

TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM CURRENT AFFAIRS JULY 2023

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35 de ceremonie : Shruthi Joseph - Adrien Aliatti.





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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ 8th Global Pharmaceutical Quality Summit 2023 was held under the theme of 'Patient Centricity: New Paradigm of Manufacturing and Quality' in Mumbai.
- ❖ The Indian women's doubles pair of Sutirtha Mukherjee and Ayhika Mukherjee won the WTT Contender tournament in Tunis, Capital of Tunisia.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government launches scheme to provide cardiac drugs through over 10,000 primary-level health facilities.
- ❖ According to the Union Health Ministry data, India recorded (June 27th) only 33 fresh coronavirus infections, the lowest amount since March 2020.
- ❖ Under the 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment 2023-24' scheme, an allocation of Rs. 56,415 crores were made.
 - It aims to accelerate capital spending in 16 States across diverse sectors.
- ❖ PM flags off five new Vande Bharat trains.
 - They are Rani Kamalapati-Jabalpur Vande Bharat Express, Khajuraho-Bhopal-Indore Vande Bharat Express, Madgaon (Goa)-Mumbai Vande Bharat Express, Dharwad-Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express, and Hatia-Patna Vande Bharat Express.
- ❖ Shiv Das Meena was appointed as 49th chief secretary of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Shankar Jiwal was appointed as Tamil Nadu's new Director General of Police.
- ❖ Sandeep Rai Rathore has been appointed as the new Chennai City Police Commissioner.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu beat Haryana 2-1 in the final to clinch the senior women's National football championship at the Guru Nanak stadium in Amritsar.
 - Tamil Nadu had last won the title in 2018.
- ❖ 64th Global Environment Facility (GEF) council meeting held at Brazil.
 - It approved the disbursement of \$1.4 billion to accelerate efforts to tackle the climate, biodiversity, and pollution crises.
- ❖ India's first-ever Olympic medallist in women's boxing, Mary Kom, has been honoured with the Global Indian Icon of the Year award at the annual U.K.-India Awards.
- ❖ The World Mining Congress (WMC) 2023 was held in Brisbane, Australia.
- ❖ Indian golfer Diksha Dagar, clinched the Tipsport Czech Ladies Open, held at London.
 - It was her second Ladies European Tour (LET) event title, and her first since 2019.



- ❖ National Insurance Awareness Day is annually observed on 28th June to raise awareness about Insurance which offers a layer of protection to guard in various situations and about the benefits of investing in an insurance plan.
- ❖ The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is planning its first joint military drill amid regional strain with China.
- ❖ Senior IPS officer Ajay Bhatnagar has been appointed as Special Director in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- ❖ Britain's King Charles III and Queen Camilla presented the coveted Elephant Family environmental award to Indian conservationists — 'The Elephant Whisperers' filmmaker Kartiki Gonsalves and The Real Elephant Collective (TREC) of 70 Adivasi artists.
- ❖ Renowned children's writer and performance poet, Michael Rosen, has been bestowed with the PEN Pinter Prize 2023.
- ❖ Department of Telecommunications will host the '5G & Beyond Hackathon 2023'.
 - It is aimed at shortlisting India-focused cutting-edge ideas that can be converted into workable 5G & beyond products and solutions.
- ❖ The 62-day pilgrimage Amarnath Yatra commenced on July 1, 2023 and this yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31.
 - Amarnath Temple is a Hindu shrine located in Jammu Kashmir.
- ❖ International Joke Day is celebrated on July 1 as a light-hearted occasion.
 - It encourages individuals to embrace laughter, share jokes, and cultivate stronger bonds with their loved ones.
- ❖ Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has released Sustainable Development Goals National Indicator Framework (NIF) Progress Report 2023.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) will hold its first-ever multi-national air exercise 'Tarang Shakti.'
- ❖ Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra obtained the top spot in Lausanne Diamond League 2023 with a best throw of 87.66 m.
- ❖ The U.N. Security Council will hold a first-ever meeting on the threats of Artificial Intelligence (AI) which is organized by the United Kingdom.
- ❖ Indian tennis player Yuki Bhambri won his maiden title on the ATP World Tour.
- ❖ For the first time in 48 years the ICC Cricket World Cup, West Indies have failed to qualify for the 2023 ODI World Cup after losing to Scotland.
- ❖ The 108th Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) Day celebrated a three-day programme with Special Focus on 'Mission Life' in Kolkata.
- ❖ NLC India Limited has bagged the 'Timely payments (CPSEs)' award for the year 2023 for its contribution in improving the reliability of e-market practices.



- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) is set to open its first-ever international campus in Zanzibar, Tanzania.
- ❖ The Indian Navy and the US Navy conducted the seventh edition of the IN-USN Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) exercise, known as SALVEX.
- ❖ The Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) has become the first urban body in the country to get the Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) credit by recycling the banned single-use plastic items after seizing them.
- ❖ Every year, on the 7th of July, people across the globe is celebrated the World Chocolate Day.
- ❖ The Global Forgiveness Day is observed on July 7 globally.
- ❖ The World Kiswahili Language Day is observed across the world on July 7.
 - Kiswahili is the only African language within the Directorate of the Global Communications at the United Nations.
- ❖ First of its kind exhibition 'Banking on World Heritage' was Inaugurated at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi.
- ❖ Ajit Pawar took oath as the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra for the fifth time.
- ❖ The Home Minister laid the foundation stone of the country's first cooperative-run Sainik School near Mehsana in Gujarat.
- ❖ The three-day International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH-2023) was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ Recently India has joined the Champions Group of the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG).
 - It was established in March 2022 to address urgent global issues in food security, energy, and finance.
- ❖ World famous Shravani Mela was inaugurated in Baba Baidyanath Dham temple in Deoghar, Jharkhand.
- ❖ Piramal Finance company has opened its first all-women branch "Maitreyi" in the country at Tripunithura, Kochi.
- ❖ The city of Ahmedabad hosted the Urban20 (U20) Mayoral Summit.
- ❖ The National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) has appointed Lt Gen MU Nair as the new National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC) by replacing Lt Gen (retd.) Dr Rajesh Pant.
- ❖ The head of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, Qu Dongyu of China, was re-elected for a second term as head of the UN agency.
- ❖ The Board of Control of Cricket (BCCI) has appointed Ajit Agarkar as the chairman of the Senior Men's Cricket Selection Committee.



- ❖ Spin bowler Shreyanka Patil has become the first Indian cricketer to be signed for the Women's Caribbean Premier League (WCPL).
 - Patil is also the first Indian player to be offered a contract in an overseas league before making her international debut.
- ❖ The Indian men's football team won the SAFF Championship 2023 title, held at Bengaluru after beating Kuwait.
- ❖ Netherlands become the first team in the men's competition to win a second FIH Hockey Pro League title consecutively.
- ❖ The third G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) meeting concluded in Hampi, Karnataka.
- ❖ The Centre appointed Justice Sheo Kumar Singh, a judicial member of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), as its acting chairperson.
- ❖ The Famous drawing artist Karuvattu Mana Vasudevan Namboothiri of Kerala passed away recently.
- ❖ In Latvia, longest-serving Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkevics became the first openly gay head of state in the European Union (EU).
- ❖ India and US have conducted an 'Operation Broader Sword' to prevent illicit pharmaceuticals, devices or precursor chemicals from being shipped to the US through the International Mail System
- ❖ International Malala Day is observed on July 12 each year to honour the bravery of Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai.
- ❖ The Indian government is launching a groundbreaking initiative known as Nari Adalats, which are women-only courts established at the village level.
- ❖ Coimbatore Junction is the only non-divisional terminus station in the Southern Railway to surpass earnings of even a few divisional headquarters stations.
- ❖ ONGC becomes the first Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) in India to receive certification for its Anti-Bribery Management System.
- ❖ S. Rajasekaran, from Coimbatore, was presented with the Sir J.C. Bose Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contributions to research in spinal diseases.
- ❖ The Chief election commissioner participated with the executive board members of the Association of World Election Bodies (A- WEB) at the 11th meeting of the member countries held in Cartagena, Colombia.
 - A-WEB has 119 Bodies as members & 20 regional associations/organisations as associate members.
- ❖ The government extended the tenure of Brajendra Navnit as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the World Trade Organization (WTO).



- ❖ Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, has won the Insurer Innovation Award 2023 for the APAC region at the World's Digital Insurance Awards.
- ❖ International Telecommunication Union convened AI for Good Global Summit took place in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ India celebrates the National Day of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery every July 15.
- ❖ July 15, birth anniversary of former Chief Minister Kamarajar, is observed as Education Development Day in Tamil Nadu schools.
- ❖ Tata Technologies, a Tata Motor subsidiary, inaugurated 22 industry 4.0 technology centres across Tamil Nadu to upskill youth on latest manufacturing technologies.
- ❖ The Bombay Stock Exchange, Asia's oldest stock exchange, launched a new logo on its 149th foundation day (July 10, 2023).
- ❖ The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved the procurement of 26 Rafale-M fighters to operate off the aircraft carriers and three additional Scorpene-class diesel-electric submarines from France.
- ❖ The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced equal prize money for men's and women's teams at ICC events.
- ❖ India collected Rs 1.61 lakh crore Goods and Services Tax (GST) for the month of June 2023.
 - Gross GST collection crosses ₹1.6 lakh crore mark for fourth time since inception of GST.
- ❖ By implementing the Kalaigiar Magalir Urimai Thogai scheme, Tamil Nadu will become the third State in the country to have a basic income scheme for women after West Bengal (Lakshmir Bhandar) and Madhya Pradesh (Ladli Bahna Yojana).
- ❖ Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) became India's first airport to have four runways.
- ❖ Adani Transmission Limited (ATL) got the 'Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2023' in the Power Transmission Sector by the Institute of Directors.
- ❖ Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare launched a new campaign for banks under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund titled BHARAT (Banks Heralding Accelerated Rural & Agriculture Transformation).
- ❖ Czech Republic's Marketa Vondrousova beat Tunisia's Ons Jabeur to win her maiden Grand Slam title of the Wimbledon Tennis 2023 women's singles.
- ❖ The NOTA (none of the above) option will be a part of the electronic voting machines for urban local bodies (ULB) in Tamil Nadu.



- ❖ Preeti Aghalayam is the first woman director of an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) of the new IIT in Zanzibar, Tanzania.
- ❖ A MoU has been signed between the Ministry of Education and Abu Dhabi Department of Education, and the IIT Delhi to establish 1st campus of IIT Delhi in Abu Dhabi.
- ❖ The Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) has bagged the SKOCH Award under the theme “State of Governance India 2047” in the gold category.
- ❖ A book titled “India Rising Memoir of a Scientist” was authored by R. Chidambaram and Suresh Gangotra.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia has become the 51st country to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC).
- ❖ The merged entity of HDFC Bank became the world's seventh-most-valuable bank with its market capitalisation soaring to \$154 billion.
- ❖ Spinner Ravichandran Ashwin surpassed Harbhajan Singh (707) to become the second-highest wicket-taker (709) for India in international cricket.
- ❖ The Armies of India and Mongolia take part in 15th edition joint military exercise - 'Nomadic Elephant 2023'.
 - It is set to occur in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- ❖ The Adani Group commissioned the India's first transnational project at Godda in Jharkhand to supply power to the Bangladesh electricity grid.
- ❖ Indian shooter Prithviraj Tondaiman bagged the bronze medal in the men's trap event at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup Lonato 2023 in Italy.
- ❖ Operation Trinetra-II is jointly carried out by the Army and the Jammu-Kashmir Police to neutralize hiding terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) and the Government of Maharashtra launched the PM MITRA Park in Amravati.
- ❖ The G20 Global Food Regulators Summit 2023 is organised by FSSAI in Delhi.
- ❖ The External Affairs Minister co-chaired the 12th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) meeting in Bangkok.
- ❖ The World Bank has approved \$1.5 billion in financing to accelerate the development of India's low carbon energy sector.
- ❖ INS Sunayna ship participated in the multinational maritime security exercise known as Op Southern Readiness 2023 in Seychelles.
- ❖ The Indian Army has launched the Tri-Services 'Nari Sashaktikaran Women Motorcycle Rally' to commemorate 24 years of victory over Pakistan in the Kargil War of 1999.



- ❖ The India's fiscal deficit for April-May, narrowed to 11.8% of annual estimates to ₹2.10 trillion, from 12.3% a year ago.
- ❖ The Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBGs) held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ The NITI Aayog has introduced the Techno-Commercial Readiness and Market Maturity Matrix (TCRM Matrix) framework.
 - It aims to revolutionize technology assessment and fuel innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.
- ❖ India hosted the 2-day Global Food Regulators Summit in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) has been conferred with the first prize at the prestigious Swachhta Pakhwada Award - 2023 by the Union Ministry of Power.
- ❖ Salman Rushdie has been awarded the prestigious Peace Prize of the German Book Trade for his literary work.
- ❖ Fatma Al Zahra, A student of School of Excellence in Law of the Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University has won the Best Paper Position Award at the Everest International Model United Nations in 2023.
- ❖ 'Through The Broken Glass: An Autobiography' was authored by T.N. Seshan, the former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India.
- ❖ Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa emerged as the champion in the V Geza Hetenyi Memorial Super GM chess tournament 2023 in Budapest, Hungary.
- ❖ Hachiko, the world's most loyal dog, turns 100 this year.
- ❖ The National Day of the Mango is celebrated every year on July 22 since 1987.
- ❖ Open sea swimmer Anshuman Jhingran from Mumbai became the youngest person (18) in the world to cross the North Channel, near England.
- ❖ HDFC Bank became the second most valuable company by market capitalisation by overtaking the Tata Consultancy Services.
- ❖ US President Joe Biden nominated Admiral Lisa Franchetti to lead the Navy as the first woman to command the service and to become a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- ❖ The 31 member NATO summit of 2023 took place in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania.
- ❖ The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) has established a Credit Guarantee Fund Trust to provide credit guarantee coverage to enabling improved access to finance for the underserved livestock sector.
- ❖ The Gujarat government signed a memorandum of understanding with OneWeb India Communications Pvt Ltd for setting up a India's 1st 'satellite network portal site' at Mehsana in Gujarat.



- ❖ Indian scientists have indigenously developed highly stable, low-cost Carbon-based perovskite solar cells with superior thermal and moisture stability which can help overcome the challenges of degradation during operation.
- ❖ The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has cleared the sale of India's first private hill station - Lavasa in Maharashtra to Darwin Platform Infrastructure for Rs.1,800 crore.
- ❖ Nusrat Choudhury became the first female Muslim federal judge in the United States.
- ❖ The government has extended the unemployment scheme, the Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana, under the Employees' State Insurance Corporation for a period of two years up to June 30, 2024.
- ❖ Kerala got the country's first Construction Innovation Hub (CIH) which seeks to promote affordable and sustainable building facilities to foster collaboration, innovation and knowledge-sharing among stakeholders.
- ❖ Indian cricketer Virat Kohli equals Sir Don Bradman's record (29 centuries in 52 tests) of most test centuries (29) in his 111th Test match.
- ❖ Elon Musk renamed Twitter as X and unveiled a new logo, marking a focus on building an "everything app."
- ❖ Every year July 24 is observed as US National Thermal Engineers Day to celebrate the contribution of thermal engineers to society.
- ❖ The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has issued a warning about a new internet ransomware virus called 'Akira' which targets both Windows and Linux-based systems.
- ❖ Rajasthan is set to become the first state to have a separate law for gig workers known as the 'Platform-Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2023.'
- ❖ Power Finance Corporation (PFC) became the first member from India to join "Asia Transition Finance Study Group" (ATFSG).
- ❖ Banks wrote off bad loans worth over Rs 2.09 lakh crore during financial year (FY) 2022-23, taking the total loan write-off by the banking sector to Rs 10.57 lakh crore in the last five years.
- ❖ Sarita and Rakesh Kumar won India's first-ever gold medal in the World Archery Para Championships in Pilsen, Czech Republic.
- ❖ India and Australia have formed a joint working group to explore the possibility of a mutual recognition agreement (MRA) that would help Indian whiskey makers' access to the Australian market.
- ❖ US National Parents' Day, observed on the fourth Sunday of July (July 23), honours parents for their love and sacrifices.



- ❖ The Union Ministry Jal Shakti has released the Manual for Disaster Management Plan (DMP).
- ❖ Central Govt approves 8.15% rate for Provident Fund (PF) deposits for 2022-23.
- ❖ India's first fisheries Atal incubation centre in fisheries is to be set up in the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (Kufos).
- ❖ Phangnon Konyak became the first woman member from Nagaland to preside over the Rajya Sabha.
 - She is also the first woman to be elected to Rajya Sabha from Nagaland (April 2022) and the second woman from the state to be elected to either house of the Parliament.
- ❖ Worldcoin, a cryptocurrency project, is founded by OpenAI CEO Sam Altman.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's first 'State Agricultural Fair (Agriculture Sangamam)' was held in Trichy.
- ❖ The 4th Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) and Environment and Climate Ministers' meeting was held in Chennai.
- ❖ The United Kingdom government signed a memorandum of understanding with Tamil Nadu to set up projects to conserve native plants.
- ❖ The President of India has conferred the prestigious National Geoscience Awards-2022 (NGA) of the Ministry of Mines to Twenty-two Geoscientists.
- ❖ International Committee on Credit Reporting (ICCR) approved the Bank of Israel's accession as a member of the organization.
- ❖ Aditya Samant from Maharashtra becomes India's 83rd chess Grandmaster.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has decided to recognise Handball Association of India (HAI) as a National Sports Federation (NSF).
- ❖ The 5th Helicopter and Small Aircraft Summit (Heli Summit 2023) was jointly organized at Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
 - The theme of the event was "Reaching the Last Mile: Regional Connectivity through Helicopters and Small Aircraft".
- ❖ The World Nature Conservation Day was annually observed July 28.
 - The theme for 2023 is "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet".
- ❖ The Supreme Court extended Enforcement Directorate (ED) Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra's tenure till September 15.
- ❖ An MLA of Tamil Nadu is entitled to a monthly salary of ₹1.05 lakh, apart from the sitting fees paid every day when the Assembly was in session.
 - Whereas the monthly salary of an MLA elevated to the post of Minister was only ₹76,800.



- ❖ Canara Bank topped the list of public sector banks with the highest lending to corporations and PSUs of States and Union Territories for the fifth year in a row.
- ❖ India's Scheduled Commercial Banks have done aggregate recovery of Rs 10,16,617 crore during the last nine financial years.
- ❖ Ireland and Scotland have qualified next year's ICC Men's T20 World Cup in the USA and the West Indies.
- ❖ The 8th India-Australia Defence Policy Talks (DPT) was held at Canberra, Australia.
- ❖ Every year, International Friendship Day is celebrated on July 30 since 2011.
 - ❖ The Longwood Shola in Nilgiris accredited with the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy accreditation.

TAMIL NADU

Police Drone Unit

- ❖ India's first 'Police Drone Unit' was launched in Chennai.
- ❖ The Director General of Police (DGP) and Head of Police Force C. Sylendra Babu inaugurated the newly created special unit at Besant Avenue, Adyar.
- ❖ The unit has been established at a two-storey building and functions with over 20 trained police personnel.
- ❖ At present, the drones are operated around Marina and Elliot's beaches.
- ❖ In this Drone Police Unit, a total of nine drones under three categories namely — Quick response surveillance drones; heavy lift multicopter Drone and long-range survey wing plane — are available and are equipped with built-in artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities.
- ❖ These drones can be operated from the control room up to 5 km.

Dismissal of Senthil Balaji

- ❖ The Tamilnadu government released the decree for Senthil Balaji will continue as Minister Without Portfolio already.
- ❖ But Tamil Nadu Governor dismissed the arrested former Electricity Minister V Senthil Balaji from the state cabinet.

- ❖ Meanwhile, the order of dismissal of the minister V Senthil Balaji may be kept in abeyance until further communication.
- ❖ The Governor will be approaching the Attorney General for his opinion on this issue.

State-level commission for sanitary workers

- ❖ National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Chairperson M. Venkatesan urged the TN government to establish a State-level commission for sanitary workers in order to redress their grievances.
- ❖ State-level commissions were established in 11 States in the country.
- ❖ In India, Tamil Nadu recorded the second highest number of deaths of sanitary workers while cleaning septic tanks.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh tops in this list.
- ❖ 225 lives lost between 1993 and 2023.

Tamil Nādu soil portal

- ❖ Tamilnadu Chief Minister inaugurated a portal to help farmers know the soil health of their land.
- ❖ He also released a coffee table book, Netta Netta Panaimarama, on palmyra trees.
- ❖ Farmers could access the portal to know the soil health status through a geo-referenced survey number.
- ❖ Portal Address is <http://tnagriculture.in/mannvalam>.
- ❖ Farmers could also get other details such as pH, organic carbon and calcareousness.



**இந்தியாவில் முதல்முறையாக
மண்வள விவரங்களை இணையத்தில் பார்க்கலாம்**

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இடத்தின் பெயர்	நிலை குறியீடு (அளவு)	பெயர்	மதிப்பு	நிலை குறியீடு (அளவு)	பெயர்	மதிப்பு	நிலை குறியீடு (அளவு)	பெயர்	மதிப்பு
சூழல் தரம்	0.00	0.0 - 0.1	மிகவும் குறைவு	pH	6	5.5 - 6.5	சராசரி	கரிம கரிம	0.7
செயல் தரம்	0.2	0.0 - 0.2	மிகவும் குறைவு	செயல்	7	4.0 - 8	மிகவும் குறைவு	கரிம கரிம	0.7
செயல் தரம்	0.2	0.0 - 0.2	மிகவும் குறைவு	செயல்	7	4.0 - 8	மிகவும் குறைவு	கரிம கரிம	0.7

உங்கள் இடத்தின் மண்வள அட்டையை டவுன்லோட் செய்யலாம்.

Neolithic age celt in Dharmapuri

- ❖ Archaeological excavations in Poothinatham, Dharmapuri district have yielded a celt belonging to the Neolithic age.
- ❖ This is the second celt discovered at the site.
- ❖ It could have been used for cutting trees or hunting.
- ❖ The celt, made of Doloraid, was also used as a plough and axe.
- ❖ A celt is a long, thin, prehistoric stone or bronze tool.



GST revenue collection

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Goods and Services Tax (GST) zone has contributed 8.12% of all of India's GST revenue.
- ❖ It also provided 4.72% of the all-India Central Excise Revenue in 2022-23.
- ❖ The year-on-year national growth in GST revenue collection is 21% during 2022-23 compared to the previous year.
- ❖ Likewise, the Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Zone revenue has shown a 19% increase in 2022-23 compared to last year.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu stands third in the large State category after Karnataka and Maharashtra.

First 1000 – Best Healthy Days

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Health Ministry launched the 'First 1000 – Best Healthy Days' programme.
- ❖ It aims at monitoring the nutrition of pregnant women and newborns for the first 1,000 days.
- ❖ It was inaugurated at the Primary Health Centre in Thimiri block near Arcot.

- ❖ This scheme is being implemented in all the 23 Community Health Centers and 116 Primary Health Centres of 14 districts based on the poor maternal and child health indicators in the State.
- ❖ In two years, 74,400 infants will be covered under the initiative.

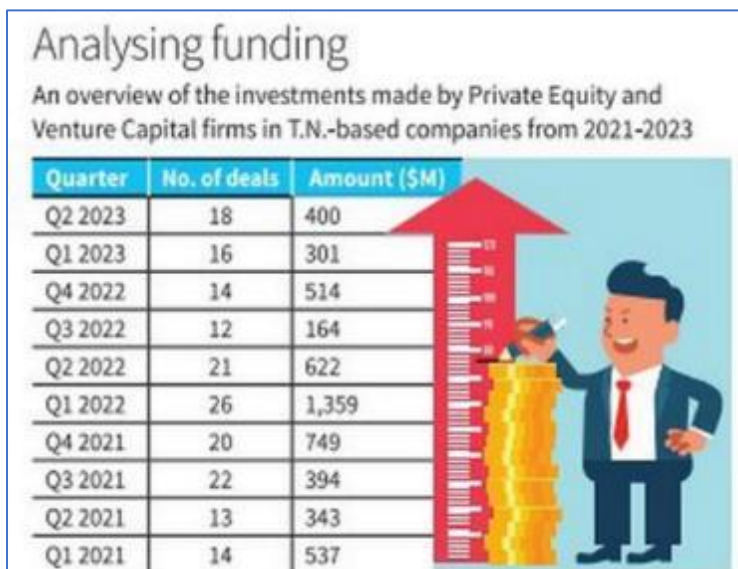
SIPCOT BizBuddy Outreach

- ❖ A new initiative called ‘SIPCOT BizBuddy Outreach’ inaugurated recently.
- ❖ It aims at improving the industrial ecosystem in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The first ever outreach event held at the SIPCOT Oragadam Industrial Park.
- ❖ The annual outreach events will now be held across all industrial parks of SIPCOT starting this year.

24 reserve forests in 2 years

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has added 24 reserve forests covering an area of 3585.3 hectares in the last two years.
- ❖ Under the Green Tamil Nadu Mission, the state aims to increase tree and forest cover from 23.69 percent to 33 percent.
- ❖ The State has notified reserve forests in eight districts Dindigul, Dharmapuri, Madurai, Namakkal, Nilgiris, Kallakurichi, Sivagangai, and Theni in 2021-2023.
- ❖ They are announced under Section 16 of the Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882.

PE and VC investments



- ❖ Private Equity and Venture Capital companies invested \$400 million across 18 deals in Tamil Nadu-based companies during the second quarter of 2023.
- ❖ The investment value has dropped by 35.69%, compared with the same period last year.
- ❖ During the second quarter of 2022, these companies invested \$622 million across 21 deals.
- ❖ The first six months of this year, the investments have fallen by 64.61%.
- ❖ From January to June 2023, these companies pumped in \$701 million across 34 deals.
- ❖ During the same time last year around \$1,981 million was invested across 47 deals.

Second-best groundwater availability in the country

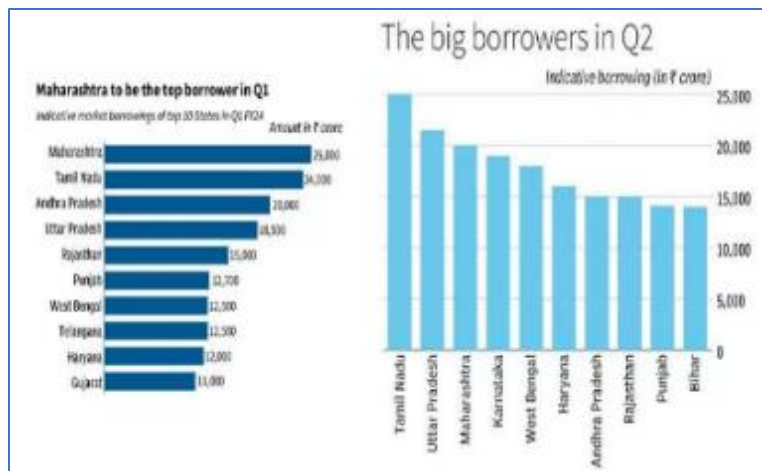


- ❖ In Union Jal Shakti Ministry's annual ranking, Namakkal achieved second place in the conservation and management category for the year 2022.
- ❖ The district, with a population of 1.7 million.
- ❖ It successfully addressed its water scarcity challenges and became the second-best district in India in terms of groundwater availability.
- ❖ The average water level was 10.35 metres below ground level (mbgl) in January 2018.

- ❖ In the following year, it was 11.48 mbgl in January.
- ❖ In January 2020, it came down to 9.57 mbgl; in 2021, it was 9.82 mbgl; 6 mbgl in 2022.

25,000 crore market borrowings

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government plans to raise ₹25,000 crore from market borrowings in the second quarter (July-September) of fiscal 2024.
- ❖ It borrows from the market through the auction of bonds known as State Development Loans (SDL).
- ❖ As per the budget for 2023-24, the State government plans to borrow a total amount of ₹1,43,197.93 crore in 2023-24.
- ❖ It also will make repayments of ₹51,331.79 crore.
- ❖ The net borrowings are projected at ₹91,866.14 crore.
- ❖ It was including ₹82,625.96 crore of net open market borrowings and ₹9,240.18 crore from other sources.
- ❖ The Centre has fixed a borrowing ceiling for the States.
- ❖ States can borrow up to 3% of their Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for 2023-24.
- ❖ An additional borrowing of 0.5% of GSDP is allowed for fulfilment of power sector reforms.
- ❖ In the Budget Estimates for 2023-24, Tamil Nadu's fiscal deficit is estimated at 3.25% of the GSDP.
- ❖ The fiscal deficit is the difference between total receipts and total expenditure.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu ended fiscal 2022-23 with gross market borrowings of ₹87,000 crore and was the top borrowing State.



Electronic goods' export

Top performers				
State	FY23 (in \$ billion)	% share of India's exports	FY22 (in \$ billion)	% share of India's exports
Tamil Nadu	5.37	22.83	1.86	11.98
Uttar Pradesh	4.9	20.85	3.77	24.25
Karnataka	4.52	19.22	3.87	24.89
Maharashtra	2.68	11.41	2.08	13.39

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has become the top exporter of electronic goods in India.
- ❖ It exports nearly tripling in the 2022-2023 financial year to \$5.37 billion.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has accounted for a share of 22.8 % of India's exports valued at \$ 23.57 billion.
- ❖ In the previous year, It stood third contributing \$ 1.864 billion or 11.98 % to India's total export of \$ 15.59 billion in the sector.
- ❖ Now TN has Surpassing Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

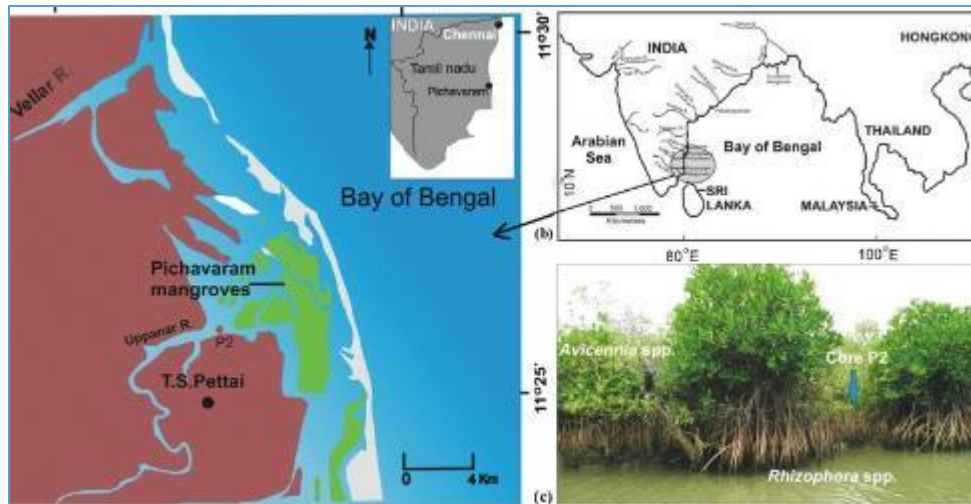
White-rumped Vulture in Nilgiris



- ❖ Despite the protective measures, the future remains extremely perilous for white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) in the Sigur plateau in the Nilgiris.
- ❖ They are listed as Critically Endangered.
- ❖ Research done in Sigur between 2013 and 2017 has shown that the population had hovered between 152 individuals in 2013 to a peak of 167 individuals in 2017.

- ❖ A study has highlighted the stagnation of the population in Sigur.
- ❖ 46 white-rumped vultures died between 2013 and 2017.

Mangrove cover restoration in Pichavaram

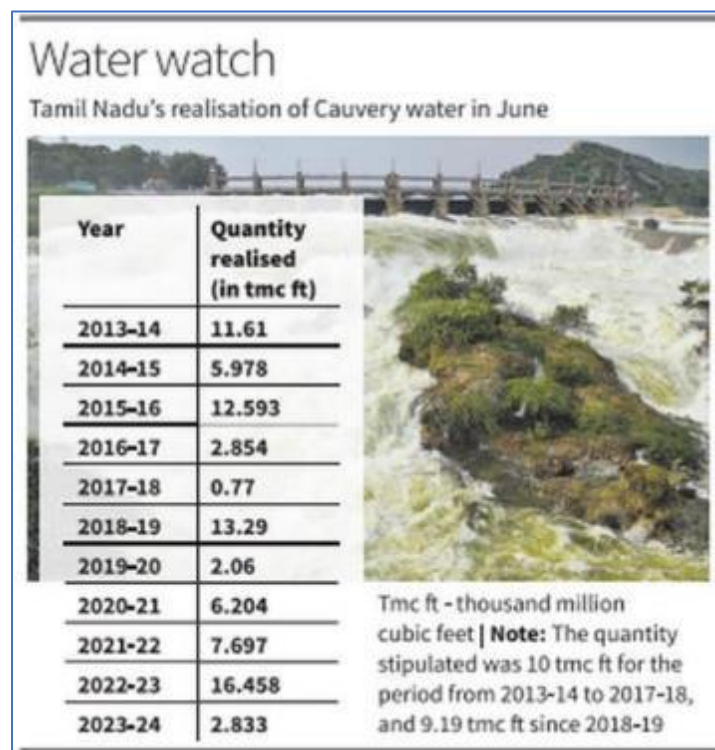


- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has drawn up a comprehensive plan for the rehabilitation of coastal habitats by creating bio-shields, and restoring degraded mangroves in Cuddalore district.
- ❖ The Department will increase mangrove cover in the region by 100 hectares for the year 2023-24.
- ❖ The Pichavaram mangroves are among the most productive ecosystems in the State, and are a storehouse of biodiversity.
- ❖ It is supporting 840 species of flora and fauna.
- ❖ These includes 115 species of birds, 16 species of mammals, 11 amphibians, 177 species of finfish, 95 species of zooplanktons, 82 phytoplanktons, 35 species of butterflies, 17 snakes and 3 species of seagrass.
- ❖ The mangrove cover in Tamil Nadu is 44.94 square kilometres (sq km), out of which 7.73 sq km fall in Cuddalore.
- ❖ About 21% of Pichavaram is occupied by waterbodies, 27% by healthy mangrove vegetation, 38% by mudflats with sparsely grown mangroves.

Poor realization of Cauvery water

- ❖ The poor realisation of Cauvery water in June this year marked the seventh occasion in the last 10 years.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is having received less than the State's share for the month.

- ❖ The stipulated quantity is 9.19 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft) for June.
- ❖ But the State got a mere 2.833 tmc ft, a shortfall of 6.357 tmc ft.
- ❖ The State realised the highest quantity of around 16.5 tmc ft in 2022 since 2013.
- ❖ The previous month's realisation was also the fourth instance in which the State received less than one-third of its share.
- ❖ The other three occasions were June 2016, 2017 and 2019 when it realised 2.854 tmc ft, 0.77 tmc ft and 2.06 tmc ft respectively.
- ❖ The realisation during June 2017- 0.77 tmc ft -was also the lowest for the month in the last 10 years.

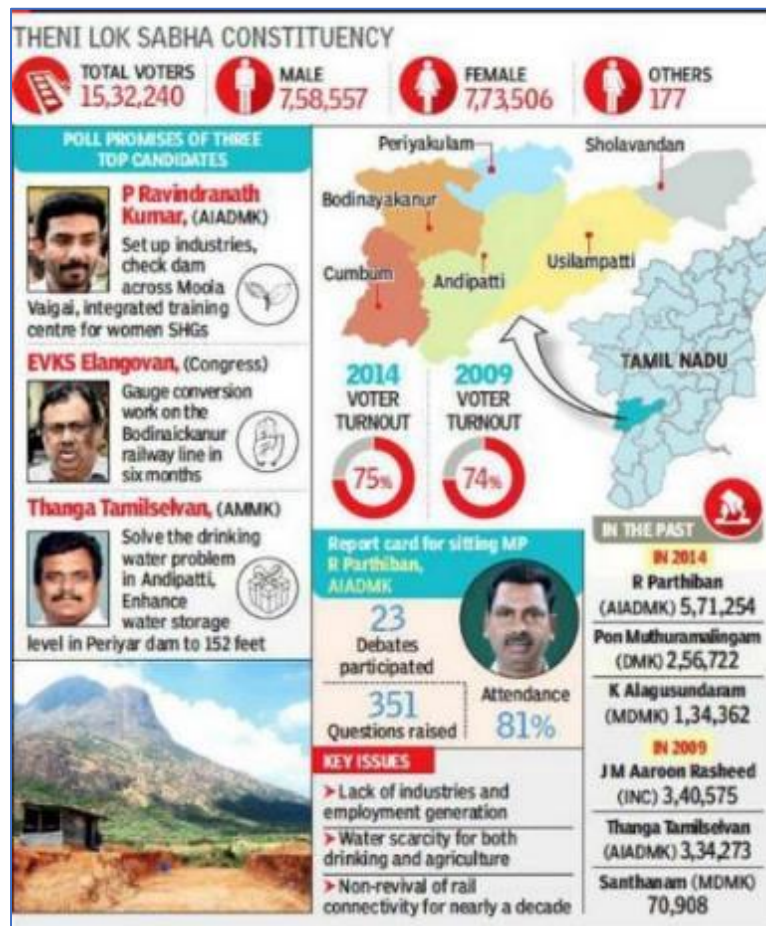


Tamil Nadu Power Fences (Registration and Regulation) Rules 2023

- ❖ The State government has notified the first-ever Tamil Nadu Power Fences (Registration and Regulation) Rules 2023.
- ❖ This would standardize and regulate erection of power fences (including Solar) within a 5 kms radius of forest areas.
- ❖ The new rule would also standardise and regulate already erected power fences around farmlands.
- ❖ It is mandatory to seek prior permission to erect power fences including solar fences and register already elected fences.

- ❖ The rule will be applicable only within 5 km of a notified reserve forest area.
- ❖ All companies in business of erecting power fences are now mandated to comply with BIS standard viz., BIS-302-2-76 (India) norms.
- ❖ The District Forest Officer (DFO), after inspecting the site and verifying the conformity of specifications along with Tamil Nadu Electricity Board officials, would consider an application within 45 days for approval, reduction or rejection.

2019 election of Theni MP



- ❖ The Madras High Court on Thursday, July 6, 2023 declared as null and void, the election of P. Ravindranath Kumar from the Theni Parliamentary constituency in 2019.
- ❖ It has been challenged the MP's election on various grounds including suppression of his sources of income in the election affidavit submitted at the time of filing nominations.
- ❖ It also challenged on the grounds of the alleged bribing of voters during the course of campaigning.



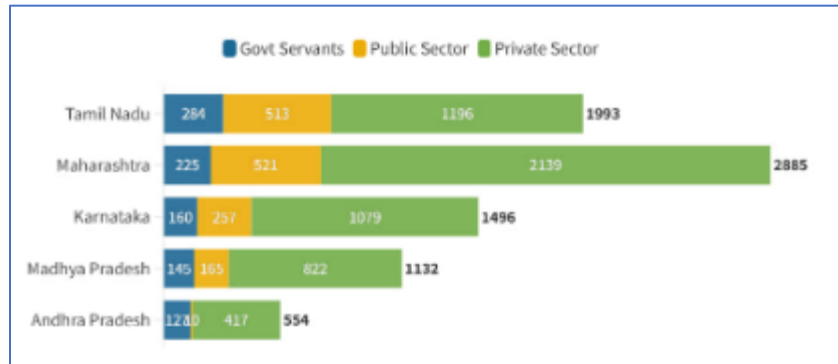
Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai – Guidelines

- ❖ The Tamilnadu State government released the operational guidelines for the implementation of 'Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai'.
- ❖ The scheme has been touted as the first-of-its-kind programme in the country.
- ❖ It is to be launched on September 15, the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister Annadurai.
- ❖ Women, who have completed 21 years of age (born before September 15, 2002), are eligible to apply for the scheme.
- ❖ Only one-woman member in a ration card is eligible to apply.
- ❖ Other Eligibility criteria:
 - Women with an annual family income of less than ₹2.5 lakh.
 - Family land holding not exceeding 5 acres (wetland) and 10 acres (dryland).
 - Annual household electricity consumption below 3,600 units.
- ❖ Ineligible for scheme:
 - Women with an annual family income exceeding ₹2.5 lakh and who are income tax assesses.
 - Those with more than ₹2.5 lakh annual income and paying professional tax
 - Employees of Central and State governments/
 - Elected representatives (excluding village panchayat ward members),
 - Those having four-wheelers such as cars, jeeps, tractors and heavy vehicles for personal use are also ineligible.
 - "Families that are receiving aid from social security programmes such as old-age pension, widow pension, pension from the welfare board for the unorganised sector.
- ❖ A sum of ₹7,000 crore has been allotted in the Budget for this scheme.

Highest number of suicides of government employees

- ❖ The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) published the report for 2021.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu recorded the highest number of suicides of government employees in the country in these two years.
- ❖ Nearly one in every five suicides of government employees reported in the country in 2021 was from Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ With 18,925 suicides, the Tamilnadu State is ranked only next to Maharashtra (22,207).

- ❖ 2017 – 2021 witnessed the sharp increase in the suicides among those in the PSUs is of particular concern.



Tamil Nadu iron age period

- ❖ As per new evidences, an iron age civilisation existed in Tamil Nadu parallel to the Indus Valley civilization.
- ❖ Recent dating has established that objects excavated from Sivakalai in Tuticorin district are from 2,500 BCE to 3,000 BCE.
- ❖ Indus Valley civilisation lasted from 3,300 BCE to 1,300 BCE.
- ❖ A previous dating of samples from Mayiladumparai in Krishnagiri district showed them to be from 2,172 BCE.



Sangam-age stud and bead

- ❖ A gold stud, a bone point and a carnelian bead have been unearthed by at Porpanaikottai in Pudukkottai.
- ❖ It was probably used as a nose stud and is an indication of the culture of the Sangam Age
- ❖ The bone point and the broken piece of carnelian bead were found in another trench.

- ❖ The discovery of the red round-shaped carnelian bead is a pointer to domestic trade.
- ❖ Carnelian beads have been found at Kodumanal and a few other places in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The stones were usually sourced from Gujarat.



Air pollution in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has seen a steady decline in air pollution in urban and rural areas between 2017 and 2022.
- ❖ The State has recorded a 22% reduction in fine particulate matter over the five-year period.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu's rural areas, the PM 2.5 level dropped from 46.6 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (microgram per cubic metre) in 2017 to 32.9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2022.
- ❖ Whereas in urban places, the PM 2.5 levels were 42.7 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2017 and 33.1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ last year.
- ❖ Among major cities, Chennai also saw a fall of PM 2.5 levels from 40.86 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2017 to 28.90 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in 2022.
- ❖ Fine particulate matter is defined as particles that are 2.5 microns or less in diameter (PM 2.5).
- ❖ Under the NCAP, only three cities in Tamil Nadu - Chennai, Madurai, and Tuticorin - have been categorised as non-attainment cities.

Flagpole at Fort St. George

- ❖ The State government is refurbishing the rampart and the flagpole in Fort St. George at Chennai for the 77th Independence Day celebrations.

- ❖ The 148-foot flagpole was the tallest in the country at the time of Independence.
- ❖ The fort was named after St. George since it was the first factory within the fortified enclosure completed on April 23, 1640.
- ❖ It was the East India Company's principal settlement until 1774, when Calcutta was declared to be the seat of the government.
- ❖ The national flag was hoisted by Governors till 1974.
- ❖ The former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi persuaded the Centre to grant the right to hoist the flag to Chief Ministers on Independence Day celebration.

First flying training school

- ❖ India now has 36 DGCA-approved flying schools.
- ❖ The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) gave its nod to EKVI Air Training Organization Pvt Ltd.
- ❖ It will be based at Salem Airport.
- ❖ This will be the first flying training organisation (FTO) in Tamil Nadu.

Clay doll at Vembakottai



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA) recently found a clay doll at the Vembakottai excavation site in Virudhunagar district.
- ❖ It is a clay doll of a male figure which was painted with black color.
- ❖ The headdress and the lip smile are polished.
- ❖ The eyes and their brows are drawn in the shape of a koyal.
- ❖ The second phase of archaeological excavation in Vembakottai has led to the discovery of over 800 artefacts.
- ❖ It includes terracotta era lobes, smoking pipe, spindle whorl, copper coin and glass beads.

Tamil translations of Homer's Greek epics

- ❖ The Tamil translations of The Iliad and The Odyssey, the two Greek epics of Homer, were released recently.
- ❖ It was part of the project, launched by Chief Minister, to translate and publish international classics into Tamil.
- ❖ The International Institute of Tamil Studies is in charge of the project.
- ❖ Professor Marudanayagam has rendered The Iliad into Tamil in prose form.
- ❖ Pon Chinnathambi Murugesan, a former government employee at the Secretariat, has translated The Odyssey into Tamil in verse form.
- ❖ Mr. Murugesan earlier translated Tao of Physics by Fritjof Capra, The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho, Roots by Alex Haley and The Travels of Marco Polo.

Kalaignar Centenary Library



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated the state-of-the-art Kalaignar Centenary Library in Madurai.
- ❖ The six-storey building, with a built-up area of 2.13 lakh square feet, has come up on 2.70 acres.
- ❖ It has different sections, including those for children and the differently abled.

GI Tag for Authoor betel leaves

- ❖ Geographical Indications Registry issued the GI Tag for Authoor betel leaves to Thoothukudi district administration.
- ❖ These betel leaves are nurtured by Thamirabarani river water.
- ❖ The leaves also find a mention in the 13th-Century book 'The Travels of Marco polo.
- ❖ The district is also waiting for the GI tag recognition of Kayathar lemon, Srivaikuntam banana, and Udangudi Karupatti.

Monthly pay for urban local body representatives



- ❖ In a first, the Tamil Nadu government has decided to pay a monthly honorarium for all elected representatives of urban local bodies, including mayors.
- ❖ The honorarium for mayors will be Rs 30,000 per month, deputy mayors will get Rs 15,000, and corporation councillors will get Rs 10,000 per month.
- ❖ Municipal chairpersons will get Rs 15,000, vice-chairpersons Rs 10,000, and municipal councillors Rs 5,000.
- ❖ Chairpersons of town panchayats will get Rs 10,000, vice-chairpersons will get Rs 5,000 every month throughout their tenure.

Pazhayarai temple gopuram





- ❖ The dilapidated gopuram of the Somanathar temple at Pazhayarai near Kumbakonam will be renovated by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department.
- ❖ The Somanathar temple is situated on the banks of the Thirumalairajan river, a tributary of the Cauvery.
- ❖ Decades of neglect has earned it the name, 'mottai gopuram'.
- ❖ There is adequate evidence for Pazhayarai to be the capital of the Cholas once.
- ❖ It existed even in the 5th Century.
- ❖ Pazhayarai lost its importance with the capital shifted to Thanjavur.
- ❖ The National Institute of Technology (NIT), Tiruchi, has submitted a report after studying the gopuram and the soil around the temple.

Book on importance of mangroves ecosystem

- ❖ A book on the importance of the mangrove ecosystem authored by scientists from the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) was released recently.
- ❖ The pictorial book titled Biodiversity and Importance of Mangrove Ecosystem.
- ❖ It contains descriptions of mangrove species across India, medicinal uses of mangroves, and several wildlife creatures that thrive in the ecosystem.

Tamil Nadu Day - July 18

- ❖ Former Chief Minister C.N. Annadurai, passed a resolution on July 18th 1967, to rename the Madras State as Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The previous AIADMK government had announced that November 1 would be observed as Tamil Nadu Day from 2019.
- ❖ The then Madras Presidency, became Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala on November 1, 1956.

Chola-period temple in Budalur

- ❖ The Chola-era Abathsagayeswarar temple in Budalur, near Thirukkattupalli in Thanjavur district, is in bad shape.
- ❖ The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department has decided to renovate it.
- ❖ The importance of the temple is explained by inscriptions dating back to Parantaka Chola (907-953 CE).

- ❖ There are two more inscriptions and one belongs to the period of Kulothunga III (1178-1218 CE) and another to the period of Pandya king Jatavarma Sundara Pandya (1250-1284).
- ❖ The temples would have existed long before the emergence of Cholas, who have converted it into a stone structure.
- ❖ It has been recorded in the Annual Report of the Indian Epigraphy published in 1972-73.



Beneficiaries of pension schemes

Sl.No	Scheme	Date of Commencement
1	Old Age Pension (OAP) Launched by Government of Tamil Nadu	01-04-1962
2	Destitute Physically Handicapped Pension (PHP) renamed as Destitute Differently Abled Pension scheme (DDAP)	01-11-1974
3	Destitute Widow Pension scheme (DWP)	01-06-1975
4	Destitute Agricultural Labourers Pension Scheme (DALP) now implemented under Chief Minister's Uzhavar Padhukappu Thittam	15-03-1981
5	Destitute / Deserted Wives Pension scheme (DDWP)	03-05-1984
6	National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS)	15-08-1995
7	National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) renamed as Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)	19-11-2007
8	Pension to Unmarried, Poor, Incapacitated Women of age 50 years and above (UWP)	01-07-2008
9	Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGN-WPS)	01-04-2010
10	Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGN-DPS)	01-04-2010



- ❖ Beneficiaries of social security pension schemes implemented by the various departments of the Tamil Nadu government will get ₹1,200 instead of ₹1,000 per month.
- ❖ Beneficiaries including old-age people, widows, refugees, members of various unorganised workers welfare board, women who remain unmarried even after the age of 50.
- ❖ The monthly pension to the differently-abled had already been increased to ₹1,500 from ₹1,000.

MLA Constituency Development Scheme

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has rendered ₹702 crore for the implementation of the Member of Legislative Assembly Constituency Development Scheme (MLACDS) for 2023-24.
- ❖ 351 crore rupees (50% of the fund) for the MLACDS 2023-24 released recently.
- ❖ Rural Development Department has framed detailed guidelines for the scheme's implementation.
- ❖ A sum of ₹3 crore has been allocated for every MLA to undertake development works in his/her Assembly constituency.

6,000 crore Proposals for investments

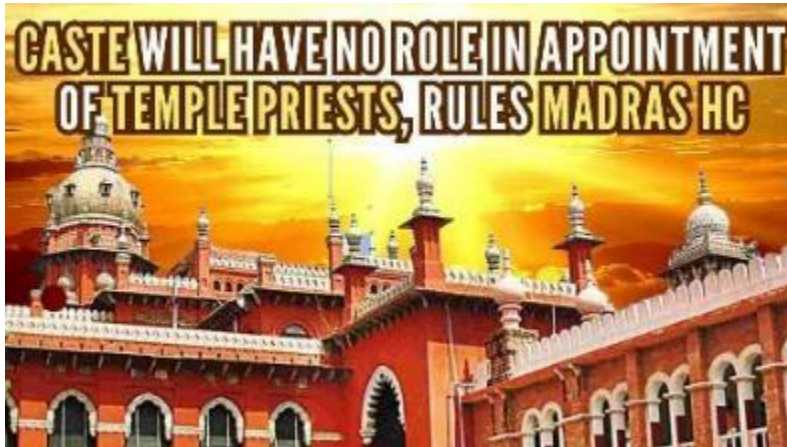
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Cabinet cleared 10 industrial projects, which will bring in ₹6,000 crore in investments.
- ❖ They have a potential to create 27,000 jobs.
- ❖ Of the 10 projects, two are electric-vehicle projects, three are in general manufacturing, and one in electronics hardware.
- ❖ There is one project in the technical textile space.
- ❖ Godrej Consumer Products Limited will set up a plant in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Last year, the government unveiled the Life Sciences Policy, 2022, and the Research & Development Policy, 2022.
- ❖ The main goal of the R&D Policy is to double the R&D expenditure from the government, higher education and private sectors by 2030.
- ❖ It will transform Tamil Nadu into a knowledge-based economy by 2030, driving manufacturing and services excellence.

- ❖ The Life Sciences Policy was aimed at attracting ₹20,000 crore in investments and generate 50,000 jobs.
- ❖ This will be transforming the State into the most preferred destination for researchers in biologics, biosimilars and medical technology.

Manarkeni app

- ❖ Tamil Nadu School Education Department has launched an app called 'Manarkeni'.
- ❖ This app will have videos in English and Tamil based on concepts from the Tamil Nadu State Board syllabus across all classes.
- ❖ This have been created by the State Council for Educational Research and Training (SCERT).
- ❖ This initiative aims to encourage students to understand concepts better and promote critical thinking.

Appointment of temple priests



- ❖ The Madras High Court refused to stay the operation of a single judge's June 26 verdict.
- ❖ The June 26 verdict said caste would have no role to play in the appointment of Archakas (temple priests).
- ❖ Also, any person properly trained to perform pujas and other rituals as per the Agama Sastra could be appointed to the post.
- ❖ These directions contrary to the law laid down by the Supreme Court in Seshammal's case (1972).

- ❖ Karana Agama, as well as the other 27 Saiva Agamas clearly prescribe that only persons belonging to the denomination of Adi Saivars/Sivachariyars/Gurukkals are eligible to become Archakas in temples governed by the 28 Saiva Agamas.
- ❖ This custom was upheld by the Supreme Court in Seshammal's case.
- ❖ Other cases related to this issue
 - Srimad Perarulala Ethiraja Ramanuja Jeeyar Swami versus State of Tamil Nadu (1972).
 - Adi Saiva Sivachariyargal Nala Sangam versus Government of Tamil Nadu (2016).

Tamil Nadu tiger population



- ❖ The tiger population in Tamil Nadu has risen from 264 in 2018 to 306 in 2022.
- ❖ Among the southern states, Karnataka has the most tigers at 563 followed by TN with 306 and Kerala with 213.
- ❖ In the Western Ghats region that is spread across the three southern states, the tiger population in 2022 is at 1,087 against 981 in 2018.
- ❖ Compared to 2006, when 76 tigers were recorded in TN, there has been a four-fold increase, more than the other southern states.
- ❖ In Kerala, the number of tigers which was 190 during the 2018 census went up to 213 in 2022.
- ❖ In Karnataka, the big cat population went up from 524 in 2018 to 563 in 2022.

NATIONAL

Rannvijay exercise

- ❖ The Indian Air Force recently conducted Exercise Rannvijay at UB hills, Karnataka.
- ❖ It aimed at enhancing the skills of fighter pilots through day and night operations involving combat aircraft like Su-30s.
- ❖ The exercise took place in the UB Hills and Central Air Command Area at Karnataka from June 16 to June 23.
- ❖ The exercise provided an opportunity for pilots to sharpen their operational capabilities and strengthen their proficiency in executing complex manoeuvres.



NANDI Portal



- ❖ The Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying Parshottam Rupala inaugurated NANDI (NOC Approval for New Drug and Inoculation System) portal at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ❖ The portal was developed by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD).

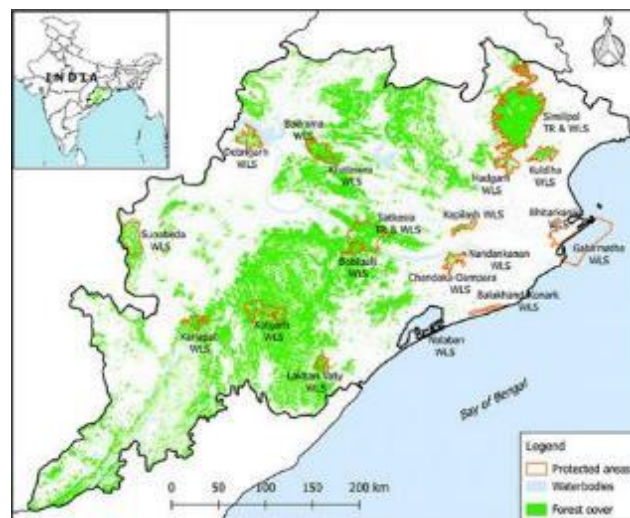
- ❖ It aims to facilitate the process of granting No Objection Certificates (NOC) for veterinary drugs and vaccines in India.

Swachh Survekshan 2023

- ❖ The 8th edition of world's largest urban swachhata survey, Swachh Survekshan 2023 – Mera Shehar, Meri Pehchan, is going to start
- ❖ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched the Field Assessment for Swachh Survekshan (SS) 2023.
- ❖ Under SS 2023, around 3,000 assessors will take the field for assessment from 1 July 2023.
- ❖ The assessors will study performances of 4500+ cities across 46 indicators and it is expected to be completed within a month.



Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary



- ❖ The Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Odisha has recorded a highest prey density and a sighted a tiger during the recent survey.
- ❖ The Sanctuary is located near the reservoir of Hirakud Dam, built on the Mahanadi River, in the Sambalpur district.

New Geographical Indications – Uttar Pradesh

- ❖ The Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai has given tags to seven different products from Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ These products represent the rich heritage and craftsmanship of the region.
- ❖ They are Amroha Dholak, Mahoba Gaura Patthar Hastashlip, Mainpuri Tarkashi, Sambhal Horn Craft, Baghpat Home Furnishings, Barabanki Handloom Product, Kalpi Handmade Paper.

Aadhaar authentication allowed for registration for births and deaths

- ❖ The Centre has allowed the Office of Registrar General of India to use Aadhaar authentication for birth and death registrations.
- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued a notification allowing this.
- ❖ The move aims to promote ease of living and better access to services.
- ❖ However, till now Aadhaar is not mandatory for such registration, and it has been proposed on 'voluntary basis'.

Road Networks in India



- ❖ India now has the second-largest road network in the world, after the US.
- ❖ In 2013-14, the total length of National Highways was 91,287 km has increased to 1,45,240 km in 2022-23.

- ❖ India has a total length of 4,219 km of expressways.
- ❖ The total length of National Highways in India has increased by about 59% in the last nine years.
- ❖ Toll revenue rose from Rs 4,770 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 41,342 crore in 2022-23 (the aim is to increase toll revenue to Rs 1,30,000 crore by 2030).
- ❖ The waiting time at toll plazas has reduced from 734 seconds in 2014 to 47 seconds in 2023, with a goal of further reducing it to 30 seconds.

Dimethyl Ether Fueled Tractor

- ❖ Researchers at IIT Kanpur have developed India's first 100% Dimethyl Ether (DME)-fuelled tractor/vehicle.
- ❖ It is marking a significant step towards a sustainable alternative fuel-based transport system.
- ❖ Dimethyl Ether (DME) is a renewable and clean-burning alternative fuel.
- ❖ It can be used in various applications, including transportation.
- ❖ Under normal atmospheric conditions, DME is a colourless gas.
- ❖ It is produced from natural gas, coal, biomass, or renewable sources through a synthesis process.



Micron semiconductor plant

- ❖ Micron Technology Inc, a US-based semiconductor manufacturer, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Gujarat government to set up a state-of-the-art semiconductor unit in Sanand, near Ahmedabad.
- ❖ It marks a significant milestone in India's journey towards self-reliance in memory chip manufacturing.
- ❖ It will create 5,000 direct jobs and is expected to be commissioned within 18 months.



PM-PRANAM and Urea Gold Schemes



CABINET DECISION
28 JUNE 2023

Package of schemes for farmers

Package

- Continuation of Urea Subsidy Scheme to ensure constant availability of urea to the farmers at the **same price of Rs 242/ 45 kg bag for 3 years**
- 8 Nano urea plants** with production capacity of **44 crore bottles equal to 195 LMT** of conventional urea to be commissioned by 2025-26
- Rs. 1451.84 crore** approved for Market Development Assistance for promoting Organic Fertilizers from GOBARDHAN Plants
- Introduction of **Sulphur coated Urea (Urea Gold)**

2/2

- ❖ The Centre has approved a new scheme PM-PRANAM to incentivise states to promote alternative fertilisers and reduce the use of chemical fertilisers.
- ❖ It is including PM-PRANAM, Urea Gold, and the subsidy for organic manure, reflect the government's commitment to promoting sustainable agriculture.
- ❖ These initiatives include the PM-PRANAM scheme and the introduction of sulphur-coated urea (Urea Gold) to address soil deficiencies.
- ❖ The scheme ensures the availability of fertilizer to farmers at a consistent price of Rs 242/45 kg bag (excluding taxes and neem coating charges).

- ❖ The total outlay for urea subsidy over this period amounts to Rs 3.68 lakh crore.

Green Credit Programme

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has recently notified the draft ‘Green Credit Programme (GCP)’ implementation rules for 2023.
- ❖ The proposed scheme aims to encourage individuals, industries, farmers producers’ organisations (FPOs), urban local bodies (ULB), gram panchayats, and private sectors, among others, to undertake environment-friendly actions such as planting trees, conserving water, waste management, and reducing air pollution.
- ❖ By participating in these activities, entities can earn tradable “green credits” that will be incentivized through a market-based mechanism.

List of “Critical Minerals for India”

- ❖ It was prepared by an expert team constituted by the Ministry of Mines.
- ❖ The Expert Committee has identified a set of 30 critical minerals for India.
- ❖ These are Antimony, Beryllium, Bismuth, Cobalt, Copper, Gallium, Germanium, Graphite, Hafnium, Indium, Lithium, Molybdenum, Niobium, Nickel, PGE, Phosphorous, Potash, REE, Rhenium, Silicon, Strontium, Tantalum, Tellurium, Tin, Titanium, Tungsten, Vanadium, Zirconium, Selenium and Cadmium.

CRITICAL MINERALS: INDIA'S NET IMPORT RELIANCE (2020)		
Critical Mineral	%age	Major import sources
Lithium	100%	Chile, Russia, China, Ireland, Belgium
Cobalt	100%	China, Belgium, Netherlands, US, Japan
Nickel	100%	Sweden, China, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines
Vanadium	100%	Kuwait, Germany, South Africa, Brazil, Thailand
Niobium	100%	Brazil, Australia, Canada, South Africa, Indonesia
Germanium	100%	China, South Africa, Australia, France, US
Rhenium	100%	Russia, UK, Netherlands, South Africa, China
Beryllium	100%	Russia, UK, Netherlands, South Africa, China
Tantalum	100%	Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, Malaysia, US
Strontium	100%	China, US, Russia, Estonia, Slovenia
Zirconium (zircon)	80%	Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, Malaysia, US
Graphite (natural)	60%	China, Madagascar, Mozambique, Vietnam, Tanzania
Manganese	50%	South Africa, Gabon, Australia, Brazil, China
Chromium	2.5%	South Africa, Mozambique, Oman, Switzerland, Turkey
Silicon	<1%	China, Malaysia, Norway, Bhutan, Netherlands

Source: 'Unlocking Australia-India Critical Minerals Partnership Potential', Australian Trade and Investment Commission, July 2021

List of “Critical Minerals for India”

- ❖ The first ever report of the country on the “Critical Minerals for India” unveiled recently.
- ❖ The Centre has identified 30 critical minerals, including lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite, tin and copper.
- ❖ They are essential for the country’s economic development and national security.
- ❖ Minerals are natural substances that are formed by geological processes.
- ❖ Different countries may have their own unique lists of critical minerals based on their specific circumstances and priorities.
- ❖ The US has declared 50 minerals critical in light of their role in national security or economic development.
- ❖ Japan has identified a set of 31 minerals as critical for their economy.
- ❖ The UK considers 18 minerals critical, EU (34) and Canada (31).

30 CRITICAL ELEMENTS/SUBGROUPS
IN PERIODIC TABLE OF ELEMENTS

Brighter elements are ones chosen by India.
Periodic table: American Chemical Society



Legend:

- Alkali Metals
- Alkaline Earth Metals
- Transition Metals
- Other Metals
- Alkaloids
- Non-metals
- Halogens
- Noble Gases
- Lanthanides
- Actinides

Notes:

- ① Carbon is the most abundant element in the Earth's crust.
- ② Pt is a Platinum Group Element (includes elements: Platinum, Palladium, Rhodium, Ruthenium, Iridium, and Osmium).
- ③ Potassium is a group of Potassium-bearing minerals and chemicals.
- ④ REE or Rare Earth Elements are 17 in number: the 15 Lanthanides with atomic numbers 57-71 (Lanthanum, Cerium, Praseodymium, Neodymium, Promethium, Samarium, Europium, Gadolinium, Terbium, Dysprosium, Holmium, Erbium, Thulium, Ytterbium, and Lutetium); Scandium and Yttrium.

Panchayat Development Index

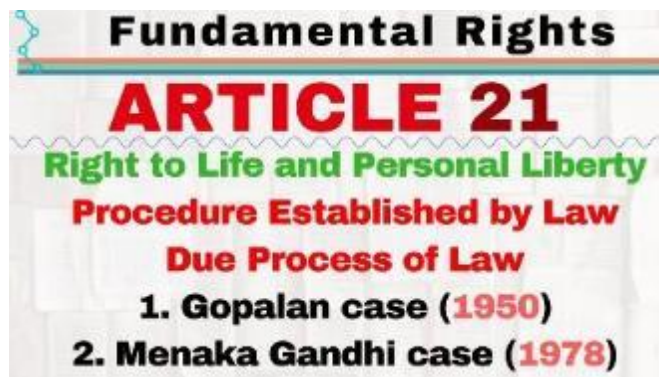
- ❖ A Report on Panchayat Development Index was released by the Union Ministry of State for Panchayati Raj.
- ❖ The Report has come with 144 local targets, 577 local indicators and 688 data points on 9 themes of LSDGs.
- ❖ It will provide rankings for panchayats at different levels, including district, block, and village, based on their overall scores.

- ❖ Panchayats are categorized into four grades: D (scores under 40%), C (40-60%), B (60-75%), A (75-90%), and A+ (above 90%).



Right to Change One's Name

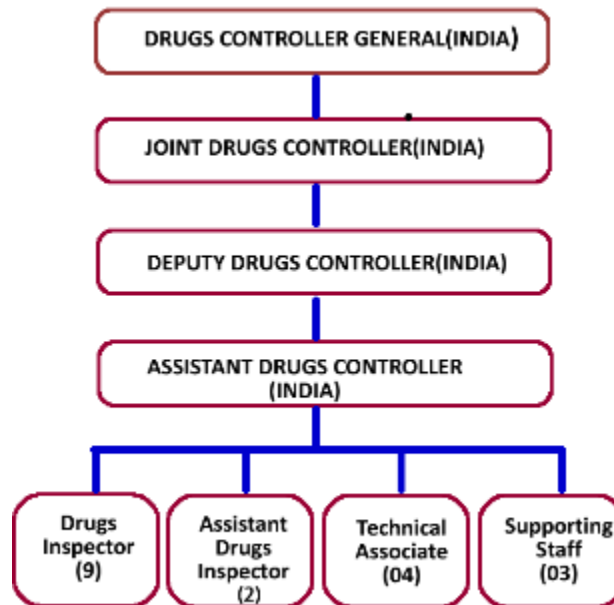
- ❖ The High Courts of Allahabad and Delhi ruled that the right to change one's name or surname is a part of the right to life under Article 21.
- ❖ The action of denial of changing name by authorities, violated the fundamental rights of the petitioner guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a), Article 21, and Article 14 of the Constitution.
- ❖ Earlier, the Kerala HC ruling in “Kashish Gupta vs. Central Board of Secondary Education” (2020), stating, “To have a name and to express the same in the manner he wishes, is certainly a part of the rights in Article 19 (1)(a) and Article 21.



New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules (2023)

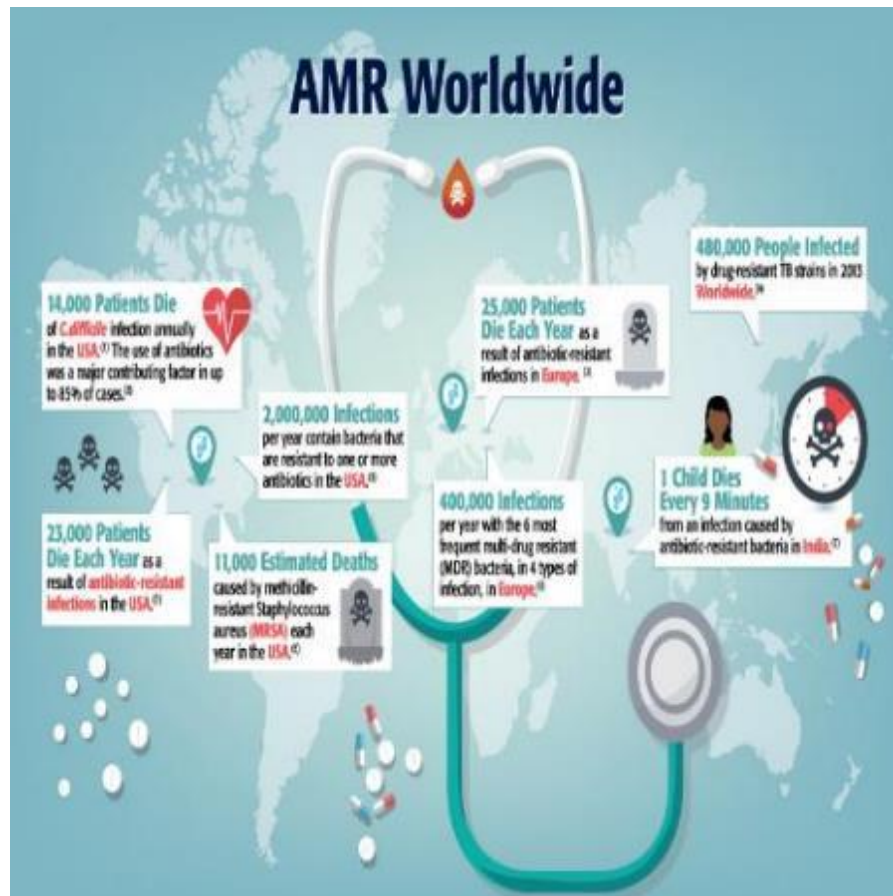
- ❖ An amendment to the New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules (2023), was recently passed by the Government of India.
- ❖ It aims to replace the use of animals in research, especially in drug testing.

- ❖ The amendment authorises researchers to instead use non-animal and human-relevant methods.
- ❖ It includes technologies like 3D organoids, organs-on-chip, and advanced computational methods to test the safety and efficacy of new drugs.
- ❖ The millimetre-sized three-dimensional cellular structures that mimic specific organs of the body, called “organoids” or “mini-organs”.
- ❖ The “organ-on-a-chip” are AA-battery-sized chips lined with human cells connected to microchannels, to mimic blood flow inside the body.



Responsible antibiotic production Certificate

- ❖ A new certification scheme to promote responsible antibiotics manufacturing was launched in India by British Standards Institute (BSI) and AMR Industry Alliance.
- ❖ The certification is the first of its kind, with a third-party validation process, to monitor environmental concerns in the antibiotic manufacturing process.
- ❖ Responsible antibiotic production is critical to encouraging sustainable drug production.
- ❖ This also addresses growing environmental concerns about antimicrobial resistance (AMR) by limiting the release of antibiotic residues into waterways through industrial waste.

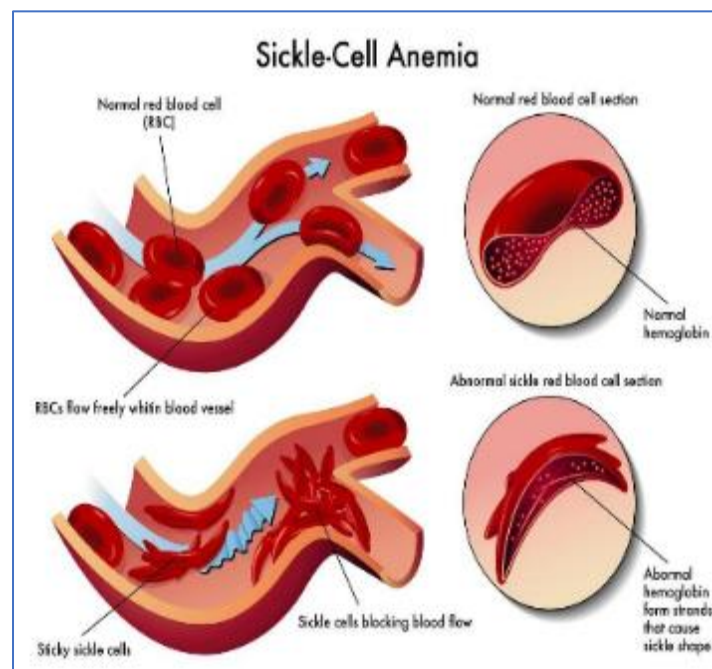


Differential Time-Based Electricity Tariffs

- ❖ The government amended the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules 2020 to make two changes.
- ❖ It will introduce Time-of-Day (ToD) and rationalization of smart meters.
- ❖ The day shall be at least 20 per cent lower than the normal tariff.
- ❖ On the other hand, tariffs during peak hours will be at least 20 per cent higher than the normal tariff for commercial and industrial consumers, and at least 10 per higher for other consumers.
- ❖ During the day time, the tariff could fall by as much as 20%, benefitting consumers.
- ❖ This will potentially help power companies to balance peak power demand.
- ❖ It also giving the ability for consumers to regulate and manage their consumption and control their bills.
- ❖ Around 20 countries, including at least 17 European nations and the United States, have time-based power tariff structures in one form or another.

National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission

- ❖ The National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission was launched recently as announced in the union budget 2023.
- ❖ It aims to address the pressing health challenges posed by sickle cell disease, particularly among the tribal population.
- ❖ The mission aims to eliminate sickle cell disease as a public health problem by 2047.
- ❖ The mission will be implemented in 278 districts of 17 states in India including Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Sickle Cell Anaemia (SCA) is described as a collection of inherited red blood cell conditions that have an impact on haemoglobin, which transports oxygen throughout the body.
- ❖ India has the second-highest global prevalence of Sickle Cell Disease.
- ❖ As per a National Health Mission report, Madhya Pradesh has the highest burden of sickle cell anaemia.



CDRI Headquarters Agreement

- ❖ The Union Cabinet gave nod for ratification of the Headquarters Agreement (HQA) between India and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
- ❖ The CDRI was launched by Prime Minister during the United Nations Climate Action Summit 2019, at New York.

- ❖ It is seen as India's attempts to obtain a global leadership role in climate change and disaster resilience matters.
- ❖ This ratification will facilitate grant of exemptions, immunities and privileges as contemplated under Section- 3 of the United Nations (Privileges & Immunities) Act, 1947.

New Delhi Declaration – SCO

- ❖ The Indian government coined the New Delhi Declaration and proposed at the SCO Summit, aiming to fight against terrorism.
- ❖ The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member nations adopted the New Delhi Declaration.
- ❖ The Declaration also proposes four other joint statements on de-radicalisation, sustainable lifestyle to tackle climate change, production of millets and digital transformation.
- ❖ Russia supports the New Delhi declaration which gives a consolidated approach to international issues.
- ❖ Meanwhile, Pakistan's Shahbaz Sharif warned against the use of terrorism as a 'bat for diplomatic point-swearing'.

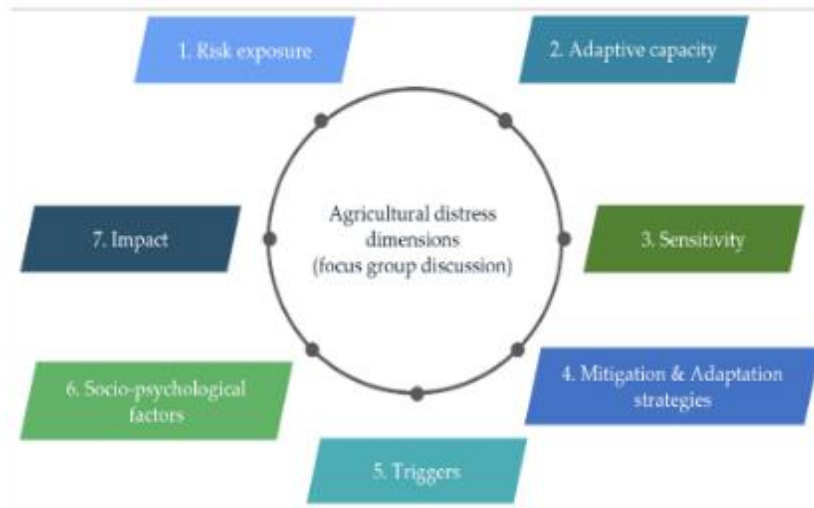
Scheme for minor rape victims



- ❖ This special scheme was announced by the Women and Child Development Ministry.
- ❖ The “scheme for critical care and support for accessing justice to rape/gang rape survivors or minor girls who get pregnant” will provide shelter, food, safe transportation for court hearings, and legal aid.

- ❖ It would operate under the aegis of the Nirbhaya Fund and an amount of ₹74.1 crore has been allocated for the same.
- ❖ Additionally, it leverages the administrative structure of Mission Vatsalya in collaboration with State governments and Child Care institutions [CCIs] to actualise this support to minor victims.
- ❖ In the year 2021, the National Crime Records Bureau reported 51,863 cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.
- ❖ Mission Vatsalya, launched in 2021, is focused on the protection and welfare of children.

Farmers Distress Index



- ❖ The Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA) of ICAR worked on a kind of an early warning system called 'farmers distress index'.
- ❖ It is a first of its kind for India.
- ❖ The main aim behind creating such an index is to minimise the agrarian distress in the form of crop loss / failure and income shock.
- ❖ Based on these 21 questions, the degree of distress will be identified.
- ❖ The index will have values from 0-1.
- ❖ A value between 0-0.5 will indicate 'low distress', 0.5-0.7 will indicate 'moderate' distress and above 0.7 will indicate 'severe' distress.

700 MW nuclear reactor

- ❖ India's first indigenously developed 700 MW nuclear power reactor has started commercial operations.
- ❖ It is located at the Kakrapar atomic power project (KAPP)-3 in Gujarat.

- ❖ The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) is building two 700 MW pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs) at Kakrapar.
- ❖ The government has sanctioned building of 10 indigenously developed PHWRs in fleet mode at four locations.
- ❖ They are Gorakhpur in Haryana, Chutka in Madhya Pradesh, Mahi Banswara in Rajasthan and Kaiga in Karnataka.

State	Location	Project	Capacity (MW)
Karnataka	Kaiga	Kaiga-5&6	2 X 700
Haryana	Gorakhpur	GHAVP- 3&4	2 X 700
Madhya Pradesh	Chutka	Chutka-1&2	2 X 700
Rajasthan	Mahi Banswara	Mahi Banswara-1&2	2 X 700
		Mahi Banswara-3&4	2 X 700

Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs launched the “Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States.”
- ❖ It aims to enhance fire safety infrastructure across the country.
- ❖ It ensures ‘zero death’ and minimum loss of property during disasters by strengthening disaster risk reduction system.

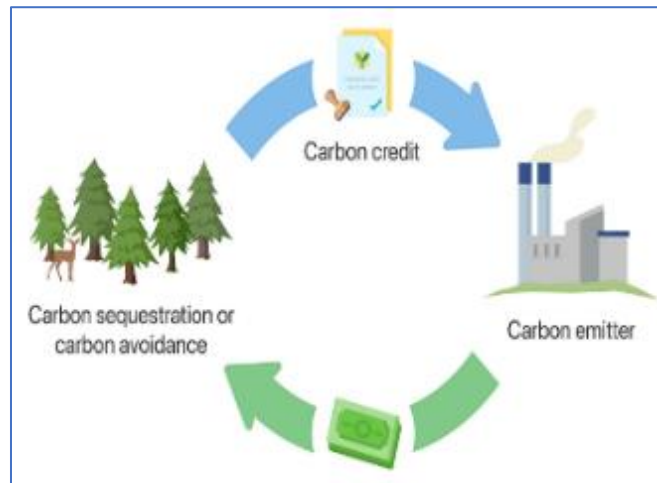


Bharat 6g alliance

- ❖ The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched Bharat 6G Alliance.
- ❖ It aims to drive innovation and collaboration in next-generation wireless technology.

- ❖ Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA) is a collaborative platform consisting of public and private companies, academia, research institutions, and standards development organizations.
- ❖ It will forge coalitions and synergies with other 6G Global Alliances.

Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023



- ❖ The union government approved the formation of India's first domestic regulated carbon market.
- ❖ The 'Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023' was first announced under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- ❖ It aims to set up a carbon credit trading market in the country.
- ❖ The scheme would entail formation of a "National Steering Committee, a technical committee, an Accredited Carbon Verification Agency and the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) as the carbon market regulator.
- ❖ The Grid Controller of India will be the registry for the Indian carbon market.
- ❖ The steering committee would be responsible for making the regulations, procedures and guidelines for the functioning of the carbon market.
- ❖ The technical committee will be responsible for compliance of the said rules and regulations.
- ❖ The Bureau has entrusted the existing power exchanges for the carbon credit certificate trading.

New Swarnima Scheme for Women

- ❖ It aims to inculcate the spirit of self-dependence among the women of Backward Classes under Term Loan.

- ❖ The women belonging to Backward Classes shall be eligible for loan under this scheme.
- ❖ The beneficiary women are not required to invest any amount of her own on the projects up to cost of Rs.2,00,000/.
- ❖ The rate of interest on the amount of loan is less as compared to the general loan scheme of the Corporation.

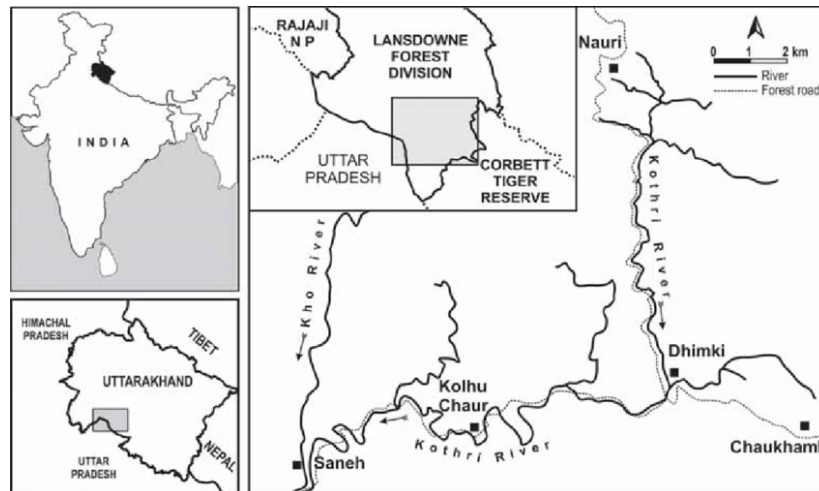
S. No.	Name of Scheme	Max. Loan Limit Per Beneficiary	Pattern of Finance		Rate of Interest Per Annum		Repayment Period (incl. moratorium period of six months)
			NBCFDC	SCA/ Benef.	SCAs/ Bank	Benef.	
1.	TERM LOAN						
(a)	General Loan Scheme	Rs.15.00 Lakh	85%	15%	Upto Rs.5 Lakh 3% 6% Above Rs.5 Lakh upto Rs.10.00 Lakh 4% 7% Above Rs.10.00 Lakh upto Rs.15.00 Lakh 5% 8%		8 years
(b)	Education Loan						
	i) In India	Rs.15.00 Lakh	90%	10%	1%	4%*	Max. 15 years
	ii) Abroad	Rs.20.00 Lakh	85%	15%	1%	4%*	
(c)	New Swarnima Scheme	Rs.2.00 Lakh	95%	05%	2%	5%	8 years
2.	MICRO FINANCE						
(a)	Micro Finance Scheme	Rs.1,25,000/-**	90%	10%	2%	5%	4 years
(b)	Mahila Samridhi Yojana for women	Rs.1,25,000/-**	95%	05%	1%	4%	4 years
(c)	Small Loan for individual	Rs.1,25,000/-	85%	15%	3%	6%	8 years
(d)	NBFC-MFI Loan	Rs.1,25,000/-**	90%	10%	4%	12%	4 years

E-Saras App

- ❖ Deendayal Antyodaya Yojna- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) has launched the eSARAS mobile app.
- ❖ It aims to provide better marketing support and e-commerce opportunities for products made by women in self-help groups (SHGs).
- ❖ The eSARAS fulfilment centre will be managed by the Foundation for Development of Rural Value Chains (FDRVC).
- ❖ This fulfilment centre will be used for processing, packaging and shipping of products that customers purchase through the eSARAS portal and eSARAS mobile app.
- ❖ It will handle the logistics required to bring an online order to a customer's doorstep.



Lansdowne Cantonment Board rename



- ❖ The Lansdowne Cantonment Board, located in Uttarakhand, has decided to rename as Jaswantgarh after Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat.
- ❖ Lansdowne was a British politician who served as Viceroy of India from 1888 to 1894.
- ❖ The Cantonment and Regimental Centre for the training of recruits of the Garhwal Rifles was located in a forest area popularly known as Kalundanda.
- ❖ Jaswant was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra posthumously while his battalion received the Battle Honour Nuranang.

Startup20 Shikhar summit

- ❖ The Startup20 Shikhar summit under India's G20 presidency held in Gurugram.
- ❖ The Startup20 Engagement Group is hosting the two day Startup20 Shikhar summit.
- ❖ During the closing ceremony of Startup20 Summit, India officially handed over the torch to Brazil, as the country has G20 presidency for the next year.

JIMEX 23

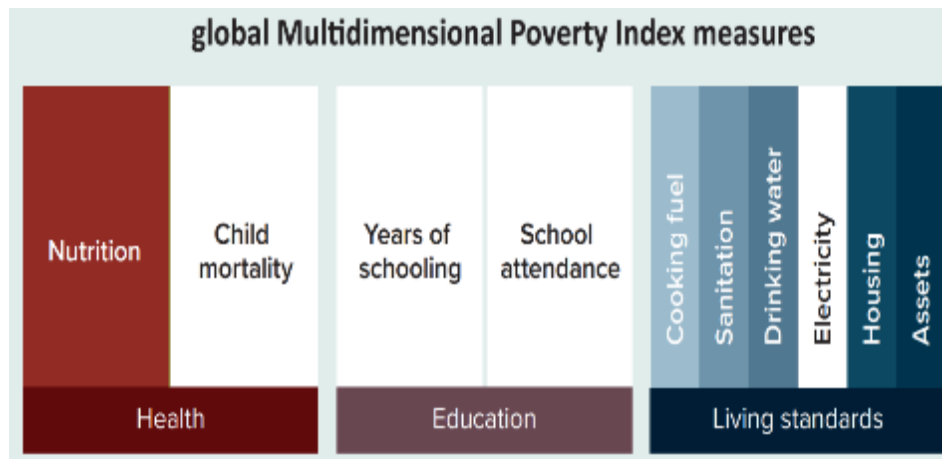
- ❖ The seventh edition of the bilateral Japan-India Maritime Exercise-2023 (JIMEX-23) hosted by the Indian Navy off the Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ This edition marked the 11th anniversary of JIMEX, since its inception in 2012.
- ❖ JIMEX-23 will witness the participation of INS Delhi, INS Kamorta, fleet tanker INS Shakti and others.

NeSDA 2023



- ❖ The third edition of the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) was launched recently by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances.
- ❖ The previous 2 editions of NeSDA stud are NeSDA 2019 and NeSDA 2021.
- ❖ This study assesses States, Union Territories (UTs), and focus Central Ministries on the effectiveness of e-Governance service delivery.
- ❖ In NeSDA 2021, 1400 services across all states and union territories were assessed as compared to 872 in 2019.

India status on Multidimensional Poverty Index 2023



- ❖ The latest update of the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).
- ❖ A total of 415 million people moved out of poverty in India within just 15 years from 2005/2006 to 2019/2021.
- ❖ 25 countries, including India, successfully halved their global MPI values within 15 years.
- ❖ These countries include Cambodia, China, Congo, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Serbia, and Vietnam.
- ❖ In 2005/2006, about 645 million people were in multidimensional poverty in India.
- ❖ This number is declining to about 370 million in 2015/2016 and 230 million in 2019/2021.
- ❖ People who are multidimensionally poor and deprived under the nutrition indicator in India declined from 44.3% in 2005/2006 to 11.8% in 2019/2021.
- ❖ Child mortality fell from 4.5% to 1.5%.
- ❖ Those who are poor and deprived of cooking fuel fell from 52.9% to 13.9%.
- ❖ Deprived of sanitation fell from 50.4% in 2005/2006 to 11.3% in 2019/2021.
- ❖ In the drinking water indicator, the percentage of people who are multidimensionally poor and deprived fell from 16.4 to 2.7 during the period, electricity (from 29% to 2.1%) and housing from 44.9% to 13.6%.
- ❖ While 17 countries that did so had an incidence under 25% in the first period, India and Congo had a starting incidence above 50%.
- ❖ India was among the 19 countries that halved their global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) value during one period.

Performance Grading Index

Grade	Overall grade Score	States/UTs attaining overall grade	Learning Outcomes	Access	Infra	Equity	Governance Processes	Teacher education & Training
Daksh	941-1000	NIL	NIL	Delhi	NIL	Delhi	NIL	NIL
Utkarsh	881-940	NIL	NIL	8	NIL	31	NIL	Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Delhi, Chandigarh
Atti-Uttam	821-880	NIL	NIL	10	NIL	4	Gujarat	10
Uttam	761-820	NIL	NIL	12	Chandigarh	NIL	Kerala	13
Prachesta -1	701-760	NIL	NIL	4	5	NIL	11	5
Prachesta -2	641-700	2 (Chandigarh, Punjab)	Punjab, Chandigarh & Rajasthan	1	10	NIL	15	2
Prachesta -3	581-640	6	4	NIL	14	NIL	7	1
Akanshi-1	521-580	13	19	NIL	6	NIL	1	NIL
Akanshi-2	461-520	12	10	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Akanshi-3	401-460	3	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

Indian education system is one of the largest in the world with about 14.9 lakh schools, 95 lakh teachers, and nearly 26.5 crore students

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Education has released the Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D) combined report for 2020-21 & 2021-22.
- ❖ The Indian education system is one of the largest in the world.
- ❖ It has about 14.9 lakh schools, 95 lakh teachers and nearly 26.5 crore students from varied socio-economic backgrounds.
- ❖ The report has 10 grades under which districts are categorized.
- ❖ The indicator-3-wise PGI score shows the areas where a district needs to improve.
- ❖ None of the districts were able to achieve the top two grades (Daksh and Utkarsh).
- ❖ Only two states/UTs, namely Punjab and Chandigarh have attained Grade Prachesta -2 (score 641-700).

Third extension of ED Director

- ❖ The Supreme Court quashed the Centre's order of granting a third extension to Enforcement Director (ED) Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra.
- ❖ It also affirmed the amendments in the DSPE and CVC Act, giving the Centre the power to extend the tenure of a CBI chief and ED director by a possible 3 years beyond their mandatory two-year term.
- ❖ Extension can be granted to high-level officials in the public interest and with reasons in writing.

- ❖ Mishra was initially appointed as ED director for a two-year tenure ending November 2020.
- ❖ Before his tenure came to an end, he was granted a one-year extension which was challenged in the Supreme Court by an NGO, Common Cause.
- ❖ By a judgment in September 2021, the court allowed the extension noticing that the tenure was coming to an end in about two months.
- ❖ However, the judgment was clear that no further extension was to be granted to Mishra.
- ❖ On November 15, 2021, the Centre brought amendments to the CVC Act and the DSPE Act.
- ❖ It allowed the government to extend the tenure of CBI, ED chiefs for a period of three years beyond their two-year tenure by granting extensions of one-year each.
- ❖ These amendments were challenged in a clutch of petitions before the Supreme Court.
- ❖ Under the challenged amendment, Mishra got an extension from November 2021 to November 2022.
- ❖ Last November, his tenure was further extended by a notification till November 2023.

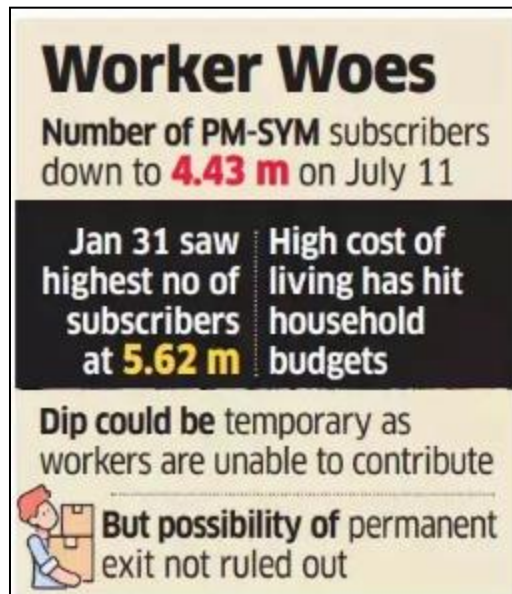


25 years of strategic partnerships with France

- ❖ Prime Minister made a visit to France as the Guest of Honour for the Bastille Day celebrations.
- ❖ The visit also marks 25 years of the strategic partnership between France and India.
- ❖ France was the first country to recognise the strategic importance of India after the nuclear tests in 1998.

- ❖ France has emerged as a key trading partner of India with annual trade of \$12.42 billion in 2021-22.
- ❖ France is the 11th largest foreign investor in India with 1.7% of the total foreign direct investment inflows into India.
- ❖ France has become the second largest defence supplier in 2017- 2021.
- ❖ In 2018, leaders of both countries welcomed the “Joint Strategic Vision of India-France Cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region”.
- ❖ The French Scorpene submarines was built in India under technology transfer agreement of 2005.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force have received 36 Rafale fighter jets.
- ❖ The Tata group has also tied up with Airbus to manufacture C-295 tactical transport aircraft in Vadodara, Gujarat.

PM-SYM scheme viability



- ❖ The Centre's pension scheme for unorganised workers saw nearly 21 per cent of subscribers leave in less than six months.
- ❖ The pension scheme is known as Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM-SYM).
- ❖ The overall number of subscribers to the scheme decreased to 4.43 million on July 11.
- ❖ It is fall of 1.19 million from an all-time high of 5.62 million on January 31.
- ❖ PM-SYM is a voluntary contributory pension scheme.



- ❖ It aims to bring millions of unorganised workers into the social security net.
- ❖ It serves unorganised sector workers aged 18 to 40 and earning less than Rs 15,000 per month.

Export Preparedness Index Report

Rank	State	Category
1	Tamil Nadu	Coastal
2	Maharashtra	Coastal
3	Karnataka	Coastal
4	Gujarat	Coastal
5	Haryana	Landlocked

- ❖ NITI Aayog is releasing the third edition of Export Preparedness Index (EPI) for States/UTs of India for the year 2022.
- ❖ The report highlights the need to develop our districts as export hubs in the country.
- ❖ It undertakes a district-level analysis of merchandise exports in the country.
- ❖ EPI assess the performance of the States and UTs across four pillars – Policy, Business Ecosystem, Export Ecosystem, and Export Performance.

Bhoomi Samman 2023

- ❖ The President of India presented the “Bhoomi Samman” 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ❖ It is conferred to 9 Secretaries & District Collectors of 68 Districts for saturation of Digitization of Land Records.
- ❖ It aims to acknowledge the outstanding performance of individuals and teams in the implementation of the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP).
- ❖ The Department of Land Resources has set an ambitious target of achieving 100% saturation in the digitization of land records across all districts of the country by 31st March 2024.

Standing Committee on Statistics

- ❖ The government has constituted a new internal oversight mechanism for official data, revamping a Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (SCES) set up in late 2019.
- ❖ Pronab Sen has been named the chair of the new committee.

- ❖ He was the India's first chief statistician and the former chairman of the National Statistical Commission (NSC).

First GSI survey of the Siachen



- ❖ June-August 2023 marks the sapphire jubilee of a very important event in the history of the exploration of the Siachen glacier.
- ❖ In June 1958, exactly 65 years ago, V. K. Raina, an Assistant Geologist with the GSI led the first GSI Survey of the Siachen glacier.
- ❖ It became a bone of contention between India and Pakistan in the future and the site of Operation Meghdoot launched by the Indian Armed forces in 1984.
- ❖ 5Q 131 05 084 is the number assigned to the Siachen glacier by the Geological Survey of India (GSI).
- ❖ The grid reference point NJ 9842 is the last mutually demarcated point between India and Pakistan as per the Karachi ceasefire agreement of 1949.
- ❖ Also, this is the point where the Line of Control of the Shimla Agreement ends.
- ❖ 1958 was an important year for geologists all over the world as it was celebrated as the International Geophysical Year.

New Guidelines for the Designation of Senior Advocates in SC

- ❖ The Supreme Court has published new guidelines for the designation of senior advocates practicing mainly in the Apex Court.
- ❖ This guideline replaced the guidelines issued by the top court in 2018, in the aftermath of its 2017 ruling in *Indira Jai Singh v. Union of India*.

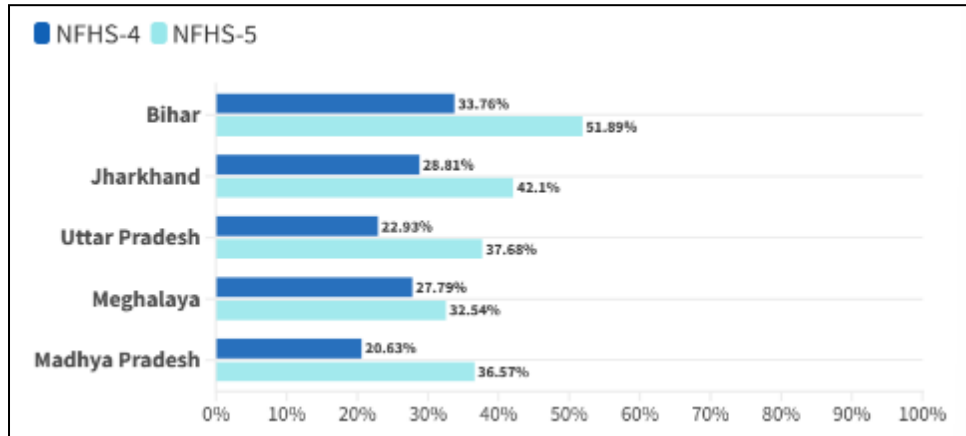
- ❖ These guidelines come after the ruling delivered by a three-judge bench led by Justice SK Kaul.
- ❖ This case seeking modification in the conferment of ‘senior advocate’ designation guidelines rendered in a 2017 SC ruling.
- ❖ The new guidelines prescribe the minimum age as 45 years to apply for the ‘senior advocate’ designation.
- ❖ This age limit may, however, be relaxed by the Committee, the Chief Justice of India, or a Supreme Court judge if they have recommended an advocate’s name.
- ❖ However, no minimum age was prescribed under the 2017 guidelines or even the current SC ruling.
- ❖ The 2017 guidelines say that the CJI along with “any judge” can recommend an advocate’s name for designation.
- ❖ But the 2023 guidelines specify that the CJI along with “any Judge of the Supreme Court”.



2nd Edition of National Multidimensional Poverty Index

- ❖ NITI Aayog released a Report ‘National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023’.
- ❖ India has registered a significant decline of 9.89 percentage points in the number of multidimensionally poor.
- ❖ It falls from 24.85% in 2015-16 to 14.96% in 2019-2021.
- ❖ It claims that about 13.5 crore people came out of multidimensional poverty during the period.
- ❖ Rural areas witnessed the fastest decline in poverty from 32.59% to 19.28%.
- ❖ Delhi, Kerala, Goa and Tamil Nadu have the least number of people facing multidimensional poverty along with the Union Territories.
- ❖ Bihar, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have the percentage of total population who are multidimensionally poor is high.
- ❖ Multidimensional poverty in urban areas saw a decrease from 8.65% to 5.27%.

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh registered the largest decline in number of poor with 3.43 crore people escaping multidimensional poverty.
- ❖ Between 2015-16 and 2019-21, the MPI value has nearly halved from 0.117 to 0.066 and the intensity of poverty has reduced from 47% to 44%.



Digital and sustainable trade facilitation rankings



- ❖ United Nation’s Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific’s (UNESCAP) released a latest global survey on digital and sustainable trade facilitation.
- ❖ India’s score has jumped to 93.55% in 2023 from 90.32% in 2021.
- ❖ India is now the best performing country amongst all the countries of South Asia region.
- ❖ India achieved 100% in key areas such as transparency, formalities, institutional arrangement and cooperation, and paperless trade.

- ❖ Its score in the “Women in Trade Facilitation” component rose from 66.7% in 2021 to an impressive 77.8% in 2023.
- ❖ The overall score of India has been greater than many developed countries including Canada, France, UK, Germany etc.

NITI Aayog export preparedness index

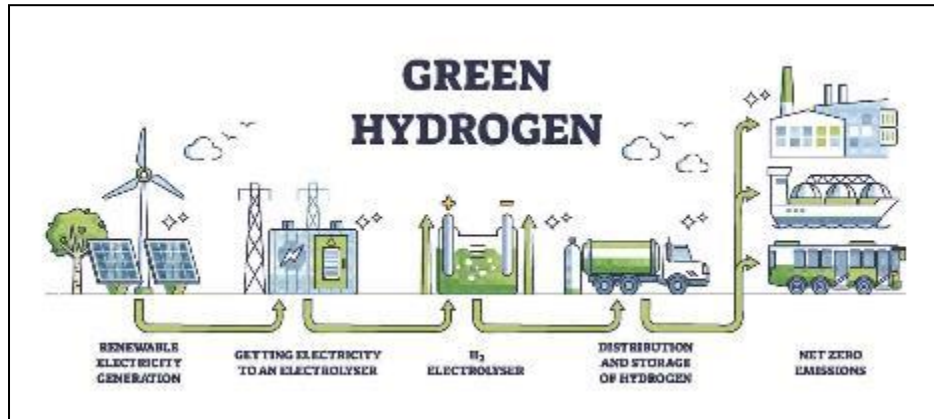
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has been ranked the No. 1 State in Export Preparedness Index (EPI) for 2022.
- ❖ It is followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- ❖ Gujarat has been pushed to the fourth slot this time.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has been in the top 5 list among Large/Coastal States’ categories in the past two years.
- ❖ Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have the highest number of GI products being exported.
- ❖ According to the report, the top three exporting districts of Tamil Nadu are Kanchipuram, Chennai, and Tirupur.
- ❖ Other than its top export which is engineering goods, Kanchipuram is the leading exporter of silk and its finished products.
- ❖ Tirupur stands 22nd in the country, in terms of value of exports, on the back of its textile exports.

Niti Aayog’s Export Preparedness Index		
State	Score	Ranking
Tamil Nadu	80.89	1
Maharashtra	78.2	2
Karnataka	76.36	3
Gujarat	73.22	4
Andhra Pradesh	59.27	5
Odisha	58.84	6

Roadmap for Green Hydrogen Ecosystem

- ❖ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Sources has unveiled draft and roadmap to outline the research and development priorities for manufacturing and storing of Green Hydrogen.

- ❖ It aims to promote efficient, safe and cost-efficient hydrogen storage, paving the way for its widespread adoption as a clean energy source.
- ❖ It highlights the importance of combining hydrogen fuel cells, advanced batteries and super-capacitors.



Variable Rate Reverse Repo Auctions (VRRRs)

REPO AND REVERSE REPO AUCTIONS BY RBI
AMOUNT IN RS CRORE

Date	Tenure	Notified amount	Amount allotted	reversal
April 21, 2023	13-day VRRR	50,000	20,480	May 4, 2023
May 4, 2023	15-day VRRR	50,000	8,447	may 19, 2023
May 19, 2023	14-day Variable rate repo	50,000	46,790	June 2, 2023
June 2, 2023	14-day VRRR	2,00,000	50,868	June 16, 2023
June 5, 2023	4-day VRRR	1,00,000	66,640	June 9, 2023
June 6, 2023	3-day VRRR	75,000	32,375	June 9,2023
June 7, 2023	2-day VRRR	75,000	1,850	June 9, 2023
June 9, 2023	4-day VRRR	1,00,000	5,780	June 13, 2023

- ❖ After a gap of almost a month, the Reserve Bank of India announced a 14-day variable rate reverse repo (VRRR) operation.
- ❖ Variable rate reverse repo (VRRR) auctions are a tool used by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to manage the amount of money in the banking system.

- ❖ The VRRR is usually undertaken to reduce surplus liquidity by withdrawing existing cash in the system.
- ❖ The RBI conducts these auctions to absorb excess money from banks when there is too much liquidity.

Amendments to Promote Mineral Exploration

- ❖ The Indian government approved amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.
- ❖ It aims to incentivize mineral exploration and development in the country, with a specific focus on minerals such as lithium, gold, silver, copper, and zinc.
- ❖ The changes mark the fifth amendment to the Act since 2014.
- ❖ This amendment demonstrating India's commitment to tapping into its mineral resources.
- ❖ They are
 - Boosting Lithium and Deep-Seated Minerals
 - Exploration License Through Auction
 - Specified Minerals in the New Schedule
 - Promoting Private Sector Participation
 - Attracting Global Investment



Exploring Opportunities
Fifth MMDR Act amendment being readied

On the Cards
Provision of exploration licenses

Private players to be allowed to identify mineral deposits | Identified areas to be bid out after approvals

Why the Changes?
Only around 1/3rd of India's geological potential explored
Only 1% of global exploration budget spent in India
Hunt for gold, silver, copper, zinc metal deposits
Rare earth and critical minerals in the list

Schedule M

- ❖ Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has directed regulatory authorities to conduct risk-based inspections and audits of manufacturing plants.
- ❖ It also added that Schedule M shall be made compulsory for the MSME pharma sector in a phased manner.
- ❖ Schedule M part of Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 deals with 'Good Manufacturing Practices' for pharmaceuticals.
- ❖ It aims to strengthen quality assurance and protect India's reputation as a global pharmaceutical powerhouse.
- ❖ It covers various aspects, including shop floors, quality control systems, labs, production, equipment cleaning, and housekeeping.



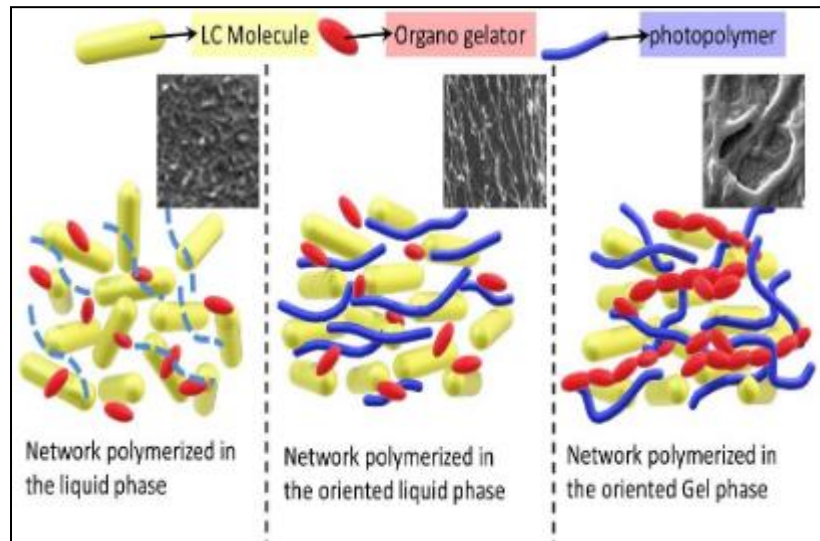
Quality Control Orders



- ❖ Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has notified two new Quality Control Orders (QCOs).
- ❖ It has taken a significant step towards enhancing the quality and safety standards of consumer products.
- ❖ These QCOs, covering potable water bottles and flame producing lighters.
- ❖ They aimed at strengthen the quality ecosystem in India and prioritize public health and safety.
- ❖ They will come into effect six months from the date of notification.

Low-energy Consuming Switchable Smart Windows

- ❖ The Ministry of Science and Technology has unveiled a groundbreaking technique for confining liquid crystals using hierarchical double networks of polymers.
- ❖ This innovative method holds immense potential in the development of low-energy consumption on-demand switchable smart windows.
- ❖ Low-energy-consuming switchable smart windows developed based on novel architecture for confining liquid crystals.



Shelf cloud

- ❖ Recently, a massive Shelf Cloud formation has been spotted in Haridwar, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ Shelf clouds also known as Arcus clouds.
- ❖ They are often associated with powerful storm systems, and many times they are reported as wall clouds, funnel clouds, or rotation.

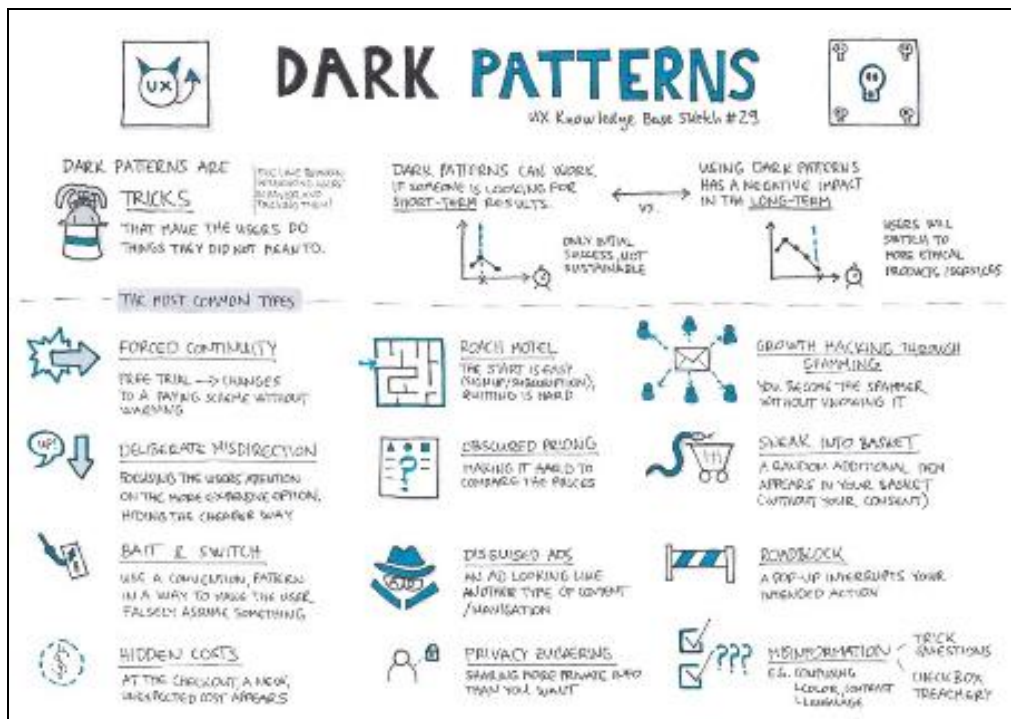
- ❖ These clouds are sometimes seen beneath cumulonimbus clouds, the dense, towering vertical cloud that causes intense rain.



Tankai method

- ❖ The Ministry of Culture and the Indian Navy collaborated to revive and preserve a shipbuilding technique that dates back 2,000 years.
- ❖ This ancient technique, is known as the 'Tankai' method or the "stitched shipbuilding method".
- ❖ It is being revived with the aim of preserving cultural heritage for future generations.

Committee on Dark patterns

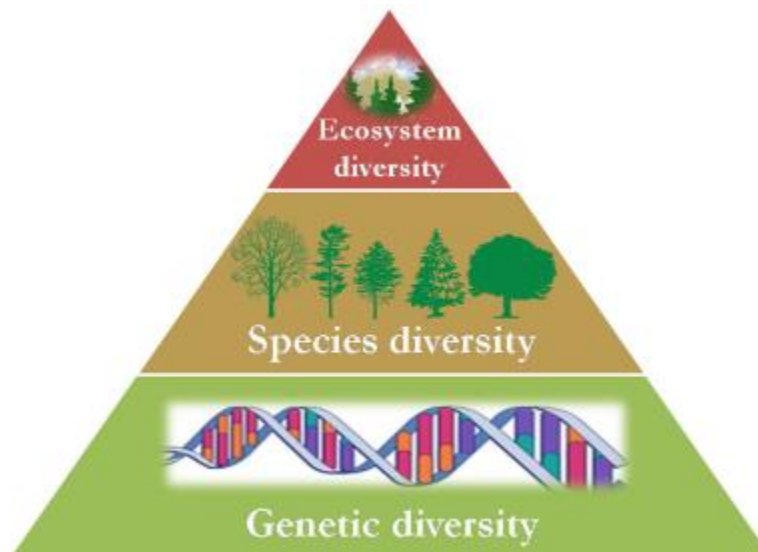


- ❖ The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has asked e-commerce companies to not use dark patterns on their platforms.

- ❖ These unethical strategies are designed to exploit certain cognitive and behavioural biases to persuade users into purchasing goods and services they would typically not pay for.
- ❖ Tech firms often use deceptive tactics to make users accept, for example, certain terms and conditions or products and services.
- ❖ Social media companies and tech giants like Facebook, Apple, Amazon, Skype, LinkedIn, Microsoft and Google have used dark patterns.
- ❖ Another example of dark patterns is the unsolicited, sponsored messages one gets from influencers.
- ❖ Dark patterns affect the user experience and even make them vulnerable to financial and data exploitation.
- ❖ Right now, dark patterns have been noticed as part of misleading advertisements.

Genetic Diversity and Species Traits

- ❖ The CSIR-Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CCMB) has found the relationship between genetic diversity and species traits.
- ❖ The study focused on centipedes and found that they have higher genetic diversity compared to other arthropods like spiders and insects.
- ❖ Genetic diversity was found to be higher in the southern hemisphere.
- ❖ The historic climatic stability and low seasonality in southern latitudes may contribute to higher genetic diversity.
- ❖ Genetic diversity increased with the geographical distance between individuals, indicating limited gene flow between distant sites.



Digital time voucher system



- ❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) has introduced a digital time voucher system for political parties to access government-owned electronic media.
- ❖ With this facilitation, the political parties will not be required to send their representatives to ECI Offices for collection of the time vouchers physically during elections.
- ❖ The scheme, which was initially notified on 16th January 1998, holds a statutory basis under Section 39A of the R.P. Act, 1951.
- ❖ Under this Scheme, an equitable base time is allotted to each National Party and Recognized State Party of the state concerned uniformly on DD & AIR.

World's latest Steel Slag Road Technology

- ❖ India has developed the world's latest Steel Slag Road Technology.
- ❖ It allows for large-scale utilisation of waste slag from steel plants for road construction.
- ❖ The technology to use steel slag for road construction was created by CSIR.
- ❖ It aims to tackle the issue of slag generated by steel plants.
- ❖ Steel slag are the waste produced during steel production.
- ❖ They are approximately 30 per cent cheaper than conventional paving, and more resilient and resistant to unpredictable weather conditions.

Rule 176 vs Rule 267

- ❖ The Monsoon Session of Parliament witnessed disruptions due to disagreements between the government and the Opposition on the format of the discussion regarding the Manipur situation.



- ❖ The Opposition sought a discussion under Rule 267 to express the sense of the House, while the government proposed a discussion under Rule 176.
- ❖ While under Rule 176, there is a short discussion, Rule 267 calls for a longer discussion.
- ❖ The Rule 176 calls for a short-duration discussion not exceeding two-and-a-half hours.
- ❖ Under the rule 176 and 177, an urgent matter can be taken up for a short-duration discussion immediately, a few hours later or the next day or on a prescribed date and time.
- ❖ Rule 267 is suspending a particular rule in relation to a business which is listed in the agenda.
- ❖ The Prime Minister doesn't necessarily need to stay in house under Rule 267 as the issue is discussed for long hours.
- ❖ Parliamentary records show that there were 11 instances between 1990 up till 2016 that this rule was invoked for various discussions.
- ❖ The adjournment motion is governed by Rules 56-63 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

Category	Rule 267	Rule 176
Description	Relates to the suspension of rules	Enables short-duration discussion
Purpose	Used to prioritize a specific discussion by suspending normal proceedings	Used for raising urgent public matters within a time limit of two-and-a-half hours
Procedure	Requires consent of the Chairman for rule suspension	Requires written notice and explanatory note with signatures of at least two other members
Conduct	Temporarily suspends the rule in question	Allows for a time-limited discussion on the matter of urgent public importance
Objective	Gives priority to the specified topic for discussion	Facilitates addressing urgent public matters within a constrained timeframe

All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Amendment Rules, 2023

- ❖ The Central government has made changes to the rules regarding retirement benefits for IAS, IPS, and Indian Forest Service (IFoS) pensioners.]
- ❖ Now, the government has the power to take action against pensioners and withhold or withdraw their pension.

- ❖ This can happen if the pensioners are found guilty of serious misconduct or are convicted of a serious crime.
- ❖ If a pensioner is found guilty of grave misconduct or convicted of a serious crime by a court, the central government can act on its own.
- ❖ These rules define 'grave misconduct' as the communication or disclosure of any document or information mentioned in the Official Secrets Act.
- ❖ Additionally, a 'serious crime' includes any offence under the Official Secrets Act.
- ❖ The amended rules emphasise that the decision of the Central Government on withholding or withdrawing the pension will be final.

OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT, 1923

➤ Applicable to all Indian citizens residing inside or outside the country (inclusive of government servants)

➤ Official Secrets Act ,1923 is a comprehensive document relating to official secrets and defines a number of offences –

- 1.Spying
- 2.Wrongful communication of any secret official code , password or any such sketch, plan, model, article , note , document or or information.

Objective –Maintaining the security of the state against the leakage of information , sabotage, and like.

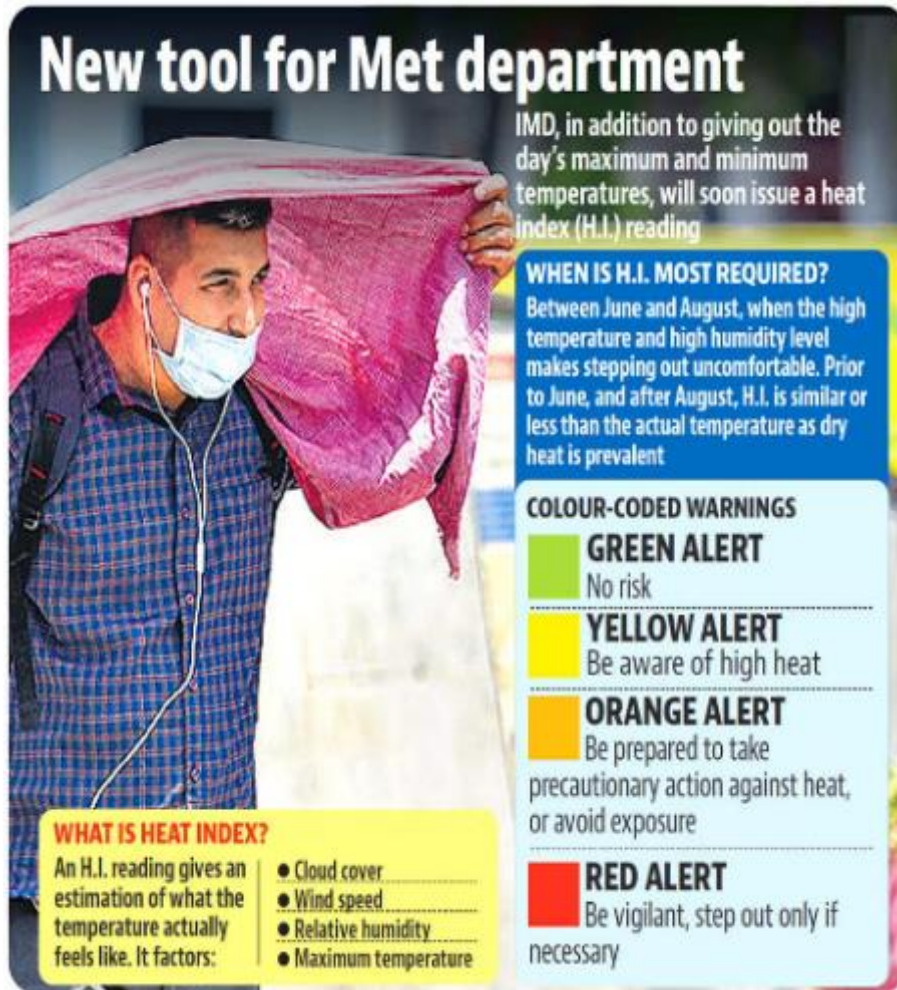
Rajya Sabha panel of Vice – Chairpersons



- ❖ The Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar has nominated four women Parliamentarians to the panel of Vice-Chairpersons.
- ❖ All women members nominated to the panel are first term Parliamentarians.
- ❖ The panel reconstituted before the Monsoon Session contains a total of eight names, out of which half are women.

- ❖ This is the first time in the history of the Upper House that equal representation has been given to women members in the panel of Vice-Chairpersons.

IMD Heat Index



New tool for Met department

IMD, in addition to giving out the day's maximum and minimum temperatures, will soon issue a heat index (H.I.) reading

WHEN IS H.I. MOST REQUIRED?
Between June and August, when the high temperature and high humidity level makes stepping out uncomfortable. Prior to June, and after August, H.I. is similar or less than the actual temperature as dry heat is prevalent

COLOUR-CODED WARNINGS

- GREEN ALERT**
No risk
- YELLOW ALERT**
Be aware of high heat
- ORANGE ALERT**
Be prepared to take precautionary action against heat, or avoid exposure
- RED ALERT**
Be vigilant, step out only if necessary

WHAT IS HEAT INDEX?
An H.I. reading gives an estimation of what the temperature actually feels like. It factors:

- Cloud cover
- Wind speed
- Relative humidity
- Maximum temperature

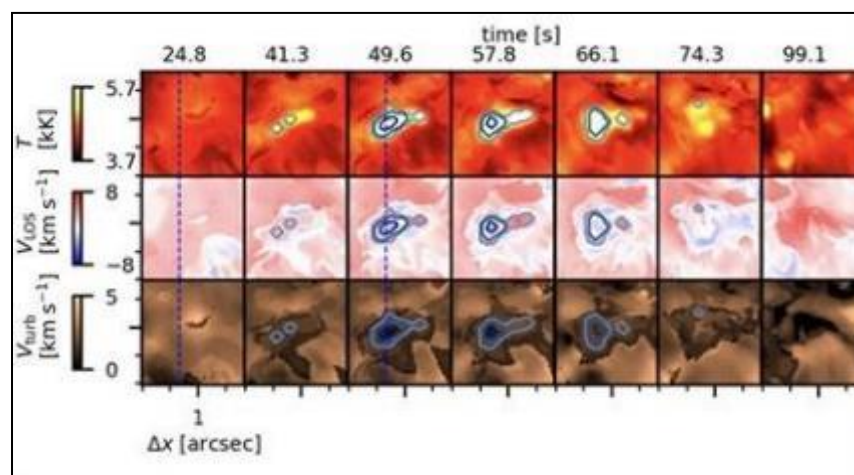
- ❖ India Meteorological Department (IMD) has launched Heat Index on experimental basis.
- ❖ Heat Index provides guidance towards additional care to be taken by people to reduce human discomfort.
- ❖ The following colour codes used for Experimental Heat Index.
 - Green: Experimental Heat Index less than 35 deg C
 - Yellow: Experimental Heat Index in the range 36-45 deg C
 - Orange: Experimental Heat Index in the range 46-55 deg C
 - Red: Experimental Heat Index greater than 55 deg C

India Climate Energy Dashboard

- ❖ NITI Aayog released the India Climate Energy Dashboard (ICED) 3.0.
- ❖ The ICED is the country's one-stop platform for near real-time data on the energy sector, climate, and related economic datasets based on government published sources.
- ❖ It enables users to freely access and analyse datasets using an analytical engine.
- ❖ It will facilitate insights and enhance understanding about the energy and climate sectors while identifying the key challenges.



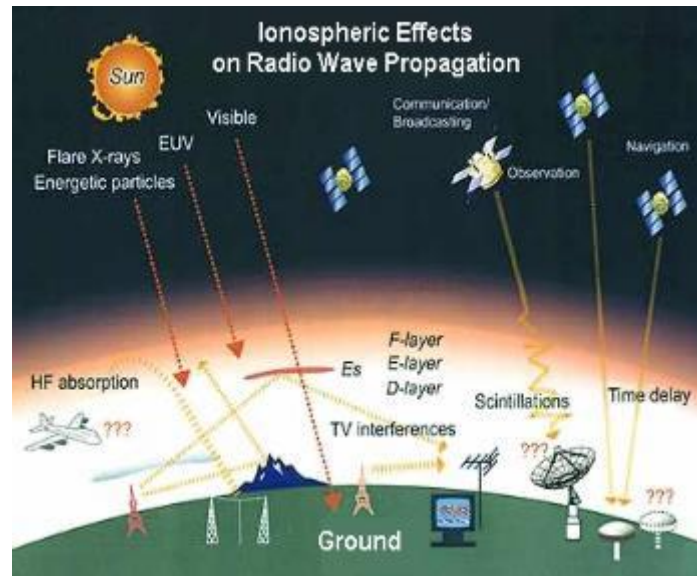
Bright Grains in Chromosphere



- ❖ Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) observed a bright grain in the chromosphere of the Sun.
- ❖ These grains are caused by upward propagating shocks in the solar plasma.

- ❖ It is leading to temperature enhancements that surpass previous estimates.
- ❖ The study can help improve understanding of the mechanism of heating of the chromosphere situated between the bright solar surface and the extremely hot corona.

HF Radio Propagation Model



- ❖ The Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG) have created an innovative model for the transmission of radio waves through the ionosphere.
- ❖ It has the potential to estimate the impact of space weather.
- ❖ Also, it plays a crucial role in facilitating the planning and operation of High Frequency (HF) radio communications.
- ❖ The development of such strategies is essential for ensuring reliable Skywave communication systems in the face of natural disasters and other emergencies.

Horizon 2047 Roadmap

- ❖ Marking 25 years of their strategic relations, India and France outlined the trajectory of its bilateral ties till 2047.
- ❖ The countries agreed to “strengthen cooperation in the sectors of the future” as a part of the ‘Horizon 2047’ framework.
- ❖ This encompasses various areas of collaboration, including defense, space, nuclear energy, climate change, green transitions, education, and people-to-people connections.

- ❖ In 2047, India will celebrate 100 years of Independence as well as diplomatic relations with France and the two countries will share 50 years of strategic partnership.

List of outcomes: Prime Minister's visit to France

<p>Political/strategic areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Roadmap on Indo-French Strategic Partnership Horizon 2047 ● Roadmap India-France Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific ● NSIL and Arlanspace Intent to work together in commercial launch services <p>Scientific cooperation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Letter of intent in health and medicine ● MoU between NIOT, MoES, Chennai and IFREMER 	<p>Institutional cooperation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Letter of Intent (LoI) on New National Museum and Cooperation on Museology ● MoU in Digital Technologies between MeitY and French Ministry of Economy ● Technical cooperation between Direction-Générale d'Aviation Civile, France and Airports Authority of India ● Technical arrangements for Civil Aviation Security between India and France ● LoI between Prasar Bharati and France Media Monde 	<p>Cooperation strategic areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Head of Agreement (HoA) between Indian Oil and Total Energies to establish a long-term LNG Sale and Purchase Agreement (SPA) <p>Sustainable development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Joint Commitment on Eliminating Single-use Plastic Pollution <p>AGREEMENTS ALSO ANNOUNCED... Cooperation in area of space and for people-to-people exchanges, welfare</p>
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Right to hold a passport

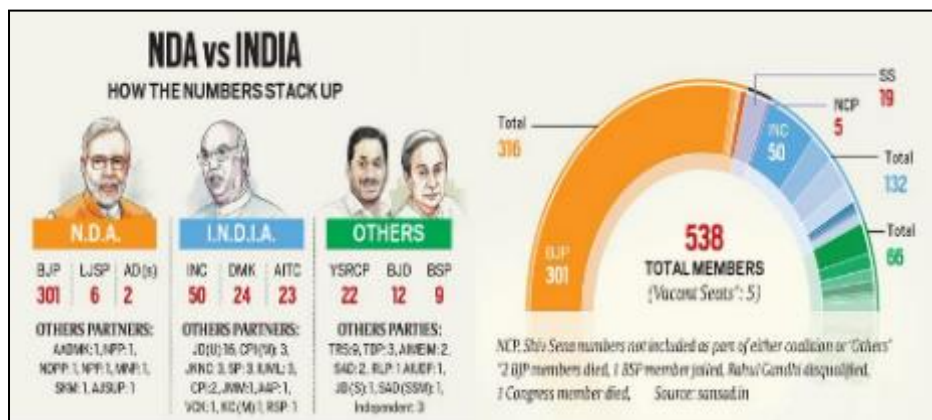


- ❖ The Delhi High Court has said that every citizen has a legal right to hold a passport.
- ❖ This right can be taken away only in accordance with law.
- ❖ Authorities cannot refuse to renew it merely on an apprehension that the earlier passports might have been misused.

No-confidence motion in Parliament

- ❖ Congress's deputy leader in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi submitted the no-confidence motion.
- ❖ This motion is meant to test whether the government of the day enjoys the confidence of the majority of the house, as under a parliamentary democracy.
- ❖ Any Lok Sabha MP with the signatures of 50 members can bring a no-confidence motion.

- ❖ Under Rule 198 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Lok Sabha, a member has to move a written notice before 10 am.
- ❖ It will be read out by the speaker within 10 days of the written motion being submitted.
- ❖ Once the speaker reads out the motion in the House, a minimum of 50 members will have to rise in support of it for the speaker to give a date or dates for discussion of the motion.
- ❖ This motion was the 28th no-confidence motion since Independence in the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ Also, this was the second faced by the current government.
- ❖ In 2018, it defeated the first no-confidence motion.
- ❖ The first no-confidence motion of independent India was moved against the Jawaharlal Nehru government in 1963 by Acharya J.B. Kripalani.
- ❖ Indira Gandhi faced 15 no-confidence motions in her 16-year tenure.
- ❖ Both Jawaharlal Nehru and Rajiv Gandhi faced one motion each.
- ❖ Prime ministers Charan Singh, V.P. Singh, Chandra Shekhar, H.D. Deve Gowda and I.K. Gujral did not face any such motion.



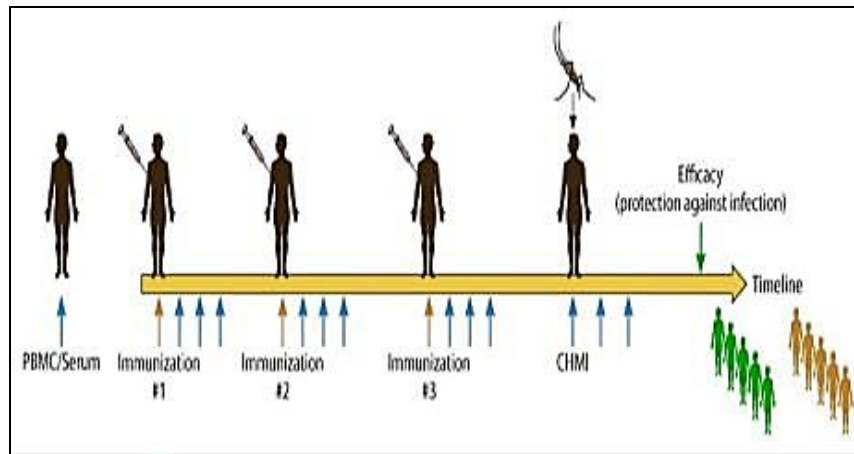
Deletion of MGNREGA Job Cards

- ❖ More than five crore job cards under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) were cancelled in 2022-23.
- ❖ This is 247 per cent more than the number of deletions in 2021-22
- ❖ In 2021-22, 1,49,51,247 MGNREGA job cards were deleted.
- ❖ In 2022-23, 5,18,91,168 job cards were cancelled.
- ❖ West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana were among the states which saw the highest number of deletions.

- ❖ The deletions were made due to reasons like "fake" job cards, duplicate job cards, people not willing to work anymore, family shifted from Gram Panchayat permanently, or person's death.

National	
1 Total No. of Districts	138
2 Total No. of Blocks	7,172
3 Total No. of GPs	2,89,664
Job Cards	
4 Total No. of Job Cards issued [n Cr]	14,68
5 Total No. of Workers [n Cr]	26,35
6 Total No. of Active Job Cards [n Cr]	9,72
7 Total No. of Active Workers [n Cr]	14,47
8 [(SC worker against active workers)%]	19,74
9 [(ST worker against active workers)%]	18,27

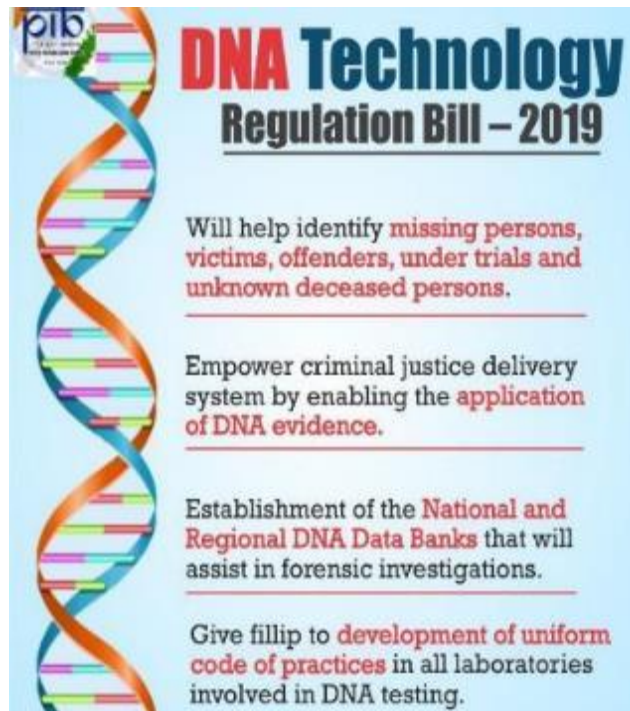
Controlled Human Infection Studies



- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has embarked on introducing Controlled Human Infection Studies (CHIS).
- ❖ The innovative research model involves deliberately exposing healthy volunteers to pathogens within a controlled environment.
- ❖ CHIS is also known as Controlled Human Infection Model studies (CHIMs).
- ❖ It involves deliberately infecting healthy volunteers with specific pathogens in a regulated manner to study disease progression, and host-pathogen interactions, and assess the efficacy of novel vaccines.
- ❖ This method allows for faster and more cost-effective outcomes compared to traditional large-sample clinical trials.

The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill 2019

- ❖ The government withdrew The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill 2019 from the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ This Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha in July 2019.
- ❖ Then it was referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology.
- ❖ The Bill had three primary objectives.
- ❖ First, it sought to set up a DNA profiling board as the regulatory body.
- ❖ The Bill also provided for the creation of databases- DNA Data Banks for storing of DNA information collected from convicts and accused.
- ❖ This database could be indexed and searched for matching samples from crime scenes.
- ❖ And third, it sought to facilitate collection of DNA samples from the convicts and accused.



Manual scavenging free districts

- ❖ A total of 530 districts (out of 766) across the country had so far reported themselves to be free of manual scavenging.
- ❖ 100% of districts in States like Bihar, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and a few others have declared themselves free of manual scavenging.

- ❖ In several States and Union Territories, only about 15% to 20% of the districts have reported so.
- ❖ For instance, in Manipur, just two of the 16 districts have reported as being manual-scavenging free.
- ❖ Similarly, in Jammu and Kashmir, just 30% of the districts have declared themselves free of the practice with a similar number in Telangana.
- ❖ In Odisha and West Bengal too, over 60% districts are yet to report their respective status.

S No.	Name of States/UT	No. of Districts	No. of Districts from where Report regarding Manual Scavenging free	No. of Districts report not received
1	A AND N ISLANDS	3	3	0
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	26	11	15
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	26	14	12
4	ASSAM	35	19	16
5	BIHAR	38	38	0
6	CHANDIGARH	1	1	0
7	CHHATTISGARH	33	33	0
8	DELHI	11	8	3
9	GOA	2	2	0
10	GUJARAT	33	25	8
11	HARYANA	22	16	6
12	HIMACHAL PRADESH	12	12	0
13	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	20	6	14
14	JHARKHAND	24	12	12
15	KARNATAKA	31	29	2
16	KERALA	14	12	2
17	LADAKH	2	2	0
18	LAKSHADWEEP	1	1	0
19	MADHYA PRADESH	52	24	28
20	MAHARASHTRA	36	15	21
21	MANIPUR	16	2	14
22	MEGHALAYA	12	10	2
23	MIZORAM	11	11	0
24	NAGALAND	16	10	6
25	ODISHA	30	11	19
26	PUDUCHERRY	4	2	2
27	PUNJAB	23	16	7
28	RAJASTHAN	33	33	0
29	SIKKIM	6	6	0
30	TAMIL NADU	38	38	0
31	TELANGANA	33	10	23
32	DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN AND DIU	3	3	0
33	TRIPURA	8	8	0
34	UTTAR PRADESH	75	67	8
35	UTTARAKHAND	13	12	1
36	WEST BENGAL	23	8	15
	TOTAL	766	530	236

Constitution (STs) Order (5th Amendment) Bill

- ❖ The Rajya Sabha passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2022.
- ❖ It aims to include several communities from Chhattisgarh in the list of STs.
- ❖ Lok Sabha passed the Bill during the last Winter Session.

- ❖ The Bill was brought in to add Bhuinya, Bhuiyan and Bhuyan communities as synonyms of Bharia, Bhumia, Bharia.
- ❖ It also, add three Devanagari versions of Pando community and Dhanuhar and Dhanuwar communities, to substitute Kond for Kondh in the list.
- ❖ It will add Kisan community in entry 32 of the legislation.
- ❖ It includes Saunra and Saonra communities in entry 41 and to add Binjhia community in new entry 43.



The Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill 2021

- ❖ The Lok Sabha passed the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021.
- ❖ The Bill aims to amend the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Biological Diversity Amendment Bill 2021

To reduce the pressure on wild medicinal plants

Encouraging the cultivation of medicinal plants.

Exempt AYUSH practitioners from intimating biodiversity boards for accessing biological resources or knowledge.

Simplifying process

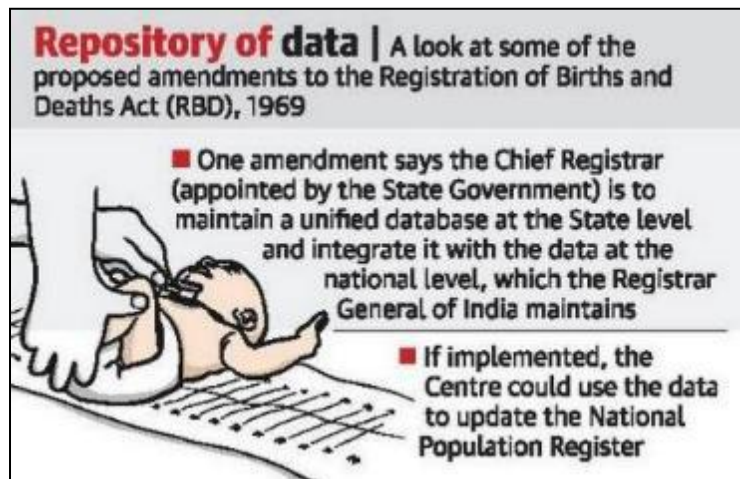
Easing compliance

Access and Benefit-sharing

Imbibing the Nagoya Protocol

- ❖ It proposes to “widen the scope of levying access and benefit sharing with local communities and for further conservation of biological resources.”
- ❖ The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 was framed to give effect to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity - 1992.
- ❖ It strives for sustainable, fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge.

Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023



- ❖ The government tabled the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023 in the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ The new bill mandates Aadhaar number use for birth certification.
- ❖ This development is part of an amendment to the original 1969 Act.
- ❖ The proposed legislation would require the Aadhaar numbers of both parents and any informants during birth registration.
- ❖ The bill proposes the appointment of Special "Sub-Registrars" to accelerate the registration of deaths and certificate issuance.
- ❖ It aims to provide that the Registrar must provide the certificate to such person within seven days.
- ❖ It aims to provide for obtaining births and deaths certificates (electronically or otherwise) instead of extracts.

The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023

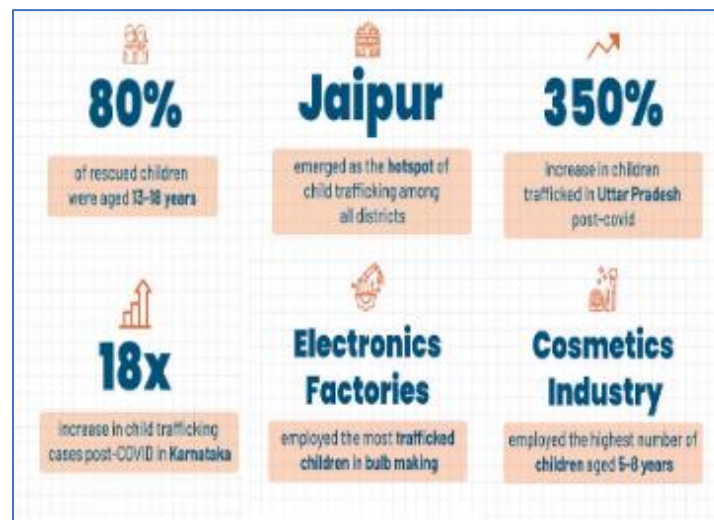


- ❖ The Rajya Sabha passed the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023.
- ❖ It introduces stringent anti-piracy provisions, expanding the scope of the law from censorship to also cover copyright.
- ❖ The Bill proposes a jail term of up to three years and a fine up to 5% of a film's production cost for persons who use any audio-visual recording device to copy a film.
- ❖ The Bill seeks to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952.
- ❖ The Bill also introduces three age ratings for films requiring adult supervision.
- ❖ Films currently get a U/A rating.
- ❖ It has been split into U/A 7+, U/A 13+ and U/A 16+.

Child Trafficking in India

- ❖ The report titled 'Child Trafficking in India: Insights from Situational Data Analysis and the Need for Tech-driven Intervention Strategies' was released recently.
- ❖ The new study was conducted by the NGO Games24x7 and the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF).

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Andhra Pradesh are the top three states with the highest number of children trafficked between 2016 and 2022.
- ❖ Delhi has experienced a 68 per cent rise in child trafficking cases from pre to post-Covid times.
- ❖ The number of reported incidents in the pre-Covid phase (2016-2019) was 267.
- ❖ But it rose intensely to 1214 in the post-Covid phase (2021-2022).
- ❖ Karnataka witnessed an 18-fold increase, increasing from 6 to 110 reported incidents of child trafficking.
- ❖ Jaipur City emerged as the top district in child trafficking, with four other districts in Delhi appeared in the top slots.
- ❖ As many as 13,549 children under the age of 18 were rescued during this period.
- ❖ Hotels and dhabas employ the maximum number of child labourers (15.6 per cent).
- ❖ It is followed by the automobile or transport industry (13 per cent), and garments (11.18 per cent).



600-million-year-old Himalayan River

- ❖ Scientists have discovered water droplets in mineral deposits that are believed to be from an ancient ocean that existed around 600 million years ago.
- ❖ They believe that the Earth may have been covered by thick sheets of ice between 700 and 500 million years ago.
- ❖ This period is known as the Snowball Earth glaciation.
- ❖ This event was followed by the Second Great Oxygenation Event which led to an increase in the amount of oxygen in the Earth's atmosphere.

- ❖ This event led to the evolution of complex life forms.



Urea Gold for farmers

- ❖ The Urea Gold was launched in Rajasthan recently.
- ❖ "Urea Gold" is a new variety of urea that is coated with sulphur.
- ❖ It is expected to address sulphur deficiencies in the soil.
- ❖ This "innovative fertiliser" is more economical and efficient than neem-coated urea.
- ❖ It is ensuring improved nitrogen use efficiency, reduced consumption, and enhanced crop quality.
- ❖ Urea coated with sulphur helps in slow release of nitrogen, therefore increasing its availability and uptake.
- ❖ 15 kg of Urea Gold is comparable to 20 kg of conventional urea.
- ❖ A bag of urea, which is sold in India at Rs 266, is being sold at Rs 800 in Pakistan, Rs 720 in Bangladesh, Rs 2,100 in China and Rs 3,000 in the US."



UREA GOLD
(SULPHUR COATED UREA)

- Enriches the soil with sulfur
- Reduces input costs for farmers
- More economical and efficient than neem-coated urea
- Extension of urea subsidy until 2025

INTERNATIONAL

Chennai-Vladivostok maritime route

- ❖ India and Russia are keen to make the Chennai – Vladivostok maritime route operational.
- ❖ The Vladivostok – Chennai route passes through the Sea of Japan, the South China Sea and Malacca Strait.
- ❖ The proposed route is expected to take only 12 days, compared to the current route's duration of 32 days.
- ❖ The new route would provide India with access to the Far East and open up opportunities for trade between the two countries.



Summit on New Global Financial Pact

- ❖ The French President Emmanuel Macron hosted the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact (Pact Summit) in Paris, France.
- ❖ The Summit was announced at the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- ❖ The summit was precipitated as a follow-up to the Bridgetown Initiative.
- ❖ It is a package of proposals to get more money flowing from developed to developing countries for climate and development.

Mayon Volcano

- ❖ Around 13,000 people have been evacuated from the northeast Philippines as the country's most famous volcano, Mayon, continued to burst lava.

- ❖ Mayon Volcano is an active volcano in southeastern Luzon, Philippines.
- ❖ Its name is derived from the local word for beautiful lady, daragang Mayon.
- ❖ It is called the world's most perfect volcanic cone because of the symmetry of its shape.
- ❖ It lies in the Pacific Ring of Fire region, a major area in the basin of the Pacific Ocean where many earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur.



Canada - digital nomad strategy



- ❖ Under the digital nomad strategy, foreign workers are permitted to stay in Canada for up to six months.
- ❖ If they receive job offers during their stay, they can extend their time in the country.
- ❖ This initiative is designed to alleviate the shortage of skilled professionals in Canada's tech sector.

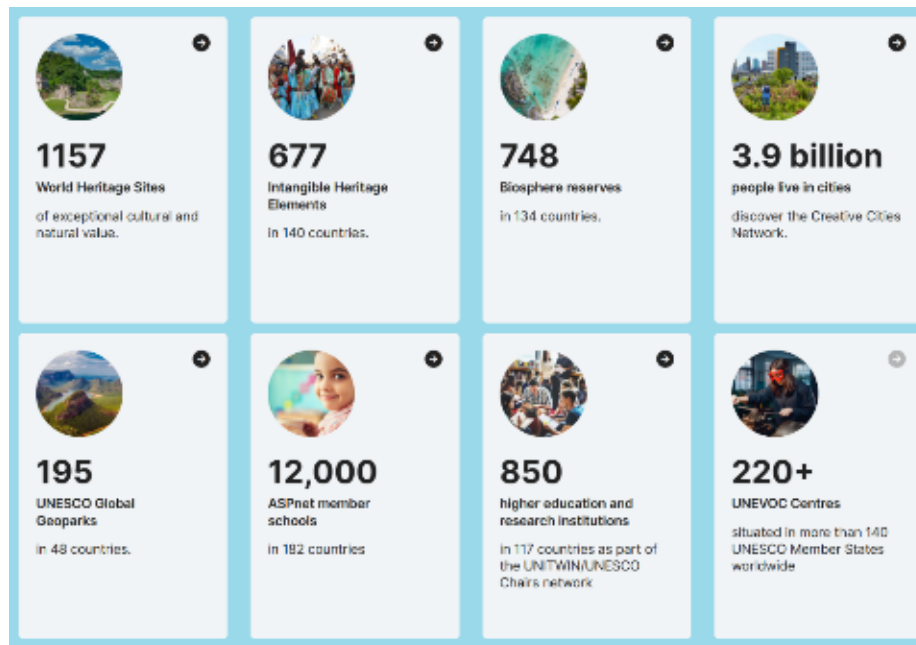
Japan redefines Age of Consent

- ❖ Japan's Parliament (Diet) raised the age of consent from 13 to 16.
- ❖ Japan had the lowest in the world as 13.
- ❖ Japan's parliament came after a wait of more than a century since it last changed in 1907.

- ❖ The age of consent, below which any sexual activity is considered rape, is different in different countries.
- ❖ India has set 18 as the age of consent, whereas it is 16 in Britain and 14 in Germany and China.



USA returns to UNESCO

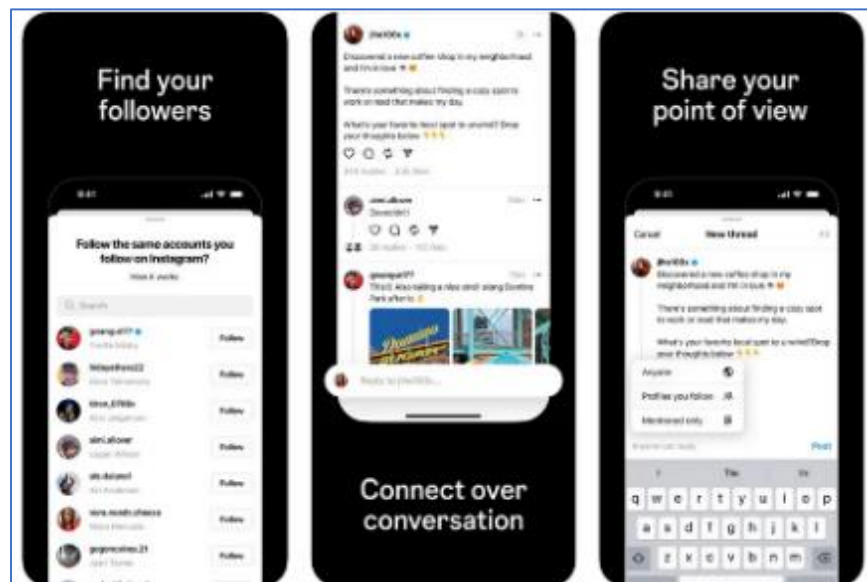


- ❖ The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) announced that the United States will rejoin it in July.
- ❖ It will rejoin four years after it left the agency (along with Israel), alleging that UNESCO was biased against Israel.

- ❖ The move to rejoin will face a vote by UNESCO's member states.
- ❖ The decision to return was also due to China filling the gap left by the US in UNESCO policy making.
- ❖ The United States previously pulled out of UNESCO under the Ronald Reagan administration in 1984 and rejoined in 2003 under then President George Bush.

Meta launches "Threads"

- ❖ Meta's Instagram officially unveiled Threads app.
- ❖ Threads attracted 70 million users in just two days.
- ❖ Thread users will need an Instagram account to log in.
- ❖ Deactivating your Threads profile will not deactivate your Instagram account.
- ❖ The app closely resembles Twitter visually, although some of the wording has been changed.



Iran in SCO

- ❖ Iran became the new permanent member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) at an India-hosted virtual summit.
- ❖ It acquired membership 18 years after got observer status in the security and trade cooperation organization.
- ❖ The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001.
- ❖ The initial members are Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

- ❖ India and Pakistan became its permanent members in 2017.
- ❖ In March, Saudi Arabia's Cabinet approved a decision to join the organization.
- ❖ Last May, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kuwait became dialogue partners of the SCO.

Sagar Nidhi' expedition



- ❖ The Scientists from Bangladesh and Mauritius participating in a joint ocean expedition spanning nearly 35 days on India's ocean research vessel 'Sagar Nidhi'.
- ❖ The scientists will collaboratively undertake research on the ocean data to predict and manage changes in the marine environment and variation in ocean parameters.
- ❖ Sagar Nidhi is an ice-strengthened multidisciplinary vessel operated by the National Institute of Ocean Technology.

Shangri-La Dialogue



- ❖ The 20th Shangri-La Dialogue (SLD), organized by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), was held in Singapore.
- ❖ It is one of Asia's premier Defense summits since it was founded in 2002.
- ❖ The forum serves as a platform to discuss and debate regional security issues in the Indo-Pacific.

New Zealand ban plastic produce bags



- ❖ New Zealand has become the first country in the world to banned single-use produce bags at grocery stores.
- ❖ Effective July 1, they also are being asked to carry their own reusable bags for fruits and vegetables.
- ❖ The latest move is part of a wider government campaign against single-use plastics.
- ❖ In July 2019, New Zealand no longer allowed stores to provide single-use shopping bags with handles that are made of plastic up to 70 microns in thickness.
- ❖ The new ban will eliminate 150 million plastic produce bags from circulation each year or 17,000 plastic bags every hour.
- ❖ In October, it proposed taxing the greenhouse gases produced by farm animals like sheep and cattle.
- ❖ The world's first scheme will see farmers paying for agricultural emissions in some form by 2025.
- ❖ The country's farming industry accounts for about half of its emissions.

23rd SCO CHS summit

- ❖ The 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of State (CHS) summit held recently.
- ❖ For the first time summit has chaired by India.

- ❖ The theme of the summit this year is “Secure” which stands for ‘Security, Economy and Trade, Connectivity, Unity, Respect for Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity, and Environment’.
- ❖ The summit holds immense significance for regional security, prosperity, and enhanced engagement with the region.
- ❖ Two new SCO mechanisms have been created — special working groups on traditional medicine and startups and innovation.
- ❖ These are India led and India created.
- ❖ Iran became a full member this year under India’s presidency.
- ❖ Belarus will be attaining the full membership of the grouping when it meets in Kazakhstan.

US-led Artemis Accord



- ❖ India signed the three-year-old Artemis Accords, a US-led international partnership on planetary exploration and research.
- ❖ The Accords have been signed by 26 countries till now, including Japan, Australia, the UK, France, and Canada.
- ❖ A set of 13 principles, the Artemis Accords is closely linked to the Artemis Program.
- ❖ It aims to return astronauts to the lunar surface, build a space camp there, and carry out deep space exploration.
- ❖ It contains a set of principles and guidelines for the civil exploration and use of the Moon, Mars, comets and asteroids.

Netherlands' apology on slavery



- ❖ The year 2023 marks the 150th anniversary of the abolishment of slavery in Suriname and in Dutch colonies in the Caribbean in 1873.
- ❖ The king of the Netherlands, Willem-Alexander, has apologised for his country's role in the slavery of colonised people, beginning in the 16th Century.
- ❖ The Dutch were involved themselves in the transatlantic slave trade like other European nations.
- ❖ Between 1596 and 1829, the Dutch transported about half a million Africans across the Atlantic.
- ❖ More than 600,000 people were transported across the Atlantic Ocean from Africa aboard Dutch ships, to be sold as slaves or put to work on plantations.
- ❖ Around 75,000 did not survive the crossing.
- ❖ It found that between 1945 and 1949, the Dutch used “excessive violence” in Indonesia after World War 2.

Zero Waste Dining

- ❖ Restaurants and bars around the world are embracing zero-waste dining and changing the way diners approach sustainability.
- ❖ RE- in Sydney, Australia, is the world's first permanent “waste-free” regenerative cocktail bar and restaurant.
- ❖ RE- uses upcycled decor elements and serves cocktails and food made from repurposed ingredients.
- ❖ It includes coffee liquor made from recycled coffee grounds and banana peel syrup in their Old Fashioned.
- ❖ The restaurant focuses on reducing food waste and promoting sustainability.

World's most powerful military



- ❖ According to Global Firepower, the United States possesses the most powerful military force worldwide.
- ❖ Russia and China follow closely in second and third place, respectively.
- ❖ While India secures the fourth position.
- ❖ The report lists 145 countries and also compares each nation's year-on-year ranking changes.
- ❖ The top four nations remain as they were in the 2022 Global Firepower list.
- ❖ Pakistan has entered the top 10, securing the seventh spot.

U.S chemical weapons

- ❖ The United States has destroyed the last of its declared chemical weapons stockpile.
- ❖ Chemical weapons were first used in modern warfare in World War I.
- ❖ They were estimated to have killed at least 100,000 people.
- ❖ Nearly 800,000 chemical munitions containing mustard agent were stored since the 1950s.
- ❖ The US faced a September 30 deadline to eliminate its remaining chemical weapons under the international Chemical Weapons Convention.
- ❖ This Convention took effect in 1997 and was joined by 193 countries.
- ❖ Only three countries - Egypt, North Korea and South Sudan have not signed the treaty.

- ❖ A fourth, Israel, has signed but not ratified the treaty.



Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering

- ❖ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has become the first Arab country to be granted observer status of the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG).
- ❖ APG is an inter-governmental organization that has 41 members.
- ❖ It was founded in 1997 and part of the global network of similar Financial Action Task Force-Style Regional Bodies.
- ❖ It is the largest in terms of membership numbers and geographical size.

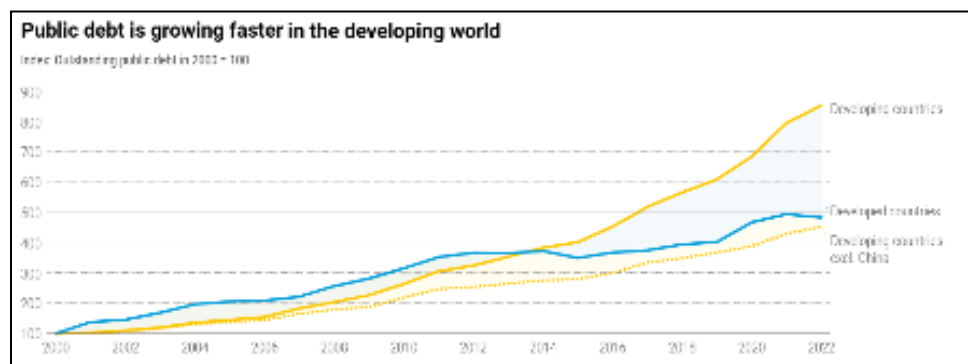
U.S. Senate Committee's Resolution on Arunachal Pradesh

- ❖ U.S Congressional Senatorial Committee has passed a resolution recognising Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of India.
- ❖ The resolution reaffirms that the United States recognises the McMahon Line as the international boundary between China and the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ It pushes back against Chinese claims that large portions of Arunachal Pradesh are PRC territory.
- ❖ The resolution will now go to the Senate floor for a full vote.
- ❖ China refers to Arunachal Pradesh as Zangnan.
- ❖ Beijing claims Arunachal Pradesh as South Tibet.



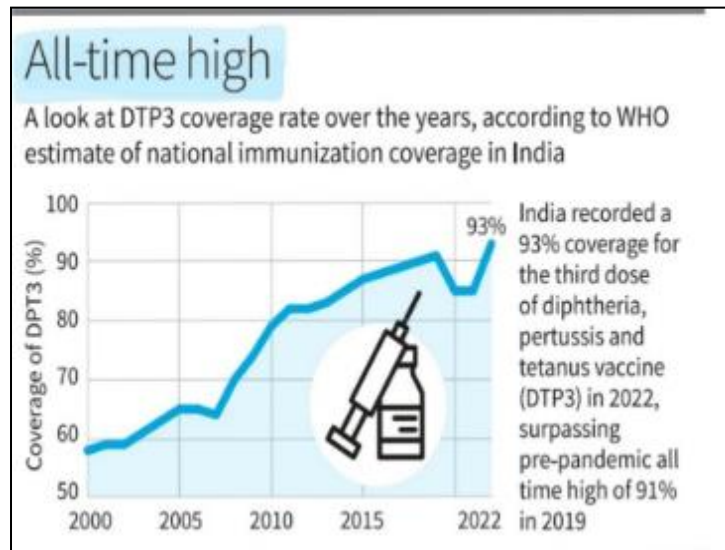
Global Public Debt in 2022

- ❖ The Global public debt surged to a record \$92 trillion in 2022 as governments borrowed to counter crises.
- ❖ Domestic and external debt worldwide has increased more than five times in the last two decades.
- ❖ Developing countries owe almost 30% of the global public debt, of which 70% is represented by China, India and Brazil.
- ❖ Fifty-nine developing countries face a debt-to-GDP ratio above 60% - a threshold indicating high levels of debt.
- ❖ In Africa, the amount spent on interest payments is higher than spending on either education or health.
- ❖ Private creditors, such as bondholders and banks, represent 62% of developing countries' total external public debt.
- ❖ In Africa, this creditor participation grew from 30% in 2010 to 44% in 2021.
- ❖ Latin America has the highest ratio of private creditors holding external government debt for any region at 74%.



DPT3 immunization coverage in 2022

- ❖ The coverage rate for DPT3, the third dose of diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus vaccines, in India rose to an all-time of 93% in 2022.
- ❖ It is surpassing the previous pre-pandemic best of 91% recorded in 2019.
- ❖ In the WHO South-East Asia Region, the coverage rate for DPT3 recovered to the pre-pandemic level of 91%.
- ❖ It is a sharp increase from the 82% recorded in 2021.
- ❖ The region also witnessed a six per cent improvement in the coverage of the measles vaccine, rising to 92% in 2022 from 86% in 2021.
- ❖ Indonesia reported a DPT3 coverage of 85% in 2022.
- ❖ Bhutan recorded 98% and Maldives 99%, are surpassing their pre-pandemic immunisation rates.
- ❖ Bangladesh with 98% and Thailand 97% demonstrated consistency in routine immunisation coverage throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.
- ❖ Sri Lanka with 98% coverage, Nepal with 90% and Timor-Leste with 86% were closer to the pre-pandemic coverage of 99%, 93% and 90%, respectively.



Phosphate Discovery

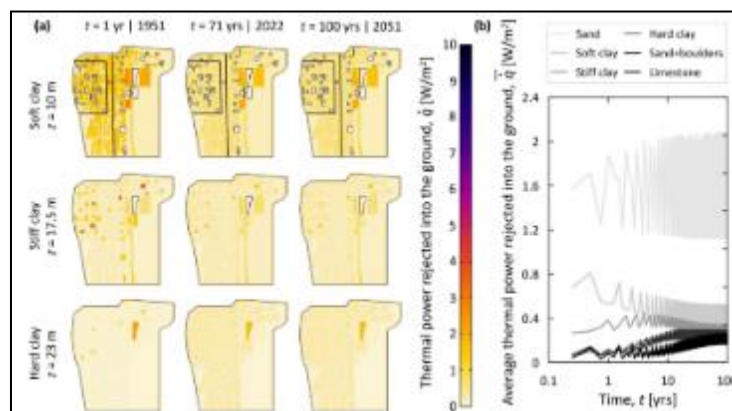
- ❖ A huge deposit of a valuable mineral called phosphate has been discovered in Norway.
- ❖ It can be used to power electric cars and solar panels.
- ❖ There are up to 70 billion tonnes of phosphorus in the deposit.
- ❖ It is enough to meet demand for the next 50 years.

- ❖ Previously, the largest amount of phosphate rock was found in Morocco’s western Sahara region, with approximately 50 billion tonnes.
- ❖ China (the largest phosphate producer in the world) and Egypt also have significant phosphate reserves.
- ❖ The refining process for phosphorus extraction can be highly polluting.



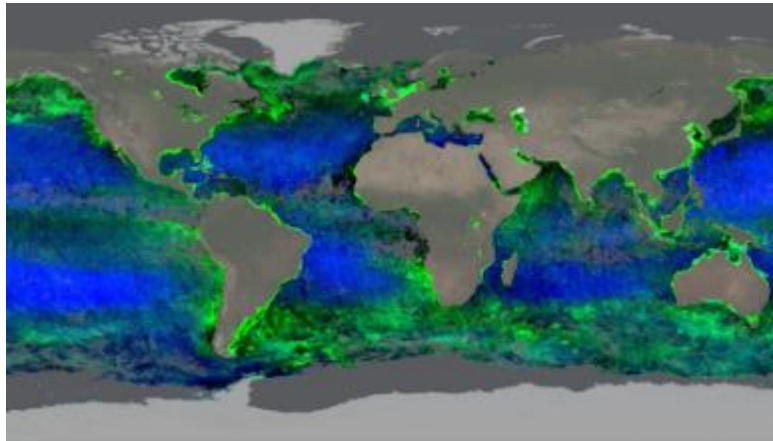
Underground Climate Change

- ❖ According to the research done in North-western University in Illinois in the US, Underground Climate Change is a silent hazard that threatens major cities across the world.
- ❖ The heat from buildings in underground transportation system diffuses below the surface.
- ❖ Over time the ground warms and then expansions and contractions caused by this heat creates rocks.
- ❖ This impairs the long-term durability and operational performance of structures.
- ❖ They also claim that such rising temperatures may have contributed to previous building deterioration.



Change in color of world's Ocean

- ❖ As per the recent studies, climate change has caused a change in the colour of 56 per cent of the world's ocean.
- ❖ It found that waters in the tropics, particularly the southern Indian Ocean, have turned green.
- ❖ Green-coloured water indicates an increase in phytoplankton, microscopic plant-like organisms that are crucial for marine life and carbon dioxide absorption.
- ❖ The researchers analysed data from the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) aboard the Aqua satellite.
- ❖ It has been monitoring ocean colour for two decades.
- ❖ They observed long-term trends and used models to simulate scenarios with and without greenhouse gas emissions.



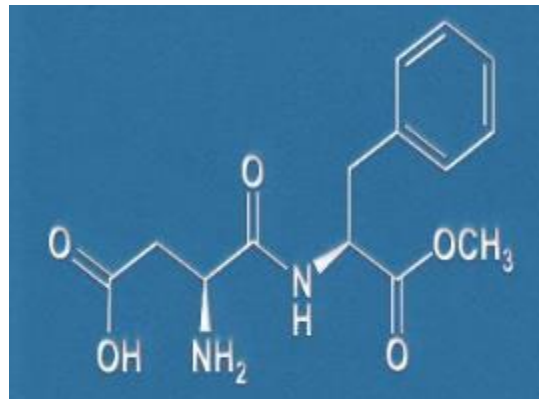
Local Currency Settlement System



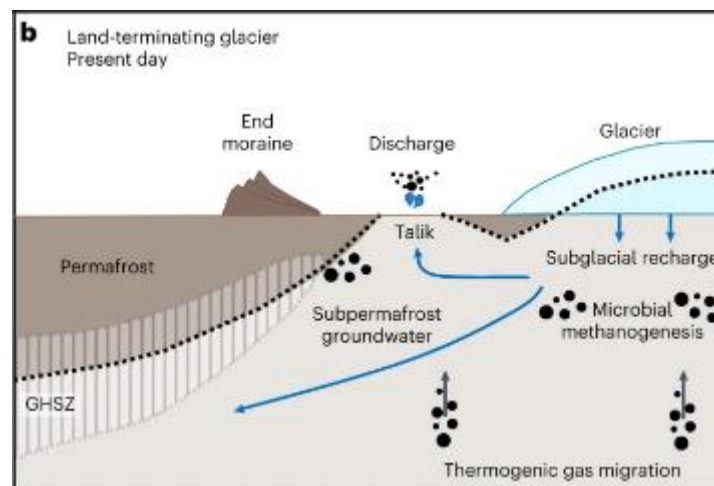
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India and the Central Bank of UAE (CBUAE) signed a Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen the use of local currencies for cross-border transactions.
- ❖ It aims to put in place a Local Currency Settlement System (LCSS).
- ❖ The MoU covers all current account transactions and permitted capital account transactions.

Aspartame

- ❖ The WHO, FAO and International Agency for Research on Cancer declare artificial sweetener aspartame as possibly carcinogenic.
- ❖ Aspartame is an artificial sweetener used as a sugar substitute in a wide range of food and beverage products.
- ❖ It is a low-calorie sweetener, approximately 200 times sweeter than sucrose (table sugar).

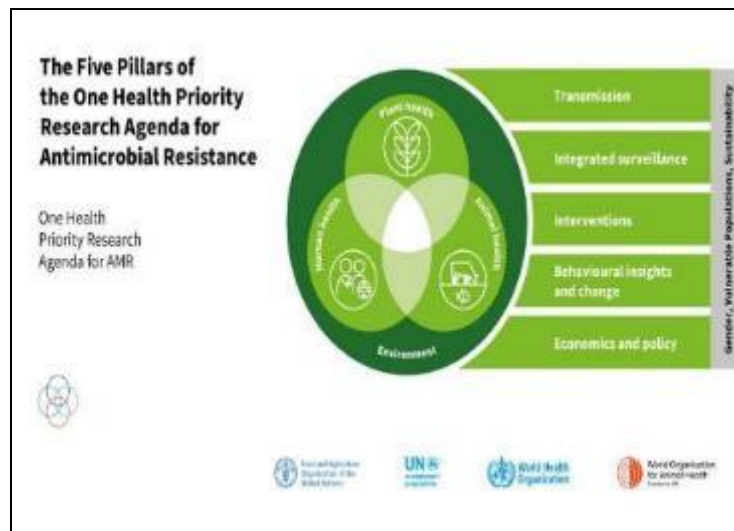


New methane source



- ❖ Climate change is causing groundwater springs to release methane in the Arctic.
- ❖ The retreating glaciers expose these methane-rich springs.
- ❖ The groundwater springs found in Svalbard, an archipelago in the Arctic, could be emitting over 2,000 tonnes of methane.
- ❖ This figure equals 10 per cent of the methane emissions from Norway's annual oil and gas energy industry.
- ❖ Methane, a greenhouse gas, is 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide on a 20-year timescale.

One Health Priority Research Agenda



- ❖ The Quadripartite – comprising the FAO, UNEP, WHO and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) – released the One Health Priority Research Agenda on Antimicrobial Resistance.
- ❖ The concept acknowledges the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the larger environment, including ecosystems, are inextricably linked and interdependent.
- ❖ At this One Health interface, addressing global health issues necessitates a multisectoral, multidisciplinary response to AMR.
- ❖ The five key pillars are Transmission, Integrated surveillance, Interventions, Behavioural insights and change, Economics and policy.
- ❖ It will serve as a guide for countries, research institutes and funding bodies to support One Health AMR research.
- ❖ It will also allow policymakers, researchers, and the multidisciplinary scientific community to collaborate across sectors.

World Humanitarian Drive

- ❖ World Humanitarian Drive (WHD) is an International NGO with operations in 12 countries.
- ❖ It is founded in the U.K. by British Indian global peace activist, Abdul Basit Syed.
- ❖ WHD is aims to promoting international education and trade.
- ❖ It has been granted special consultative status by United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- ❖ The WHD also promotes key initiatives between India and the UK.
- ❖ The consultative status with ECOSOC empowers WHD to actively interact with its subsidiary bodies of UN.

UK - Trans Pacific Partnership

- ❖ The UK signed the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) trade bloc.
- ❖ Along with China and Taiwan, Ukraine, Costa Rica, Uruguay and Ecuador have also applied to join the pact.
- ❖ The CPTPP is a landmark trade pact agreed in 2018 between 11 countries.
- ❖ Britain became the 12th member of the pact, which cuts trade barriers.
- ❖ India is not a member of this bloc.

19th session of CGRFA



- ❖ The 19th session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) held in Rome, Italy.
- ❖ CGRFA is the only permanent intergovernmental body that deals with all components of biodiversity for food and agriculture.
- ❖ The commission was established in 1983 and on July 16th, it completed 40 years of existence.

Semiconductor pact with India

- ❖ Japan has become the second Quad partner after the United States to sign an agreement on semiconductor with India.
- ❖ This pact signed for the joint development of the semiconductor ecosystem and maintain the resilience of its global supply chain.
- ❖ With around 100 semiconductor manufacturing plants, Japan is among the top five countries to have a semiconductor ecosystem.
- ❖ The Semiconductor industry will become a USD 1 trillion industry from USD 650 billion at present.

Switzerland's Plan for carbon neutrality



- ❖ Switzerland brought a new climate bill aimed at achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.
- ❖ The law seeks to reduce dependence on imported oil and gas and promote greener alternatives.
- ❖ The text promises financial support of two billion Swiss francs (\$2.2 billion) over a decade.
- ❖ The fund will be used to promote the replacement of gas or oil heating systems with climate-friendly alternatives, as well as aid to push businesses towards green innovation.

US-China Science and Technology Agreement (STA)

- ❖ US Lawmakers urged to state, not to renew a decades-old U.S-China agreement on scientific cooperation.
- ❖ The China-US Science and Technology Agreement (STA) was signed in 1979 and renewed about every five years since

- ❖ It has underpinned bilateral cooperation in science, technology and other areas for decades.
- ❖ This collaboration has encompassed disciplines such as atmospheric and agricultural science, physics, and chemistry.

European Sky Shield Initiative

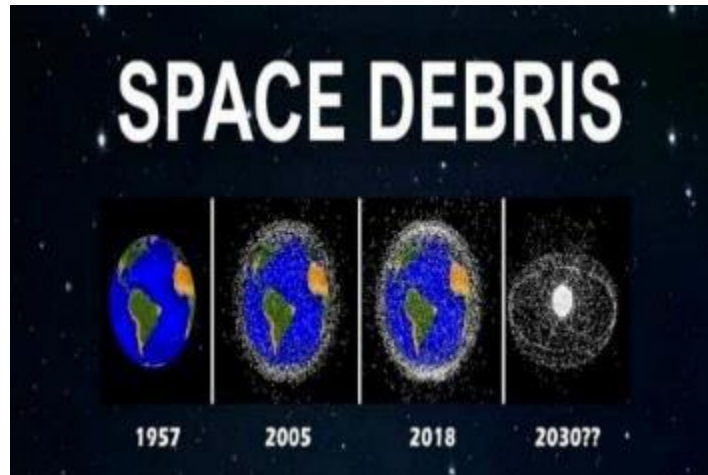
- ❖ Austria and Switzerland have joined the 'European Sky Shield Initiative' (ESSI) for air defence in response to Russia's attack on Ukraine.
- ❖ The European Sky Shield Initiative (ESSI) is a regional grouping of European countries aimed at developing a common air and missile defence system.
- ❖ It focuses on acquiring air defence equipment and missiles collectively to strengthen NATO's Integrated Air and Missile Defence (IAMD).



Space Industry Debris Mitigation Recommendations

- ❖ The World Economic Forum (WEF) and the European Space Agency (ESA) jointly released the Space Industry Debris Mitigation Recommendations.
- ❖ It aims to mitigate the space debris problem.
- ❖ The spacecraft operators try to get satellites removed from low-Earth orbit within 5 years after the end of the mission.
- ❖ Missions that orbit above an altitude of 375 kilometres should have an ability to actively manage the orbit.
- ❖ The guidelines encourage a propulsion-based system but other technologies could be more appropriate depending on the situation.

- ❖ Third-party liability insurance organizations should consider incentives for sustainable missions, and appropriate safety measures should be implemented
- ❖ It encourages industry players to further study the objects in orbit—the population, evolution, and the interaction between them.
- ❖ Russia has the most space debris with over 7000 rocket bodies floating in space.



Italy - Indian Army contribution in WW II

- ❖ A memorial has been unveiled in Italy as a tribute to the Indian troops who fought in the Italian Campaign during the Second World War.
- ❖ The motto of the memorial is “We all live under the same sun”.
- ❖ The memorial is named after Naik Yeshwant Ghadge, Victoria Cross, who was killed in action fighting on the heights of Upper Tiber Valley.
- ❖ More than 50,000 Indian Army soldiers from the 4th, 8th and 10th Divisions were involved in WW II.



BRICS Urbanization Forum

- ❖ This year, the forum has its first in-person follow-up in the vibrant South African city of Durban, South Africa.
- ❖ It aims to delve into key urban developmental issues and explore how cities globally are enhancing their resilience to meet emerging challenges.
- ❖ The last edition of the forum was hosted online under the presidency of China in 2022.
- ❖ The BRICS Urbanisation Forum that was inaugurated in New Delhi in February 2013.



Gender change and transgender marriages



- ❖ Russia passed a law that outlawing gender-affirming procedures, a crippling blow to Russia's already embattled LGBTQ+ community.
- ❖ This law bans any "medical interventions aimed at changing the sex of a person," as well as changing one's gender in official documents and public records.
- ❖ The only exception will be medical intervention to treat congenital anomalies.
- ❖ It also annuls marriages in which one person has "changed gender" and bars transgender people from becoming foster or adoptive parents.

- ❖ In 2013, the Kremlin adopted legislation that banned any public endorsement of “nontraditional sexual relations” among minors.
- ❖ In 2020, Putin pushed through constitutional reform that outlawed same-sex marriage.
- ❖ Last year he signed a law banning “propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations” among adults as well.

Global Parliamentary Pact

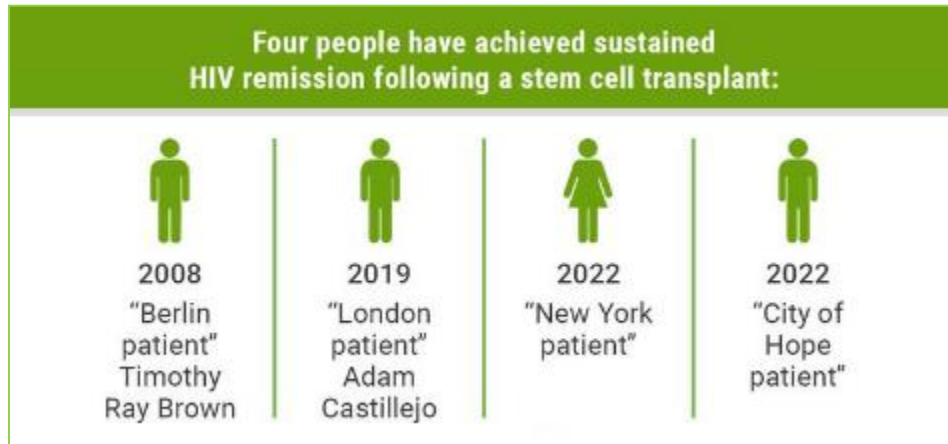


- ❖ The second Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition was held in Chile.
- ❖ Parliamentarians from 64 countries signed the Global Parliamentary Pact at the summit.
- ❖ They all are committing to push for reforms in the agrifood system to make food sustainable and accessible to all.
- ❖ They have formed a new multilateral body to address the issues of poverty, hunger, and malnutrition in the agrifood system.
- ❖ In 2021, there were 46 million more people who endured hunger than in 2020.
- ❖ Some 2.3 billion people in the world did not have access to adequate food in 2021.
- ❖ The first such summit on hunger and malnutrition was conducted in Spain in 2018.

Sixth Person cured from HIV

- ❖ A sixth person with HIV, being referred to as the Geneva patient, has likely been cured of HIV after receiving a stem cell transplant for leukaemia.
- ❖ The level of virus in his blood remained undetectable 20 months after his antiretroviral therapy was discontinued.

- ❖ This patient underwent a stem cell transplant in 2018 for an aggressive form of leukaemia.
- ❖ Twenty months later, his tests did not find any viral particles, latent reservoirs of the infection, or elevated immune response against the virus.
- ❖ All the six patients who have achieved HIV remission so far needed the stem cell transplantation for treatment of their cancers.
- ❖ In the first five cases, however, the treatment teams specifically looked for donors with CCR5 delta 32 mutation that is associated with lower risk of HIV.
- ❖ HIV lowers immunity in infected individuals by attacking the CD4 immune cells.
- ❖ Berlin patient, became the first person to overcome HIV after two stem cell transplants in 2007 and 2008.



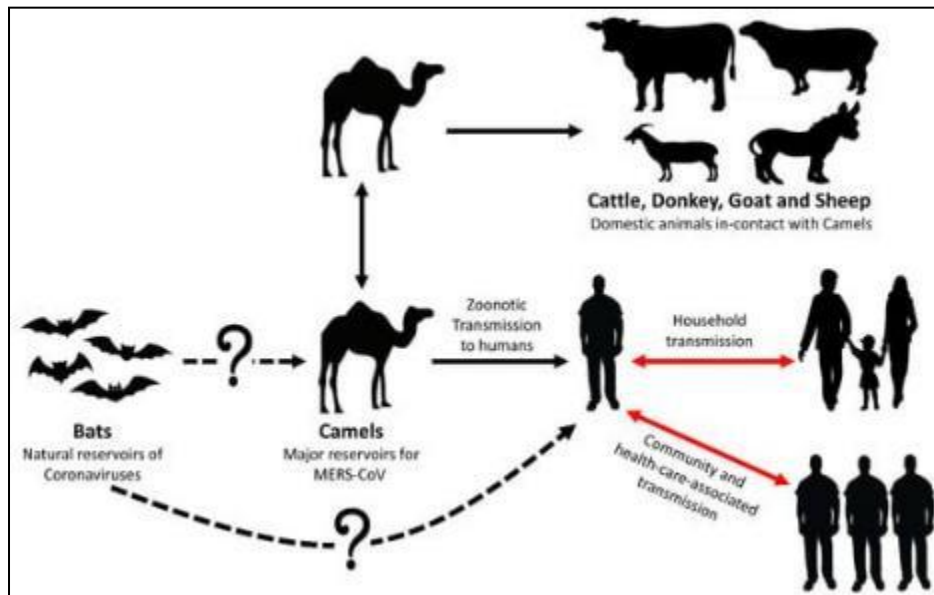
Israel's Judicial Reform Bill



- ❖ Israel's parliament passed the controversial "reasonable standard bill."
- ❖ This is the first major legislation in the government's plan to weaken the judiciary.

- ❖ This bill strips the Supreme Court of the power to declare government decisions unreasonable.
- ❖ It scraps the requirement for ministers to obey the advice of their legal advisers - guided by the attorney general

First case of MERS-CoV in 2023



- ❖ World Health Organization (WHO) has identified a case of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) from United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- ❖ MERS-CoV is a viral respiratory infection that is caused by a coronavirus called Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV).
- ❖ Humans are infected with direct or indirect contact with dromedary camels.
- ❖ They are the natural host and zoonotic source of the MERS-CoV infection.
- ❖ The first case of MERS-CoV was reported in UAE in July 2013.

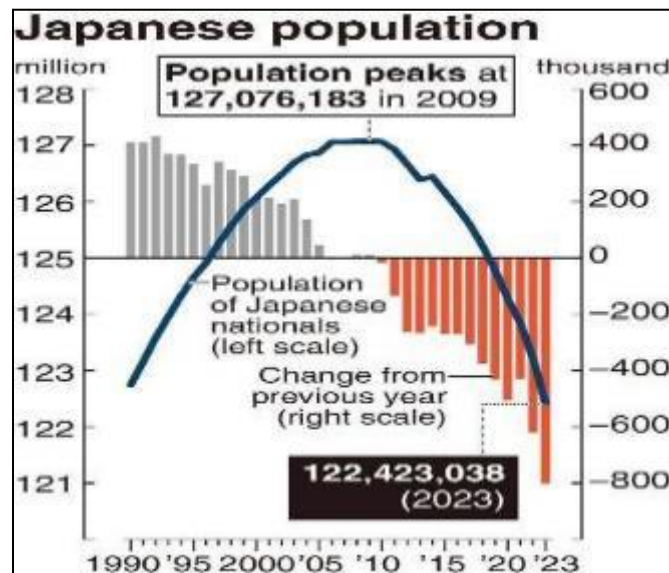
Global Education Monitoring Report 2023

- ❖ The UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring Report 2023 was titled 'Technology in Education: A Tool on Whose Terms'.
- ❖ It has endorsed banning smartphones in schools in situations where "technology integration does not improve learning or if it worsens student well-being".
- ❖ It highlighted that "mere proximity to a mobile device was found to distract students and to have a negative impact on learning in 14 countries.
- ❖ Currently, less than one in four have banned smartphone use in schools".

- ❖ Only 16% of countries explicitly guarantee data privacy in education by law.
- ❖ The Global Education Monitoring Report: Established in 2002.



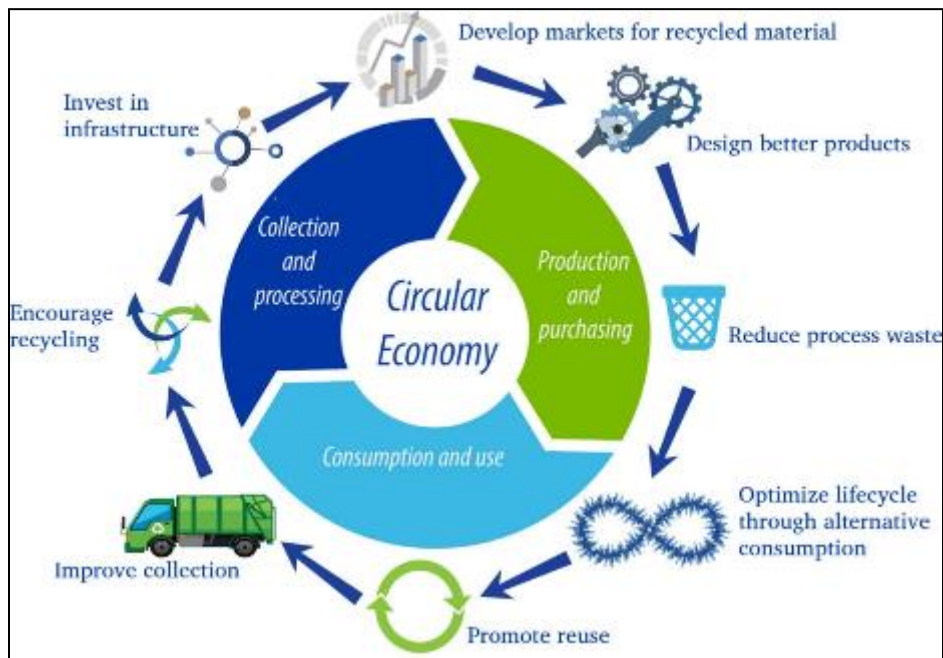
Japan's Population Decline



- ❖ The population of Japanese nationals fell by about 800,000 people to 122.4 million in 2022 from the previous year.
- ❖ This is the loss of 0.65% and witnessing falling for a 14th straight year.
- ❖ Japan's total population was 125.41 million, down just over half a million people from a year earlier.
- ❖ There was a 10.7% jump in foreign residents with addresses registered in Japan.
- ❖ Foreign residents now account for about 2.4% of Japan's population.
- ❖ The country saw a record low of 771,801 births last year.

Resource Efficiency Circular Economy Industry Coalition

- ❖ The G20 countries are set to launch the Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Industry Coalition (RECEIC).
- ❖ This is an industry-led initiative with a global focus on promoting resource efficiency and circular economy practices.
- ❖ The coalition includes 39 founding members from 11 different nations.
- ❖ The RECEIC is designed to be a platform for knowledge and best practice exchange, fostering sustainable practices among its participating industries.



ECONOMY

Greedflation

- ❖ Greedflation is currently on the rise in the United States and is one of the primary reasons why prices are being driven up in the country.
- ❖ Greedflation, in basic terms, is the inflation and hike in prices not driven by economic flow, but by corporate greed.
- ❖ It has not taken a headway in India.
- ❖ But foreign companies in the nation continue to jack up the prices to gouge the customer for more profits.



First Government bank to allow UPI payments through credit cards

- ❖ Canara Bank has announced that it has become India's first Public Sector Bank to offer UPI (Unified Payments Interface) payments to merchants through RuPay Credit Card.
- ❖ This new feature is available within the bank's popular "Canara ai1" Banking Super App.
- ❖ The bank has partnered with NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India) to introduce this facility.
- ❖ It enables Canara Bank customers to make quick and seamless payments to merchants using their RuPay Credit Card, providing them with greater flexibility and convenience.
- ❖ This joint initiative aims to provide safe, secure, and convenient payment transactions for Canara Bank customers.
- ❖ The introduction of RuPay Credit Cards on UPI opens new opportunities for both customers and merchants, revolutionizing the credit ecosystem.

Financial Stability Report for June 2023

- ❖ The Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) of the scheduled commercial banks, declined to a 10-year low of 3.9 per cent in March 2023.
- ❖ It is expected to fall further to 3.6 per cent by March 2024.
- ❖ But nearly 10 per cent of retail borrowers are missing monthly payments.

- ❖ The write-off to GNPA ratio increased in 2022-23 due to large write-offs by private sector banks.
- ❖ It had been declining consecutively through 2020-21 and 2021-22.

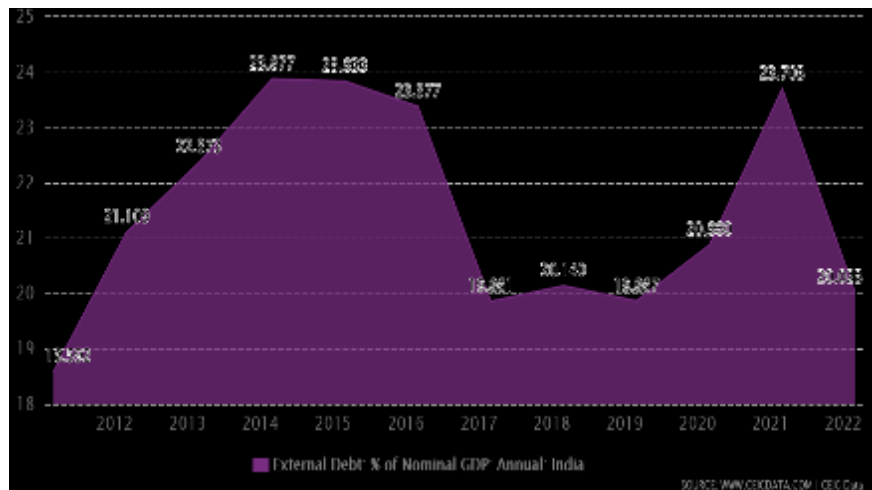


HDFC Merger

- ❖ The merger of HDFC Bank Ltd. and Housing Development Finance Corp took place on July 1.
- ❖ The new HDFC Bank entity will have around 120 million customers.
- ❖ This is greater than the population of Germany.
- ❖ The new entity has a combined asset base of around Rs 18 lakh crore.
- ❖ This merger creates a lender that ranks fourth in equity market capitalization globally.
- ❖ It was only behind JPMorgan Chase & Co., Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd. and Bank of America Corp.



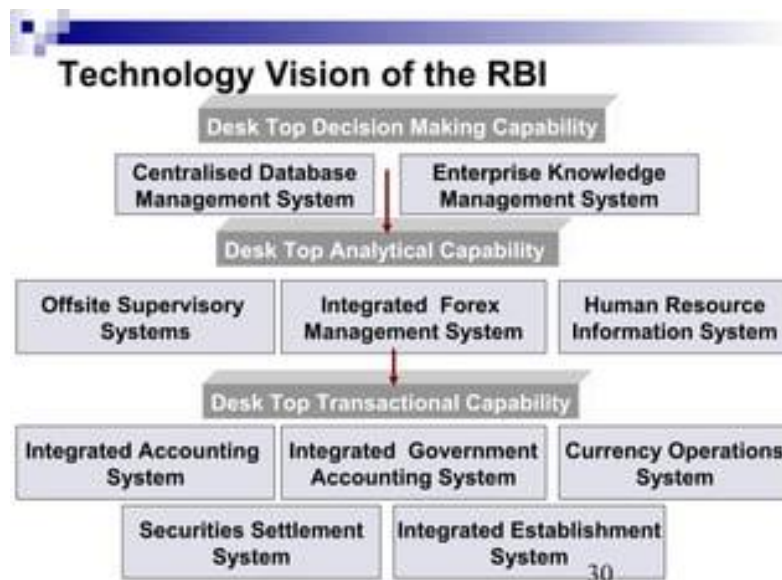
India's External Debt



- ❖ India's external debt, at end-March 2023, was increased by \$5.6 billion to \$624.7 billion.
- ❖ The external debt to GDP ratio declined to 18.9% at end-March from 20% a year earlier.
- ❖ Excluding the valuation effect, external debt would have increased by \$26.2 billion instead of \$5.6 billion at end-March 2023 over end-March 2022.
- ❖ The share of short-term debt (up to one year) in total external debt increased to 20.6 percent at end-March 2023 from 19.7 percent at end-March 2022.
- ❖ US dollar-denominated debt remained the largest component of India's external debt, with a share of 54.6 percent at end-March 2023.

- ❖ It is followed by debt denominated in the Indian rupee (29.8 percent), SDR (6.1 percent), yen (5.7 percent), and the euro (3.2 percent).
- ❖ The Loans remained the largest component of external debt, with a share of 32.5 percent.
- ❖ It followed by currency and deposits (22.6 percent), trade credit and advances (19.9 percent) and debt securities.

Centralized Information Management System

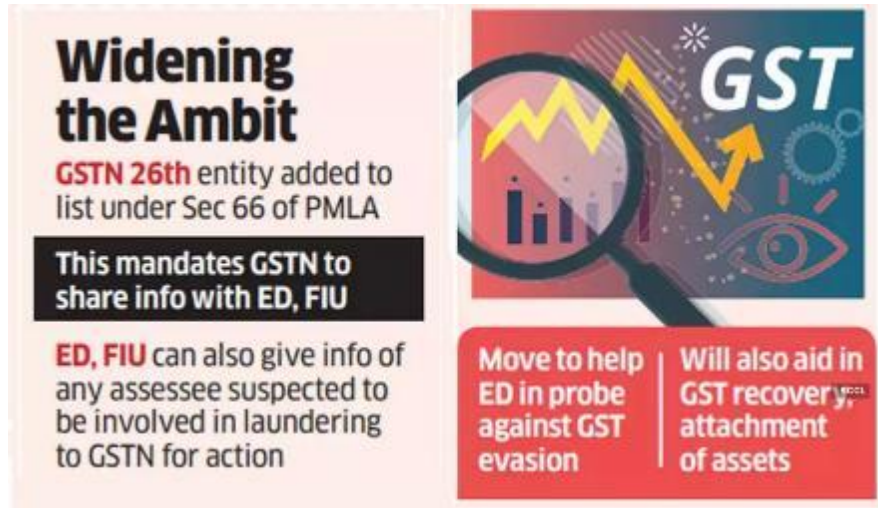


- ❖ RBI has upgraded its information management framework with the introduction of the Centralised Information Management System (CIMS).
- ❖ It will handle the massive data flow, aggregation, analysis, public dissemination and data governance.
- ❖ This system uses state-of-the-art technology to manage big data and will serve as a platform.

GSTN under PMLA

- ❖ The Indian government amended provisions of the money laundering Act to allow the Enforcement Directorate to share information with GST Network.
- ❖ As per the amendment to the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, GST Network has been included in the list of entities with which the Enforcement Directorate will share information.
- ❖ The changes have been made for provisions under Section 66 of the PMLA, which provides for disclosure of information.

- ❖ The move to include GSTN under the money laundering law comes amid rising cases of GST fraud and fake registrations.
- ❖ GST authorities have been probing fake registrations and fraudulent of input tax credit.



Widening the Ambit
GSTN 26th entity added to list under Sec 66 of PMLA








This mandates GSTN to share info with ED, FIU

ED, FIU can also give info of any assessee suspected to be involved in laundering to GSTN for action

Move to help ED in probe against GST evasion

Will also aid in GST recovery, attachment of assets

Highlights of the 50th GST Council Meeting

Know the Key Highlights of the 50th GST Council Meeting		
 Cancer related drugs to be exempted from GST	 Reduction of GST Rates on certain items	 Reduction of GST Rates on food served in cinema halls
 Levy of GST on online games	 GST exemption on satellite launching services	 Taxability of services by the director of the company
 Continuation of Relaxations in Form GSTR-9 & GSTR-9C		

- ❖ The 50th Meeting of the GST Council took place in New Delhi.
- ❖ It decided to reduce the GST rate on uncooked/unfried snack pellets to 5%.
- ❖ The Council has exempted IGST on medicines and Food for Special Medical Purposes (FSMP) when imported for personal use.
- ❖ To encourage better utilization of LD slag, the GST rate on LD slag has been reduced from 18% to 5%.

- ❖ Casinos, horse racing and online gaming will be taxed at a uniform rate of 28%.
- ❖ The Council recommends extending the GST exemption on satellite launch services supplied by ISRO.
- ❖ Food and beverages sold at the cinemas to get covered under 'restaurant service', liable to 5% GST.
- ❖ Fish soluble paste reduced from 18% to 5%.
- ❖ Imitation Zari threads/yarn reduced from 12% to 5%.

Trade in Indian rupee

- ❖ Bangladesh and India launched a much-anticipated trade transaction in rupees.
- ❖ This move is aimed at reducing dependence on the US dollar and strengthening regional currency and trade.
- ❖ This is the first time Bangladesh has done bilateral trade with a foreign country in addition to the US dollar.
- ❖ The exports from Bangladesh to India amounts to USD 2 billion.
- ❖ Bangladesh's imports from Dhaka to India are worth USD 13.69 billion.
- ❖ Earlier India and Malaysia have agreed to settle trade in the Indian rupees.
- ❖ India-Malaysia bilateral trade touched \$19.4 billion during 2021-22.

Card network portability



- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has unveiled a draft regulation that grants debit, credit, and prepaid cardholders the authority to select their desired card network.
- ❖ The authority to select their desired card network, is marking a potentially revolutionary development on a global scale.
- ❖ This regulation challenges the prevailing practice where card network options are predetermined through agreements between issuers and networks.

- ❖ This means users can port their card network just like one can port switch/port mobile service providers while retaining the same phone number.
- ❖ The Card network portability will keep their existing card accounts, balances, and credit history intact.

Interest rates on select small saving schemes

Instrument	Rates of interest from 01.04.2023 to 30.06.2023	Rates of interest from 01.07.2023 to 30.09.2023
Savings Deposit	4.0	4.0
1 Year Time Deposit	6.8	6.9
2 Year Time Deposit	6.9	7.0
3 Year Time Deposit	7.0	7.0
5 Year Time Deposit	7.5	7.5
5 Year Recurring Deposit	6.2	6.5
Senior Citizen Savings Scheme	8.2	8.2
Monthly Income Account Scheme	7.4	7.4
National Savings Certificate	7.7	7.7
Public Provident Fund Scheme	7.1	7.1
Kisan Vikas Patra	7.5 (will mature in 115 months)	7.5 (will mature in 115 months)
Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme	8.0	8.0

- ❖ The government raised interest rates on select saving schemes by up to 0.3% for the July-September quarter.
- ❖ The highest increase of 0.3% was for the five-year recurring deposit (RD).
- ❖ A one-year term deposit with post offices will now earn 0.1 percentage higher point at 6.9% and for the two years tenor — 7% (up from 6.9%).
- ❖ Term deposits for three years and five years have been retained at 7% and 7%.
- ❖ The interest rates for popular PPF and savings deposits are retained at 7.1% and 4%, respectively.

Mahila Samman Savings Certificate Scheme

- ❖ All Public Sector Banks and eligible Private Sector Banks are permitted to implement and operationalise the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate, 2023.
- ❖ This aims at enabling enhanced access of the scheme for girls/women.
- ❖ With this, Mahila Samman Savings Certificate scheme will now be available for subscription in Post Offices, and eligible Scheduled Banks.
- ❖ It provides attractive and secured investment option to all girls and women.
- ❖ Maturity of the investment under this scheme is two years from the date of opening of the account under the scheme.



Empower your Financial Liberation !!!

MAHILA SAMMAN
Savings certificate 2023
(A Govt. of India Scheme)

Interest Rate on Deposit : **7.5% P.A.**

Maximum Deposit : upto Rs. 2 Lakh

Maximum Period : upto 2 Years

Partial Withdrawal Facility : Available

New categories of ESG Scheme



NEW SUB-CATEGORIES

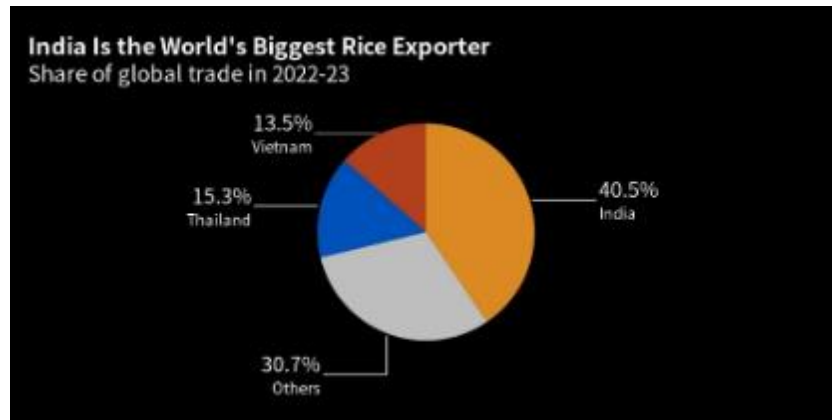
- Exclusion
- Integration
- Best in class & positive screening
- Impact investing
- Sustainable objectives
- Transition related investments

- ❖ The SEBI allowed mutual funds to introduce five new categories under ESG (environmental, social, and governance) and put in place a disclosure framework for them.
- ❖ The five new categories are -- exclusions, integration, best-in-class and positive screening, impact investing, and sustainable objectives.
- ❖ Presently, mutual funds can launch only one ESG scheme under the thematic category of equity schemes.

Export of non-basmati white rice

- ❖ The Food and Consumer Affairs Ministry recently banned the export of non-basmati white rice, with immediate effect.
- ❖ It aims to ensure adequate availability of non-basmati white rice in the Indian market and to allay the rise in prices in the domestic market.

- ❖ Rice production has taken a hit owing to vagaries of weather such as heavy monsoon rains in rice-producing States in the north and deficit rainfall in other parts of the country.
- ❖ China, a major rice producer, has also suffered owing to inclement weather.
- ❖ India is the world's leading rice exporter, accounting for more than 40% of the global rice trade, as well as the second-largest producer after China.
- ❖ The major markets for Indian rice are African countries.
- ❖ China, India, Thailand, Vietnam, and Pakistan are the leading producers and major global suppliers of rice.



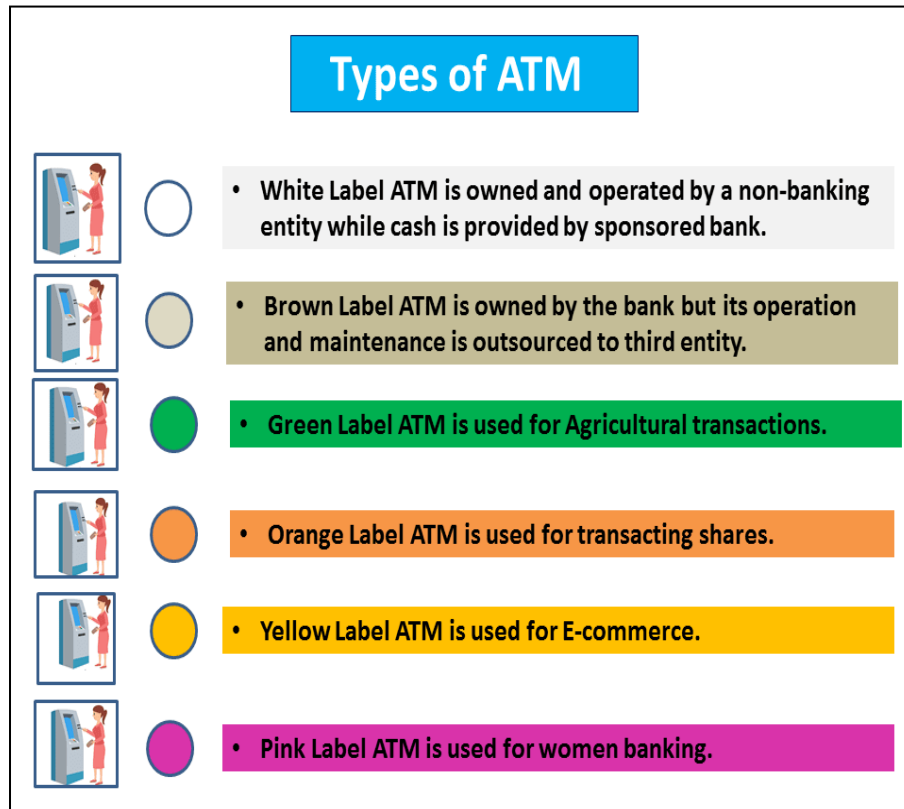
SBI Ecowrap report



- ❖ State Bank of India's Economic Research Department's report, SBI Ecowrap, said that India is likely to get the tag of the world's third largest economy by FY28.
- ❖ India should surpass both Japan and Germany in 2027 at the current rate of growth.
- ❖ The incremental increase by India between 2022-2027, is more than the current size of Australia's economy at \$1.8 trillion.

- ❖ India is likely to add \$0.75 trillion in every 2 years.
- ❖ This implying that India is all set to touch \$20 trillion by 2047.
- ❖ Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh will break the \$500 billion mark in 2027 (or FY28).

White Label ATMs

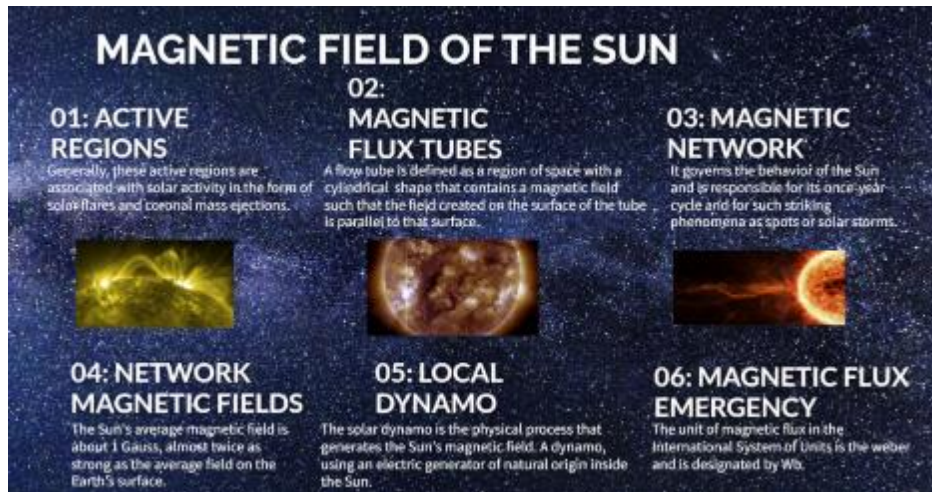


- ❖ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted permission to non-bank entities to establish, own, and operate White Label ATMs (WLAs) nationwide.
- ❖ This move is aimed at enhancing banking services reach, especially in smaller towns and rural areas, and promoting financial inclusion.
- ❖ WLAs are ATMs set up, owned and operated by non-banks.
- ❖ Non-bank ATM operators are authorised under the Payment & Settlement Systems Act, 2007 by the RBI.
- ❖ They provide banking services to customers using debit/credit/prepaid cards issued by banks.
- ❖ WLAs also offer services like account information, cash deposit, bill payment, mini statements, PIN change, and cheque book requests.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Solar Mean Magnetic Field

- ❖ Latest study has given a clearer picture of how the sun's magnetic field influences the interplanetary magnetic space.
- ❖ The Solar Mean Magnetic Field (SMMF) influences interplanetary magnetic space and plays a significant role in space weather.
- ❖ SMMF refers to the average strength and direction of the magnetic field on the surface of the Sun.
- ❖ The studies suggests that the primordial magnetic field inside the sun could be a source of the SMMF.



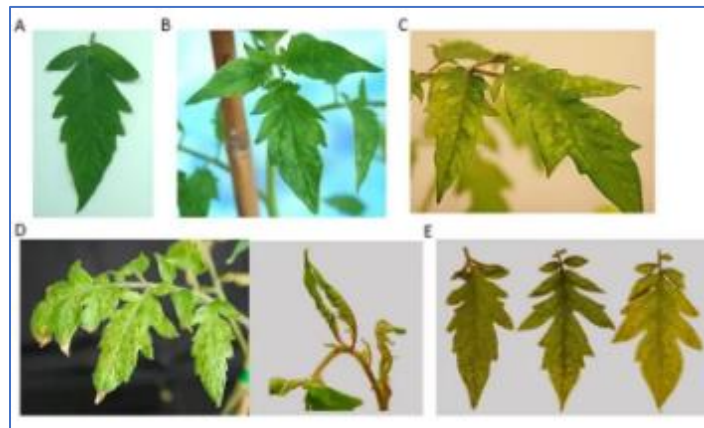
India's First NavIC

- ❖ Elena Geo Systems, a Bengaluru based Space Technology Company, introduced India's First NavIC - Based PNT Device.
- ❖ PNT devices stands for Positioning, Navigation and Timing devices.
- ❖ The PNT device can be easily connected to a smartphone using the On-The-Go (OTG) connector.
- ❖ The device aims to provide precise guidance for railways, land surveying, telecommunications and hydrocarbon exploration.

CMV and ToMV Viruses

- ❖ Tomato growers in Maharashtra and Karnataka have blamed two different viruses for the loss of yields.

- ❖ Farmers in Maharashtra have said their tomato crop was impacted by attacks of the cucumber mosaic virus (CMV).
- ❖ The Growers in Karnataka and other South Indian states have blamed the tomato mosaic virus (ToMV) for crop losses.
- ❖ The two plant pathogens have similar names and cause similar damage to crops.
- ❖ But they belong to different viral families, and spread differently.
- ❖ ToMV belongs to the Virgaviridae family and is closely related to the tobacco mosaic virus (TMV).
- ❖ ToMV hosts include tomato, tobacco, peppers, and certain ornamental plants.
- ❖ CMV has a much larger host pool that includes cucumber, melon, eggplant, tomato, carrot, lettuce, celery, cucurbits
- ❖ CMV was identified in cucumber in 1934, which gave the virus its name.
- ❖ ToMV spreads mainly through infected seeds, saplings, agricultural tools and often, through the hands of nursery workers.
- ❖ CMV is spread by aphids, which are sap-sucking insects.
- ❖ CMV can also spread through human touch, but the chances of that are extremely low.



Giant 'gravity hole' in Indian Ocean

- ❖ Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science have revealed the secrets of the giant gravity hole in the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ It is known as the Indian Ocean Geoid Low (IOGL).
- ❖ Discovered in 1948, just south of Sri Lanka, by Dutch geophysicist Felix Andries Vening Meinesz.
- ❖ It covers over two million square miles and sits around 600 miles beneath the Earth's crust.

- ❖ The huge anomaly has significantly lower gravity than the average.
- ❖ The presence of lighter materials in the upper to mid-mantle, were responsible for the gravity low in this region.
- ❖ This mantle structure beneath the Indian Ocean was probably produced by the leftovers of a long-lost Tethys Ocean's seabed.



OpenKylin OS

- ❖ China has released its first homegrown open-source desktop operating system, named OpenKylin.
- ❖ This is the country's steps up efforts to cut reliance on U.S. technology.
- ❖ OpenKylin users have access to the software's lines of code and can modify them as they wish
- ❖ It is used in its space programme and industries such as finance and energy



First-ever view of the Milky Way

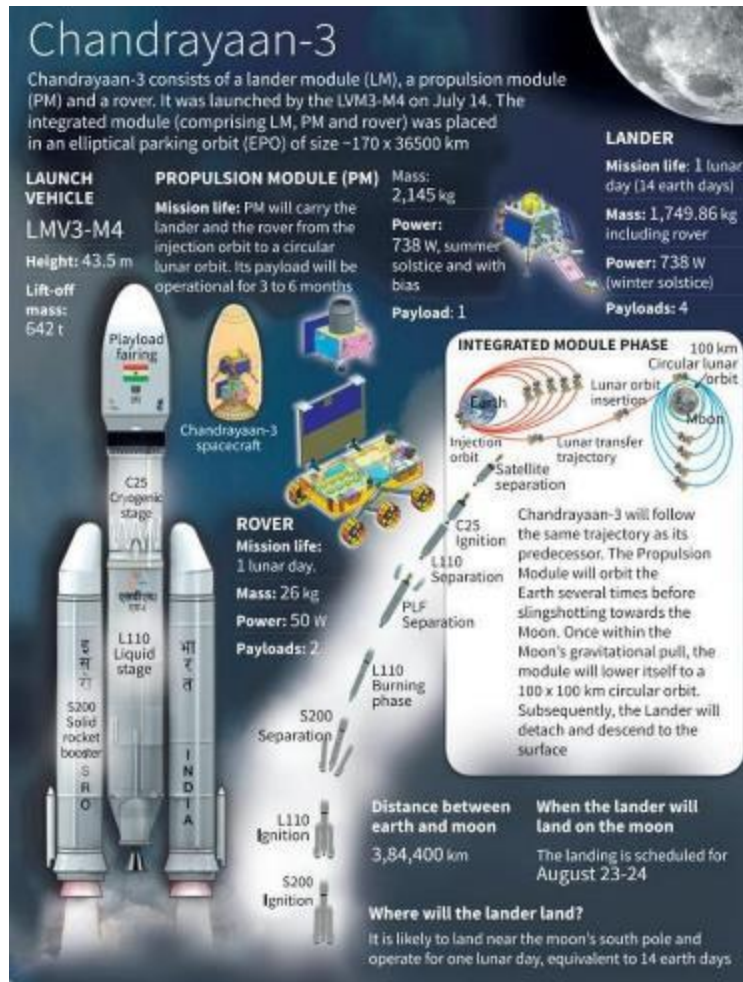
- ❖ Data collected by an observatory in Antarctica has produced our first view of the Milky Way galaxy through the lens of neutrino particles.
- ❖ It's the first time we have seen our galaxy "painted" with a particle, rather than in different wavelengths of light.
- ❖ The Ice Cube Neutrino Observatory uses a gigatonne of the ultra-transparent ice under huge pressures to detect a form of energy called Cherenkov radiation.
- ❖ Its result in roughly spherical showers of light and give the researchers a better level of sensitivity to the astrophysical neutrinos from the Milky Way.



Chandrayaan 3 mission

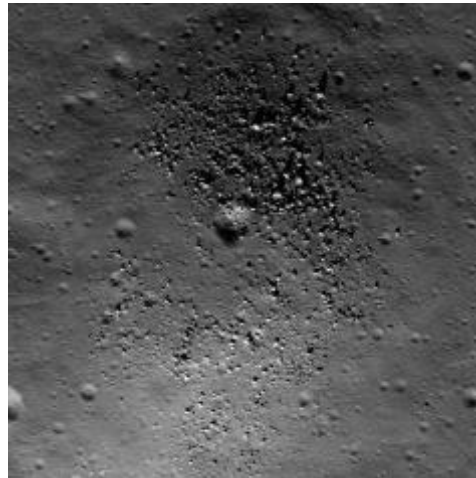
- ❖ The Chandrayaan 3 mission by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched on July 14, 2023 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- ❖ The spacecraft was launched onboard the Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM 3) rocket.
- ❖ The lunar mission is a follow-up to the Chandrayaan 2, launched in September 2019.
- ❖ The Chandrayaan 3 mission plans to demonstrate end-to-end capability in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface.
- ❖ Objectives are:
 - To demonstrate safe and soft landing on the lunar surface
 - To demonstrate rover roving on the moon and
 - To conduct in-situ scientific experiments.
- ❖ After reaching the lunar surface, the lander, called 'Vikram' will deploy its four scientific payloads.
- ❖ They aimed to study the moon's surface temperature and subterranean characteristics.

- ❖ The module has an instrument called the ‘Spectro-polarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth’ (SHAPE) will collect data about the light emitted and reflected by the earth.
- ❖ The rover, called ‘Pragyan’, will study the lunar surface using chemical and visual tests as it moves around.



Granite on Moon

- ❖ A gigantic chunk of old granite that was hidden beneath the surface of the Moon has been discovered by scientists.
- ❖ The 50-km-diameter granitic system discovered below the far-side feature known as the Compton-Belkovich Volcanic Complex.
- ❖ It was likely to formed from the cooling of molten lava that fed a volcano or volcanoes that erupted approximately 3.5 billion years ago.
- ❖ Granite has high concentrations of radioactive elements like uranium and thorium compared to other rocks in the lunar crust.



PBW RS1 wheat variety

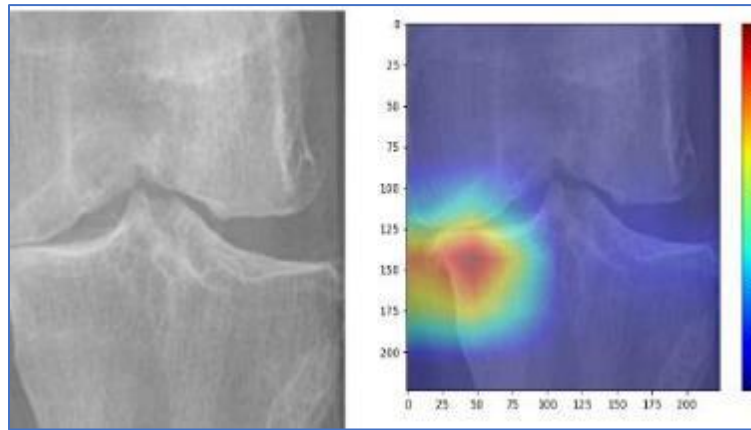
LOWER GLYCEMIC INDEX				
GI is value of how quickly foods can increase blood sugar				
	New variety	Checks*		
	PBW RS1	PBW 550	PBW 725	PBW 766
Chapati	43.1	66.7	66.9	65.3
Atta biscuits	32.4	51.4	54.6	52.2

**Comparison with other varieties*

- ❖ The Ludhiana-based university has come up with a new wheat variety called PBW RS1.
- ❖ It contains high levels of amylose starch.
- ❖ RS is short for resistant starch.
- ❖ It is known to reduce the risk of type-2 diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.
- ❖ The consumption of chapatis made from this wheat won't lead to an immediate and rapid rise in glucose levels.
- ❖ High-amylose starch has unique functional properties and nutritional values in food applications.
- ❖ This form of starch is resistant to enzymatic digestion in the gastrointestinal tract and contains a higher fraction of resistant starch.
- ❖ The high amylose and resistant starch make sure that glucose is released more slowly into the bloodstream.

- ❖ This slow digest also increases a feeling of satiety.
- ❖ The new wheat has a total starch content which is almost equivalent to 66-70 per cent in other wheat varieties.
- ❖ However, it has 30.3 per cent resistant starch content as against only 7.5-10 per cent for other varieties, including PBW 550, PBW 725, HD 3086 and PBW 766.
- ❖ The field trials have been recorded at 43.18 quintals per hectare.

Osteo HRNet



- ❖ IIT Guwahati researchers develop AI-based model framework called Osteo HRNet to predict knee osteoarthritis from X-ray images.
- ❖ This AI-based model can be used to detect the severity level of the disease and assist medical practitioners remotely for a more accurate diagnosis.
- ❖ Knee osteoarthritis has a prevalence of 28 per cent in the country and there is no possible cure for the condition.
- ❖ Total joint replacement at an advanced stage is the only possible solution.
- ❖ Hence an early diagnosis is essential for pain management and behavioral corrections.

First regional AI news anchor 'Lisa'

- ❖ An Odia-based news station Odisha TV introduced its first AI news anchor to the world, Named Lisa.
- ❖ Lisa is capable of speaking multiple languages and can present news in Odia, English, and other languages.
- ❖ Earlier, in March, the India Today Group also introduced their first AI news anchor, Sona.



Zhuque-2 carrier rocket

- ❖ A private Chinese company has launched the world's first methane-liquid oxygen space rocket named Zhuque-2 into orbit.
- ❖ The launch was the second attempt by Beijing-based firm LandSpace.
- ❖ The first launch attempt of the Zhuqu-2 in December had failed.

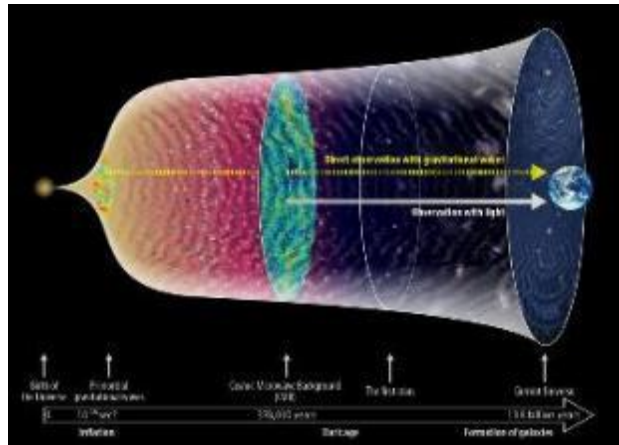


Sagar Sampark



- ❖ The indigenously developed Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNSS) was inaugurated recently.
- ❖ This state-of-the-art system is named ‘Sagar Sampark’.
- ❖ It aims to strengthening digital transformation of the Indian maritime sector.
- ❖ It enhances navigation safety by reducing the risk of collisions, groundings, and accidents.

Gravitational wave background

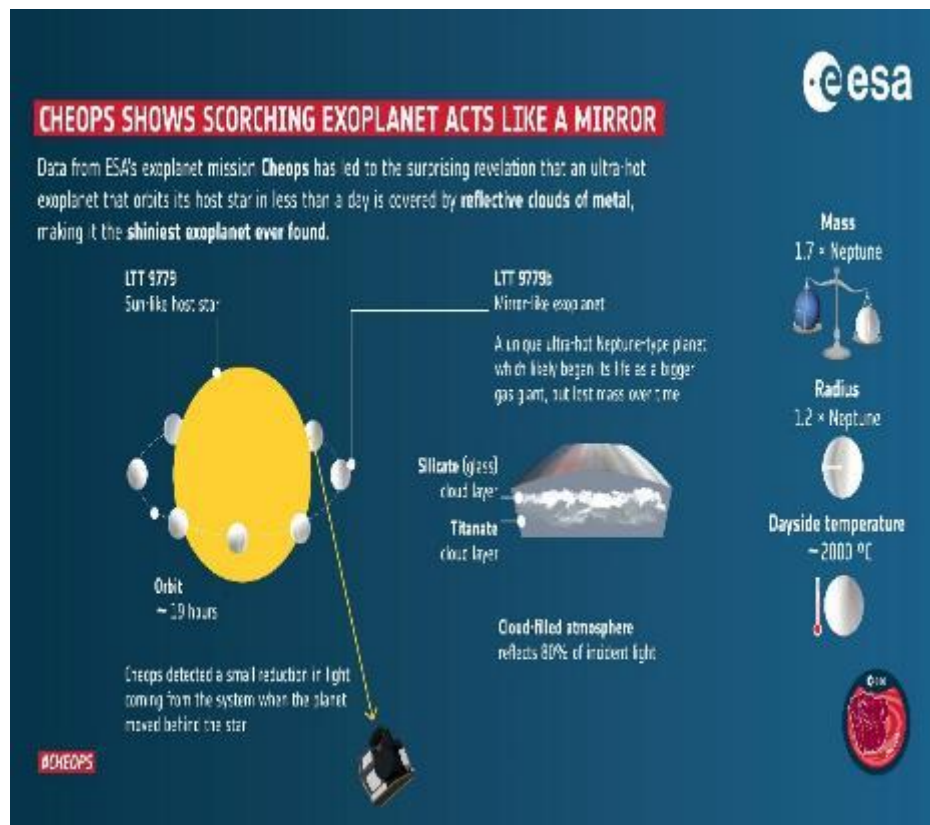


- ❖ Scientists have officially made the first detections of the gravitational wave background.
- ❖ It is a sign that gravitational waves from slowly merging pairs of supermassive black holes can be detected from Earth in a background field of low-frequency energy.
- ❖ Gravitational waves are created by astronomically dense objects in our universe, usually in orbit around each other.
- ❖ They discovered first in 2015 by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, or LIGO.

Planet LTT9779 b

- ❖ Astronomers have found the most reflective planet ever discovered using data from the European Space Agency’s (ESA) Cheops satellite.
- ❖ The planet has a thick layer of reflective metal clouds, essentially turning it into a gigantic mirror when viewed by observatories.
- ❖ The newly-discovered LTT9779 b, planet reflects a massive 80 per cent of the light it receives from its host star.
- ❖ Venus has a thick cloud layer that reflects about 75 per cent of the Sun’s light.

- ❖ The Earth only reflects around 30 per cent of the incoming sunlight.
- ❖ This exoplanet is about the size of Neptune.
- ❖ The metallic clouds are mostly made of silicate.
- ❖ There are also other metals like titanium mixed into the clouds.
- ❖ The blazing-hot exoplanet is so close to its host star that it completes an orbit in less than a day.
- ❖ LTT9779 b can form metallic clouds despite being so hot because the atmosphere is oversaturated with silicate and metal vapours.



Synthetic Embryos

- ❖ Recently, scientists have successfully created advanced embryo-like structures using human stem cells.
- ❖ These synthetic embryos develop similarly to natural embryos at around 14 days after fertilization.
- ❖ This remarkable advancement has the potential to transform the understanding and practices of In Vitro Fertilization (IVF).

	Adult Stem Cells	Embryonic Stem Cells
DEFINITION	Adult stem cells are a type of stem cells present in differentiated tissues and organs of adults and children	Embryonic stem cells are a type of stem cells present in the early stages of embryonic development
POTENCY	Multipotent	Pluripotent
GROWING IN CELL CULTURES	Very challenging	Relatively easy
EXAMPLES	Present in skeletal muscle, liver, pancreas, brain, eye, dental pulp, skin, bone marrow, blood and the lining of the gastrointestinal tract	Present in the inner cell mass of the blastocyst which gives rise to the three germ layers

Majorana Zero Mode

- The particles, also known as Majorana fermions, were first proposed by Italian physicist Ettore Majorana in 1937.
- They possess special properties that make them their own antiparticles, which is advantageous for building quantum computers.



- ❖ Microsoft announced a significant innovation in the creation of Majorana Zero Modes.
- ❖ All particles have four quantum numbers associated with them.
- ❖ No two particles in the same system can have the same four quantum numbers.
- ❖ A quantum computer made with qubit as Majorana zero mode and can be encoded with information onto some property of the mode.

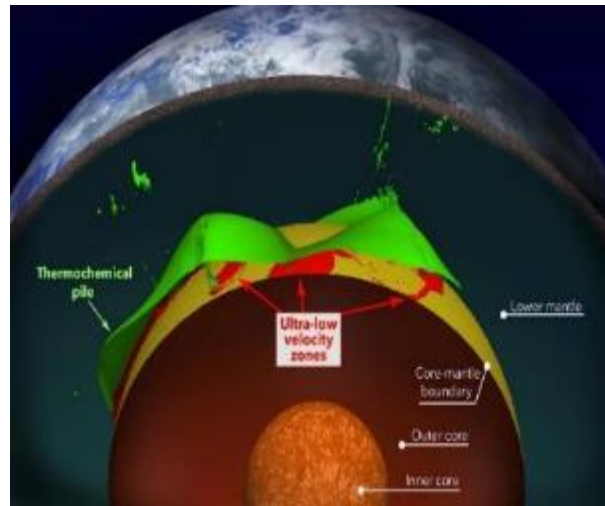
Cholederm

- ❖ The Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) has developed a new wound care product called Cholederm.
- ❖ It is the first institution in India to develop Class D medical devices that meet the requirements of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).
- ❖ It is a Class D medical device made from the extracellular matrix of a pig's gall bladder.
- ❖ It is an innovative technology for preparing tissue engineering scaffolds from mammalian organs.
- ❖ It has demonstrated faster healing of various skin wounds, including burns and diabetic wounds, in animal tests with minimal scarring.
- ❖ It is expected to reduce treatment costs and make advanced wound care more affordable.

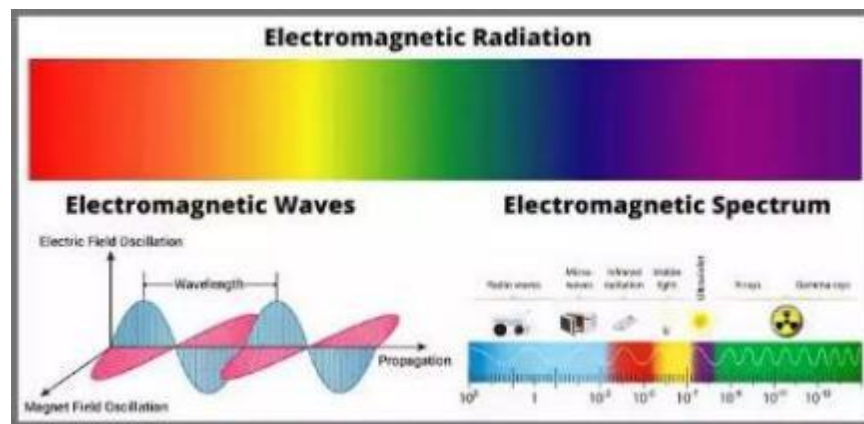


Ultra-Low Velocity Zones

- ❖ Recent research is uncovering mountains deep within the Earth that are three to four times taller than Mount Everest.
- ❖ Their heights are estimated to be over 24 miles (38 kilometers).
- ❖ Using seismology centers in Antarctica, the team identified these colossal mountain ranges, known as ultra-low velocity zones (ULVZs).
- ❖ They are located at the boundary between the core and mantle, approximately 2,900 kilometers beneath the Earth's surface.



Electromagnetic Field (EMF) Radiation

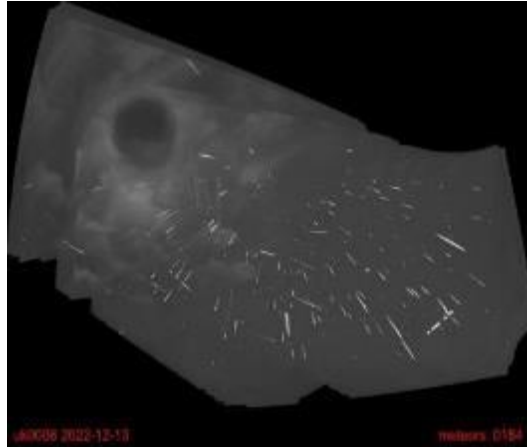


- ❖ Recently, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Delhi LSA, organized a webinar focused on raising awareness about Electromagnetic Field (EMF) radiation.
- ❖ The event aimed to address misconceptions surrounding the potential harmful effects of EMF radiation from mobile towers.
- ❖ Experts shed light on the nature of EMF emissions, safety measures, and the role of international organizations in setting limits.

Geminid meteors

- ❖ NASA'S Parker Solar Probe mission has shed new light on the origin of the intense Geminid meteor shower.
- ❖ It illuminates the winter sky with its spectacular display every year.
- ❖ Geminid meteor shower peaks during mid-December each year.

- ❖ It is considered to be one of the best and most reliable annual meteor showers.
- ❖ Geminid stream appears to originate from an asteroid known as 3200 Phaethon.



Service module propulsion system

- ❖ The ISRO successfully tested the Gaganyaan Service Module Propulsion System (SMPS) at ISRO Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ With the successful completion of the hot test, the SMPS demonstrated its performance in the full configuration.
- ❖ ISRO plans to carry out Gaganyaan's first abort test in August.



X-ray Auroras in Mercury

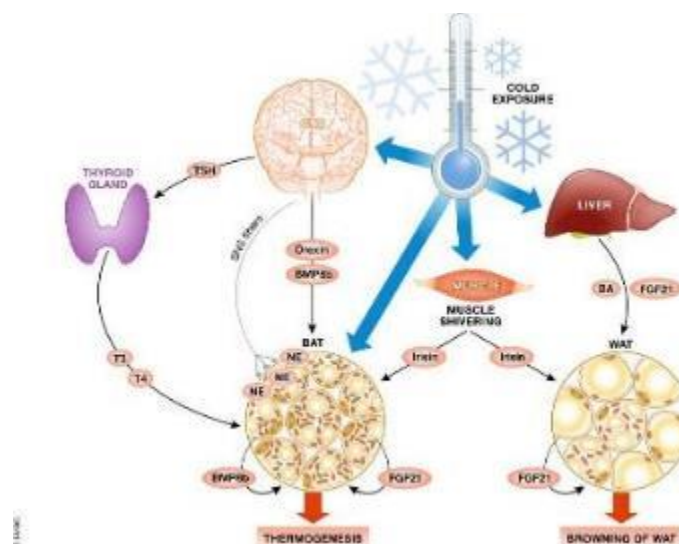
- ❖ The Bepi Colombo spacecraft made its first close flyby near the burning-hot planet on October 1, 2021.
- ❖ The spacecraft approached Mercury from the night side of the northern hemisphere and made a close approach in the morning side of the southern hemisphere.

- ❖ Using the observations made by the spacecraft, scientists discovered that electrons from the Sun raining down on the surface of the planet generates X-ray auroras on Mercury.
- ❖ Mercury has a very thin atmosphere, meaning that a lot of electrons from solar wind crash onto the surface.



Inter-organ communication

- ❖ IIT-M have developed a computational approach called “multicens” to understand inter-organ communication network in humans.
- ❖ Multicens will help uncover key molecular mediators of inter-organ communication.
- ❖ They used the genomic information available for various tissues to develop this method.
- ❖ Exchange of information between organs and tissues allows organisms to adapt to changes in their environment, assess their energy reserves and maintain overall well-being.

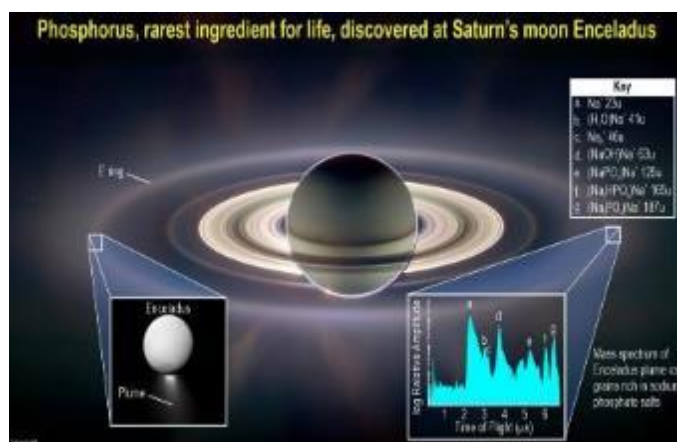


Organic matter on Mars



- ❖ NASA's Perseverance rover has discovered evidence of organic compounds in a Martian crater.
- ❖ This providing insights into the potential habitability of Mars.
- ❖ It reveals a more complex organic geochemical cycle on Mars than previously thought.
- ❖ It is also indicating the presence of multiple reservoirs of the potential organic molecules on the planet.
- ❖ The findings suggest that Mars has experienced aqueous processes and that water may have played a significant role in the existence of organic matter.
- ❖ The research team used an instrument called the Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman and Luminescence for Organics and Chemicals (SHERLOC) to detect the organic compounds.

Phosphorus Discovered on Enceladus



- ❖ Researchers have discovered the presence of phosphorus in icy grains emanating from Saturn's moon.
- ❖ The new discovery made Enceladus - sixth largest among Saturn's 146 known natural satellites.

- ❖ Previous studies had spotted signs of the other five elements needed for life—carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur.
- ❖ The discovery of phosphorus on Enceladus suggests that this moon possesses the necessary building blocks for life.
- ❖ Phosphorus is an integral part of life on Earth.
- ❖ It's the second most abundant mineral in the human body, behind calcium.
- ❖ It is key to forming bones, teeth, cell membranes and DNA.
- ❖ NASA's Cassini space probe, which has been studying Saturn and its moons for 13 years, has made a significant discovery.

Carbon-dioxide Auroras

- ❖ NASA's satellite spots infrared carbon dioxide aurora from outer space.
- ❖ An aurora is a natural light display those shimmers in the sky.
- ❖ When charged particles crash into the planet's atmosphere, they interact with many different atoms and molecules.
- ❖ Carbon dioxide is one of them.
- ❖ When carbon dioxide molecules about 90 kilometres above Earth become excited during an aurora, they emit infrared radiation.



Google's 'Perspectives' Search

- ❖ Google has recently launched a new search feature called Perspectives.
- ❖ It is aiming to provide users with a broader range of viewpoints on various topics.
- ❖ It encompasses a wide range of content types, including long- and short-form videos, images, and written posts.
- ❖ These materials are sourced from discussion boards, Q&A sites, and popular social media platforms.

Virgin Galactic

- ❖ Virgin Galactic successfully completes its maiden commercial space flight after a 75-minute suborbital journey to the edge of space.
- ❖ The mission featured two Italian Air Force personnel.
- ❖ Virgin Galactic is the space venture established by British entrepreneur Richard Branson.



Euclid Space Telescope

EUCLID WILL LOOK BACK 10 BILLION YEARS

Euclid is 4.7m tall and 3.7m in diameter and weighs two tonnes

Sun shield

Solar panel

Telescope 1.2m diameter

Thrusters

1 It will launch on a SpaceX Falcon 9 from Cape Canaveral in Florida

2 It will travel 15 million kilometres from Earth in the opposite direction from the Sun

3 After four weeks it will reach its destination and begin orbit around L2 - where the James Webb Space Telescope is located

4 In its orbit, Euclid's sunshield blocks light from the Sun, Earth and Moon

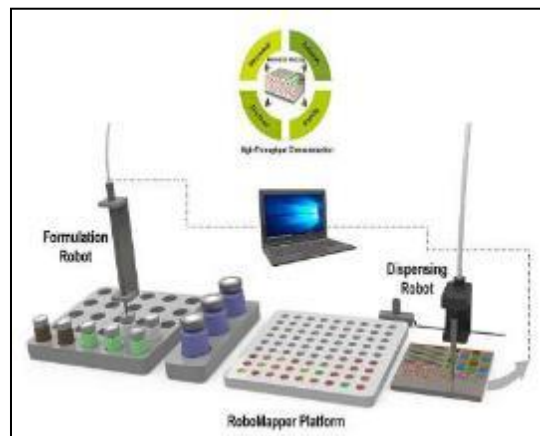
5 It continuously points its telescope towards deep space, mapping the last 10 billion years of cosmic history across more than a third of the sky

6 Images will be beamed down to hundreds of scientists for analysis

- ❖ The European Space Agency plans to survey billions of galaxies using the Euclid Space Telescope.
- ❖ The new Euclid space telescope was launched on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.
- ❖ Euclid is a visible to near-infrared space telescope developed by the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Euclid Consortium.
- ❖ This mission aims to better understand dark energy and dark matter by accurately measuring the acceleration of the universe.

RoboMapper

- ❖ Researchers have successfully created a robot called RoboMapper.
- ❖ It is capable of conducting experiments to develop new semiconductor materials efficiently and sustainably.
- ❖ It takes a different approach by automating the process and miniaturizing the material samples using modern printing techniques.
- ❖ The robot has been found to be nearly 10 times faster than previous automated techniques.
- ❖ The process also reduced greenhouse gas emissions of the characterisation process by 10 times.



PSLV-C56

- ❖ ISRO successfully launched the PSLV-C56 carrying Singapore's DS-SAR satellite and six other satellites.
- ❖ The DS-SAR satellite is developed under a partnership between DSTA (representing the Government of Singapore) and ST Engineering.
- ❖ The co-passengers on the missions are VELOX-AM, ARCADE, SCOOB-II, NuLloN, Galassia-2 and ORB-12 STRIDER.



Jupiter 3

- ❖ SpaceX launched Hughes Network Systems' Jupiter 3 satellite.
- ❖ It is designed to modernize an old-school approach to space-based internet access.
- ❖ The nine-ton and a bus sized satellite Jupiter 3, also called EchoStar XXIV.
- ❖ It is the largest commercial communications satellite ever built.

Hughes JUPITER™ 3 Next Generation Ultra High Density Satellite

Launching a new era of connectivity.

JUPITER 3 Quick Facts

- Spectrum: Ka-band, Q- and V-band for gateways
- Coverage: North & South America
- Speed: Up to 100 Mbps
- Capacity: More than 500 Gbps
- Stowed Size: 25 feet long
- Deployed Size: Solar arrays span 127 feet
- Solar Arrays: 14 total
- Position: 95° West longitude
- Distance: 22,390 miles above the equator
- Manufacturer: Maxar
- Launcher: SpaceX
- Service sectors: Consumer, small business, enterprise, government, service providers and aeronautical and maritime mobility
- Spot beams: 300. Each beam carries 505 MHz or more, providing more than 1 Gbps to the VSAT users in each cell allowing faster service plans of up to 100 Mbps.



JUPITER 3 Gateways

- Active Gateways: 18
- Diverse Gateways for Service Continuity: 2
- Each gateway transmits 11 GHz of V-band and Ka band and receives 4 GHz in Q-band.

JUPITER Fleet

- JUPITER fleet total capacity: More than 1 Tbps
- JUPITER 1 (EchoStar XVIII): Launched July 2012 with 120 Gbps capacity
- JUPITER 2 (EchoStar XIX): Launched December 2016 with 200 Gbps capacity
- JUPITER 3 (EchoStar XXIV): Launching 2023 with more than 500 Gbps capacity

Follow along with us on the journey to JUPITER 3.
Visit [hughes.com/JUPITER3](https://www.hughes.com/JUPITER3)



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ENVIRONMENT

Hasarius Mumbai

- ❖ This new species of Jumping spider was discovered in the rocks lying near natural, seasonal streams at the Bombay Natural History Society's (BNHS) conservation education centre (CEC) in Goregaon East.
- ❖ The species is named after Mumbai city - Hasarius Mumbai.
- ❖ The above-mentioned centre is one of the few oldest and mixed moist deciduous forests in India.
- ❖ The place shares its boundaries with the biodiverse landscapes of Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) and Film City in Aarey Milk Colony (AMC) of Mumbai.
- ❖ These jumping spiders belong to the Salticidae family.
- ❖ This family contains over 600 different genera and over 6,000 described species of spiders.



Alligator gar fish

- ❖ Recently a non-native alligator gar fish species was discovered in one of the beautiful lakes of Kashmir.
- ❖ Alligator Gar Fish is one of the biggest freshwater fish in North America and the largest species in the 'gar' family.
- ❖ This predator fish has an alligator-like head and razor-sharp teeth.
- ❖ It can grow up to 8 feet long and weigh more than 300 pounds.



- ❖ It was also found in some parts of India like Bhopal, Kerala and from waterbodies of Maharashtra and Kolkata.
- ❖ IUCN status for this is the least concerned.

Diversity for Restoration (D4R) tool

- ❖ Diversity for Restoration (D4R) tool is devised by Bioversity International.
- ❖ The online tool precisely aims to help better decision-making and bring the best outcome for those plantation programmes.
- ❖ It could improve socio-ecological perspectives and help stakeholders in decision.
- ❖ The tool has information about 100 plant functional traits that have been considered to offer the best possible solution.
- ❖ The tool informs the user whether the tree species offers timber, fruit, manure or other commercial benefits.
- ❖ It also informs if the tree is resilient to physiological stresses such as extreme high or low temperatures, salinity or acidity tolerance in the soil among others.
- ❖ The tool is already being used in countries such as Malaysia, Ethiopia, Columbia, Peru, Burkina Faso, Cameroon etc.

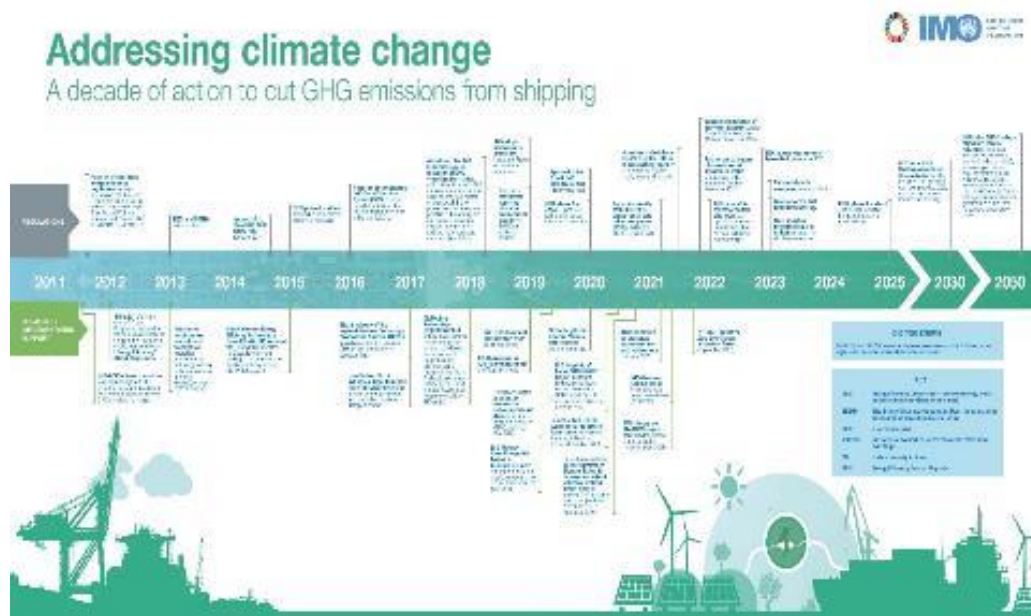
Animal Discoveries - New Species and New Records 2023



- ❖ India added 664 animal species to its faunal database in the year 2022.
- ❖ These comprise 467 new species and 197 species found in India for the first time.
- ❖ The country also added 339 new plant taxa – 186 taxa that are new to science and 153 taxa as new distributional records from the country in 2022.
- ❖ Among the major fauna species discovered are three new species and one new record of mammals; two new records of birds; 30 new species and two new records of reptiles; six new species and one new record of amphibia; and 28 new species and eight new records of fish.

- ❖ The maximum number of new faunal discoveries has been of invertebrates with 583 species, while vertebrates constitute 81 species.
- ❖ Insects dominate among invertebrates with 384 species.
- ❖ In 2022, the maximum (82) new discoveries were recorded from Kerala.
- ❖ Karnataka is followed with 64 new species and 24 new records accounting for 13.2%.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu saw 71 new discoveries and 13 new records contributing to 12.6% of all the new discoveries and new records in the country.
- ❖ Plant Discoveries 2022' contains an enumeration of 339 taxa, which have been added to the Indian flora during 2022.
- ❖ These comprise 319 species, and 20 infraspecific taxa as new to the Indian flora.

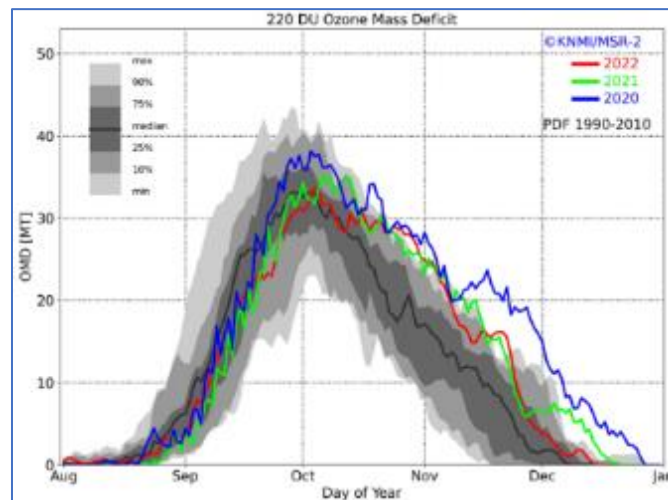
2023 IMO Greenhouse Gas Strategy



- ❖ The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) agrees to adopt the 2023 IMO strategy on the reduction of GHG emissions from ships, to mitigate harmful emissions.
- ❖ The shipping industry is responsible for 1 billion tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually or 3% of global greenhouse emissions.
- ❖ The revised IMO GHG Strategy focuses on ensuring uptake of alternative zero and near-zero GHG fuels by 2030.
- ❖ It also made a call to reduce the total annual GHG emissions from international shipping by at least 20%, striving for 30%, by 2030, compared to 2008.

- ❖ It urged to reduce the total annual GHG emissions from international shipping by at least 70%, striving for 80%, by 2040, compared to 2008.
- ❖ Near-zero emission technologies, fuels, and energy sources should “represent at least 5%, striving for 10%, of the energy used by 2030.”
- ❖ IMO was established in Geneva in 1948 as a specialised agency of the United Nations.

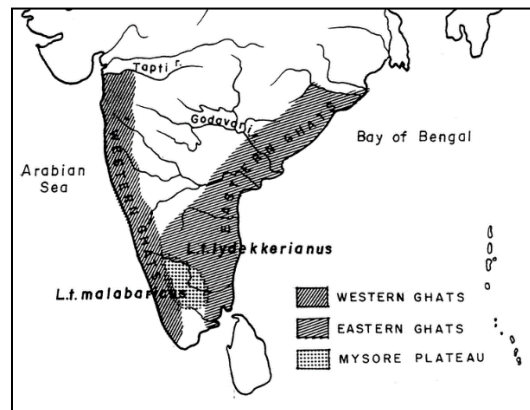
Ozone-UV Bulletin



- ❖ The bulletin with the updated status of the ozone layer by World Meteorological Organization - Global Atmosphere Watch bulletin released after a gap of seven years.
- ❖ The ozone layer protects life on Earth from harmful solar ultraviolet (UV) radiation.
- ❖ Depletion of the ozone layer was first observed in the 1980s.
- ❖ To end this, the Montreal Protocol of 1987 has banned the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances.
- ❖ As of today, 99 per cent of their production and use has been phased out.
- ❖ In 2022, higher than normal ozone columns were observed in the tropics and subtropics and lower than normal ozone columns at higher latitudes.
- ❖ Climate change is slowing down the recovery of the ozone layer.
- ❖ In 2022, the Antarctic ozone hole had a relatively late onset in September and a relatively large extent and depth in October and November.
- ❖ Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcanic eruption — the largest in 100 years — increased the water vapour content of the stratosphere by 5-10 per cent.

Forest cover in Western Ghats

- ❖ The Western Ghats saw a loss of 5% evergreen forest cover with an increase of 4.5% built-up cover, and 9% agriculture area.
- ❖ It is one among 36 global biodiversity hotspots.
- ❖ IISc's Energy and Wetlands Research Group launched the Western Ghats Spatial Decision Support System (WGSDSS).
- ❖ It has been designed as part of the ongoing ecological research in the Western Ghats.
- ❖ Grid wise analysis portrays 32% of the area under ESR-1 (Ecologically Sensitive Region) denoting very high ecological fragility.
- ❖ 16% (373) of grids under ESR-2, which has potential to be ESR-1.
- ❖ 34% (789) and 18% (412) under ESR-3, and 4 respectively.



Gambusia Fish



- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh government has released approximately 10 million Gambusia fish into the state's water bodies.
- ❖ This move aims to combat mosquito-borne diseases like malaria and dengue.
- ❖ The fish is also known as mosquitofish.
- ❖ It is widely used as a biological agent for controlling mosquito larvae.

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh reported approximately 6,391 dengue cases and 2,022 malaria cases in 2022.
- ❖ There have been 2,339 dengue and 1,630 malaria cases registered in the state in the last six months.
- ❖ However, the release of these invasive alien fish species has raised concerns about the potential harm that will be sustained by native species.

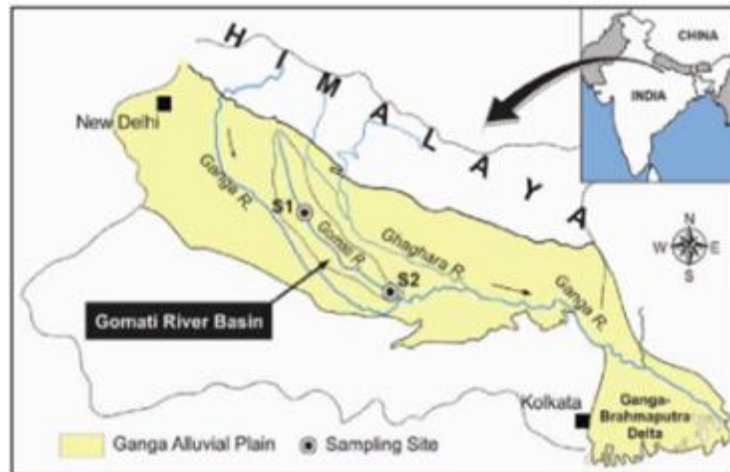
New saline-tolerant plant species

- ❖ Researchers has discovered a new species of saltwort called *Salsola oppositifolia* Desfontania in the Kutch district of Gujarat, India.
- ❖ The perennial shrub is belonging to the Amaranthaceae family.
- ❖ They grow in saline, arid to semi-arid environments.
- ❖ It is a halophyte, adapted to saline conditions.
- ❖ They are known for their salty juice stored in their leaves.
- ❖ The plants of the *Salsola* genus have various uses, including manufacturing soda ash, lye, soaps, and pharmaceutical products.



Gomti River “non perennial river”

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh government declaring the Gomti as a “non-perennial river” in 2020.
- ❖ Gomti is a tributary of Ganga River and an alluvial river of the Ganga Plain.
- ❖ It originates near Mainkot, from Gomat Taala lake also known as Fulhar Jheel in Madhotanda.
- ❖ The declaration of the river as a seasonal one takes away from its importance.



Indian Dickinsonia Fossil

- ❖ Researchers claimed that, A rare 550-million-year-old fossil discovered in 2021 from Bhimbetka rock shelters, Bhopal.
- ❖ Now the Indian scientists have proved that the fossil was actually a left-over impression of a fallen beehive and not a genuine fossil.
- ❖ Earlier, US Researchers believed as they have found the first-ever fossil in India of a Dickinsonia —the Earth’s ‘oldest animal’, dating back 570 million years.



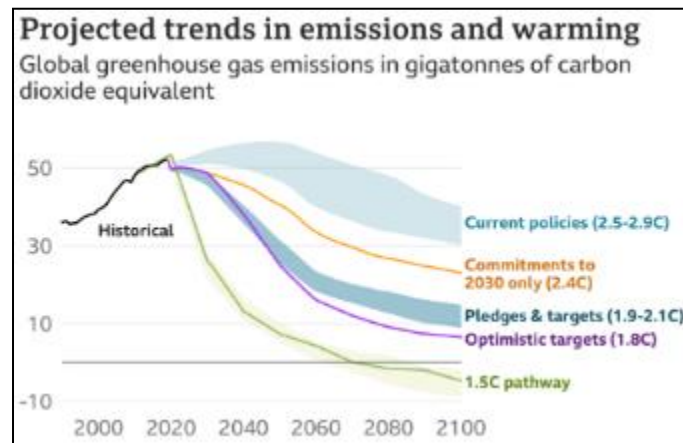
Global Gibbon Network (GGN)

- ❖ The conservation status of India’s only ape was a cause for concern at a global event on gibbons held in China.
- ❖ Gibbons is the smallest and fastest of all apes, live in tropical and subtropical forests in the southeastern part of Asia.
- ❖ The hoolock gibbon, unique to India’s northeast, is one of 20 species of gibbons on Earth.
- ❖ The estimated population of hoolock gibbons is 12,000.

- ❖ All 20 gibbon species are at a high risk of extinction.
- ❖ Global Gibbon Network was initiated at the International Gibbon Day 2020 event.



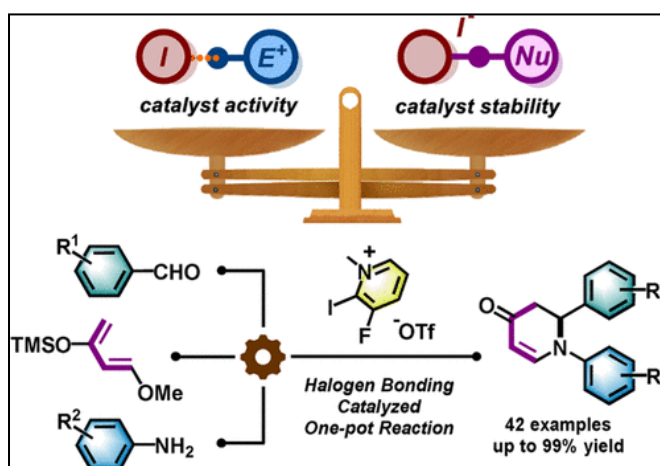
1.5 Degree Celsius Temperature Threshold



- ❖ The global mean temperature crossed the key 1.5 degrees Celsius limit at the start of June, 2023.
- ❖ This is the first time that the target was breached in the summer months.
- ❖ The mean global temperature exceeded pre-industrial averages by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius several times.
- ❖ But it was all only in the winter and spring months.
- ❖ So far, the warmest year has been 2016, when global mean temperatures were over 1.28 degrees Celsius.

Short-lived halogens

- ❖ It is produced naturally by phytoplankton and algae found in the oceans.
- ❖ Its major constituents are chlorine, bromine or iodine.
- ❖ Its life span is less than six months.
- ❖ According to a recent study, the oceans contribute 8-10% to the cooling of the planet by emitting short-lived halogens.
- ❖ However, human activities have amplified their release into the atmosphere.
- ❖ They calculated that short-lived halogen from oceans reduces warming by depleting ozone.



American bald eagle



- ❖ The American bald eagle was removed from the endangered species list in 2007, marking a significant milestone in its conservation.
- ❖ Since then, the population of the bird has steadily risen.
- ❖ A 2021 report by the US Fish and Wildlife Service said that the number of bald eagles in the wild has quadrupled since 2009.

- ❖ The bald eagle's natural range covers most of North America, including most of Canada, all of the continental US, and northern Mexico.
- ❖ It is the only sea eagle endemic to North America.
- ❖ The average life span of bald eagles is 20 to 30 years.
- ❖ Female bald eagles are a bit bigger than the males.

Ludwigia peruviana in Tamilnadu

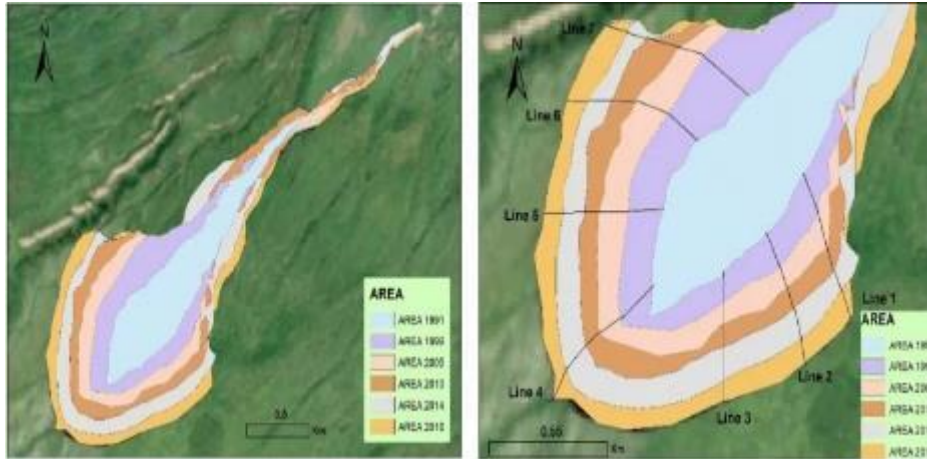


- ❖ Ludwigia peruviana is an aquatic weed native to some countries in Central and South America, including Peru.
- ❖ It is threatening elephant habitats and foraging areas in Valparai, a Tamil Nadu hill station.
- ❖ It grows fast along water bodies, has infested the majority of the hill station's swamps, locally known as vayals.
- ❖ It is limiting the growth of grass and native plants that are palatable to elephants and other animals including gaur.
- ❖ Ludwigia is among the 22 priority invasive plants in Tamil Nadu.

Batagaika Crater

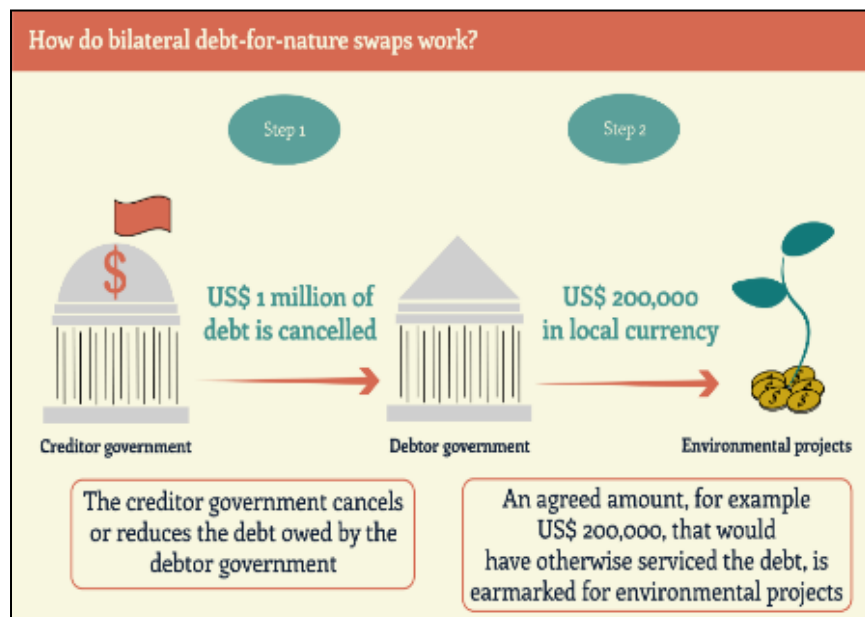
- ❖ Russia's Batagaika Crater is located in the far eastern Siberian taiga (that is, boreal forest).
- ❖ It's a rapidly growing 1-kilometer (0.6-mile) pit.
- ❖ Scientists call it as a mega-slump.
- ❖ The expanding crater highlights rapid changes occurring even to Earth's geology, as Earth's climate changes in this century.
- ❖ As the active soil slumps, more of the surrounding and underlying frozen soil is exposed and melts.

- ❖ It causing the land to slump further and the extent and speed of the permafrost thawing to increase.
- ❖ Batagaika Crater is expanding about 10 meters (33 feet) per year.



Debt-for-Nature Swap Initiative

- ❖ The Central African nation Gabon became the African nation to launch a debt-for-nature swap.
- ❖ It plans to buy up at least \$450 million of its government debt in exchange for an eco-friendly blue bond.
- ❖ Debt-for-nature swap is when creditors provide debt relief for developing countries who commit to taking steps towards the conservation of the environment.

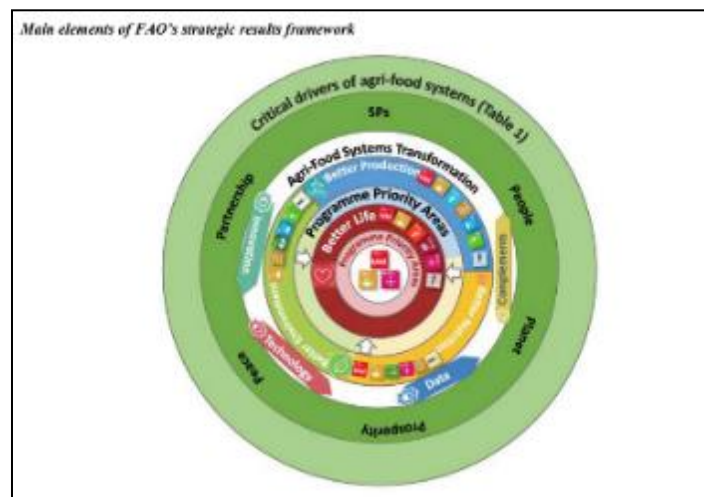


Megasiphon Thylacos



- ❖ Palaeontologists have made an exciting discovery—a fossil of a tunicate dating back 500 million years.
- ❖ A 'tunicate' fossil has represented the first-ever discovery with intact soft tissues and holds the distinction of being the oldest of its kind.
- ❖ Today, some 3000 species of tunicate live in almost every habitat of the oceans.
- ❖ Tunicates are the closest relatives of vertebrates, which includes fish, mammals, and even humans.

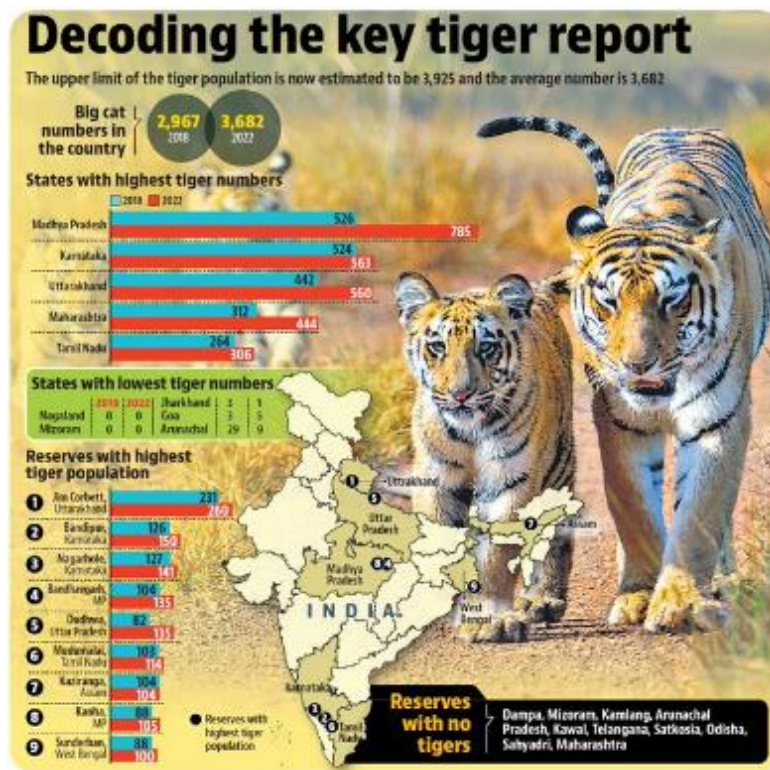
FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031



- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) has launched an Action Plan for Climate Change.
- ❖ It is designed to support the implementation of its ambitious Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031.

- ❖ It envisages agrifood systems as sustainable, inclusive, resilient and adaptive to climate change.
- ❖ The Action Plan is based on three pillars:
 - Advocacy at global and regional levels;
 - Policy support at the country level;
 - The scaling-up of climate action on the ground with local actors and vulnerable population.

Tiger Population of India in 2023



- ❖ India's tiger population increased to 3,682 in 2022, up from 2,967 in 2018.
- ❖ It was estimated by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), which coordinates the quadrennial tiger census.
- ❖ India recorded a 23.5% increase in tiger population between 2018 and 2022.
- ❖ This also indicates significant growth over the last decade.
- ❖ There were 2,226 tigers reported in 2014, up from 1,706 in 2010.
- ❖ The country accounting for 75% of the tigers in the world.
- ❖ Around 80% of the tigers (2,885) now reside in eight of the 18 tiger states.

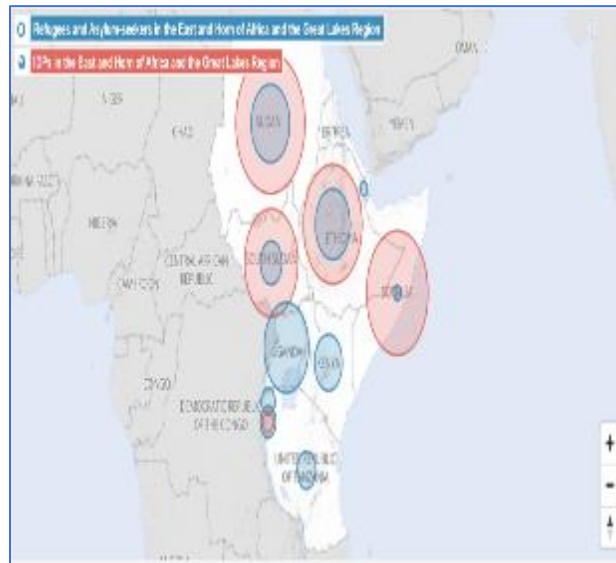


- ❖ It includes Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Assam.
- ❖ In 2022, the maximum number of tigers were reported in Madhya Pradesh (785).
- ❖ It was followed by Karnataka (563), Uttarakhand (560), and Maharashtra (444).
- ❖ The central Indian and Western Ghats landscapes have contributed 2,526 tigers to the total number.
- ❖ The reserves with the maximum number of tigers were at the Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand, which reported 260 animals.
- ❖ It is followed by Bandipur (150), and Nagarhole (141), both in Karnataka.
- ❖ Globally, the number of tigers increased from 3,890 in 2016 to 5,575 in 2023.
- ❖ India's tigers are largely concentrated in 53 dedicated tiger reserves spread across 75,796 square km, spanning about 2.3% of India's total land area.

REPORTS AND INDICES

UN report on EHAGL region

- ❖ Approximately 11.71 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are in East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes (EHAGL) region.
- ❖ The situation report was released by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) at the UN Refugee Agency.
- ❖ The IDP population mainly in Burundi, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan was estimated at 75,300, 2.73 million, 3 million, over 2.23 million and over 3.7 million people respectively.
- ❖ In East Africa's Burundi, the majority of the displacements were due to climate-related incidents like violent winds, torrential rains and flooding.
- ❖ Burundi is globally one of the 20 most climate-vulnerable countries.
- ❖ Displacement in Ethiopia is due to localised conflicts and inter-communal violence.
- ❖ Displacement in Somalia was associated with conflict/insecurity (52 per cent), drought (31 per cent) and flooding (16 per cent).
- ❖ In Sudan, the internal displacement is mainly due to the long-standing conflict in Darfur since 2004.



QS World University Rankings 2024

- ❖ Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is on top of the rankings for the 12th year in a row.
- ❖ University of Cambridge has managed to retain the second spot.
- ❖ University of Oxford has replaced Stanford University on the third spot.
- ❖ American universities once again dominated the QS rankings, taking half of the places in the top 20.
- ❖ IIT Bombay now stands 1st in the country and 149th globally, up from last year's 172.
- ❖ IIT Delhi went down to 197th this year.
- ❖ Three other IITs have featured in the top 300 list globally.

Institute/University	QS Rankings 2024	QS Rankings 2023
IIT Bombay	149	172
IIT Delhi	197	174
IISc Bangalore	225	155
IIT Kharagpur	271	270
IIT Kanpur	278	264
IIT Madras	285	250
IIT Guwahati	364	384
IIT Roorkee	369	369
University of Delhi	407	521-530
Anna University	427	551-560
IIT Indore	454	396
University of Madras	526	541-550
IIT BHU	571	651-700

Energy Transition Index

- ❖ The World Economic Forum has recently released the Energy Transition Index.
- ❖ India is at 67th position in this ranking.
- ❖ Sweden is at the top of this list.
- ❖ Top 5 countries include Denmark, Norway, Finland and Switzerland.
- ❖ This time a list of 120 countries has been issued.

Rank	Country	ETI score (2014–2023)	2023 ETI score	SP ¹ ('23)	TR ² ('23)
1	Sweden	78.5	78.5	81.0	74.8
2	Denmark	76.1	76.1	73.7	79.8
3	Norway	73.7	73.7	77.3	68.3
4	Finland	72.8	72.8	68.9	78.6
5	Switzerland	72.4	72.4	75.7	67.4
6	Iceland	70.6	70.6	73.9	65.6
7	France	70.6	70.6	73.3	66.5
8	Austria	69.3	69.3	69.2	69.5
9	Netherlands	68.8	68.8	65.7	73.5
10	Estonia	68.2	68.2	74.2	59.2
11	Germany	67.5	67.5	64.6	71.9
12	United States	66.3	66.3	68.4	63.2
13	United Kingdom	66.2	66.2	67.7	64.0
14	Brazil	65.9	65.9	68.9	61.3
15	Portugal	65.8	65.8	66.7	64.5
16	Spain	65.0	65.0	65.1	64.7
17	China	64.9	64.9	65.0	64.8
18	Hungary	64.3	64.3	68.8	57.5
19	Canada	64.2	64.2	66.7	60.3
20	Luxembourg	64.2	64.2	61.5	68.2

UNSG report on impact of armed conflict on children

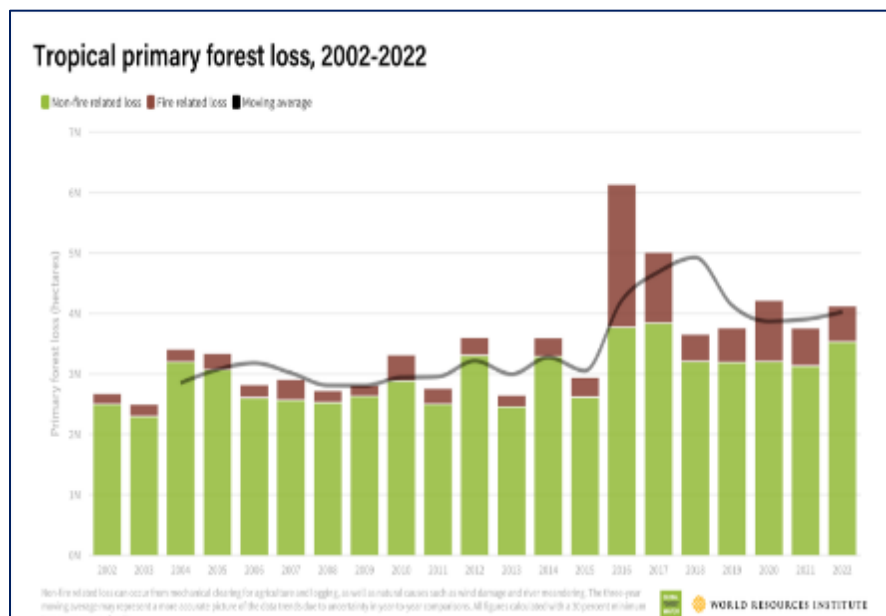


- ❖ Recently, the annual report of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Children and Armed Conflict was published.
- ❖ The report has dropped India's name from the list in view of measures taken by the Government, specifically in Jammu and Kashmir, to better protect children.

- ❖ The report includes trends regarding the impact of armed conflict on children and information on violations committed.
- ❖ Violations affected 18,890 children (13,469 boys, 4,638 girls, 783 sex unknown) in 24 situations.

Global forest watch

- ❖ The new report was released by the World Resources Institute’s (WRI) Global Forest Watch.
- ❖ Tropical areas lost 4.1 million hectares of forest cover – equivalent to losing an area of 11 football fields per minute – in 2022.
- ❖ This forest loss produced 2.7 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.
- ❖ It is around the same as India’s annual emissions due to the combustion of fossil fuels.
- ❖ Primary forest cover loss in tropical areas in 2022 was 10% more than in 2021.
- ❖ We need to reduce global deforestation by at least 10% every year to meet the 2030 target.
- ❖ In 2022, although the global deforestation rate was 3.1% lower than the baseline from 2018-2020.
- ❖ To meet the target of restoring 350 Mha of forests globally by 2030, the world needs to increase tree cover by 22 Mha per year, between 2021 and 2030.



Global Peace Index

RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	CHANGE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	CHANGE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	CHANGE
1	Iceland	1.124	↔	29	Poland	1.534	↓ 6	57	Moldova	1.873	↑ 4
2	Denmark	1.31	↑ 1	30	Bulgaria	1.543	↓ 5	58	Chile	1.874	↓ 5
3	Ireland	1.312	↓ 1	31	Romania	1.549	↑ 4	59	The Gambia	1.885	↓ 8
4	New Zealand	1.313	↑ 2	32	Spain	1.549	↔	60	Greece	1.89	↓ 6
5	Austria	1.316	↓ 1	33	Taiwan	1.549	↑ 2	61	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1.892	↓ 4
6	Singapore	1.332	↑ 4	34	Italy	1.662	↓ 2	62	Jordan	1.895	↑ 8
7	Portugal	1.333	↑ 1	35	Kuwait	1.669	↑ 3	63	Zambia	1.896	↓ 4
8	Slovenia	1.334	↓ 4	36	Lithuania	1.671	↓ 2	64	Cyprus	1.904	↑ 1
9	Japan	1.335	↔	37	United Kingdom	1.683	↓ 1	65	Serbia	1.921	↓ 7
10	Switzerland	1.339	↑ 1	38	North Macedonia	1.713	↓ 1	66	Armenia	1.925	↑ 3
11	Canada	1.35	↑ 2	39	Costa Rica	1.731	↑ 2	67	France	1.939	↔
12	Czechia	1.379	↓ 5	40	Albania	1.745	↔	68	Panama	1.942	↓ 8
13	Finland	1.389	↑ 3	41	Vietnam	1.745	↑ 4	69	Paraguay	1.942	↑ 12
14	Croatia	1.45	↑ 1	42	Botswana	1.752	↑ 6	70	Trinidad and Tobago	1.945	↑ 1
15	Germany	1.455	↑ 2	43	South Korea	1.753	↑ 2	71	Kosovo	1.945	↑ 5
16	Netherlands	1.48	↑ 5	44	Mongolia	1.755	↓ 5	72	Liberia	1.945	↑ 8
17	Bhutan	1.485	↓ 5	45	Montenegro	1.772	↑ 5	73	Cambodia	1.947	↓ 1
18	Hungary	1.508	↓ 4	46	Laos	1.779	↑ 3	74	Malawi	1.97	↓ 4
19	Malaysia	1.513	↔	47	Sierra Leone	1.792	↔	75	United Arab Emirates	1.979	↑ 3
20	Belgium	1.523	↑ 4	48	Oman	1.794	↑ 8	76	Kazakhstan	1.98	↑ 21
21	Qatar	1.524	↑ 1	49	Timor-Leste	1.796	↑ 3	77	Jamaica	1.985	↑ 3
22	Australia	1.525	↑ 4	50	Uruguay	1.798	↓ 5	78	Bolivia	2.001	↓ 1
23	Mauritius	1.545	↑ 5	51	Ghana	1.799	↓ 8	79	Nepal	2.006	↓ 5
24	Norway	1.55	↓ 6	52	Senegal	1.827	↑ 4	80	China	2.009	↑ 6
25	Estonia	1.563	↑ 1	53	Indonesia	1.829	↓ 12	81	Tunisia	2.01	↑ 1
26	Slovakia	1.576	↓ 6	54	Argentina	1.837	↑ 10	82	Equatorial Guinea	2.013	↓ 19
27	Latvia	1.582	↑ 3	55	Madagascar	1.848	↔	83	Dominican Republic	2.019	↑ 5
28	Sweden	1.625	↑ 1	56	Namibia	1.859	↑ 6				

- ❖ The 2023 Global Peace Index (GPI) was released by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP).
- ❖ 79 countries becoming less peaceful and 84 countries becoming more peaceful.
- ❖ Violence cost the world \$17.5 trillion or 12.9% of GDP in 2022.
- ❖ Iceland has been declared the most peaceful country in the world for the 15th time in succession.
- ❖ India stands at 126 ranks out of 163 countries in the Global Peace Index.
- ❖ Afghanistan is the least peaceful country in the world for the fifth consecutive year.
- ❖ It is followed by Yemen, Syria, Russia, and South Sudan.

Children and Armed Conflict Report, 2023

- ❖ United Nations has removed India from his annual report on the impact of armed conflict on children, citing "measures taken by the government to better protect" them.
- ❖ The United Nations verified 27,180 grave violations, of which 24,300 were committed in 2022.
- ❖ 2,880 were committed earlier but verified only in 2022.
- ❖ Violations affected 18,890 children (13,469 boys, 4,638 girls, 783 sex unknown) in 24 situations and one regional monitoring arrangement.

- ❖ The highest numbers of violations were the killing (2,985) and maiming (5,655) of 8,631 children.
- ❖ It followed by the recruitment and use of 7,622 children and the abduction of 3,985 children.
- ❖ Children were detained for actual or alleged association with armed groups (2,496).



India - Childhood Diabetes and Fatalities

- ❖ India saw the highest number of childhood diabetes cases and deaths in 2019 in the world.
- ❖ The study was published in the journal JAMA Network.
- ❖ The country also has the highest disability-adjusted life-years (DALY).
- ❖ One DALY represents the loss of the equivalent of one year of full health, according to the World Health Organization.
- ❖ Globally, in 2019, there were 227,580 cases of childhood diabetes, 5,390 deaths and 519,117 DALYs.
- ❖ This represents a 39.4 per cent increase in incident cases since 1990.
- ❖ The largest increase in cases (52.06 per cent) was recorded in children aged 10 to 14 years.
- ❖ The smallest increase (30.52 per cent) in those aged between 1 and 4 years.
- ❖ The incident rate in India was 10.92 and 11.68 in 1990 and 2019, respectively.
- ❖ In contrast, the global number of diabetes-associated deaths in children dropped by 20 per cent to 5,390 in 2019 from 6,719 in 1990.

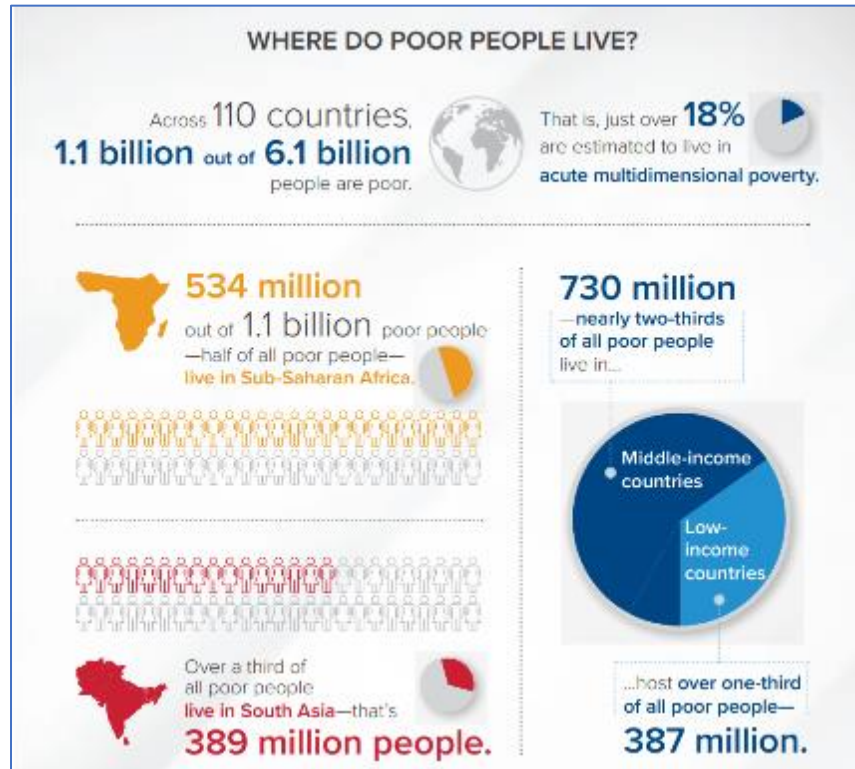


WHO UNICEF JMP report 2023



- ❖ The WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) has released a report.
- ❖ It provides country, regional and global estimates of progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) since 1990.
- ❖ The JMP 2023 update estimated that in 2022, 27% of the global population (2.2 billion people) lacked “safely managed drinking water”– meaning water at home, available, and safe.
- ❖ This includes 1.5 billion with a basic water service, but outside the home, not always available, or unsafe.
- ❖ The remaining 703 million lacking even basic services either had to walk more than 30 min to collect water from outside the home.
- ❖ 296 million peoples used unprotected water sources or took untreated water from rivers or lakes (115 million) – sources likely to be contaminated.

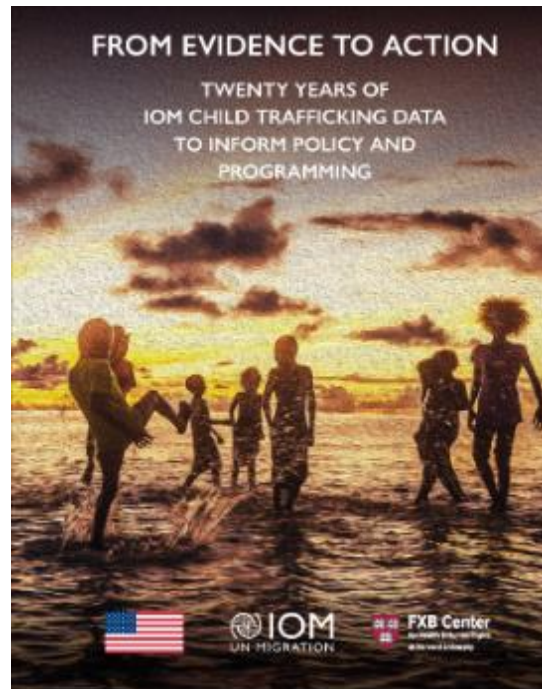
Multidimensional Poverty Index 2023



- ❖ The global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was released by the UNDP and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).
- ❖ 1.1 billion out of 6.1 billion people (just more than 18%) live in acute multidimensional poverty across 110 countries.
- ❖ Sub-Saharan Africa (534 million) and South Asia (389 million) are home to approximately five out of every six poor people.
- ❖ Nearly two-thirds of all poor people (730 million people) live in middle-income countries.
- ❖ Although low-income countries constitute only 10% of the population included in the MPI, these are where 35% of all poor people reside.
- ❖ Children under the age of 18 account for half of MPI-poor people (566 million).
- ❖ The poverty rate among children is 27.7%, while among adults, it is 13.4%.
- ❖ Poverty predominantly affects rural areas, with 84% of all poor people living in rural areas.
- ❖ Rural areas are poorer than urban areas across all regions of the world.
- ❖ Cambodia, Peru, and Nigeria showed significant reductions in their most recent periods.

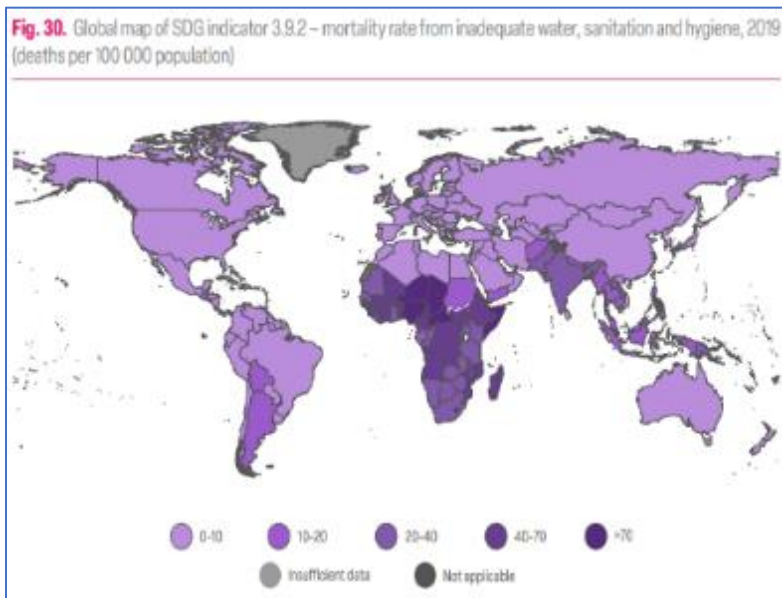
- ❖ In Cambodia, the most encouraging case among these, the incidence of poverty fell from 36.7% to 16.6%.
- ❖ It halved the number of poor people, from 5.6 million to 2.8 million, all within 7.5 years.

IOM report Child trafficking



- ❖ The report titled “From Evidence to Action: Twenty Years of IOM Child Trafficking Data to Inform Policy and Programming” was recently released.
- ❖ It is a first of its kind and is based on analysis of extensive, globally sourced data, using the IOM’s Victims of Trafficking Database (VoTD).
- ❖ As per the report, half of child trafficking victims are trafficked within their own country.
- ❖ In cases of international trafficking, children are mostly trafficked to neighbouring, wealthier countries.
- ❖ Half of the trafficked children, mostly boys, are subjected to forced labor across various industries like domestic work, begging, and agriculture.
- ❖ Sexual exploitation, including through prostitution, pornography, and sexual servitude, is also prominent, affecting 20 per cent of trafficked children, predominantly girls.
- ❖ It analysed primary data from more than 69,000 victims of trafficking of 156 nationalities, trafficked in 186 countries.

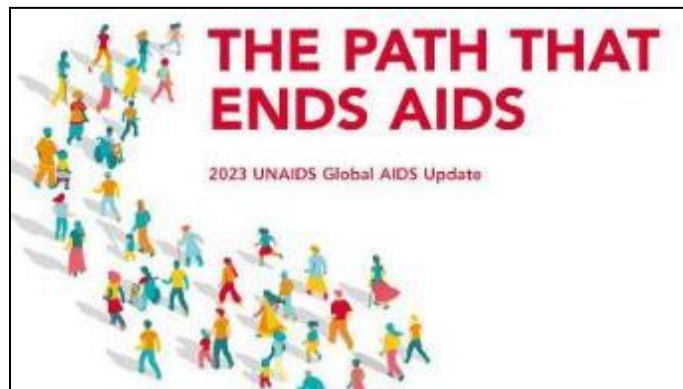
Report on unsafe drinking water



- ❖ The report named, Burden of disease attributable to unsafe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene: 2019 update, was released recently by the WHO.
- ❖ Half of the world’s population still does not have adequate access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene.
- ❖ It caused the death of at least 1.4 million people and 74 million disability-adjusted life years (DALY) in 2019.
- ❖ Globally, 771 million people lack access to safe water and 1.7 billion people don’t have a toilet.
- ❖ Unsafe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) were responsible for 395,000 deaths among children under five years of age.
- ❖ This includes 273,000 deaths from diarrhoea and 112,000 deaths from acute respiratory infections.
- ❖ Soil-transmitted helminthiases affect an estimated 1.5 billion people or 24 per cent of the world’s population.
- ❖ Diarrhoeal diseases accounted for the majority of the attributable burden with more than a million deaths and 55 million DALYs.
- ❖ Acute respiratory infections identified as the second-largest contributor, with 356,000 deaths and 17 million DALYs.
- ❖ 10 per cent of the burden of undernutrition — Protein-energy malnutrition (PEM) representing a total of 8,000 deaths and 825,000 DALYs in this age group.
- ❖ Almost 384,000 diarrhoea deaths and 20 million DALYs in 2019

Global AIDS Update Report 2023

- ❖ HIV remains a major global public health issue, having claimed 40.4 million [32.9–51.3 million] lives so far.
- ❖ There were an estimated 39.0 million [33.1–45.7 million] people living with HIV at the end of 2022.
- ❖ Two thirds of whom (25.6 million) are in the WHO African Region.
- ❖ In 2022, 6,30,000 [4,80,000–8,80,000] people died from HIV-related causes.
- ❖ 1.3 million [1.0–1.7 million] people acquired HIV during the same period.
- ❖ WHO, the Global Fund and UNAIDS all have global HIV strategies that are aligned with the SDG target 3.3 of ending the HIV epidemic by 2030.
- ❖ By 2025, as per the 95:95:95 strategy
 - 95% of all people living with HIV (PLHIV) should have a diagnosis,
 - 95% of those should be taking lifesaving antiretroviral treatment (ART) and
 - 95% of PLHIV on treatment should achieve a suppressed viral load for the benefit of the person's health and for reducing onward HIV transmission.
- ❖ In 2022, these percentages were 86(%) [73→98%], 89(%) [75→98%] and 93(%) [79→98%], respectively.



IEA Oil 2023 medium-term market report

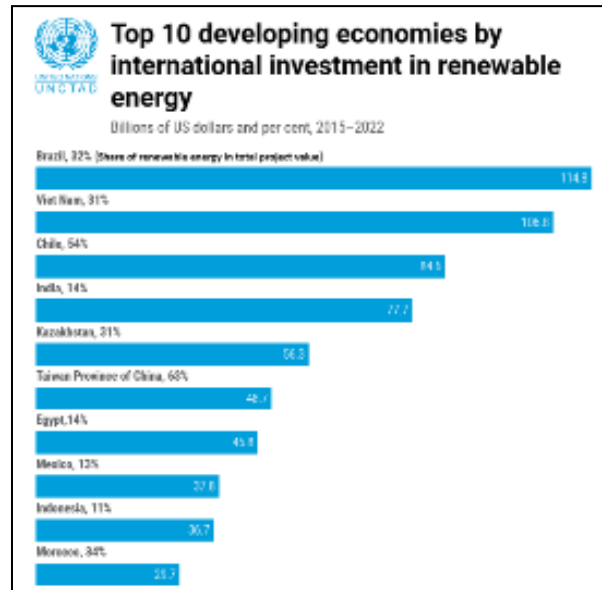
- ❖ The International Energy Agency (IEA) in collaboration with Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) launched the Oil 2023 medium-term market report.
- ❖ This report is titled 'IEA Oil 2023 – Supply and demand dynamics to 2028'.
- ❖ The global oil demand is expected to witness a slowdown, nearly halting by 2028.
- ❖ But the petrochemical and aviation sectors are expected to contribute to robust oil demand.
- ❖ The decline in oil consumption for transport is anticipated after 2026.

- ❖ The report indicates that biofuels will contribute to 10% of new liquid fuel supply growth by 2028.
- ❖ Biofuels production expands nearly 600 kb/d from 2022 to 2028.
- ❖ Brazil, Indonesia and India combinedly are accounting for 70% of this increase.

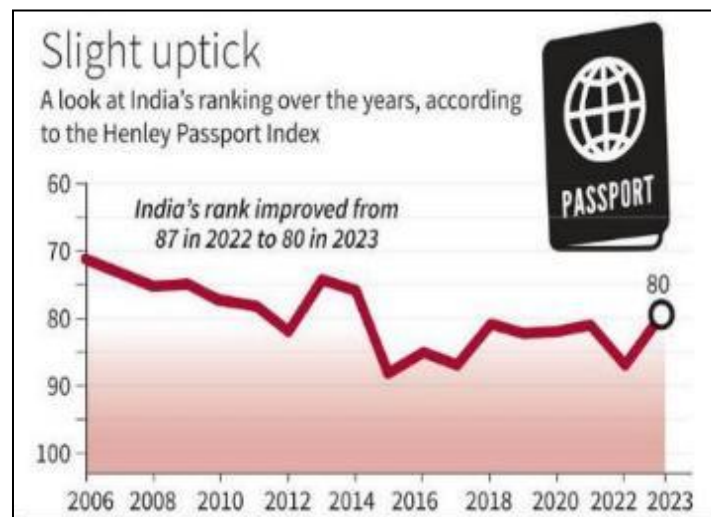


World Investment Report 2023

- ❖ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development released a World Investment Report 2023.
- ❖ Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in developing countries in Asia remained flat at \$662 billion during 2022, as compared to the previous year.
- ❖ Overall global FDI declined by 12% to \$1.3 trillion in 2022.
- ❖ In Asia, the incoming FDI was highly concentrated in China (and Hong Kong), Singapore, India, and United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- ❖ During 2022, FDI inflows to India rose by 10% on an annual basis to \$49 billion.
- ❖ China registered a 5% yearly growth to \$189 billion.
- ❖ Singapore and UAE grew by 8% and 10% to \$141 billion and \$23 billion, respectively.
- ❖ Developing countries, including India, which have attracted FDI in clean energy to the tune of \$544 billion in 2022



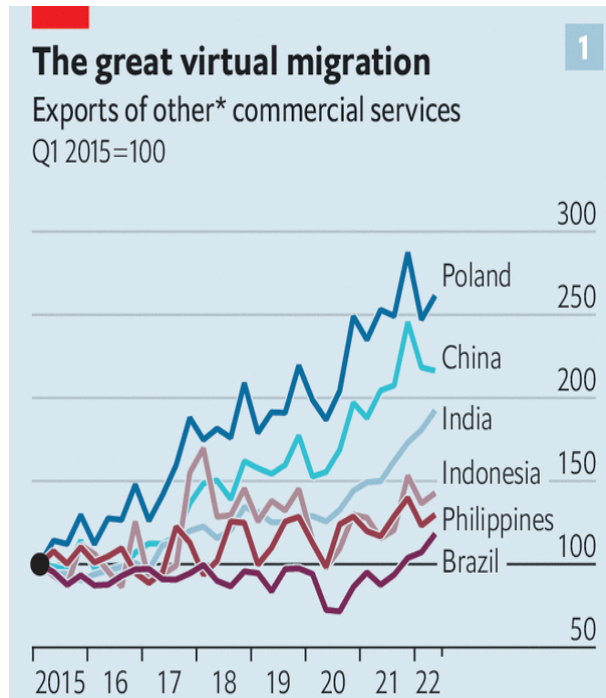
Henley Passport Index 2023



- ❖ The index includes 199 different passports and 227 different travel destinations.
- ❖ India has climbed seven places on Henley Passport Index 2023 to 80th rank.
- ❖ The Indians can travel to 57 destinations completely visa free or visas on arrival arrangements.
- ❖ In 2014, India ranked 76 with 52 countries allowing Indian passport holders visa free access but its performance has not been linear.
- ❖ It is ranked 88 in 2015 (visa free access to 51 countries), 85 in 2016, 87 in 2017, 81 in 2018, 82 in 2019 and 2020, and 81 in 2021.
- ❖ Japan, which occupied the top position on the Henley Passport Index for five years, dropped to the third place.

- ❖ It was replaced by Singapore.
- ❖ Germany, Italy, and Spain occupy the second place.

Global commercial services exports report

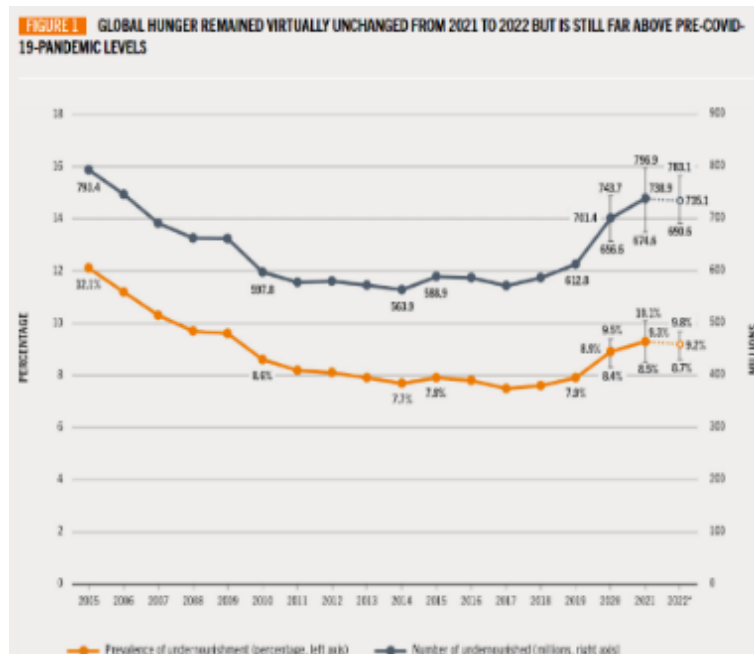


- ❖ This report was released by the World Bank and World Trade Organization (WTO).
- ❖ India has witnessed a significant increase in its share of global commercial services exports.
- ❖ The share of global commercial services exports Doubled from 2.0% in 2005 to 4.4% in 2022.
- ❖ It showcased impressive trade performance, highlighting the rising importance of the services sector in India's economy.
- ❖ India is recognized as a popular destination for medical travel.
- ❖ It was attracting approximately 3.5 million foreign patients between 2009 and 2019.

State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023 report

- ❖ It is an annual flagship report jointly prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP) and World Health Organisation (WHO).

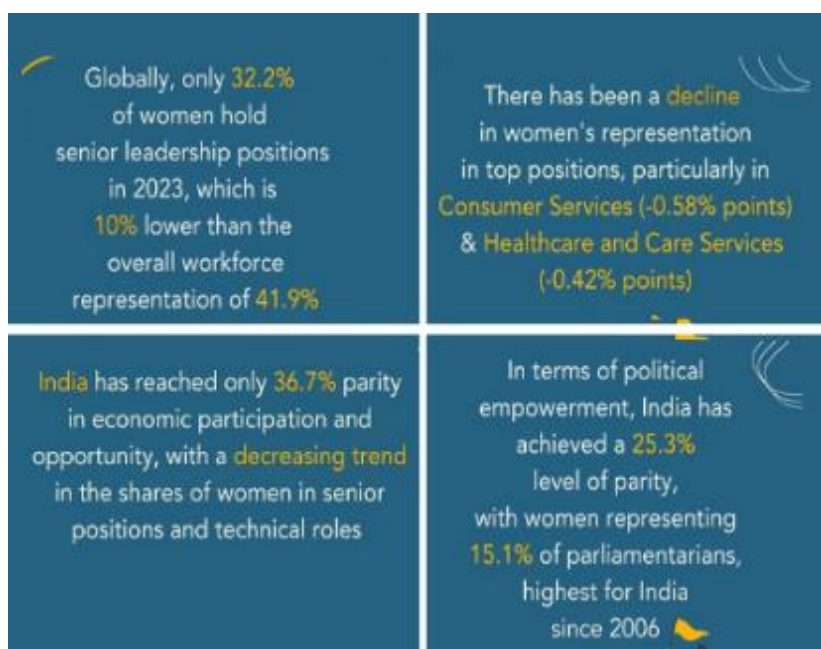
- ❖ It aims to inform on progress towards ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition and to provide an in-depth analysis of key challenges for achieving this goal in the context of the SDG.
- ❖ The theme of the report is “Urbanisation, agrifood systems transformation, and healthy diets across the rural-urban continuum”.
- ❖ Over 700 million people was facing hunger in the world in 2022.
- ❖ 2.4 billion individuals did not have consistent access to nutritious, safe, and sufficient food in 2022.
- ❖ In 2021, 22.3% (148.1 million) children were stunted (too short for their age), 6.8% (45 million) were wasted (too thin for their height), and 5.6% (37 million) were overweight.
- ❖ Previously self-sustaining rural regions, especially in Africa and Asia, are now found to be increasingly dependent on national and global food markets.



UN report on Gender parity

- ❖ This is released by two UN agencies – UN Women and UN Development Programme.
- ❖ The bodies collated data from 114 countries and analysed them based on the twin indices of Women’s Empowerment Index (WEI) and the Global Gender Parity Index (GGPI).
- ❖ On an average, women are empowered to achieve only 60 per cent of their full potential.

- ❖ They also were found to achieve 28 per cent less than men across key human development dimensions, as measured by the GGPI.
- ❖ None of the 114 countries analysed achieved full women's empowerment or complete gender parity.
- ❖ The report provides for the first time—a more comprehensive picture of progress in women and girl's human development.
- ❖ Of the 114 countries analysed, 85 have low or middle women's empowerment and low or middle performance in achieving gender parity.
- ❖ More than half the countries in this group are in the high (21 countries) or very high human development group (26 countries).



QS World's Best Cities for Students 2024

- ❖ London retains its top spot as the world's best student city for the fifth consecutive time.
- ❖ Tokyo gains grabbing the second place, followed by Seoul in third. Melbourne ascends to fourth, while Munich slips to fifth.
- ❖ Mumbai has ranked 118, the highest among Indian cities in the latest Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Rankings for Best Student Cities 2024.
- ❖ At 132nd position, Delhi has come as the second most affordable student-friendly city followed by Bengaluru at 147, and Chennai at 154.



2024	2023	City
1	1	London
2	7	Tokyo
3	2	Seoul
4	5	Melbourne
5	2	Munich
6	8	Paris
7	9	Sydney
=8	6	Berlin
=8	4	Zurich
10	11	Boston

IGAD Regional Focus of the Global Report on Food Crises Report

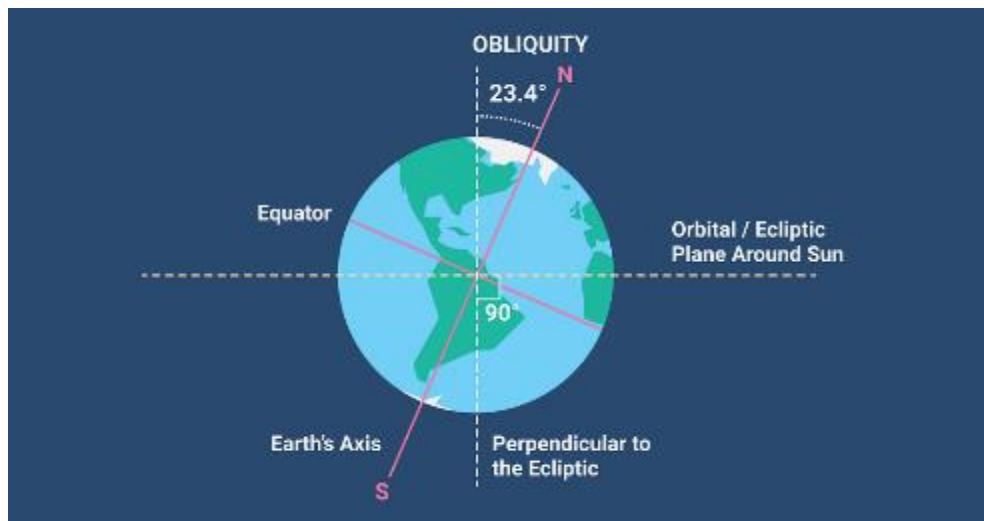
- ❖ The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), released this report.
- ❖ This report provides valuable insights into the magnitude of the food crises and serves as a basis for informed decision-making.
- ❖ In 2022, a staggering 55.45 million people across Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda required urgent food assistance, representing a critical situation.
- ❖ The report emphasizes the urgent need for collaborative efforts to combat the dire food crises in the IGAD region.
- ❖ Climatic factors identified as the primary cause of acute food insecurity in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and Uganda.
- ❖ Conversely, Djibouti, South Sudan, and Sudan experienced acute food insecurity due to economic shocks.

Detox Development Report

- ❖ A report titled “Detox Development: Repurposing Environmentally Harmful Subsidies” was released by the World Bank.
- ❖ The large amounts of money are wasted on subsidies for agriculture, fishing, and fossil fuels
- ❖ It could be utilized to tackle climate change and benefit humanity and the environment, rather than causing harm.

- ❖ The subsidies in the three sectors exceeded \$7 trillion which amounted to 8% of the global gross domestic product.
- ❖ Explicit subsidies i.e. direct government expenditures in the three sectors amounted to \$1.25 trillion.
- ❖ It is equal to the size of a big economy like Mexico.
- ❖ Implicit subsidies i.e. a measure of the subsidies' impact on people and the planet amounted to over \$6 trillion per year with the poor experiencing the larger burden.
- ❖ Countries spent \$577 billion to actively lower the price of polluting fuels such as oil, gas, and coal in 2021.

Groundwater Extraction Tilts the Earth Report

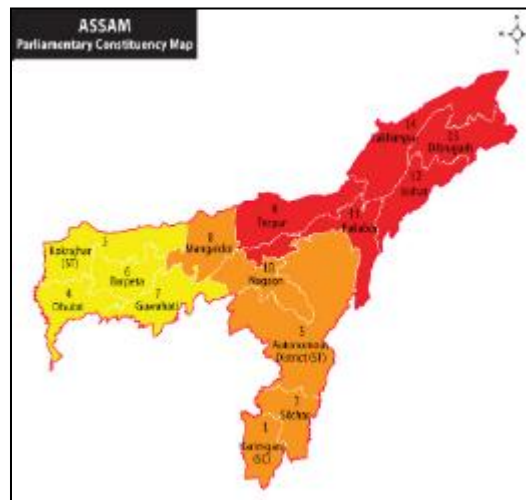


- ❖ As per the Geophysical Research Letters, Groundwater Extraction on Earth's Rotational Axis and its contribution to global sea-level rise.
- ❖ Groundwater pumping has tilted Earth nearly 80 centimetres east between 1993 and 2010 alone.
- ❖ The water circulated across the planet determines how mass is distributed.
- ❖ Between 1993 and 2010, people pumped 2,150 gigatons of groundwater, or more than 6 millimetres of sea level increase.

STATES

Delimitation in Assam

- ❖ The Election Commission (EC) released a draft delimitation document for Assam.
- ❖ It was proposing a change in boundaries of several Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies of the state.
- ❖ The delimitation exercise was carried out on the basis of 2001 census.
- ❖ The last delimitation was done in Assam in 1976.
- ❖ The average population density of the state is 338 persons per sq Km.
- ❖ It retained the number of assembly seats in Assam at 126 and the Lok Sabha constituencies at 14.
- ❖ The assembly seats reserved for Scheduled Castes be increased from eight to nine and for Scheduled Tribes seats from 16 to 19.
- ❖ A parliamentary seat has been proposed to be named Kaziranga.
- ❖ It proposes to reserve 19 assembly and two parliamentary seats for STs, and nine assembly and one parliamentary seat for SCs.



Hemis festival

- ❖ The legendary two days Hemis festival was celebrated in Leh in Ladakh.
- ❖ It's also popularly known as Hemis Tses-Chu.
- ❖ It is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Guru Padma sambhava.
- ❖ Guru Padma sambhava was introduced and flourished Vajrayana Buddhist tradition in the entire Himalayas.
- ❖ Guru Padma sambhava is popularly known as the second Buddha.



Divya Kala Mela – Rajasthan

- ❖ The Divya Kala Mela was organized by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment at Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur.
- ❖ It aims to promote the skill and craftsmanship of the products of Divyangjan on a large scale.
- ❖ They are not only for the empowerment of Divyangjan but also from the point of view of spreading Indian arts and crafts.

Meira Paibis

- ❖ The Meira Paibis is also known as Imas or Mothers of Manipur.
- ❖ They are Meitei women who come from all sections of society in the Imphal valley, are widely respected, and represent a powerful moral force.
- ❖ They are also known as “women torch bearers”, because of the flaming torches that they hold aloft while marching in the streets, often at night.
- ❖ The Meira Paibis is loosely organised.
- ❖ They usually led by groups of senior women, but have no rigid hierarchy or structure, or any overt political leanings.
- ❖ The Meira Paibi was formed in 1977.
- ❖ It is One of the largest grassroots movements in the world.
- ❖ Its initial focus of fighting alcoholism and drug abuse has now expanded to countering human rights violations and the development of society at large.
- ❖ The Meira Paibi women were the active support base of Irom Sharmila.
- ❖ She is the activist who remained on a hunger strike in the state from 2000 to 2016 to protest against the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA).

India's largest MFI market

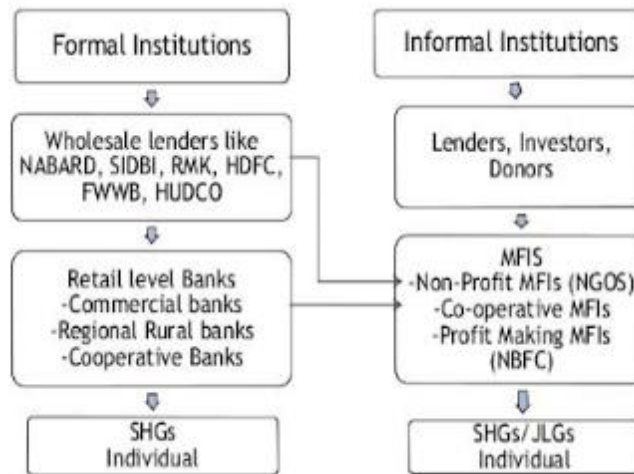
- ❖ Bihar has overtaken Tamil Nadu to become the state with the highest microlending borrowings in India as of March 2023.
- ❖ Bihar has the impressive growth with a 13.5 percent increase in the gross lending portfolio during the March quarter.
- ❖ As of March 2023, Bihar's microfinance (MFI) borrowings were amounted to Rs 48,900 crore.
- ❖ It was accounting for 14.5 percent of the overall portfolio.
- ❖ Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu's MFI borrowings stood at Rs 46,300 crore.

- ❖ It was representing 13.7 percent of the total outstanding.
- ❖ The average exposure per borrower in Bihar was Rs 27,200.
- ❖ It is slightly higher than Tamil Nadu's Rs 26,600.

MICROFINANCE INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA

Microfinance institutions (MFIs) are the organisations or associations of individuals that provide financial services to the poor.

Institutional Arrangement for Microfinance Disbursement in India



India's first Tele-MANAS chatbot

- ❖ India's first Tele-MANAS chatbot, which will start an instant conversation with people in distress, was launched in J&K.
- ❖ The initiative will ensure round-the-clock services for health counsellors, clinical psychologists and consultants.
- ❖ This year Kashmir saw the highest number of distress calls to the Tele-Manas centre.

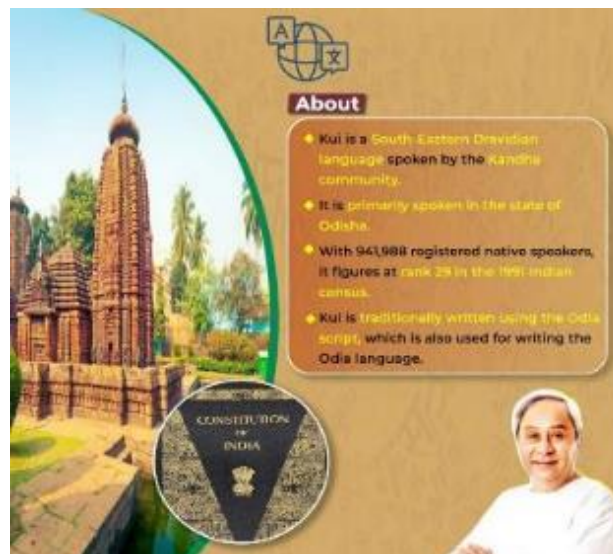


India's First Pig Schools

- ❖ The Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) is scheduled to ink a deal with the Danish government for setting up India's first pig schools, preferably with a centralised academy.
- ❖ BTC rules the 8,970 sq. km region comprising four Bhutan-bordering districts of the Assam.
- ❖ 50 farmers travel to Denmark to learn various aspects of piggery from rearing to making pork products.
- ❖ The seeds of the pig schools were sown in September 2021.
- ❖ The State has 15.89% the highest of the total population of pigs in India.
- ❖ The pig school will be based on the Folk School concept that Dalum Landbrugsskole.



Kui language



About

- ◆ Kui is a South-Eastern Dravidian language spoken by the Kandha community.
- ◆ It is primarily spoken in the state of Odisha.
- ◆ With 94,988 registered native speakers, it figures at rank 29 in the 1991 Indian census.
- ◆ Kui is traditionally written using the Odia script, which is also used for writing the Odia language.

CONSTITUTION OF INDIA



- ❖ The Odisha state cabinet approved a proposal to recommend the inclusion of the Kui language in the eighth schedule of the Constitution of India.
- ❖ Inclusion of Kui in the eighth schedule will help in the preservation, promotion and propagation of the language and culture.
- ❖ Kui (Kandh, Khondi, Khond, Khondo) is a South-Eastern Dravidian language spoken by the Kandha community.
- ❖ It is traditionally written using the Odia script, which is also used for writing the Odia language.

Revival of Namda Art of Kashmir

- ❖ The Namda craft of Kashmir is being successfully revived under a Skill India's Pilot Project as part of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).
- ❖ The first batch of Namda Art products are exported to the United Kingdom (UK) initiated recently.
- ❖ Nearly 2,200 candidates from across six districts of the state, receiving training in the dying art form.
- ❖ The project sets a great example of the public-private partnership (PPP) model in the field of skill development, as it is being implemented in collaboration with local industry partners.

India's first PPP model ATL

- ❖ OPPO India in collaboration with NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has announced the establishment of an Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) in Kerala.
- ❖ This collaboration marks the establishment of the first-ever Atal Tinkering Lab, based on the PPP (Public-Private Partnership) model.
- ❖ This initiative aims to create an empowered future-ready workforce and nurture entrepreneurship and technological skills among the youth.
- ❖ Till 2022, 10,000 ATLs were established across 35 States and UTs in India through government grants.

Project Gajah Kotha

- ❖ In order to address the raging human-elephant conflict (HEC), Assam has launched an innovative outreach campaign called 'Gajah Kotha' (The Elephant Story).
- ❖ It aims to foster coexistence between local communities and the magnificent elephants.

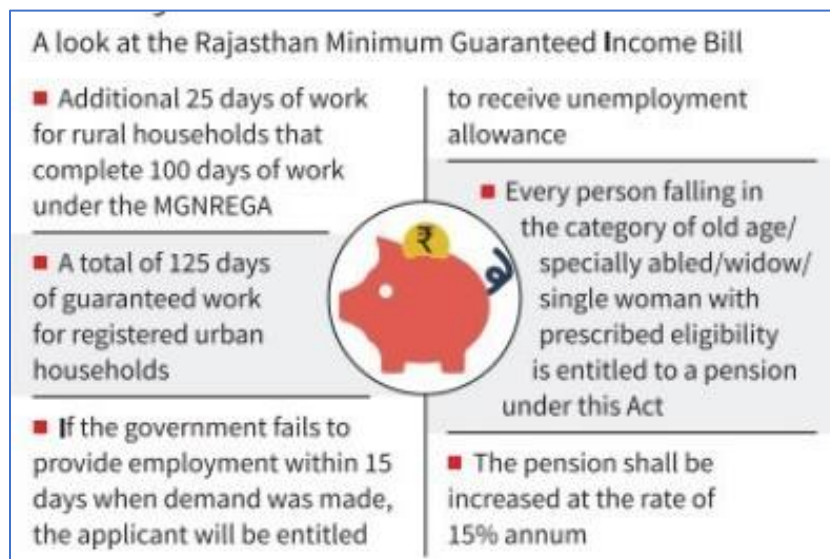
- ❖ It educates them about the elephants' behaviour, ecology, and cultural connection to the region and the importance of their conservation.



Gruha Lakshmi scheme

- ❖ The Karnataka Chief minister has launched the registration for the Congress government's 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme.
- ❖ It provides ₹2,000 monthly assistance to the woman head of every family in the state.
- ❖ A Women from both Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) households are eligible for the scheme as long as they - or the husbands - do not fall under the tax-paying bracket.




Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill – Rajasthan



- ❖ Rajasthan has tabled the Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill, 2023.
- ❖ Rajasthan will be the first state to have such a law.

- ❖ It seeks to cover the entire adult population of the state with guaranteed wages or pension.
- ❖ Under the Bill, all families of the state get guaranteed employment of 125 days every year.
- ❖ The aged, disabled, widows, and single women get a minimum pension of Rs 1,000 per month.
- ❖ Importantly, the pension will be increased at the rate of 15 per cent each year.
- ❖ The Bill has three broad categories:
 - Right to minimum guaranteed income,
 - Right to guaranteed employment, and
 - Right to guaranteed social security pension.
- ❖ Several other States too have in recent years introduced employment guarantee schemes for the urban areas but only via executive order.
- ❖ This is the first time in a state, the Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme will get legislative backing.
- ❖ This legislation has a universal application unlike the centrally sponsored pension scheme which is extended only for Below Poverty Line families.
- ❖ The pension offered by the Centre is also stuck at ₹200 per month and has been stagnant since 2007.

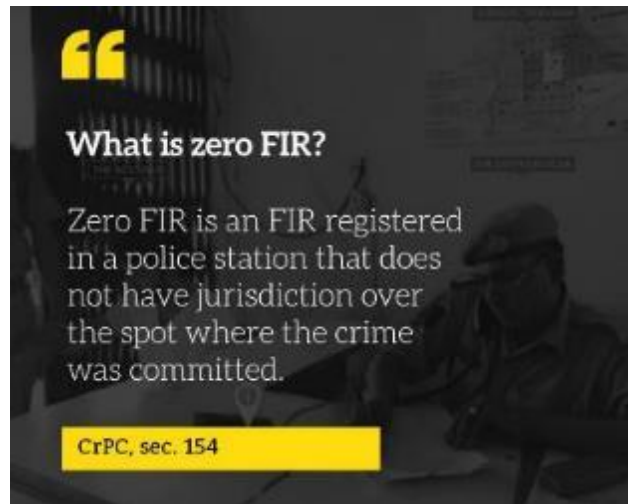
2nd-longest serving CM

1[3]	 Pawan Kumar Chaming (b. 22 Sept 1948)	Sikkim	12 December 1994	27 May 2019	24 years, 166 days	Sikkim Democratic Front
2[4]	 Naveen Patnaik (b. 16 Oct 1946)	Odisha	5 March 2000	Incumbent	23 years, 140 days	Biju Janata Dal
3[5]	 Jyoti Basu (8 Jul 1914 – 17 Jan 2010)	West Bengal	21 June 1977	6 November 2000	23 years, 138 days	Communist Party of India (Marxist)

- ❖ Odisha's Naveen Patnaik became the second longest-serving chief minister in the country.
- ❖ He took charge on March 5, 2000, and holds the post for 23 years and 138 days.
- ❖ He replaced West Bengal's Jyoti Basu.
- ❖ Jyoti Basu served as the chief minister of West Bengal from June 21, 1977 to November 5, 2000, which was 23 years and 137 days.

- ❖ Former Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling still holds the record of being the longest-serving Chief Minister in the country.
- ❖ He was the Chief Minister of the Himalayan state from December 12, 1994 till May 27, 2019 more than 24 years.

Zero FIR



- ❖ A Zero FIR was registered at Saikul police station in Kangpokpi district, Manipur the hometown of May 4 incident victims.
- ❖ When a police station receives a complaint regarding an alleged offence that has been committed in the jurisdiction of another police station, it registers an FIR and then transfers it to the relevant police station for further investigation.
- ❖ This is called a Zero FIR. No regular FIR number is given.
- ❖ After receiving the Zero FIR, the relevant police station registers a fresh FIR and starts the investigation.
- ❖ The provision of Zero FIR came up after the recommendation in the report of the Justice Verma Committee.
- ❖ The term first information report (FIR) is not defined in the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973, or in any other law.
- ❖ In police regulations or rules, information recorded under Section 154 of CrPC is known as First Information Report (FIR).

Punjab - Highest SDL Rates

- ❖ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the next auction of Treasury bills and state development loans (SDLs).

- ❖ The yield for T-bills of three-month, six-month, and 364-day maturities at 6.71 per cent, 6.83 per cent, and 6.86 per cent, respectively.
- ❖ This time, 11 states will participate in the auction including Punjab and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Punjab is offering the highest interest rates at 7.41 per cent for SDLs maturing on July 5, 2034.
- ❖ It is followed by Rajasthan and West Bengal at 7.40 per cent each.



India's first cannabis medicine project


- ❖ Jammu is going to pioneer India's first cannabis medicine project called 'Cannabis Research Project'.

- ❖ This project will undertake by the CSIR-IIIM to produce export quality medicines meant for different kinds of neuropathies and diabetic pains.
- ❖ This is a first-of-its-kind in the country in public-private partnership with a Canadian firm.



Lumpy skin disease positive state

- ❖ Nagaland has been officially declared as a Lumpy Skin Disease (LDS) positive state.
- ❖ This is announced in accordance with the “Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009.
- ❖ This disease is caused by the Capripox virus also known as the “Neethling.”
- ❖ Lumpy skin disease is a poxviral disease with significant morbidity in cattle.
- ❖ Although the mortality rate is generally low, economic losses result from loss of condition, decreased milk production, abortions, infertility and damaged hides.

LSD: CAUSE AND EFFECT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Lumpy skin disease is a viral disease that affects cattle> It is transmitted by blood-feeding insects like certain species of mosquitoes and flies, or ticks> It can spread through saliva and contaminated feed and fodder> It can spread rapidly in warm and moist conditions> It causes fever, nodules on the skin, enlargement of lymph	<ul style="list-style-type: none">nodes, depression and can also lead to death> Causes reduced milk yield, abortion in pregnant animals and sterility in bulls> Control options include vaccination and culling of infected animals 

Highest deaths due to heatwave



- ❖ As many as 120 people died in Kerala due to heatwave till June-end, the highest in the country.
- ❖ Kerala was followed by Gujarat with 35 deaths, Telangana 20, Maharashtra 14, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh 12 each, West Bengal 11 and Madhya Pradesh 10.
- ❖ States that saw fewer deaths this year till June were Himachal Pradesh (9), Bihar (8), Odisha (7), Andhra Pradesh (4).
- ❖ The Capital reported one death.

Top rabies deaths

- ❖ Delhi saw the highest number of deaths (48) due to rabies in the country in 2022.
- ❖ West Bengal saw 38 deaths, followed by Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra at 29 each.
- ❖ Union Health Ministry had launched the National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP) for prevention and control of rabies.

HEALTH MINISTRY'S DATA

STATE/UT	DEATHS
Delhi	48
West Bengal	38
Maharashtra	29
Karnataka	29

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

AI Fozan International Prize

- ❖ Five young scientists from Argentina, Cameroon, China, Egypt and Serbia have received the prestigious UNESCO-AI Fozan International Prize.
- ❖ This is awarded for the Promotion of Young Scientists in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).
- ❖ This is the first edition of the biennial prize, which was established by UNESCO in 2021 in partnership with the Al-Fozan Foundation in Saudi Arabia.

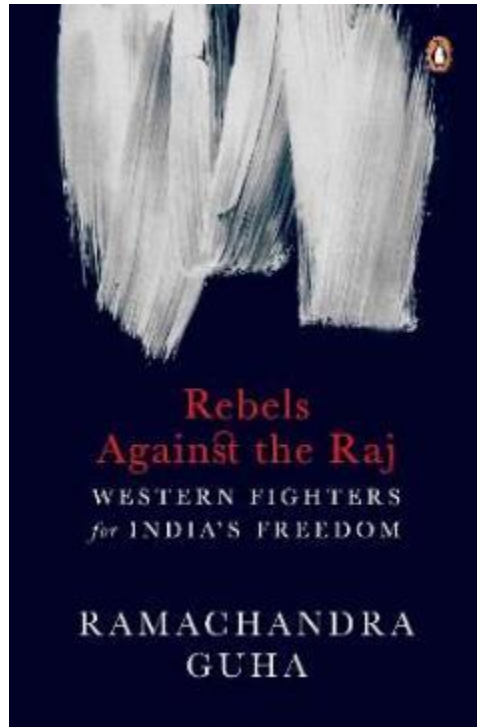


Co-creator of the lithium-ion battery

- ❖ John Goodenough, known for developing the lithium-ion battery has passed away at USA.
- ❖ He shared the 2019 Nobel Prize in chemistry for his work developing the lithium-ion battery.
- ❖ Goodenough was the oldest person to receive a Nobel Prize.
- ❖ He had shared the award with British-born American scientist M. Stanley Whittingham and Japan's Akira Yoshino.
- ❖ The first lightweight, safe, durable and rechargeable commercial batteries entered the market in 1991.



Elizabeth Longford Prize 2023



- ❖ Historian and writer Ramchandra Guha's book 'Rebels Against the Raj: Western Fighters for India's Freedom' has won the Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography 2023.
- ❖ Guha has been awarded £5,000 (₹5 lakhs approximately) and a bound copy of Elizabeth Longford's memoir.
- ❖ The books, Gandhi Before India (2013), Gandhi: The Years That Changed the World (2018) and India after Gandhi (2007), are written by him.
- ❖ The American Historical Association (AHA) has conferred its Honorary Foreign Member prize for the year 2019 on Ramchandra Guha.
- ❖ The Government of India honoured him with the Padma Bhushan award in 2009.

2023 List of Great Immigrants

- ❖ Ajay Banga, the President of the World Bank, has been recognised on the Carnegie Corporation of New York's annual "Great Immigrants" list.
- ❖ He is an Indian-born American business executive.
- ❖ He is lauded for his contributions and efforts in enriching America and its democracy.



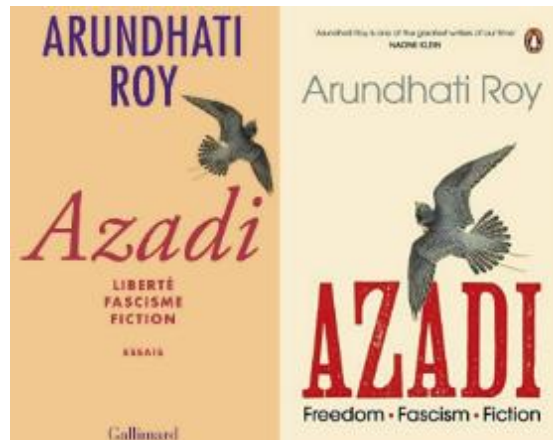
Veteran photographer K. Jayaram



- ❖ Acclaimed nature photographer K. Jayaram, who is regarded as a pioneer in macro photography in India passes away recently.
- ❖ He won his first prize in a photography competition in 1963, a plastic cased Agfa Click-III.
- ❖ He won the International Salon of Photography's gold and silver medals at Los Angeles in 1970.
- ❖ Jayaram became an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society, UK (ARPS) in 1978.
- ❖ He was awarded the distinction of Excellence from the International Federation of Photographic Art, Europe (EFIAP) in 1983
- ❖ It is followed by Master Honour EFIAP in 1986.
- ❖ He co-authored Some South Indian Butterflies and another book on Silent Valley.
- ❖ The frog *Raorchestes jayarami* and the spider *Myrmarachne jayaramani* are named after him.
- ❖ 'Insects to Infinity' is a documentary on Jayaram and his works.

45th European Essay Prize for lifetime achievement

- ❖ Writer-activist Arundhati Roy has been awarded the prestigious 45th European Essay Prize for lifetime achievement for the French translation of her book 'Azadi'.
- ❖ This prize was established in 1975.
- ❖ The European Essay Prize is given to an author "who, through their writings, contributes to nourishing and spreading the evolution of thought.
- ❖ Previously, Roy has also won the Booker Prize in 1997 for her novel 'The God of Small Things'.



The Solicitor-General of India

- ❖ Tushar Mehta has been reappointed as the Solicitor General of India for three more years.
- ❖ Solicitor General is the second most senior law officer after Attorney General.
- ❖ Six additional solicitor generals also appointed in the Supreme Court.
- ❖ Mehta has been continuing as Solicitor General since October 2018.
- ❖ The Attorney General for India is the highest law officer of the country.
- ❖ Senior advocate R Venkataramani was appointed AG on October 1 last year and has a tenure of three years till 2025.

125th Birth Anniversary of Alluri Sitarama Raju

- ❖ The Alluri Sitarama Raju statue was unveiled to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Alluri Sitarama Raju at Bhimavaram of West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Alluri Sitarama Raju was popularly known as 'Manyam Veerdu' (Hero of the Forest).



- ❖ He organised local Adivasis in forest areas of Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts into a potent force, for launching a frontal attack.
- ❖ He kept fighting for the rights of the tribal society till his martyrdom.
- ❖ In 1924, he was captured by the British and executed.

Hul Diwas

- ❖ Hul Divas is observed annually on June 30 in memory of tribal leaders Sidho and Kanhu Murmu.
- ❖ They led the Santhal hul (rebellion) on June 30, 1855, at Bhognadih in Sahebganj district (now Jharkhand).
- ❖ This is often referred to as “the first war for Indian independence”.
- ❖ The rebellion took place in the lush Damin-i-Koh region – ‘Damin-i-Koh’.
- ❖ The Santal people or Santalis – were not the original inhabitants of modern day Santhal Pargana.
- ❖ They had migrated from the Birbhum and Manbhum regions (present-day Bengal), starting around the late 18th century.

Points of Light Award

- ❖ British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has honoured Rajindar Singh Dhatt (101) with a Points of Light honour.
- ❖ Dhatt is a one of the last surviving Sikh soldiers who fought in the Second World War.
- ❖ This award acknowledges Dhatt’s exceptional service and his relentless efforts to bring together these veterans.
- ❖ It acknowledges their positive impact and aims to inspire others to find innovative solutions to societal challenges.

The Philippe Chatrier Award

- ❖ The International Tennis Federation has awarded Justine Henin of Belgium its highest honour, the Philippe Chatrier Award.
- ❖ Henin won seven Grand Slam singles titles, an Olympic gold medal, and was part of Belgium’s team that won the Fed Cup in 2001.
- ❖ The award, named after the former ITF president, was introduced in 1996.
- ❖ It recognizes people who have made significant contributions to the sport on and off the court.



Aswin Sekhar

- ❖ The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has honoured Indian astronomer Aswin Sekhar by naming a minor planet after him.
- ❖ The minor planet named after Aswin will now be known as (33928) Aswin Sekhar = 2000LJ27.
- ❖ Only five Indians have been conferred this honour before him.
- ❖ They are
 - Nobel laureates CV Raman & Subramanya Chandrasekhar;
 - The great mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan;
 - Prominent physicist & astronomer Dr. Vikram Sarabhai;
 - Great astronomer & past president of IAU Manali Kallat Vainu Bappu, co-discoverer of the Wilson-Bappu Effect.
- ❖ There are two naming systems followed for naming Minor Planets – ceremonial and non-ceremonial.
- ❖ A Ceremonial naming is similar to award of honorary doctorates to celebrities- Tagore, Gandhi, Pandit Jasraj, Viswanathan Anand and Kailash Satyarthi.
- ❖ Non-ceremonial naming system is intended to honour scientists for outstanding work in their respective fields.

Guinness World Record Created for Lambani Art

- ❖ Women of the nomadic Lambani community of Hampi in Karnataka have set a new Guinness World Record for producing the highest number of embroidery patches.
- ❖ At the G20 Culture Working Group meeting, around 450 Lambani artisans showcased their exceptional skills and craftsmanship.
- ❖ They created an astounding collection of over 1,755 unique patches.
- ❖ Lambani embroidery is a vibrant and intricate form of textile embellishment characterised by colourful threads, mirror work, and a rich array of stitch patterns.
- ❖ It is practised in several villages of Karnataka such as Sandur, Keri Tanda, Mariyammanahalli, Kadirampur, Sitaram Tanda, Bijapur, and Kamalapur.

International Biology Olympiad

- ❖ India topped the International Biology Olympiad medal tally for the first time with an all-gold performance at the 34th edition of the competition held in Al Ain, UAE.

- ❖ India had earlier topped the medal tally in other disciplines of International Science Olympiads — Astronomy & Astrophysics (in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2015 and 2021), Physics (in 2018) and Junior Science (in 2014, 2019, 2021, and 2022).
- ❖ International Science Olympiads are annual competitions in various areas of the formal sciences, natural sciences, and social sciences.

Forbes' 100 richest self-made women list

- ❖ Four Indian-origin women, including Jayshree Ullal and Indra Nooyi, have made it to Forbes' list of America's 100 most successful self-made women.
- ❖ Jayshree Ullal, president and CEO of computer networking firm Arista Networks, ranked 15th on the list.
- ❖ Neerja Sethi, co-founder of Syntel has been ranked 25th on the list.
- ❖ Narkehe, co-founder of cloud company Confluent, is ranked 50th on the list.
- ❖ The former chair and CEO of PepsiCo Indira Nooyi ranked 77th on the Forbes list.
- ❖ Building supply distributor Diane Hendricks, retained the top spot for the sixth year in a row.

Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour



- ❖ The Indian Prime Minister was conferred with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, France's highest award.
- ❖ The Legion of Honour is the highest French decoration given to the most deserving citizens in all fields of activity.
- ❖ It has been conferred to prominent personalities for two centuries.
- ❖ It was established by former French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802.



- ❖ The Legion of Honour is divided into five degrees (lower to higher) – Knight, Officer, Commander, Grand Officer and Grand Cross.
- ❖ The PM was awarded the fifth honour.
- ❖ Other personalities who received this honour include Nelson Mandela, King Charles, Angela Merkel, and Former UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Honorary doctorate to N. Sankaraiah

- ❖ Freedom fighter and Communist leader N. Sankaraiah will be conferred an honorary doctorate by the Madurai Kamaraj University.
- ❖ He was elected to the Tamil Nadu Assembly in the 1967, 1977 and 1980 elections.
- ❖ The State government, in 2021, conferred on him the Thagaisal Tamil award when he completed 100 years.
- ❖ But he donated the prize money to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

International Eni Award

- ❖ T. Pradeep, professor in the Department of Chemistry of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) has been selected for the International Eni Award.
- ❖ This award is Instituted by the Italian energy company Eni.
- ❖ Some Nobel laureates and Bharat Ratna award-winner C.N. R. Rao won the award in the past.

Former Kerala CM Oommen Chandy

- ❖ Former Chief Minister of Kerala Oommen Chandy has passed away.
- ❖ Chandy served as the state's chief minister from 2011 to 2016, and from 2004 to 2006.
- ❖ He had also served as the Opposition leader in the Kerala Assembly from 2006 to 2011.
- ❖ He was the longest-serving legislator in the Kerala Assembly.
- ❖ He had represented the Puthuppally Assembly constituency from 1970 successively until his death.
- ❖ With the winning of 2021, it was his 12th consecutive win from the same seat.
- ❖ He is the only Indian chief minister to achieve award for public service from the United Nations in 2013.
- ❖ He also served as general secretary of the All-India Congress Committee for Andhra Pradesh from 2018 until his death.



Chevalier Award

- ❖ The Carnatic vocalist Aruna Sairam and flautist Shashank Subramanyam were conferred with the prestigious Chevalier award by the French government.
- ❖ The award was given in recognition of their contribution to the music field and development of Indo-France relations.
- ❖ The award was intended to honour personalities for their creativity in cultural spheres and their works that formed the wealth of the cultural heritage.
- ❖ Ms. Sairam has received several honours, including the Padma Shri and Sangita Kalanidhi from The Music Academy.
- ❖ Mr. Subramanyam too has been awarded with several titles, including the Tamil Nadu government's Kalaimamani for his prowess in instrumental music.

8th and 9th Community Radio Awards

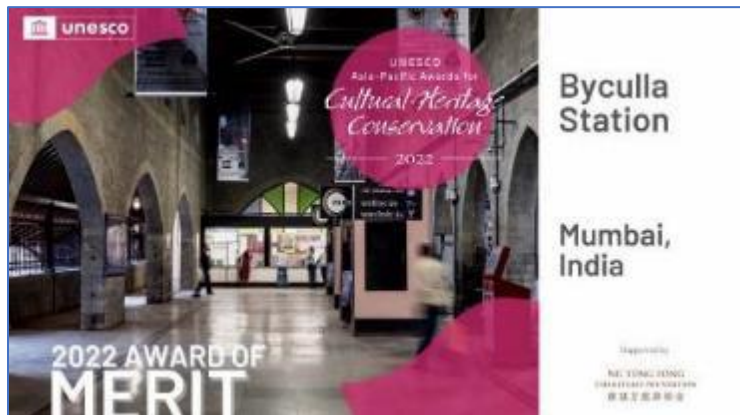
- ❖ The Union Ministry for Information and Broadcasting conferred these Awards during the Regional Community Radio Sammelan in New Delhi.
- ❖ The awards given in the following 4 categories.
 - Thematic Awards
 - Most Innovative Community Engagement Awards
 - Promoting Local Culture Awards
 - Sustainability Modern Awards
- ❖ Vayalaga Vanoli, Madurai, Tamil Nadu got Second Prize in Sustainability Modern Awards category.
- ❖ The awards recognized outstanding contributions to community broadcasting and local development.
- ❖ Community Radio, a crucial third tier in broadcasting, empowers communities and preserves cultural heritage.
- ❖ There are currently 449 Community Radio Stations in India, with significant growth in recent years.

RSL Christopher Bland Prize 2023

- ❖ Actor-author Paterson Joseph has won the RSL Christopher Bland Prize 2023.
- ❖ This is awarded for his debut novel 'The Secret Diaries of Charles Ignatius Sancho'.
- ❖ The book is a historical fiction about Charles Ignatius Sancho, who was the first Black man to vote in England.
- ❖ Recently, he has been officially installed as Chancellor of Oxford Brookes University.

2022 UNESCO Asia Pacific award

- ❖ Mumbai's historic Byculla Railway Station was bestowed with the prestigious UNESCO Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage Award.
- ❖ It celebrates the station's significant role in conserving cultural heritage.
- ❖ The 169-year-old Byculla railway station in Mumbai is one of the oldest living railway stations in India.
- ❖ The station's history is intrinsically tied to the arrival of the first locomotive in Mumbai in 1852.



SPORTS

World Cup trophy in space



- ❖ The International Cricket Council (ICC) unveiled the ODI World Cup 2023 trophy in a very unique way.
- ❖ It was launched into the space stratosphere, at an altitude of 1,20,000 feet above the Earth.

- ❖ The temperature at that altitude was -65 degree Celsius.
- ❖ The trophy has been brought back to the host country India and will now be taken across 18 countries.
- ❖ The ODI World Cup 2023 will be played between October and November.

FIFA World Rankings



- ❖ The Indian men's football team has climbed to number 100 in the latest FIFA World Rankings.
- ❖ This is the fourth best ranking achieved by the Indian men's football team in the history.
- ❖ The team's rank came up to 94th rank in 1996, 99th in 1993 and 96th rank in 2017 to 2018.
- ❖ Pakistan stands at number 195.

Asian Kabaddi Championship 2023

- ❖ The Asian Kabaddi Championship 2023 featured six nations: India, Iran, the Republic of Korea, Japan, Chinese Taipei, and Hong Kong.
- ❖ The Indian men's kabaddi team won the title by beating Iran in the final.
- ❖ It was the Indian men's kabaddi team's eighth Asian Kabaddi Championship crown in nine editions.

Women's Kabaddi League – Kolkata



- ❖ Dubai hosted the world's first international Women's Kabaddi final.
- ❖ The tournament spanned 12 days and witnessed the participation of eight teams from India, representing the different states.
- ❖ Uma Kolkata emerged as champions, by defeating Punjab team.
- ❖ The event promoted cultural exchange and strengthened ties between India and the United Arab Emirates.

AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year award for 2022-23



- ❖ Lallianzuala Chhangte, the talented footballer from Mizoram, has been crowned the All-India Football Federation (AIFF) Men's Footballer of the Year for the 2022-23.
- ❖ He was becoming only the second player from Mizoram to claim the AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year award.
- ❖ Manisha Kalyan was named the AIFF Women's Footballer of the Year.
- ❖ Akash Mishra and Shilji Shaji were honoured as the AIFF Men's and Women's Emerging Footballers of the Year.



- ❖ The Men's Coach of the Year award went to former India player Clifford Miranda.
- ❖ Priya Parathi Valappil was named Women Coach of the Year.

World Archery Youth Championships 2023

- ❖ India won 11 medals at the World Archery Youth Championships 2023 in Limerick, Ireland.
- ❖ A total of 11 includes six golds, one silver and four bronzes.
- ❖ Six were bagged in the U21 category - four gold and two bronze.
- ❖ The remaining five medals were claimed in the U21 category - two gold, one silver and two bronze.
- ❖ It finished second behind Korea, which collected six golds and four silvers.

Archer	Event	Medal
Priyansh	Compound men's individual	Gold
Parth Salunkhe	Recurve men's individual	Gold
Avneet Kaur and Priyansh	Compound mixed team	Gold
Avneet Kaur, Parneet Kaur and Pragati	Compound women's team	Gold
Parth Salunkhe and Ridhi	Recurve mixed team	Bronze
Bhajan Kaur	Recurve women's individual	Bronze

Wimbledon 2023 Men's Final

- ❖ Carlos Alcaraz beat four-time defending champion Novak Djokovic of Serbia to win maiden title at The Championships.
- ❖ Alcaraz is just the third Spanish man after Manuel Santana (1966) and Rafael Nadal (2008, 2010) to win Wimbledon.
- ❖ Alcaraz is the third-youngest men's champion at Wimbledon after Bjorn Borg and Boris Becker.
- ❖ He is the fourth Spanish player to win multiple Grand Slam titles, after Nadal, Santana and Sergi Bruguera.
- ❖ Alcaraz is the fifth man in the Open Era to win multiple Grand Slam titles prior to turning 21.

Asian athletics championships 2023



- ❖ India recorded a fine show at the 2023 Asian Athletics Championships over the last five days to finish with 27 medals - six gold, 12 silver and nine bronze.
- ❖ In terms of medals won, this campaign is India's best ever away from home.
- ❖ Japan finished on top with 37 medals, including 16 gold medals.
- ❖ China finished second with 22 medals, including 8 gold medals.
- ❖ India was third place, ahead of Sri Lanka at 4th.
- ❖ Jyothi Yarraji and Parul Chaudhary won medals in two events.

Satwiksairaj - Guinness World Record

- ❖ India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy broke a decade-old Guinness world record for the fastest shot ever in badminton with an astonishing 565 km/hour smash.

- ❖ The speed greatly exceeded the previous world record of 493 km/hour which was achieved by Malaysian badminton player Tan Boon Heong.
- ❖ The women's record stands of 438 km/hour belongs to Malaysia's Pearly Tan.
- ❖ The fastest speed recorded by a Formula 1 car is 397.48 km/hour.
- ❖ While the fastest tennis serves maxes out at 263 km/hour.

Sport	Fastest speeds
Fastest badminton smash	565 kmph (351.1 mph)
Fastest F1 car speed	397.483 kmph (247.0 mph)
Fastest golf drive	349.38 kmph (217.1 mph)
Fastest tennis serve	263 kmph (163.4 mph)
Fastest ice hockey shot	177.5 kmph (110.3 mph)
Fastest baseball pitch	170.3 kmph (105.8 mph)
Fastest football shot	129 kmph (80.2 mph)
Fastest table tennis smash	116 kmph (72.1 mph)

Virat Kohli 500 international Match

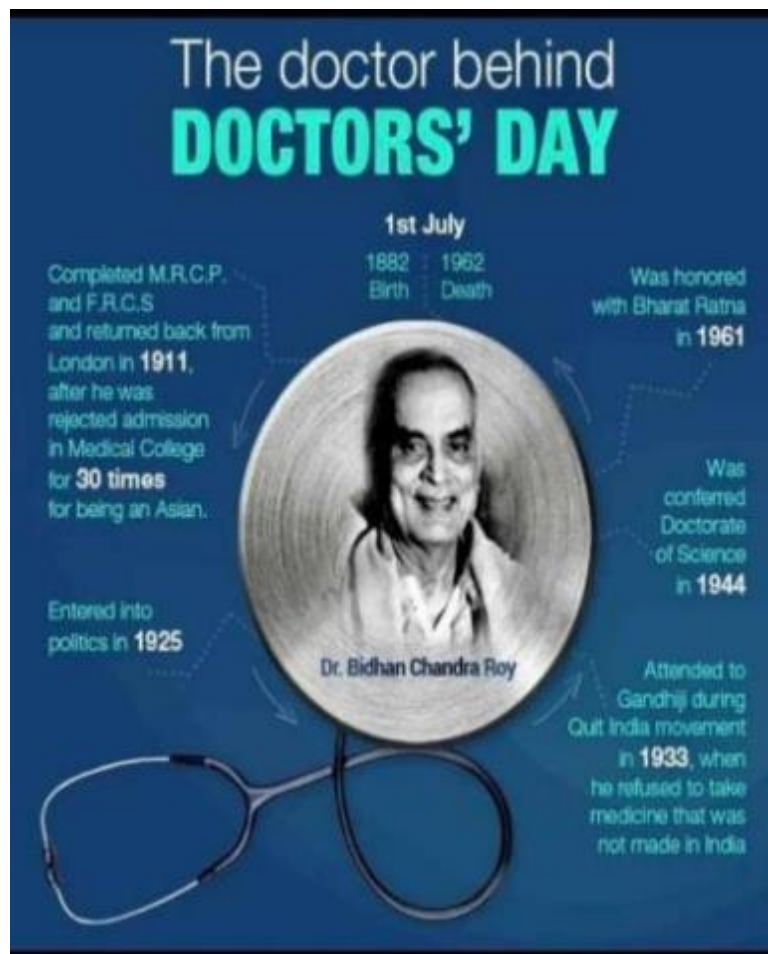


- ❖ Indian cricketing stalwart Virat Kohli became only the 10th cricketer to make 500 international appearances.
- ❖ Kohli is the fourth Indian to join this exclusive list, with the other three being Sachin Tendulkar (664), MS Dhoni (538) and Rahul Dravid (509).
- ❖ Kohli also became the fifth-highest run-scorer in international cricket.
- ❖ He became the first player to have scored a half-century in his 500th international game.
- ❖ Kohli has represented India in 274 ODIs and 115 T20Is and 111 Tests.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Doctor's Day 2023 - July 01

- ❖ This day marks the birth anniversary and death anniversary of Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy.
- ❖ He is the one of India's most renowned physicians.
- ❖ Dr Roy also served as the second Chief Minister of West Bengal.
- ❖ He is also a recipient of the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Celebrating Resilience and Healing Hands".



GST Day 2023 - July 01

- ❖ Goods and Services Tax (GST) Day aims to honour the successful implementation of the GST regime in the country.
- ❖ The Parliament passed the Constitution (101st Amendment) Act in August 2016.

- ❖ It is giving the central government the power to levy and collect GST.
- ❖ On July 1, 2017, GST was implemented across India.
- ❖ It is creating a unified market for seamless trade between states.
- ❖ GST has replaced multiple indirect taxes, such as excise duty, service tax, and value-added tax (VAT), levied by both the central and state governments.
- ❖ This has made the tax system simpler and more transparent.



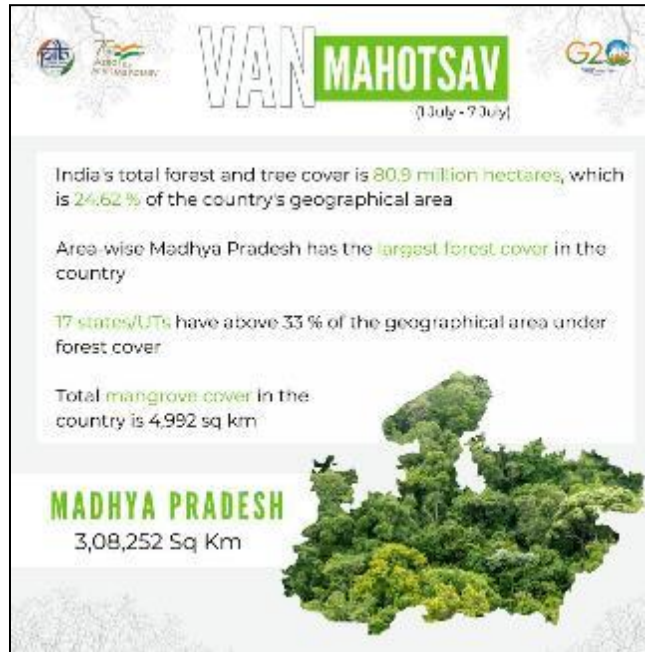
Chartered Accountants Day 2023 - July 01

- ❖ This date marks the formation of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).
- ❖ The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament.
- ❖ The Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 (Act No. XXXVIII of 1949) for regulating the profession of Chartered Accountancy in the country.
- ❖ The Institute functions under the administrative control of the ministry of corporate affairs.

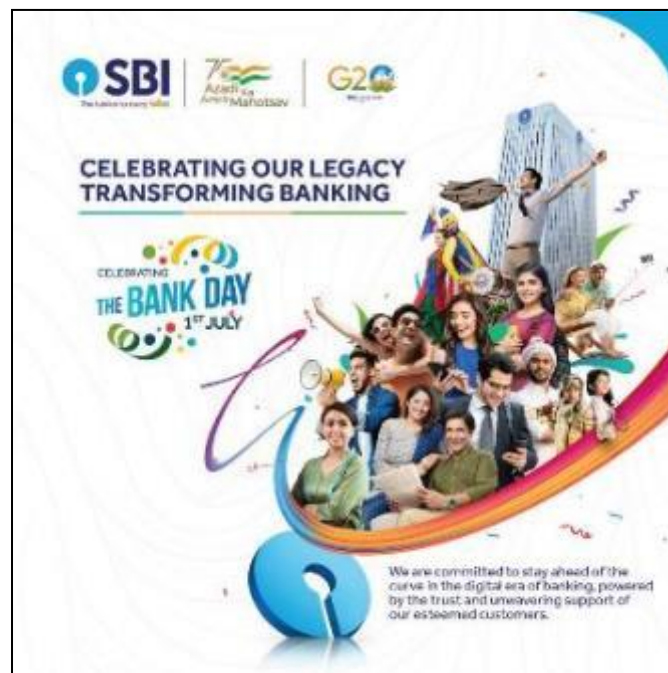
Van Mahotsav 2023 - July 01

- ❖ Van Mahotsav Day is a tree-planting festival that is celebrated in the first week of July, from 1– 7.
- ❖ It is observed to spread awareness about the importance of forests, woodlands and trees in our lives.

- ❖ It was started by KM Munshi, the then Union Minister for Agriculture and Food in 1950.
- ❖ The objective behind celebrating Van Mahotsav is to keep local people involved in plantation drives and spread environmental awareness.



SBI Day 2023 - July 01





- ❖ The State Bank of India was first established as the Bank of Calcutta in Calcutta on 2 June 1806.
- ❖ In 1809, the bank received its charter and was re-designed as the Bank of Bengal.
- ❖ The bank was the first joint-stock bank of British India sponsored by the Government of Bengal.
- ❖ Later in 1840, the Bank of Bombay and in 1843, the Bank of Madras followed the Bank of Bengal.
- ❖ The three banks amalgamated as the Imperial Bank of India in 1921.
- ❖ In May 1955, an Act was passed in Parliament and the State Bank of India was constituted on July 1, 1955.
- ❖ In 1959, the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act was passed.
- ❖ It allowed the bank to take over eight former State-associated banks as its subsidiaries.

International Day of Cooperatives 2023 - July 01

- ❖ It is celebrated on the first Saturday of July.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is "Cooperatives for Sustainable Development."
- ❖ This day brings individuals, communities, and organisations from all corners of the world together to celebrate the remarkable impact of cooperative enterprises.
- ❖ In 1923, the International Cooperative Alliance established this day to commemorate the ideals and principles of cooperation.

National Postal Worker Day 2023 - July 01

- ❖ This day aims to respect their hard work and the extra mile that they go, literally, to ensure that we receive our letters on time.
- ❖ In 1997, a postal carrier in the Seattle area started National Postal Worker Day to respect the efforts of his employees.
- ❖ With more than 1,55,000 post offices, the Indian Department of Posts has the most widely distributed postal network in the world.
- ❖ Robert Clive sets up a regular postal system in 1766.
- ❖ Warren Hastings organises the Post Office in 1774.
- ❖ Madras General Post Office opened on 1 June, 1786.
- ❖ Post Office Act XVII was introduced in 1854.
- ❖ In 1876, India joins the Universal Postal Union.
- ❖ Post Office Savings Bank was opened in 1882.



World UFO Day 2023 - July 02

- ❖ This day aims to raise awareness about Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) and the existence of life beyond our planet.
- ❖ The day was first observed in 2001 by a Turkish UFO researcher Haktan Akdogan.
- ❖ The first event took place on June 24, 1947, when an American pilot Kenneth Arnold witnessed several UFOs near Mount Rainier, Washington.
- ❖ The second event took place on July 2, 1952, when radar operators confirmed spotting several UFOs over Washington.

World Sports Journalists Day 2023 - July 02

- ❖ In 1994, the International Sports Press Association (AIPS) established this Day.
- ❖ The day commemorates the formation of AIPS as an organization on July 2 during the Summer Olympics in Paris.
- ❖ In Sports journalism, the reporters focus on matters pertaining to sports.
- ❖ They work on various media platforms like digital, print, and television.

Saint Thomas Day 2023 - July 03

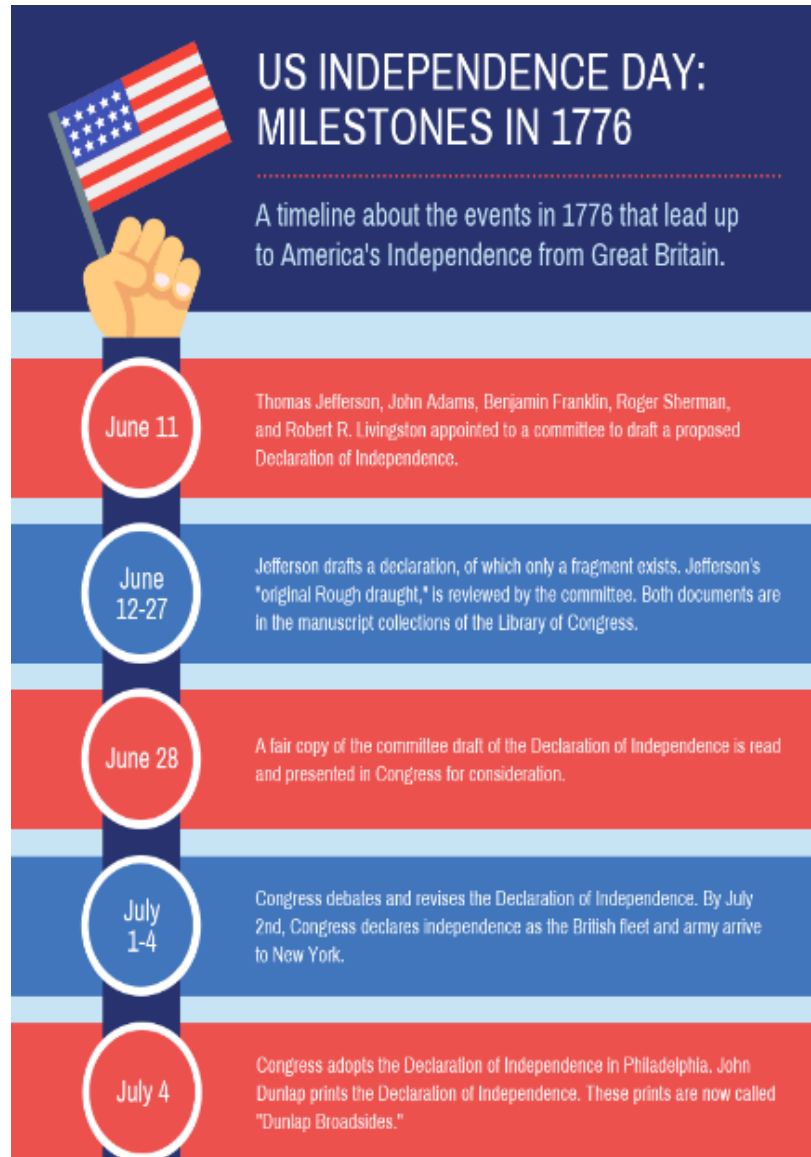
- ❖ One of the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ, Thomas, travelled beyond the gates of Rome to spread the gospel.
- ❖ Saint Thomas travelled to a kingdom in South India.
- ❖ He converted the people there to Christianity and moved onto the Coromandel coast.
- ❖ He was killed at Mylapore in Chennai, Tamil Nadu on July 3, 72 AD.
- ❖ This day is celebrated annually as Saint Thomas Day.
- ❖ The Portuguese built a stone fort in his memory, in 1523, near to the spot where he was believed to have landed on his mission to India.
- ❖ But the Dutch captured and destroyed the fort in 1663.

International Plastic Bag Free Day 2023 - July 03

- ❖ This day aims to raise awareness about the harmful impacts of single-use plastic bags on the environment.
- ❖ The initiative was started by the Bag Free World campaign
- ❖ In 2008, Zero Waste Europe launched a campaign against single-use plastic bags on this day.

- ❖ This day advocates to create a collective consciousness to take steps toward reducing reliance on plastic bags and promoting sustainable alternatives.

USA Independence Day 2023 - July 04



- ❖ This year was the 247th Independence Day for America.
- ❖ On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence.
- ❖ It declared the thirteen American colonies as a new nation, the United States of America, free from British control.
- ❖ This declaration marked a pivotal moment in the American Revolutionary War and the birth of a new nation.

World Zoonoses day 2023 - July 06

- ❖ This day commemorates the first vaccination came to be developed to fight Zoonoses.
- ❖ French Chemist and Microbiologist Louis Pasteur successfully developed the first vaccination against Rabies virus on July 6, 1885.
- ❖ The day was officially recognized and observed on July 6, 2007, honouring the 100th death anniversary of Louis Pasteur.
- ❖ Rabis virus is a Zoonotic disease and is known to spread through species.



Dharma Chakra Day 2023 - July 03



- ❖ Dharma Chakra Day is celebrated to commemorate Buddha's first teaching after attaining enlightenment at Sarnath.
- ❖ This day falls on the first full moon day of the month of Asadha as per Indian sun calendar.

- ❖ It is also known as Esala Poya in Sri Lanka and Asanha Bucha in Thailand.
- ❖ It is the second most sacred day for Buddhists after the Buddha Pournima or Vesak.
- ❖ The day marks the beginning of the Rainy Season retreat for monks and nuns.

National Fish Farmers Day 2023 - July 10

- ❖ The day is celebrated to exhibit solidarity with fish farmers, fisher folks, and concerned stakeholders across India.
- ❖ This day is celebrated to honour and commemorate the contribution of Professor Dr. Hiralal Chaudhury and his colleague Dr. K. H. Alikunhi, in Indian fisheries sector.
- ❖ On this day in 1957, They had guided the induced breeding and reproduction in Indian Major Carps by Hypophysation technique.
- ❖ It eventually led to a revolution in Inland Aquaculture.



World Population Day 2023 - July 11

- ❖ This day aims to raise awareness about the pressing issues and challenges associated with global population growth.
- ❖ It serves as a reminder for individuals, organizations, and governments to come together and find sustainable solutions to address these concerns.
- ❖ This day was established by the United Nations in 1989.
- ❖ The theme 2023 is “Unleashing the power of gender equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world's infinite possibilities”.

- ❖ India has 1,42.58 crore population, as per the estimates and projections of global population by the United Nations, in April 2023.
- ❖ China lost its long-held status as the world's most populous country as India's population surpassed the mark of 1,425,775,850 people.
- ❖ Chinese population is set to decline and even drop below one billion before the end of the century.
- ❖ The United States population doubled from 15.1 crore to 30.9 crore between 1950 and 2010.
- ❖ As per the 2020 census results Indonesia has a relatively young population with a median age of 30 years.
- ❖ Pakistan is one of the fastest-growing countries in terms of population.



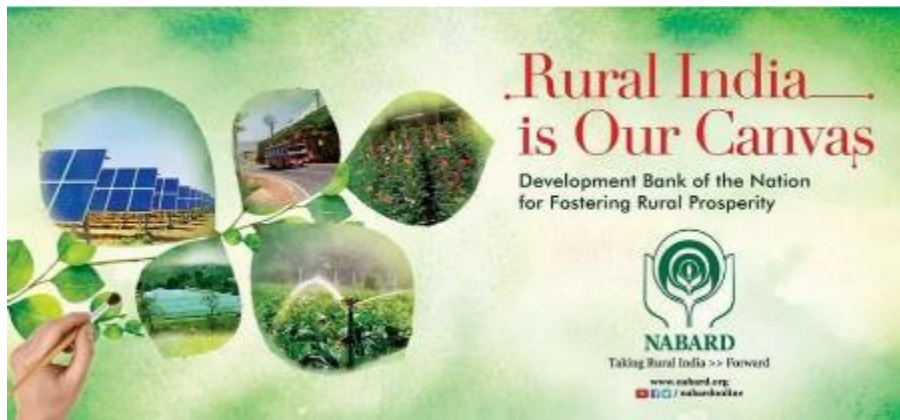
World Paper Bag Day 2023 - July 12

- ❖ This day recognizes and celebrates the use of this more environmentally friendly alternative to plastic bags.
- ❖ The day aims to promote the utilisation of paper bags and other environmentally conscious alternatives.
- ❖ In 1999, San Fransisco banned the usage of plastic bags in grocery stores and pharmacies.
- ❖ The city became the first place in the world to outlaw the use of plastic bags.
- ❖ The first paper bag machine was invented by Francis Wolle in 1852.



NABARD Day 2023 - July 12

- ❖ The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) celebrated its 42nd Foundation Day this year.
- ❖ NABARD is a statutory body established in 1982 under Parliamentary Act - National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981.
- ❖ The NABARD has touched almost every aspect of rural economy in terms of Financial, Developmental and Supervision functions
- ❖ The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme was designed by NABARD.
- ❖ NABARD had launched the Self-Help Group-Bank Linkage Programme (SHG-BLP) in 1992.



International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms 2023 - July 12

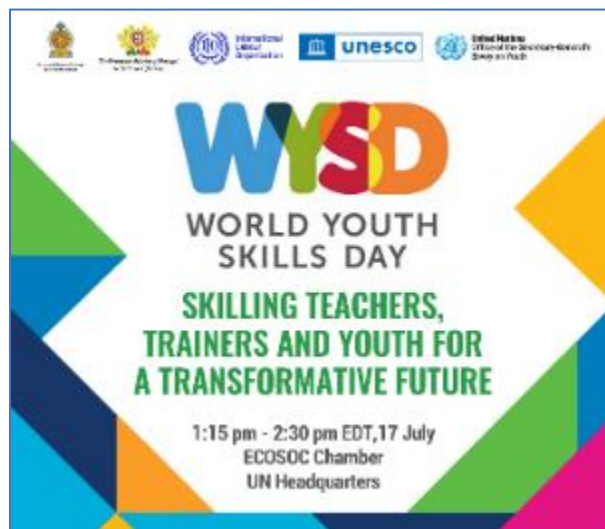
- ❖ The United Nations earlier this year designated July 12 as the first International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms.
- ❖ The move was designed to raise awareness about the threats posed by these squalls and to spur on the international effort to counter them.

- ❖ These tempests occur when strong winds meet bare or dry soil, lifting large amounts of sand and dust into the atmosphere.
- ❖ The main sources of these mineral dusts are dry regions in Northern Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, Central Asia and China.
- ❖ Human activities, like deforestation, over grazing and the overuse of water, are causing deserts to spread and increasing the likelihood of sand and dust storms.
- ❖ In northern China alone they caused economic losses of nearly \$1 billion in just three years.

Bastille Day 2023 - July 14

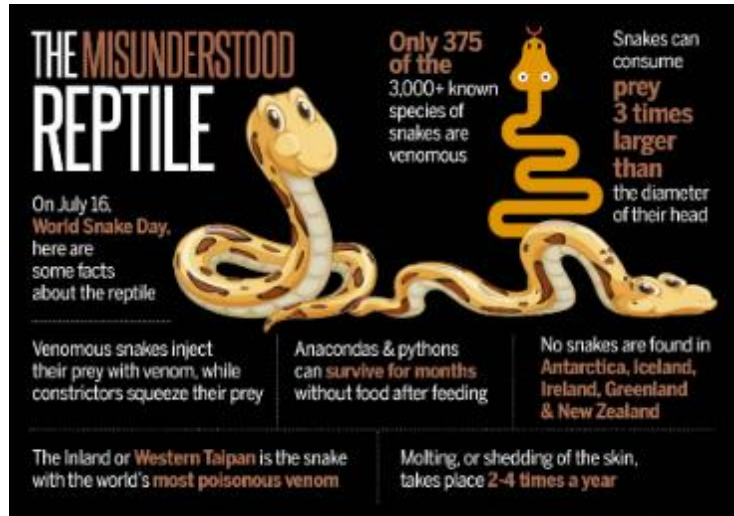
- ❖ French National Day (Bastille Day) commemorates the Storming of the Bastille Prison in 1789 during the French Revolution.
- ❖ The Indian PM is the Guest of Honour at the Bastille Day Parade in France.
- ❖ 269-member Indian tri-services contingent will participate in the parade.
- ❖ Indian Air Force contingent led by Sindhu Reddy as the Squadron Leader.
- ❖ This year marks the 25th anniversary of our strategic partnership.

World Youth Skills Day 2023 - July 15



- ❖ It aims to spread awareness about technical, and vocational education training, and the development of other skills relevant to both local and global economies.
- ❖ The Skill India Mission was also launched on this day in 2015.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is 'Skilling teachers, trainers and youth for a transformative future'.

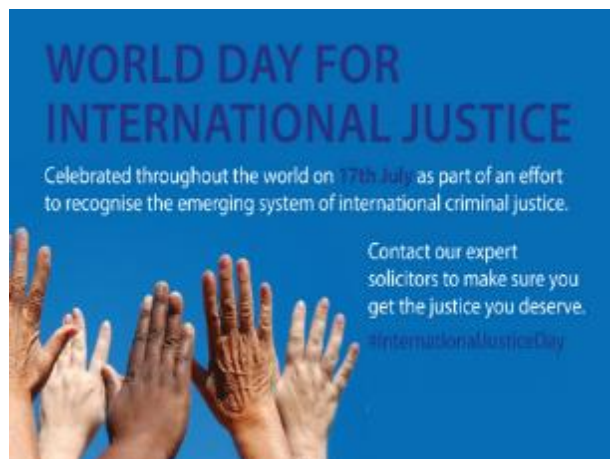
World Snake Day 2023 - July 16



- ❖ This day is aimed at increasing awareness about the different species of snake all around the world.
- ❖ The reptile is thought to have come from terrestrial lizards that existed around 174.1 million to 163.5 million years ago.
- ❖ There are more than 3,500 known species of snakes on the planet.
- ❖ Among the 3,500 species, only about 600 are venomous.
- ❖ India is known as the snake-bite capital of the world.

World Day for International Justice 2023 - July 17

- ❖ It marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute on 17 July 1998.
- ❖ It is the founding treaty of the International Criminal Court.
- ❖ This court seeks to protect people from genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.

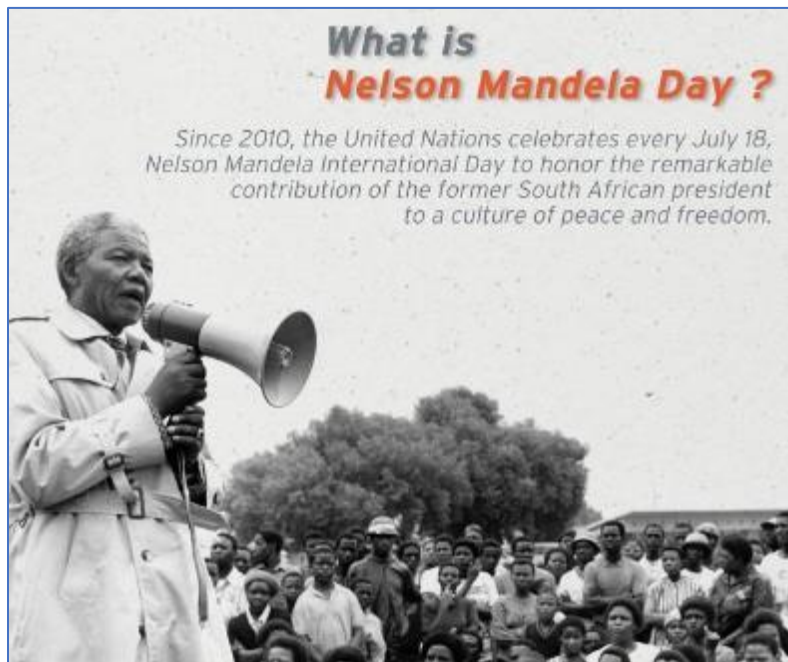


95th Foundation Day of ICAR

- ❖ Indian Council of Agricultural Research celebrated its 95th Foundation Day.
- ❖ It was established on July 16, 1929.
- ❖ It is formerly known as the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.
- ❖ With 113 ICAR institutes and 71 agricultural universities it spread across the country.
- ❖ It is one of the largest national agricultural systems in the world.

Nelson Mandela International Day 2023 - July 18

- ❖ This day is a commemoration of Nelson Mandela's birthday, to honour his life and legacy.
- ❖ It holds immense significance as it serves as a global call to action for individuals to engage in acts of community service and social activism.
- ❖ On 10 May 1994, he was inaugurated as South Africa's first democratically elected President.
- ❖ Mandela is referred to as the "Father of the Nation" in South Africa.
- ❖ He was felicitated with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.
- ❖ "The Legacy Lives on Through You: Climate, Food, and Solidarity" is the theme for this year.



World Chess Day 2023 - July 20

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the game of chess and appreciate chess players across the world.
- ❖ This day honours the founding of the International Chess Federation, FIDE by its French abbreviation in the year 1996.
- ❖ The International Olympic Committee acknowledged FIDE in 1999.
- ❖ About 70% of the adult population (US, UK, Germany, Russia, India) has played chess at some point in their lives.
- ❖ 605 million adults play chess regularly.
- ❖ The oldest living Grandmaster is Yuri Averbakh, who celebrated his 100th birthday in May 2022.

International Moon Day 2023 - July 20

- ❖ This day marks the anniversary of the day when humans first landed on the Moon as part of Apollo 11 mission.
- ❖ Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the Moon in a location that they then named Tranquillity Base, on July 20, 1969.
- ❖ The Apollo 11 mission was the historic NASA spaceflight that achieved the first manned moon landing.
- ❖ Launched on July 16, 1969, it carried astronauts Neil Armstrong, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, and Michael Collins.
- ❖ After the US, Russia, and China, India will become the fourth country to successfully land on the Moon if Chandrayaan 3 mission is a success.

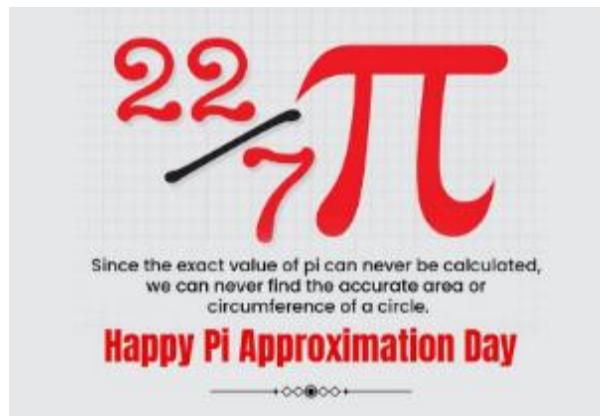


World Brain Day 2023 - July 22

- ❖ This event dedicated to raising awareness about brain health and neurological disorders.
- ❖ The day promotes education, research, and support for individuals affected by brain-related conditions.
- ❖ Theme of 2023 is "Brain Health and Disability: Leave No One Behind."
- ❖ The World Federation of Neurology (WFN) was founded on July 22, 1957.

Pi Approximation Day 2023 - July 22

- ❖ The ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter is called Pi.
- ❖ When this date placed in the date/month format, July 22 looks like 22/7.
- ❖ This is an approximate value of Pi.
- ❖ The symbol of Pi was designed back in 1706 by mathematician Leonhard Euler.
- ❖ This day is also celebrated on November 10, as it is the 314th day of the year.
- ❖ Pi Day is observed on March 14, as it looks like 3/14 when placed in the month/date format.
- ❖ Physicist Albert Einstein was also born on July 22.
- ❖ Theoretical Physicist Stephen Hawking passed away on July 22, 2018.



National Broadcasting Day 2023 - July 23

- ❖ The day aims to remind us about the impact of radio on our lives.
- ❖ This day also marks the start of organised radio broadcasts in the country by All India Radio.
- ❖ On July 23, 1927, the India Broadcasting Company came into existence and became the first radio company in India.

- ❖ All India Radio (AIR) came into being in April 1930 as the Indian Broadcasting Service.
- ❖ On June 8, it was rebranded as All India Radio.
- ❖ The famous Akashvani tune was composed by an Indian Jewish refugee Walter Kauffman in 1930.
- ❖ The AIR came under the purview of the Department of Information and Broadcasting in British India in 1941.
- ❖ All India Radio (AIR) has been officially known since 1956 as 'Akashvani'.



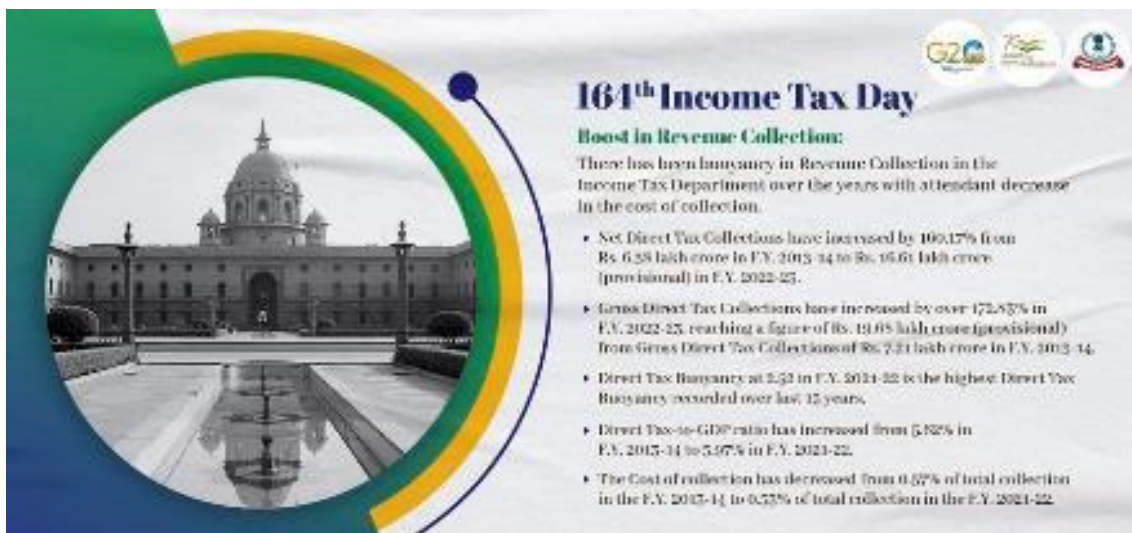
National Flag Adoption Day 2023 - July 22



- ❖ The day is observed to commemorate the Constituent Assembly's adoption of the tricolour in its current form in 1947.

- ❖ The National Flag was first designed in 1923 by Pingali Venkayya.
- ❖ The initial flag design by Venkayya had only two colours — red representing Hindus in the country and green representing the Muslim population.
- ❖ MK Gandhi asked Venkayya to add a white colour representing peace and the remaining communities of India.
- ❖ He also suggested adding a running wheel to symbolise the progress of the Nation.
- ❖ The Constituent Assembly on July 22, 1947, approved this final version of flag.

Income Tax Day 2023 - July 24



- ❖ This year Income Tax Day or Aaykar Diwas to commemorate 164 years of this tax in India.
- ❖ Sir James Wilson implemented Income Tax in India on July 24, 1860.
- ❖ The scheme was introduced to recompense the British regime for losses sustained during the Revolt of 1857.
- ❖ The Income-tax Act of 1922 introduced a distinct nomenclature for the several Income-tax administrations.
- ❖ In 2010, the Finance Ministry declared July 24 as Income Tax Day to commemorate the establishment of this levy.

World Drowning Prevention Day 2023 - July 25

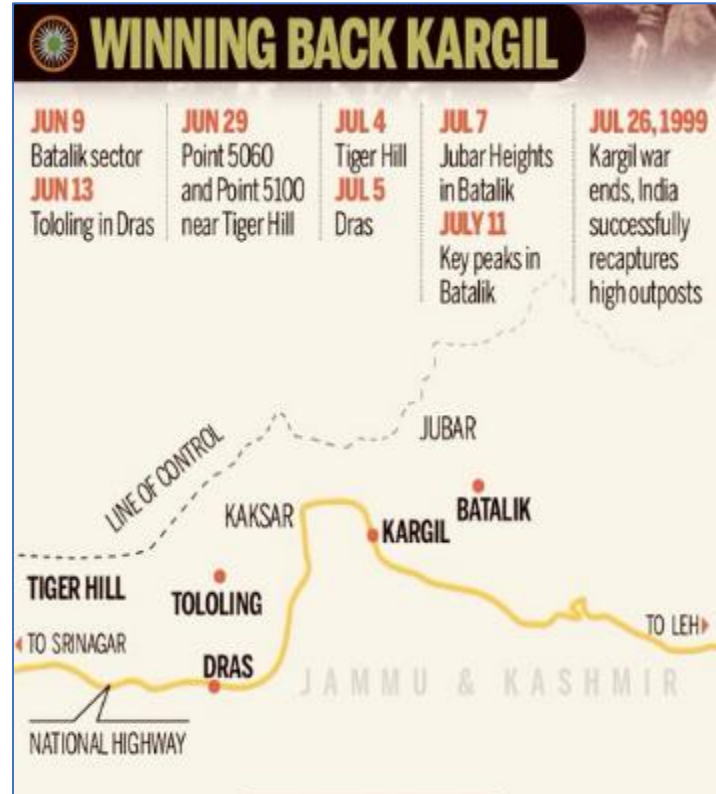
- ❖ It aims to remember lives lost due to drowning and to increase knowledge on safety in and around water.

- ❖ Drowning has caused over 2.5 million deaths in the last decade.
- ❖ The overwhelming majority of these deaths (90%) happen in low- and middle-income countries.
- ❖ Globally, the highest drowning rates occur among children aged 1–4 years, followed by children aged 5–9 years.

World Embryologist Day 2023 - July 25

- ❖ It aims to recognise the work and the contributions of the embryologists worldwide.
- ❖ This day marks the birthdate of first baby that was conceived and successfully birthed through in vitro fertilisations (IVF).
- ❖ Louise Joy Brown born on the 25th of July 1978 was the first baby born through the IVF procedure.
- ❖ In vitro fertilisation is a process in which the sperm and egg is fertilized outside the body of woman under laboratory conditions.

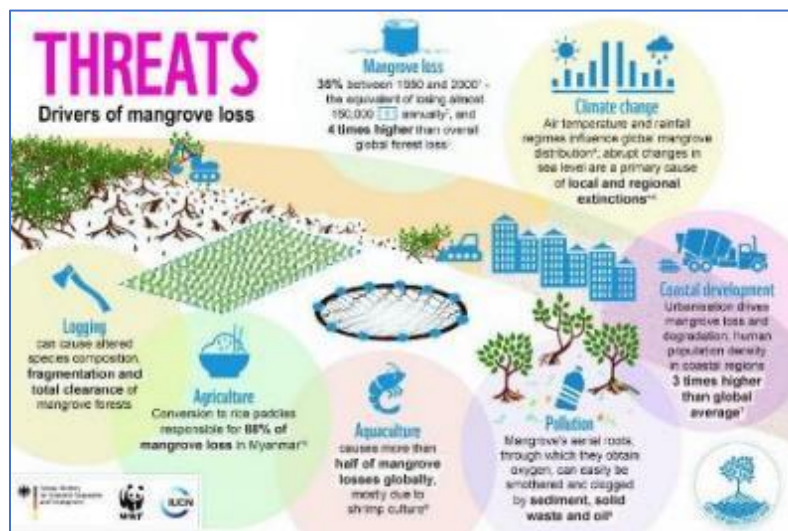
Kargil Vijay Diwas 2023 - July 26



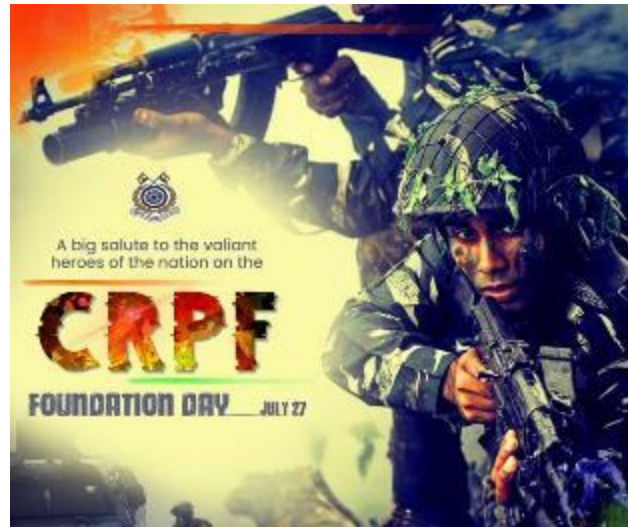
- ❖ The day commemorates the victory of the Indian armed forces in the Kargil War fought against Pakistan.
- ❖ The day is observed to pay tribute and to honour the bravery and sacrifice of the soldiers in the war of 1999.
- ❖ Indian Army launched 'Operation Vijay' after the first infiltration was reported by local shepherds on May 3, 1999.
- ❖ The target of Operation Vijay was to recapture the Indian territory along the LoC, which was occupied by the Pakistani infiltrators.
- ❖ Indian Air Force launched the airstrike on May 26 under operation Safed Sagar to support the Indian Army.
- ❖ On July 26, 1999, Indian Army declared Operation Vijay a success after recapturing all the military posts in Kargil.

International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem 2023 - July 26

- ❖ This annual celebration is focused on raising awareness about the importance of mangroves in safeguarding our ecosystem.
- ❖ This annual observance was adopted by the General Conference of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2015.
- ❖ They support a rich biodiversity and provide a valuable nursery habitat for fish and crustaceans.
- ❖ Mangroves also act as a form of natural coastal defense against storm surges, tsunamis, rising sea levels and erosion.
- ❖ Their soils are highly effective carbon sinks, sequestering vast amounts of carbon.



CRPF Day 2023 - July 27



- ❖ This day commemorates the formation of the central force on this day in 1939.
- ❖ CRPF is an integral part of India's internal security and one of the oldest Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF).
- ❖ The force was renamed as CRPF by an Act of Parliament passed on December 28, 1949.
- ❖ Until 1965, the CRPF guarded the India-Pakistan border.

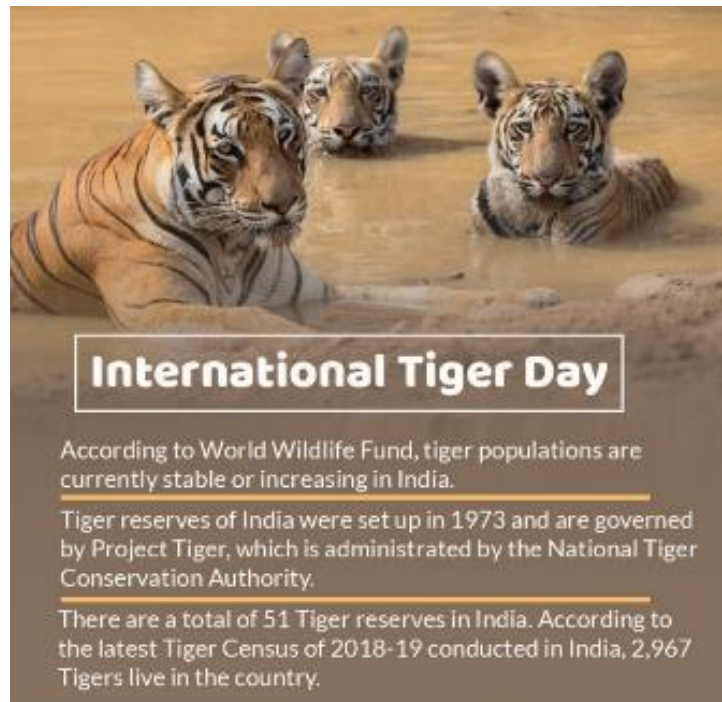
World Hepatitis Day 2023 – July 28

- ❖ The day aims to promote prevention, testing and treatment, and to show support for those affected by hepatitis.
- ❖ This day was established by World Hepatitis Alliance in 2008.
- ❖ This day commemorated the birthday of Dr. Baruch Blumberg who discovered the hepatitis B virus in 1967.
- ❖ 2 years later he developed the first hepatitis B vaccine.
- ❖ These achievements culminated in Dr. Baruch Blumberg winning the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1976.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is "One life, one liver."
- ❖ Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver.
- ❖ It is caused by viral infection, alcohol consumption and many health conditions.
- ❖ 5 types of hepatitis are hepatitis A, B, C, D and E.
- ❖ According to WHO, around 354 million people live with chronic hepatitis B and C worldwide.



International Tiger Day 2023 - July 29

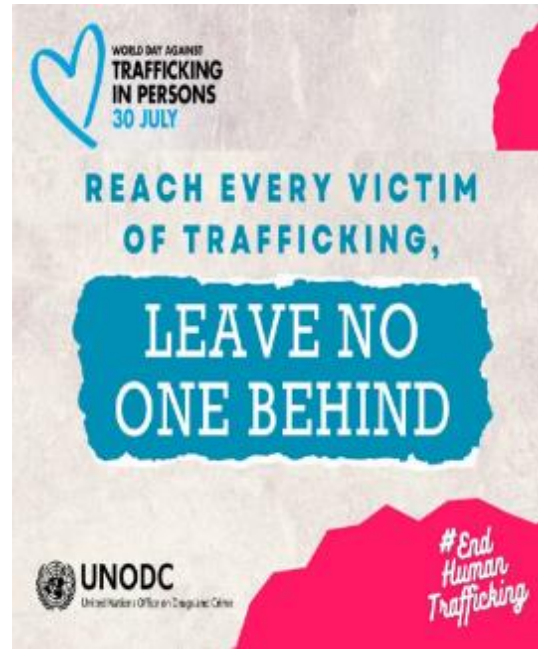
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the endangered tiger species.
- ❖ This day was first established in 2010 during the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit by nations that are home to tigers.
- ❖ Thirteen tiger range countries collaborated to form Tx2, committed to doubling the tiger population by 2022.



World Day Against Trafficking 2023 - July 30

- ❖ This day is observed to raise awareness about the trends in human trafficking identified by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

- ❖ It aims to put pressure on governments, law enforcement agencies and civil society to strengthen the prevention of trafficking and the identification and support of victims.
- ❖ The theme of 2023 is "Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind".



World Ranger Day 2023 - July 31

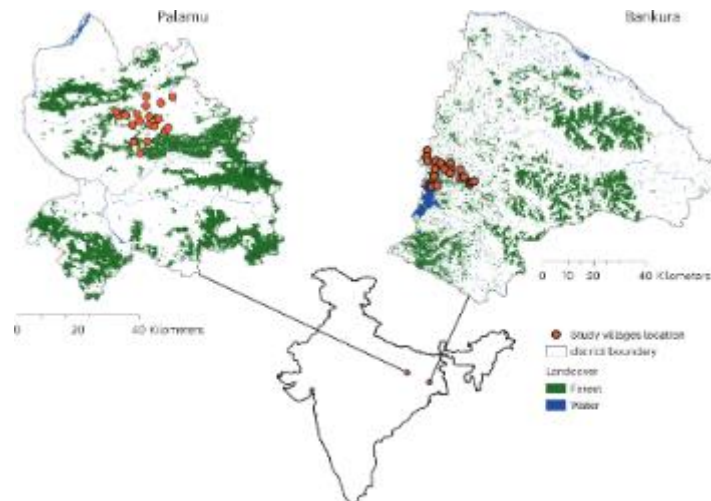
- ❖ This day is observed in memory of eight rangers who tragically lost their lives while on duty in Virunga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo.
- ❖ The term 'ranger' is to refer to any professional involved in the protection and management of national parks and natural areas.
- ❖ The theme of 2023 is "30 by 30" aiming to effectively conserve and manage at least 30 percent of the planet's areas by 2030.
- ❖ The International Ranger Federation (IRF) was established in 1992 to promote and support the work of park rangers worldwide.
- ❖ The day was first celebrated in 2007 marking the organisation's 15th foundation anniversary.



MISCELLANEOUS

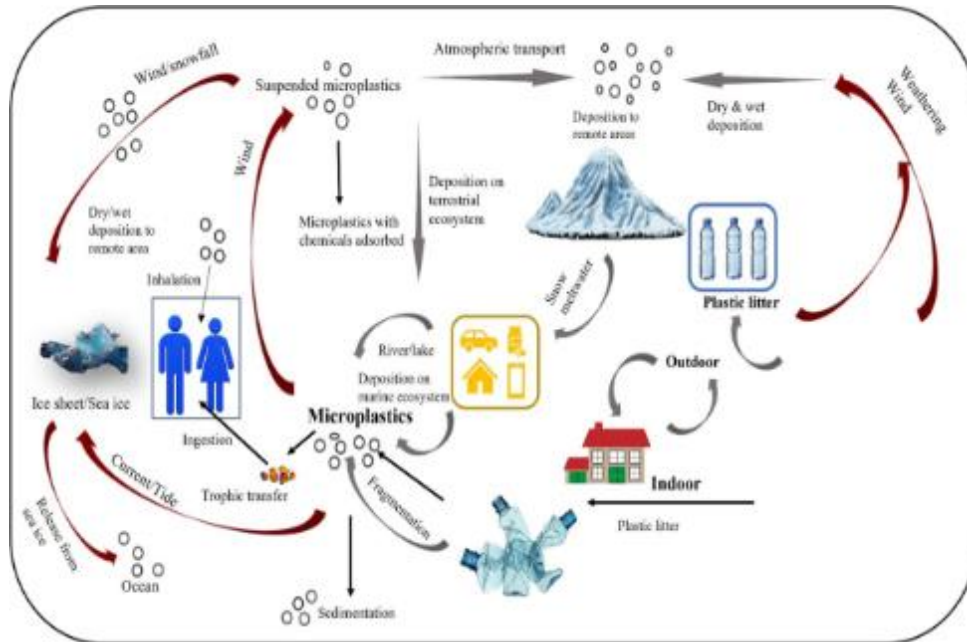
Wild foods for dietary diversity

- ❖ The study titled 'Wild foods contribute to women's higher dietary diversity in India', was published in the journal Nature Food.
- ❖ It highlights the role of food items collected from forests and common lands in women's diets in rural India.
- ❖ The wild food consumption significantly contributes to women's diets, particularly during the months of June and July.
- ❖ Women who consumed wild foods had higher average dietary diversity scores than those who did not collect wild foods.
- ❖ 40% of the women in the study group never met the minimum dietary diversity over the one-year period.



Impact of Microplastics and Nano plastics

- ❖ The FAO released a report on Impact of Microplastics and Nano plastics on Human Health.
- ❖ Microplastics has led to intestinal inflammation and gut dysbiosis — changes in the gut microbiome and microbiota.
- ❖ The findings stood true for aquatic species and rodents as well.
- ❖ They are known to affect larger soil microorganisms and penetrate the entire food web.
- ❖ They have eventually deposited in human lung tissue, placenta, stool, blood and meconium.
- ❖ Size of Microplastics (0.1 to 5 000 μm) and nano plastics (0.001 to 0.1 μm).



3,000-Year-Old “Condor’s Passageway”

- ❖ Archaeologists of Peru have uncovered a 3,000-year-old sealed corridor dubbed "the condor's passageway".
- ❖ It likely leads to other chambers inside what was once a massive temple complex pertaining to the ancient Chavin culture.
- ❖ The Chavin de Huantar archaeological site is among the culture's most important centers, thriving from around 1,500-550 B.C.
- ❖ UNESCO declared Chavin de Huantar a world heritage site in 1985.



World's Largest Office

- ❖ For 80 years, Pentagon of USA was the world's largest office building.
- ❖ Now the title taken by a Gujarat's Surat diamond trading centre building.

- ❖ Surat is known as the gem capital of the world where 90 per cent of the world's diamonds are cut.
- ❖ The 15-storey building is spread across 35 acres of land and has nine rectangular structures.



Rock art in Rudragiri hillock



- ❖ Rudragiri hillock is located in the village of Orvakallu, Atchampet mandal in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ This site unveils a fascinating combination of prehistoric rock paintings from the Mesolithic period and exquisite artwork from the Kakatiya dynasty.
- ❖ These shelters served as living quarters for people during the Mesolithic age around 5000 B.C.
- ❖ They bear witness to the luminous rock paintings of that era.
- ❖ The paintings, adorned with a variety of color derived from white kaolin and different pigments, depict captivating scenes from the epic Ramayana.
- ❖ The third cave houses the prehistoric rock paintings from the Mesolithic era.



World Cities Culture Forum – Bengaluru



- ❖ Bengaluru has become the first Indian city to be part of the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF).
- ❖ World Cities Culture Forum was founded in 2012 by Justine Simons OBE, London's Deputy Mayor for Culture & the Creative Industries.
- ❖ It provides a way for policy makers in these cities to share research and intelligence, and explore the vital role of culture for their future prosperity.

