

SpaceX launches 10 Satellites for Iridium Mobile Network

- SpaceX launched Falcon 9 rocket which carried 10 satellites to bolster the global data communications network for Virginia-based company Iridium. The rocket was launched from the Vandenberg Air Force base in California
- SpaceX is launching a series of 75 satellites for Iridium's satellite constellation, Iridium NEXT, by 2018.

Key Facts About SpaceX

- Space Exploration Technologies Corp is known as SpaceX.
- It is an American aerospace manufacturer and space transport services company.
- It is headquartered in Hawthorne, California.
- It was founded in 2002 by entrepreneur Elon Musk
- It is a first privately funded liquid-propellant rocket to reach orbit
- NASA also awarded SpaceX a further development contract in 2011 to develop and demonstrate a human-rated Dragon
- This Dragon would be used to transport astronauts to the ISS and return them safely to Earth.

Iceland Qualifies for 2018 FIFA World Cup

- Iceland has become the smallest country ever to qualify for the World Cup after beating Kosovo
Iceland has secured its place for first finals in Russia next year as winners of Group I.
- The previous smallest country to have reached the finals was Trinidad & Tobago, in 2006
- Iceland will be one of 32 nations at the World Cup in 2018

World Cup 2018

- The 2018 FIFA World Cup will be the 21st FIFA World Cup,
- It is scheduled to take place in Russia from 14 June to 15 July 2018
- This will be the first World Cup with Iceland and Panama as participants.

About Iceland

- Iceland is a Nordic island country of Europe located in the North Atlantic Ocean.
- It has a population of 332,529 and an area of 103,000 km² making it the most sparsely populated country in Europe.
- The capital and largest city are Reykjavík.
- Iceland has the smallest population of any NATO member

BCCI Makes Yo-Yo Tests Compulsory For Selection

- BCCI has made it compulsory for cricketers to pass the 'yo-yo' endurance test if they want to find a place in the national side.
- The rule will be applied to all cricketers, including those who play just Test cricket
- The decision is taken to maintain consistent fitness standards across formats.
- All current players new reforms and asked to adhere to the guidelines set by the team management.
- Time will be given to get back to peak fitness to those who fail to meet the requirements.

What is Yo- Yo Test?

- The yo-yo test requires players to pace themselves methodically — starting with a modest jog to the eventual gut-busting sprint — as they shuttle back and forth between two rows of cones kept 20 metres apart.
- Each run needs to be timed with the three beeps that are played in the background. These are the signals for start, turn and finish.
- With the timing between the beeps constantly decreasing, each subsequent 40m circuit requires more speed. Getting beaten twice by the beep means the end of the test.
- The final score is determined by the laps completed and the speed gathered.

About BCCI

BCCI stands for Board of Control for Cricket in India.

It is the national governing body for cricket in India.

It was formed in December 1928

Its logo is derived from the emblem of the Order of the Star of India, the British Raj emblem during the colonial period.

It is headquartered in Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai

Key People

- President: Vinod Rai
- Chief Executive: Rahul Johri
- Vice President: Rajeev Shukla

India Water Week-2017 Inaugurated by President Kovind

- The 5th edition of India Water Week-2017 was inaugurated in New Delhi by President Ram Nath Kovind on October 10, 2017
- The theme of this year's event is "Water and Energy for Inclusive Growth"

- More than 1500 delegates from 13 countries are invited to attend to the event.
- During the 5-day long event, technologies and solutions for the inclusive growth of water will be showcased.
- President in his speech on the inaugural day highlighted the importance of water for sustainability of mankind., economy and ecology.
- In India, 80% of water in India is used by agriculture and only 15% by industry and this scenario will change in the future.
- The government has prepared a strategic plan for ensuring drinking water supply in all rural areas by 2022, when India complete 75 years of Independence.
- By that year, the goal is to cover 90 percent of rural households with piped water supply.
- **We cannot fail. The deliberations of this conference have to ensure that we do not fail.**
- First India Water Week was celebrated in 2012

Anti-dumping Duty imposed on Chinese Steel Products

- The Central Government of India has imposed anti-dumping duty on imports of certain steel wire rods from China for five years
- The decision is taken to guard the interest of domestic producers/marketers from cheap in-bound shipments.
- Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) which of commerce ministry recommended duty on such imports.
- The duty would be the difference between the landed value of the steel products and \$535 per tonne while for others, it should be the gap between the landed value and USD 546 per tonne.

What is Anti-Dumping Duty?

- Countries impose anti-dumping duty to ensure if the domestic industry has been hurt by a surge in below-cost imports.
- As a counter-measure, duties under the multilateral WTO regime are imposed by the countries
- The aim to impose anti-dumping duty is not to restrict imports but to ensure fair trade and provide opportunities to the domestic industries.

House Panel to Examine China-India Relations

- To examine the whole spectrum of Sino-Indian relations, Standing Committee on External Affairs is formed.
- This committee will be headed by Shashi Tharoor.
- The committee will scrutinize the issue of "cooperation" between India and China in international organisations.

- The standing committee has also decided to closely look at India's "Relations with Myanmar and the Rohingya situation", the country's "Act East Policy, including BIMSTEC", the "Situation in the Far East: Japan and North Korea", India's engagement with SAARC countries, global terrorism and voting rights for NRIs.
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