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## Prelim Bits 08-09-2023 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

### Nataraja Sculpture

*The World's tallest 27-foot Nataraja sculpture has been installed at Bharat Mandapam, venue of the G20 Leaders' Summit.*

- **Metal** - The Bharat Mandapam Nataraja statue is an **ashtadhatu (8-metal alloy)** piece of art.
- **The eight metals** - Copper, zinc and lead with traces of tin, silver, gold and mercury, with iron.
- **Lord Shiva** - The God Shiva evolved from the Vedic deity Rudra.
- **Patronage by Cholas** - Although Shiva was first portrayed in sculpture as Nataraja in the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD, its present form evolved under the Cholas.
- The design draws inspiration from 3 revered Nataraja idols
  1. The Thillai Nataraja Temple in Chidambaram,
  2. The Uma Maheswarar Temple in Konerirajapuram, and
  3. The Brihadeeswara (Big) Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in Thanjavur.
- All 3 temples the Bharat Mandapam Nataraja statue is inspired from were originally constructed by the Cholas.



*Cholas were peak around the 9th-11th centuries AD, ruled over much of peninsular India.*

- **Technique** - The crafting process adopted was the traditional 'lost-wax' casting method, indigenous to the Chola era.
- **Lost wax method** - First, a detailed wax model is made. Then it is covered with a paste made of alluvial soil found on the banks of the Cauvery River.
- After this coating, applied multiple times, has dried, the figure is be exposed to high heat, causing the wax to burn away, leaving a hollow, intricately carved mould.
- This is ultimately filled by molten metal to produce the sculpture.

## References

1. [The Indian Express | The Lord of Dance](#)
2. [The Times of India | Nataraja statue graces Bharat Mandapam](#)

## XRISM (X-Ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission)

*A powerful X-ray observatory is launched along with Japan's SLIM mission.*

- **Aim** - To investigate celestial X-ray objects in the Universe with high-throughput imaging and high-resolution spectroscopy.
- These observations will enable in determining the flows of mass and energy, revealing the composition and evolution of celestial objects.
- This mission acts as a semi-replacement for the Hitomi (Astro-H) X-ray observatory, launched in 2016.

*Hitomi was a high-energy astrophysics space observatory, developed by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) in collaboration with institutions in Japan, the US, Canada, and Europe.*

- **Launch Vehicle** - The H-IIA rocket that launched the [SLIM](#) Japan's moon mission also carried the XRISM.
- **Agency** - NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) and JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency).

## References

1. [The Indian Express | X-ray telescope](#)
2. [NASA | XRISM](#)
3. [JAXA | XRISM](#)
4. [Sky and Telescope | XRISM](#)

## Central Empowered Committee (CEC)

*The Supreme Court recently hands over its green watchdog committee, the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) to the Environment Ministry.*

- **Setup** - It was set up in 2002, and reconstituted in 2008 by the Supreme Court.
- It served as a watchdog for issues pertaining to environmental conservation and compliance.
- **Recent notification** - Instead of an ad hoc body, CEC should be instituted as a permanent statutory body on environmental issues under the administrative control of the Environmental ministry.
- The notification completely removes non-governmental members from the committee.

*The current CEC is chaired by retired IAS officer and includes retired Forest service officers and lawyer and naturalist.*

- In the revised structure all (chairperson, a member secretary and three expert members) will now be civil servants appointed by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- **The chairperson**
  - A minimum of 25 years of experience in environmental, forestry, or wildlife fields or substantial administrative expertise in government.
  - **Term** - 3 years.
- **The member secretary**
  - He must hold a rank not lower than deputy inspector general or director in the government and
  - Possess at least 12 years of experience in environmental, forestry, or wildlife matters.
- **The 3 expert members** - One each from the environment, forest, and wildlife sectors, should have a minimum of 20 years of expertise.
- The committee will report to the ministry, instead of the SC.
- The ministry will fund the committee;
- The provision of having 2 NGOs in the committee has been done away with

## References

1. [The Indian Express | Central Empowered Committee](#)
2. [The Hindustan Times | Govt to nominate all members of top panel](#)
3. [The Times of India | Environment ministry sets up new panel](#)

## Dark Patterns

*Department of Consumer Affairs seeks public comments on Draft Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns recently.*

- A dark pattern is a user interface that has been carefully crafted to trick users into doing things, such as buying overpriced insurance with their purchase or signing up for recurring bills.
- Dark patterns are also known as Deceptive Patterns.
- Dark patterns in turn benefit the company or platform employing the designs.
- **Examples** - Sponsored video ads scattered between reels and stories in Instagram that users originally opted to view, pop-ups and thumbnails of other videos in the final

seconds of a video in YouTube.

- By using them, digital platforms take away a user's right to full information about the services they are using, and reduce their control over their browsing experience.

### Types of dark patterns

Dark Patterns	Purpose
<b>False urgency</b>	Falsely stating or implying the sense of urgency.
<b>Basket Sneaking</b>	Inclusion of additional items at the time of checkout without the consent of the user.
<b>Confirm shaming</b>	Using a phrase, video, audio or any other means to create a sense of fear or shame or ridicule or guilt in the mind of the user.
<b>Forced action</b>	Forces a user into taking an action that would require the user to buy any additional goods.
<b>Subscription Trap</b>	The process of making cancellation of a paid subscription impossible or a complex.
<b>Interface Interference</b>	The design element that manipulates the user interface.
<b>Bait and Switch</b>	The practice of advertising a particular outcome based on the user's action.
<b>Drip pricing</b>	The practice whereby-elements of prices are not revealed upfront.
<b>Disguised advertisement</b>	The practice of posing, masking advertisements as other types of content such as user generated content or new articles or false advertisements.
<b>Nagging</b>	The practice in which users face an overload of requests, information, options, or interruptions; unrelated to the intended purchase of goods or services, which disrupts the intended transaction.

### References

1. [PIB | Draft Guidelines for Prevention of Dark Patterns](#)
2. [The Hindu | Centre to stop sites from weaving 'dark patterns'](#)

### Visible Line Emission Coronagraph (VELC)

*Aditya-L1 has been successfully launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Research Centre in Sriharikota recently carried the VELC payload.*

- The [Aditya-L1 mission](#) (first Sun mission from India) carried by the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)-C57 rocket is equipped with seven payloads.
- Among these, the Visible Line Emission Coronagraph (VELC) is the primary payload that Aditya-L1 will use to focus on the Sun's Corona.
- **Landing Point** - Aditya-L1 will be placed in a halo orbit around Lagrangian Point 1 (L1), which is 1.5 million kilometers from Earth in the direction of the Sun.
- **Aim** - It will create a total solar eclipse continuously since it will be positioned at L1,

providing an unobstructed view of the Sun.

- **Built by** - Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA).

*Coronagraph of Aditya-L1 will send 1,440 images of sun a day.*

- VELC has the capability to capture images of the solar corona closer to the Sun's disc than any other solar space observatory.
- This allows it to observe the Sun as if it were a solar eclipse, enabling the study of the corona and its characteristics, including its origin and the source of coronal mass ejections.

## References

1. [The Hindustan Times | What is the purpose of VELC?](#)
2. [IIA | VELC](#)
3. [The Hindu | Coronagraph of Aditya-L1](#)



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