

April - 14

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India's Chandrayaan-3 mission team has been bestowed with the prestigious 2024 John L. 'Jack' Swigert Jr. Award for Space Exploration in recognition of its bid to raise the bar for space exploration.
- ❖ A Bengaluru-based Kannada poet, writer Mamta G. Sagar, has recently won the World Literary Prize from the World Organization of Writers (WOW) for her contributions to the world of literature.

NATIONAL

Right to privacy from voters

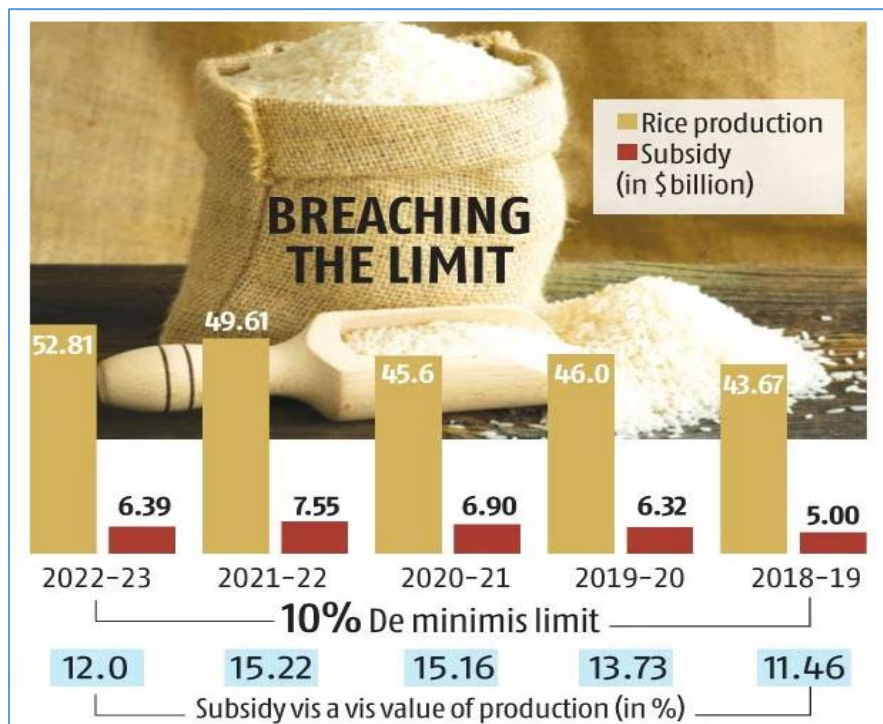


- ❖ The Supreme Court held that an election candidate has a right to privacy from voters.
- ❖ So, no need to lay out every scrap of his or her personal life and possessions, past and present, for the electorate to examine with a magnifying glass.
- ❖ The candidate's choice to retain his privacy on matters which were of no concern to the voters or were irrelevant to his candidature for public office did not amount to a 'corrupt practice' under Section 123 of the Representation of People Act, 1951.

- ❖ Such non-disclosure would not amount to a “defect of a substantial nature” under Section 36(4) of the 1951 Act.

Peace Clause for rice

- ❖ India has invoked the peace clause at the World Trade Organization (WTO) for the fifth consecutive time for the marketing year 2022-23 (October-September).
- ❖ This is due to breaching the prescribed subsidy limit for rice offered to its farmers.
- ❖ While the value of India’s production of rice was \$52.8 billion in 2022-23, a subsidy worth \$6.39 billion was given to farmers during the year.
- ❖ This means the rice subsidy was 12 per cent of the value of production, thereby breaching the 10 per cent domestic support ceiling.
- ❖ However, there is no immediate repercussion for the breach since India has invoked the “peace clause”, agreed upon at the Bali ministerial of WTO in 2013.
- ❖ This provides immunity to developing countries from challenges for breaching the ceiling for wheat and rice until a permanent solution is found.



ECONOMY

India - Net importer of finished steel

- ❖ India has reported a 38 per cent surge in steel imports to 8.319 million tonnes.

- ❖ Thus, it becomes a net importer of the commodity during 2023-24 financial year.
- ❖ India had imported 6.022 million tonnes (MnT) of finished steel during the preceding 2022-23 fiscal.
- ❖ The outbound shipment of steel rose by 11.50 per cent to 7.48 MnT in the last fiscal from 6.71 MnT a year ago.
- ❖ The country's crude steel output also rose by 12.40 per cent to 138.48 MnT from 123.19 MnT in 2022-23.
- ❖ The consumption of finished steel stood at 135.95 MnT, up 13.40 per cent over 119.89 MnT in the year-ago period.
- ❖ Under the National Steel Policy, India aims to scale up its annual steel production capacity to 300 million tonnes by 2030, and per capita steel consumption to 160 kg.



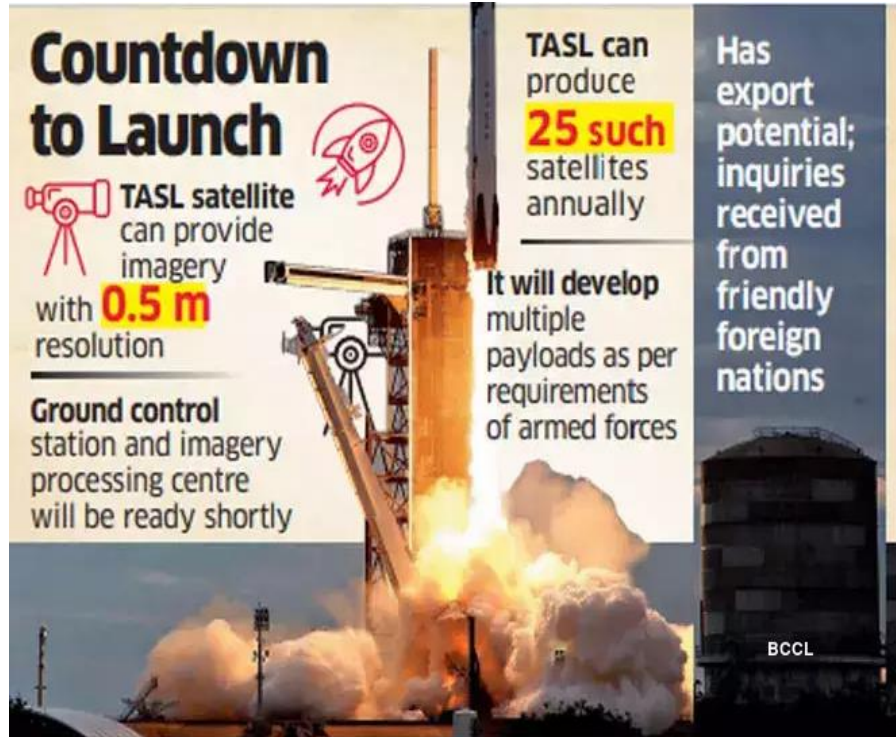
Self-Reliant Mission:
Beware of Increase
in Steel Imports

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

TSAT-1A satellite

- ❖ Tata Advanced Systems Ltd & Satellogic have launched India's first private sub-metre resolution earth observation satellite - TSAT-1A.
- ❖ It offers high-res images to Indian armed forces, surpassing Isro's resolution.

- ❖ The satellite in an inclined orbit compared to the Sun Synchronous Polar Orbit (SSPO).



Countdown to Launch

TASL satellite can provide imagery with **0.5 m** resolution

Ground control station and imagery processing centre will be ready shortly

TASL can produce **25 such** satellites annually

It will develop multiple payloads as per requirements of armed forces

Has export potential; inquiries received from friendly foreign nations

BCCL

ENVIRONMENT

Neptis philyra



- ❖ A rare butterfly species named *Neptis philyra* has been discovered for the first time in India in Tale Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in Lower Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ It is commonly known as long-streak sailor.

- ❖ Till date, the butterfly species was known to be found across various regions of east Asia, including eastern Siberia, Korea, Japan, central and southwest China.

New edible mushroom species

- ❖ A team of researchers from the ICAR-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute has identified a new record of the edible *Coprinopsis cinerea*.
- ❖ It is a variety of mushroom naturally growing on Arecanut husk.
- ❖ *Coprinopsis* is a genus of mushrooms primarily known for their ecological role in decomposing organic matter.

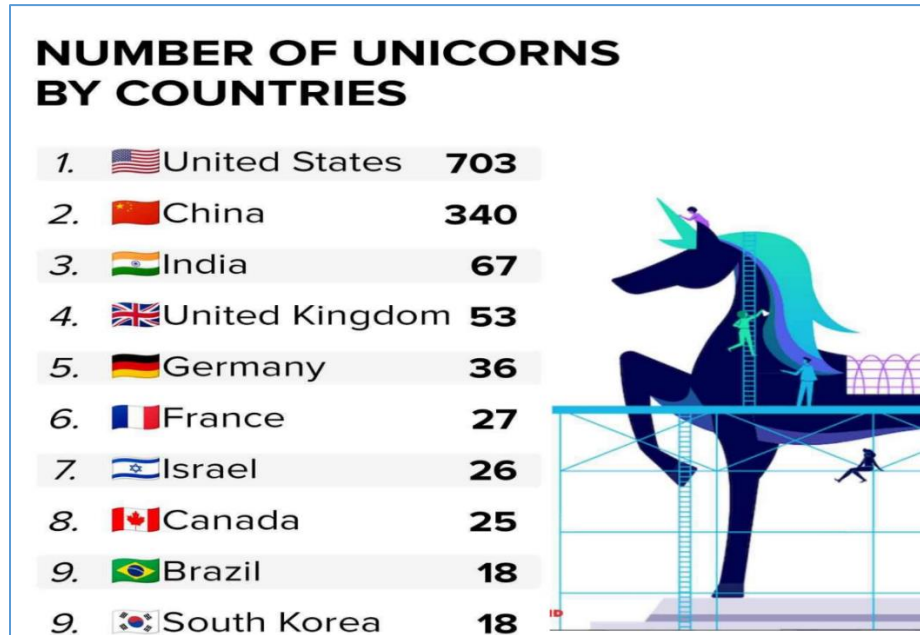


REPORTS AND INDICES

Hurun global unicorn index 2024

- ❖ The number of startups in India with a valuation of over \$1 billion has dropped for the first time in four years.
- ❖ The figure now stands at 67, down by one from the 68 reported last year, as per the Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2024.
- ❖ India continues to hold the title of the third-largest hub for unicorns worldwide.
- ❖ The United States leads the global list with 703 unicorns, up by 37 from 2022, followed by China with 340 unicorns.
- ❖ The United Kingdom and the European Union rank fourth and fifth, respectively.
- ❖ The collective value of the world's unicorns has reached \$5 trillion, equivalent to Japan's GDP last year.

- ❖ Swiggy, and Dream11 are India's most valuable unicorns, each valued at \$8 billion.



Global Hepatitis Report 2024 – WHO

Hepatitis B (total)	2.97 crore	Hepatitis C (total)	0.55 crore
Proportion of global infections	11.7%	Proportion of global infections	11.2%
Hepatitis B (incidence)	50,083	Hepatitis C (incidence)	1,44,187
Deaths due to Hepatitis B	98,305	Hepatitis C deaths	26,206
Hep B diagnostics coverage	2.4%	Diagnosis coverage	28%
Hep B treatment coverage	0%	Treatment coverage	21%

- ❖ India accounted for the second-highest number of cases of hepatitis B and C in 2022 after China, with 3.5 crore infections.
- ❖ India is accounted for 11.6% of the total disease burden globally that year.
- ❖ Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver that can cause a range of health problems and can be fatal.
- ❖ 254 million people lived with hepatitis B and 50 million with hepatitis C in 2022 globally.

- ❖ India has registered 2.98 crore hepatitis B cases in 2022 while the number of hepatitis C infections stood at 55 lakhs.
- ❖ China registered 8.3 crore cases of hepatitis B and C, representing 27.5% of the total disease burden.
- ❖ There are five main strains of the hepatitis virus, referred to as types A, B, C, D and E.
- ❖ They all cause liver disease but they differ in important ways including modes of transmission.
- ❖ Types B and C lead to chronic disease in hundreds of millions of people.
- ❖ Every day, there are 3,500 people dying globally due to hepatitis B and C infections.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Peter Higgs

THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR PHYSICS

Peter Higgs was awarded the Nobel prize for physics in 2013 for his work in 1964 showing how the Higgs Boson helped bind the universe together by giving particles their mass. Higgs shared the award with F Englert, who independently came up with the same theory.

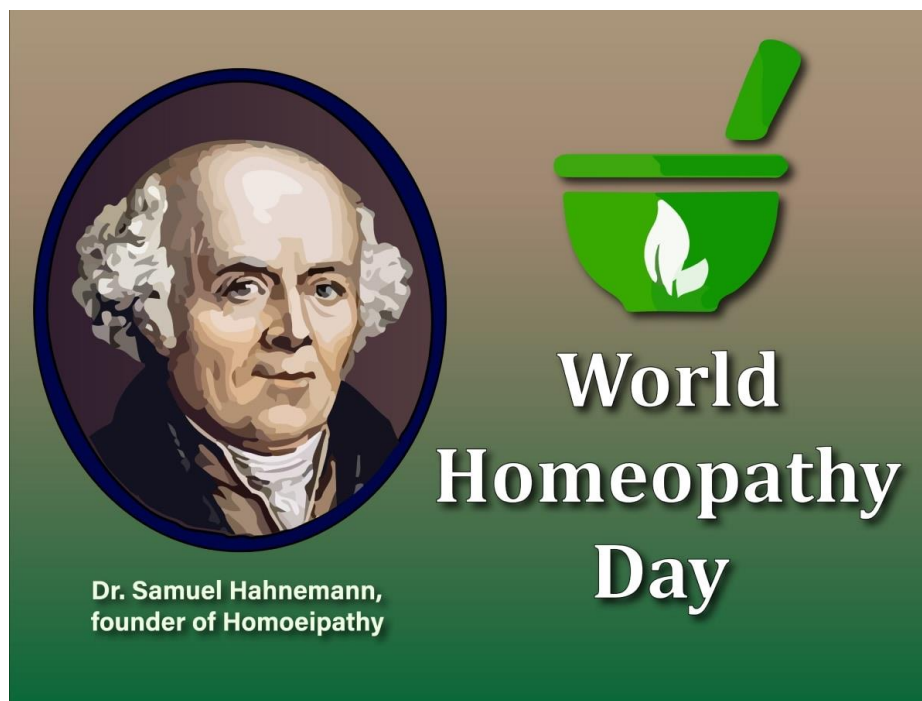
On the day of the announcement, Higgs left home for a quiet lunch. He was on his way home when a former neighbour gave him the news.

- ❖ Nobel prize winning British physicist Peter Higgs passed away recently.
- ❖ Peter Higgs was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2013 for discovering the God Particle.
- ❖ In 1964, Higgs predicted the presence of a new particle.
- ❖ He proposed that there must be a subatomic particle of a certain dimension that might explain how other particles — and all the stars and planets in the cosmos gained mass.

- ❖ But it wasn't until 2012 that his theory was confirmed.
- ❖ In 2012, scientists at CERN, announced that they had finally discovered the Higgs boson.
- ❖ The Higgs boson was dubbed the God Particle in the 1992 book "The God Particle: If the Universe is the Answer, What Is the Question?" by the physicist Dr. Leon Lederman.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Homeopathy Day 2024 – April 10



- ❖ It is observed annually on the birth anniversary of Dr Samuel Hahnemann.
- ❖ Homeopathy is an ancient form of medicine that activates the healing response and strengthens the body's functions so that it can heal itself.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is "Homeoparivar: One Health, One Family".

World Parkinson day 2024 – April 11

- ❖ This day marks the birthday of Dr. J Parkinson who is credited with discovering the first case of the neurodegenerative disorder in 1817.
- ❖ The first World Parkinson's Day took place in 1997.

- ❖ It was started by a collaboration between the World Health Organization and the European Parkinson's Disease Association (EPDA),
- ❖ Parkinson's disease is a chronic degenerative disorder of the central nervous system that affects both the motor system and non-motor systems.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is Encouraging Better Living with Parkinson's.



Nation safe motherhood day 2024 – April 11



- ❖ The day marks the birth anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi, the wife of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.
- ❖ White Ribbon Alliance India (WRAI) was initiated this day.



- ❖ This day highlight the importance of maternal health and reduce maternal mortality rates in the country.
- ❖ Indian government officially recognised National Safe Motherhood Day in 2003.
- ❖ The day aims to reduce the maternal mortality ratio which can be caused by pregnancy or childbirth complications.

