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INTERNATIONAL

1) CoP 15 of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Concluded

- UNCCD is the sole legally binding international agreement (India is signatory) to address desertification and the effects of drought.
- COP15 was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
- Theme of COP15 was 'Land. Life. Legacy: From scarcity to prosperity'.

2) Sweden and Finland have applied to join NATO

- NATO is a transatlantic political and military alliance which promotes democratic values and committed to peaceful resolution of disputes.
- NATO was created in 1949 with the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty, popularly known as the Washington Treaty, with 12 founding members.

NATIONAL

1) 40th edition of PRAGATI

- The Prime Minister presided over the 40th edition of PRAGATI, an ICT-based multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation that brings together the Centre and State governments.

2) 'c-TB'

- Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said that India will introduce a newly approved "made in India" TB infection skin test called 'c-TB'.
- It will be of immense benefit to other high burden countries as well.
- A new initiative, "Adopt people with TB" will be launched this year, based on Indian values of collectivism.

3) AAROHAN 4.0

- Postal Department and India Post payments Bank, AAROHAN 4.0 started in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.
- Its aim is to discuss and deliberate ways to further deepen the Financial Inclusion drive in the country and to provide banking solutions to every citizen of India.

4) "Road Accidents in India 2020" Report

- The Report was released by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

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- As per the report, Number of road accidents has been on decline since 2016 except for a marginal increase in 2018.
- 79% rise in road accident deaths due to red-light jumping in the year 2020 compared to 2019.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

1) Global Macro Outlook 2022-23

- Moody's Investors Service slashed India's economic growth projection to 8.8 per cent for 2022 from 9.1 per cent earlier, citing high inflation.
- In its Global Macro Outlook 2022-23, Moody's said high-frequency data suggest that the growth momentum from December quarter 2021 carried through into the first four months this year.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

1) Anwar Hussain Shaik

- Anwar Hussain Shaik has been made the chair of the World Trade Organisation's Committee on Technical Barriers on Trade.
- He will take this role from Elisa Maria Olmeda de Alejandro from Mexico.

2) Narinder Batra

- Narinder Batra has resigned from his position as president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).
- He also said that he will not run for president of the IOA again.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1) French Riviera Film Festival

- Nawazuddin Siddiqui has been honoured with an international award for his contribution to cinema.
- At the prestigious French Riviera Film Festival, Emmy award-winning American actor Vincent De Paul bestowed the honour to Siddiqui.

2) First woman officer to join the Army Aviation Corps as a combat aviator

- Haryana's Captain Abhilasha Barak has become the first woman officer to join the Army Aviation Corps as a combat aviator.



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- She was awarded the coveted wings along with 36 other army pilots by the DG and Colonel Commandant of Army Aviation in Nashik. She has been assigned to the second flight of the 2072 Army Aviation Squadron.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1) 'The India Story'

- The book titled 'The India Story' was written by Former RBI governor Bimal Jalan.
- The book focuses on India's economic history and aims to provide lessons for the future of India's political economy.
- Other books he authored were 'India Then and Now', 'India Ahead'.

2) "Tomb of Sand"

- Geetanjali Shree and American translator Daisy Rockwell won the International Booker Prize for "Tomb of Sand,".
- "Tomb of Sand" is published in Britain by a small publisher Tilted Axis Press.