AREAS OF GCTM



AUSTRALIA DECLARES 'MASS BLEACHING' AT GREAT BARRIER REEF (GBR)

- It is reported that **GBR, which is the world's largest coral reef system is suffering a "mass bleaching event, the fourth since 2016"**.

➤ GBR has suffered three mass bleaching events during heatwaves in **2016, 2017 and 2020**.

- GBR stretches for more than 2,300 kilometres along the **northeast coast of Australia**.

➤ It was declared a **World Heritage Area in 1981** because of its '**outstanding universal value**'.

➤ This reef structure is composed of and **built by billions of tiny organisms, known as coral polyps**.

- **Bleaching occurs** when healthy corals become **stressed by spikes in ocean temperatures, causing them to expel algae living in their tissues, which drains them of their vibrant colours**.

➤ This is **despite the cooling effect of the La Nina weather phenomenon** which is currently influencing Australia's climate.

- **About Corals**

➤ Coral reefs are **large colonies of invertebrate, tiny soft-bodied animal called Coral polyps**, that lives in symbiotic relationship (mutually beneficial) with small algae like organism called zooxanthellae.

➤ Coral polyps provide protection to zooxanthellae in return of nutrient. **Zooxanthellae also provide them the colourful hues**.

- **India has 4 coral reef areas:** Gulf of Mannar, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep islands and Gulf of Kutch.



- Coral reefs are some of the most **bio diverse and productive ecosystems**.

• They act as **natural barriers to shorelines**, protecting them from damage and flooding from storms, hurricanes, and cyclones.



STATES TOO CAN DECLARE RELIGIOUS OR LINGUISTIC COMMUNITY AS MINORITY: GOVERNMENT

- Central government has told the Supreme Court (SC) that certain States, **where Hindus or other communities are less in number, can declare them as minorities within their own territories**, to enable them to set up and administer their own institutions.
- Centre's response came in a **plea seeking minority status for Hindus in states** (Mizoram, Punjab etc.) **in accordance with the principle laid down by the SC in its TMA Pai ruling (2002)**.
 - In TMA Pai Case, SC said, **for the purposes of Article 30, religious and linguistic minorities have to be considered state-wise**.
- The centre has clarified that under the Constitution, **both Parliament and state legislatures "have concurrent powers to enact law** to provide for the protection of minorities and their interests".
- Currently, **only those communities notified under section 2(c) of the National Minorities Commission Act, 1992, by the central government are regarded as minorities**.
 - They are **Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains**.

Constitution on minorities

- Though **not defined** in the constitution, **expression "minorities" appears in Article 29, 30 and 350 (A)**
- Article 29**, which deals with the **"Protection of interests of minorities"** while **Article 30** deals with the **"right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions"**.
- Article 350(A)** says there shall be a **Special Officer for linguistic minorities** to be appointed by the President whose duty is to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities.

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (CEPA) BETWEEN INDIA AND UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE) UNVEILED

- India-UAE CEPA was unveiled by Ministry of Commerce and Industry in UAE and is **expected to enter into force on 01 May 2022**.
 - It was **signed in February 2022** during the India-UAE Virtual Summit.
 - It is the **first deep and full free trade Agreement** to be signed by India with any country in the past decade.
 - It will cover **Trade in Goods, Rules of Origin, Trade in Services, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, Dispute Settlement etc.**
- Significance of CEPA:**
 - India will benefit from **preferential market access provided by the UAE**, as regards to trade in services.
 - Help Indian exporters gain access to West Asian countries, Africa etc.** through UAE.
 - UAE is a **gateway to all of Africa and many other parts of the world**.
 - Expected to **raise bilateral merchandise trade to \$100 billion in five years** from about \$43 billion in FY21.
- India-UAE relations:**
 - UAE is **India's third largest trading partner** (2019-20) after China and US and second-largest export destination.
 - Both countries have maritime cooperation to maintain peace and security** in the region through regular military exercises like Desert Eagle.
 - UAE has the highest number of Indian diaspora** (3.5 million) contributing high remittances to India (\$17.06 billion in 2019).
 - Space collaboration** as ISRO launched UAE's 1st nanosatellite **Nayif-1**.

Types of Trade agreements:

- Free Trade Agreement (FTA):** Agreement where two or more countries agree to provide preferential trade terms, tariff concession etc. to the partner country.
 - A **negative list of products and services is maintained** on which the terms of FTA are not applicable.
 - It is more comprehensive than a preferential trade agreement.
- Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA):** Both are more comprehensive than an FTA.
 - CEPA covers negotiation on trade in services and investment**, and other areas of economic partnership like trade facilitation and customs cooperation, competition, and IPR.
 - CECA generally covers negotiation on trade tariff and Tariff quotas rates only**. It is not as comprehensive as CEPA.

INDIA'S SPACE ECONOMY VALUED AT RS. 36, 795 CRORE

- A first of its kind attempt, valuation study on Indian space economy has been conducted by **Centre for Development Studies (CDS) and Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST)** jointly.
- Space Economy is the **'full range of activities and use of resources that create value and benefits to human beings** in course of exploring, researching, understanding, managing, and utilising space'.
- Importance of Space Economy as shown by the report**
 - Space applications accounted for the major chunk of the evolving economy**, constituting 73.57% of it in 2020-21, followed by **space operations (22.31%) and manufacturing (4.12%)**.
 - Size of India's space economy, **as a percentage of the GDP, has slipped from 0.26% in 2011-12 to 0.19% in 2020-21**.
 - Globally, in relation to GDP, India accounts for only about 2% of space economy**
 - India's spending is more than that of China, Germany, Italy and Japan, but **less than the U.S. and Russia**.
- Steps taken to promote Space Economy by India**
 - Independent nodal agency, **IN-SPACE (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre** under Department of Space for allowing space activities.
 - Set up New Space India Limited (NSIL)** to meet increasing demands of Indian space programme and commercially exploit emerging global space market.
 - Drafting of SpaceCom and SpaceRS policies** to liberalise traditional satellite communication and remote sensing sectors respectively.
 - Launching of **Agnikul and Skyroot**, space-based startups, to access facilities and expertise in developing and testing Space Launch Vehicle subsystems and systems.

INDIA POISED TO TURN INTO A WEB3 HUB

- Entrepreneurs, software developers and startups in India will **play a critical role in building global apps and platforms for Web3**, hiring trends reveal.

➤ Also, **India is positioned uniquely to take the benefits from Web3** as it has a large pool of startups, developers, and one of the largest internet consumers markets in the world

- Web3, or Web 3.0, represents the **third generation of the internet**. It uses **blockchain-based technologies to create a decentralized version of the web**.

Benefits of Web3

- **More reliable** as its decentralised nature removes the occurrence of a single-point failure.
- **Bigger corporations may no longer control** any aspect of the internet.
- **Increased personalisation** of the internet.
- **Provide uninterrupted services** as it enables **peer to peer (seller to buyer) transaction** by eliminating the role of the intermediary.
- **Create more jobs and opportunities** and will enhance the economy.

Challenges in Web3 space:






- **lack of data standard** for controlling over metadata and data privacy.
- **decentralisation could add to difficulties in monitoring and regulating** Web 3.0. leading to a rise in cybercrimes, online abuse etc.
- **Lack of legal clarity** around Cryptocurrency, NFTs etc.
- **Discerning true intentions and potential of projects** in a new industry

THREE STAGES OF INTERNET CONSUMPTION

	Web1	Web2	Web3
Time period*	1990-2005	2005-till date	2021 -
Where data is stored	Server's file system	On-premise/Cloud	Blockchain, distributed across multiple networks
Examples	Static web pages	User generated content like Social media, and web applications like e-commerce etc...	NFTs, cryptocurrency transaction
Who owns data	Companies running the webpages	Companies that host application, cloud service providers	No one owns the data
Transacting	No transaction possible	Payment gateways for currency transactions	Transaction happens using crypto tokens

ALSO IN NEWS

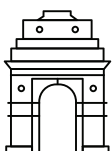
<p>Bucharest Nine (B9)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bucharest Nine rejected the Russian claim about the eastward "expansion" of NATO. B9 is a group of 9 NATO countries in Eastern Europe that became part of the US-led military alliance after end of Cold War. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It was founded in 2015, and takes its name from Bucharest, the capital of Romania. ➤ All members of B9 are part of European Union (EU) and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). ➤ B9 members are Romania, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and three Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.
<p>Finance Bill, 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lok Sabha has passed the Finance Bill 2022 which gives effect to new tax framework, including crypto assets. Key Features of the Bill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Define virtual digital assets (VDA) to levy 30% tax on income from all transfers of such assets. ➤ Loss from one VDA cannot be set-off against income from another VDA. ➤ Deduction of surcharge and cess will be deemed to be under-reported income and will attract a 50% penalty.
<p>Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabinet approved extension of PM-GKAY for another 6 months (April-September, 2022). PMGKAY was launched by Ministry of Finance in 2020, to help poor people to fight against covid pandemic. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It aimed at providing free additional 5 kg food-grains per month to beneficiaries covered under National Food Security Act, 2013. ➤ All ration card holders and those identified by the Antyodaya Anna Yojana scheme can avail benefits of the scheme. ➤ Food Corporation of India (FCI) is nodal agency for procurement and distribution of food-grains.
<p>Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DRDO successfully flight tested Indian Army version of MRSAM at Chandipur, Odisha This MRSAM version is a Surface-to-Air Missile developed jointly by India and Israel for use by the Indian Army. About MRSAM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is a high response, quick reaction, vertically launched supersonic missile, designed to neutralize enemy aerial threats – missiles, aircraft, guided bombs, helicopters. ➤ It is used by the Army, Navy (Tested successfully in 2019) and Air Force (inducted in 2021) as different variants.

 <p>Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is an initiative by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and has been recently launched in Chandigarh. • ICCC acts as the “nerve center” for operations management, day-to-day exception handling and disaster management. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Smart Cities project provides for developing 100 citizen-friendly and self-sustainable urban settlements, includes setting up ICCCs for each city as a vital step. • A unique feature is real time data visualisation which is then analysed by for the administration to take corrective steps. For eg. about spread of a particular disease in an area.
 <p>Earth Hour</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized by: World Wildlife Fund (WWF). • It is celebrated annually on March 26th globally and this year's theme was 'Shape Our Future'. • It encourages individuals, households, communities and businesses to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour as a symbol for their commitment to the planet. • WWF is an international non-governmental organization, established in 1961 and headquartered at Gland, Switzerland.
 <p>Endosymbiosis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The endosymbiotic hypothesis for the origin of mitochondria (and chloroplasts) suggests that mitochondria are descended from specialized bacteria (probably purple nonsulfur bacteria). • Endosymbiosis is an intense form of symbiosis when one of the organisms is captured and internalized by the other. • Mitochondria are dubbed the power houses of the cell, because they help in generating energy in the form of Adenosine Triphosphate (ATP) within the cell, powering it.
 <p>Bamiyan Buddhas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taliban are preserving Bamiyan buddhas, with eye to China investment. • About Bamiyan Buddhas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is situated in the Hindu Kush in the central highlands of Afghanistan. ➤ Bamiyan Buddhas date back to the 5th century AD and were once the tallest standing Buddhas in the world. ➤ They were locally known as Salsal and Shamama. ➤ They were great examples of a confluence of Gupta, Sassanian and Hellenistic artistic styles. ➤ In 2001, Taliban began blowing up the two statues. ➤ Following this, UNESCO included the remains in its list of World Heritage Sites in 2003.
 <p>Bangalore Rose Onion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangalore Rose onion received the Geographical Indication tag in 2015. • It is a unique variety of onion that is found only in and around Bangalore, Karnataka. • It is also known as gulabieerulli. • It has flat base bulb, spherically shaped, deep scarlet red colour, high pungency and packed with phenols and anthocyanins. • It has higher levels of protein, phosphorous, iron and carotene.

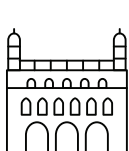
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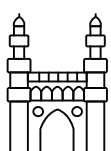
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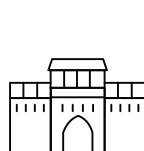
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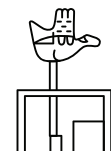
HYDERABAD



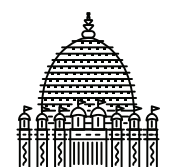
PUNE



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CHANDIGARH



GUWAHATI