

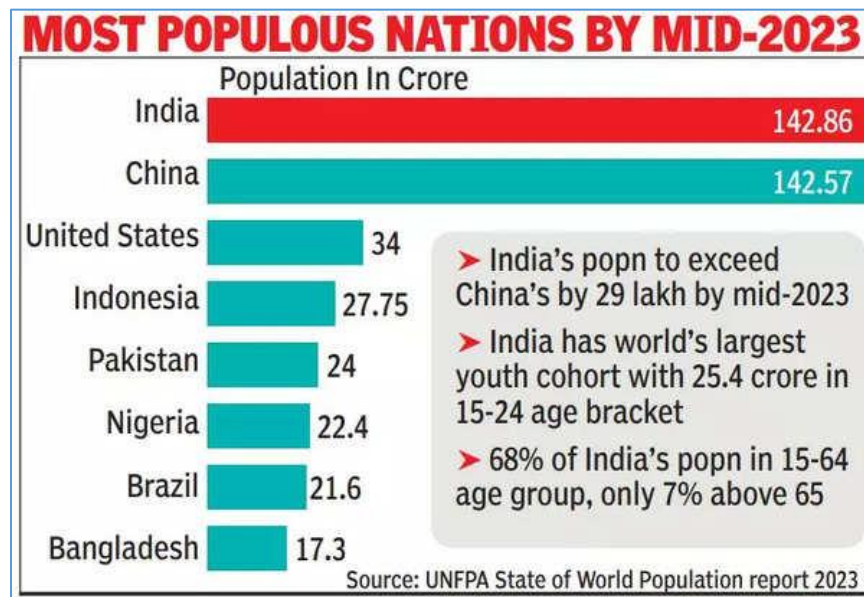
April - 22

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Kolkata Metro became the first metro rail in the country to make an under-river journey as its rakes passed through an underwater tunnel below the Hooghly River.
 - This rail system connects the Howrah station complex on the western bank of the Hooghly River to Armenian Ghat on the eastern bank.
- ❖ Legendary singer Asha Bhosle to be felicitated with the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar award.

NATIONAL

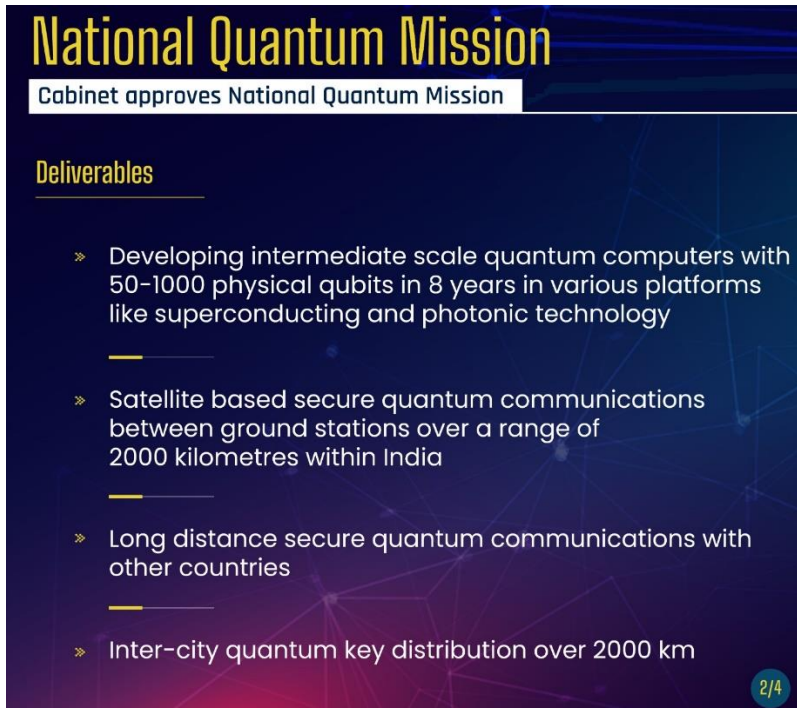
India's population



- ❖ India's population is expected to surpass that of China by the middle of this year.
- ❖ The annual State of World Population report by the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) has pegged India's mid-2023 population at 1,428 million.
- ❖ This is marginally ahead of China's 1,425 million.
- ❖ The United States is a distant third, with an estimated population of 34 crore.
- ❖ With close to 50% of its population below the age of 25, India has a time-bound opportunity to benefit from the demographic dividend.

- ❖ Just eight countries will account for half the projected growth in global population by 2050.
- ❖ They are: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines and the United Republic of Tanzania.
- ❖ Two-thirds of people now live in a country where lifetime fertility corresponds with zero growth.

National Quantum Mission



National Quantum Mission

Cabinet approves National Quantum Mission

Deliverables

- » Developing intermediate scale quantum computers with 50-1000 physical qubits in 8 years in various platforms like superconducting and photonic technology
- » Satellite based secure quantum communications between ground stations over a range of 2000 kilometres within India
- » Long distance secure quantum communications with other countries
- » Inter-city quantum key distribution over 2000 km

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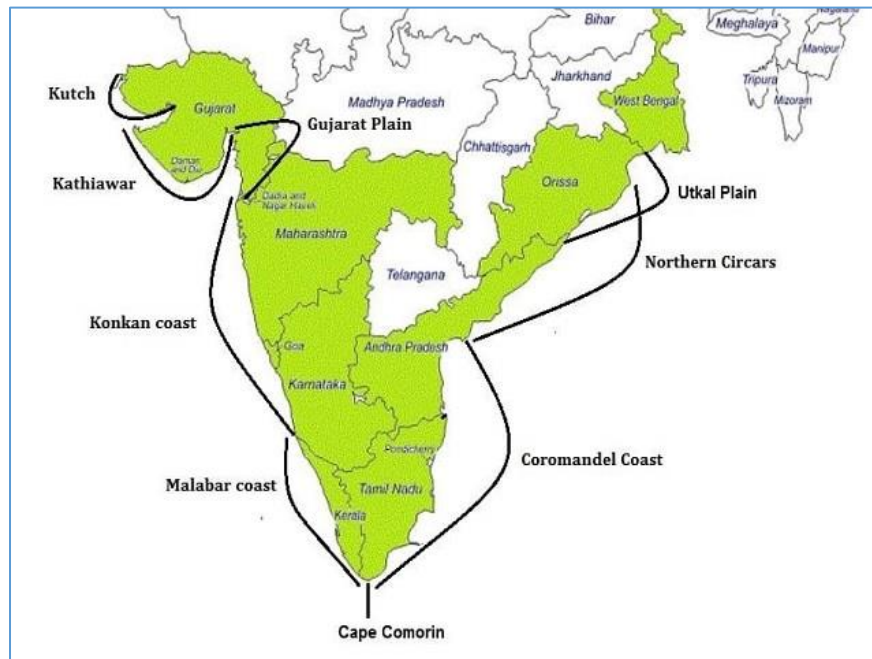
- ❖ The Centre approved the National Quantum Mission with an estimate of Rs 6,003 crore for eight years.
- ❖ It aims to put India among the top six leading nations involved in the research and development in quantum technologies.
- ❖ The US, China, France, Austria, and Finland are in the R&D stage and are yet to venture into the application stage of the technology.
- ❖ Quantum technology is a field of physics and engineering those studies and applies the principles of quantum mechanics to the development of new technologies.
- ❖ Quantum mechanics is the branch of physics that describes the behaviour of matter and energy at a microscopic scale, where the classical laws of physics do not apply.

- ❖ Quantum technology includes various types of technologies, such as quantum computing, quantum cryptography, and quantum sensing.

ENVIRONMENT

Coalition of Coastal Cities

- ❖ Delhi-based non-profit Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has launched a coalition of coastal cities to fight marine litter pollution across India.
- ❖ India has a coastline of more than 7,000 kilometres, has a role to play in controlling this danger.
- ❖ About 80 per cent of marine litter comes from land-based mismanagement of solid waste that reaches the ocean bed through various land-to-sea pathways.
- ❖ The remaining 20 per cent is contributed by coastal settlements.
- ❖ Plastic accounts for 90 per cent of all the waste that ends up in the marine ecosystem.



REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Unicorn Index 2023

- ❖ According to Hurun's Global Unicorn Index 2023, India bagged the third spot with 68 new unicorns.

- ❖ India is third only to the US' 666 unicorns and China's 316.
- ❖ However, none of the Indian startups made it to the top 10 list.
- ❖ The top-most unicorn in India is online educator BYJU'S that is worth \$22 billion.
- ❖ It is followed by food delivery platform Swiggy and fantasy sports platform Dream11.
- ❖ India also had the third-highest number of gazelles, but was fifth when it came to the number of Hurun Global 500 companies.
- ❖ Bengaluru is one of the five cities, apart from San Francisco, Shanghai, Beijing, and Shenzhen, that have more start-ups.
- ❖ They are likely to contribute more to the Hurun Global 500s within 5 years.

HURUN'S GLOBAL UNICORN INDEX 2023		
RANK	COUNTRY	NO. OF UNICORNS
1	 USA	666
2	 CHINA	316
3	 INDIA	68
4	 UK	49
5	 GERMANY	36
6	 ISRAEL	24
7	 FRANCE	24
8	 CANADA	3
9	 SOUTH KOREA	8
10	 BRAZIL	7

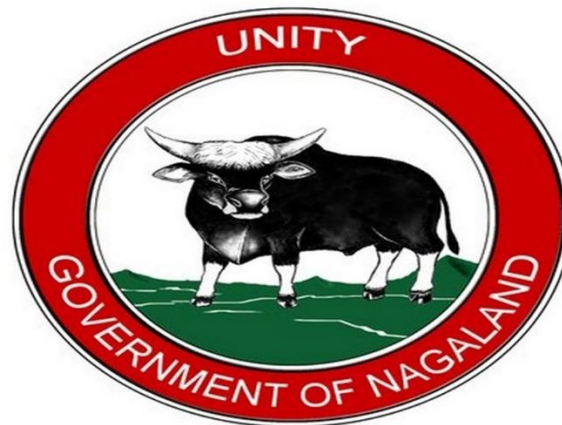
STATES

Repeal of municipal act

- ❖ The Nagaland state government is repealing the Nagaland Municipal Act of 2001 recently.
- ❖ This led to the cancellation of the State Election Commission's notification for holding elections to Nagaland's 39 urban local bodies (ULBs) with 33% of the seats reserved for women.



- ❖ Nagaland is the only State where ULB seats are not reserved for women as mandated by clause IV of the 74th Amendment to the Constitution of India.
- ❖ Most of the traditional tribal and urban organisations oppose the 33% reservation of seats for women.
- ❖ They argued that such reservation would violate the special provisions granted by Article 371A of the Constitution to Nagaland.
- ❖ The Article states that no Act of Parliament would apply to the religious or social practices of the Nagas, Naga customary law and procedure, administration of civil and criminal justice involving decisions according to Naga customary law, and ownership and transfer of land and its resources.
- ❖ The first and only civic body election in Nagaland was held in 2004 without any reservation of seats for women.
- ❖ The then State government amended the 2001 Municipal Act in 2006 to include 33% reservation for women in line with the 74th Amendment.
- ❖ In September 2012, the State Assembly passed a resolution to exempt Nagaland from Article 243T of the Constitution which is related to the reservation for women.



10 years of India's first environmental referendum

- ❖ Ten years ago, on April 18, 2013, the Dongoria Kondhs, a particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG) from Rayagada in Odisha won a legal battle.
- ❖ In the Orissa Mining Corporation Ltd vs Ministry of Environment & Forest case, the Supreme court recognised their cultural, religious and spiritual rights on the Niyamgiri Hill, over Vedanta Company's claim to exploit the hills for bauxite.
- ❖ The Supreme Court ordered a referendum is to be held amongst the affected Gram Sabhas to obtain the consent on the project from the community.

- ❖ They all unanimously voted against it in the referendum.



IMPORTANT DAYS

UN Chinese Language Day - April 20



- ❖ UN celebrates Chinese Language Day with an emphasis on cultural diversity and multilingualism.
- ❖ The date for the Chinese day was selected from Guyu ("Rain of Millet"), which is the 6th of 24 solar terms in the traditional East Asian calendars, to pay tribute to Cangjie.

- ❖ Cangjie is a very important figure in ancient China.
- ❖ Chinese was established as an official language of the United Nations in 1946.

National Civil services Day - April 21

- ❖ This day is dedicated to the civil servants to commemorate their exemplary work and to reflect on their achievements.
- ❖ The date, April 21, commemorates the day when Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the probationers of the Administrative Services Officers in 1947.
- ❖ In his speech, Patel acknowledged the civil servants of the country as the “steel frame of India.



International Mother Earth Day - April 22



- ❖ It aims to raise awareness regarding the environmental concerns and solutions.



- ❖ The General Assembly designated this Day through a resolution adopted in 2009.
- ❖ The year 2008 declared as the International Year of Planet Earth.

