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INTERNATIONAL

1) Russia's attack on Ukraine

Russian President accused the U.S, and its allies of ignoring Russia's demand to prevent Ukraine from joining NATO and offer security guarantees. Russia wanted a legally binding pledge from West that NATO does not expand further in the region.

NATIONAL

1) FSSAI Health Star Rating

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is starting a star rating system for packaged foods. Rating system will be similar to star energy rating by Bureau of Energy Efficiency for an electronic appliance. Packaged foods will display the number of stars on the front of the pack, indicating how healthy or unhealthy it is depending upon the amount of salt, sugar and fat it has.

2) Dry root rot (DRR) disease

Indian scientists have identified that high temperatures, drought conditions, and low soil moisture content are favorable conditions for dry root rot (DRR). It is caused *Macrophomina phaseolina*, a soil-borne necrotrophic. It damages the roots or girdles the trunk in chickpea.

3) Ombudsperson App

To ensure transparency and accountability, Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj has launched Ombudsperson App for Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. Developed for smooth reporting and categorization of grievances based on complaints received from various sources related to the implementation of the MGNREGA.

4) Sustainable Cities India Program

World Economic Forum (WEF) and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on a jointly designed Sustainable Cities India program. The program intends to enable cities to decarbonize in a systematic and sustainable way that will reduce emissions and deliver resilient and equitable urban ecosystems.

5) 'DHARA, an Ode to Indian Knowledge System'

Ministry of Culture has announced 'DHARA, an Ode to Indian Knowledge System' as a part of Science Week Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate. It comprises a series of lecture demonstrations to revisit our history and celebrate the achievements of India and the contribution of great scholars, mathematicians, scientists, and leaders to its heritage.

