



15-04-2024

World Quantum Day 2024

Why in News?

- India celebrated World Quantum Day 2024 on April 14, 2024, with aspirations to become a global leader in various fields of Quantum Science and Technology.

More About the News

- To advance the awareness and appreciation of quantum science and technology among the public worldwide, an international initiative was taken in 2022, commemorated annually as the World Quantum Day on April 14th.
- India's National Quantum Mission (NQM) will bolster India's competitiveness by leveraging the national strengths built through previous R&D initiatives and strengthening them further in a focused and directed manner.

- The National Quantum Mission (NQM), conceptualized by the Prime Minister Science Technology Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) received Cabinet approval on April 19, 2023 with a total outlay of Rs 6003.65 Crore for a period of eight years.
- The Mission aims to seed, nurture, and scale up scientific and industrial R&D and create a vibrant & innovative ecosystem in Quantum Technology (QT).
- This will accelerate QT-led economic growth, nurture the ecosystem in the country, and make India one of the leading nations in the development of QT and applications.
- Being implemented by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), NQM envisages well-orchestrated and synergistic efforts through a hub-spoke-spike model, involving Centres of Excellence (CoEs),



consortiaects, individual scientist-centric projects, etc.

- The Mission aims to establish four Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs) in domains such as (i) Quantum Computing, (ii) Quantum Communication, (iii) Quantum Sensing & Metrology, and (iv) Quantum Materials & Devices. A Call for Pre-Proposals to establish T-Hubs was given on January 20, 2024, inviting contributions from academic institutions and R&D labs.

Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)

Why in the News?

- Indian Army successfully conducts field trials of indigenously-developed Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) weapon system, advancing towards self-reliance in defence technology recently.



More About the News

- The Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Weapon System, indigenously designed and developed by Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), has been field evaluated in different flight configurations several times with the objective of proving the technology with high superiority.
- The Indian Army has successfully carried out field trials of indigenously-developed man-portable anti-tank guided missile (MPATGM) weapon system, paving way for its induction into the force's armoury.

- The MPATGM weapon system has been field evaluated in different flight configurations several times with an objective of proving the technology with high superiority.
- The warhead flight trials were successfully conducted at the Pokhran Field Firing Range on April 13. Missile performance and warhead performance were found to be remarkable.
- The weapon system is well-equipped for operation in both day and night.
- Dual mode seeker functionality is a great value addition to the missile capability for tank warfare.
- With this, technology development and successful demonstration have been concluded and the system is now ready for Final User Evaluation Trials leading towards its induction into the Indian Army.
- The successful trials of the system is an important step towards achieving self-reliance in advanced technology-based defence system development.

134th Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti

Why in the News?

- The 134th Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti was celebrated on April 14, 2024 by Dr. Ambedkar Foundation (DAF) on behalf of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India near the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at the Parliament House Lawn.

More About Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

- Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar was born on 14 April 1891, he was the 14th and last child of his parents.





- Dr. Ambedkar completed his graduation at Elphinston College, Bombay, for which he was getting a scholarship from His Highness Sayajirao Gaikwad of Baroda.
- He started an Association for the welfare of the depressed classes, with Sir Chimanlal Setalvad as the President and Dr. Ambedkar as the Chairman. To spread education, improve economic conditions and represent the grievances of depressed classes were the immediate objects of the Association.
- The Bahiskrit Bharat, newspaper was started in April 3, 1927 to address the cause of the depressed classes in view of the new reform.
- On August 15, 1936, he formed Independent Labour Party to safeguard the interest of the depressed classes, which mostly formed the labour population.
- In 1942, he was appointed to the Executive Council of the Governor General of India as a Labour member, in 1946, he was elected to the Constituent Assembly from Bengal. At the same time he published his book, Who were Shudras?
- After Independence, in 1947, he was appointed as a Minister of Law and Justice in Nehru's first cabinet. But in 1951, he resigned his ministership, expressing his differences on the Kashmir issue, India's Foreign Policy and Nehru's Policy towards the Hindu Code Bill.
- He died on 6th December 1956. His death anniversary is observed as Mahaparinirvan Diwas across the country.

- He was posthumously awarded India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna, in 1990.

Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)

Why in the News?

- Recently, India and Mauritius have signed a protocol to amend the double taxation avoidance agreement (DTAA), which included a principal purpose test (PPT) to decide whether a foreign investor is eligible to claim treaty benefits.

More About the News

- A new article has been added to the protocol "Article 27B Entitlement to Benefits". The amended protocol was signed on March 7 and made public now.
- The introduction of the PPT aims to curtail tax avoidance by ensuring that treaty benefits are only granted for transactions with a bona fide purpose.



- The amendment represents a move by India to align with global efforts against treaty abuse, particularly under the BEPS Action 6 framework.
- However, the application of the PPT to grandfathered investments remains ambiguous, highlighting the need for explicit guidance from the CBDT.
- Furthermore, the omission of the phrase "for the encouragement of mutual trade and investment" in the treaty's preamble suggests a shift in focus towards preventing tax evasion over promoting bilateral investment flows.
- This development underscores India's commitment to international tax

cooperation standards while raising critical considerations for investors leveraging the India-Mauritius corridor.

- The PPT will have the effect of denying treaty benefits, such as the reduction of withholding tax on interest royalties and dividends, where it is reasonable to conclude, having regard to all relevant facts and circumstances, that obtaining that treaty benefit is one of the principal purposes of the party seeking to rely on the said treaty.
- Historically, Mauritius has been a preferred jurisdiction for engaging in investments in India due to the non-taxability of capital gains from the sale of shares in Indian companies until 2016.

- In 2016, India and Mauritius signed a revised tax agreement, which gave India the right to tax capital gains in India on transactions in shares routed through the island nation beginning April 1, 2017.



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