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INTERNATIONAL

1) 2021 Democracy Index's global ranking

India has ranked 46th position in the 2021 Democracy Index's global ranking, according to The Economist Intelligence Unit. With the highest score of 9.75, Norway topped the Democracy Index 2021 by Economist Intelligence.

2) Koala

Australian government declared the koala as 'Endangered' in the states of Queensland and New South Wales as well as the Australian Capital Territory. They found only in Australia. Live high up in eucalyptus trees of native bushlands and forests, usually perched between the forks of the tree's branches.

NATIONAL

1) 'Unitary Digital Identity framework'

India has agreed to provide a grant to Sri Lanka to implement a 'Unitary Digital Identity framework', apparently modelled on the Aadhaar card. The Rajapaksa government will "prioritise" the implementation of the Framework as a national-level programme. The initiative follows bilateral talks between President Gotabaya Rajapaksa & Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December 2019.

2) Probiotics

Indian scientists have developed a next-generation probiotic that provides hope for longevity and healthy aging. Probiotics, usually called as beneficial bacteria, are live microorganisms that have health benefits when consumed. Lactobacillus- Most common probiotic found in yogurt and other fermented foods. Bifidobacterium- Found in some dairy products and ease symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

1) 'JIVA programme'

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has launched the 'JIVA programme' to promote natural farming under its existing watershed and wadi programmes in 11 states. To effectively implement the principles of agroecology long-term sustainability and transform the pre-existing social and natural capital towards efficient farming.

OBITUARY

1) Luc Montagnier

Luc Montagnier won Nobel Prize for Medicine in 2008 for discovery of the HIV that causes



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acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). HIV is a virus that attacks the body's immune system. If not treated, it can lead to AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome).

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

1) G Mahalingam

Securities and Exchange Board of India has restructured its advisory committee on Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF), under the chairmanship of G Mahalingam. The advisory committee on IPEF is an eight-member committee that will take G Mahalingam, former Whole Time Member of SEBI, as its new Chairperson.

2) N Chandrasekaran

The board of Tata Sons Pvt Ltd has approved the re-appointment of N Chandrasekaran as the Executive Chairman of the company for the second five years term. Chandrasekaran's current tenure as the chairman was to expire at the end of February 2022.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1) World Radio Day

World Radio Day is celebrated on 13 February each year to recognize radio as a powerful medium, which brings people together from every corner of the globe, to promote diversity and help build a more peaceful and inclusive world.

2) National Productivity Day

National Productivity Day is observed every year in India on February 12. The objective of the National Productivity Council is to stimulate and promote productivity and quality consciousness across all sectors in the country.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1) "India-Africa Relations: Changing Horizons"

Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, has authored a new book (his 3rd book) titled "India-Africa Relations: Changing Horizons" which explores the emergence and assertion of Africa as a significant actor and stakeholder in global affairs and the transformation of the relationship between India and Africa.