

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 11, 2023

STATES

- **Santiniketan in West Bengal - has been recommended to be included in the UNESCO World Heritage List by an international advisory body to the UN, the International Council on Monuments and Sites**



- ✓ The place is popularly associated with the great Nobel Laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore, as it is here that Tagore built Visva-Bharati over a century ago.
- ✓ Santiniketan has been nominated as the only living heritage university as, even today, open-air classes are conducted here under the tree.
- ✓ In September, at the World Heritage Committee meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, a formal announcement of the decision is expected
- ✓ Santiniketan will become Bengal's third and India's 41st heritage site if it gets the UNESCO World Heritage tag.
- ✓ Darjeeling Himalayan Railways and Sundarbans National Park are the other two heritage sites in Bengal that already have the tag

- ✓ Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), which is responsible for the conservation and protection of monuments, is the nodal authority for making nominations to UNESCO

NATIONAL

- On May 10, the New Delhi bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) - granted bankruptcy protection to 'Go First' airlines



- ✓ The low-cost carrier had filed for bankruptcy after reporting loss due to "faulty" Pratt & Whitney engines that grounded about half its 54 Airbus A320neos.
- ✓ On the other hand, the US engine maker said that the claims were made without evidence
- ✓ This is the first time an Indian airline has voluntarily applied for bankruptcy protection to renegotiate its contracts and debt
- ✓ The bankruptcy proceedings against Go First airline will take place as per the process stated under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy code of India, 2016.
- ✓ The NCLT has appointed Abhilash Lal of Alvarez & Marsal as the interim resolution professional to take over the management and board of Go First.
- ✓ It also directed the company's suspended board to cooperate with Lal to ensure there are no employee layoffs.
- ✓ Further, it ordered a moratorium on the carrier's assets and leases.
- ✓ The list of Go First lessors includes names like Jackson Square Aviation, SMBC Aviation Capital, and CDB Aviation's GY Aviation Leasing.
- ✓ Go First has 55 aircraft in its fleet and employs 7,000 staff.
- ✓ India's third largest airlines, Go Airlines, now rebranded as Go First, was founded by textile tycoon Nusli Wadia in the year 2005.

INTERNATIONAL

- On May 10, Britain's fertility regulator – confirmed that a baby has been born with three people's DNA using a special IVF technique, marking a historic first for the country.

- ✓ The UK was the world's first country to approve the technique, which aims to prevent the children from inheriting rare genetic diseases and avoid mitochondrial diseases in them.
 - ✓ Notably, mitochondrial diseases are incurable and can be fatal within days or even hours of birth, if diagnosed in a newborn
 - ✓ Mitochondrial diseases can affect almost any part of the body, including the cells of the brain, nerves, muscles, kidneys, heart, liver, eyes, ears or pancreas
- ✓ The new technique is known as Mitochondrial donation treatment (MDT)
 - ✓ It involves development of embryo combining sperms and eggs from the biological parents along with the mitochondria from donor's eggs
- ✓ Over 99% of the baby's DNA came from its parents, while 0.1% came from a donor woman.
- ✓ In 2015, the UK became the world's first country to adopt legislation specifically regulating methods to help prevent women with faulty mitochondria — the energy source in a cell — from passing defects on to their babies.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will travel to the US for an official state visit from June 21 to 24**
- ✓ President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden will host Prime Minister Narendra Modi in White House, which will include a state dinner, on June 22, 2023
- ✓ The visit is expected to significantly focus on the newer areas of cooperation between the two countries, particularly emerging technologies, supply chain diversification and the knowledge partnership.
- ✓ The leaders will have the opportunity to review strong bilateral cooperation in various areas of mutual interest, including technology, trade, industry, education, research, clean energy, defense, security, healthcare, and deepening people-to-people connections
- ✓ The last in-person meeting that took place between the two leaders was during the G20 summit in Bali, Indonesia during November 2022
- ✓ PM Modi and President Biden will meet again in May during the G7 summit in Hiroshima, Japan on May 20-21, where India is a guest nation
- ✓ It will be followed by another meeting of the Quad leaders in Sydney, Australia on May 23-24.
- ✓ PM Modi last visit to the United States was on September 23, 2021 at the invitation of President Biden for a bilateral meeting, during which he also attended the first in-person Quad Leaders Summit.
- ✓ This is PM Modi's first state visit and the sixth official or working visit to the US since he assumed office in 2014
- ✓ The 'State Visit' signifies the highest level of diplomatic reception which involves a state dinner and official public ceremonies.

STATE VISIT: WHAT TO KNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will make his first state visit to the US in June

Modi has visited the United States five times - most recently in June 2019

A state visit is the highest-ranking visit

It comes at the behest of the sitting US president

It is offered to a chief of state, president or reigning monarch

Modi will be afforded among other ceremonies

A 21-gun salute on arriving at the White House

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh made the previous state visit in 2009

Prior to that, President Radhakrishnan made a state visit in 1963

An invite to stay at the US president's guesthouse Blair House

A state dinner

Diplomatic gifts

Official visits, Official working visit, working visit, private visit are other examples of trips that can be made

- ✓ The other two Indian invitees for a state visit by the US were President S Radhakrishnan in 1963 and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in 2009
- ✓ The last official state visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the US was undertaken by then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in November 2009 during the Obama presidency.
- ✓ State visits are considered to be the highest expression of friendly bilateral relations and usually have several official public ceremonies.
- ✓ In the US, these ceremonies include a flight line ceremony (where the visiting head of state is greeted at the tarmac after landing), a 21-gun salute White House arrival ceremony, a White House dinner, exchange of diplomatic gifts, an invitation to stay at the Blair House (US President's guesthouse across the Pennsylvania Avenue), and flag street-lining.
- ✓ PM Modi will start his visit from New York, where he will lead the International Yoga Day celebrations — with the UN building as the backdrop — on June 21.
- ✓ PM Modi is the third world leader to be invited for a state visit by President Biden, following French President Emmanuel Macron late last year and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol in April.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) - has developed 'Roshni' or 'Renewable Ocean System for Harnessing Novel Illumination' which is a portable lantern with a USB port for charging mobile phones.**
- ✓ The technology has already been transferred to three firms for manufacturing.
- ✓ Roshni is a low-cost portable device that works on seawater or tap water mixed with salt

LET THERE BE 'ROSHNI'

➤ **NIOT researchers have developed Roshni,** a low-cost portable lantern-cum-mobile phone charging port that works on seawater or saline water

➤ The lantern is powered by an **eco-friendly battery**

➤ The battery contains seawater as an electrolyte, **magnesium alloy as an anode, and activated carbon compound as a cathode, all fit in a leak-proof casing**

➤ **The anode reacts to the saline water and**

produces ions that migrate between the anode and cathode, producing power of desired voltage

➤ **10g of table salt mixed with 300ml of tap water can be an alternative to seawater**

➤ **The lantern has LED lights on the bottom and front that can work continuously by replacing the seawater every 12 hours**

➤ It also has a **USB port for charging mobile phones**



- ✓ It can be used to light up small villages, coastal hamlets and regions that face frequent power outages or have no grid connectivity.
- ✓ According to the researchers, the saline water lantern works on the principle of ionization.
- ✓ The device has a leak-proof casing that contains an anode, which is a magnesium alloy, and a cathode, which is an activated carbon compound.
- ✓ The seawater/ salt water acts as an electrolyte.
- ✓ When an LED bulb or a mobile charger is connected to the battery, the electrons transfer from anode to cathode supplying energy.
- ✓ The lantern has been designed with LED lights on its bottom and on the front that can be used as a reading light.