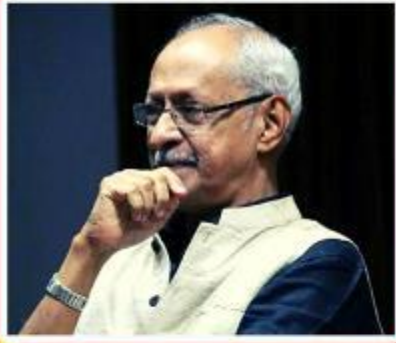


# TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2023

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## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ In a first, Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC) has granted permission for the Dindigul-based Dollar Industries Ltd to set up four Mega Watt hour (MWhr) Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).
- ❖ Nawab of Arcot Mohammed Abdul Ali was bestowed the Indo-Australian Award for Meritorious Service at Amir Mahal, Chennai.
- ❖ For the first time in the country, the oldest Income Tax building situated at Karaikudi, which is 100-years-old, was renovated and is being converted into a Tax Museum.
- ❖ Chennai Mayor R. Priya will kick start the scheme 'Makkalai Thedi Mayor' in the city from Royya Puram, Chennai on May 3.
  - Under the scheme, the mayor will visit each of the 15 zones in the city every 15 days, to meet with residents to receive petitions relating to civic issues in the zone.
- ❖ President of India Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate the newly-constructed multi-super speciality hospital in Guindy, Chennai on June 5.
- ❖ In honour of Sachin Tendulkar's 50th birthday, the West Stand at the Sharjah cricket stadium, UAE has been named as the 'Sachin Tendulkar Stand.'
- ❖ The Prime Minister inaugurated and addressed the 6<sup>th</sup> Edition of One Earth One Health – Advantage Healthcare India – 2023 in New Delhi.
- ❖ Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL), has been conferred Global Gold Award by The Green Organization.
- ❖ Jaden Pariat Becomes First Indian in six years to Finish on Podium in British F4 Championship race.
- ❖ Reliance General Insurance become a first insurance company to accept the RBI's Central Bank Digital Currency e-Rupee for premium payments.
- ❖ Pakistan has become the largest recipient of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)-funded programmes/projects in the year 2022.
  - As per the ADB Annual Report 2022, out of total disbursement of over \$31.8 billion to 40 countries, Pakistan received loans of \$5.58 billion.
- ❖ Australia is set to host the third in-person Quad Summit on May 24 in Sydney.
  - The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue comprises of India, the US, Japan and Australia.
- ❖ Ratan Tata has been awarded the Order of Australia, which is Australia's highest civilian honour.
- ❖ Indian professional mountaineer Arjun Vajpai, has become the first Indian man to summit Mt. Annapurna 1.



- It is the 10th highest mountain in the world at 8,091 metres (26,545 ft) above sea level in Nepal.
- ❖ WYLD, the world's first Visa Powered social currency payment card has been launched in Mumbai.
- ❖ Colombian singer Shakira will be honoured with the Billboard's 'Latin Woman of The Year' award.
- ❖ Dubai-based airline Emirates has unveiled the world's first robotic check-in assistant named Sara.
  - Sara will match customers' faces with scanned passports, check passengers in, and guide them to the luggage drop area.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu had outstanding off-budget borrowings of ₹27,669.88 crore as of March 31, 2022.
  - During the same period in 2021, this amount stood at ₹15,368.91 crore.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's recent controversial Bill, amending the Factories Act, 1948, to enable extended working hours in select factories, has been withdrawn.
- ❖ India's gross GST revenues hit a record high in April at ₹1,87,035 crore.
  - It is 12% higher than the same month last year which had clocked the previous highest tax tally of ₹1.67 lakh crore.
- ❖ Mann Ki Baat, Prime Minister's popular radio programme, completed 100 episodes.
- ❖ An exhibition titled 'Jana Shakti' was recently inaugurated at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) in New Delhi.
  - The exhibition showcases the artworks of twelve notable modern and contemporary Indian artists.
- ❖ ITC has overtaken IT giant Infosys to become India's sixth largest company, as per market capitalization.
- ❖ TN government announced that, an 'Anti-Terrorism Squad' with over 380 personnel would be established in the Tamil Nadu Police's Intelligence Wing at a cost of ₹57.51 crore.
- ❖ India established its first-ever "Millets Experience Centre (MEC)" at New Delhi.
- ❖ The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has decided to extend the deadline for the Smart Cities Mission till June 2024.
- ❖ M.K Gandhi's grandson Arun Gandhi passed away recently.
- ❖ Siddhartha Mohanty has been appointed as the Chairman of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India until June 2024.



- ❖ The Indian Olympic Association formed a two-member ad-hoc committee, consisting of Bhupender Singh Bajwa and Suma Shirur, to run the day-to-day affairs of the Wrestling Federation of India.
- ❖ Ding Liren has become China's first men's world chess champion, after defeating Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi.
- ❖ The maiden ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME) begin in South China Sea.
- ❖ Recently, the 22nd session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was held in New York.
  - Theme of this event was “Indigenous Peoples, human health, planetary and territorial health and climate change: a rights-based approach”.
- ❖ Industrial projects that will bring in investments of about ₹35,000 crore were approved during a meeting of the Tamil Nadu Cabinet.
- ❖ The Odisha government decided to further extend its sponsorship for both the Men and Women Indian Hockey Teams (senior and junior) for another ten years from 2023 to 2033.
- ❖ Go Airlines (India) Ltd (Go First), was filed for voluntary insolvency proceedings with the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).
- ❖ Geoffrey Hinton, often called the "Godfather of AI", quit his role at Google.
- ❖ Vodafone Group has appointed Italian Margherita Della Valle as its chief executive officer (CEO).
- ❖ Karaikudi R. Mani, who dominated the Carnatic music world for more than half a century as a mridangam player passed away recently in Chennai.
- ❖ The NAMO Medical Education and Research Institute was recently inaugurated in Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
- ❖ The Indian Army inducted its first batch of “Five Women Officers” into the Regiment of Artillery in the process of expanding woman's role in the armed forces.
- ❖ Renowned physicist and Director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) Ajit Kumar Mohanty has been appointed as the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.
- ❖ Russia's Sberbank has launched its own generative artificial intelligence tool, GigaChat, to rival Microsoft-backed ChatGPT and Google’s Bard.
- ❖ Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi celebrated its Diamond Jubilee on its 60<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day.
  - It was established in 1963 as an autonomous body under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government is planning to develop a theme park called “Ramaland”, which will be modelled on Disneyland.



- It aims to narrate the legendary tales of Lord Ram and Ramayana.
- ❖ Foreign ministers meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) recently held in Goa.
  - The theme of India's Chairmanship of SCO in 2023 is 'SECURE-SCO'.
- ❖ Officially named Dr BR Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat complex was inaugurated recently.
  - The building has unique architecture that appears to be in the Indo-Saracenic style, blending Indo-Islamic architectural features generally with domes.
- ❖ A 12-foot statue of Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was unveiled in Mauritius's Maharashtra Bhavan to mark the strong bond between the two nations.
- ❖ The Indian Army recently conducted a divisional-level integrated training exercise, codenamed Exercise Buland Bharat, in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ India's first international Multi-Modal Logistic Park is to be developed under the Bharatmala Project at Jogighopa in Assam.
- ❖ National Thermal Power Corporation has marked its first overseas capacity addition, beginning with Bangladesh.
  - The new addition takes the Installed Capacity of NTPC to 72304 MW.
- ❖ The World Bank confirmed that Ajay Banga will be its next president, and will take over the role from June 2, 2023, for a period of five years.
- ❖ World Laughter Day is an annual event celebrated on the first Sunday of May to raise awareness about laughter and its many healing benefits.
- ❖ The Indian Army's HQ, Southern Command conducted a day-long fighting exercise 'Agni Daman - 23' with 56 firefighting stakes, including 32 from civil agencies.
- ❖ In a first, Railway Ministry set up the new war room in Delhi to quickly address public complaints and grievances.
- ❖ The Union Government has formed an 11-member high-level committee under the chairmanship of Sanjay Garg, to restructure the 94-year-old ICAR, which was established in 1929.
- ❖ The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) are joining hands to set up Asia's largest bio-gas plant in Mumbai.
- ❖ Border Roads Organisation organised "Ekta Evam Shradhanjali Abhiyan", a multi modal expedition to commemorate the sacrifices and contribution of its Karma yogis in nation building.
- ❖ The Centre ordered that public broadcaster, previously known as All India Radio (AIR), be exclusively referred to as Akashvani in all broadcasts and programmes.





- The name Akashvani was adopted by AIR in 1956.
- ❖ The trailer of a feature film, Love in 90's, was launched in New Delhi.
  - This is the first movie based on the Tagin community of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The UAE government launched the 'Machines Can See 2023' Summit, the international conferences in Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Dubai.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister unveiled the foundation stone for Mitsubishi Electric India's factory in Tiruvallur district.
- ❖ Veteran Hollywood star Michael Douglas will be felicitated with an honorary Palme d'Or at the 76<sup>th</sup> Cannes Film Festival.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) are launching the fourth G20 TechSprint hackathon for global innovators.
- ❖ The Centre for Innovation Incubation Research and Entrepreneurship (C-i2 RE) was inaugurated in Telangana.
- ❖ The Centre launched the SAKSHAM (Stimulating Advanced Knowledge for Sustainable Health Management), a Learning Management Information System.
  - It is a dedicated and unified platform for providing online training and medical education to all health professionals in the country.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank's gold reserves increased by 34.22 tonne year-on-year to reach 794.64 tonne at March-end 2023.
  - RBI held 760.42 metric tonnes of gold (including gold deposits of 11.08 metric tonnes) at the March-end of 2022.
- ❖ The world's largest and first franchise-based chess league is to be held in Dubai.
- ❖ Hyundai Motor India pledged to invest Rs 20,000 crore over a period of 10 years in Tamil Nadu to roll out new electric vehicle (EV) models and increase production volume from its Irungattukottai plant, near Chennai.
- ❖ Louis Berger has been chosen as the consultant for doing a master plan and the detailed techno economic report for Chennai's second airport planned at Parandur.
- ❖ Former President of India Ram Nath Kovind honoured Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath with the Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award.
- ❖ Shantiniketan of West Bengal, the home of Nobel laureate Rabindra Nath Tagore, has been recommended for inclusion in UNESCO's World Heritage List.
- ❖ Olympian Archer Atanu Das was re-inducted in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).
- ❖ Parminder Chopra is to be appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of India's largest NBFC, Power Finance Corporation.



- Chopra will be the first woman to be appointed as the CMD of the Maharatna company.
- ❖ The GMR Hyderabad International Airport was recognised as the most punctual airport in the world with 90.43 percent on-time performance.
- ❖ The Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi has become the first in India to have a reading lounge.
- ❖ A book titled “Droupadi Murmu: From Tribal Hinterlands to Raisina Hills” was authored by Kasturi Ray.
- ❖ A book titled ‘The Indian Metropolis: Deconstructing India’s Urban Spaces’ was authored by Feroze Varun Gandhi.
- ❖ The University of Kashmir will host a two-day Youth20 event (Y20) on climate change.
  - The theme of the Y20 event is “Climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability a Way of Life”.
- ❖ Bangladesh hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) recently.
- ❖ Chinese President Xi Jinping will host a two-day summit with the leaders of five Central Asian nations (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan).
- ❖ The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF-2023) will be held in Kerala’s Thiruvananthapuram district.
- ❖ The Veteran astronomer Jayant Naraliker was conferred the first Govind Swarup Lifetime Achievement Award instituted by the Astronomical Society of India (ASI).
- ❖ The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways honoured the Cochin Port Authority (CPA) with the Sagar Shrestha Samman for the best turnaround time in non-container category during 2022-23.
- ❖ The birth anniversary of Indian football legend and captain in the 1960 Rome Olympics, Pradip Kumar Banerjee, (June 23), will be celebrated as the 'All India Football Federation (AIFF) Grassroots Day'.
- ❖ The eighteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF18) was held at UNHQ in New York.
- ❖ The Ministry of Commerce organized the third edition in the form of first-ever physical Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Startup Forum in New Delhi recently.
- ❖ Actor Alia Bhatt has been appointed as the first Indian global ambassador for luxury Italian fashion brand Gucci.
- ❖ The founder and Chancellor of Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), G. Viswanathan, was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to international education.



- The World Tamil Organization (UK) presented the award in the House of Commons of the British Parliament in London.
- ❖ IRCTC's, South Zone, Chennai, will operate a Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train which covering Shirdi Sai Baba Temple, Nashik, Pandharpur and Mantrayalam.
  - The tour named "Shirdi Sai Darshan."
- ❖ Karnataka Director General of Police (DGP) Praveen Sood was appointed the new Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- ❖ The First ministerial meeting of the India-European Union Trade and Technology Council (TTC) took place in Brussels, Belgium.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government increased the dearness allowance for government employees, teachers, pensioners and family pensioners from 38% to 42%.
- ❖ TN Chief Minister released a booklet containing information on colon cancer which aimed at creating awareness.
- ❖ Canteens, now functioning at 25 Uzhavar Sandhais across the Tamil Nadu, will hereafter sell items of organic food exclusively.
- ❖ The Educationist Manoj Soni took oath as the chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- ❖ Praneeth Vuppala has become Telangana's sixth and India's 82<sup>nd</sup> Grandmaster.
- ❖ The bilateral exercise between India and Indonesia, named Samudra Shakti-23, has commenced recently at Indonesia.
- ❖ Nepali sherpa, Pasang Dawa Sherpa, just created a record for climbing Mount Everest for the 26th time, and has become the world's second person to achieve the feat.
- ❖ Linda Yaccarino has been appointed as a new CEO of Twitter.
- ❖ The United Nations Migration Agency, elected Ms. Amy E. Pope as its next Director General.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister laid the foundation stone through video conferencing, for the 'Porunai' museum to come up in Tirunelveli district at a cost of ₹33.02 crore.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has reappointed retired IAS officer V. Palani Kumar as the State Election Commissioner for two years.
- ❖ A 570-meter long and 4.2-meter-wide India's Longest skywalk bridge was inaugurated in T Nagar.
  - It will be connecting the Mambalam railway station and T Nagar bus terminus, Chennai.
- ❖ Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra, the chief justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, and senior lawyer Kalpathy Venkataraman Viswanathan has been appointed as the new judges of Supreme Court.



- ❖ Arjun Ram Meghwal was assigned independent charge as MoS in Ministry of Law and Justice, Kiren Rijiju was assigned Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- ❖ Srichand Parmanand or SP Hinduja (87), the chairman of Hinduja Group passed away at London recently.
- ❖ HDFC Asset Management Company Ltd will launch the country's first mutual fund focussed on defence sector.
  - It will provide investors an opportunity to participate in growth potential of this space.
- ❖ India's Shubman Gill become the only cricketer in the history to score a century in Test, ODIs, T20I and Indian Premier League in a calendar year.
- ❖ Global Accessibility Awareness Day is observed on the third Thursday of May (May 18) every year to raise awareness of the importance of digital accessibility.
- ❖ International Tea Day is observed every year by UN on May 21 to promote the sustainable production, consumption, and trade of tea.
- ❖ India launched 'Operation Karuna' to assist Myanmar which has been devastated by Cyclone Mocha.
- ❖ India's value of defence production in the country crossed ₹1 lakh crore (1,06,800 crore) for the first time.
- ❖ Indian Army conducted a Joint Flood Relief 'Exercise Jal Rahat' to validate joint drills and coordinate preparedness by multi-agency flood relief columns.
- ❖ SBI reported an 83 per cent jump in net profit to a record high ₹16,694.51 crore for the fourth quarter of 2022-23.
- ❖ The government has appointed Ravneet Kaur as the Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
- ❖ The Prime Minister inaugurated unveiled the stylised and contemporarised life-size version of a 5-foot tall toy in Channa Patna style inspired by the Bronze Dancing Girl of the Sindhu Saraswati Sabhyata which is the official mascot of the International Museum Expo 2023. Delhi.
- ❖ According to Morgan Stanley, India is expected to contribute 16 per cent of the global gross domestic product (GDP) growth over 2023-24.
- ❖ The Centre inaugurated the 8th All India Pension Adalat in Delhi to resolve chronic pension-related cases.
- ❖ The World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued an advisory on non-sugar sweeteners (NSS)
  - It recommends against the use of NSS to control body weight or reduce the risk of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).





- ❖ The Indian-origin Captain Pratima Bhullar Maldonado has become the highest-ranking South Asian woman in the New York Police Department (NYPD).
- ❖ The President has appointed four judicial officers: R. Sakthivel, P. Dhanabal, C. Kumarappan and K. Rajasekar as additional judges of the Madras High Court.
  - With this, the working strength of the court will increase to 65, as against the sanctioned strength of 75 judges.
- ❖ TN launched a scheme to send prasadam of 48 major temples in the State, to the homes of devotees.
- ❖ The Trichy International Airport's new terminal project has been awarded the international safety award by the British Safety Council in the first-class merit category.
- ❖ The central government launched "Meri LiFE" (My Life) mobile application to empower young people and encourage their participation in tackling climate change.
- ❖ Amazon Web Services (AWS) announced its plans to invest US\$12.7 billion into cloud infrastructure in India by 2030.
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh's Kangra tea, has been registered with the European Union (EU) as a protected Geographical Indication.
- ❖ Prime Minister of India unveiled the bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Hiroshima, Japan.
- ❖ The Mangaluru City Corporation launched the 'Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar' campaign to collect unused or used plastic items, clothes, footwear, books, newspapers and toys from the public.
- ❖ Author Ruskin Bond wrote a book titled "The Golden Years: The Many Joys of Living a Good Long Life".
- ❖ For the first time in history, an image of the actual FIFA World Cup trophy and the tournament hosting year is being depicted for FIFA World Cup emblem for 2026 edition in USA, Canada and Mexico.
- ❖ Tata Group Chairman N. Chandrasekaran has been given France's highest civilian award Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur for his contributions to strengthen the trade relationship between India and France.
- ❖ Botanical Garden in Udthagamandalam celebrates its 125<sup>th</sup> annual flower show.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh has become the first state to provide free air travel facilities to senior citizens for yatra (holy pilgrimage) under the Mukhya Mantri Teerth-Darshan Yojana.
- ❖ The Union government has set up the Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE).



- It aims to ensure timely and process-bound deregistering of companies from records as well as provide more meaningful data to the stakeholders.
- ❖ Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry Parshottan Rupala launched the Sagar Parikrama Yatra Phase-V in Karanja in the Raigad district of Maharashtra.
- ❖ Industrialist Karumuttu T. Kannan passed away recently in Madurai.
  - He served as Thakkar of Menakshi Amman Temple and Chairman of Thiagarajar Mills.
- ❖ G20's third Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) meeting was held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ❖ The National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted a nationwide drive codenamed 'Operation Dhvast'.
- ❖ Canara Bank emerged as the largest buyer among the state-owned lenders in 2022-23, making total purchases of Rs 592.82 crore from the portal.
- ❖ Union Home Minister laid the foundation stone for the permanent campus of the National Academy of Coastal Policing (NACP) at Okha in Gujarat.
- ❖ Public sector banks' cumulative profit crossed the Rs 1 lakh crore-mark in the financial year ended March 2023.
- ❖ Global private equity firm Blackstone has acquired 100% stake in International Gemmological Institute (IGI) from China-based investment firm Fosun, and Roland Lorie.
- ❖ IIT Madras has joined hands with the government of Israel to establish an 'India – Israel Center of Water Technology'.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has gutka ban extended for a period of one year from May 23, 2023.
  - Tamil Nadu initiated the ban in 2016.
- ❖ Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra became the world number one for the first time in his career in the latest men's javelin throw rankings issued by the World Athletics.
- ❖ China became the world's top car exporter by surpassing Japan.
- ❖ The decade of the 2080s of Bikram Samvat will be marked as 'the Visit Nepal decade' and the year 2025 as the special year for tourism.
- ❖ Ireland has approved new rules that will require extensive health labelling on alcoholic beverages, including cancer warnings and a calorie count.
  - This is the first time in the World.
- ❖ The President of India appointed Justice S Vaidyanathan as the Acting Chief Justice of Madras High Court.



- The appointment comes after the retirement of present Acting Chief Justice T Raja.
- ❖ At the Singapore Investors Conference, six memoranda of understanding (MoUs) were signed between Tamil Nadu government agencies and various organisations in Singapore.
- ❖ The President of India inaugurated the new Jharkhand High Court complex in Ranchi.
- ❖ India is set to introduce 18 new peta FLOP supercomputers dedicated to weather forecasting.
  - It is aiming to enhance the accuracy and resolution of weather predictions.
- ❖ Kerala has become India's first fully e-governed state with over 900 services available via a single window system, e-sevanam portal.
- ❖ Neyveli Thermal Power Station-II units started to blend coal with lignite for the first time.
- ❖ Anna University has reversed its decision to suspend the civil and mechanical engineering programmes in Tamil medium in its 11 constituent colleges.
  - In 2010, Anna University introduced BTech courses in Tamil-medium.
- ❖ Former Minister and five-time Congress MLA U T Khader were unanimously elected as the new Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly.
  - Khader (53) will be the first Muslim leader to serve as Speaker of Karnataka Assembly.
- ❖ Justice Sanjay Vijaykumar Gangapurwala was sworn-in as the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court by the Governor of Tamilnadu.
- ❖ WayCool Foods entered a strategic partnership with IIT Madras (IITM) to expand the offerings for farmers under IITM's RASA (Regenerative Agriculture Sustainable Architecture) tech stack.
  - WayCool is India's largest food & agri-tech platform.
- ❖ The Tamilnadu diary minister has launched the works for laying a glass bridge between Thiruvalluvar Statue and Vivekananda Rock in Kanyakumari.
- ❖ Niti Aayog 8<sup>th</sup> governing council meeting was held at New Delhi.
- ❖ Suman Sharma has been appointed UPSC Member recently.
- ❖ Tina turner, a Queen of rock 'n' roll', passed away recently at Zurich, Switzerland.
- ❖ The upcoming Census will consider only count Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Sikh and Jain as distinct religion options.
- ❖ The 'International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories' is observed from May 25 to May 31.



- ❖ Bank of Maharashtra emerges as top performer in NPA management during FY23 with net non-performing assets as low as 0.25%.
- ❖ Nepal has approved India's Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Limited to develop a second hydropower project in the country.
- ❖ The Sapta Shakti Command of the Indian Army conducted exercise 'Sudarshan Shakti 2023' along the western borders in Rajasthan and Punjab.

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **Tamil Nadu - Where the World comes to Heal**

- ❖ Chief Minister inaugurated a two-day medical value travel conclave.
- ❖ The event was called 'Tamil Nadu - Where the World comes to Heal.'
- ❖ This was organised jointly by the Tourism and Health departments.
- ❖ It is aimed at bringing together hospitals from 21 source countries with hospitals in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Already, Tamilnadu is known as the hub of Medical Tourism in India.

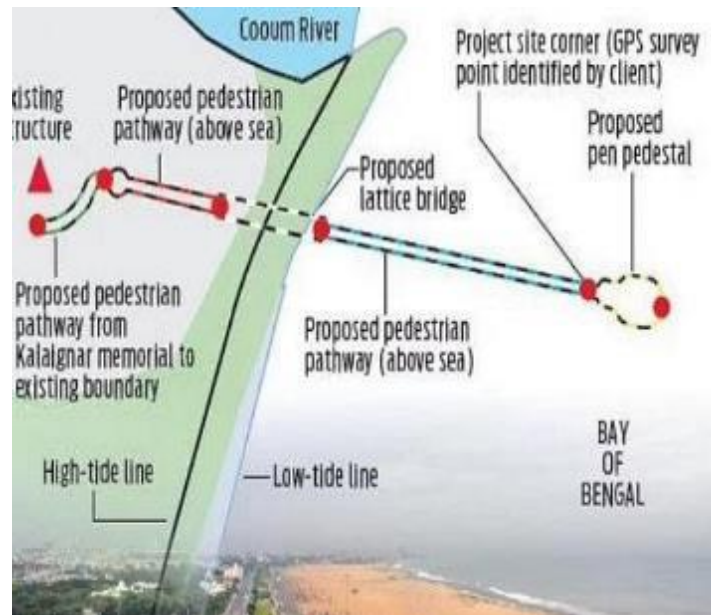
### **Direct tax net collections**

- ❖ For the financial year 2022-23, the direct tax net collections of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry regions exceeded one lakh crore.
- ❖ Net collections this year was ₹1,08,364 crore and the growth rate was 20.20%.
- ❖ This is the third consecutive year that the Budget target was achieved.

### **Dr. Kalaignar pen monument in the Bay of Bengal**

- ❖ The Union Environment Ministry's Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) has cleared the proposal to construct the Pen Memorial.
- ❖ It has recommended for coastal zone clearance (CRZ) with nearly 15 conditions.
- ❖ The CRZ clearance is also subject to the final order of the National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone.
- ❖ The project - 'Muthamizh Arignar Dr Kalaignar Pen' memorial being proposed to be built at a cost of over Rs 81 crore.





### **USD 1 trillion economy by 2034**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated the national executive meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- ❖ He also released a FICCI – Deloitte Knowledge Paper on ‘Accelerating Tamil Nadu’s Progress to becoming a One Trillion Dollar Economy by 2030-31’.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is the second-largest State economy after Maharashtra.
- ❖ It is the third-largest goods exporter in India (by value) after Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- ❖ Assuming Tamil Nadu can sustain its current average of 10% growth, it is expected to reach a USD 1 trillion economy benchmark by FY2034.
- ❖ However, to achieve this milestone by FY2031, the State will need to grow at an average of 16.5% annually.

### **Centenary of May Day in Madras**

- ❖ The first May Day was celebrated in Madras (now Chennai) in 1923 by trade union leader M. Singaravelu.
- ❖ The Labour Kisan Party introduced May Day celebrations in Madras.
- ❖ Comrade Singaravelar presided over the meeting.
- ❖ He is known by his title, ‘Sinthanai Sirpi’, and was the first communist of south India.
- ❖ In December 1925, he presided over the first communist conference in Kanpur.

- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, it was the DMK government that first declared a holiday for May Day in 1967.



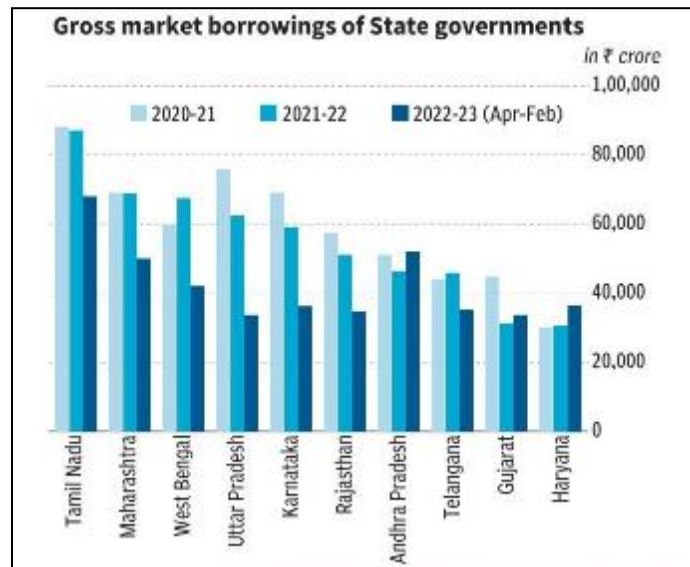
### Non-tax revenue growth

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has projected a growth of 32% in its non-tax revenue for 2023-24.
- ❖ This is the highest in four years.
- ❖ Earlier, the State had seen over 30% growth in its non-tax revenue in 2018-19.
- ❖ The State's revenue receipts consist of:
  - Tax revenue (own tax revenue plus the share in Union Taxes/Duties);
  - Non-tax revenue; and
  - Grants from the Government of India
- ❖ Non-tax revenue consists of
  - Interest receipts;
  - Dividend and profits;
  - Mining and other departmental receipts.



### Top borrowing states

- ❖ According to the Reserve Bank of India, Tamil Nadu has been the top borrowing state for the third consecutive year.
- ❖ In the last financial year 2022-23, Tamil Nadu has borrowed Rs. 68 thousand crores in the first 11 months.
- ❖ Next to Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh has borrowed Rs.51,860 crore and Maharashtra has borrowed Rs.50 thousand crore.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu was the highest borrowing state in the previous 2 financial years.
- ❖ Compared to these two financial years, the borrowing of Tamil Nadu in the financial year 2022-23 has decreased slightly.
- ❖ At the same time, Tamil Nadu has borrowed less than the loan amount recommended by the Finance Commission.



### Tamil glossary on climate change

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has released a glossary of Tamil words on climate change.
- ❖ This will aid to expand the vocabulary on the rapidly evolving phenomenon.
- ❖ It aims to improve access to climate change-related knowledge in regional languages.

### New scheme for colleges

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education has introduced a new scheme.

- ❖ It aims to encourage colleges to conduct seminars and conferences for students and faculty.
- ❖ The Council has called on universities, government and aided arts and science colleges to conduct workshops under ‘partial financial assistance’ scheme for the academic year 2022-23 before May 22.
- ❖ The colleges will get ₹40,000 to conduct two-day international conference.

### Land Consolidation (for Special Projects) Act

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government adopted a Bill that seeks to enact the Tamil Nadu Land Consolidation (for Special Projects) Act.
- ❖ It aims to streamline the process of consolidation of government lands for large projects.
- ❖ It also seeks to regulate the process of the exchange of lands involving water bodies, and the protection of such water bodies.

### Highest number of deceased donors

**Registering an upturn**  
The table shows the number of donors in the State since the start of the Deceased Donor Organ Transplantation Programme

Year	Donors			Year	Donors		
	Govt.	Private	Total		Govt.	Private	Total
2008	-	7	7	2017	29	131	160
2009	9	50	59	2018	27	113	140
2010	29	58	87	2019	22	105	127
2011	19	51	70	2020	5	50	55
2012	19	64	83	2021	5	55	60
2013	18	112	130	2022	51	105	156
2014	19	116	135	2023 (Jan-April)	13	37	50
2015	14	141	155				
2016	27	158	185				

**The table shows the government hospitals that had the most number of donors from January to December 2022**

Hospital	Donors
Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, Chennai	16
Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai	5
Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Tiruchi	5
Government Mohan Kumaramangalam Medical College Hospital, Salem	5
Government Kilpauk Medical College Hospital, Chennai	4

Source: Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu

- ❖ TN government hospitals registered the highest number (51) of deceased donors in 2022.
- ❖ The deceased donor organ transplantation programme started in the State in 2008.
- ❖ Of the total 156 deceased donors in 2022, there were 51 donors in the government sector.
- ❖ The overall highest number of donors so far in Tamil Nadu was 185 in 2016.



## Global Investor Meet

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Industries Investment Promotion and Commerce Department has started visiting potential investors for the Global Investors Meet 2024.
- ❖ It has made its first visit in the Nordic region.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government will host the Global Investors Meet in Chennai on January 10 and 11, 2024.
- ❖ This will be the first Global Investor Meet for the current government.
- ❖ The previous two meets were held in 2015 and 2019 during the previous govt.



## 'Namma Ooru Superu' campaign







- ❖ The Kallakurichi district administration has rolled out 'Namma Ooru Superu' initiative.
- ❖ It aims to ensure better sanitary conditions and cleanliness in the rural and urban areas of the district.
- ❖ The campaign would focus on creating awareness of drinking water, sanitation and solid waste management.

### **Model town panchayat for solid waste management**

- ❖ The Karunguzhi Town Panchayat of Chengalpattu district has earned the recognition as a model town panchayat for solid waste management.
- ❖ The town panchayat has been chosen for the best practice in solid waste management leading to improvement of the lifestyle of citizens.
- ❖ The town panchayat has been able to generate 4,000 to 5,000 kg of manure every month from various organic waste.
- ❖ The recycled grey water would be used for avenue trees, Miyawaki forest and other plants maintained by the panchayat.

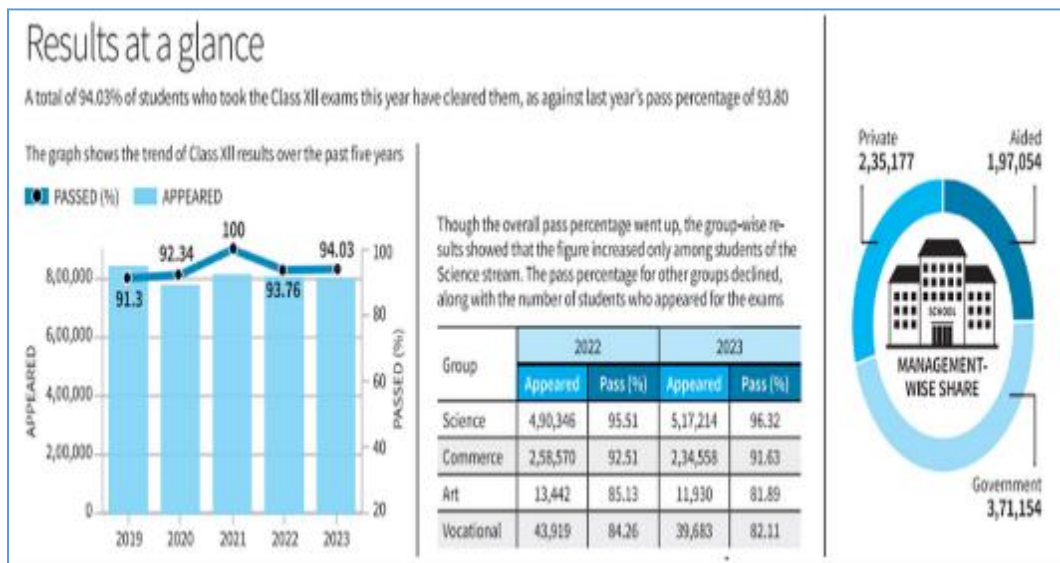
### **Tamil Nadu's peak power demand**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's peak power demand is expected to be nearly 23,000 MW by 2027-28.
- ❖ It is expected to grow at a compounded annual rate of 5.8% from 17,306 MW in 2022-23.
- ❖ The Southern Region's peak demand for 2027-28 is expected to increase from 61 gigawatt (GW) to about 87 GW.
- ❖ Its installed capacity is expected to increase to about 228 GW from 122 GW.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu will have the highest peak power demand among the southern States.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh will see the maximum annual growth of 7.7%.

### **Tamil Nadu Board Class 12 Result 2023**

- ❖ 8,03,385 students who appeared for the TN 12<sup>th</sup> exams of which over 7.5 lakh students cleared the exam.
- ❖ S. Nandhini, Daughter of a daily wager from Dindigul has scored 600 out of 600 marks in the Class 12 Tamil Nadu state board exams.
- ❖ Pass Percentage in 2023: 94.03 percent.

- ❖ Pass percentage of Girls: 96.38 percent.
- ❖ Pass percentage of Boys: 91.45 percent.
- ❖ Virudhnagar has topped in terms of district wise topper with 97.85 %.
- ❖ Virudhunagar district is followed by Tirupur at 97.79% and Perambalur at 97.59%.
- ❖ As per reports, a total of 326 schools in Tamil Nadu have recorded a 100 per cent pass percentage in the TN +2 Result 2023.
- ❖ The Union Territory of Puducherry recorded a passing percentage of 93.45 per cent in the TN state board run schools.
- ❖ In 2022, 93.80% students passed the exams.



### **T.N. Cabinet reshuffle**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Milk and Dairy Development Minister S.M. Nasar was replaced by Mano Thangaraj.
- ❖ Palanivel Thiaga Rajan's Finance and Human Resources Management portfolios were allocated to Thangam Thennarasu.
- ❖ Mr. Rajan is the new Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services.
- ❖ The industries portfolio, hitherto held by the Mr. Thennarasu, would be handled by T.R.B. Raaja.
- ❖ The Tamil Development portfolio (held by Mr. Thennarasu) is additionally allotted to Information and Publicity Minister M.P. Saminathan.

Ministry	Previous Minister	New Minister	Ministry	Previous Minister	New Minister
Industries	 Thangam Thennarasu	 T.R.B. Raja	Information Technology and Digital Services	 T. Mano Thangaraj	 Palanivel Thiaga Rajan
Finance and Human Resources Management	 Palanivel Thiaga Rajan	 Thangam Thennarasu	Milk and Dairy Development	 S.M. Nasar	 T. Mano Thangaraj
Tamil Development	 Thangam Thennarasu	 M.P. Saminathan	Tamil Nadu cabinet reshuffle - May 11, 2023		

### Tamil Nadu Champions Foundation

- ❖ It is an initiative to partner with citizens and corporates to revamp sports in the State.
- ❖ The foundation's mission includes identifying, nurturing, and supporting sportspersons.
- ❖ It also, aimed at putting in place state-of-the-art sports infrastructure and sporting amenities.

### Statues of late freedom fighters

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister unveiled the statues of late freedom fighter V.O. Chidambaranar, late social reformer Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar and late doctor-legislator Muthu Lakshmi Reddy.
- ❖ V.O. Chidambaranar's statue has been installed at V.O.C. Park in Coimbatore.
- ❖ Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar's statue was opened in Mayiladuthurai.
- ❖ Dr. Muthu Lakshmi Reddy's statue was located in Pudukkottai.
- ❖ He also unveiled the foundation stones for the construction of memorial hall of former Chief Minister of then Madras Presidency P. Subbarayan.

## Major reshuffle of IAS officers in Tamilnadu

- ❖ T. Udhayachandran was posted as Principal Secretary to the Finance Department.
- ❖ N. Muruganandam, the incumbent Finance Secretary, was posted as Secretary I to the Chief Minister.
- ❖ J. Radhakrishnan, Additional Chief Secretary, Cooperation, Food and Consumer Protection department, will be the new Greater Chennai Corporation Commissioner.
- ❖ P. Amudha, is now posted as the Principal Secretary of Home, Prohibition and Excise Department.
- ❖ Ms. Amudha is the fourth woman to occupy that post.
- ❖ Santha Sheela Nair was the first woman to become the Home Secretary of Tamil Nadu.



## i-Tamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) hub

தமிழக மடவெல்  
அறிவிப்பு  
2022-2023

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு  
தகவல் தொழில் நுட்பவியல் துறை



- செயற்கை நுண்ணறிவு, கியூபிங் கற்றல் மற்றும் நம்பிக்கை கிணையம் எனும் பிளாக்செயின் போன்ற நவீன, வளர்ந்து வரும் தொழில்நுட்பங்களின் முக்கியத்துவத்தை தமிழ்நாடு அரசு அறிந்திருக்கிறது.
- தமிழ்நாடு அரசு, i-Tamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) Hub எனும் தொழில்நுட்ப மையத்தை சென்னையில் ரூ.54.61 கோடி முதலீட்டில் உருவாக்கும். இந்த தொழில்நுட்பங்களை பயன் படுத்தி மாநிலத்தில் உள்ள சவால்கள் மற்றும் பிரச்சனைகளுக்கு தீர்வுக்கான நடவடிக்கைகளை இந்த தொழில்நுட்ப மையம் ஒருங்கிணைக்கும்.
- இந்த ஆண்டின் நதி நிலை அறிக்கையில், தகவல் தொழில்நுட்பவியல் துறைக்கு, 199.6 கோடி ரூபாய் ஒதுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது.



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister virtually inaugurated the i-Tamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) hub.
- ❖ The iTNT hub would coordinate efforts to use artificial intelligence, machine learning, and blockchain technologies, among others, to solve complex challenges in the State.
- ❖ The hub has been established on the Anna University campus in Chennai at a cost of ₹54.61 crore.
- ❖ The Union government has contributed 50% of the funds.
- ❖ The T.N. government has spent 37%, and industries have contributed 13%.

### **T.N.'s fiscal deficit fiscal 2023**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's fiscal deficit stood at ₹72,418.99 crore in fiscal 2022-23.
- ❖ The fiscal deficit is the difference between total receipts and total expenditure.
- ❖ While presenting the Budget for 2023-24, the State government had revised its fiscal deficit estimates to ₹74,524.64 crore for 2022-23.
- ❖ The revenue deficit, which indicates that expenditure exceeds receipts, came in at ₹27,549.09 crore for 2022-23.
- ❖ The State's total receipts (which included revenue receipts and capital receipts) stood at ₹2,43,133.76 crore in 2022-23.
- ❖ Total expenditure (revenue and capital expenditure, including net loans and advances) was ₹3,15,552.75 crore for 2022-23.
- ❖ The total revenue receipts were ₹2,42,013.85 crore for 2022-23.
- ❖ It includes the State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR), share of Union Taxes, Non-Tax Revenue and Grants-in-aid and contributions.
- ❖ The SOTR stood at ₹1,4,1196.22 crore for 2022-23.
- ❖ The SOTR accounts for over 70% of the State's total revenue.
- ❖ The State goods and services tax (GST), stamps and registration fees, value added taxes (VAT) on petroleum products and liquor, excise duty on liquor and land revenue are the key components of SOTR.
- ❖ Revenue expenditure includes expenditure on salaries to government employees, pensions and other retirement benefits, operations and maintenance expenditure, interest on outstanding loans and subsidies and grants, scholarships and contributions, including the devolution to local bodies.



### Fiscal deficit within limits



### Supreme Court verdict on Jallikattu

#### TWISTS IN BULL TALE

- > **SC bans jallikattu in 2014.** In 2016, it stays notification by Centre reversing the ban
- > **Widespread protests** in TN centred around Chennai's Marina beach. In 2017, TN assembly **amends Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act to allow jallikattu** on grounds of 'cultural heritage'
- > On Thursday, **constitution bench of SC holds amendments valid.** PETA India says it's **exploring legal remedies to protect bulls** after the verdict

- ❖ The Supreme Court upheld the validity of laws passed by Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Karnataka to allow the bull-taming sport Jallikattu, bullock-cart races and buffalo racing sport Kambala in their respective regions
- ❖ The top court in 2014 had banned these sports holding them to be violative of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, (PCA), 1960.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu passed a Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act of 2017 and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Conduct of Jallikattu) Rules of 2017.

- ❖ The laws for prevention of cruelty to animals was a subject relatable to Entry 17 of Concurrent List (List 3) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution.
- ❖ "Jallikattu", also known as "Eru thazhuvuthal", is a bull-taming sport played in Tamil Nadu as part of the Pongal harvest festival.
- ❖ The Kambala race, held in Karnataka between November and March, involves a pair of buffaloes tied to a plough and anchored by one person.

### **Three Mini TIDEL Parks**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister virtually unveiled the foundation stone for the construction of 'Mini TIDEL Parks' in Salem, Thanjavur and Thoothukudi districts.
- ❖ The Mini TIDEL Park would be constructed in Omalur taluk in Salem district, Pillayarpatti in Thanjavur district and Meelavittan in Thoothukudi district.



### **Birth anniversary of John Sullivan**



- ❖ The 234<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of the British administrator John Sullivan was observed in Ooty.
- ❖ He led an exploratory colonial expedition up the Nilgiris slopes in the 1820s.
- ❖ He was Coimbatore Collector between 1815 and 1830.
- ❖ He also pioneered the creation of the Ooty Lake.

### **New shorter treatment regimen for TB preventive therapy**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Tuberculosis Summit held recently.
- ❖ In the Summit, Health Minister launched 3HP, a new shorter treatment regimen for TB Preventive Therapy.
- ❖ He also released the State Strategic Plan 2.0 and a TB awareness video.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is the first State in the country to procure the medicines for providing to household contacts of patients with TB.

### **Excavation at Porpanai Kottai**



- ❖ The State Archaeology Department began excavation at Porpanaikotttai.
- ❖ It is seeking to unearth an ancient fort in the village.
- ❖ This site is situated about 6.5 km to the east of Pudukkottai town.
- ❖ This is one of the new sites where the department has launched excavations this year.
- ❖ The earliest lithic evidence in the form of a memorial stone datable to 3rd - 4th century CE, on the palaeographical ground, found at this site.
- ❖ It looks contemporary to the Pulankurchi inscription.
- ❖ The memorial stone was raised for a hero Kanankumaran.
- ❖ He was a soldier of the close circuit, who died in a cattle raid carried on this village by Ponkongar Vinnakon.
- ❖ The ruined fort was probably built in the 13-14<sup>th</sup> century CE.

### **Job creation in Tamilnadu 2022-23**

- ❖ As many as 14,05,171 jobs were created in Tamil Nadu's formal sector in Financial Year (FY) 2022-23.
- ❖ This is increased up by about 9.4% from 12,84,986 jobs in FY 2021-22.

- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, the maximum addition was seen in the age group of 18-21, where 3,76,872 jobs were created in 2022-23.
- ❖ In the 22-25 age group, 3,6,8981 jobs were added in 2022-23, followed by 2,44,891 jobs in the more than 35 age brackets.
- ❖ In March, the top five States for net member addition were Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Haryana and Gujarat.
- ❖ These States together constituted 58.68% of net member addition.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's share in the overall net addition declined from 10.5% in 2021-22 to 10.1% in 2022-23.

### **IIT-M incubated TuTr Hyperloop**

- ❖ A start-up, TuTr Hyperloop, was incubated in the Indian Institute of Technology Madras.
- ❖ It will help the institute develop intellectual property in hyperloop technology.
- ❖ TuTr has partnered with Tata Steel to develop and deploy the technology.
- ❖ TuTr's mission is to deliver customers with fast and reliable "on-demand" affordable transportation.
- ❖ TuTr Hyperloop has partnered with European company Hardt Hyperloop for interoperable hyperloop technology between India and Europe.



### **Tamil as compulsory additional language**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Director of Private Schools has announced that students in classes 9 and 10 in all private schools affiliated to various boards.
- ❖ This will be applicable to those, who have not opted for Tamil as one of the languages as a part of their respective board exam requirements.
- ❖ They will have to be mandatorily taught Tamil as an additional compulsory language in the 2024-25 academic year.

- ❖ This Government Order passed based on the Tamil Language Learning Act 2006.
- ❖ Syllabus and the exam pattern will be determined by the Director of Private Schools.

### **New ministers in-charge for districts**

- ❖ The state has shuffled certain ministers who are in charge of specific districts to coordinate welfare schemes, expedite projects and monitor their implementation.
- ❖ On October 19, 2021, Government appointed his cabinet colleagues as in charge of 14 specific districts to monitor welfare schemes and undertake emergency works during natural calamities.
- ❖ Now, changes have been made and hereafter 16 districts will have a minister as in-charge.

### **eVTOL aircrafts**

- ❖ The ePlane Company, a developer of Electric Vertical Take off and Landing (eVTOL) aircrafts has received Design Organisation Approval from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- ❖ Incubated at IIT Madras, Chennai since 2019, the ePlane Company was founded by Satyanarayanan Chakravarthi.
- ❖ The ePlane Company is in pursuit of developing India's first compact flying electric taxi.
- ❖ It was designed for intra-city commutes and cargo transport.
- ❖ The ePlane e200 is a two-seater aircraft that is designed to operate in urban spaces.



### **Community-based initiative for Hornbills**

- ❖ A community-based conservation initiative, involving the Kadar tribal community, has restored the dwindling hornbill population.



- ❖ The Hornbill nest tree monitoring programme was started in 2005.
- ❖ It has objected to address the declining hornbill population and restore their vanishing nesting habitat.
- ❖ It has involved the Kadars, an indigenous community, in the Vazhachal forest division.
- ❖ The programme had technical support of the Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation for the conservation processes.
- ❖ Kadar, small tribe of southern India, are residing along the hilly border between Cochin in Kerala and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Kadar live in the forests and do not practice agriculture.



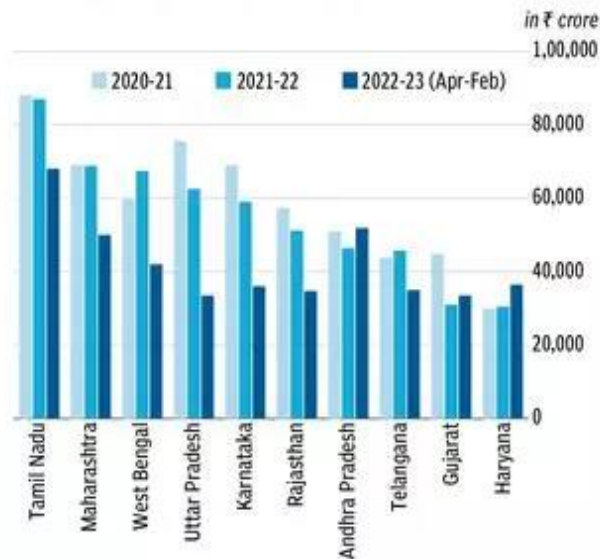
### **Tamil Nadu top borrower in Fiscal 2023**

- ❖ As per the data from Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Tamil Nadu's gross market borrowings were at the same level as 2021-22.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu was the top borrowing State in terms of gross borrowings in 2022-23.
- ❖ It was followed by Maharashtra, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The State's tax revenue increased nearly 18 per cent to ₹1,88,953.57 crore in 2022-23 from ₹1,60,324.66 crore in 2021-22.
- ❖ The State's total revenue receipts was ₹2,42,013.85 crore for 2022-23.
- ❖ Its total receipts stood at ₹2,43,133.76 crore in 2022-23.
- ❖ The total expenditure was ₹3,15,552.75 crore for 2022-23.
- ❖ The revenue expenditure has come in at ₹2,69,562.94 crore for 2022-23.
- ❖ The quality of deficit (ratio of revenue deficit and fiscal deficit) has seen a significant improvement.

- ❖ The ratio was 38.02% in 2022-23 and it was a six-year high when compared to 22.52% in fiscal 2017.

## State of borrowings

Gross market borrowings of State governments

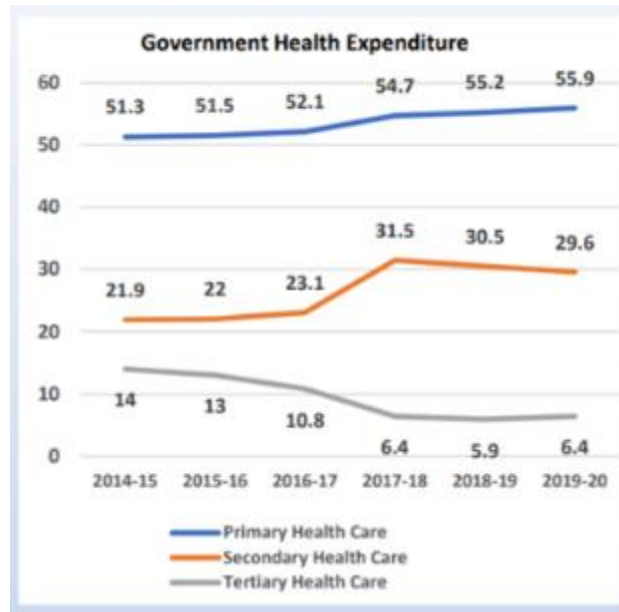


## NATIONAL

### National Health Accounts Estimates for India (2019-20)

- ❖ The government spent 1.35% of the country's Gross Domestic Product on healthcare during the year.
- ❖ This was 1.13 per cent in 2014-15.
- ❖ For the same period, GHE as per cent of general government expenditure (GGE) has increased from 3.94 per cent to 5.02 per cent.
- ❖ Between 2014-15 and 2019-20, government health expenditure grew from 29 per cent to 41.4 per cent of the total health expenditure.
- ❖ Healthcare spending per person doubled from Rs 1,108 to Rs 2,014 from 2014-15 to 2019-20.
- ❖ Expenditure on social security schemes has increased from 5.7 per cent to 9.3 per cent in this period.

- ❖ Primary care received 55.9 per cent of the government's health spending for 2019-20.
- ❖ Secondary care received 29.6 per cent and tertiary care received 6.4 per cent.
- ❖ A consistent decline in the share of out-of-pocket expenditure in total health expenditure has been recorded as 47.1 per cent in 2019-20.
- ❖ This was 62.6 per cent in 2014-15.



### **Nav Ratana status for Rail Vikas Nigam Limited**

- ❖ Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL) has been upgraded to Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).
- ❖ RVNL will now be the 13<sup>th</sup> Navratna amongst the CPSEs.
- ❖ The Navratna status was first granted to nine public sector enterprises in 1997 by the Indian government.



**Government Approves**  
**#Navratna Status**

### **NITI Aayog report on Promoting Millets**

- ❖ NITI Aayog released a report titled Promoting Millets in Diets: Best Practices across States/UTs of India.
- ❖ The report presents a set of good and innovative practices adopted by states governments and organizations in various aspects of millet value- chain especially production, processing and consumption.
- ❖ The report has three themes
  - State Missions and initiatives to promote millets;
  - Inclusion of millets in ICDS;
  - Research and development and use of technology for innovative practices.
- ❖ The report will serve as a guiding repository to revive and mainstream millets in our diets.

### **National Medical Devices Policy 2023**



- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the National Medical Devices Policy, 2023.
- ❖ It aims to place the medical devices sector on an accelerated path of growth with a patient-centric approach to meet the evolving healthcare needs of patients
- ❖ It is expected to facilitate an orderly growth of the medical device sector to meet the public health objectives of access, affordability, quality, and innovation.
- ❖ It will help the sector grow from the present \$11 billion to \$50 billion in the next five years.

### **SUPREME initiative**

- ❖ Ministry of Science and Technology launched the Support for Up-gradation Preventive Repair and Maintenance of Equipment (SUPREME) initiative recently.
- ❖ It seeks to provide financial support for the upgradation and maintenance of analytical instrumentation facilities (AIFs) created under the ministry's support.
- ❖ It is a first-of-its-kind programme to extends financial support for repair, upgradation, maintenance, retrofitting, or acquiring additional attachments.
- ❖ The duration of support will be for a period not exceeding 3 years.
- ❖ The funding pattern in the scheme would be 75:25 for all private and government-owned institutions

### **World 1<sup>st</sup> Nano DAP fertilizer**

- ❖ The union home minister launched the “world's first liquid nano DAP (Di-Ammonia Phosphate) fertiliser” in Delhi.
- ❖ Liquid DAP is manufactured by the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO).
- ❖ It is being touted as a revolutionary product as it will help farmers reduce production costs and help them wean off chemical fertilisers.
- ❖ One 500 ml bottle of liquid DAP contains 8% of Nitrogen and 16% of Phosphorus.
- ❖ It can easily replace a 50 kg bag of traditional DAP.
- ❖ IFFCO owns a patent on its nano urea and nano DAP.
- ❖ This cooperative will get royalties for the product for the next 20 years.



### **Ajeya Warrior – 2023**

- ❖ Military troops of India and the United Kingdom (UK) kick-started the seventh edition of 'Ajeya Warrior' 2023.



- ❖ Ajeya Warrior is a biennial training event with the UK which is conducted alternatively in both countries.
- ❖ The last edition was held at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand in October 2021.



### **National Manufacturing Innovation Survey 2021-22**

- ❖ The Department of Science and Technology released the “National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22: Summary for Policymakers”.
- ❖ It has prioritised enhancing the competitiveness of Indian manufacturing and increasing its share in the GDP
- ❖ It had two specific components: the firm-level survey and the sectorial systems of innovation (SSI) survey.
- ❖ The Firm-level survey captured data related to types of innovations and innovative measures taken by firms.
- ❖ The Sectorial System of Innovation survey mapped the manufacturing innovation system and its enabling role in achieving innovations in firms.

### **India’s first cable-stayed rail bridge**

- ❖ The country's first cable-stayed rail bridge called “Anji Khad bridge” has now been completed.
- ❖ The cable-stayed rail bridge has 96 cables and the cable strands' total length is 653 km.
- ❖ It will connect Katra and Reasi in the state of Jammu and Kashmir through Indian Railways.
- ❖ The bridge was built as part of the national project “Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) Project”.



### **Poetess Shilabhatarika**

- ❖ Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute (BORI) have recently obtained historical evidence establishing the literary contributions of poetess Shilabhatarika.
- ❖ She is the daughter of Chalukya ruler Pulakeshin II.
- ❖ The evidence was obtained from one of five copper plates that contained more than 60 sentences in Sanskrit written in Brahmi script.
- ❖ The decoding of the copper plates also marks a notable shift in the historiography of Badami Chalukyas by placing Shilabhatarika as having lived in the 7th century CE rather than the current theory which has her as a wife of the 8th century Rashtrakuta ruler, Dhruva.
- ❖ The Sanskrit poet-critic Rajashekhara (who lived in the 9th-10th century CE) and was the court poet of the Gurjara-Pratiharas, has praised Shilabhatarika for her elegant and beautiful compositions.



### **Supreme Court on consensual divorce**

- ❖ Supreme Court ruled that it can dissolve a marriage on the grounds of "irretrievable breakdown" by invoking its special powers under Article 142 of the Constitution.
- ❖ The Bench led by Justice S K Kaul held that the court could waive the mandatory six-month waiting period for divorce under The Hindu Marriage Act (HMA), 1955.

- ❖ Section 13B of the HMA provides for “divorce by mutual consent”.
- ❖ The mandatory six-month wait is intended to give the parties time to withdraw their plea.
- ❖ Article 142 of the Constitution deals with the enforcement of decrees and orders of the apex court to do "complete justice" in any matter pending before it.
- ❖ As per Article 142(1), a decree passed or an order made by the apex court is executable throughout the territory of India.

### **ARTICLE 142 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA**

ARTICLE 142 deals with enforcement of DECREES and ORDERS of the Supreme Court and says that in exercise of its jurisdiction, it may pass order for doing COMPLETE JUSTICE in any matter pending before it.

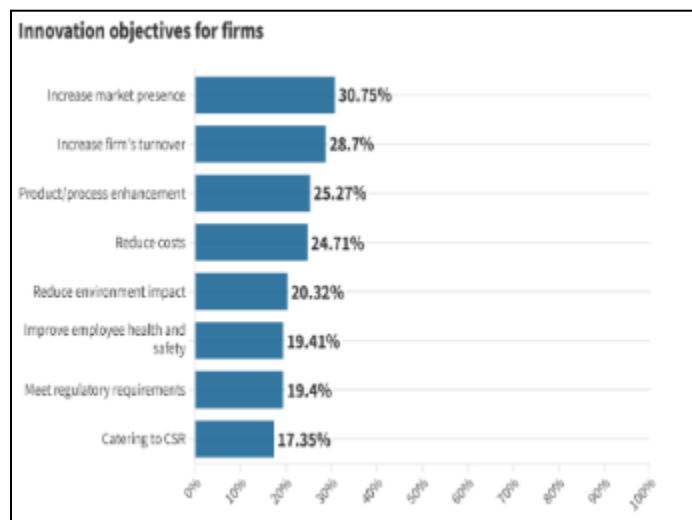
### **Command Cyber Operations and Support Wings**

- ❖ The Army Commanders Conference (ACC) had decided to operationalise the Command Cyber Operations and Support Wings (CCOSWs) in the immediate future.
- ❖ The expansion of cyber warfare capabilities by our adversaries has made the cyber domain more competitive and contested than ever before.
- ❖ These organisations will assist the formations to undertake the mandated cyber security functions to strengthen the cyber security posture of the Army.



## National Manufacturing Innovation Survey

- ❖ It is a joint study by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).
- ❖ Karnataka was chosen as overall and the most “innovative” State.
- ❖ It is followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu (DNH&DD), Telangana, and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu had the highest share of innovative firms at 46.18% ,39.10% and 31.90%, respectively.
- ❖ Odisha, Bihar, and Jharkhand reporting the lowest share of such firms at 12.78%, 13.47% and 13.71%, respectively.



## Notification to Tweak PMLA

- ❖ The Union government’s tweaked PMLA rules were disclosed as part of two gazette notifications.
- ❖ The rules putting non-government organisations (NGOs) and “politically exposed persons” under tighter scrutiny.
- ❖ It significantly widening the range of people and entities whose financial transactions agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate will have access to.
- ❖ The expanded definitions also included cryptocurrencies under provisions to monitor illicit financial flows.
- ❖ The new rules make it mandatory for banking/financial companies to record transactions of several entities and individuals.
- ❖ They were not earlier included in the PMLA (prevention of money laundering act).

- ❖ These rules brought host of activities carried out “for or on behalf of” another person through cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin and Ethereum under PMLA.
- ❖ The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is the main agency probing allegations under PMLA.



### **Climate Change in Indian Mind – 2022**

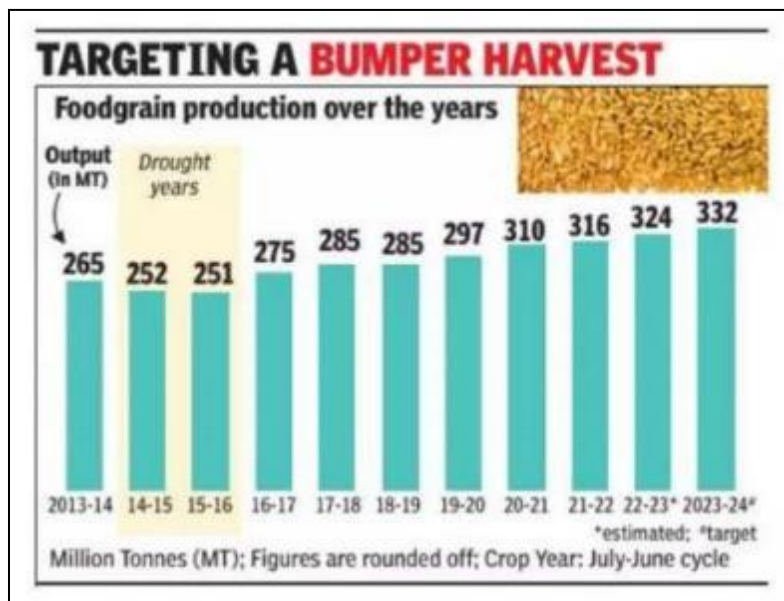
- ❖ This survey was conducted by the Yale Program on the Climate Change Communication.
- ❖ By the category, 'The Alarmed', was consisting of 54 per cent, 'The Concerned', was consisting of 20 per cent, 'The Cautious', was consisting of 11 per cent, and 'The Disengaged', was consisting of just 7 per cent.
- ❖ About 81% of people in India are worried about global warming.
- ❖ 64% of Indians think that the government should do more to address global warming.
- ❖ At least 84% of people in India think that global warming is happening.
- ❖ 74% say they have experienced its effects.
- ❖ 57% of people think that the Earth is heating up mostly due to human activities.
- ❖ More respondents think that climate change will harm plant and animal species (80%), people in India (77%), future generations of people (77%), people in their own community (72%), and themselves and their own family (69%).





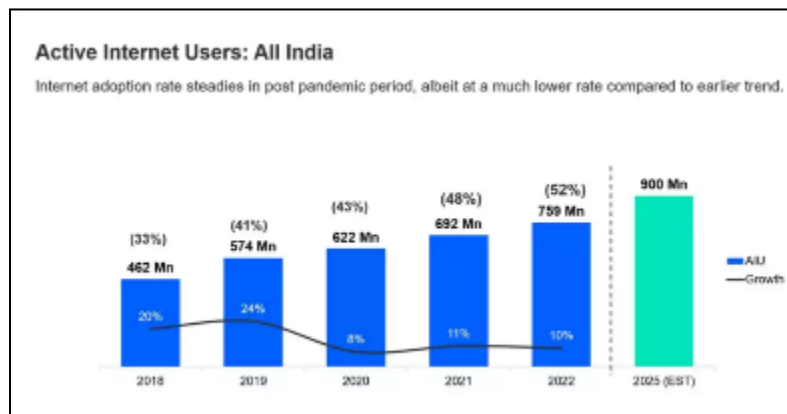
### Foodgrain production target

- ❖ The Union agriculture ministry has set a target of a record 3,320 lakh tonnes (332 million tonnes) production of foodgrains for the year 2023-24.
- ❖ As per the latest estimate, 3,235 lakh tonnes produced in the previous year.
- ❖ Target for the production of pulses has been fixed at 292.5 lakh tonnes compared to 278.1 lakh tonnes this year.
- ❖ Oilseeds production will be increased from 400 lakh tonnes to 440 lakh tonnes in 2023-24.
- ❖ The target for millet production for 2023-24 has been set at 170 lakh tonnes from 159.1 lakh tonnes in 2022-23.



## Internet in India Report 2022

- ❖ As per the report, 52% of the Indian population or 759 million people are accessing the internet at least once a month in 2022.
- ❖ Out of that, 399 million are from rural India, while 360 million are from urban India.
- ❖ Approximately 71% internet penetration witnessed only 6% growth (in 2022).
- ❖ Bihar (32%) having less than half the level of internet penetration than the leading state Goa (70%).
- ❖ The active Internet users comprised of 54% male users.
- ❖ While 57% of all new users in 2022 were females.
- ❖ It is estimated that by 2025, 65% of all new users will be women.
- ❖ Digital payments in 2022 grew 13% over 2021 to reach an estimated 338 million users.



## Cargo ship at Sittwe Port

- ❖ Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways has received the first Indian cargo ship at Sittwe Port in Myanmar.



- ❖ This was inaugurated the regular transit of cargo ships between Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata, India to Sittwe Port in Rakhine state of Myanmar.
- ❖ Sittwe port development is part of the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP).

### **START Program**

- ❖ ISRO has announced a new introductory-level online training program called Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START).
- ❖ START is aimed at postgraduate and final-year undergraduate students of Physical Sciences and Technology.
- ❖ The programme is intended to provide students with an introductory-level training in Space Science and Technology.



For the Indian academic institutes, offering post-graduate / under-graduate courses on physical sciences/ technology

# START

An online Space Science & Technology Awareness Training

इसरो ISRO

**Major Themes**

- Introduction to space
- Solar System
- Comparative Planetology
- Space Weather
- Astronomy & Astrophysics
- Astrobiology
- Indian Space Exploration Programme
- Research Opportunities in Space Science & Technology

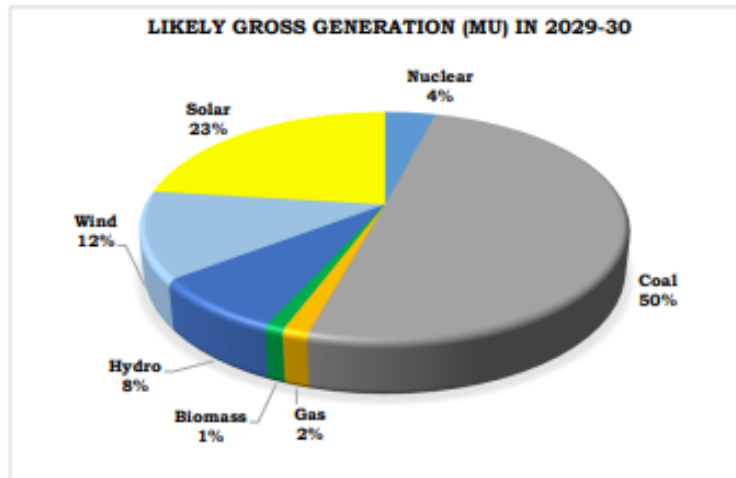
• Indian academic institutions may send Expression of Interest by **May 20, 2023** through <https://jigyasa.iirs.gov.in/START>

A course of lectures by scientists from ISRO/DOS, IISc, IIA, IIG, TIFR, IISER

Science Programme Office (SPO), ISRO Headquarters & Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), Dehradun

### **Optimal generation capacity mix for 2029-30**

- ❖ The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has released a report on optimal generation capacity mix for 2029-30.
- ❖ As per the report, the likely installed capacity by the end of the year 2029-30 will be 777,144 MW.
- ❖ The projected gross electricity generation during the year 2029-30 is likely to be 2,440.7 billion units.
- ❖ It is estimated that non-fossil fuels generation contribution is likely to be around 44 per cent of the gross electricity generation during the year 2029-30.



### Maximum residue limit

- ❖ The Indian tea suffered a severe shock when several international buyers rejected a series of tea consignments as the presence of pesticides and chemicals was beyond the permissible limits.
- ❖ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) had put in place a maximum residue limit (MRL) for five pesticides used in tea plantations.
- ❖ This includes emamectin, benzoate, fenpyroximate, hexaconazole, propiconazole and quinalphos.
- ❖ They are used as a pesticide against tea mosquito bug (*Helopeltis Theivora*).
- ❖ Southern and north-eastern parts of the country reporting large scale damages caused by these bugs.
- ❖ Tea producers want the maximum residue level (MRL) of chemicals in tea to be maintained at current levels and in a few cases to be raised.
- ❖ According to the planters, Dimethoate is another cheaper and more effective compared to conventional pesticides.

S. No.	Name of Pesticide	Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) mg/kg
1	Emamectin Benzoate	0.06
2	Fenpyroximate	6.0
3	Hexaconazole	5.0
4	Propiconazole	6.0
5	Quinalphos	0.7

## 8 years PM schemes

- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) completed eight years.
- ❖ These schemes are playing an instrumental role in providing social security net and affordable insurance to the people.
- ❖ These three schemes were launched in 2015 from Kolkata in West Bengal.
- ❖ PMSBY and PMJJBY aims to make the people belonging from unorganised sections financially secure.
- ❖ Atal Pension Yojana aims to cover the exigencies in the old age.



**Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana**  
Life insurance worth ₹ 2 lacs at just ₹ 330 per annum

- For all Bank account holders whose age is between 18 to 30 years
- Life insurance provided for your family, in your absence

Period of Insurance, Annual : 1st June - 31st May

**Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana**  
Accident insurance worth ₹ 2 lacs at just ₹ 12 per annum

- For all Bank account holders whose age is between 18 to 30 years
- Insurance also covers permanent disablement due to accident

Period of Insurance, Annual : 1st June - 31st May

**Atal Pension Yojana**  
Minimum Investment, Maximum Benefits during old-age

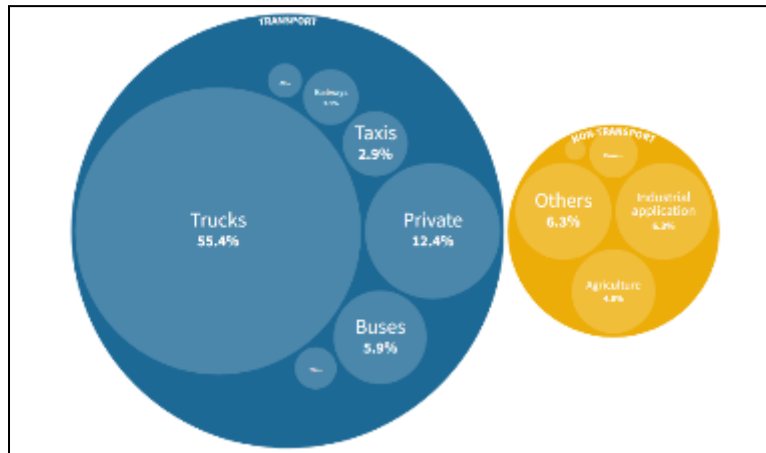
Age of entry (Contributor)	Year of entry (Contributor)	Monthly Minimum Contribution (IN Rs.)	Monthly Pension to the contributors at 60 years (IN Rs.)	Monthly Pension to the contributors at 75 years (IN Rs.)
18	40	200	5,000	8.5 Lacs
18	45	300	6,000	9.5 Lacs
18	50	400	7,000	10.5 Lacs
18	55	500	8,000	11.5 Lacs
18	60	6,000	9,000	12.5 Lacs

Fixed monthly pension from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5,000 depending on the contributions

## Total ban on diesel vehicles

- ❖ A panel formed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has recommended a ban on the use of diesel-powered four-wheel vehicles by 2027.
- ❖ It recommended to instead transition to electric and gas-fuelled vehicles.
- ❖ This is applicable to cities with a population of more than 1 million.
- ❖ India wants to produce 40% of its electricity from renewables to achieve its 2070 net zero goal.
- ❖ India aims to raise the share of gas in its energy mix to 15% by 2030 from 6.2% now.





### Uniform for Army Senior Officers

- ❖ Indian Army decided to adopt a common uniform for Brigadier and above rank officers irrespective of the parent cadre and appointment.
- ❖ Different types of uniforms and accoutrements have specific associations to respective arms, regiments and services in the Indian Army.
- ❖ This recognition of distinct identity within the Arms or Regiment or Services is essential for junior leadership and the rank and file to further strengthen solidarity.
- ❖ The changes will be implemented from 01 August 2023.

**DRESS FOR BRIG & ABOVE Rk - DRESS NO 4 (SUMMER WORKING)**



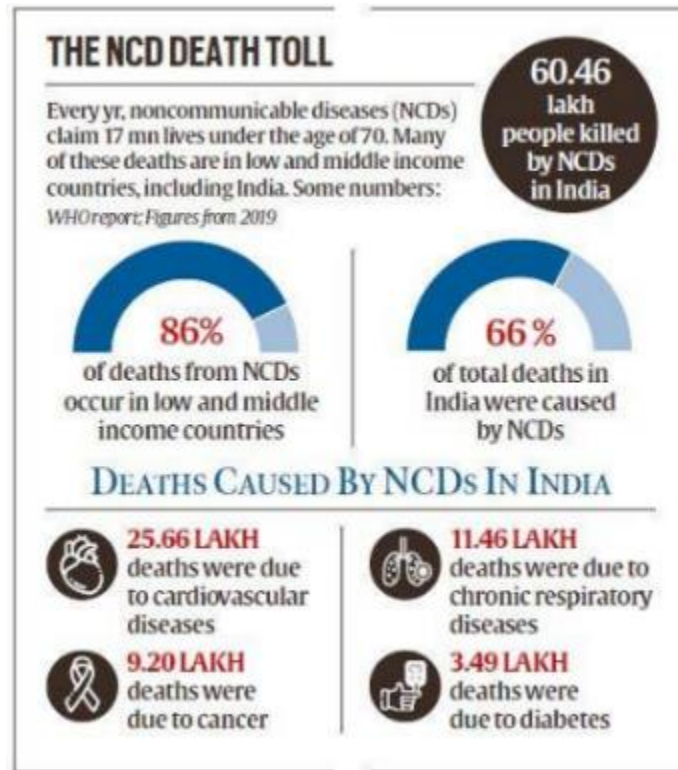
### Best Practices in Social Sector: A Compendium, 2023

- ❖ NITI Aayog's this compendium includes 75 case studies cutting across 14 key social sectors.
- ❖ Of these "best practices", 14 are those that have been launched by Central ministries.
- ❖ Two are joint initiatives by the Centre and the state governments.
- ❖ The rest practices are from 26 states and UTs.
- ❖ The objective of this exercise is to expand, enhance, and improve the quality of life at the grassroots level.
- ❖ The ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) programme of Tamil Nadu Accident and Emergency Care Initiative (TAEI) chosen as best practice.

BEST SCHEMES IN SOCIAL SECTOR	
NUMBER OF PRACTICES	
Centre	14
Karnataka	6
Assam, MP	5 each
Delhi, UP	4 each
Jharkhand, Odisha, Rajasthan	3 each
Centre & State jointly	2
Andaman and	2 each
Nicobar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Manipur, Punjab, Telangana & Uttarakhand	1 each
Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Haryana, J&K, Kerala, Nagaland, TN & Tripura,	

### National Program for non-communicable diseases

- ❖ The Health Ministry has added new diseases to the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS)
- ❖ The addition of many new diseases or disease-groups and new health initiatives have prompted the Central government to widen the NPCDCS.
- ❖ It has decided to rename 'NPCDCS' as 'National Programme for Prevention & Control of Non-Communicable Diseases [NP-NCD]'.  
❖ NPCDCS is being implemented under the National Health Mission (NHM) across the country.
- ❖ The proportion of deaths due to NCDs in India have increased from 37.9% in 1990 to 61.8% in 2016.
- ❖ The four major NCDs are cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), cancers, chronic respiratory diseases (CRDs) and diabetes.



## Project Sanjay

- ❖ A new Battlefield Surveillance System (BSS) under Project Sanjay is in the process of being deployed.
- ❖ It will integrate thousands of sensors which will enable provision of an integrated surveillance picture to commanders and staff at all levels.
- ❖ The system also integrates data on the movements of India's adversaries received from various sources across borders, including sensors, satellites, UAVs or unmanned aerial vehicles, and patrols.



## Decommissioning of INS Magar

- ❖ INS Magar, the oldest landing ship of the Indian Navy, was decommissioned recently.
- ❖ It did a prestigious service to the country for 36 years.
- ❖ INS Magar was launched on November 16, 1984.
- ❖ It participated in amphibious exercises and humanitarian missions and operations including Samudra Setu.
- ❖ In 2018, the vessel was converted into a training ship and joined the First Training Squadron at Kochi.



## Estimate in the progress tracking report

Table 1: Countries with the largest numbers of deaths in 2020

Country	Total maternal deaths, stillbirths and neonatal deaths (thousands)	Share of total maternal deaths, stillbirths and neonatal deaths	Share of total live births	Maternal deaths (thousands)	Stillbirths (thousands)	Neonatal deaths (thousands)
India	788	17%	17%	24	297	468
Nigeria	540	12%	6%	82	181	277
Pakistan	474	10%	5%	10	207	257
Democratic Republic of the Congo	241	5%	3%	22	113	106
Ethiopia	196	4%	3%	10	83	104
Bangladesh	121	3%	2%	4	66	51
China	108	2%	9%	3	63	42
Indonesia	103	2%	3%	8	42	53
Afghanistan	95	2%	1%	9	38	49
United Republic of Tanzania	94	2%	2%	5	43	46

- ❖ The latest published estimate in the progress tracking report by the WHO, UNICEF, and the UNFPA was launched at 'International Maternal Newborn Health Conference' (IMNHC 2023).
- ❖ It shows there were a combined 4.5 million deaths in 2020-2021.
- ❖ It consists of maternal deaths (0.29 million), stillbirths (1.9 million) and newborn deaths (2.3 million).
- ❖ India leads a list of 10 countries that together account for 60 per cent of global maternal deaths, stillbirths and newborn deaths.
- ❖ Also, it accounted for 51 per cent of live births globally.
- ❖ India saw 7,88,000 maternal deaths, stillbirths and neonatal deaths in 2020, of the total 4.5 million deaths globally.
- ❖ It is followed by Nigeria, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Bangladesh and China for maternal deaths, stillbirths and neonatal deaths.
- ❖ Sub-Saharan Africa and Central and Southern Asia are the regions experiencing the largest number of deaths, although, across all regions.

## Tungnath temple

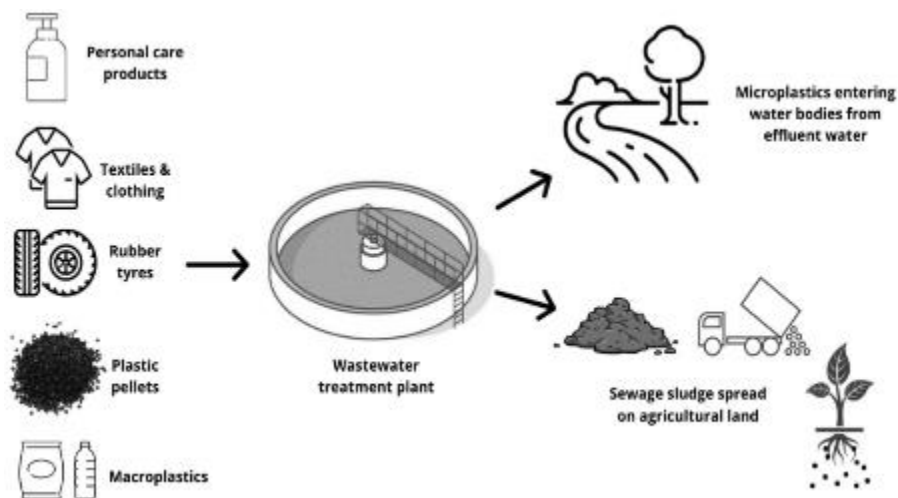


- ❖ Tungnath temple, built by Pandavas, is declared as monuments of national importance.
- ❖ Tungnath is the highest of the five Panch Kedar temples in the district of Rudra prayag, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ It is believed that, the Pandavas built temples in all these five places to worship Shiva and atone for their sins.



## STP sludge as Fertilizer

- ❖ Indian sewage treatment plants (STP) found that most of its sludges had “high potential” for use as fertilizer.
- ❖ They required treatment before it could be used unrestricted in farms, or as a potential biofuel.
- ❖ A first of its kind analysis of the sludge found in STPs which set up to treat polluted water from the Ganga.
- ❖ IIT Roorkee found that most of the sludge analysed after drying fell into the class B category.
- ❖ Nitrogen and phosphorous levels were higher than those recommended by India’s fertilizer standards (FCO, 2009).
- ❖ However, potassium levels of some sludges were less than recommended.
- ❖ The total organic carbon was more than 16%, again higher than FCO recommendations.
- ❖ But the degree of pathogens as well as heavy metal contamination was above the recommended fertilizer standards.
- ❖ Treated sludge can be classified as class A or class B — as per the standards of the United States Environment Protection Agency.
- ❖ The class A being safe is to be disposed of in the open and useful as organic fertilizer.
- ❖ Class B means that the sludge can be used in “restricted” agricultural applications.
- ❖ India doesn’t yet have standards classifying sludge as class A or B.

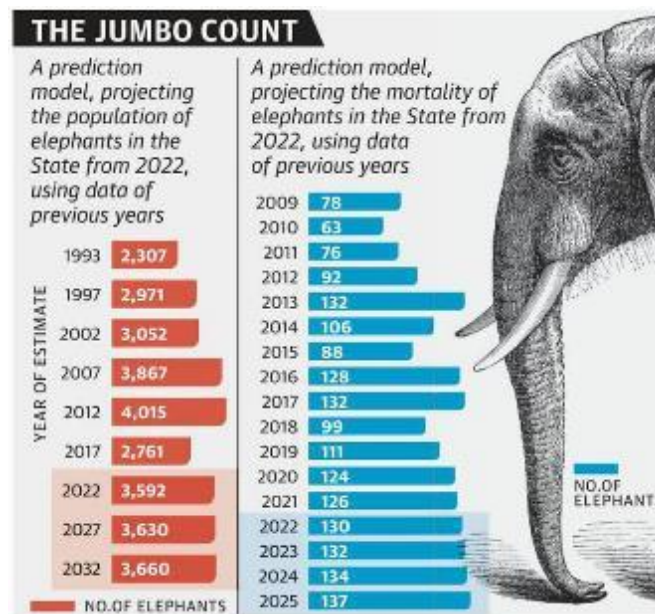


## Supreme Court verdict on Delhi Govt

- ❖ A five-judge Constitution bench headed by chief justice Chandrachud closed this 8 year long dispute between the Delhi government.
- ❖ It held that the Delhi legislature has control over bureaucrats in administration of services, except in areas outside the legislative powers of the National Capital Territory (NCT).
- ❖ There are three areas outside the control of Delhi government: public order, police and land.
- ❖ The Lieutenant Governor, who represents the Centre in Delhi, is bound by the elected government's decision on services



## First synchronized elephant population estimation



- ❖ The synchronised elephant population estimation will be conducted in the forest areas of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, the estimation will be conducted in 465 blocks across 25 forest divisions.
- ❖ The State estimated a population of 2,761 elephants in the 2017 survey.
- ❖ The estimation is usually conducted once every four years

### **Harit Sagar Guidelines 2023**

- ❖ The Centre launched 'Harit Sagar,' the Green Port Guidelines 2023, recently.
- ❖ It is a comprehensive set of guidelines for enhancing the environmental performance of Indian ports and promoting sustainable development of the maritime sector.
- ❖ It aims to achieve the larger goal of achieving the Zero Carbon Emission Goal.



### **Supreme Court verdict on Maharashtra**



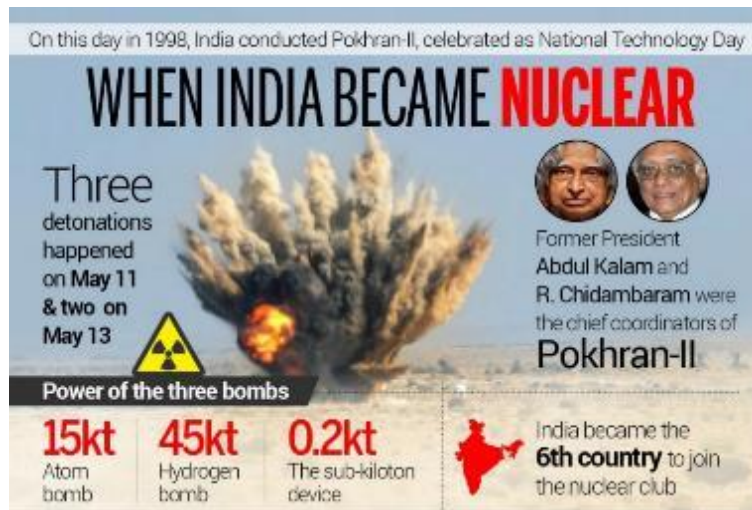


- ❖ The Supreme Court made strong observations about the role of the then Governor of Maharashtra and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.
- ❖ Rival groups of Shiv Sena – the Eknath Shinde group and the Uddhav Thackeray group – petitioned the SC last year in relation to the political crisis in the state.
- ❖ The Shinde group’s plea also challenged the disqualification notices served on him and 15 MLAs supporting him.
- ❖ It held that, it cannot restore the then Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government led by Uddhav Thackeray as he resigned without facing the floor test in June last year.
- ❖ Floor test cannot be used as a medium to solve intra-party disputes.
- ❖ Governor is not entitled to enter the political arena and play a role in intra-party to inter-party disputes.
- ❖ The court said that the Speaker must recognise only the whip and leader who are duly recognised by the political party.
- ❖ The court also refused to interfere in the proceedings related to disqualifying 16 MLAs, including now Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.
- ❖ The court also said that Governor was right in inviting Shinde to form the new government as Thackeray had resigned before the floor test.
- ❖ The court also refused to invalidate the election of the Speaker just because some of the participating MLAs faced disqualification proceedings.
- ❖ The court held that the whip on voting represents the will of the party and not its legislators.
- ❖ It’s the party that appoints its whip and the house leader.
- ❖ The most important conclusion is that a political party is superior to its legislative wing.

### **25 years of Pokhran II Test**

- ❖ On May 11, 1998, India conducted three nuclear bomb test explosions at the Indian Army’s Pokhran Test Range.
- ❖ Two days later, on May 13, two more bombs were tested.
- ❖ Codenamed Operation Shakti, these tests would display India’s capability to build fission and thermonuclear weapons.
- ❖ On May 18, 1974, with support from Indira, India carried out its first nuclear test at the Pokhran test site.
- ❖ Pokhran-I was codenamed Operation Smiling Buddha.





### Data Governance Quality Index

- ❖ The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has been ranked second among 66 ministries in the Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI).
- ❖ It was conducted by the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog.
- ❖ It aims to measure the maturity level of administrative data systems and their use in decision-making of various Ministries and Departments on the implementation of Central Sector Schemes (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Schemes.



### 70 Years of INS Garuda

- ❖ INS Garuda, the premier Naval Air Station of the Southern Naval Command completed 70 years of service to the Indian Navy.
- ❖ It was Commissioned on 11 May 1953.

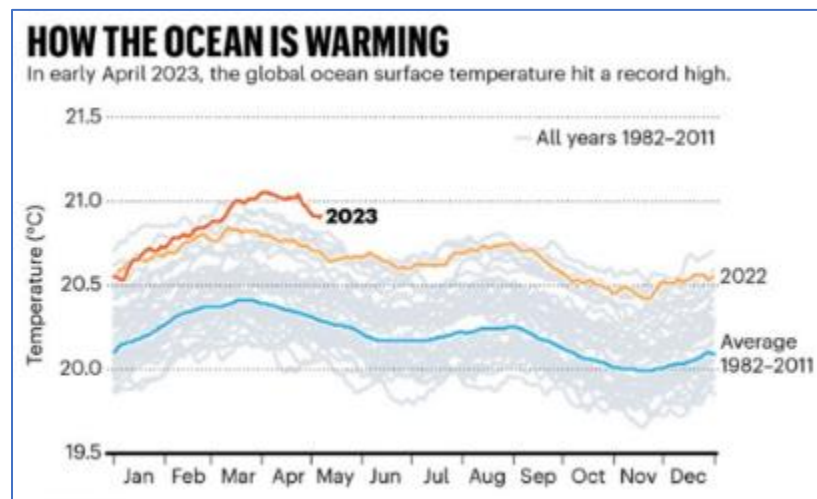


- ❖ It is the oldest Naval Air Station which has been associated with the beginning of Naval aviation.
- ❖ It was home to the first amphibious aircraft of the Indian Navy, the Sea landers.



### **Intensive cyclones on Indian coast**

- ❖ A study titled “Changing status of tropical cyclones over the north Indian Ocean” was conducted recently.
- ❖ This study revealed how climate change is making cyclones more intense on both sides of the Indian coast.
- ❖ The translation speed of cyclones (the speed at which cyclones move) has decreased in the Arabian Sea.



- ❖ During 1982–2019, a significant increasing trend in the intensity, frequency, and duration of cyclonic storms (CS) and very severe CS (VSCS) was observed over the Arabian Sea.

- ❖ There has been a 52% increase in the frequency of CS during the recent epoch (2001–2019) in the Arabian Sea.
- ❖ There is a decrease of 8 percent in the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ Temperatures have been between 30-32 degrees Celsius in the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ These high temperatures play a very important role in the intensification of cyclonic storms as they infuse more convection.

### **ODF Plus Status**

- ❖ Half of the nation's villages have attained ODF Plus status under the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G) Phase II.
- ❖ Over 2.96 lakh villages have declared themselves ODF Plus.
- ❖ This putting the country on track to reach its SBM-G Phase II targets by 2024-25.
- ❖ An ODF Plus village not only maintains its Open Defecation Free (ODF) status but also implements either solid or liquid waste management systems.
- ❖ Among the top-performing states are Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Goa and Sikkim leading the way among smaller states.
- ❖ All Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman Diu, and Lakshadweep boast 100% ODF Plus Model villages.



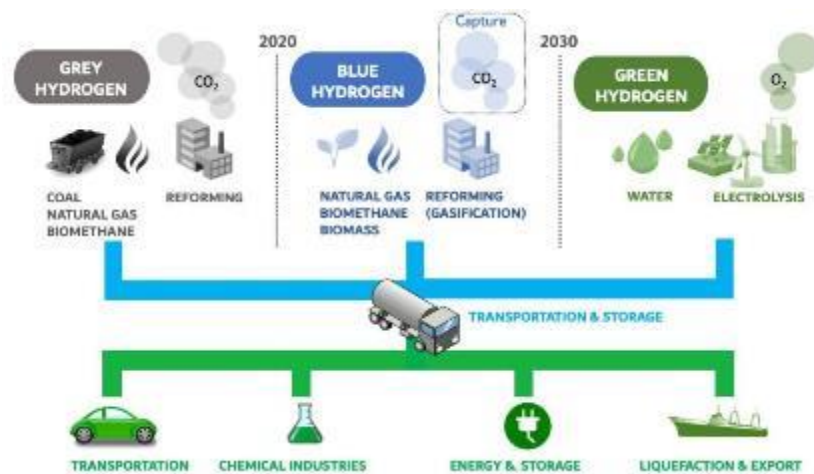
### **UID Number for all doctors**

- ❖ The government has made the Unique Identification Number (UID) mandatory for all doctors across India.
- ❖ As per the new regulations, doctors will now need a unique ID to practice medicine in India.

- ❖ The UID will be generated centrally by the National Medical Commission (NMC) ethics board.

### **Green hydrogen bunkers by 2035**

- ❖ India has set a deadline of 2035 to establish green hydrogen bunkering and refuelling facilities at major ports.
- ❖ One of the world's biggest emitters of greenhouse gases, India aims to cut emissions to net zero by 2070.
- ❖ Share of renewable energy at Ports should exceed 60% by the Year 2030 and 90% by year 2047.
- ❖ As a part of its commitment in COP 26 towards Climate Action, India has pledged to reduce the emission intensity per unit GDP by 45% by the year 2030 from the 2005 level.
- ❖ The country's maritime sector plays a crucial role in overall trade and growth with a 95% share in trade volume and a 65% share in trade value.



### **Brahmos launch from INS Mormugao**



- ❖ A BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was successfully test-fired from the Indian Navy's INS Mormugao.
- ❖ INS Mormugao is the latest guided-missile destroyer.
- ❖ BrahMos missile flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound.

### **Model Prisons Act 2023**



**130-year-old colonial-era Prison laws revised**

The MHA has prepared a new 'Model Prisons Act 2023'

-  Lays emphasis on the safety of women & transgender prisoners
-  Ensures rehabilitation of inmates in society after completion of sentence
-  Brings about transparency in prison management by using technology
-  Focuses on vocational training & skill development of prisoners and their reintegration into the society

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has prepared the 'Model Prisons Act 2023'.
- ❖ It will replace a British-era law to overhaul the prison administration that will focus on the reformation and rehabilitation of inmates.
- ❖ The Prisons Act of 1894 is a pre-independence era Act and is almost 130-years-old.
- ❖ Two other related laws — The Prisoners Act, 1900 and The Transfer of Prisoners Act, 1950 are also decades-old.
- ❖ Prisons in the country and 'persons detained therein' are a state subject in India.
- ❖ State governments and Union Territory Administrations by adopting this act in their jurisdictions with such modifications as they may consider necessary.



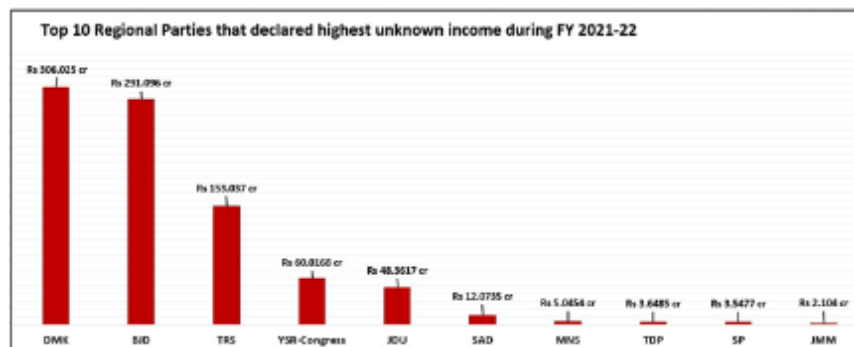
## Central Equipment Identity Register

- ❖ The government of India launched a nationwide CEIR tracking system, called the Sanchar Saathi portal.
- ❖ The Sanchar Saathi portal is an important initiative by the Department of Tele communications.
- ❖ It aims to empower mobile subscribers by enhancing their security and raising awareness about government initiatives.
- ❖ This portal is also known as CEIR tracking.
- ❖ It will enable smartphone users to block and track their lost or stolen mobile phones across India.



## Sources of Funding of Regional Parties of India 2021-22

- ❖ Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) released a report titled “Analysis of Sources of Funding of Regional Political Parties of India, FY 2021-22”.
- ❖ More than 75% of the income of 27 regional political parties of India in FY 2021-22, amounting to Rs, 887.55 crore, came from unknown sources.
- ❖ The proportion of income from unknown sources for the previous year was about 50%.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu’s ruling party, the DMK, got the highest share of income – 96.01% – from unknown sources.





## Ordinance for Delhi Administration

- ❖ The ordinance, promulgated by President, seeks to amend the Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi Act, 1991.
- ❖ It is designating the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) as the administrator of Delhi.
- ❖ He will have the final say on the postings and transfer of all bureaucrats serving the Delhi government.
- ❖ It effectively negates the May 11 Supreme Court judgment that gave the power to government to make laws and wield control over bureaucrats deputed to the Delhi government.
- ❖ It provided also that in case of difference of opinion, the decision of the Lieutenant Governor shall be final.
- ❖ The ordinance seeks to establish for the first time the National Capital Civil Service Authority (NCCSA).
- ❖ It will be headed by the Chief Minister of Delhi, with the Chief Secretary and Principal Home Secretary of Delhi being the other two members.



**Services row: Centre vs Delhi govt**  
The Centre has filed a review petition in the top court over the control of administrative services in Delhi

**CENTRE'S ARGUMENT**  
Highlighting 68 "errors", the government in the 63-page petition said that the top court judgment upsets federalism by raising Delhi to the status of a full-fledged state and dilutes the LG's powers as administrator of the Capital

**AFTER ORDINANCE**  
The petition came hours after the Centre brought an ordinance introducing provisions in the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) Act, 1991, reinstating the LG's authority in having the final word in matters of transfers and postings of bureaucrats

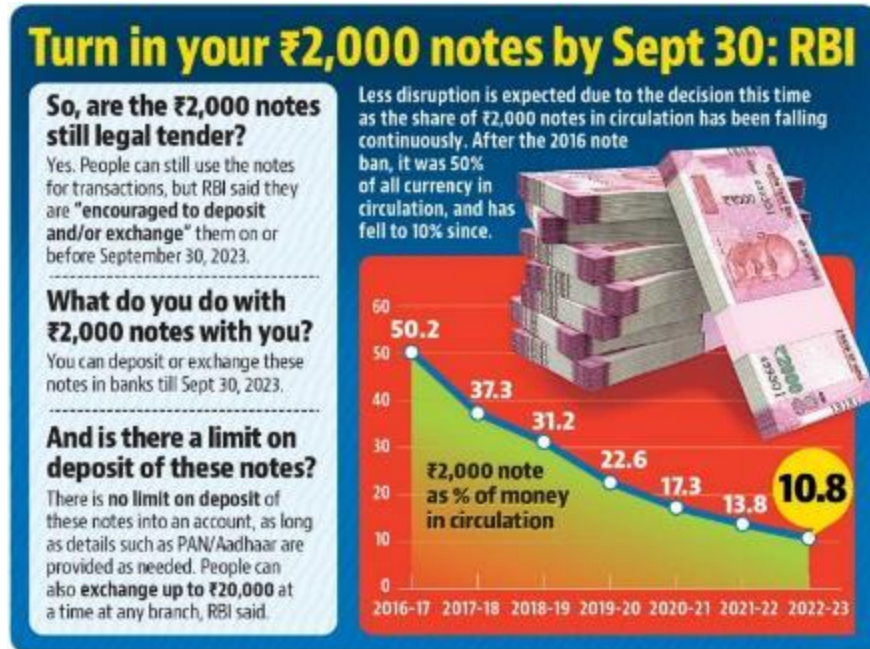
**AAP HITS BACK**  
"The Centre's ordinance on services matter is unconstitutional and against democracy. We will approach the Supreme Court against it."  
— **ARVIND KEJRIWAL**, chief minister

**THE SUPREME COURT RULING**  
The Supreme Court on May 11 said that except for three entries — public order, land and police — the Delhi government will exercise legislative and executive control on all issues

## Withdrawal of ₹2000 Banknotes

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to withdraw ₹2000 banknotes.
- ❖ ₹2000 banknote is the highest denomination currency available in India.
- ❖ The 2000 denomination banknote was introduced in November 2016 under Section 24(1) of RBI Act, 1934
- ❖ RBI stopped printing ₹2000 banknotes in 2018-19.
- ❖ The outstanding currency-in-circulation stood at ₹34,88,610 crore as of May 12, 2023.

- ❖ The banknotes in 2000 denomination will continue to be legal tender till September 30.



### Implementation of RPwD Act 2016

**MOVING TOWARDS INCLUSIVITY**

**Under the Goa Rights of Persons With Disabilities Act, 2016**

- All existing public buildings are expected to be made accessible within five years from date of notification of rules
- Special courts in both districts will provide respite to persons with disability
- Since the act speaks of 'non-discrimination' and 'full and effective participation and inclusion in society', as well as 'equality of opportunity', no new establishments will be issued a certificate of completion or permitted an occupation of a building unless it has adhered to the rules of accessibility
- Contravention of provisions of the act or regulations is punishable with fine of up to ₹10,000 for the first offence and between ₹50,000 and ₹5 lakh for any subsequent contravention

- ❖ The Union Health Ministry has notified the standards of public and private healthcare institutions.
- ❖ It aims to ensure accessibility of healthcare facilities and services to the persons with disabilities (PwDs).



- ❖ The RPwD Act, 2016 mandates the Central government to formulate rules laying down standards of accessibility inter-alia for facilities and services provided to the public in urban and rural areas.
- ❖ The guidelines themed ‘Accessibility Standards for Health Care’ which aims at removing barriers including physical and architectural barriers, communication barriers, attitudinal barriers and social and economic barriers for people with disabilities.

### **No TDS on Interest from Mahila Samman Savings Certificate**

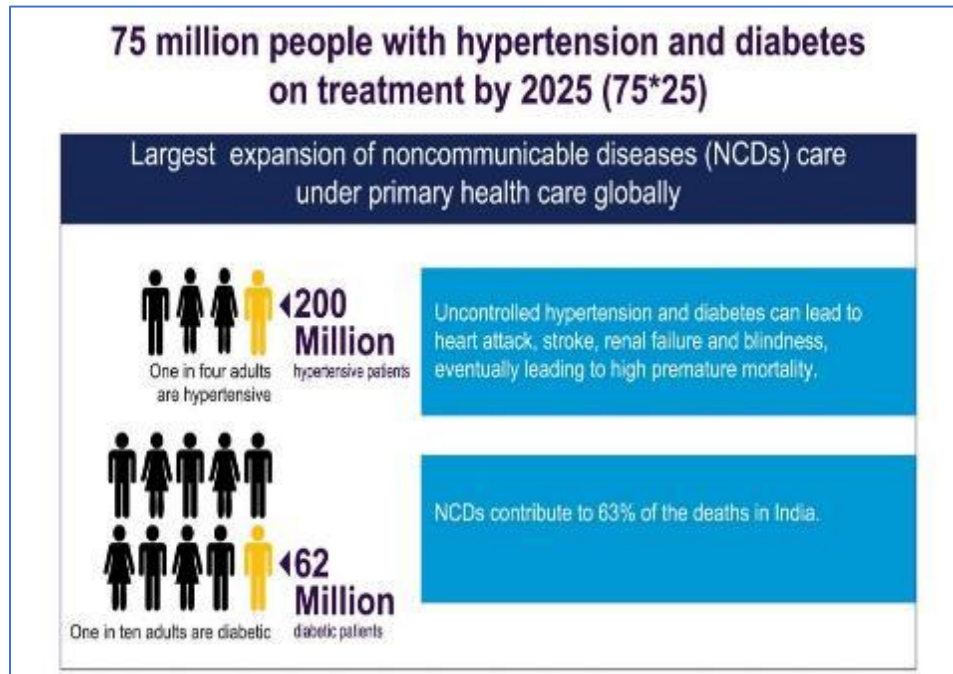
- ❖ The recent Central Board for Direct Tax (CBDT) notification provides clarity on the taxation of interest earned from Mahila Samman Savings Certificate.
- ❖ As per the notification, if the interest earned does not exceed Rs. 40,000 in a financial year, no TDS will be applicable.
- ❖ It is aimed to encouraging more women towards investing.
- ❖ It has received a tax deducted at source exemption on interest earnings.
- ❖ The Mahila Samman Savings Certificate scheme was introduced during FY23 as a savings option exclusively for girls and women.
- ❖ It offers an attractive annual interest rate of 7.5%.
- ❖ It allows individuals to open an account in their name.
- ❖ The maximum deposit limit for the scheme is set at Rs. 2lakh.

<b>Mahila Samman Savings Certificate 2023</b>	
Eligible Period	1st April 2023 to 31st March 2025
Who can invest?	Women or girls
Minimum Investment	Rs.1,000
Maximum Investment	Rs.2,00,000
Interest Rate	7.50%
Compounding Frequency	Quarterly
Effective Rate	7.71%
Tenure of the investment	2 Yrs
How many times you can invest	As many times as you wish subject to the maximum limit of Rs.2 lakh.
Premature withdrawal	40% after a year
Premature closure	Eligible with certain restrictions
Tax Benefits	There is no such tax benefits while investing and at maturity.
Where to open?	At Post Office or at authorized Banks



## '75/25' Initiative

- ❖ The Union Health Ministry of India unveiled the ambitious "75/25" initiative.
- ❖ The program aims to ensure that 75 million individuals suffering from hypertension and diabetes receive standardised care by 2025.
- ❖ Primarily it was provided through Primary Health Centers (PHCs).
- ❖ This is a significant move to combat the rising burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).



## STARS Program



- ❖ The STARS Project was approved by the cabinet in October 2020.
- ❖ It was approved with an aim to improve student outcomes in the selected states and the governance of school education in India.

- ❖ STARS stands for Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States by the World Bank.
- ❖ It is implemented in six states including Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala.

### **Sustainable Aviation Fuel blend**

- ❖ The AIX Connect (formerly known as AirAsia India) successfully completed the first domestic fly by using India-produced sustainable aviation fuel (SAF).
- ❖ The aircraft blended fuel with 1 percent of SAF to reduce the emissions produced by the aircraft.
- ❖ If we target to blend 1% SAF blending in Jet fuel, India would require around 14 crore litres of SAF/annum.
- ❖ More ambitiously, if we target for 5% SAF blend, India requires around 70 crore litres of SAF/annum.

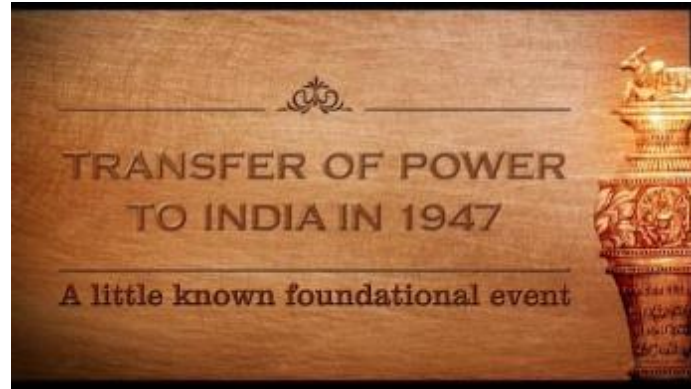


### **'Sengol' sceptre**

- ❖ A golden sceptre called 'Sengol' would be installed at a prominent spot in the new Parliament building.
- ❖ It was presented to Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister, as a symbol of the transfer of power from the British.
- ❖ The word 'Sengol' is believed to have been derived from the Tamil word 'semmai', which refers to excellence.
- ❖ It was believed that Nehru sought the advice of C Rajagopalachari, the last Governor-General of India for this.
- ❖ It was believed that Rajaji suggested the use of the 'Sengol'.



- ❖ It was believed that He was inspired by the Chola dynasty, where a similar ceremony was held to transfer power between kings.
- ❖ The 'Sengol' was crafted by Vummidi Bangaru Chetty of Madras.



### **The term 'forum shopping'**

- ❖ The CJI Chandrachud condemns 'forum shopping' in his recent trail.
- ❖ The term described that, when litigants or lawyers attempt to deliberately move their case to a particular judge or Court where they think the judgment could be more favourable.
- ❖ The Supreme Court in its 1988 ruling in 'Chetak Construction Ltd. vs. Om Prakash' said, "A litigant cannot be permitted choice of the forum".



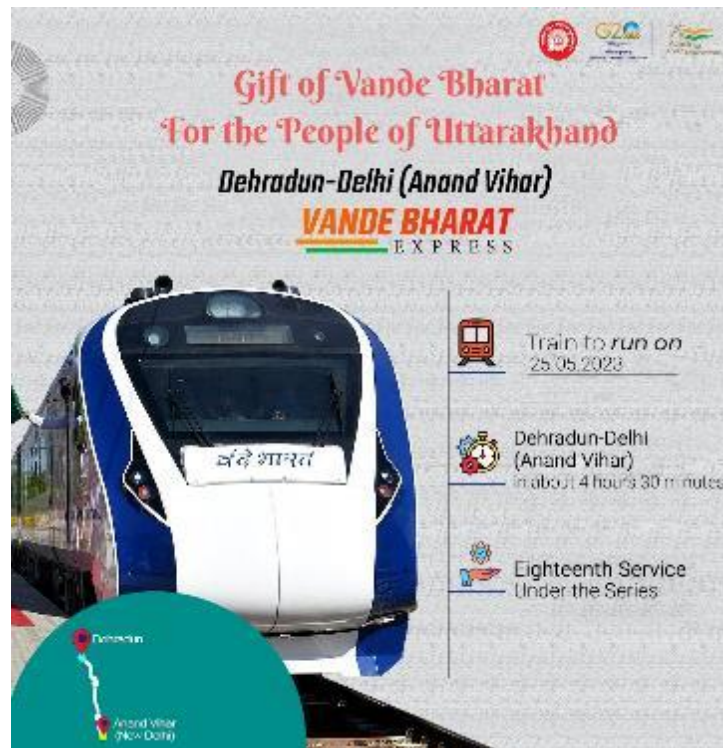
### **Sapre Committee Report**

- ❖ It was constituted by Supreme court on 2nd March 2023.
- ❖ It aims to investigate any violations of securities law by the Adani Group in the wake of the Hindenburg report.

- ❖ The Chairman of committee is the former Supreme Court judge Justice Abhay Manohar Sapre (Retd).
- ❖ The report states that the Adani group has disclosed all beneficial owners.
- ❖ There is no allegation that SEBI is rejecting the declaration of beneficial owners of Adani.
- ❖ Adani's retail stake has increased after the Hindenburg report.
- ❖ The report clearly states that prima facie no violation of existing rules or laws has been found.



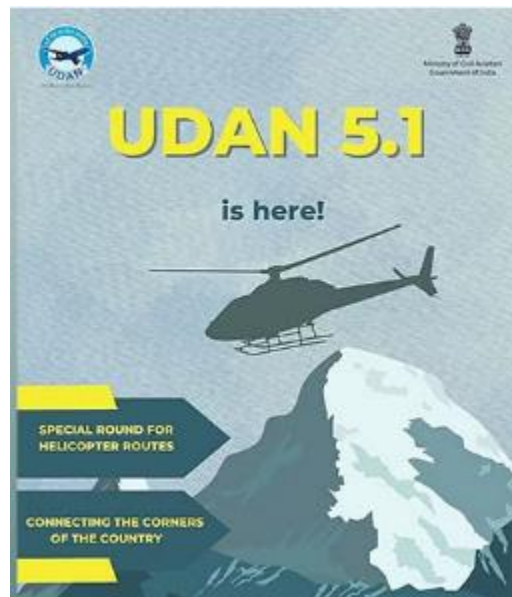
## Delhi-Dehradun Vande Bharat Express



- ❖ Prime Minister flagged off the Vande Bharat Express between Dehradun to Delhi.
- ❖ This is the first 'Vande Bharat Express train' to start in Uttarakhand.
- ❖ This train will connect the Delhi with the Devbhoomi of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The train is indigenous and equipped with advanced safety features including armour technology.

### **UDAN 5.1**

- ❖ The Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched UDAN 5.1,
- ❖ It is a new version of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) specifically designed for helicopter routes.
- ❖ The scheme aims to democratize air travel and promote tourism, hospitality, and local economies.
- ❖ UDAN 5.1 is allowing routes where one of the origin or destination locations is in a priority area.
- ❖ It will be reducing airfare caps by up to 25% to make helicopter travel more affordable.



### **Jugalbandi Chat bot**

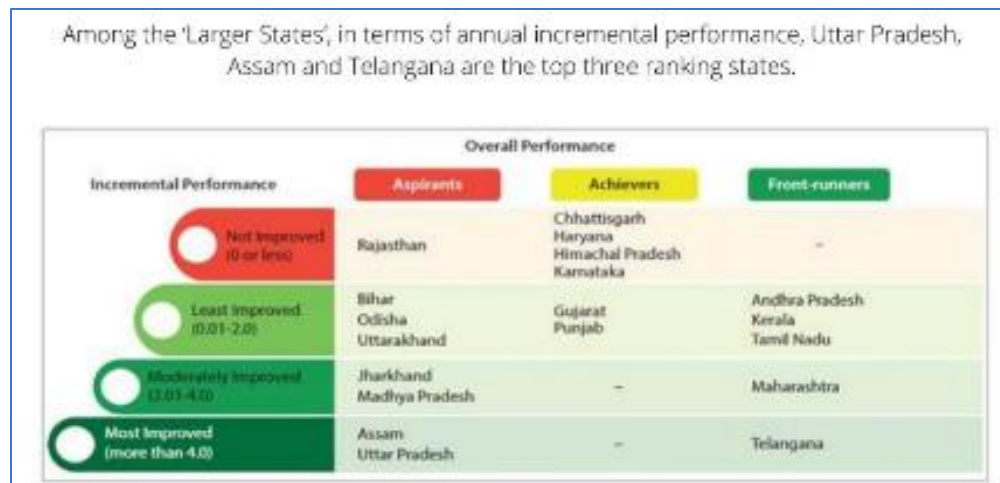
- ❖ Microsoft launched Jugalbandi, a multilingual AI-chat bot for rural India.
- ❖ The chatbot has been developed by AI4Bharat in collaboration with IIT Madras.
- ❖ It is aimed at providing personalised assistance by understanding user queries in multiple languages, whether spoken or typed.

- ❖ The chatbot was launched in April.
- ❖ It has been tested in Biwan, a village near India’s capital city of New Delhi.



### State Health Index

- ❖ It is NITI Aayog’s annual ‘State Health Index’ (5th edition) for the Covid year of 2020-21.
- ❖ It was launched by the NITI Aayog in 2017
- ❖ The Aayog brings out the index (annually) in collaboration with the Union Health Ministry and World Bank.
- ❖ The Top performers are Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana have secured the top three positions in larger states.
- ❖ The Worst performers are Bihar, UP and MP occupy the bottom three positions in larger states.



- ❖ Top three Incremental performance from 2019-20 to 2020-21: Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and Odisha.



- ❖ The Top performers are Tripura, Sikkim and Goa. They have secured the top three positions in smaller states.
- ❖ The Worst performers are Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur occupy the bottom three positions in smaller states.
- ❖ Among the UTs, Lakshadweep has secured the top position in terms of overall performance, while Delhi has been placed at the bottom.

### **People's Biodiversity Register**

- ❖ The National Campaign for Updating and Verification of People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) was launched in Goa.
- ❖ Kolkata has become the first major metropolitan city in India to make a detailed People's Biodiversity Register (PBR).
- ❖ It is aimed to document and preserve India's rich biological diversity.
- ❖ It serves as a comprehensive record of locally available Bio-resources including the landscape and demography of a particular area or village.
- ❖ It is prepared by Biodiversity Management Committees (under Biodiversity Act 2002) in consultation with local communities.

### **Logo, Theme and Website of India's G20 Presidency**

- ❖ Prime Minister unveiled the Logo, Theme and Website of India's G20 Presidency.
- ❖ The G20 Logo draws inspiration from the vibrant colours of India's national flag – saffron, white and green, and blue.
- ❖ It juxtaposes planet Earth with the lotus, India's national flower that reflects growth amid challenges.
- ❖ Below the G20 logo is "Bharat", written in the Devanagari script.
- ❖ The theme of India's G20 Presidency is "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or "One Earth One Family One Future".
- ❖ It is drawn from the ancient Sanskrit text of the Maha Upanishad.
- ❖ The website of India's G20 Presidency [www.g20.in](http://www.g20.in) was also launched.

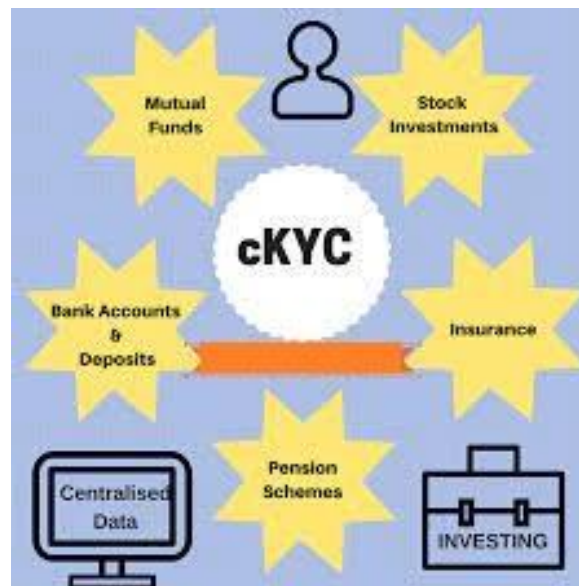
### **AIRAWAT**

- ❖ The 61<sup>st</sup> edition of the Top 500 Global Supercomputing List published in the International Supercomputing Conference (ISC 2023) in Germany.
- ❖ India's AI Supercomputer 'AIRAWAT' has been ranked 75<sup>th</sup> worldwide.
- ❖ It is located at C-DAC in Pune.





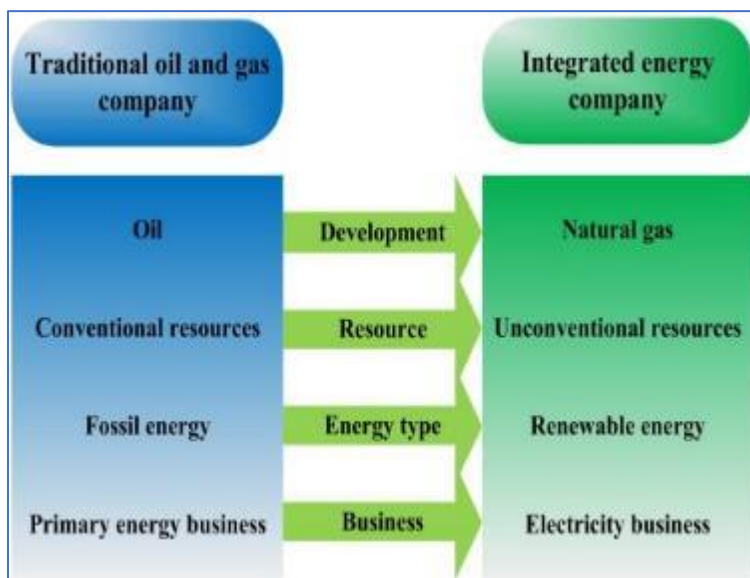
## **C-KYC Database**



- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently classified the Centralised Know Your Customer (c-KYC) database as high risk, posing challenges for financial institutions.
- ❖ This move has prompted banks to explore alternative methods for customer authentication, such as video KYC or physical KYC.
- ❖ It is a centralized repository that stores or saves all the personal details of the customer.
- ❖ This helps to bring all the KYC processes on a single platform.
- ❖ The Central Registry of Securitization and Asset Reconstruction and Securities Interest of India (CERSAI) manages C-KYC Registry.
- ❖ The Union Budget of 2012-13 announced the C-KYC and commenced in July 2016.

## Low Carbon Transition of India's Oil and Gas Sector

- ❖ The report titled “The Green Shift: The Low Carbon Transition of India’s Oil and Gas Sector” has released by the Energy Transition Advisory Committee (ETAC).
- ❖ The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG) emphasized the need for India’s energy transition.
- ❖ It highlighted various pathways to achieve a low-carbon future.
- ❖ One promising solution highlighted in the report is the use of Compressed Biogas (CBG) as an alternative to imported fossil natural gas.



## India's new Parliament

- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated India’s new Parliament building, part of the revamped Central Vista project at New Delhi.
- ❖ The new Parliament building has three storeys and a built-up area of 64,500 sqm.
- ❖ The Lok Sabha chamber will have 888 seats, up from the existing 543, with the option of expanded seating up to 1,272.
- ❖ The Gandhi statue, which was installed at the main entrance of the Parliament in 1993, was shifted during construction.
- ❖ The building is replete with national symbols, including the national emblem — the Lion Capital of Ashoka — that weighs 9,500 kg and is 6.5 metres in height, and is visible from a distance.
- ❖ The Prime Minister also released a commemorative postage stamp and a special ₹75 coin on the inauguration of the new Parliament.

## WHAT IT WILL LOOK LIKE

### Features of New Parliament Building

Lok Sabha		Rajya Sabha	
To be designed on theme of <b>peacock</b>		To be designed on theme of <b>lotus</b>	
Current seating capacity <b>552</b>	Proposed seats in new chamber <b>888</b> (Can accommodate 1,277 for joint sitting)	Current seating capacity <b>245</b>	Proposed seats in new chamber <b>384</b>


**National symbols**  
Crown of the building to get National Emblem, main courtyard to have Banyan tree

Each floor to get ministers' offices & committee rooms

First floor to have dining facility for MPs, VIPs and visitors

Constitution Hall at centre to have three entry points

Constitution Hall will have same height as that of existing Parliament



### Farmer Producer Organisations

- ❖ In 2021, the agriculture ministry is implemented a central sector scheme to Formation and promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organisations.
- ❖ Under the scheme, a target of establishing 1,100 additional FPOs has been allocated to the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
- ❖ A financial assistance of Rs 33 lakh is provided to each FPO under the scheme.
- ❖ Further, financial assistance of Rs. 25 lakhs per FPO is provided to the Cluster Based Business Organizations (CBBO).
- ❖ This initiative will ensure remunerative prices to farmers for their produce by providing them necessary market linkages.



### **SAMARTH campaign**

- ❖ The Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj has launched the 'Campaign on Promoting Digital Transactions in 50000 Gram Panchayats' in Lucknow.
- ❖ The Ministry Government of India is running a "Campaign on Promoting Digital Transactions in 50000 Gram Panchayats.
- ❖ It was started from 1st February 2023 and will continue till 15 August 2023.
- ❖ This campaign aims to promote Digital Transactions in rural areas, particularly among women.





### **Night landing of Mig 29**

- ❖ For the first time, the MiG-29K fighter aircraft undertook night landing on indigenously-built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant.
- ❖ INS Vikrant has a sophisticated air defence network and anti-ship missile systems.
- ❖ It has the capacity to hold 30 fighter jets and helicopters.
- ❖ MiG-29K is a Russian all-weather carrier-based multirole fighter aircraft.



### **Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions**

- ❖ The U.N. recognised Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) deferred the accreditation of National Human Rights Commission, India (NHRC-India).
- ❖ This came two months after seven human rights watchers/institutions wrote to GANHRI objecting to NHRC India's 'A' rank.
- ❖ This is the second time in a decade.
- ❖ The United Nations' Paris Principles was adopted in 1993 by the U.N. General Assembly.
- ❖ They provide the six international main criteria benchmarks against which National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) can be accredited.
- ❖ The GANHRI consists of sixteen, 'A' status NHRIs, four from each region, namely, the Americas, Europe, Africa, and the Asia-Pacific.
- ❖ 'A' status accreditation also grants participation in the work and decision-making of the GANHRI, as well as the work of the Human Rights Council and other U.N. mechanisms.
- ❖ The NHRC-India has been set up under the Protection of Human Rights Act passed by Parliament in 1993.
- ❖ It has been accredited as an 'A' Status NHRI since the beginning of the accreditation process for NHRIs in 1999.
- ❖ It retained the accreditation in 2006, 2011, and in 2017 also after a deferment.



## INTERNATIONAL

### Approval for abortion pill

- ❖ Japanese health ministry panel approved a pill to terminate early-stage pregnancy.
- ❖ The abortion pill will be available in the country for the first time and will provide an alternative to a surgical procedure.
- ❖ In Japan, Abortion is authorised only in the presence of certain conditions as per the Eugenic Protection Law-1948.
- ❖ Artificial abortion is a penal offence.
- ❖ It is legal for up to 22 weeks but consent is usually required from a spouse or partner.
- ❖ And until now a surgical procedure had been the only option.

### 2023 Sudan Conflict

- ❖ Sudan has been overwhelmed in a violent conflict between its military and paramilitary forces.
- ❖ The power struggle between Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo led to the conflict.
- ❖ Abdel is Sudan's military ruler and head of the army.



- ❖ Dagalo, widely known as Hemedti is the country's deputy and head of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitary group.
- ❖ During Sudan's Darfur conflict in the early 2000s, he was the leader of Sudan's notorious Janjaweed forces.

- ❖ The Janjaweed militias were first armed and organized in the early 1980s by the Sudanese government.
- ❖ Their main purpose was to help the government expand its influence in neighboring civil-war-torn Chad.
- ❖ Until recently, the two men were allies who worked together to topple ousted Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir in 2019.
- ❖ Also, played a pivotal role in the military coup in 2021.

### **Increase of Blue washing**

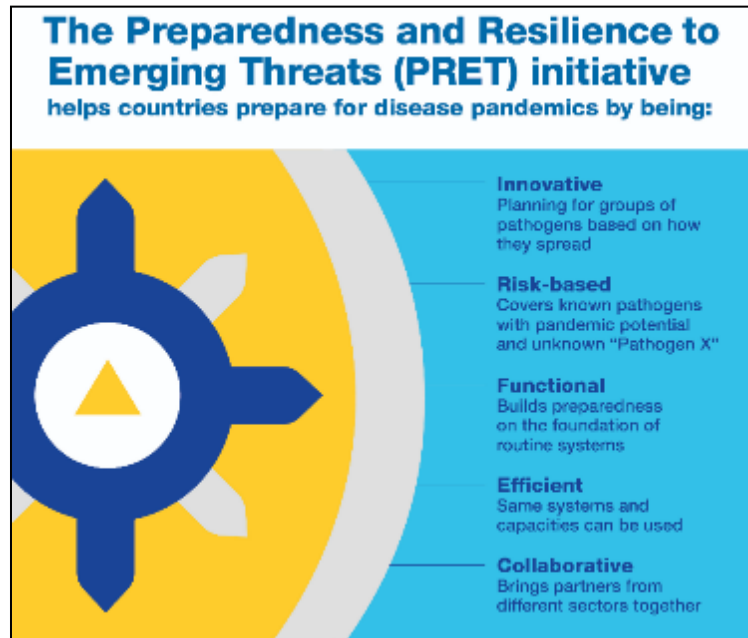
- ❖ A report titled 'Who's tipping the scales' was released by the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES).
- ❖ As per the report, Corporations have long had influence over international food governance and their involvement has manifested in multiple ways, both visible and less visible.
- ❖ While it was making food security organizations and Corporations partnerships allow firms to 'blue-wash' or 'social-wash'.
- ❖ Blue washing is marketing tactic used by companies to deceive consumers into believing that they are working towards achieving sustainable use and conservation of food systems and water bodies.



### **New Health initiatives**

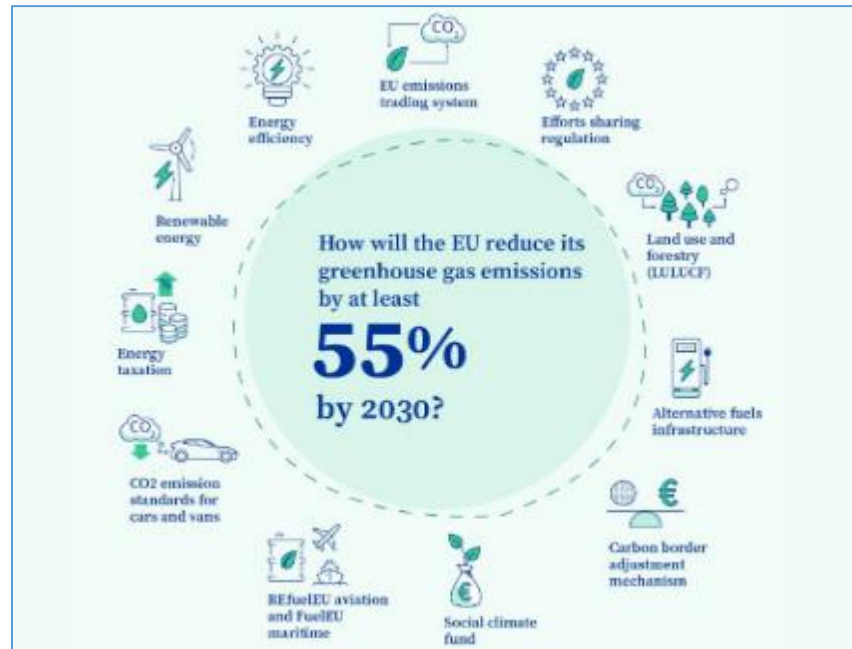
- ❖ PRET and the Big Catch-up initiatives have been launched recently.
- ❖ The Preparedness and Resilience for Emerging Threats (PRET) Initiative was launched by WHO.

- ❖ It will operate under the aegis of the International Health Regulations (IHR).
- ❖ It focuses on improving pandemic preparedness for groups of pathogens based on their mode of transmission.
- ❖ The Big Catch-Up Initiative was launched by the WHO, UNICEF, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- ❖ It aims to protect populations from vaccine-preventable outbreaks like measles, diphtheria, polio and yellow fever.

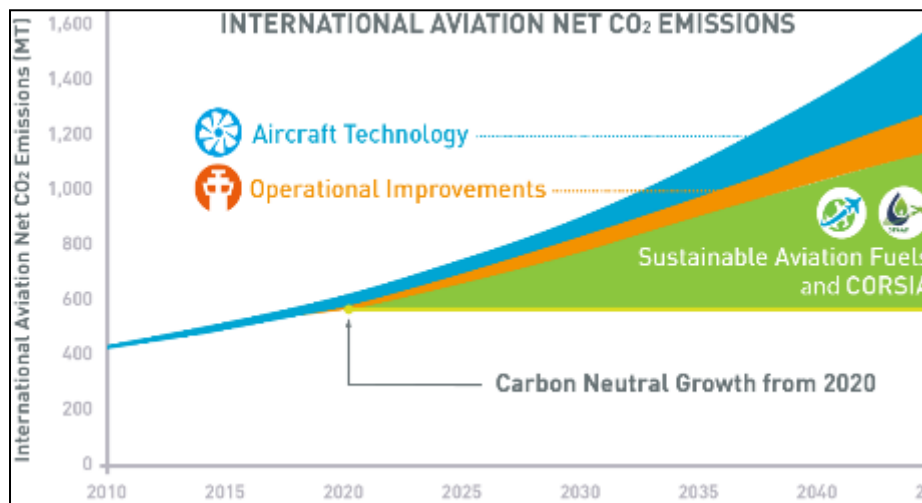


### **EU's Fit for 55 Package**

- ❖ The European Parliament voted to approve a combination of policies as part of the "Fit for 55" package.
- ❖ It will target different sectors of the industry such as transportation, emissions trading, energy production and fossil fuel usage.
- ❖ It is aimed at helping the EU to scale up renewable energy and energy efficiency measures.
- ❖ They focused on three key files within the Fit for 55 packages in particular.
  - The Carbon Bor
  - der Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM),
  - The Social Climate Fund (SCF) and
  - The EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS).



### International climate action in civil aviation



- ❖ India will join in the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) and the Long-Term Aspirational Goals (LTAG) from 2027.
- ❖ This is the initiatives of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).
- ❖ The ICAO has been tasked to reduce carbon emissions from international civil aviation as one of its focus areas.
- ❖ Some of the ICAO's goals are, two per cent annual fuel efficiency improvement through 2050, carbon neutral growth and net zero by 2050.
- ❖ The ICAO has clubbed them under CORSIA and LTAG.

## Laundromat countries

- ❖ India leads five countries named as the “Laundromat” countries that buy Russian oil and sell processed products to European countries.
- ❖ Of the so-called “laundromat” countries, India, in April remained the highest global consumer of seaborne Russian crude for a fifth month.
- ❖ It is ahead of all others in the export of crude products to the coalition countries.
- ❖ India exporting nearly 3.8 million tonnes of oil products to price cap coalition countries.
- ❖ It includes the EU, G-7 countries, Australia and Japan.



## Uzbek Constitutional Referendum

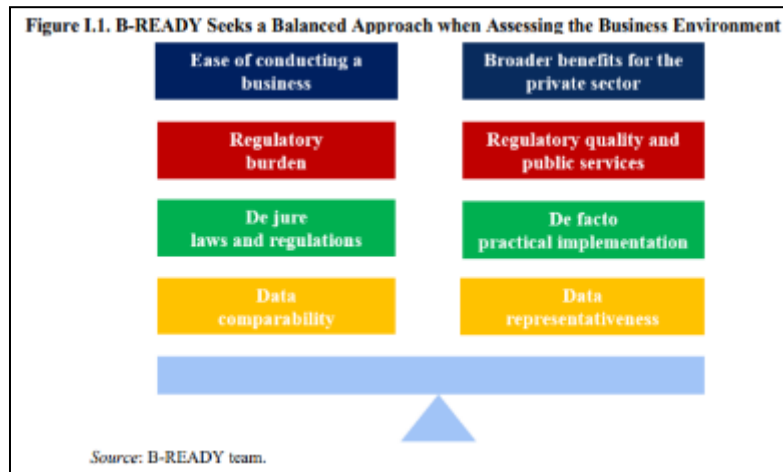




- ❖ A 90.21% of Uzbekistan’s voters voted “Yes” to President Shavkat Mirziyoyev’s bid to rewrite the country’s Constitution.
- ❖ This referendum has promised more freedoms to the people of the former Soviet republic.
- ❖ Also, it is extending the President rule beyond his current two-term limit.
- ❖ The new Constitution also promises more media freedoms.

### **World Bank’s Business Ready Project**

- ❖ The World bank said a pilot edition of the new replacement annual series called "Business Ready" would be published in the spring of 2024.
- ❖ It will cover an initial group of 54 economies in Asia, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa.
- ❖ It aims to help countries attract investment and boost jobs and productivity to accelerate development.
- ❖ It will reflect a more balanced and transparent approach toward evaluating a country's business and investment climate



### **Coronation of King Charles III**

- ❖ King Charles III was crowned as the fortieth Sovereign on May 6, alongside Queen Consort Camilla, at Westminster Abbey in London, England.
- ❖ It is also known as “Operation Golden Orb”.
- ❖ The coronation is the first since 1953 and the first of a king since 1937.
- ❖ In 1953, before 70 years, her mother Elizabeth II's coronation was done.
- ❖ In 1937, King George VI’s coronation was done.

- ❖ For the first time, the Prime Minister of the U.K. is a south Asian man, Rishi Sunak, who is a Hindu, read a verse from the Bible.
- ❖ The Scottish First Minister Humza Yousaf, a south Asian and Muslim Briton, wore a kilt to event.
- ❖ There was a Black gospel choir and female bishops, and a Welsh song opened the ceremonies.



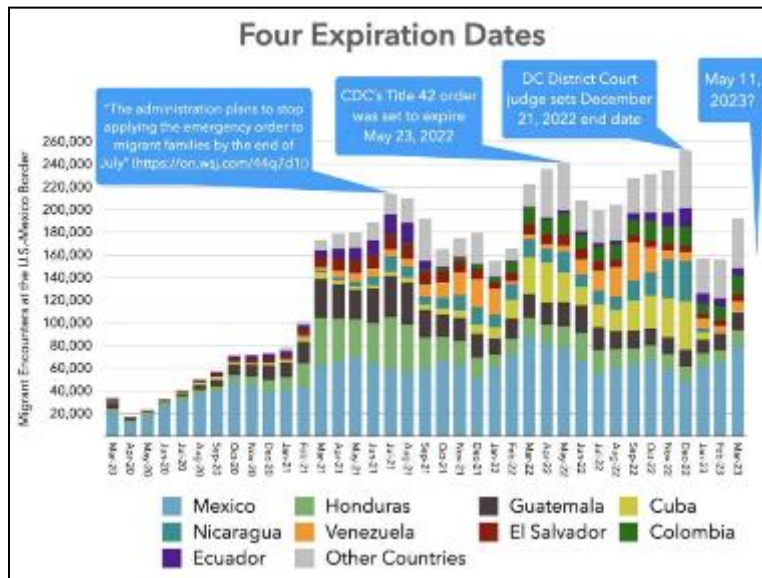
### **Syria's Return to Arab League**



- ❖ Arab government representatives in Cairo (Egypt) to return Syria to the Arab League after a 12-year suspension.
- ❖ Syria's membership in the Arab League was suspended 12 years ago early on in the uprising-turned-conflict.
- ❖ It has killed nearly a half million people since March 2011 and displaced half of the country's pre-war population of 23 million.
- ❖ Arab League, is an intergovernmental pan-Arab organisation of all Arab states in the Middle East and North Africa.

- ❖ It was formed in Cairo, Egypt on 22nd March 1945, as per the adoption of the Alexandria Protocol in 1944.
- ❖ Currently, it has 22 member states.

## Lifting of Title 42



- ❖ The United States is getting ready to lift COVID-19 restrictions that have blocked migrants caught at the U.S.-Mexico border.
- ❖ The COVID restrictions, known as Title 42, were first implemented in March 2020 at the beginning of the pandemic.
- ❖ Title 42 allowed border agents to rapidly expel many migrants to Mexico.
- ❖ Since its inception, migrants have been expelled more than 2.7 million times under Title 42.

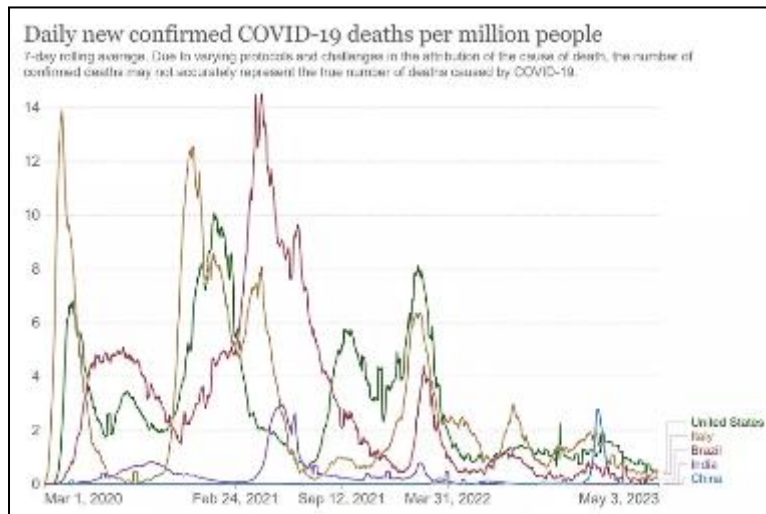
## Ekatha Harbour

- ❖ Defence Ministers of India and Maldives laid the foundation stone for the Maldives National Defence Forces (MNDF) Coast Guard 'Ekatha Harbour'.
- ❖ The development of the Coast Guard Harbour and repair facility at Sifavaru is one of the biggest grant-in-aid projects of India.
- ❖ In 1988, India helped the Maldives thwart a coup attempt backed by a Sri Lankan militant organisation.
- ❖ In 2020, India had gifted a Dornier aircraft to the Maldives and in 2019 handed over a patrol vessel.



### **Global Health Emergency covid 19**

- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) ended the global emergency status for COVID-19 on 5 May.
- ❖ The virus that killed more than 6.9 million people along with other infectious diseases.
- ❖ Health Emergency of International Concern was announced on January 30, 2020.



### **EU's carbon border tax**

- ❖ The 27-member European Union will bring another ambitious and first-of-its-kind policy, the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).
- ❖ It is aimed at levelling the playing field for EU and non-EU manufacturers and spurring trading partners to adopt carbon pricing regimes as a critical approach to the climate fight.

- ❖ European Parliament lawmakers reached a political deal on the carbon border tax in December last year.
- ❖ But India, along with China, Brazil, and South Africa opposed the plan at the 27th edition of the Conference of Parties (COP27) climate summit in Sharm El Sheikh.
- ❖ The CBAM plans to impose a tariff on a set of carbon-intensive imports.
- ❖ It will have to be paid by EU importers and companies who export such goods to EU countries.



### **Safety Approval for Gene-edited Crop**

- ❖ China has approved the safety of a gene-edited soybean, its first approval of the technology in a crop.
- ❖ That Country increasingly looks to science to boost food production
- ❖ The soybean, developed by privately was owned Shandong Shunfeng Biotechnology Co Ltd.
- ❖ It has two modified genes, which significantly raising the level of healthy fat oleic acid in the plant.
- ❖ Unlike genetic modification, which introduces foreign genes into a plant, gene editing alters existing genes.
- ❖ United States-based company Calyxt also developed a high oleic soybean, producing a healthy oil.
- ❖ It was the first gene-edited food to be approved in the U.S. in 2019.
- ❖ Japan has also approved gene-edited foods, including healthier tomatoes and faster-growing fish.





### Legalization of euthanasia

- ❖ Portugal passed a law legalising euthanasia for people in great suffering and with incurable diseases.
- ❖ People aged over 18 will be allowed to request assistance in dying if they are terminally ill and in intolerable suffering.
- ❖ It will only cover those suffering "lasting" and "unbearable" pain unless they are deemed not to be mentally fit to make such a decision.
- ❖ The law will only be applicable for nationals and legal residents and not extend to foreigners coming into the country to seek assisted suicide.

<b>THE END-OF-LIFE DICTIONARY</b>	
<b>Suicide</b>   Impulsive act under severe emotional stress where a person takes own life	person with the knowledge or means or both required to commit suicide
<b>Voluntary death</b>   Well considered decision by a person if he or she is still able to make medical decisions on how and when they would like to die	<b>Passive euthanasia</b>   Causing death of a person in a permanent vegetative state with no chance of recovery by withdrawing artificial life support
<b>Physician-assisted suicide</b>   Where a doctor knowingly and intentionally provides a	<b>Active euthanasia</b>   Administering patient a lethal drug to cause his or her death

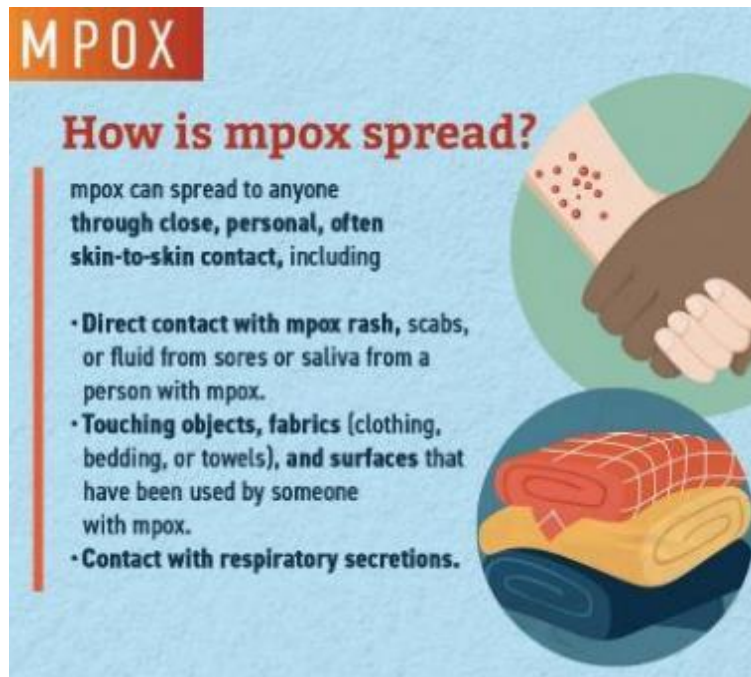
### **Ecuador Deal for Galapagos Conservation**

- ❖ Ecuador has committed to spending millions of dollars annually for 20 years to protect one of the world's most precious ecosystems.
- ❖ Credit Suisse has announced buying Ecuadorian bonds worth \$1.6 billion (€1.45 billion) in a debt-for-nature swap that cost the Swiss bank just \$644 million.
- ❖ The bonds were trading well below face value as investors considered non-repayment to be likely.
- ❖ Effectively, Ecuador has now bought its own debt back at a knock-down price via a fresh loan from Credit Suisse.
- ❖ And in return, Ecuador's government had pledged to spend about \$18 million annually for two decades on conservation in the Galapagos Islands.
- ❖ Credit Suisse will pay between 53.25% and 35.5% of the issue price for the 2030, 2035 and 2040 bonds.



### **Mpox public health emergency**

- ❖ World Health Organization (WHO) announced an end to the public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) for mpox.
- ❖ It was declared in July 2022 in the wake of unprecedented international spread.
- ❖ This came after confirmed cases in over 100 countries since the disease started spreading globally in May 2022.



### IMF report on Sub-Saharan Africa

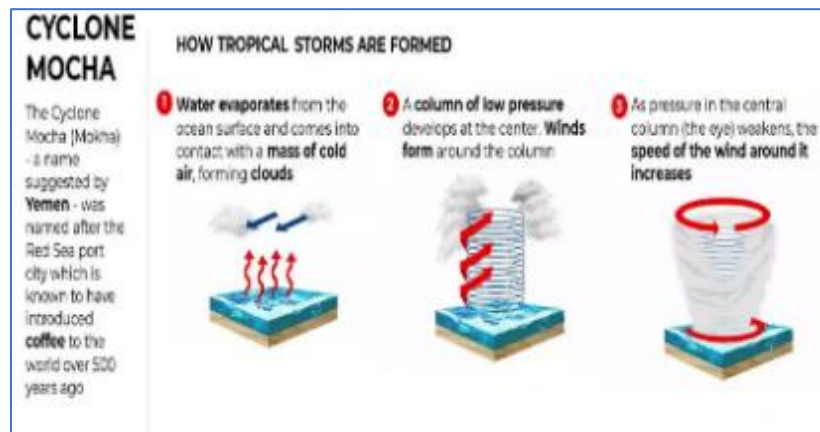


- ❖ The IMF recently released a report titled, 'Goeconomic Fragmentation: Sub-Saharan Africa Caught between the Fault Lines'.
- ❖ Economic and trade alliances with new economic partners, China, India and others, have benefited sub-Saharan Africa.
- ❖ Escalation of current geopolitical tensions would see countries in sub-Saharan Africa hit by higher import prices or even lose access to key export markets.
- ❖ This would mean that half of the region's international trade value could be impacted.

- ❖ Sub-Saharan African region could lose an estimated \$10 billion of foreign direct investment and official development assistance inflows.

### **Cyclone Mocha**

- ❖ Cyclone Mocha made landfall between Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh and Myanmar's Sittwe.
- ❖ Yemen suggested the name 'Mocha', which is supposed to be pronounced as Mokha.
- ❖ The cyclone has been named after a Red Sea port city known for its coffee production.
- ❖ The city also gave its name to the popular beverage, café Mocha.
- ❖ Cyclone Mocha is the most powerful storm to hit Bangladesh since Cyclone Sidr.
- ❖ Sidr hit Bangladesh's southern coast in November 2007, killing more than 3,000 people and causing billions of dollars in damage.
- ❖ Cyclone Nargis devastated Myanmar's Irrawaddy Delta in 2008, killing at least 138,000 people.

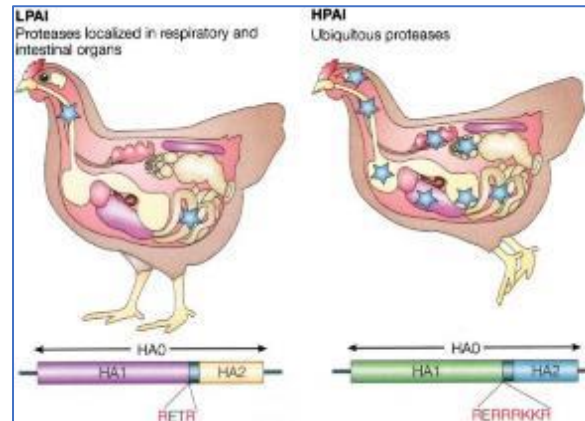


### **The Nakba at 75**

- ❖ The United Nations will stage a high-level special meeting to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Nakba.
- ❖ The Nakba – Arabic for “catastrophe” is the mass displacement of around 750,000 Palestinians from their homeland.
- ❖ By the time Israel declared its independence on May 14, 1948, between 250,000 and 350,000 Palestinians had been forced off their ancestral lands.
- ❖ The day after that declaration – May 15 – came to be known as Nakba Day.
- ❖ It is the first time that the international body has commemorated the date.

## Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

- ❖ Brazil, the world's top chicken exporter, has for the first time confirmed Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).
- ❖ The avian influenza virus can kill entire flocks of birds and cause losses for the farming sector.
- ❖ Brazil's chicken exports rose by 27% last year to \$9.76 billion as other countries reeled from a global outbreak of the virus.



## G7 Hiroshima summit

- ❖ In 2023, as the G7 Presidency, Japan will host the G7 Summit in Hiroshima.
- ❖ The Group of Seven is an informal group of leading industrialized nations.
- ❖ It consists of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- ❖ This year, the leaders of Australia, Brazil, Comoros, Cook Islands, India, Indonesia, South Korea and Vietnam are invited.
- ❖ The first summit was in 1975, when France hosted what was then a Group of Six.





### **New antibacterial treatments 2023**

- ❖ The new WHO report is incentivising the Development of new antibacterial treatments 2023.
- ❖ It highlights progress in addressing antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
- ❖ It also identifies gaps in ensuring a robust pipeline of antibiotic treatments.
- ❖ It was responsible for nearly 5 million global deaths in 2019
- ❖ It is projected to cause over 2mn death by 2050 in India alone.
- ❖ Yet the development of new antibiotics is limited, and access to existing treatments remains a challenge.



### **Rasht-Astara Railway Link**

- ❖ Russia and Iran have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to construct a rail link that will bolster the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
- ❖ It helps to connect Russian ports on the Baltic Sea with Iranian ports in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf.



- ❖ It facilitates the expansion of trade between India and Russia.



## 76<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly

- ❖ The 76th World Health Assembly is scheduled to be held in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ Theme of the event is “WHO at 75: Saving lives, driving health for all.”
- ❖ It will serve as a platform for representatives from all member to come together and address pressing health issues that affect people worldwide

## Jeddah Declaration

- ❖ The 32<sup>nd</sup> Arab League Summit concluded in the Saudi city of Jeddah.
- ❖ It adopted the Jeddah Declaration, which calls for Arab unity to solve regional issues.
- ❖ It reaffirmed the centrality of the Palestinian issue to Arab countries as one of the key factors of stability in the region.
- ❖ It called for stopping foreign interference in the domestic affairs of Arab countries.
- ❖ Also, categorically rejecting all support for the formation of armed groups and militias outside the scope of state institutions.

## HIV-prevention drug CAB-LA



- ❖ The Indian drug company Cipla confirmed that a generic version of the prophylaxis, long-acting cabotegravir (CAB-LA), would be manufactured at its plants in Benoni, near Johannesburg, or Durban.
- ❖ An affordable version of a HIV-prevention drug will be made in South Africa for the first time.
- ❖ Cabotegravir blocks HIV from entering a person’s cells.
- ❖ It reduces to almost zero an individual’s chances of getting infected with the virus through sex.

- ❖ The developers of CAB-LA, ViiV Healthcare, and the UN-backed Medicines Patent Pool (MPP), had granted licences to three companies, including Cipla.
- ❖ The other two companies, Aurobindo and Viatrix, are also Indian corporations

### **AL-MOHED AL-HINDI 2023 Naval Exercise**

- ❖ Al-Mohed-Al Hindi is a joint Naval Exercise held between India and Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ INS Tarkash and INS Subhadra from India participated in this exercise.
- ❖ The decision on the Bilateral exercise was taken during the Riyadh Summit held in 2019.
- ❖ The exercise was the second such Naval Exercise.
- ❖ The inaugural edition of the exercise was successfully conducted in 2021.

### **FIPIC Summit 2023**

- ❖ The third forum for India-Pacific islands co-operation (FIPIC Summit) was held today at Port Moresby.
- ❖ It was jointly hosted by India and Papua New Guinea.
- ❖ FIPIC is a multinational grouping for cooperation between India and 14 Pacific Islands nations.
- ❖ In 2015, FIPIC Trade Office at Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) to promote Trade & Investment opportunities between India & Pacific Island Countries.

### **International Pathogen Surveillance Network**



- ❖ The World Health Organization launched this global network.
- ❖ It aims to help swiftly detect the threat from infectious diseases, like COVID-19, and share the information to prevent their spread.

- ❖ The International Pathogen Surveillance Network (IPSN) will provide a platform for connecting countries and regions, improving systems for collecting and analysing samples, the agency said.
- ❖ The network will rely on pathogen genomics to analyse the genetic code of viruses, bacteria and other disease-causing organisms.

### **Colorado River Conservation Deal**

- ❖ Seven states, including Arizona, California, and Nevada, have achieved a deal on conserving water from the Colorado River.
- ❖ The agreement signifies a collective effort to address the challenges posed by ongoing drought conditions.
- ❖ It is necessary to manage water resources more efficiently.



### **World Energy Investment**

- ❖ The report titled World Energy Investment was released by the International Energy Agency (IEA).
- ❖ It is about \$2.8 trillion is set to be invested globally in energy in 2023.
- ❖ The annual clean energy investment is expected to rise by 24 per cent between 2021 and 2023.
- ❖ But only 15 per cent is expected to rise in fossil fuel investment over the same period.

### **Direct universal suffrage in 2024**

- ❖ Somalia's government and federal member states would introduce direct universal suffrage in local elections of June 2024.
- ❖ There is a complex indirect election system in place since 1969.

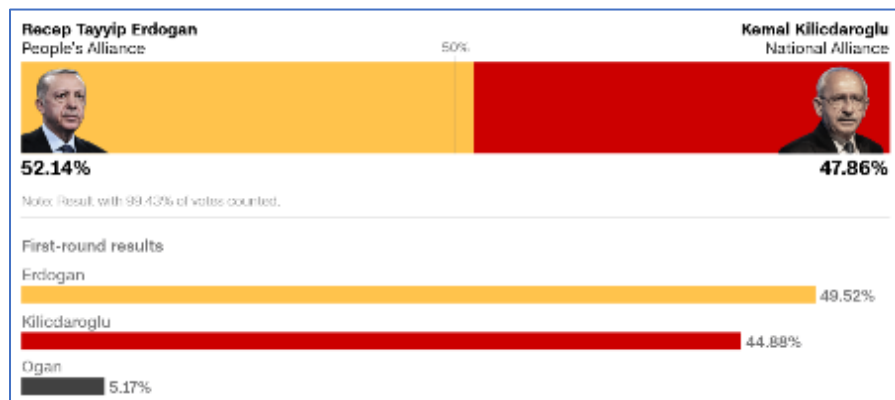


- ❖ The reform aims to "encourage the multiparty political system".
- ❖ It still has to be approved by parliament.



### Turkiye Presidential election

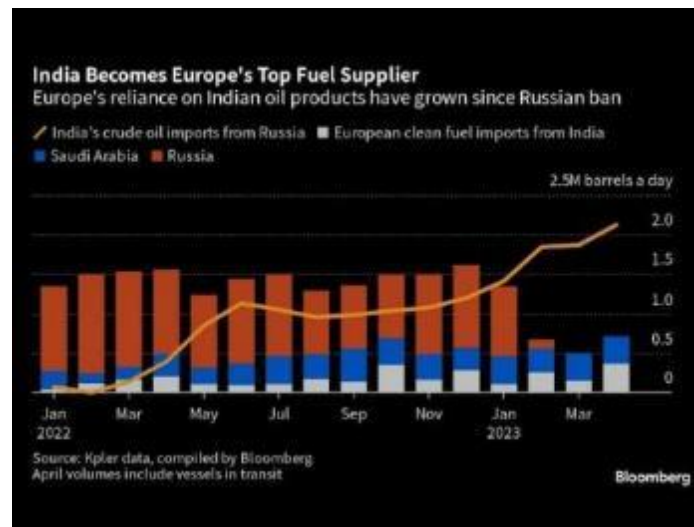
- ❖ Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has won re-election.
- ❖ He extends his 20-year rule for a further five years.
- ❖ He had already outstripped the 15-year presidency of the Republic of Turkey's founder, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk.
- ❖ Official data shows that inflation in Turkey was at 50.5 percent in March, down from a high of 85.6 percent in October.



## ECONOMY

### Europe's top refinery supplier

- ❖ A recent report by analytics firm Kpler showed India has become Europe's largest refinery supplier by beating Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ This increase can be linked with the ban on Russian oil.
- ❖ Europe's refined fuel imports from India are set to surge above 360,000 barrels a day.



### RBI Report on Currency and Finance

**RBI RELEASES REPORT ON CURRENCY & FINANCE (RCF) FOR 2022-23**

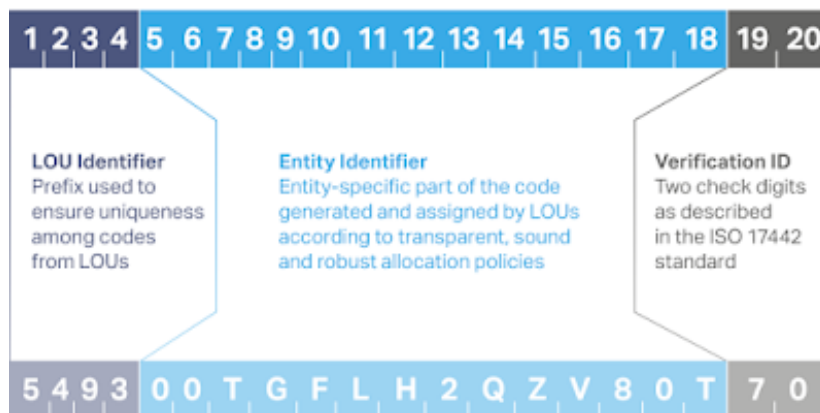
- Theme of RBI's FY23 RCF is 'Towards A Greener Cleaner India'
- Report covers scale & pace of climate change; its macroeconomic effects
- Report covers implications for financial stability; & policy options to mitigate climate risks

- ❖ The theme of the report is 'Towards a Greener Cleaner India'.
- ❖ The report covers four major dimensions of climate change to assess future challenges to sustainable high growth in India

- The unprecedented scale and pace of climate change;
  - Its macroeconomic effects;
  - Implications for financial stability and
  - Policy options to mitigate climate risks.
- ❖ India's green financing requirement is estimated to be at least 2.5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) annually till 2030.

### Legal Entity Identifier

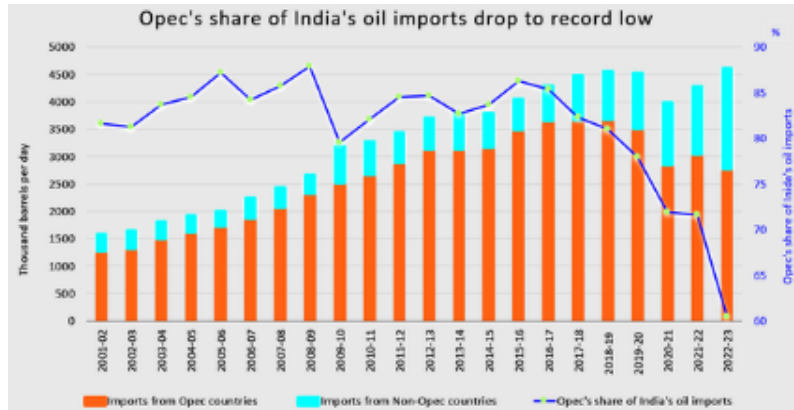
- ❖ SEBI introduced Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) system for issuers that have listed or planning to list non-convertible securities, securitised debt instruments and security receipts.
- ❖ LEI is a unique global identifier for legal entities participating in financial transactions.
- ❖ It is designed to create a global reference data system that uniquely identifies every legal entity, in any jurisdiction, that is party to a financial transaction.
- ❖ It is a unique 20-character code to identify legally distinct entities that engage in financial transactions.
- ❖ Presently, RBI mandates non-individual borrowers having aggregate exposure of above Rs 25 crore to obtain LEI code.



### India's imports from OPEC

- ❖ Oil producers' association OPEC's share in India's oil imports fell to an all-time low of 46 per cent in April.
- ❖ OPEC nations, mainly in the Middle East and Africa, had a 72 per cent share of all crude oil India imported in April 2022.
- ❖ Russia continued to be the single largest supplier of crude oil to India.

- ❖ The imports from Russia are now more than combined purchases from Iraq and Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ They both were the India's biggest suppliers in the last decade.



### **‘100 Days 100 Pays’ Campaign**

- ❖ RBI announced a ‘100 Days 100 Pays’ campaign for banks.
- ❖ It aims to trace and settle the top 100 unclaimed deposits of every bank in every district of the country within 100 days.
- ❖ The deposit which does not see any activity like the infusion of funds, withdrawal, etc. from the depositor for 10 years or more, and is deemed as an inactive deposit.

### **Greenwashing TechSprint**

- ❖ The RBI invited interested Indian companies to participate in Greenwashing TechSprint.
- ❖ The RBI is among 13 international regulators taking part in first ever Greenwashing TechSprint.
- ❖ It is organised by Global Financial Innovation Network (GFIN).
- ❖ The GFIN is a group of over 80 international organisations committed to supporting financial innovation.



### 3rd largest export destination

- ❖ The Netherlands has emerged as India's third largest exports destination after the US and UAE during 2022-23.
- ❖ India's trade surplus with the Netherlands has also increased from USD 8 billion in 2021-22 to USD 13 billion in 2022-23.
- ❖ The Netherlands has taken over major destinations such as the UK, Hong Kong, Bangladesh and Germany.
- ❖ India's exports to the Netherlands rose by about 48 per cent to USD 18.52 billion during 2022-23 as against USD 12.5 billion in 2021-22.

### Minimum Import Price for Apples

- ❖ The government banned the import of apples if its imported price is less than ₹ 50 per Kg.
- ❖ The minimum import price condition shall not be applicable for imports from Bhutan.
- ❖ In 2023, India imported apples worth USD 296 million against USD 385.1 million in 2022.

### Surplus Transfer to Government

- ❖ RBI board approved surplus transfer of Rs 87,416 crore rupees to the central government for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2023.
- ❖ It is nearly triple of what it paid in the previous year.
- ❖ The dividend pay-out was Rs 30,307 crore for accounting year 2021-22.
- ❖ RBI deciding to keep the Contingency Risk Buffer at 6 per cent.
- ❖ RBI board also raised Contingency Risk Buffer to 6 per cent from 5.50 per cent.





## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Oxygen from lunar soil simulant

- ❖ Scientists at NASA have successfully extracted oxygen from simulated lunar soil.
- ❖ Lunar soil refers to the fine-grained material covering the Moon's surface.
- ❖ This was the first time that this extraction has been done in a vacuum environment.
- ❖ It was paving the way for astronauts to one day extract and use resources in a lunar environment.
- ❖ It is called in-situ resource utilisation.



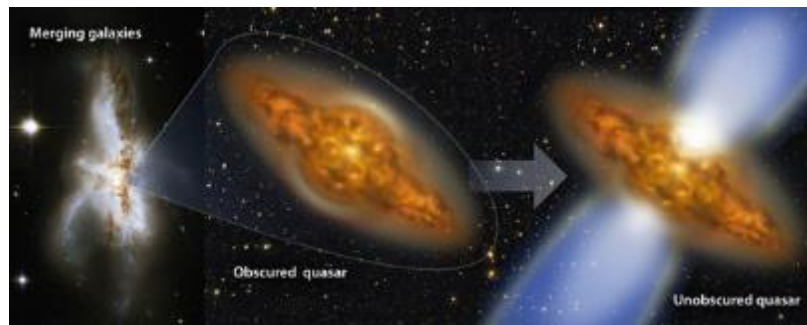
### Shingrix Vaccine

- ❖ GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (GSK) announced the launch of its shingles vaccine in India.
- ❖ The vaccine, named Shingrix, is one of the best-selling products of the company.
- ❖ Shingles is a viral infection that causes a painful rash and it can occur anywhere in the body.
- ❖ This is caused by the varicella-zoster virus.
- ❖ Shingrix is the world's first non-live, recombinant subunit vaccine that is given intramuscularly in two doses.

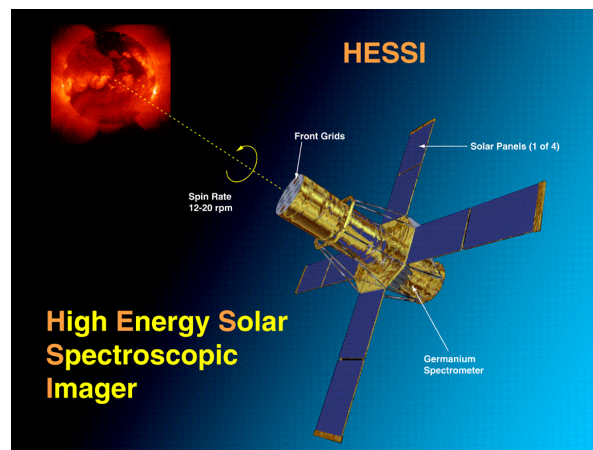


## Quasar and Galactic Collisions

- ❖ Astronomers first discovered quasars, considered to be the brightest and most powerful objects in the universe, 60 years ago.
- ❖ But they didn't understand their origin.
- ❖ Now, scientists have unlocked the mystery behind what ignites these celestial objects.
- ❖ Quasars are a type of active galactic nuclei.
- ❖ They are located in supermassive black holes, which sit in the centre of galaxies.
- ❖ The researchers discovered that the collision of galaxies is what likely triggers quasars.
- ❖ They are estimating that quasar-hosting galaxies are three times as likely to collide with other galaxies.
- ❖ Recent studies found that around 65% of the observed quasar-hosting galaxies showed signs of galaxy mergers or encounters in the past.



## Reuven Ramaty High Energy Solar Spectroscopic Imager

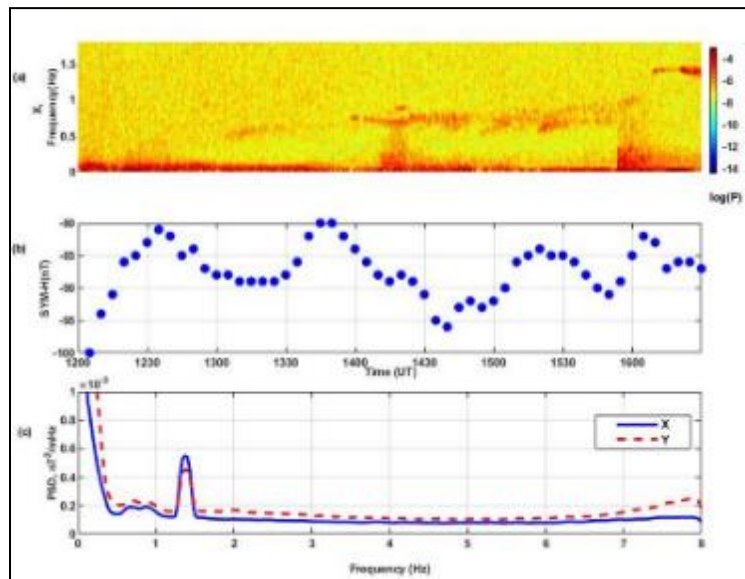


- ❖ NASA's Reuven Ramaty High Energy Solar Spectroscopic Imager (RHESSI) spacecraft smashed by re-entering in the Earth's atmosphere recently.

- ❖ It is also known as Explorer 81 and launched in 2022.
- ❖ The spacecraft was tasked with observing solar flares and coronal mass ejections from the Sun from its position in low-Earth orbit.
- ❖ The 300-kg spacecraft was decommissioned in 2018.
- ❖ NASA crashed most of the spacecraft to burn up as it travels through the atmosphere.

### Geomagnetic Pc1 Pearl Oscillations

- ❖ The Geomagnetic Pc1 pearl oscillations are amplitude-modulated structured narrow-band signals.
- ❖ They are signatures of low-frequency EMIC waves generated by resonant wave-particle interactions in the Earth's magnetosphere.

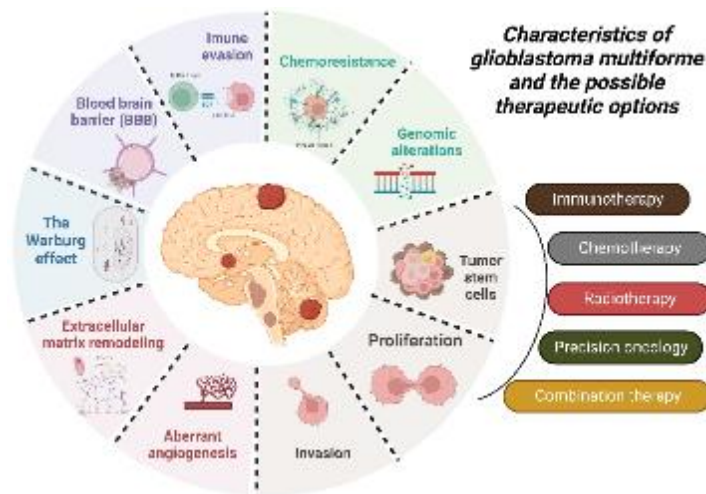


- ❖ The observation of these oscillations is a proxy for the measurement of particle precipitation in the Earth's magnetosphere.
- ❖ Evidences of these pulsations are abundant in the mid and high-latitude regions.
- ❖ At very low latitude stations, it is not frequent.
- ❖ These waves are an important component of space weather in the near-Earth environment.
- ❖ During the solar maximum period, the transmission rate of Pc1 waves to the equator was diminished than during the solar minimum.
- ❖ The annual and seasonal patterns of Pc1 occurrence showed an inverse relation with sunspot numbers at both stations.

- ❖ An association of these pulsations with active geomagnetic conditions showed the occurrence of Pc1 increasing significantly in the recovery phase of geomagnetic storms.

### Tool to detect glioblastoma

- ❖ Researchers at the IIT- Madras have developed a machine learning-based computational tool to detect malignant tumours in the brain and spinal cord.
- ❖ It is called glioblastoma multiform drivers (GBMDriver).
- ❖ Glioblastoma is a fast and aggressively growing tumour with limited therapeutic options.
- ❖ This has a survival rate of less than two years from the time of initial diagnosis.



### Arexvy vaccine



- ❖ The US Food and Drug Administration has approved the first vaccine for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) for people aged 60 and over.

- ❖ It becomes the world's first RSV immunization for adults.
- ❖ RSV is a "highly contagious" virus that causes infections of the lungs and breathing passages.

### **Stable Auroral Red Arc**

- ❖ Aurora borealis or Northern lights, which are usually seen in Polar regions, were captured in Ladakh, India.
- ❖ After analysing the aurora, it appears to be a “stable auroral red (SAR) arc”.
- ❖ SAR is a very rare event in Ladakh - and not a conventional aurora.
- ❖ An SAR arc is a band of reddish light seen in the sky.
- ❖ Unlike auroras where various colours appear in moving patterns, SAR displays are static and monochromatic.
- ❖ Both appear during periods of geomagnetic activity triggered by a wave of charged matter blasted out of the Sun.
- ❖ But their mechanism of formation is slightly different.
- ❖ These waves were witnessed from Europe, China and Ladakh in India.
- ❖ Such a happening was last witnessed in 2015.



### **Water in Uranus' Four Moons**

- ❖ NASA scientists have discovered in a new study that there can be water in the four large moons of Uranus.
- ❖ The new findings suggest that the 4 moons of Uranus may have deep oceans beneath their ice-capped surfaces.
- ❖ The four of Uranus' largest moons are - Ariel, Umbriel, Titania, and Oberon.
- ❖ Uranus is the seventh planet from the sun and the coldest planet in the solar system.
- ❖ Uranus has 27 known moons.



### **Black hole Scary Barbie**

- ❖ Astronomers have identified a supermassive black hole consuming a star, dubbed “Scary Barbie.”
- ❖ This event has lasted over 800 days due to the effect of relativity on the light reaching us.
- ❖ The Scary Barbie was first observed in 2020
- ❖ When it was initially observed, it was given a random name like all discovered objects.
- ❖ It was called ZTF20abrbeie.



### **Tu-160 Bomber**

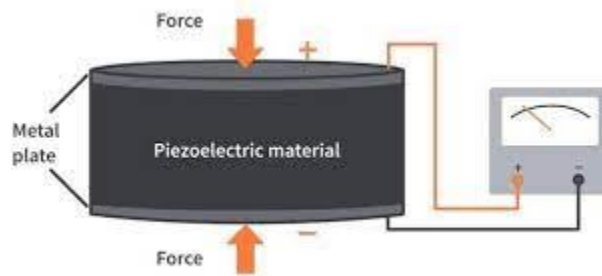


- ❖ Russia has deployed the world’s largest bomber Tu-160 in the Ukraine war.
- ❖ The Tu-160 bomber, also known as the Blackjack in NATO countries.
- ❖ It is a supersonic, variable-sweep wing, strategic bomber developed in the 1980s.
- ❖ It is one of the largest and heaviest military aircraft ever built.
- ❖ Its impressive size has earned it the nickname "White Swan."
- ❖ It has a top speed of around 2,200 km/h or Mach 1.6.

- ❖ It has a range of more than 12,000 km and is equipped with an in-flight refuelling system.
- ❖ India also interested in buying at least six Tu-160 bombers from Russia to boost its strategic force.

### Sensor technology for underwater communications

- ❖ IIT Madras and DRDO have developed a cutting-edge sensor technology for underwater communications.
- ❖ The fabricated PZT thin film-based acoustic sensor exhibits higher performance than the conventional PVDF-based acoustic sensor.
- ❖ The indigenous technology will enable the fabrication of devices at a relatively lower cost as compared to international foundries.
- ❖ It is known as the piezoelectric Micro Electro Mechanical System technology.



### TROPICS Mission


<b>LAUNCH PROVIDER</b> Rocket Lab	<b>CUSTOMER</b> NASA VADR, MIT	<b>LAUNCH WINDOW</b> MAY 08 01:00Z UTC 13:00 NZST	<b>2023</b> MAY 07 21:00 EDT 19:00 PDT <small>(2 hour extended launch window)</small>									
<b>MISSION TYPE</b> Earth observation, technology	<b>PAYLOADS(2)</b> <b>TROPICS (#3, #5)</b> <small>Three Payload Observations of Precipitation structure and characteristics with a Constellation of satellites.</small> <small>TROPICS is a mission that consists of a group of satellites to deliver high-resolution measurements over the oceans. These measurements will provide valuable information about the thermodynamics of the Troposphere and provide data for global climate at the atmospheric and synoptic scale throughout the entire ocean basin.</small> <small>The satellites will have high-resolution instruments that will send data to the satellite each 30-60 seconds to provide temperature and water vapor profiles, precipitation measurements, and cloud cover measurements.</small> Total Mass: ~40 kg	<b>LAUNCH VEHICLE</b> <b>ELECTRON</b> Curie FLIGHT #36 Height 38 m Diameter 1.2 m LW mass ~13 tons	<b>ENGINE BLOCKS</b> <table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>STAGE/VEHICLE</b></td> <td>0.9 x Rutherford (1st Stage)</td> <td>2.1 x Rutherford (second)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>PROPELLANTS</b></td> <td>LOX / RP-1</td> <td>LOX / RP-1</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>MAX THRUST</b></td> <td>276 MN</td> <td>28 MN</td> </tr> </table>	<b>STAGE/VEHICLE</b>	0.9 x Rutherford (1st Stage)	2.1 x Rutherford (second)	<b>PROPELLANTS</b>	LOX / RP-1	LOX / RP-1	<b>MAX THRUST</b>	276 MN	28 MN
<b>STAGE/VEHICLE</b>	0.9 x Rutherford (1st Stage)	2.1 x Rutherford (second)										
<b>PROPELLANTS</b>	LOX / RP-1	LOX / RP-1										
<b>MAX THRUST</b>	276 MN	28 MN										
<b>LAUNCH SPACEPORT</b> Launch Complex 1 - Pad B, Mahia Peninsula, New Zealand	<b>DESTINATION</b> Low Earth Orbit (i LEO) Altitude: 550 km Inclination 32°	<b>KICKSTAGE</b> <table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>STAGE/VEHICLE</b></td> <td>1 x Curie (Vehicle)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>PROPELLANTS</b></td> <td>Bi-propellant (Liquid)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>MAX THRUST</b></td> <td>100 Newtons</td> </tr> </table>	<b>STAGE/VEHICLE</b>	1 x Curie (Vehicle)	<b>PROPELLANTS</b>	Bi-propellant (Liquid)	<b>MAX THRUST</b>	100 Newtons	<b>RECOVERY</b> LAUNCH VEHICLE IS EXPENDABLE			
<b>STAGE/VEHICLE</b>	1 x Curie (Vehicle)											
<b>PROPELLANTS</b>	Bi-propellant (Liquid)											
<b>MAX THRUST</b>	100 Newtons											

- ❖ NASA launched two small satellites designed to track tropical cyclones in real-time from a base in New Zealand.
- ❖ The project, called the TROPICS mission, has the potential to improve weather predictions on devastating storms.
- ❖ TROPICS is an acronym for Time-Resolved Observations of Precipitation Structure and Storm Intensity with a Constellation of Smallsats.
- ❖ It will provide information on rainfall, temperature, and humidity, to see storms evolve on an hourly basis.
- ❖ The new storm trackers can fly over hurricanes every hour.
- ❖ The current satellites flies over hurricanes every six hours.

### Google's Bard chatbot

- ❖ Google's Bard AI chatbot is now available in over 180 countries.
- ❖ Bard can search the internet in real time as you type your queries or prompts.
- ❖ Bard can be interacted with using our voice, which can be more convenient in some situations.
- ❖ Bard can generate text in different formats, including PDF, Word, and HTML.
- ❖ Bard can summarise web pages, which is a great way to quickly get the gist of a long or complex article.

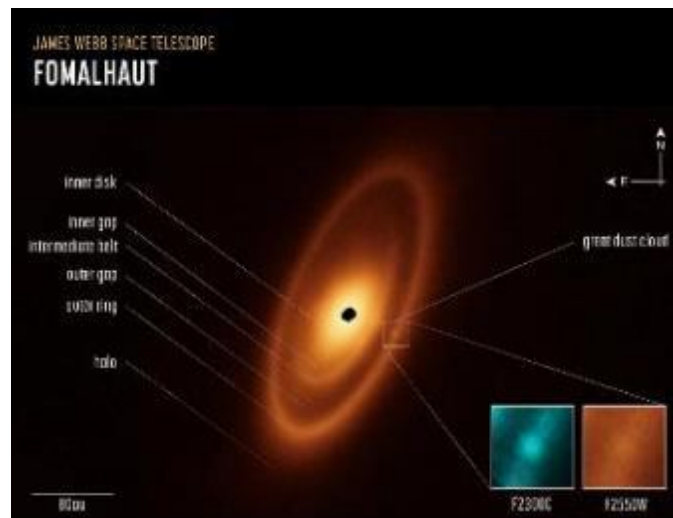
	Bard	ChatGPT
Language model	LaMDA	GPT-3
Source of Information	Internet	Data feed
Information cutoff	None	2021
Access	Limited	Unlimited
Limitations	Biases of Internet	Biases of data



### Fomalhaut

- ❖ Fomalhaut is one of the top 20 brightest stars in the night sky and is located just 25 light-years away.
- ❖ NASA's James Webb Space Telescope captured the image of warm dust around a nearby the star.

- ❖ The dusty structures are much more complex than the asteroid and Kuiper dust belts of our solar system.
- ❖ Overall, there are three nested belts extending out to 14 billion miles (23 billion kilometers) from the star.
- ❖ This is equal to 150 times the distance of Earth from the Sun.
- ❖ Fomalhaut's dust ring was discovered in 1983 in observations made by NASA's Infrared Astronomical Satellite (IRAS).
- ❖ Fomalhaut is the 18th brightest star in the night sky and has 1.9 times the Sun's mass.



### **Exobiology Extant Life Surveyor**

- ❖ NASA has developed a robot whose to explore Enceladus, one of the many moons of Saturn.
- ❖ The goal is to find out if there is water on this moon, and therefore potentially some form of life.
- ❖ The robot moves and slithers around like a snake.
- ❖ Enceladus is the sixth-largest moon of Saturn.



### **India's First C295 Tactical Transport Aircraft**

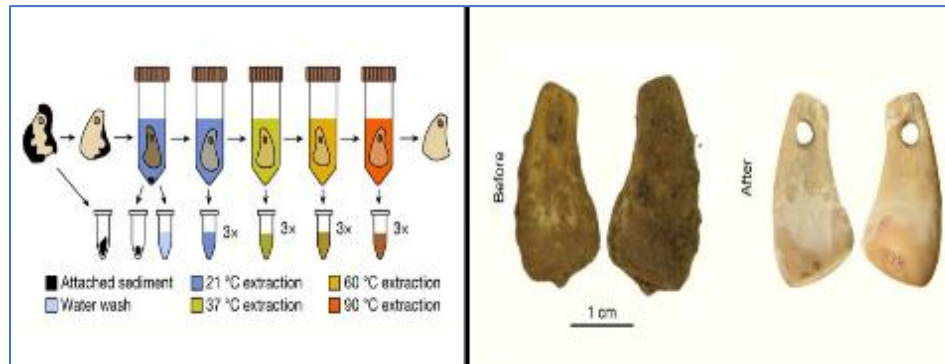
- ❖ The first Airbus C295, a new-generation tactical airlifter, successfully completed its maiden flight for India.
- ❖ This first flight represents a significant accomplishment for the first Make in India aerospace programme.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force is set to become the largest operator of the C295 in the world.
- ❖ The first 16 aircraft will be assembled in Seville, Spain, and delivered to the customer in 'fly-away' condition.
- ❖ The following 40 aircraft will be manufactured and assembled by Tata Advanced Systems (TASL) in India as part of an industrial partnership between the two companies.



### **Non-Invasive Method to Extract DNA from fossil**

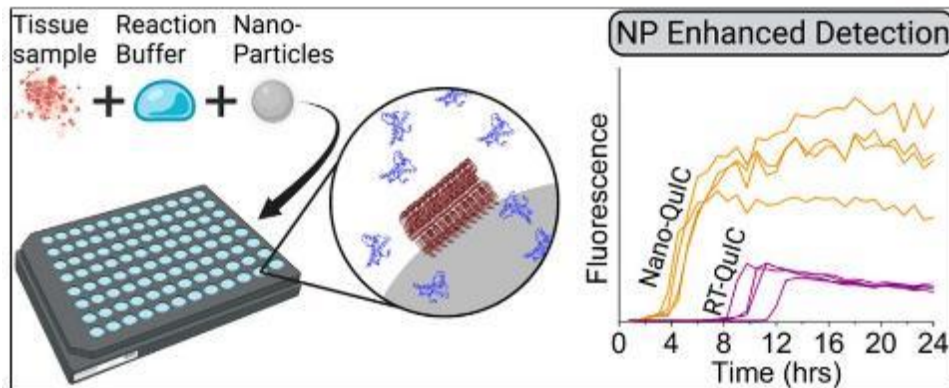
- ❖ Scientists have developed a non-destructive DNA extraction method Palaeolithic Remains.
- ❖ In this, the objects were submerged in a sodium phosphate buffer while gradually increasing the temperature.
- ❖ DNA trapped in ancient bone and tooth artifacts is released into the solution and enables further sequencing and analysis.
- ❖ By washing the artifacts at temperatures of up to 90 degrees Celsius, we are able to extract DNA from the wash waters, while keeping the artifacts intact.
- ❖ The researchers applied this new method to a deer tooth pendant from Denisova Cave and managed to recover DNA of a wapiti (species of elk) and an ancient human.
- ❖ The DNA analyses allowed them to estimate the age of the pendant at around 19,000-25,000 years.
- ❖ Generally, DNA extraction from ancient skeletal material can be destructive or can alter the specimens.





### Nano-QuIC Technique

- ❖ The Researchers at the University of Minnesota have developed a new diagnostic technique to detect neurodegenerative diseases.
- ❖ The technique is called Nano-QuIC- Nanoparticle-enhanced Quaking-Induced Conversion.
- ❖ It can detect biomarkers early on, allowing for earlier treatment and mitigation of diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and chronic wasting disease (CWD).



### Husky – Ichor device



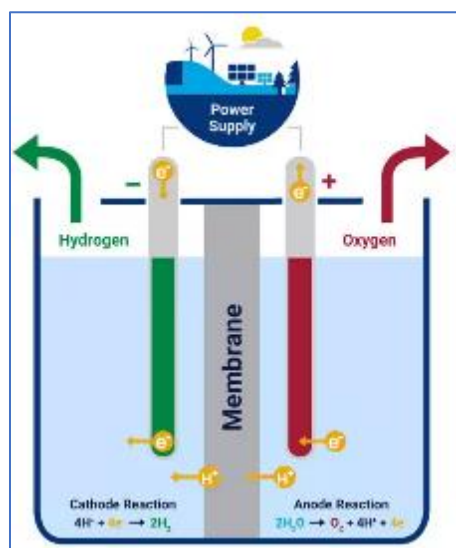
- ❖ CML Biotech Ltd has installed the world's first integrated machine 'Husky -Ichor', for manufacturing blood collection tubes.
- ❖ The integrated machine comprises machine mould, hot runner, dowsler, dehumidifier, chiller, temperature controller and dryer.
- ❖ Normally, these functions are carried out in different machines.

### Flow Horse malware

- ❖ Flow Horse, a fake Android malware has targets consumers in East Asia and competes with applications on Origin, is rampant.
- ❖ They are designed to steal information including user credentials and 2-factor authentication codes.
- ❖ Flow Horse is distributed via phishing emails to high-potential targets to download the app and resolve pending payment issues.

### Catalyst For Green Hydrogen Fuel

- ❖ IIT - Guwahati have developed a catalyst that can produce sustainable green hydrogen fuel from wood alcohol.
- ❖ Also, it wouldn't produce carbon dioxide as a by-product.
- ❖ The easy and environmentally safe process also produces formic acid which is a useful industrial chemical.
- ❖ This makes methanol a promising Liquid Organic Hydrogen Carrier (LOHC) and contributes to the concept of hydrogen-methanol economy.



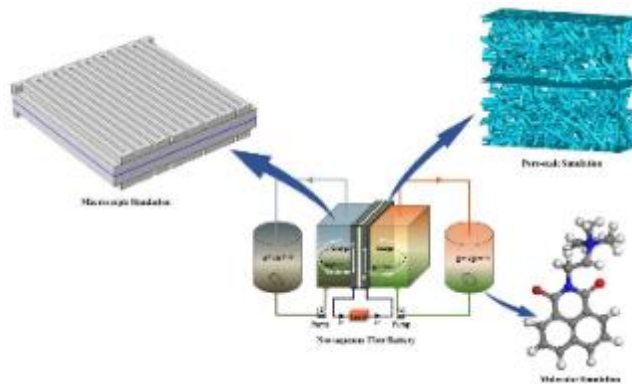
## Semi-Cryogenic Engine Tests

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation has successfully commenced testing of its semi-cryogenic engines.
- ❖ The very first integrated test on an intermediate configuration of the 2000 kN (Kilonewton) semi-cryogenic engine carried out.
- ❖ This test conducted in newly-commissioned Semi cryogenic Integrated Engine & Stage Test facility at ISRO Propulsion Complex at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu.



## New flow battery technology

- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology of Madras have developed a 'non-aqueous all-organic redox flow battery' (NORFB).
- ❖ They have developed a new type of electrolyte using 'pyrylium salts', which are a class of organic chemicals.



- ❖ With suitable structural modifications these chemicals allow high-voltage operation, namely they can store more energy.
- ❖ The electrolyte is designed to carry more current density as well as voltage.
- ❖ Conventional flow batteries feature aqueous (water-based) electrolytes like hydrochloric acid, sulphuric acid, and alkali metal hydroxides.

- ❖ Water in the electrolyte undergoes electrolysis, reducing the operating voltage limit and energy density.
- ❖ The presence of water leads to corrosion of battery components, diminishing their lifespan and performance.

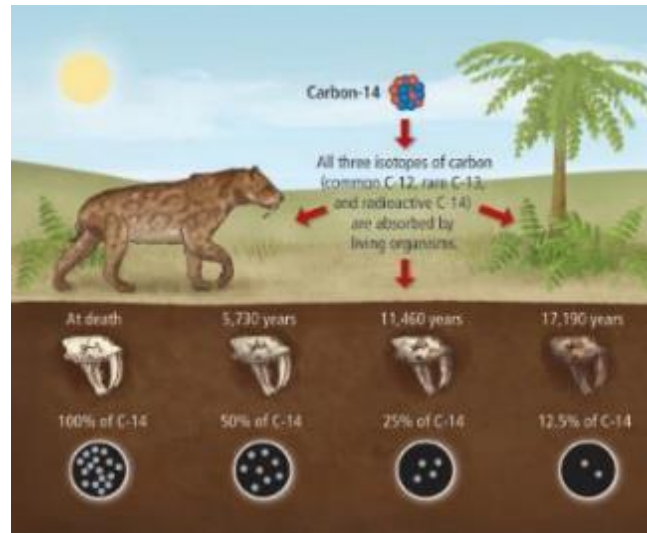
### **ASTR Verification**

- ❖ The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched the Artificial Intelligence and Facial Recognition powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification (ASTR) tool.
- ❖ It aims to detect and block fraudulent mobile connections.
- ❖ The ASTR project was developed by the DoT's unit in Haryana between April 2021 and July 2021.
- ❖ It is capable of detecting all SIMs against a suspected face in less than 10 seconds from a database of 1 crore images.



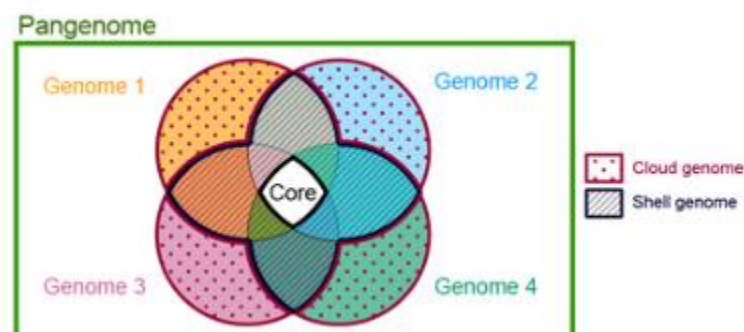
### **Calcium-41 radiometric dating**

- ❖ Since its invention in 1947, carbon dating allowing scientists to estimate the age of an organic material based on how much carbon-14 it contains.
- ❖ Carbon-14 has a half-life of 5,700 years.
- ❖ So, the technique can't determine the age of objects older than around 50,000 years.
- ❖ In 1979, scientists suggested using calcium-41, with a half-life of 99,400 years, instead.
- ❖ Calcium-41 is rarer, occurring once in around  $10^{15}$  calcium atoms.
- ❖ The researchers able to spot one calcium-41 atom in every  $10^{16}$  calcium atoms with 12% precision in seawater.



## Pan Genome Map

- ❖ A recent study published in the Nature journal presents a pangenome reference map.
- ❖ It is built by using genomes from 47 anonymous individuals (19 men and 28 women).
- ❖ They are mainly from Africa but also from the Caribbean, Americas, East Asia, and Europe.
- ❖ Our genome consists of 23 different strings, each composed of millions of individual building blocks called nucleotides or bases.
- ❖ The four types of building blocks (A, T, G and C) are arranged and repeated millions of times in different combinations to make all of our 23 chromosomes.
- ❖ Genome sequencing is the method used to determine the precise order of the four letters and how they are arranged in chromosomes.
- ❖ Sequencing individual genomes helps us understand human diversity at the genetic level and how prone we are to certain diseases.





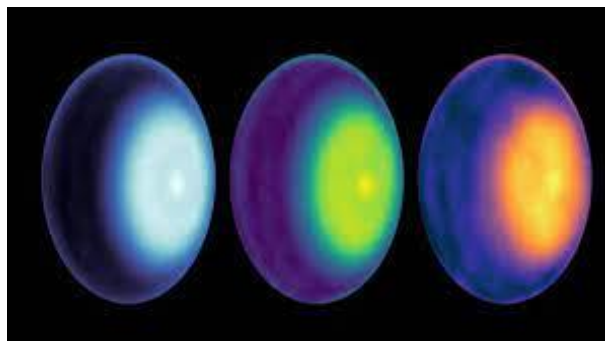
## Artificial Leaf

- ❖ Researchers from the University of Cambridge have developed an “artificial leaf”.
- ❖ It can convert carbon dioxide into liquid fuels by harnessing the power of sunlight.
- ❖ Importantly, these can directly be used by internal combustion vehicles as drop-in fuels.
- ❖ They replicated the process of photosynthesis by converting carbon dioxide, water and sunlight into two multi carbon fuels— ethanol and propanol.



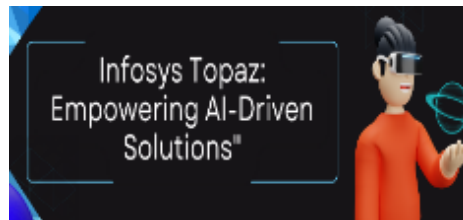
## Polar cyclone

- ❖ A polar cyclone has been detected on the north pole of Uranus for the first time.
- ❖ NASA scientists discovered Uranus’ polar cyclone by examining radio waves emitted from the planet.
- ❖ The data Collected in 2015, 2021 and 2022, allowed scientists to look deeper into the planet’s atmosphere.
- ❖ The findings confirm a broad truth about all planets with substantial atmospheres in our solar system.
- ❖ Whether the planets are composed mainly of rock or gas, their atmospheres show signs of a swirling vortex at the poles.



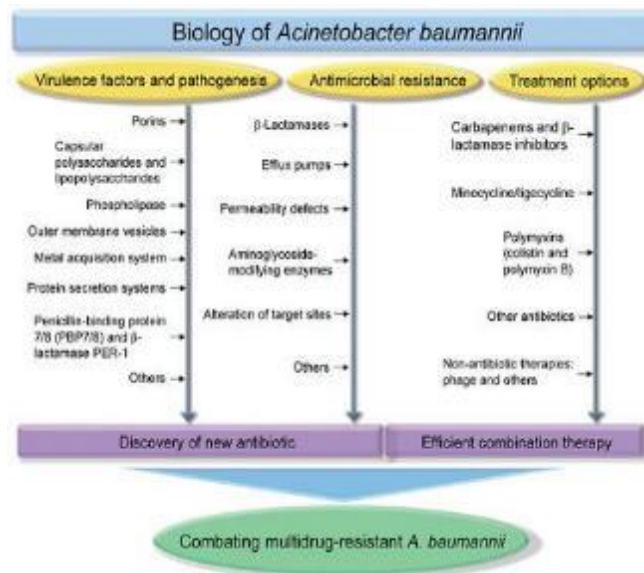
## Topaz

- ❖ Infosys has launched Topaz, a comprehensive suite of services, solutions, and platforms.
- ❖ It harnesses the power of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies.
- ❖ Topaz is built on Infosys' applied AI framework, enabling the development of an AI-first core.
- ❖ It enhances the capabilities of individuals and organizations to deliver cognitive solutions and accelerate value creation.



## Antibiotic for *Acinetobacter baumannii*

- ❖ Researchers have found a new type of antibiotic that works against a particularly menacing drug-resistant bacteria using artificial intelligence.
- ❖ This drug could help combat *Acinetobacter baumannii*.
- ❖ It is a species of bacteria that is often found in hospitals and can lead to pneumonia, meningitis, and other serious infections.
- ❖ The same bacteria are also responsible for the leading cause of infections in wounded soldiers.
- ❖ They tested the antibiotic against 41 different strains of antibiotic-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii*.



## ENVIRONMENT

### W12+ Blueprint

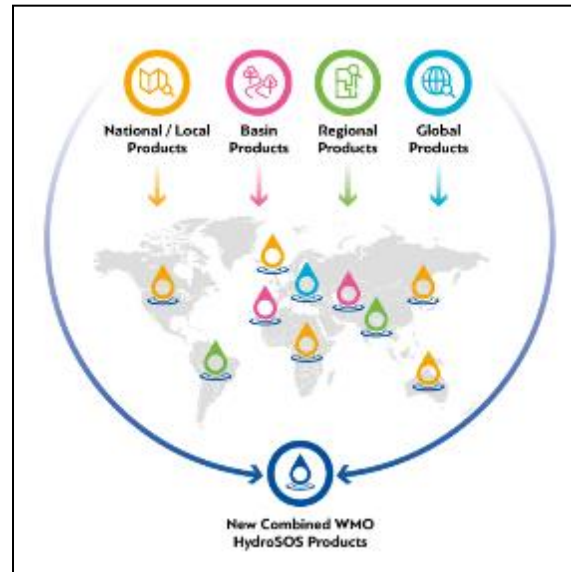
- ❖ The United Nations 2023 Water Conference held in New York.
- ❖ It was the first such meeting on water after 46 years.
- ❖ The last U.N. Water Conference was held in 1977.
- ❖ The W12+ Blueprint committed knowledge sharing for water security challenges at Un Water Conference 2023.
- ❖ It is an online information tool for urban water solutions.
- ❖ This is one of the W12+ programs for urban water challenges.
- ❖ It aims to create a tool that provides insight on how to address common urban water challenges through easy-to-read case studies.
- ❖ Bengaluru and Chennai are the two cities from India are listed in this Blueprint.
- ❖ It is a UNESCO platform that hosts city profiles.



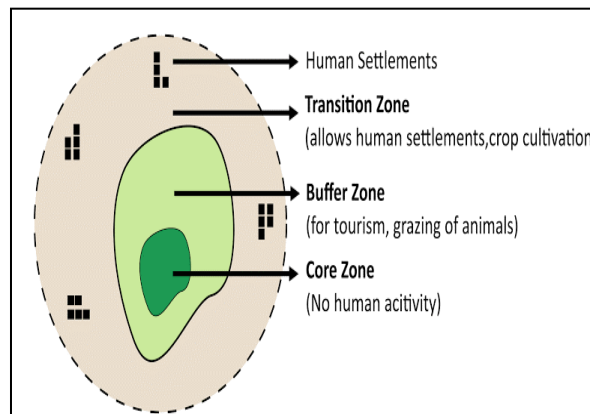
### HydroSOS

- ❖ The World Meteorological Organisation's Hydrological Status and Outlook System (HydroSOS) offered data analysis tools for simulations.
- ❖ It aims to provide an operational system capable of assessing the current hydrological status and its likely near-future outlook for all areas of the globe.
- ❖ HydroSOS integrates hydrological status assessments and outlooks from, and for National Hydrological Services (NHS).

- ❖ The system offers simple, accessible hydrological information to users such as government bodies, UN bodies, aid agencies, and the general public.



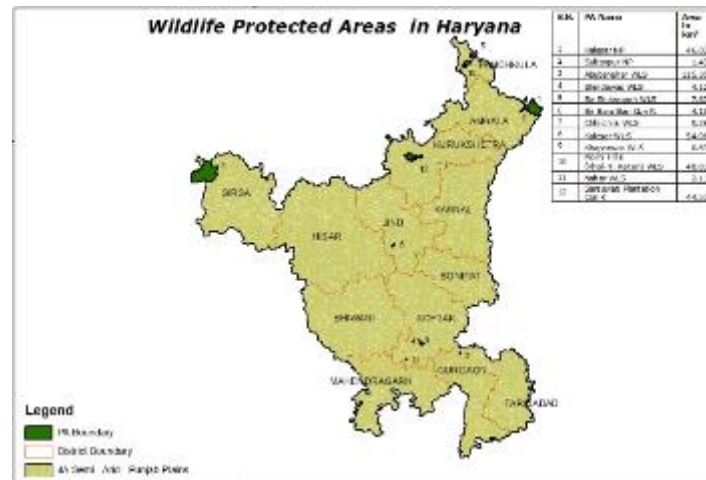
### Judgement on eco-sensitive zones



- ❖ The Supreme Court modified its judgment regarding 1-km buffer zone for the protected areas.
- ❖ On June 3, 2022, the apex court ordered that, having mandatory eco-sensitive zones (ESZ) of a minimum one kilometre around protected forests, national parks and wildlife sanctuaries across the country.
- ❖ A Bench led by Justice B.R. Gavai reasoned that ESZ cannot be uniform across the country and has to be “protected area-specific”.
- ❖ Also, it prevented the government from building roads and other important infrastructure in those areas which fall within 1 km of ESZ.
- ❖ The apex court has restricted mining in any case within these areas.

## Tiger at Kalesar National Park

- ❖ After 110 years', Tiger was spotted at Kalesar National Park in Yamunanagar, Haryana.
- ❖ The last sighting was reported in 1913.
- ❖ The Kalesar park is adjacent to Simbalbara National Park in Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ They are connected to the Uttarakhand's Rajaji National Park through a forest landscape.



## New Species of Spiny Clam Shrimps

- ❖ Scientists have discovered two new species of spiny clam shrimps or Spinicaudatans in Karnataka and Goa.
- ❖ They are genetically distinct from other known Indian species.
- ❖ They were named 'Leptestheria chalukyae' and 'Leptestheria gomantaki'.
- ❖ Leptestheria chalukyae has been named after the Chalukya dynasty.
- ❖ Leptestheria gomantaki has been named after Goa.
- ❖ Clam shrimps are not clams and merely resemble them since their body is inside a bivalve shell or a carapace.
- ❖ They are found in temporary freshwater bodies around the globe, except in Antarctica.
- ❖ Presence of a spine on the tip of their rostrum is differentiates the clam shrimps from other crustacean families.
- ❖ It is a beak-like projection of the head.





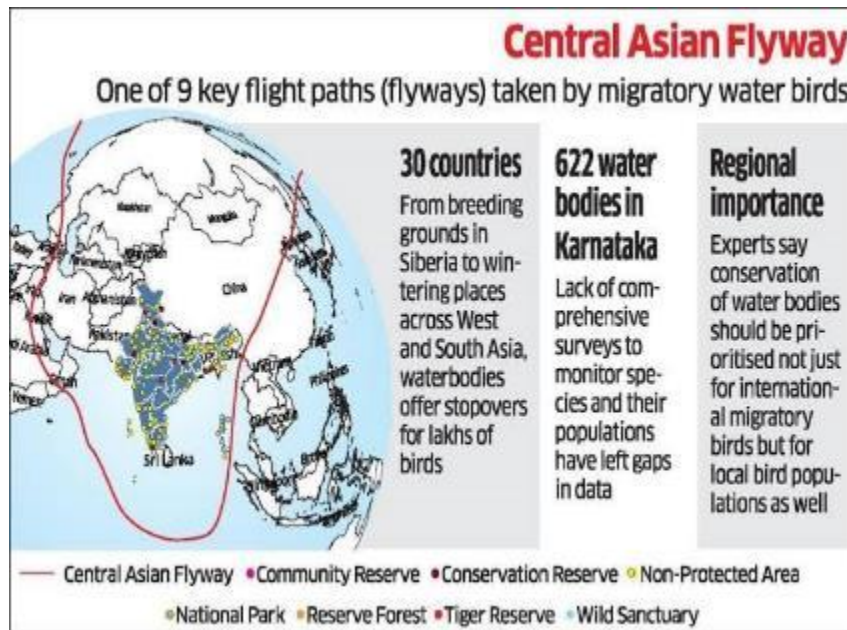
### **Saurona Genus**

- ❖ Scientists of the Natural History Museum in London have named a new group of butterflies after the villain Sauron from the Lord of the Rings novels.
- ❖ Two species of butterfly have been added to the newly named Saurona genus.
- ❖ Saurona triangular and Saurona aurigera are the inaugural members of the group.
- ❖ These are not the first creatures to be named after Sauron.
- ❖ The villain's glowing eye has also been referenced in the names of a dung beetle, a frog and a dinosaur.



### **Central Asian Flyway**

- ❖ The Range countries of the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) have collaborated to strengthen conservation efforts for migratory birds and their habitats.
- ❖ The Central Asian Flyway is a major migratory route for birds, covering 30 countries from the Arctic Ocean to the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ It is home to more than 400 species of migratory birds.
- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme/Convention on Migratory Species (UNEP/CMS) organised the meeting recently.
- ❖ A total of 370 species of migratory birds visits the Indian subcontinent annually.



### Petersburg Climate Dialogue

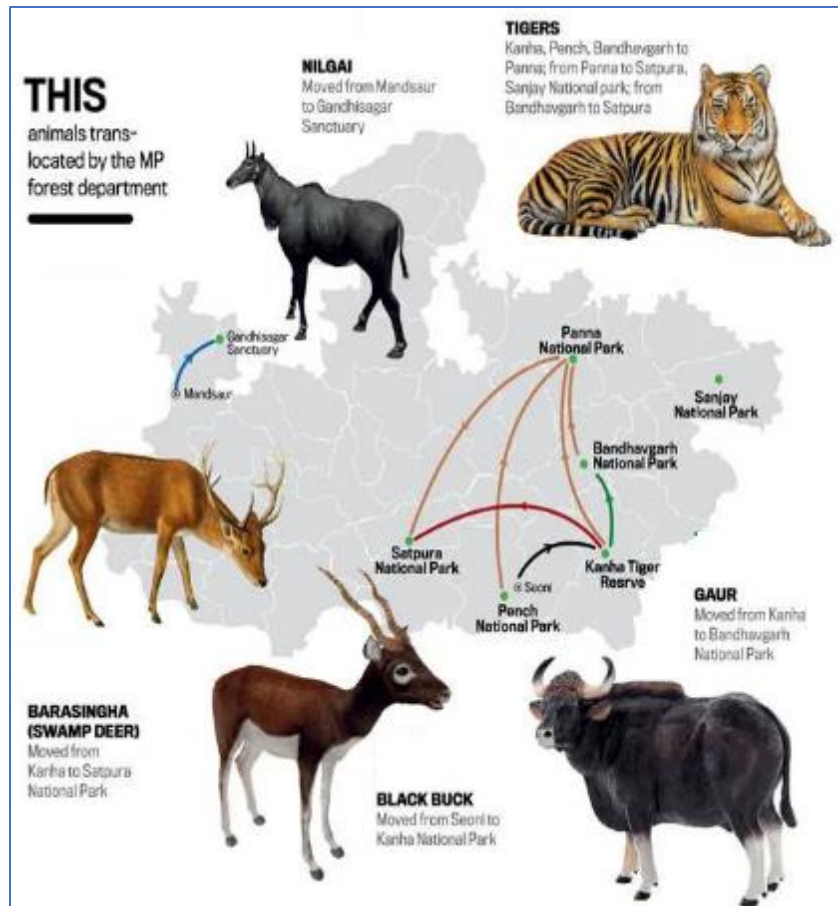
- ❖ The Petersburg Dialogue on Climate Change was held in Berlin.
- ❖ It was hosted by Germany and the United Arab Emirates.
- ❖ The conference brought together ministers from 40 countries to discuss the way forward towards COP28.



### Swamp Deer in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

- ❖ As many as 19 swamp deer released into enclosures built at Magadhi Zone in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ With this, the number of swamp deer will increase to 37 at the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ A separate enclosure was built for the swamp deer at the Magadhi zone of BTR which is named 'Barasingha Home' (Swamp Deer Home).
- ❖ They will be kept in the enclosure for about three years and then they will be released into the wild.

- ❖ This reserve is located in Madhya Pradesh's Umari district.
- ❖ They were brought from Kanha National Park.



### Ban the use of fossil fuels

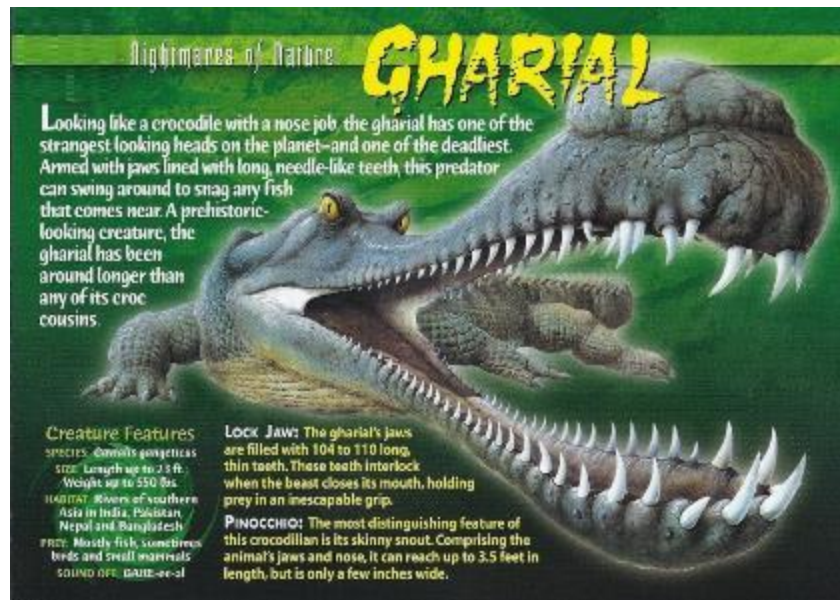


- ❖ New York has become first state in the US to ban the use of natural gas and other fossil fuels in the majority of new buildings.

- ❖ This is an important win for climate activists, but it could encounter pushback from the fossil fuel industry.
- ❖ By 2026, all new buildings under seven floors must have all-electric heating and cooking, and for higher buildings by 2029.

### **Gharial in Pakistan**

- ❖ A gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) has been seen in Pakistan's Punjab province for the first time after three decades.
- ❖ It could have been from a population reintroduced on this side of the Radcliffe Line in 2017.
- ❖ India has reintroduced the gharial in the Harike wetland which is 50 km from the border
- ❖ Between 2017 and 2021, some 94 gharials were released into the Beas River in the Amritsar, Tarn Taran Sahib and Hoshiarpur districts under three phases of the Punjab (India) government's programme.
- ❖ The animals were brought mostly from the Chambal basin in Madhya Pradesh.

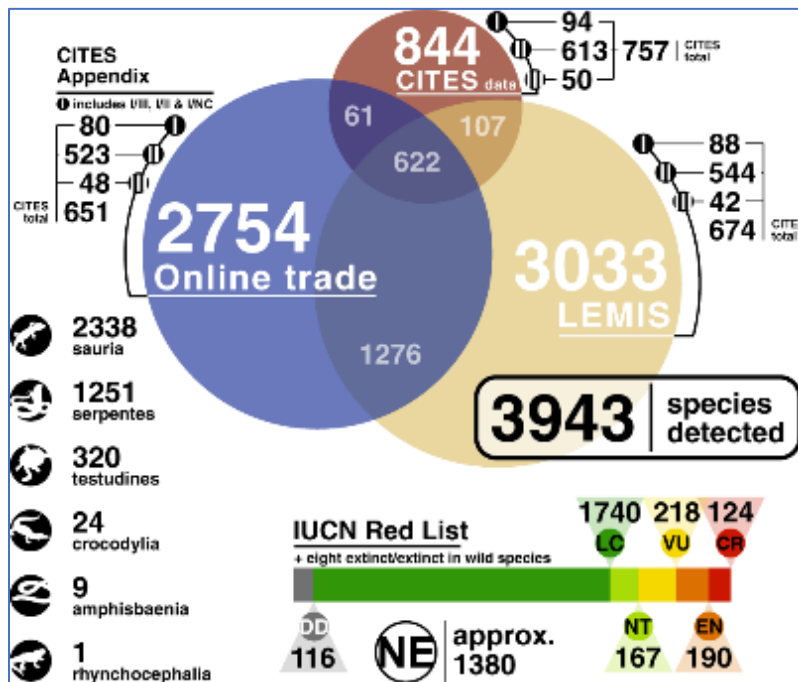


### **Regulating captive breeding of exotic animals**

- ❖ The Union environment ministry notified the Breeders of Species Licence Rules - 2023 recently.
- ❖ India has introduced a license system to regulate the captive breeding of exotic animals.



- ❖ It includes species protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- ❖ It allows breeders to obtain licenses for the breeding of various animals, such as bears, pandas, dogs, cats, apes, lemurs, birds, and reptiles.
- ❖ These regulations seek to better implement CITES and enhance wildlife protection measures in the country.
- ❖ Under the new rules, individuals engaged in breeding captive species listed in Appendix I of Schedule IV of the Wildlife Protection Act 2022 must apply for a breeders' license within 90 days of the Act's commencement.



### **Gekko Mizoramensis**

- ❖ Researchers from the Mizoram University and the MaxPlanck Institute for Biology, Tübingen, Germany, found a new species of gecko in Mizoram along the Indo-Myanmar border.
- ❖ There are 13 species of them throughout the world.
- ❖ They are found in Southeast Asia.
- ❖ The species found inhabiting Mizoram.
- ❖ It has previously been discovered in parts of South Asia including Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia.
- ❖ Geckos are small, mostly carnivorous lizards found in warm climates throughout the world.



- ❖ The new species, which is around 20 cm in length, is an arboreal that lives on trees.



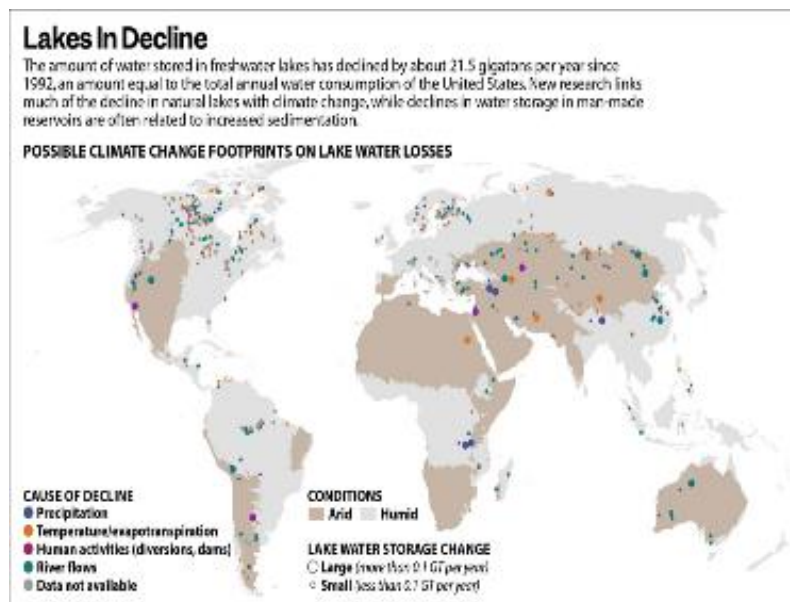
### **Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve**

- ❖ A tigress has recently given birth to four cubs in the Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ It is situated in Gondia and Shandara Districts of Maharashtra.
- ❖ It was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1970.
- ❖ In 2012, state government announced to merging this sanctuary with another national park to include in Tiger Project.
- ❖ Now it is called as Nagzira Navegoan Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ It is connected with many surrounding tiger reserves like Pench, Kanha, Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, Indravati Tiger Reserve etc.



## Decline in Global Lake Water Storage

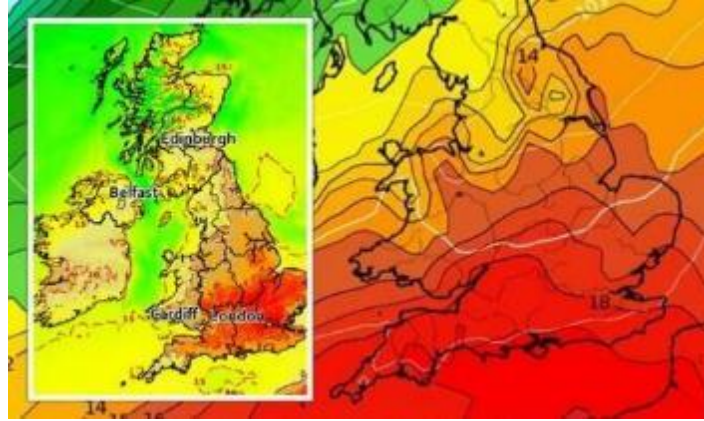
- ❖ The study is aimed at finding statistically significant storage declines for 53 per cent of these water bodies over the period 1992–2020.
- ❖ More than half of the world's largest lakes and reservoirs are drying up.
- ❖ Climate change and human activities are endangering lakes, which hold 87 per cent of the world's liquid surface fresh water.
- ❖ The findings suggest that 53 per cent of lakes and reservoirs saw a decline in water storage, at a rate of approximately 22 gigatonnes a year.
- ❖ During the entire study period, 603 cubic kilometres of water were lost.
- ❖ It is 17 times the amount of water in Lake Mead.
- ❖ Lake Mead is the largest reservoir in the United States.



## African Plume Heatwave

- ❖ The United Kingdom is set to face unprecedented heat wave conditions as meteorologists predict the arrival of the African Plume.
- ❖ It would result in "record-breaking" temperatures.
- ❖ The high-pressure system will cause severe heat conditions within the UK by the end of May.
- ❖ Temperatures are set to reach as high as 35 degrees Celsius.
- ❖ This meteorological phenomenon is characterised by a mass of hot air moving from the Sahara Desert to Europe.

- ❖ It causes a lengthy period of exceptionally high temperatures which may last for days or weeks.
- ❖ The intensity can vary each year, depending on the atmospheric conditions,



### Coal Power Plants Top the EU Emitters List

Power Plant	Owner	Fuel	Position	Emissions 2022 (Mt CO2e)
 Bełchatów	PGE	Lignite	1	35.06
 Neurath	RWE	Lignite	2	24.22
 Boxberg	EPH	Lignite	3 (▲2)	19.93
 Niederaußern	RWE	Lignite	4 (▼1)	17
 Kozienice	ENEA	Hard Coal	5 (▼1)	15.54
 Jämschwalde	EPH	Lignite	6	15.31
 Weisweiler	RWE	Lignite	7	14.93
 Lippendorf	EPH/EnBW	Lignite	8 (▲1)	11.91
 Turów	PGE	Lignite	9 (▲2)	11.22
 Merița East 2	BEH	Lignite	10 (▲7)	10.93

- ❖ Global energy think tank Ember released a report titled ‘Repeat offenders: coal power plants top the EU emitters list’.
- ❖ The ten largest emitters in the European Union Emissions Trading System in 2022 were all coal plants.

- ❖ Germany and Poland dominating the list.
- ❖ However, the long-term trend of coal power emissions shows a decline.
- ❖ The values in 2022 40 per cent lower than a decade ago.
- ❖ Coal power emissions rose 6 per cent compared to 2021, but remained below 2019 levels.

### **New Species found in Pakkamalai hills**

- ❖ A team of researchers have identified a new species of rock dwelling large-bodied gecko from the Pakkamalai hills.
- ❖ It is in Villupuram district of Tamilnadu near Gingee.
- ❖ The new species has been named as Hemidactyluspakkamalaiensis, after the hill where it was first recorded.
- ❖ It belongs to the genus Hemidactylus, and it is having large-body size (101–109 mm).

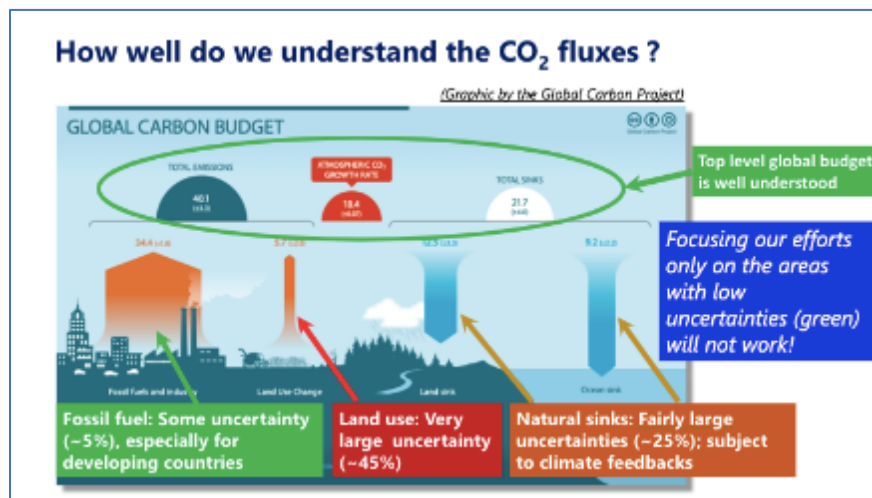


### **ITF Transport Outlook 2023**

- ❖ The International Transport Forum (ITF) at the OECD recently released ITF Transport Outlook 2023 report.
- ❖ The decarbonization of transportation plays a crucial role in achieving the goals outlined in the 2015 Paris Agreement.
- ❖ It highlighting the importance of adopting a mix of policies to promote sustainable choices in transportation.
- ❖ It is implementing ambitious policies for decarbonizing transportation would require 5% less investment in core infrastructure compared to following current policies.

## Global Greenhouse Gas Watch (G3W)

- ❖ The World Meteorological Congress has approved a new greenhouse gas (GHG) monitoring initiative in a landmark decision.
- ❖ Global Greenhouse Gas Watch (G3W) is an initiative coordinated by World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).
- ❖ G3W aims to establish internationally coordinated monitoring of greenhouse gas fluxes (top-down) to support the provision of the UNFCCC parties and other stakeholders.
- ❖ The new global GHG watch will fill critical information gaps and provide an integrated and operational framework.
- ❖ The system will provide sustained delivery of monthly global estimates of net GHG fluxes into and out of the atmosphere at a 100 by 100 km resolution.

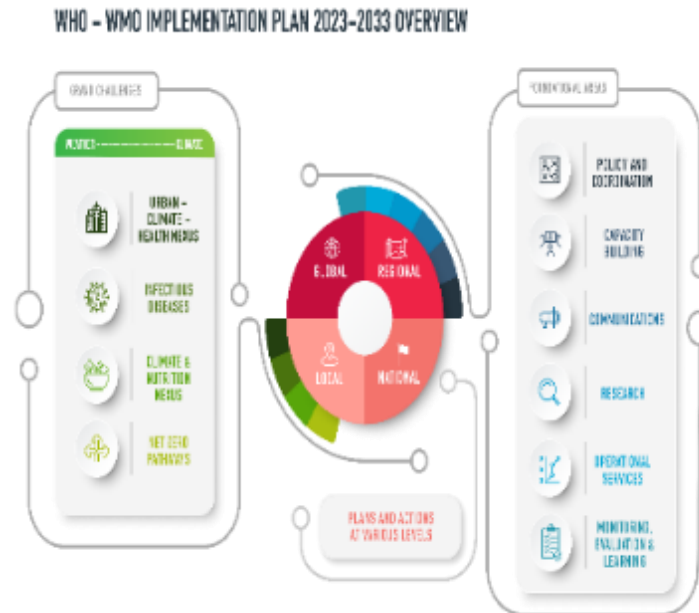


## The 2023-2033 Implementation Plan

- ❖ The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) in the Collaboration with WHO also framed 2023-2033 Implementation Plan for Advancing Climate, Environment and Health Science and Services to manage the impact of Climate Change.
- ❖ The plan aims to achieve “better health and well-being for people facing existing and emerging extreme weather events, climate change and environmental risks”.
- ❖ It seeks to promote a coordinated approach to manage the impact of climate, weather, air pollution, ultraviolet radiation, extreme events and other environmental factors on health.
- ❖ At least 15,000 people died in Europe because of extreme heat in 2022.



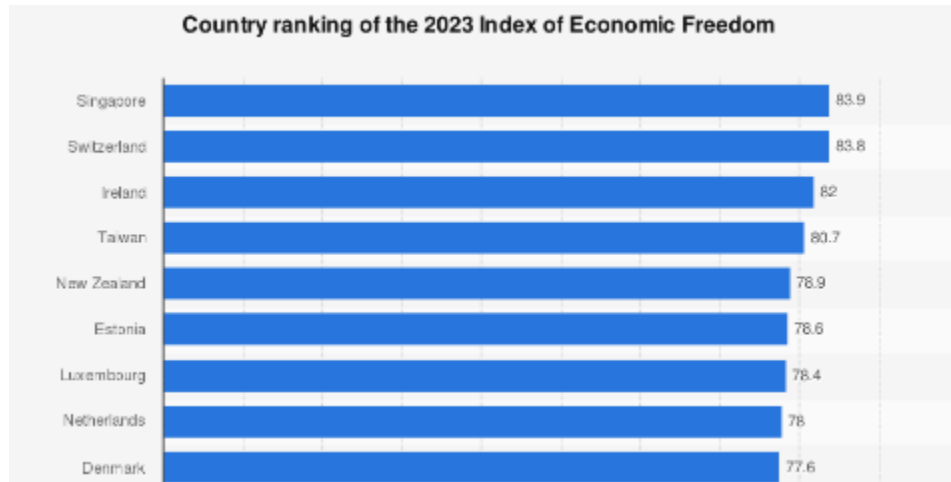
- ❖ From 2030-2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year.
- ❖ Up to 8.4 billion people could be at risk from two major vector-borne diseases, malaria and dengue, by the end of the century.



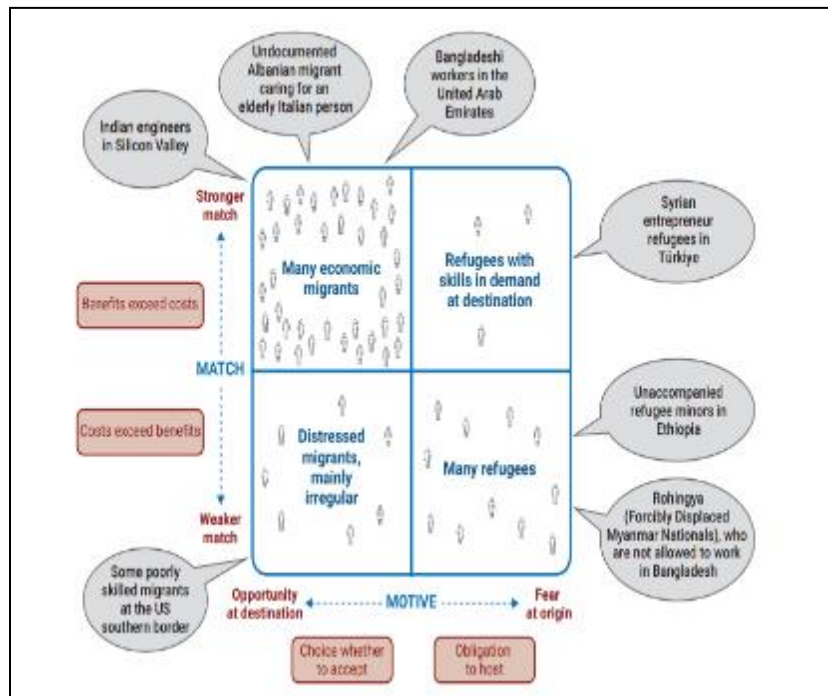
## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Index of Economic Freedom

- ❖ The index is published by The Heritage Foundation, a think tank based in Washington D.C.
- ❖ The rule of law, government size, regulatory efficiency, and open markets are the four main pillars of index.
- ❖ Singapore topped in the list and followed by New Zealand, Australia, Switzerland and Ireland.
- ❖ India and Bangladesh shared a rank 121 and Bhutan performed well and got 109<sup>th</sup> rank.
- ❖ Other neighbour countries ranked below India is Sri Lanka (131), Afghanistan (146), Pakistan (152), China (154), Nepal (157).



## World Development Report 2023: Migrants, Refugees, and Societies



- ❖ The World Bank released a report titled “World Development Report 2023: Migrants, Refugees, and Societies”.
- ❖ It proposes policies for better migration management in destination, transit and origin countries, underscoring its urgency.
- ❖ The report discussed the migration trade-offs using a “Match-Motive Framework”.
- ❖ The “match” aspect is grounded in labour economics and focuses on how well migrants’ skills and related attributes match the needs of the destination countries.

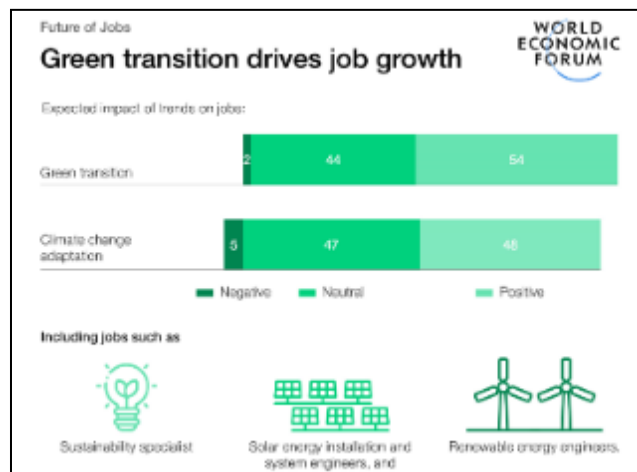
- ❖ The term “motive” refers to the circumstances under which a person moves in search of opportunity.
- ❖ Spain, has a population of 47 million, is projected to shrink by more than one-third by 2100.
- ❖ Countries like Mexico, Thailand, Tunisia and Türkiye may soon need more foreign workers because their population is no longer growing.
- ❖ About 184 million people worldwide, including 37 million refugees, lack citizenship in the country in which they live.

### Priority watch list 2023

- ❖ The United States Trade Representative (USTR) again placed India on the ‘Priority Watch List’ along with China and Russia and four others.
- ❖ India remains one of the world’s most challenging major economies with respect to protection and enforcement of IP.
- ❖ The top countries of origin for counterfeit pharmaceuticals seized at the U.S. border in Fiscal Year 2022 were China, India, and Turkey.

Priority Watch List	Watch List	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Argentina</li> <li>• Chile</li> <li>• China</li> <li>• India</li> <li>• Indonesia</li> <li>• Russia</li> <li>• Venezuela</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algeria</li> <li>• Barbados</li> <li>• Belarus</li> <li>• Bolivia</li> <li>• Brazil</li> <li>• Bulgaria</li> <li>• Canada</li> <li>• Colombia</li> <li>• Dominican Republic</li> <li>• Ecuador</li> <li>• Egypt</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guatemala</li> <li>• Mexico</li> <li>• Pakistan</li> <li>• Paraguay</li> <li>• Peru</li> <li>• Thailand</li> <li>• Trinidad and Tobago</li> <li>• Turkey</li> <li>• Turkmenistan</li> <li>• Uzbekistan</li> <li>• Vietnam</li> </ul>

### WEF: “Future of Jobs” Report



- ❖ 23% of jobs are expected to change in the next five years through growth of 10.2% and decline of 12.3%.
- ❖ The WEF expects there to be 14 million fewer jobs overall in five years' time.
- ❖ It estimated 83 million roles among the 673 million jobs will disappear, while only 69 million will emerge.
- ❖ India will see a 22% churn as compared to global average of 23%.

### **Bridging the gender digital divide**

- ❖ As per the UNICEF report, worldwide roughly 327 million fewer women than men have a smartphone and can access mobile Internet.
- ❖ Women are on average 26% less likely than men to have a smartphone.
- ❖ In South Asia and Africa these proportions stand at 70% and 34%, respectively.
- ❖ The global digital gender divide in Internet usage remained almost unchanged between 2013 and 2017, at about 11%.
- ❖ At 15 years of age, on average across OECD countries, only 0.5% of girls wish to become ICT professionals, compared to 5% of boys.
- ❖ More women than men completed tertiary education in 2015.
- ❖ Only 24% of graduates in engineering, manufacturing and construction were women; the share in ICTs was just 25%.
- ❖ By 2020, India's online user base is estimated to increase from around 120 million in 2015 to more than 300 million.



### **World Press Freedom Index 2023**

- ❖ This report was released by global media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF).
- ❖ India is ranked at 161<sup>st</sup> out of 180 countries in the 2023 Index.
- ❖ Pakistan has fared better when it comes to media freedom as it was placed at 150.

- ❖ In 2022, India was ranked at 150.
- ❖ Sri Lanka made significant improvement on the index, ranking 135th this year as against 146th in 2022
- ❖ Norway, Ireland and Denmark occupied the top three positions in the index.
- ❖ Vietnam, China and North Korea constituted the bottom three.

POS.	COUNTRIES	GENERAL SCORE	SCORE- POL.	SCORE- ECO.
1	Norway	95.18	96.54	92.46
2	Ireland	89.91	93.91	82.11
3	Denmark	89.48	91.95	85.17
4	Sweden	88.15	92.58	86.08
5	Finland	87.94	91.55	83.8
6	Netherlands	87	88.93	89.08
7	Lithuania	86.79	88	77.65
8	Estonia	85.31	85.36	76.75
9	Portugal	84.6	86.32	71.02
10	Timor-Leste	84.49	81.88	74.51

### **Annual Report on Religious Freedom 2023**

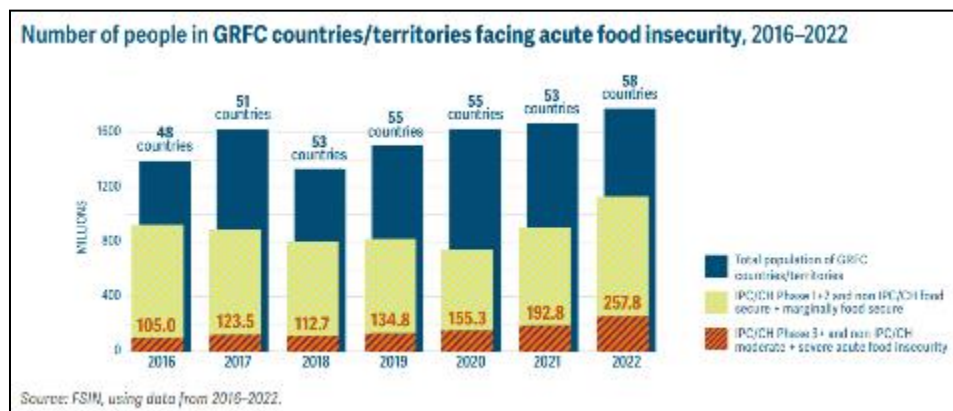
- ❖ United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) released this report.
- ❖ USCIRF said it had recommended the re-designation of 12 countries as Country of Particular Concern (CPCs), including Iran and Pakistan.
- ❖ Besides, it recommended five additional CPCs status for Afghanistan, Nigeria, Syria, Vietnam and India.
- ❖ For the first time, USCIRF has proposed to include Sri Lanka in the “special watch list” or SWL.
- ❖ The report stated that conditions for religious freedom in India “continued to worsen” in 2022.





## Global Report on Food Crises 2023

- ❖ Nearly 258 million people in 58 territories were in Crisis or worse acute food insecurity Phase 3 or above, or equivalent in 2022.
- ❖ 253 million people were in Stressed in 41 countries/territories.
- ❖ In 19 countries, conflict/insecurity was the biggest contributor to the food crisis.
- ❖ Meanwhile, in 12 countries, weather/climate extremes were the primary reason for the acute food insecurity.
- ❖ Pakistan has been defined as a ‘major’ food crisis since 2017 when over 50 percent of its analysed population was in IPC Phase 3 or above
- ❖ Over 35 million children under 5 years of age suffered from wasting, with 9.2 million of them severely wasted.



## “Race to Net Zero” Report

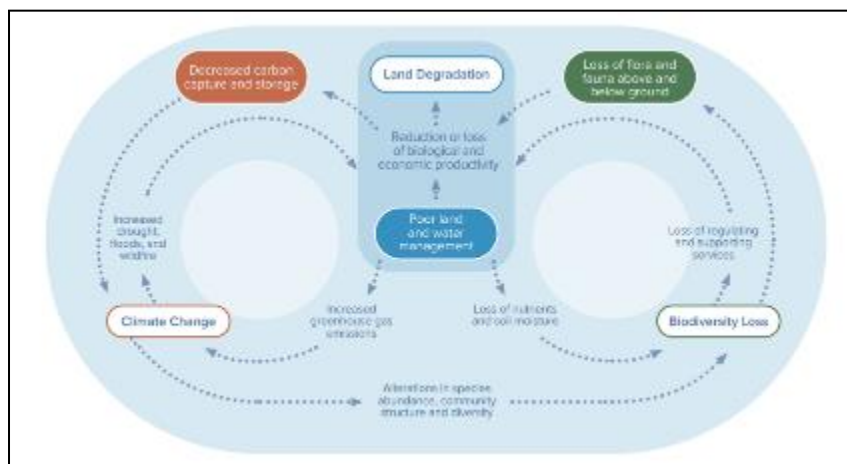
- ❖ Bangkok-based U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) recently released this report.
- ❖ Most Asia-Pacific countries are “insufficiently prepared” to face extreme weather events and natural disasters.
- ❖ While the region suffers the worst consequences of climate change, it is also a key perpetrator
- ❖ This region alone accounted for 57% of global emissions from fuel combustion in 2020.
- ❖ Six of the top 10 countries most affected by these disasters are in the Asia-Pacific region.
- ❖ The average annual economic losses across the region caused by natural and biological hazards are estimated at U.S.\$780 billion.



### **Global Land Outlook report**

- ❖ The second edition of the Global Land Outlook report published by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- ❖ Nine Planetary boundaries are the thresholds of environmental limits that define a “safe operating space for humanity.
- ❖ Of these, climate change, biodiversity loss, land-use change, and geochemical cycles have already been exceeded.
- ❖ These breaches are directly linked to human-induced desertification, land degradation, and drought.
- ❖ Humans have already altered more than 70% of the earth’s land area from its natural state.
- ❖ This has contributed significantly to global warming and environmental degradation.
- ❖ It also led to a rise in poverty, hunger, inequality, zoonotic disease transmission etc.
- ❖ The global annual cost of land restoration to achieve meaningful results is expected to become at least \$300 billion by 2030.
- ❖ Each dollar invested in restoration activities has also been estimated to return between \$7 and \$30 in economic benefits.
- ❖ Worldwide, food systems are responsible for 80% of deforestation, and 70% of freshwater use.
- ❖ It is the single greatest cause of terrestrial biodiversity loss.
- ❖ Floods, drought and wildfire are some common environmental challenges that degrade land.

- ❖ Land and ecosystem restoration will help slow global warming and reduce the scale and frequency of disasters like droughts, floods, etc.



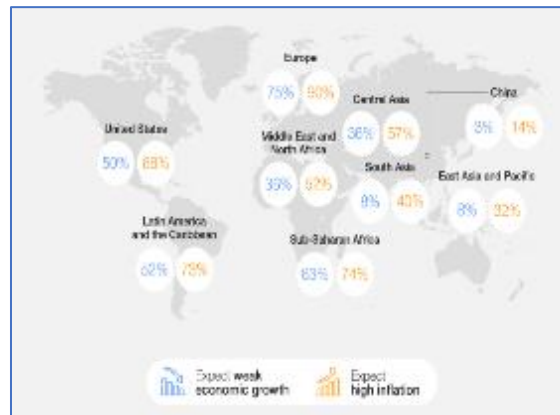
### **Defending Creative Voices Report**

- ❖ UNESCO has recently published a report called Defending Creative Voices.
- ❖ It highlights the need for increased protection for artists who have been affected by armed conflicts, political instability, and natural calamities.
- ❖ In 2021, 39 artists were killed in 12 different countries, while 119 were imprisoned in 24 countries.
- ❖ Over 1,200 violations of artistic freedom were reported globally in a year.
- ❖ The Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions became effective in 2007.
- ❖ 152 countries have ratified the treaty.
- ❖ Only 27% of these countries have created or supported safe environments for artists.



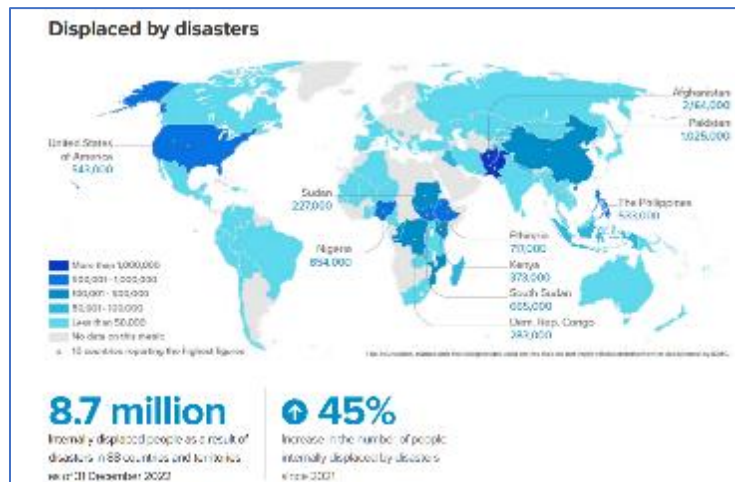
## Chief Economists Outlook report

- ❖ Recently it was released by the World Economic Forum.
- ❖ This identifies the countries that are most likely to benefit from ongoing supply-chain changes.
- ❖ India, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Mexico, Turkey, and Poland are among the countries that are likely to see significant benefits.
- ❖ 45% of chief economists consider a global recession likely in 2023, while an equal percentage considers it unlikely.



## Global Report on Internal Displacement 2023

- ❖ This annual report was released by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre.
- ❖ The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) around the world reached 71.1 million as of the end of 2022.
- ❖ This saw an increase of 20 per cent from the previous year.
- ❖ India recorded the fourth largest disaster displacement, with 2.5 million displacements.
- ❖ Pakistan had the highest number of disaster displacements in the world in 2022, at 8.16 million.
- ❖ The Philippines was at second rank and reported 5.44 million displacements.
- ❖ China at third rank with 3.63 million.
- ❖ Nigeria at fifth rank with 2.4 million.
- ❖ The conflict in Ukraine triggered nearly 17 million displacements as people fled repeatedly from rapidly shifting frontlines.
- ❖ Conflict and violence triggered 28.3 million internal displacements worldwide.
- ❖ The number of disaster displacements rose by nearly 40 per cent compared to the previous year, reaching 32.6 million.



### UNEP report: Turning off the Tap

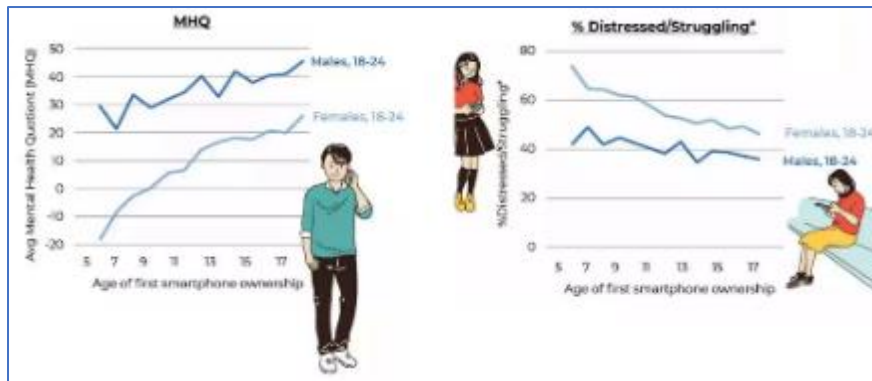
- ❖ The report is officially called: 'Turning off the Tap: How the world can end plastic pollution and create a circular economy'.
- ❖ This report has claimed that about 80% of plastic pollution across the globe can be minimised by 2040.
- ❖ It is proposed the first to reduce problematic and unnecessary plastics.
- ❖ Secondly, it needs to implement three main market shifts – Reuse, Recycle and Reorient/diversify these plastic products.
- ❖ Countries can promote the concept of reusing by providing options such as deposit-return schemes, bulk dispensers, packaging take-back schemes and refillable bottles.
- ❖ These methods alone could reduce the amount of plastic pollution by 30% before 2040.
- ❖ An additional 20% change can be achieved by making the process of recycling a more stable and profitable business option.





## Addiction of smartphones

- ❖ The study titled ‘Age of first smartphone and mental wellbeing outcome’.
- ❖ A survey conducted by US-based non-profit organisation Sapien Labs.
- ❖ It was conducted in over 40 countries and included over 27,969 adults aged 14–18 years of age.
- ❖ It includes 4,000 adolescents and young adults from India.
- ❖ Young women who obtained smartphones at the age of 6 reported more emotional upheavals and “serious mental health challenges” as young adults.
- ❖ On the other hand, individuals who received their first smartphone after 18 were less likely to experience mental distress.



## Annual Housing Price Growth

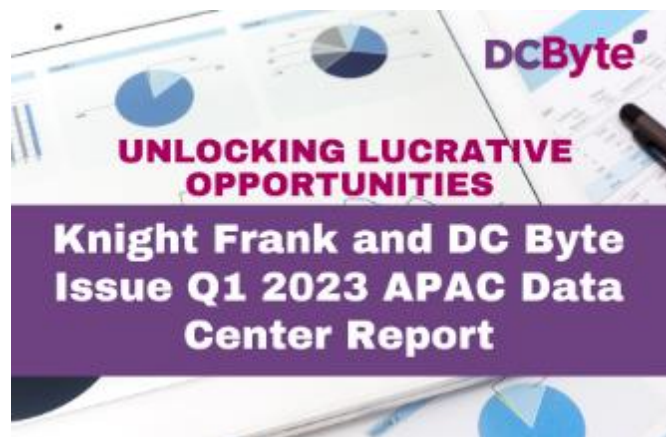
Rank	City	12-month		3-month	
		% change		% change	
		(Q1 2022-Q1 2023)	(Q1 2022-Q1 2023)	(Q4 2022-Q1 2023)	(Q4 2022-Q1 2023)
1	Dubai	44.2		-3.3	
2	Miami	11.0%		0.0%	
3	Zurich	9.4%		0.7%	
4	Berlin	5.7%		1.0%	
5	Singapore	5.5%		1.1%	
6	Mumbai	5.5%		0.2%	
7	Edinburgh	5.1%		-0.2%	
8	Shanghai	5.1%		3.3%	
9	Lisbon	4.6%		0.9%	
10	Nairobi	4.5%		2.0%	
11	Paris	4.3%		2.0%	
16	Bengaluru	3.0%		0.4%	
22	New Delhi	1.2%		0.2%	

- ❖ The Prime Global Cities Index is a valuation-based index tracking the movement of prime residential prices across 46 cities worldwide.
- ❖ The report was released by real estate consultant Knight Frank India.
- ❖ The report, titled 'Prime Global Cities Index Q1 2023'.
- ❖ Mumbai moved up significantly from its 38th rank in Q1 2022.
- ❖ Bengaluru and New Delhi also witnessed an upward movement in index ranking.

### **World Health Statistics 2023**

- ❖ A total of 336.8 million life-years has been lost globally due to the pandemic.
- ❖ Globally, 14.9 million excess deaths could be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic by the end of 2021.
- ❖ The health progress on key health indicators has markedly stalled since 2015
- ❖ The world is also facing an ever-growing threat of non-communicable diseases (NCD) and climate change
- ❖ Between 2000 and 2015, the annual rate of reduction (ARR) of the global maternal mortality ratio was 2.7 per cent.
- ❖ The ARR of the neonatal mortality rate fell from 3.2 per cent (2000–2009) to 2.2 per cent (2010–2021).
- ❖ In 2000, NCDs caused 47 per cent of global disability-adjusted life years (1.3 billion years).
- ❖ By 2019, NCDs caused 63 per cent (1.6 billion years).

### **Data Centre Q1 2023 Report**

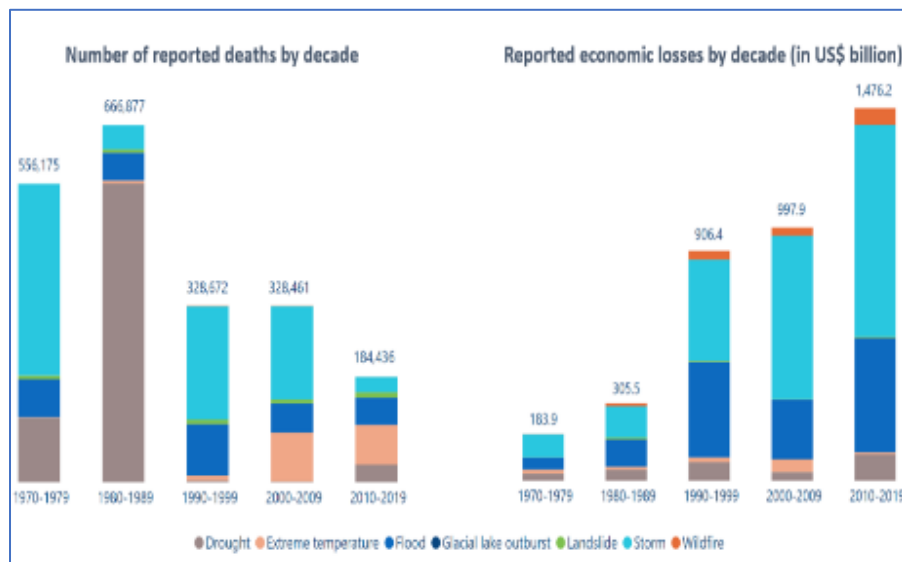


- ❖ International property consultant Knight Frank along with DC Byte has released a 'Data Centre Q1 2023' report.

- ❖ The report focuses on nine rapidly emerging markets in APAC - Bangkok, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Mumbai, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney and Tokyo.
- ❖ Shanghai, Tokyo and Mumbai have emerged as the top Data Centre markets in the Asia-Pacific region.
- ❖ Mumbai is the only city from India on the study and has emerged as the standout growth story of Q1, 2023.

### WMO's reports on Natural Hazards

- ❖ The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) recently released the updated data in the Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water-related hazards.
- ❖ Bangladesh had the highest number of climate-related casualties between 1970 and 2021.
- ❖ After Bangladesh, India and Myanmar recorded the highest number of human casualties in Asia.
- ❖ On a global scale, 11,778 disasters occurred between 1970 and 2021.
- ❖ They all attributed to extreme weather, climate, and water-related events.
- ❖ These events resulted in over 2 million deaths and \$4.3 trillion in economic losses.
- ❖ Asia reported the highest number of disasters related to weather, climate, and water extremes.
- ❖ After Asia, the region comprising North America, Central America, and the Caribbean had the second-highest number of extreme weather events.



## **Making Cities Climate-Ready**

- ❖ The World Bank released a report titled Making Cities Climate-Ready.
- ❖ The number of people living in cities increased from 1.19 billion to 4.46 billion between 1970 and 2021.
- ❖ They were responsible for approximately 70 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- ❖ The North American cities are the largest per capita emitters.
- ❖ The cities in Sub-Saharan Africa remain the lowest per capita emitters on average.
- ❖ Cities in lower-income countries account for only 14 per cent of global urban CO2 emissions.



## **STATES**

### **New wildlife conservation reserves in Rajasthan**

- ❖ Rajasthan's Forest Department announced three new conservation reserves that will protect the rare and endangered wildlife of Rajasthan.
- ❖ These three new wildlife conservation reserves are Sorsan in Baran, Khichan in Jodhpur, and Hamirgarh in Bhilwara.
- ❖ The grasslands of Sorsan in Baran will be a safe home for the Great Indian Bustard.
- ❖ Khichan in Jodhpur, hosts thousands of migratory Demoiselle cranes.
- ❖ Khichan is also India's first conservation reserve for Demoiselle cranes.
- ❖ With these three new additions, now there are 26 wildlife conservation reserves



### **Tripartite Memorandum of Settlement**

- ❖ A tripartite Memorandum of Settlement between the Centre, Assam government and representatives of Dimasa National Liberation Army/Dimasa Peoples' Supreme Council (DNLA/DPSC) was signed in New Delhi.
- ❖ As a result of this agreement, over 168 cadres of DNLA are joining the mainstream by laying down their arms.
- ❖ The pact will bring a complete end to the insurgency in the Dima Hasao district of Assam.
- ❖ Under the agreement, Dimasa Welfare Council will be set up by the Government of Assam.
- ❖ It will protect, preserve and promote a social, cultural, and linguistic identity.
- ❖ It will also, assist to meet political, economic and educational aspirations and will ensure speedy and focused development of the Dimasa people residing outside the jurisdiction of the Autonomous Council.

### **Special break for Women**

- ❖ Puducherry government has granted its women employees a special two-hour break on three Fridays a month.
- ❖ They can start work at 10.45 am instead of the usual 8.45 am.
- ❖ It aims to help them perform pooja and manage household work.





- ❖ This is not applicable to women in direct public service/essential work such as hospitals, police stations, educational institutions.


### **ODF Plus rankings**

- ❖ Wayanad has become the first district in the country to be declared ODF (open defecation-free) Plus.
- ❖ It has come first in the ODF Plus rankings of the Swachh Bharat Mission in three-star category.
- ❖ It is followed by Mancheriyal district in Maharashtra and Anupur in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Earlier, the district had won two national awards in the sanitation and waste management sectors.

### **ST Status of Meitei Community**

- ❖ The Meitei community's demand for the Scheduled Tribe (ST) status got a boost recently.
- ❖ This is held after the Manipur High Court directed the state government to send a recommendation
- ❖ The Indian State maintains three lists of 'backward' communities for the purpose of its various affirmative action program.
- ❖ All the castes and tribes that are included in any of these three lists viz. SC, ST and OBC categories.
- ❖ Meitei's didn't meet the criteria for the ST status when the ST list was drawn up by the Government of India in the 1950s.
- ❖ Manipur has three major ethnic groups – Meitei, Naga, and Kuki.
- ❖ Manipur has more than 30 communities listed as Scheduled Tribes.
- ❖ All broadly belonging either to the Kuki or Naga ethnic groups, which had a combined population of 40.88% as per the 2011 census.
- ❖ Meitei's are primarily located in the valley, while the Naga and Kuki tribes occupy the hills surrounding the valley.
- ❖ The population of Meitei's is higher than the combined population of Nagas and Kukis.
- ❖ Even though the valley has only about 10% geographic area, majority of the state population lives there.
- ❖ The Meitei's also dominate the state legislature.

- ❖ In the 60-member Assembly, 40 MLAs are sent from the valley, while 20 are elected from the hills.
- ❖ If the Meitei's are added to the ST list, almost all the communities in Manipur will have ST designation.
- ❖ Scheduled Tribes are notified under Article 342 of Constitution.

<b>CHEQUERED HISTORY</b>	
Manipur, which has over 35 communities inhabiting the valleys and hills of the state, has a chequered history of violent and deadly clashes.	
 <p><b>Naga-Kuki Fight</b> The Kukis are Hill tribes spread across the Northeast besides Myanmar and the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh. On September 13, 1993, militants of National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak Muivra) massacred around 115 Kuki civilians in the hills of Manipur. However, NSCN-IM refuted the allegation.</p>	<p><b>Meitei Pangal and Meiteis</b> In 1993 there were clashes between Meitei Pangal (Muslim) and Meitei. A bus carrying Muslim passengers was set on fire. Over 100 people were killed.</p>
<p><b>NSCN-IM</b> Integration of Naga inhabited areas of Northeast is the core demand of NSCN-IM which has been holding peace parleys with the Centre. There was violent protest in Manipur in 2001 when the cease fire agreement signed between the Government of India and NSCN-IM was extended.</p>	<p><b>Insurgency</b> Manipur had scores of militant outfits and violence was largely triggered by insurgents.</p> <p><b>Valley-based militant outfits</b> (Meitei groups) such as the UNLF, PLA, KVKA, etc. are yet to come to the negotiating table.</p> <p><b>The Kuki outfits</b> under two umbrella groups, the Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and United People's Front (UPF), also signed the tripartite Suspension of Operation (SoO) pacts with the Centre and Manipur on August 22, 2008.</p>
<p><b>Hill and Valley</b> The current conflict between Meiteis and tribes is the extension of hills versus plains conflict. Meiteis account for 40% of the population, while tribal communities account for around 40% of the population. Naga tribes make up for (24%) and Kuki (70ml) tribes (16%).</p>	<p><b>The rivalry between Nagas and Kuki</b> started in the colonial era. In 1990 there were clashes over land. Kukis often claimed 250 of their villages were uprooted, over 1,000 killed and 10,000 were people displaced. Chins are called Kukis on the Indian side.</p>

### Imposition of Art 355

- ❖ Violence erupted during the 'Tribal Solidarity March' organised by the All-Tribal Student Union Manipur (ATSUM) in the Torbung area of Churachandpur district, Manipur.
- ❖ The protest was against the demand of non-tribal Meiteis to be granted the Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.
- ❖ Due to this, Article 355 of the Indian Constitution was imposed in the state.
- ❖ The Union government assigned a security advisor to the state government.
- ❖ Article 355 is found in part XVIII of the Indian constitution which contains emergency provisions that are meant to be used in extremely rare circumstances.
- ❖ It provides an emergency provision for the Centre to intervene and safeguard a state against external aggression or internal disturbances.
- ❖ It states that the maintenance of law and order in a state fall under the jurisdiction of the central government.
- ❖ This article empowers the Centre to take necessary steps to protect a state from any kind of threat, be it internal or external.
- ❖ The provision is designed to ensure that the government can act swiftly and decisively in the event of any disturbance or threat to the peace and security of the country.

<u>ARTICLE</u>	<u>PROVISION</u>
Art. 352	Proclamation of Emergency
Art. 353	Effect of Proclamation of Emergency
Art. 354	Application of provisions relating to distribution of revenues while a Proclamation of Emergency is in operation
Art. 355	Duty of the Union to protect states against external aggression and internal disturbance
Art. 356	Provisions in case of failure of constitutional machinery in states

### India's first-ever twin undersea tunnels

- ❖ Undersea twin tunnels in South Mumbai will open by November 2023.
- ❖ This will mark India's first undersea tunnel.
- ❖ The tunnels have a diameter of 12.19 meters and stretch 17-20 meters below sea level.
- ❖ It will feature six crosswalks, four for pedestrians and two for motorists.
- ❖ Each tunnel will have three 3.2-meter-wide channels.
- ❖ The tunnels reached their deepest point at 72 metres near Malabar Hill.



### **Survey on Social and Educational Conditions of BC**

- ❖ The Odisha government began the survey of people from the OBCs belonging to 210 castes in the State to determine their social and educational status.
- ❖ Odisha is the second State to conduct the survey after Bihar.
- ❖ The Odisha government does not have reservation for the OBC communities in education sector.
- ❖ Around 54% of the OBCs total population has 11% reservation in jobs.

### **Lithium Reserve in Rajasthan's Degana**

- ❖ The Geological Survey of India has found India's second Lithium reserves in Rajasthan's Degana.
- ❖ Degana's Lithium reserves are higher than the ones recently found in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The first Lithium discovery was made in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ It is reported to have a stash of 5.9 million tonnes valued at \$410 billion.
- ❖ Lithium reserves are concentrated in the lithium triangle in South America – Argentina, Bolivia & Chile.
- ❖ China controls 75% of Lithium refining.



### **One Minute Traffic Light Plan**

- ❖ The Shimla Police has come up with a 'One Minute Traffic Light Plan'.
- ❖ They proposed to set up traffic lights at 10 bottlenecks to make the state capital jam-free and reduce the commute time by more than half.
- ❖ Under the proposed system, traffic would be released every minute in the ratio of 40:20 and 30:30 seconds.

- ❖ This means vehicles would be stopped for 40 seconds and released for 20 seconds every minute during peak hours.
- ❖ During normal times, they will be halted and released for 30 seconds.
- ❖ The minimum halting distance under the new traffic system will be 500 metres.



### **Kerala Educational Institutional Ranking Framework**

- ❖ Kerala formally launched the Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework (KIRF).
- ❖ It is modelled on the lines of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).
- ❖ It aims to assess the quality of higher education institutions in the State.
- ❖ The Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC) will be the implementing agency of the annual ranking exercise.
- ❖ The State has become the first in the country to establish a State-specific ranking framework.

### **Bihan Mela**

- ❖ Members of the Kondh tribe in Odisha's Nayagarh district celebrated Bihan Mela, literally the seed festival.
- ❖ It is a celebration of the indigenous crops and varieties grown by the farmers in the region.
- ❖ This festival was initiated by a non-profit organization – Nirman.
- ❖ It is working with the tribe on forest rights and Agro-ecological farming.

### **India's First Pod Taxi**

- ❖ India is set to get its first pod taxi between Noida International Airport in Jewar and the Film City in the Uttar Pradesh.



- ❖ Environment-friendly and fast, pod taxis are considered one of the most advanced modes of transport.
- ❖ They are automated cars and are designed in a way that they can carry only a fixed number of travellers from one place to another.
- ❖ They need a track to travel and are powered by electricity.
- ❖ Tracks for pod taxis are usually made separately on the roads in a bid to avoid the road traffic.



### **Dawki Land Port**

- ❖ The Union Minister of State for Home Affairs inaugurated the Dawki Land Port in Meghalaya's West Jaintia Hills district.
- ❖ It aims to promote trade and commerce between India and Bangladesh.
- ❖ The corresponding Land Port in Bangladesh is Tamabil, located in the Sylhet district.
- ❖ They will serve as a vital trade and transportation hub between India and Bangladesh and will facilitate the movement of goods, people, and vehicles across the border.

### **State Robotics Framework**

- ❖ The Telangana government launched State Robotics Framework.
- ❖ It is a first-of-its-kind policy in India.
- ❖ It aimed at creating a sustainable robotics ecosystem and to position the state as a leader in the field of robotics.
- ❖ It focusses across four key domains – agriculture, healthcare, industrial automation and consumer robotics.
- ❖ The State has earlier launched five frameworks, covering the niche technology areas of Blockchain (2018), Drones (2019), AI (2020), Cloud Adoption Framework (2021), and Space Tech (2022).

## Punjab - Right to Walk

- ❖ Punjab has taken the lead among the states and UTs to implement the 'right to walk'.
- ❖ The state making it mandatory for all road-owning agencies, including the NHAI, to provide footpath and cycle tracks in all future expansion of roads and construction of new ones.
- ❖ It aims to reduce deaths related to road accidents of pedestrians and cyclists.
- ❖ It is the first state in India to provide such right.

## Digital health cards for children

- ❖ The Urban Development Department and Lucknow Smart City launched “School Health Program”.
- ❖ Thus Uttar Pradesh in India becomes first state to provide such facility.
- ❖ Under the pilot project, the School Health Program has been started by Lucknow Smart City in three schools in Lucknow.
- ❖ A digital health report card for the overall physical and mental well-being of 1765 municipal school students is being prepared under the project.
- ❖ A unique ID card will be made for each child, through which the child’s parents, school and administrative officials can download this health card.
- ❖ Follow-up of the Digital Health Report is also done every six months.
- ❖ If a child is admitted to the hospital due to illness, then he can be treated through a health cover cashless card of Rs 25,000.

## SDGs Localisation – Bhopal



- ❖ Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh has become the first city in India to adopt the localisation of the United Nations-mandated sustainable development goals (SDG).
- ❖ This city will have voluntary local reviews (VLR) demonstrate local government’s capacity and commitments.
- ❖ The Chief Minister has launched ‘an Agenda for Action: Sustainable Urban Transformation’ in Bhopal.
- ❖ In 2015, UN adopted the agenda 2030, comprising 17 SDGs and 169 targets as a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity.

### Second highest GI Tagged products

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has achieved the second position nationally in terms of having the maximum number of Geographical Indication-tagged goods.
- ❖ Recently the state received GI tags for three crafts — Mainpuri tarkashi, Mahoba Gaura stone craft, and Sambhal horn craft.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has maximum 55 GI-tagged goods while UP and Karnataka have 48 and 46 GI products, respectively.
- ❖ UP is first in terms of GI-tagged handicrafts with 36 crafts.
- ❖ Varanasi region alone has 18 GI-tagged goods out of 23 belong to the handicraft category.

WHAT IS A GI TAG?	HOW TO APPLY?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A GI tag is a geographical indication of an item which is specific to a particular place</li> <li>➤ GI status can be sought for agricultural products, handicrafts, handloom and food products</li> <li>➤ The RGI (registration of geographical indications) logo given to a particular product can</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ An association or collective body can apply to GI Registry</li> <li>➤ After rounds of verification, presentation and meetings, if registry is satisfied, application goes to GI Registry journal</li> <li>➤ If application receives no opposition within four months, it gets the GI tag</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>only be used by registered and authorised users</li> <li>➤ When marketed, a GI tagged product must carry a logo showing its place of origin</li> <li>➤ Civil and criminal proceedings can be initiated against those using the logo in unauthorised manner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Application should be backed by proof of uniqueness, historical records to show proof of origin, quality and special character</li> </ul>

### Kapileshwar Temple under ASI

- ❖ The Kapileshwar temple in Odisha’s Bhubaneswar is to be added to the protected monuments list of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- ❖ The decision was taken for the better upkeep and preservation of the structure.
- ❖ The 5th-century-old Kapileshwar temple was renovated by Gajapati Kapilendra Dev in the 14th Century.

- ❖ The Kapilesvara Temple is a fine example of the Kalinga style of architecture.

### **The Demand for Kukiland**

- ❖ The demand for a separate administration in Manipur is by the Kuki-Zomi MLAs after the clashes between the Kuki-Zomi tribes.
- ❖ The demand for a separate “Kukiland” dates back to the late 1980s.
- ❖ During the period, the first and largest of the Kuki-Zomi insurgent groups, the Kuki National Organisation (KNO), came into being.
- ❖ The demand for a separate “Kukiland” intensified after the Naga-Kuki clashes of 1993.
- ❖ In 2012, A group called Kuki State Demand Committee (KSDC) announced a Kukiland movement.
- ❖ The KSDC claimed 12,958 sq km, more than 60% of Manipur’s 22,000 sq km area, for “Kukis and Kukiland”.



### **Welfare fund for MGNREGS workers**

- ❖ Kerala is set to become the first State to have a welfare fund for Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) workers.
- ❖ The Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme workers will also be part of the welfare fund.
- ❖ The Welfare fund will provide the workers with pension, medical assistance, educational assistance for their children and other benefits.
- ❖ It has been formed as per the Kerala Employment Guarantee Workers’ Welfare Fund Act, 2021.
- ❖ The benefits will be for workers who completed the age of 60 and paid contributions continuously.



### **25 years of Kudumbashree**

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the silver jubilee celebrations of Kudumbashree, the largest self-help group network in the country.
- ❖ Kudumbashree was launched against the 1996 People's Plan Campaign of the then EK Nayanar-led Left Democratic Front in Kerala.
- ❖ It has been functioning under the local self-government department by accepting financial support from the union government and NABARD.
- ❖ It is currently undertaking consultancy work on women empowerment in 13 other states.

### **Karnataka new CM and Dy CM**

- ❖ Congress Legislative Party leader Siddaramaiah took the oath of office as the 24th Chief Minister of Karnataka.
- ❖ He became the Chief Minister for the second term after his earlier five-year stint from 2013.
- ❖ Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president D.K. Sivakumar was sworn in as the deputy Chief minister.

### **Pahal initiative**

- ❖ The online rural education initiative 'Pahal' was launched by the Uttar Pradesh Government.
- ❖ This program was developed through a partnership between the Department of Secondary Education and IIT Kanpur
- ❖ It aims to provide education to rural communities through online platforms.
- ❖ The rural online education program was started in 10 government schools in Uttar Pradesh.

### **Ghaziabad-Aligarh Expressway (Uttar Pradesh)**

- ❖ A 100-kilometre-long road has been constructed on the Ghaziabad-Aligarh Expressway in a record time of 100 hours.
- ❖ The 118-kilometre-long Ghaziabad-Aligarh stretch of NH34 is an important trade link.
- ❖ The project embraces sustainability and cost-effectiveness through the implementation of Cold Central Plant Recycling (CCPR) technology.



### Highest sugar production

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has surpassed Maharashtra in sugar production in the current season.
- ❖ The total sugar produced by Uttar Pradesh in sugar season 2022-2023 is 107.29 lakh tonnes.
- ❖ Maharashtra produced 105.30 lakh tonnes.
- ❖ The area under cane cultivation in Uttar Pradesh is 28.53 lakh hectare.

TOP SUGAR PRODUCING STATES (IN LAKH TONNES)					
YEAR (OCT-SEP)	MAHARASHTRA	UTTAR PRADESH	KARNATAKA	GUJARAT	ALL-INDIA
2013-14	76.85	64.87	41.77	11.77	243.60
2014-15	105.07	71.01	49.35	11.54	283.13
2015-16	84.24	68.55	40.49	11.68	251.25
2016-17	42.38	87.73	21.44	8.85	202.62
2017-18	107.05	120.50	36.58	10.67	323.28
2018-19	107.21	118.22	44.29	11.23	331.62
2019-20	61.70	126.37	35.00	9.30	273.85
2020-21	106.30	110.59	44.65	10.50	311.20
2021-22*	138.00	104.00	60.00	12.00	355.50

\*Projected

### First Neo Metro

- ❖ The country's first Neo Metro will start on two corridors in Dehradun.
- ❖ Also, Haridwar will see the country's first Pod taxi.
- ❖ Neo Metro is the rubber tyre-based mass transit system that draws power from an overhead electric conductor.
- ❖ It runs on a dedicated elevated track.
- ❖ Provide on Demand (Pod) taxis are driverless electric vehicles that move on a specially designed track.

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project	Commencing year	Fare per person (in Rs)	Estimated (in Rs crore)
Dehradun Neo Metro	2026-27	Yet to be decided	1,663
Pod Taxi Haridwar	2026-27	20 to 90	1,330
Chandi Devi ropeway	2025	155 (for one side)	161
Neelkanth	2027	330 (for one side)	466



## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS**

### **Former Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal**

- ❖ Former Punjab Chief Minister and veteran Akali Dal leader Parkash Singh Badal (age 95) passed away.
- ❖ He served as Punjab's Chief Minister five times: 1970-71; 1977-80; 1997-2002 and from 2007 to 2017 (two consecutive terms).
- ❖ The Government of India awarded him the second highest civilian award, the Padma Vibhushan, in 2015.
- ❖ In 1970, he became the youngest Chief Minister of an Indian State at the time.
- ❖ He was first elected to the Punjab State Assembly in 1957.
- ❖ He has been elected an MLA nine times since then.

### **1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award**

- ❖ The Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama was presented with the 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award after 64 years.
- ❖ The Dalai Lama fled Tibet in 1959 and has lived in India in exile since then.
- ❖ The Ramon Magsaysay Award is often called the "Nobel Prize of Asia".
- ❖ It is an annual award established to perpetuate former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay.
- ❖ The prize was established in April 1957.

### **Ranajit Guha passes away**

- ❖ The Historian Ranajit Guha passed away recently.
- ❖ He has enormous influence in shaping of study of post-colonial history in South Asia.
- ❖ The work of Guha that the word "subaltern" has now become a familiar one in the media and in conversations of everyday life.
- ❖ The term "subaltern" was borrowed from the Italian Marxist Antonio Gramsci.

### **UN Premier prize for press freedom**

- ❖ Three imprisoned Iranian female journalists have been named as the winners of the United Nations premier prize for press freedom.
- ❖ The three winners are, Niloufar Hamedi, Elaheh Mohammadi, and Narges Mohammadi.



- ❖ Hamedi works for the reformist newspaper Shargh, while Mohammadi works for the reformist newspaper Ham-Mihan.
- ❖ Niloufar Hamedi broke the news that 22-year-old girl died while being held by the morality police for wearing her headscarf too loosely in Iran.
- ❖ Elaheh Mohammadi wrote about her funeral.
- ❖ Narges Mohammadi, who has worked for many years as a journalist and is one of Iran's most prominent activists.

### 50<sup>th</sup> edition of Cape to Rio Race

- ❖ Indian Navy's sailboat INSV Tarini has set sail for an expedition to Cape Town, South Africa.
- ❖ It will be participating in the 50<sup>th</sup> edition of Cape to Rio Race 2023.
- ❖ INSV Tarini is known for circumnavigating the globe with an all-women officer crew in the historic expedition titled 'Navika Sagar Parikrama' in 2017.

### Pulitzer Prizes 2023

Category	Winner
Public Service	Associated Press, for the work of Mstyslav Chernov, Evgeniy Maloletka, Vasilisa Stepanenko and Lori Hinnant
Breaking News Reporting	Staff of the Los Angeles Times
Investigative Reporting	Staff of The Wall Street Journal
Explanatory Reporting	Caitlin Dickerson of The Atlantic
Local Reporting	Anna Wolfe of Mississippi Today, Ridgeland, Miss.
National Reporting	Caroline Kitchener of The Washington Post
International Reporting	Staff of The New York Times
Feature Writing	Eli Saslow of The Washington Post
Commentary	Kyle Whitmire of AL.com, Birmingham
Criticism	Andrea Long Chu of New York magazine
Editorial Writing	Nancy Ancrum, Amy Driscoll, Luisa Yanez, Isadora Rangel and Lauren Costantino of the Miami Herald
Illustrated Reporting and Commentary	Mona Chalabi, contributor, The New York Times
Breaking News Photography	Photography Staff of Associated Press
Feature Photography	Christina House of the Los Angeles Times
Audio Reporting	Staff of Gimlet Media, notably Connie Walker

- ❖ The Associated Press won the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for public service for its wartime coverage of the besieged Ukrainian city of Mariupol.
- ❖ The Pulitzers are regarded as the highest honour that a U.S.-based journalist or organization can receive.
- ❖ The annual Pulitzer awards were first presented in 1917.
- ❖ The Pulitzers also hand out awards in eight categories for books, music and drama.

## Highest-Paid Athletes 2023

- ❖ Cristiano Ronaldo became the world's highest-paid athlete as per Forbes.
- ❖ Ronaldo, Lionel Messi, Kylian Mbappe, LeBron James, and Canelo Alvarez have turned out to be the highest-earning athletes of 2023.
- ❖ They have secured the top five positions on the list.



1	Cristiano Ronaldo	\$203.8m
2	Lionel Messi	\$194.8m
3	Kylian Mbappé	\$179.8m
4	LeBron James	\$179.0m
5	Canelo Álvarez	\$164.8m
6	Dustin Johnson	\$160.3m
7	Phil Mickelson	\$158.8m
8	Stephen Curry	\$150.4m
9	Roger Federer	\$142.5m
10	Kevin Durant	\$133.5m

## Harvard University's Radcliffe fellowship

- ❖ Biologist Sathya Bhama das Biju has been chosen for Harvard University's prestigious Radcliffe fellowship.
- ❖ He is popularly known as 'the Frogman of India'.
- ❖ His work is spanning three decades and he discovered over a hundred species.
- ❖ The Delhi University professor is one of the 50 scholars who were awarded the Harvard Radcliffe Institute Fellowship for 2023-24.
- ❖ He had recently won the Kerala Sree award instituted by the Kerala government for his outstanding contributions in the field of science.

## First Tamil woman to climb Mount Everest

- ❖ Muthamilchelvi from Tamil Nadu is climbing the world's highest peak Mount Everest at 8,848 meters.
- ❖ It is noteworthy that she is the first Tamil woman to climbing Mount Everest.
- ❖ She is climbing the Everest peak with a team of a private company called Asian Trekking International.
- ❖ He has successfully crossed the height of 7200 meters in his journey to reach Mount Everest.



### **Abhilash Tomy - Golden Globe Race**

- ❖ Abhilash Tomy finished second in the Golden Globe Race.
- ❖ He successfully completed the Golden Globe Race- a 30,000-mile solo, unassisted non-stop circumnavigation of the globe.
- ❖ He completed the task in 236 days and became the first Indian and first Asian to complete the Golden Globe race.
- ❖ Another Navyman Capt Dilip Dhond had earlier circumnavigated the earth unassisted but with stops.

### **Rayyanah Barnawi**

- ❖ Rayyanah Barnawi made history as the first Arab woman to venture into space.
- ❖ She is one of two Saudis on Axiom Space's second private mission
- ❖ Ms Barnawi is joined on Axiom Mission 2 by fellow Saudi mission specialist Ali Alqarni.
- ❖ He is the second male astronaut from the Gulf kingdom to go to space.
- ❖ Other two astronauts are American commander Peggy Whitson and pilot John Shoffner.

### **FIJI's highest civilian awards**

- ❖ Indian Prime Minister held meetings with his counterparts from Papua New Guinea, Fiji and New Zealand.
- ❖ Modi was the first Indian premier to travel to Papua New Guinea.
- ❖ Papua New Guinea Governor-General Bob Dadae conferred the Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu on Modi.
- ❖ This is the country's highest civilian award and recipients are titled "chief".

### **International Booker Prize 2023**

- ❖ Georgi Gospodinov's novel, "Time Shelter", has secured the prestigious 2023 International Booker Prize.
- ❖ This remarkable achievement marks the first time a Bulgarian novel has been awarded this renowned literary honor.
- ❖ It was originally published in Bulgarian in 2020.
- ❖ It was translated by Angela Rodel.
- ❖ Time Shelter is about "a 'clinic for the past' offers a promising treatment for Alzheimer's sufferers.





### **Hari Buddha Magar**

- ❖ Hari Buddha Magar from Nepal made history by successfully climbing Mount Everest using prosthetic legs.
- ❖ His legs got blown off in Afghanistan during his British Gurkha carrier.
- ❖ In the past decade following the tragedy, Magar successfully reached the summits of several notable peaks.
- ❖ It is including Ben Nevis, Mount Blanc, Kilimanjaro, Mera Peak, and Mount Toubkal.

### **Jaswant Singh Birdi**

- ❖ Coventry, a city in the West Midlands of the United Kingdom, has appointed Jaswant Singh Birdi as its new Lord Mayor.
- ❖ As an Indian-origin Sikh councillor, Birdi's appointment marks a significant milestone in the city's history.
- ❖ He was born in Punjab and spent some time as a child in Calcutta in West Bengal.

### **Dag Hammarskjöld Medal**

- ❖ The three Indian peacekeepers will be honoured with the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal at a solemn ceremony at UN headquarters.
- ❖ They, who lost their lives serving under the UN flag last year, are among the 103 military, police, and civilian peacekeepers.
- ❖ The three Indians include Border Security Force personnel Head Constables Shishupal Singh and Sanwala Ram Vishnoi (Congo), Shaber Taher Ali (Iraq).

### **57<sup>th</sup> Jnanpith Award**

- ❖ Renowned Konkani novelist and short story writer Damodar Mauzo won the 57th Jnanpith Award.
- ❖ The Jnanpith Award is the oldest and the highest Indian literary award presented annually.
- ❖ It was given by the Bharatiya Jnanpith a literary and research organization, based in New Delhi.
- ❖ Mauzo was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1983.
- ❖ The first Konkani writer to win this literary award was Ravindra Kelekar in 2006.
- ❖ Assamese poet Nilmani Phookan won the 56<sup>th</sup> Jnanpith Award.
- ❖ Phookan is the third Assamese writer to have received the Jnanpith.



## Cannes Film Festival 2023

- ❖ The 76<sup>th</sup> annual Cannes Film Festival is a film festival that took place in France.
- ❖ Justine Triet becomes only the third woman to win Palme d'Or at Cannes.
- ❖ Winners of the event:

Category	Winner	Director
Palme d'Or	Anatomy Of A Fall	Justine Triet
Grand Prix	The Zone Of Interest	Jonathan Glazer
Jury Prize	Fallen Leaves	Aki Kaurismaki
Best Director	Tran Anh Hung for The Pot-Au-Feu	-
Best Screenplay	Monster	Yuji Sakamoto
Best Actress	Merve Dizdar	
Best Actor	Kōji Yakusho - Perfect Days	
Camera d'Or	Inside the Yellow Cocoon Shell	Thien An Pham
Short Film Palme d'Or	27	Flóra Anna Buda
Queer Palm	Monster	
Honorary Palme d'Or	Michael Douglas	

## SPORTS

### Snooker's World Championship

- ❖ Belgium's Luca Brecel became the first player from continental Europe to win snooker's World Championship.
- ❖ Brecel joined Canadian Cliff Thorburn (1980), the Republic of Ireland's Ken Doherty (1997) and Australian Neil Robertson (2010).
- ❖ He is only the fourth modern-era world champion from outside the United Kingdom.

### National record in triple jump

- ❖ Indian triple jumper Praveen Chithravel set a new national record with an effort of 17.37 metres.
- ❖ The previous men's triple jump national record of 17.30m set by Renjith Maheswari.
- ❖ The 21-year-old from Tamil Nadu has already qualified for the Asian Games 2023.



### **Laureus awards**

- ❖ Lionel Messi wins the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year 2023.
- ❖ Messi won Sportsman of the Year for a second time after sharing the 2020 award with Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton.
- ❖ Ann Fraser-Pryce wins Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year 2023.
- ❖ She earned Sportswoman of the Year for the first time in her sixth nomination.
- ❖ Fraser-Pryce is the second consecutive Jamaican sprinter to win the award after Elaine Thompson-Herah.
- ❖ Chinese freeskier Eileen Gu won Action Sportsperson of the Year.
- ❖ Spanish tennis player Carlos Alcaraz won Breakthrough of the Year
- ❖ Swiss Paralympic champion wheelchair racer Catherine Debrunner won Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability.

### **Gatka martial art in National Games**

- ❖ The traditional martial art of Punjab, Gatka has officially included this sport in the 37<sup>th</sup> National Games 2023.
- ❖ Gatka, as a modern sporting discipline, is a standardised style of stick fighting between two or more opponents.
- ❖ The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) will be organizing competitions for a total of 43 disciplines during this national event in Goa.

### **IPL 2023**

- ❖ Chennai Superkings are crowned champions during the Final of the Tata Indian Premier League match against the Gujarat Titans.
- ❖ With this, Chennai Superkings has 5 championships.
- ❖ Shubman Gill was named the IPL 2023 Most Valuable Player of the season.
- ❖ He Wins the Orange Cap as well for the 890 runs that he scored in 17 games.
- ❖ Yashaswi Jaiswal was named the Emerging Player of the Year.
- ❖ Devon Conway wins the Player of the Match award.
- ❖ Super striker of the season: Glenn Maxwell (strike rate of 183.49).
- ❖ Game changer of the season: Shubman Gill.
- ❖ Perfect catch of the season: Rashid Khan.
- ❖ Purple cap: Mohammed Shami (28 wickets).
- ❖ Fair play award: Delhi Capitals.

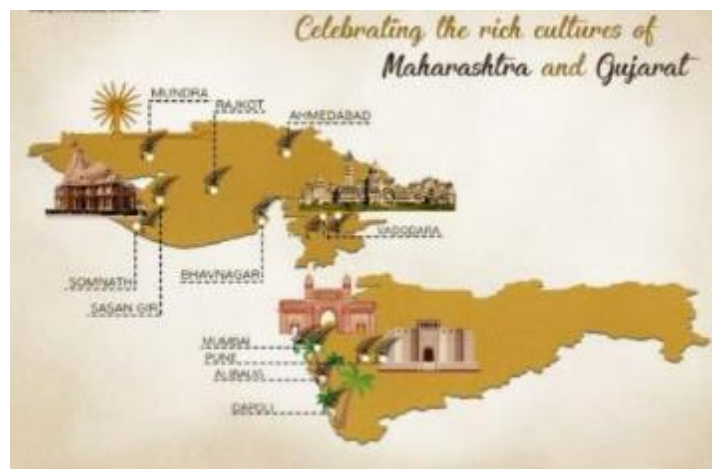
## IMPORTANT DAYS

### International Workers Day – May 01

- ❖ Labour Day, also known as May Day or Worker's Day, is celebrated on May 1.
- ❖ It aims to recognize and appreciate the invaluable contributions made by the labour class.
- ❖ The concept of Labour Day in the United States dates back to the nationwide strike of 1886 for an eight-hour workday.
- ❖ In India, the first Labour Day was celebrated on May 1, 1923, in Madras by The Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan, founded by Singaravelar.

### Gujarat and Maharashtra Day - May 01

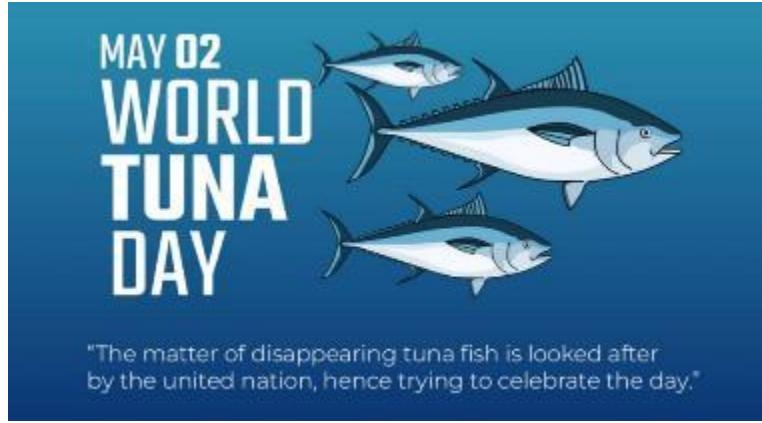
- ❖ The Gujarat state came into existence on May 1, 1960.
- ❖ On the same day, Maharashtra was also formed to address the demand of the Marathi-speaking people.
- ❖ Both these states were carved out of the Bombay State where these two linguistic groups demanded their separate states.
- ❖ To fulfil their demand, the states were formed through the Bombay Reorganization Act, 1960.



### World Tuna Day - May 02

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about Tuna fish, which is facing the threat of extinction due to excessive demand for their meat.
- ❖ 20% of the value of all marine fisheries and over 8% of all seafood traded globally is comprised of tuna species.

- ❖ It contains multiple nutrients, like Omega-3, proteins, minerals, vitamin B12 and others.
- ❖ In December 2016 the United Nations General Assembly declared this the Day



### **World Asthma Day - May 02**

- ❖ Every year, this day is observed on the first Tuesday of May.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness and promote better asthma management and care worldwide.
- ❖ This day is organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA).
- ❖ The theme of 2023 is 'Asthma Care for All'.

### **World Press Freedom Day - May 03**

- ❖ The day symbolizes the importance of press freedom and its role in the smooth and effective functioning of society.
- ❖ World Press Freedom Day 2023 marks the 30th anniversary of this day.
- ❖ It was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1993.
- ❖ Theme for 2023 is "Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of Expression as a Driver for all other human rights."

### **Coal Miners Day - May 04**

- ❖ This day aims to recognize and honour the tireless efforts and significant contribution of coal miners in extracting coal.
- ❖ Coal mining is a hazardous and strenuous task that involves digging, tunnelling, and extracting it from deep within the earth's crust.
- ❖ The first coal mine was opened in Scotland in 1575.



- ❖ India's first coal mine was established much later in 1774.



### **International Firefighters Day - May 04**

- ❖ This day aims to pay tribute to the brave firefighters who put their lives on the line to keep our communities safe.
- ❖ This Day was established in 1999 to honour the sacrifices and bravery of firefighters worldwide.
- ❖ The tragic loss of five Australian firefighters in a wildfire served as the inspiration for this annual commemoration.

### **International Midwives Day - May 05**

- ❖ This day aims to honour the work done by midwives and to acknowledge their role in saving the lives of mothers and new-borns.
- ❖ The idea of this day born in 1987 International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) conference at Netherlands.
- ❖ This day was first observed in 1991.
- ❖ Theme of this year is 'Together again: from evidence to reality'.

### **World Hand Hygiene Day - May 05**

- ❖ It aims to promote the importance of hand hygiene in preventing the spread of infection and promote good health.
- ❖ The history of this day can be traced back to the year 2009.
- ❖ The theme of this year's Day is "Together, we can accelerate progress on hand hygiene".



### **World Cartoonist's Day - May 05**

- ❖ During the 1990s, the National Cartoonist Society declared this day to celebrate every cartoonist in the industry.
- ❖ The day is meant to promote the importance of cartoons in society, and to encourage artistry and reading.
- ❖ In 1946, the National Cartoonists Society (NCS) was established in England.
- ❖ This date was chosen to acknowledge the first appearance of the mischievous cartoon character "The Yellow Kid".
- ❖ This was appeared in the New York World newspaper on May 5, 1895.

### **World Portuguese Language Day - May 05**

- ❖ The date of 5 May was officially established in 2009 by the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP).
- ❖ It is an intergovernmental organization that has been in official partnership with UNESCO since 2000.
- ❖ In 2019, the 40<sup>th</sup> session of UNESCO's General Conference proclaimed this day.

### **International No Diet Day - May 06**

- ❖ This day was first started by Mary Evans in 1992.
- ❖ The purpose of the day was to help men and women around the world to appreciate their own.
- ❖ The day aims to tackle tough issues regarding diet and body awareness.

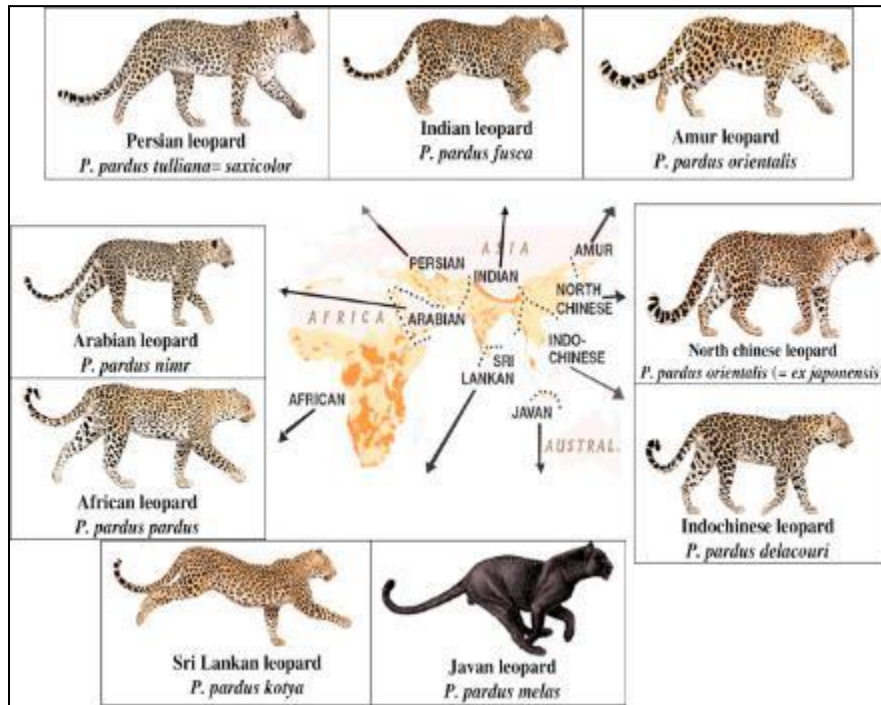
### **World Athletics Day - May 07**

- ❖ The first World Athletics Day was held on May 15, 1996
- ❖ This day aims to promote the importance of athletics as a sport and encourage young and school children to take up athletics.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is 'Athletics for All – A New Beginning'.

### **International Leopard Day - May 03**

- ❖ This day aims to increase awareness of the importance of Leopard.
- ❖ Leopards are elusive and nocturnal animals whose size and colour depend on the habitat.

- ❖ Leopards' lives in Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, Southern Russia, and the Indian subcontinent.
- ❖ They are listed as near threatened on the IUCN list.
- ❖ The Cape Leopard Trust (CLT) launched a new portal dedicated to leopards to promote and celebrate leopards globally.



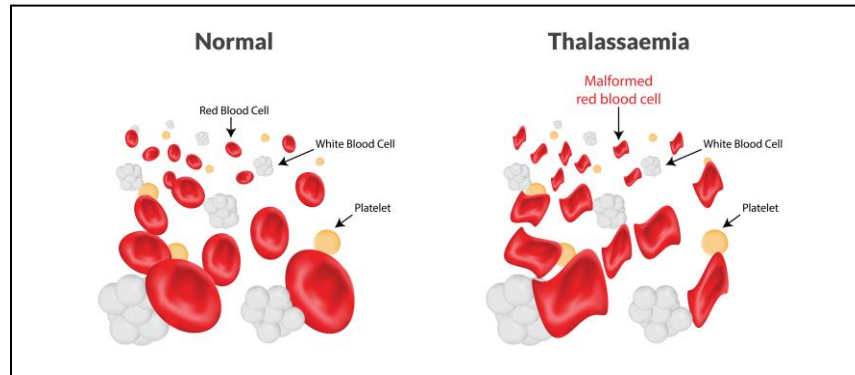
### World Red Cross Day - May 08

- ❖ It commemorates the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant.
- ❖ He is the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize.
- ❖ In 1863, the International Committee for Relief to the Wounded was established.
- ❖ This was later becoming known as the ICRC.
- ❖ This day was officially established during the 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross in Tokyo, Japan, in 1933.
- ❖ The theme for this year is "Everything we do comes #fromtheheart."

### World Thalassaemia Day - May 08

- ❖ Thalassaemia International Federation (TIF) observed World Thalassaemia Day.
- ❖ Panos Englezos founded TIF on this day in 1994.

- ❖ Thalassaemia is an inherited disorder where the oxygen-carrying haemoglobin and red blood cells are lesser than normal.
- ❖ The theme for this year is 'Be aware. Share. Care.'

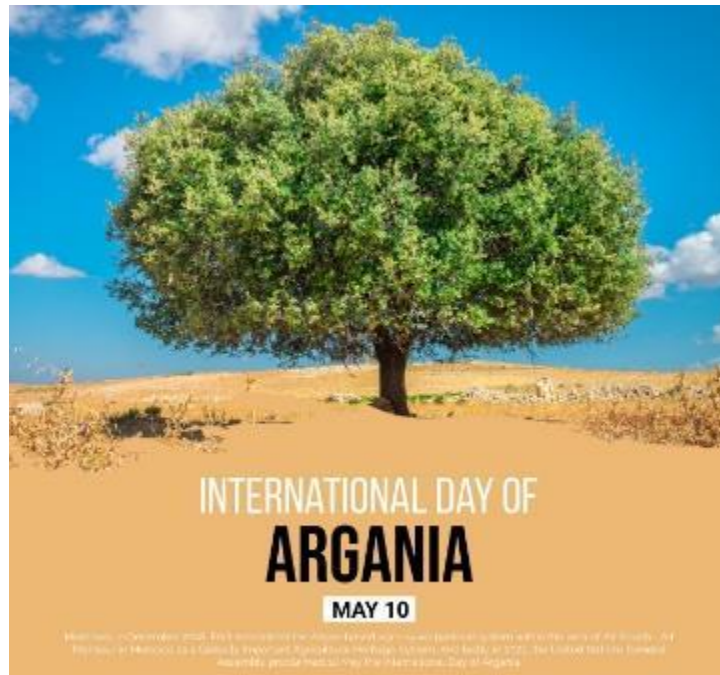


### **Victory Day - May 09**

- ❖ Russia celebrates the anniversary of victory over Nazi Germany in World War II.
- ❖ This day commemorates the huge sacrifices made by the Soviet Union during what is called the Great Patriotic War of 1941-45.
- ❖ The Soviet government announced the victory early on 9 May, 1945 after the signing of German Instrument of Surrender in Berlin.

### **International Day of Argania - May 10**

- ❖ Morocco and the United Nations celebrate the International Day of Argania.
- ❖ The theme of this year is "Local socio-economic development and sustainability of the argan ecosystem."
- ❖ It aims to highlight the argan tree's role in community development and sustainability.
- ❖ This celebration highlights Morocco's efforts to promote the argan tree as a tree endemic to the Kingdom.
- ❖ Argan trees hold a special place in Morocco and Moroccan culture, as the country is the world's main exporter of Argan-related products.
- ❖ Morocco's annual Argan oil production is estimated to range from 4,000 to 6,000 tons.
- ❖ UNESCO added the Argan tree to the Representative List of Humanity's Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2014.



### **National technology day - May 11**

- ❖ This day marks the successful nuclear tests conducted at Pokhran, Rajasthan, in 1998, known as Operation Shakti.
- ❖ The day serves as an opportunity to honour scientists and engineers who have made contributions to the nation's development.
- ❖ Following the success of Pokhran-II, the government declared May 11 as National Technology Day in 1998.
- ❖ The first nuclear test was conducted in May 1974.
- ❖ In 1998, India became the world's sixth nuclear test.
- ❖ Theme for 2023 is 'School to Startups-Igniting Young Minds to Innovate.'

### **International Nurses Day - May 12**

- ❖ International Nurses Day marks the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale.
- ❖ It aims to highlight the contribution of nurses to the healthcare sector.
- ❖ In 1974, the International Council of Nurses declared that the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale be celebrated as International Nurses Day.
- ❖ The theme for this year's International Nurses Day is “Our Nurses, Our Future”.





### **International Day of Plant Health - May 12**

- ❖ International Day of Plant Health was established in 2022 by the United Nations.
- ❖ The idea was promoted by Zambia and then adopted unanimously by the UN General Assembly.
- ❖ The theme of this year is “Plant Health for Environmental Protection.”

### **World Migratory Bird Day - May 13**

- ❖ World Migratory Bird Day is now celebrated twice a year, on the second Saturday in May and October.
- ❖ Observing this day raises awareness and emphasizes the importance of protecting migratory birds and their habitats.
- ❖ In 1993, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology began celebrations of this day.
- ❖ Theme of 2023 is ‘Water and its importance for migratory birds’.
- ❖ Globally, at least 4,000 species of birds are regular migrants, which is 40 percent of the total birds in the world.

### **International Day of Families - May 15**

- ❖ This day is celebrated on to raise awareness of the importance of families and their role in society.
- ❖ The day focuses on the important role that families play in our society while also highlighting the issues faced by them.
- ❖ The United Nations adopted a resolution in 1994 to establish this International Day.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is ‘Demographic Trends and Families’.

### **UN Global Road Safety Week – May 15/21**

- ❖ UN Global Road Safety Week are held to raise attention to and action on a specific road safety challenge.
- ❖ They contribute to advocacy around the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030.
- ❖ This guiding framework reflects an ambitious target to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries by 50% by 2030.
- ❖ Road accidents led to 1.3 million deaths and as many as 50 million injuries on the world’s roads each year.



### **Mother's Day - May 15**

- ❖ It is celebrated on the second Sunday of May each year.
- ❖ This day honours mothers and motherhood, celebrates the importance of maternal bonds.
- ❖ Also, it calls attention to issues affecting mothers and families.
- ❖ This day was initiated by Anna Jarvis, who wanted to honor her mother.
- ❖ In 1914, 28th President of the United States of America, Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

### **International Day of Light - May 16**

- ❖ The day commemorates the successful operation of the first laser by Theodore Maiman in 1960.
- ❖ It was established by UNESCO to celebrate the significance of light in various aspects of our lives, including science, culture, and sustainable development.
- ❖ UNESCO's International Basic Science Program coordinates the day's celebration on behalf of the United Nations.

### **International Day of Living Together in Peace - May 16**

- ❖ This day aims to highlight the importance of fostering peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, and harmony among people from diverse backgrounds.
- ❖ In 1997, the General Assembly proclaimed the year 2000 as the "International Year for a Culture of Peace".
- ❖ The next year, it declared that the "International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for Children of the World" will be observed from 2001-10.
- ❖ The adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace in 1999 further emphasised the need for sustained peace and non-violence.

### **National Dengue Day - May 16**

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about vector-borne disease and its prevention.
- ❖ The viral fever is caused by the dengue virus types DENV, 1–4 serotypes DEN-1, DEN-2, DEN-3, and DEN-4.
- ❖ It is transmitted by the bite of the female *Aedes aegypti* mosquito.
- ❖ Around 1,10,473 dengue cases were registered between January and October, last year in India.
- ❖ Theme for this year is "Fight Dengue, Save Lives".



### **International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia - May 17**

- ❖ It aims to coordinate international events that raise awareness of LGBT rights violations and stimulate interest in LGBT rights work worldwide.
- ❖ This date was chosen to commemorate the decision to remove homosexuality from the International Classification of Diseases of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1990.
- ❖ The day, as a concept, was conceived in 2004.
- ❖ A year-long campaign culminated in the first International Day Against Homophobia on May 17, 2005.

### **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day - May 17**

- ❖ This Day has been celebrated annually on May 17<sup>th</sup> since 1969.
- ❖ It is marking the founding of International Telecommunication Union and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865.
- ❖ Theme of this year is “Empowering the least developed countries through information and communication technologies.”

### **International Museum Day - May 18**

- ❖ This day is observed every year since 1977.
- ❖ The day represents a unique moment for the international museum community.
- ❖ The theme of this year is "Museums, Sustainability and Well-being".

### **World Hypertension Day - May 17**

- ❖ This day aims to raise awareness about hypertension as a public health issue.
- ❖ 46% of the people who have hypertension are unaware of the condition.
- ❖ The World Hypertension Day was first observed on May 14, 2005.
- ❖ It was introduced by the World Hypertension League.
- ❖ This year's theme is “Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer.”

### **World AIDS Vaccine Day - May 18**

- ❖ On May 18, 1997, former US President Bill Clinton delivered a speech regarding HIV vaccine at the Morgan State University in Maryland.
- ❖ Honouring the president's speech, May 18 was marked as World AIDS Vaccine Day.

- ❖ The first international AIDS Vaccine trial which took place in 1997.
- ❖ The trial was named RV144.
- ❖ It was the first-ever trial against HIV that showed a combination of two vaccines reduced the risk of HIV infection by 31%.
- ❖ The day was first observed a year later in 1998.
- ❖ HIV has caused the death of 40.1 million people so far.
- ❖ According to WHO data, 38.4 million people are living with the virus estimated at the end of 2021.

### **World Bee Day - May 20**

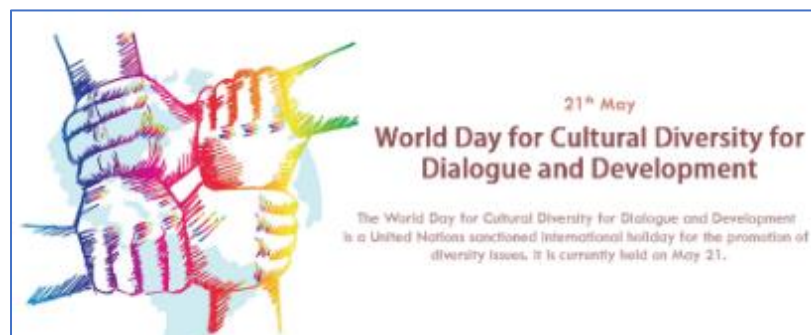
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness on the essential role bees and other pollinators play in keeping people and the planet healthy, and on the many challenges they face today.
- ❖ The First World Bee Day observed in May 2018.
- ❖ Under the theme “Bee engaged in pollinator-friendly agricultural production”

### **World Metrology Day - May 20**

- ❖ This day commemorate the anniversary of the signing of the Metre Convention in 1875.
- ❖ Metre Convention was an international treaty signed in Paris.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is "Measurements supporting the global food system."

### **World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development - May 21**

- ❖ It highlights the importance of cultural diversity in fostering dialogue, understanding, and sustainable development on a global scale.
- ❖ UNESCO adopted this day After a terrorist attack in 2001 and destruction of Buddha statue of Bamiyan in Afghanistan.



### **International Day for Biological Diversity - May 22**

- ❖ The original date for celebrating International Day of Biological Diversity was December 29.
- ❖ The anniversary of the Convention on Biological Diversity was designated as the International Day for Biological Diversity on December 29, 1993.
- ❖ However, in December 2000, the date was changed to May 22 by the United Nations General Assembly.
- ❖ This day aims to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.
- ❖ Theme of this year is "From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity."

### **World Turtle Day - May 23**

- ❖ It aims to bring attention and increase knowledge about turtles and tortoises.
- ❖ It also encourages people to take action for the help and survival of the turtles and tortoise.
- ❖ This annual celebration sponsored by American Tortoise Rescue since 2000.



### **National Anti-Terrorism Day - May 21**

- ❖ This day highlights the significance of eradicating terrorism and promoting peace and harmony.
- ❖ Former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated on this day in 1991.
- ❖ On this year's Anti-Terrorism Day, India commemorates Rajiv Gandhi's 32nd anniversary of death.
- ❖ He was the youngest prime minister of India who came into power at 40.



- ❖ This day was officially announced on May 21, 1991.
- ❖ According to the 10th edition of the Global Terrorism Index, India ranked among the 25-worst terror-hit countries.
- ❖ Globally, the deaths from terrorism fell by 9% to 6,701 in 2022.
- ❖ Terror attacks declining by almost 28% from 5,463 in 2021 to 3,955 in 2022.

### **International Day to End Obstetric Fistula - May 23**

- ❖ This day aims to spread awareness about the prevention and treatment of problems like obstetric fistula.
- ❖ In 2003, the United Nations Population Fund launched the 'Campaign to End Fistula.'
- ❖ The United Nations began celebrating this Day in 2013.
- ❖ Obstetric fistula is a birth-related injury that primarily affects women in low-income regions.



### **International Missing Children's Day - May 25**

- ❖ This day aims to place a spotlight on the issue of child abduction, educate parents on safeguarding measures to protect their children.
- ❖ This day began as an observance in the USA in 1983.
- ❖ In 2001, the same date was launched as an international event.

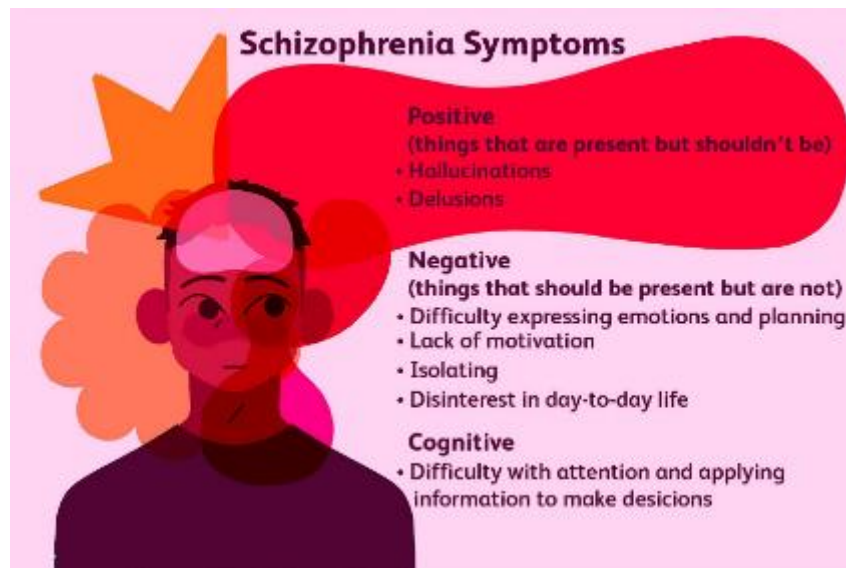
### **Indian Commonwealth Day 2023 - May 24**

- ❖ An international Commonwealth Day is celebrated every year on March 13.
- ❖ But it is observed on May 24 in India and a few other nations.

- ❖ Following Queen Victoria's passing on January 22, 1901, Commonwealth Day was first celebrated in 1902 as a way of honouring her.
- ❖ The first commemoration of this important day took place on May 24, 1902.
- ❖ Theme for this year is "Forging a Sustainable and Peaceful Common Future."

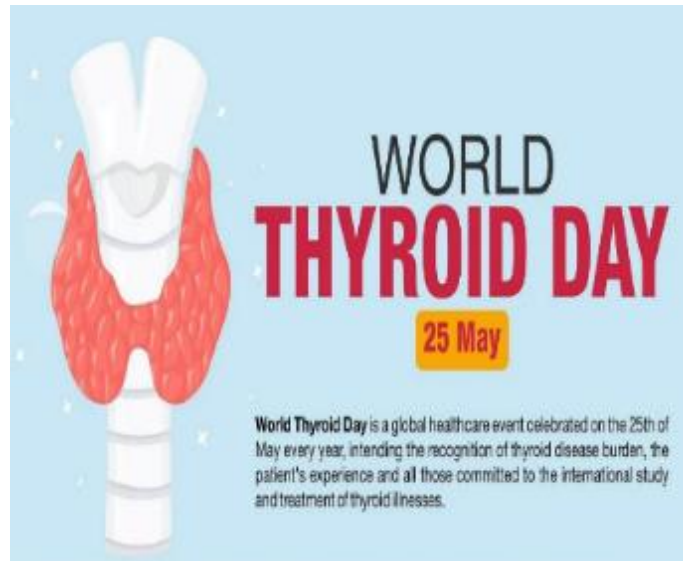
### **World Schizophrenia Day – May 24**

- ❖ This day is declared to honor Dr. Philippe Pinel, from France.
- ❖ He strived to provide humane care and treatment for the mentally ill.
- ❖ The day is observed to create awareness about the mental health disorder and ensure better treatment and rehabilitation of people suffering from Schizophrenia disease.
- ❖ Schizophrenia alters perception, leading to hallucinations, strange thoughts, and a sense of being in a different world.



### **World Thyroid Awareness Day 2023 - May 25**

- ❖ It aims to educate people about the importance of maintaining a healthy thyroid gland and the impact of thyroid disorders on overall well-being.
- ❖ It was officially adopted during the Annual General Meeting preceding the European Thyroid Association (ETA) congress in September 2007.
- ❖ This date marks the anniversary of the ETA's foundation in 1965.



### **Menstrual Hygiene Day 2023 - May 28**

- ❖ This day is emphasized on significance of excellent menstrual hygiene management.
- ❖ It was started by Germany-based NGO WASH United in 2013.
- ❖ It was observed for the first time on May 28, 2014.
- ❖ The theme of this year is 'Making menstruation a normal fact of life' by 2030.

### **World Hunger Day - May 28**

- ❖ It aims to create awareness among the general public regarding hunger-related issues.
- ❖ The Hunger Project launches World Hunger Day as an initiative to end global hunger in 2011.
- ❖ The theme of this year is Celebrating sustainable solutions to Hunger and Poverty.

### **International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers - May 29**

- ❖ This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the UN Peacekeepers Day.
- ❖ It was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2002.
- ❖ It aims to pay tribute to the men and women who serve in UN peacekeeping operations and to honour those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace.
- ❖ The theme of this year is 'Peace begins with me'.

### **International Everest Day - May 29**

- ❖ This day commemorates the 1953 summit of Mount Everest by Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa of Nepal.
- ❖ Even Tenzing Norgay was successful only on his 7<sup>th</sup> attempt.
- ❖ The feat was finally achieved by the duo Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, on Tenzing's birthday, 29th May 1953.
- ❖ This Day came into existence in 2008, when Edmund Hillary died.
- ❖ Sagarmatha as the Nepalis call Everest was named after Sir George Everest, the first land surveyor of British India.
- ❖ In Tibetan, the name is Chomolungma or holy mother.

### **World No Tobacco Day - May 31**

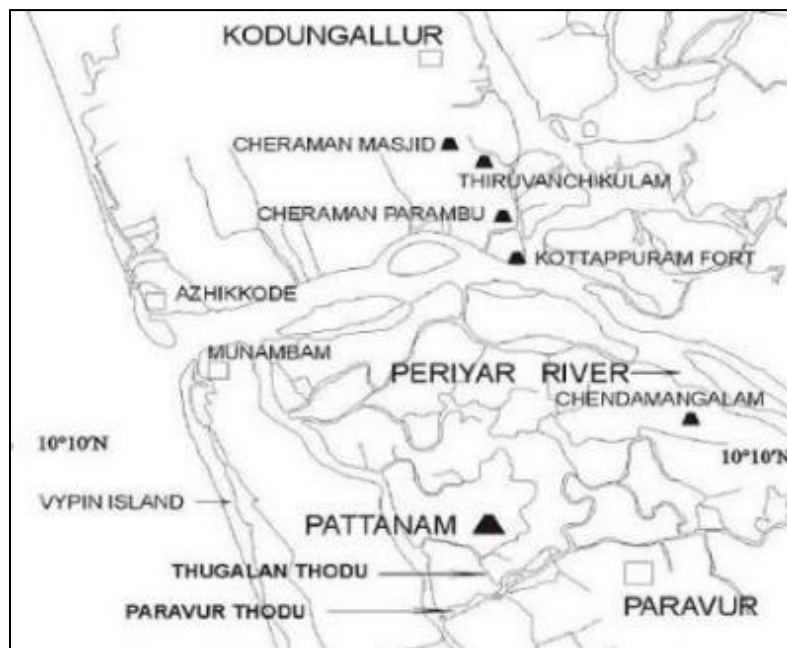
- ❖ It aims at raising awareness about the health risks associated with tobacco consumption.
- ❖ The World Health Organization in 1987 adopted the resolution for the creation of a global observance day.
- ❖ The first World No Tobacco Day was observed on May 31, 1988.
- ❖ Theme for 2023 is "We need food, not tobacco."



## MISCELLANEOUS

### The Pattanam mystery

- ❖ The archaeological site of Pattanam is located on the South-western coast in Kerala's Ernakulam district.
- ❖ It is believed by historians to be part of the ancient port city of the Muziris.
- ❖ Ancient Muziris played a key role in trade and cultural exchanges between India and the Middle East, North Africa and the Mediterranean regions.
- ❖ The excavations suggest that the site was first occupied by the indigenous and 'Megalithic' (Iron Age) people.
- ❖ They are followed by the Roman contact in the early historic period.
- ❖ It appears that the site was continuously occupied at least from the 2nd century BC to the 10<sup>th</sup> century AD.
- ❖ The mitochondrial DNA of 12 ancient skeletal samples shows the presence of both South Asian and West Eurasian-specific lineages.
- ❖ The Pattanam excavations have unearthed over 45 lakh sherds (ceramic fragments).



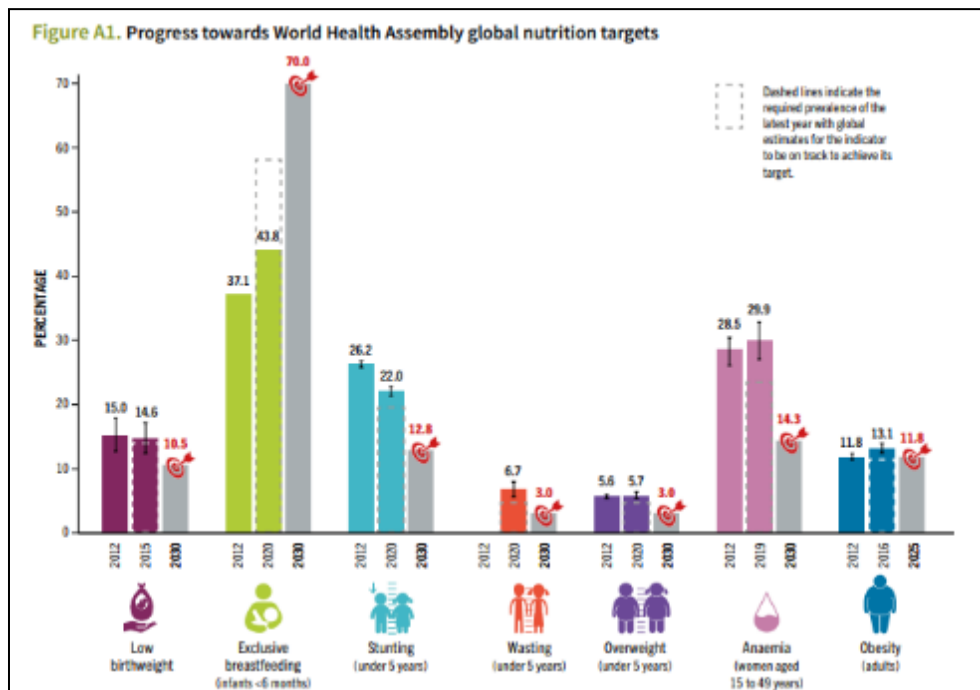
- ❖ This includes approximately 1.4 lakh belonging to the littoral regions of the Mediterranean, the River Nile, the Red Sea, the western and eastern Indian Oceans, and the South China Sea.
- ❖ Recent findings include the seal of a sphinx, native to the ancient Greek city of Thebes.



- ❖ There is no evidence that institutionalised religion existed in ancient Pattanam till date.
- ❖ This iron-age and post-iron-age site was also absence of sophisticated weaponry.

### Meat in healthy dietary patterns

- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organization recently released a report titled “Contribution of terrestrial animal source food to healthy diets for improved nutrition and health outcomes.”
- ❖ Trends in nutrition indicators show that the world is currently not on track to attain several of the 2025 World Health Assembly.
- ❖ Terrestrial animal source food (TASF), within healthy dietary patterns, can make vital contributions to efforts to meet the global nutrition targets for 2025.
- ❖ TASF is a rich source of macro-nutrients like protein, fats, carbohydrates and Micro-nutrients.
- ❖ Consumption of TASF can address deficiencies in iron and vitamin A.
- ❖ Globally, 21 percent of total caloric supply is comprised of TASF.
- ❖ The figure is higher in Europe (37 percent) and the Americas (30 percent), but in Africa it is only 11 percent.



### **Vistara sustainable aviation fuel**

- ❖ Vistara became the first Indian airline to use sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) to fly a wide-body aircraft on a long-haul flight.
- ❖ Vistara is a joint venture of Singapore Airlines and Tata Group.
- ❖ The special flight was operated from Charleston International Airport, South Carolina to Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi.
- ❖ SAF is a cleaner alternative to conventional jet fuel.
- ❖ It can lower carbon emissions over the fuel's lifecycle by up to 80 percent.

### **Pliosaur Discovered in England**

- ❖ Pliosaur remains were discovered at Oxfordshire's Abingdon County Hall Museum, England.
- ❖ Scans on a backbone found the reptile was between 9.8m (32ft) and 14.4 (47ft) long.
- ❖ Pliosaurus were a type of short-necked plesiosaur.
- ❖ These Marine reptiles was built for speed compared to their long-necked cousins.
- ❖ They lived between 220 million years ago (Triassic period) and 70 million years ago (Cretaceous period).
- ❖ They were mostly found in the prehistoric seas that covered modern-day Europe.



### **Google passkeys**

- ❖ Google has started rolling out passkeys - the password alternative to sign into Google accounts.
- ❖ Passkeys are considered a simpler and safer way to sign into apps and websites and relies on the user's biometrics.
- ❖ Passkeys offer a hassle-free sign in experience to users as they don't have to remember long passwords for different websites.

- ❖ Unlike passwords, passkeys are more resistant to online attacks like phishing.

### **Asia's first subsea research lab**

- ❖ MIT-World Peace University (WPU) of Pune has built the first-ever subsea research lab in Asia.
- ❖ It aims to foster multi-disciplinary talent for the global oil and gas industry.
- ❖ This lab showcases a working prototype of deep-water offshore petroleum operations, revolutionising the way in which future workforce can be trained for the energy sector.



### **5,000-year-old 'Great Grandfather' trees**

- ❖ In a forest in southern Chile, a giant tree has survived for thousands of years.
- ❖ The tree is known as the "Great Grandfather."
- ❖ It is a *Fitzroya cupressoides*, a type of cypress tree that is endemic to the south of the continent.
- ❖ The trunk of this tree measuring four meters (13 feet) in diameter and 28 meters tall.



- ❖ The sample extracted and other dating methods suggest that the tree is up to 5,484 years old.
- ❖ The estimated age would beat the current record-holder-Methuselaha, a 4,853-year-old bristlecone pine tree in California of USA, by more than half a millennium.

### **India's Ultra-High-Net-Worth individuals**

- ❖ A recent report by Knight Frank indicates a significant rise in India's ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWI) population over the next five years.
- ❖ The study highlights a projected 58.4% increase in UHNWI individuals, with a net worth exceeding \$30 million.
- ❖ India's billionaire population is expected to grow from 161 individuals in 2022 to 195 individuals in 2027.
- ❖ It will from 12,069 in 2022 to 19,119 in 2027.



### **Wolf-dog hybridisation**

- ❖ The Researchers have found the first evidence of wolf-dog hybridisation in the country.
- ❖ The hair samples were used to extract DNA and processed for segregating, identifying, pressing and following other scientific protocols.
- ❖ The results provide the first genetic evidence of one F2 hybrid (offspring from an F1 hybrid) and the other individual could be a complex hybrid between dogs and wolves.
- ❖ These results reiterate the power of next-generation sequencing (NGS) for non-invasive samples as an efficient tool for detecting hybrids.



<p><b>WARNING SIGNS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Wolf-dog hybridization &amp; introgression of dog genomes could lead to loss of unique and adaptive</li> </ul>	 <p>The suspected wolf-dog hybrid individual (L) with a variation in wolves, posing a significant conservation challenge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ As wolves mostly occupy grasslands and scrub habitats outside PAs, involving citizen scientists can play a key role in their conservation</li> <li>▶ Hybridization among canid species is complex. Both sexes of canid hybrids are fertile in contrast to the other mammalian species</li> </ul>
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### Tipu Sultan's Sword Auction

- ❖ Tipu Sultan's sword, the 18th century ruler of Mysuru, has been sold for 14 million pounds (\$17.4 million or ₹ 140 crore) at an auction in London.
- ❖ Tipu Sultan won fame in wars of the late 18th century.
- ❖ He fought against the Marathas on several occasions between 1775 and 1779.
- ❖ The sword was found in the private quarters of Tipu Sultan's palace.
- ❖ Tipu Sultan was given the nickname "Tiger of Mysore" for the ferocity with which he defended his kingdom.

<h2>MYSORE RULER'S TRUSTED SWORD</h2>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Tipu's sword <b>sells for a record ₹143 cr at Bonhams</b></li> <li>▶ <b>The sword and a pair of pistols</b> were always within reach of Tipu while he slept</li> <li>▶ <b>Hilt is inlaid in exquisitely executed gold calligraphy</b> with the qualities of God; on the blade is <b>inscribed The Sword of the Ruler</b></li> </ul>	 <p>“ The sword has an extraordinary history, an astonishing provenance and unrivalled craftsmanship. It was no surprise it was so hotly contested between two phone bidders and a bidder in the room</p> <p><b>Nima Sagharchi</b>   GROUP HEAD OF ISLAMIC AND INDIAN ART</p>

