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1. Retired Air Marshal Jitendra Mishra has been appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, which manages the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.
   i. He had commanded the Indian Air Force's Western Air Command during Operation Sindoor, the military operation carried out by India against Pakistan last year in response to the Pahalgam terrorist attack.

2. The GSLV-F17 rocket is scheduled to be launched at 2:55 a.m. on Friday (September 4), carrying the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Earth observation satellite EOS-05.
   i. In preparation for the launch, the rocket has been positioned at the Second Launch Pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. ISRO scientists and officials are actively engaged in the final stages of the launch preparations. Various checks are being conducted on the different stages of the rocket, fuel filling, the satellite, and control systems.
   ii. With the countdown for the launch underway, preparations have been intensified to launch the rocket as scheduled. The EOS-05 satellite has been designed to support applications including Earth observation, weather monitoring, disaster management, and agriculture.

3. The number of deaths caused by the Ebola outbreak spreading uncontrollably in the Central African country of the Republic of the Congo has crossed 3,000.
   i. According to government data, the outbreak, which began spreading in mid-May, has so far infected 6,186 people, of whom 3,007 have died.

ii. There is currently no approved treatment or vaccine for the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola virus spreading in the Congo. However, the World Health Organization (WHO) has expressed hope that the Ervebo vaccine, which is used to help prevent Ebola, may also provide some protection against this strain. Accordingly, vaccination of healthcare workers has begun as the first phase. As schools have also reopened while the outbreak is at its peak, concerns have intensified that the infection could spread rapidly among children.

4. With the aim of further strengthening its political and economic influence in the West Asian region, Chinese President Xi Jinping has undertaken a state visit to Egypt.

i. During his meeting with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi in Cairo, Xi Jinping held extensive discussions on taking bilateral relations to the next level.

ii. The meeting was held as the two countries marked 70 years of diplomatic relations. Xi said that both countries should jointly raise their voices against unilateral dominance and acts of intimidation prevailing in the international arena.

iii. At a time when tensions in West Asia have disrupted cargo transportation through the Strait of Hormuz, the Suez Canal, which is under Egyptian control, has emerged as an essential alternative route for the international supply of fuel.

iv. China also believes that its relationship with Egypt could serve as an important gateway for presenting itself as a mediator between Arab and African countries. Accordingly, China has been taking initiatives to strengthen its friendship with Egypt.

5. The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced the 2024 Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards. Four individuals have been

honoured with the awards: mountaineer Baljeet Kaur, mountaineer Skalzang Riksin, para-swimmer Rimo Saha, and Shivprasad Chamoli (Lifetime Achievement Award).

6. Global R&D Spending and India's Position

- A nation's modernization, manufacturing capacity, economic progress, and societal lifestyle are deeply dictated by its Research and Development (R&D) programs.
- India currently allocates only 0.64% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) toward Research and Development.
- In contrast, China spends four times more than India, allocating 2.56% of its GDP to R&D. Developed nations like Japan, Sweden, the United States, South Korea, and Israel also spend significantly higher proportions of their GDP on R&D.

(i) Global Standings in Research Publications and Patents

- China dominates the world in publishing scientific research papers in international journals, followed by the United States in second place and India in third.
- In terms of registering patents and innovations, India holds the fifth position globally, trailing behind China, the US, Japan, and South Korea.
- Despite India being the most populous country, China publishes four times as many research articles as India and remains 18 times ahead of India in registering patents and innovations.
- The impact of this gap was highlighted at a recent international AI summit held in India, where a robot displayed by a private university sparked nationwide controversy after it was revealed to have been manufactured in China.

(ii) Plagiarism and Lack of Originality in Schools and Colleges

- The systemic issue begins at the school level; in school science exhibitions, over 80% of the projects are not built by the students themselves but are instead made by parents, teachers, relatives, or neighboring college students.

- Students copy others' work due to immense pressure from teachers, an excessive desire to win awards/certificates, a lack of proper guidance, and insufficient time.
- This trend worsens in higher education, where final-year engineering and science students rarely create original projects, choosing instead to purchase readymade projects from commercial shops.

(iii) Systemic Crisis in Doctorate (PhD) Research

- The PhD space is heavily compromised by commercial groups and unregistered agents, both nationally and internationally, who ghostwrite and publish research papers for a fee.
- Many candidates spend lakhs of rupees to purchase substandard, readymade research and falsely present it as their own to secure doctorate degrees.
- Real research is not bound by days, months, or years, but requires continuous effort, perseverance, and timeless dedication.
- Academic institutions have reduced PhD research into rigid, time-bound rituals and administrative formalities. True innovation can only emerge when academicians provide researchers with unconditional freedom, strong infrastructure, and genuine space for inquiry.

(iv) Factors Sustaining India's Technological Success

- Despite widespread plagiarism, systemic lapses, and corrupt practices, India continues to achieve major technological milestones.
- India’s success is strictly sustained by honest individual researchers, high-quality research centers, genuine technology experts, and manufacturing industries that refuse to compromise on quality.

(v) India's Future Deep-Tech Priorities

- To secure its future growth, India must prioritize deep-tech applications across several core domains:
    - Public Sectors: Agriculture, education, healthcare, and public administration.
    - Clean Energy: Artificial Intelligence (AI) utilization, solar energy, electric

vehicles (EVs), and green hydrogen.

- Advanced Technology: Semiconductor manufacturing, quantum computing, robotics, and biotechnology.

- By charting a path of honesty and focused inquiry, Indian youth are expected to drive a massive technological revolution in this century.