

April - 23

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India recently concluded its first winter expedition to the Arctic in March 2024, marking a significant milestone in its Arctic exploration endeavours.
- ❖ Vice-Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi has been appointed the next Chief of Naval Staff.
- ❖ DRDO conducted a successful flight test of a “long range subsonic indigenously developed cruise missile”.
- ❖ Six-year-old Takshvi Vaghani from Ahmedabad, Gujarat has set a Guinness World record for the lowest limbo (16.5 cm) skating for 25 metres.
- ❖ NASA has successfully tested a new type of rocket engine called the Rotating Detonation Rocket Engine (RDRE), that could one day take a spacecraft to Mars.
- ❖ An international humanitarian conference for Sudan and neighbouring countries was held in Paris, France.

NATIONAL

BrahMos Missiles to Philippines



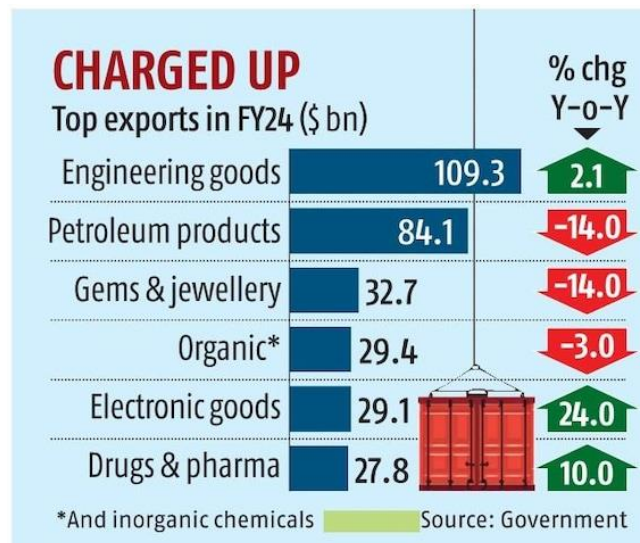
- ❖ India has delivered the first batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to Philippines recently.
- ❖ Philippines is the first export customer for the joint venture missile between India and Russia.
- ❖ BrahMos is a joint venture between DRDO and Russia’s NPO Mashinostroyeniya.
- ❖ The missile derives its name from Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers.

- ❖ The missile is capable of being launched from land, sea, sub-sea and air against surface and sea-based targets and has been long inducted by the Indian armed forces.
- ❖ The range of the missile was originally capped at 290km as per obligations of the Missile Technology Control Regime.
- ❖ Following India's entry into the club in June 2016, the range has been extended to 450km and work is on to extend it to 600km and beyond.

ECONOMY

Electronics Exports in 2024

- ❖ Electronics exports have moved up one position to become India's fifth largest export, at \$29.1 billion.
- ❖ It is displacing drugs and pharmaceuticals at \$27.8 billion in the financial year ended March 31, 2024.
- ❖ Electronics exports grew 24 per cent, an increase of over \$23.6 billion in FY23.
- ❖ Mobile phone exports, which grew nearly 38 per cent over last year to reach \$15.5 billion, contributed 53 per cent to the total electronics exports.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Mystery of STEVE

- ❖ STEVE is an optical phenomenon characterized by a distinctive purple and green light ribbon in the sky.

- ❖ Initially observed in Canada, STEVE has been sighted in various locations across Europe and American continent.
- ❖ It is a narrow arc extending for hundreds or thousands of miles, aligned east-west, and typically lasts for 20 minutes to an hour.
- ❖ It is associated with a fast-moving stream of extremely hot particles called a sub-auroral ion drift (SAID).
- ❖ This unique characteristic sets it apart from conventional auroras.

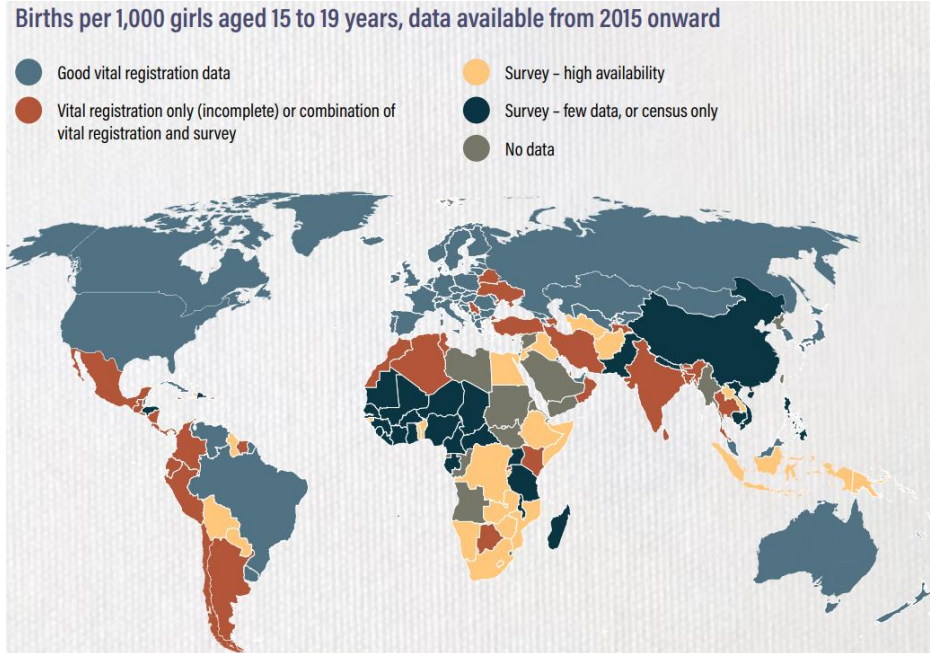


REPORTS AND INDICES

State of World Population - 2024

- ❖ The United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) has released the State of World Population - 2024 report.
- ❖ The report is titled "Interwoven Lives, Threads of Hope: Ending Inequalities in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights".
- ❖ India leads globally with an estimated population of 144.17 crore, followed by China at 142.5 crore
- ❖ 24 percent of India's population is aged 0-14 while 17 per cent is within the 10-19 age range.
- ❖ India's population is estimated to double in 77 years.
- ❖ The segment aged 10-24 is estimated to constitute 26 per cent, with the 15-64 age group making up 68 per cent.
- ❖ Additionally, 7 per cent of India's population is aged 65 years and above, with men having a life expectancy of 71 years and women 74 years.
- ❖ The child marriage percentage in India was at 23 between 2006-2023.

- ❖ Maternal deaths in India have fallen considerably, accounting for 8 per cent of all such fatalities worldwide.
- ❖ The highest -- 1,671 per 100,000 births -- is seen in Tirap district of Arunachal Pradesh.



STATES

New GI Tags - Uttar Pradesh



- ❖ Six more products from Uttar Pradesh state have been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

- ❖ These include the famous 'Tirangi Barfi' of Kashi, a tricoloured sweet that was sold to prove a point by freedom fighters during the Quit India Movement.
- ❖ The other products that received the certification in Uttar Pradesh include
 - Banaras Metal Casting Craft,
 - Lakhimpur Kheri Tharu Embroidery,
 - Bareilly Cane and Bamboo Craft,
 - Bareilly Zardozi Craft, and
 - Pilkhuwa Hand Block Print Textile.
- ❖ With these six new additions, Uttar Pradesh retains its position as the state with the most GI-tagged products in India, reaching a total of 75.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu follows behind with 58 GI products.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Earth Day 2024 - April 22

- ❖ It aims to environmental protection and raising the awareness regarding the challenges facing our planet.
- ❖ In 1970, Earth Day originated from the vision of Gaylord Nelson, a US senator.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Planet vs. Plastics".



World Book and Copyright Day 2024 - April 23

- ❖ This day promotes the reading, publishing, and protecting intellectual property rights.
- ❖ This day has been associated with the exchange of books and roses as a symbol of love and appreciation for literature.

- ❖ It was proclaimed by UNESCO in 1995 and celebrated annually from 1996.



World Laboratory Day 2024 - April 23

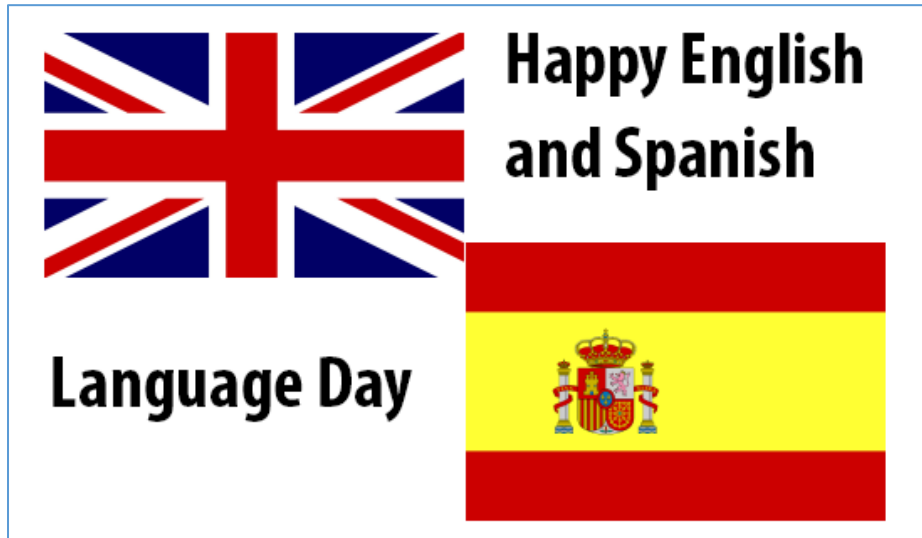
- ❖ This day aims to recognize the importance of laboratories in scientific research and development.
- ❖ It acknowledges the contribution of laboratories and laboratory professionals to society and to promote the value of science in improving people's lives.
- ❖ This date coincides with the birthday of one of the most famous scientists in history, Sir William Lawrence Bragg.
- ❖ Sir Bragg was a British physicist and chemist who won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1915 for his work in X-ray crystallography.



UN English and Spanish Language Day 2024 - April 23

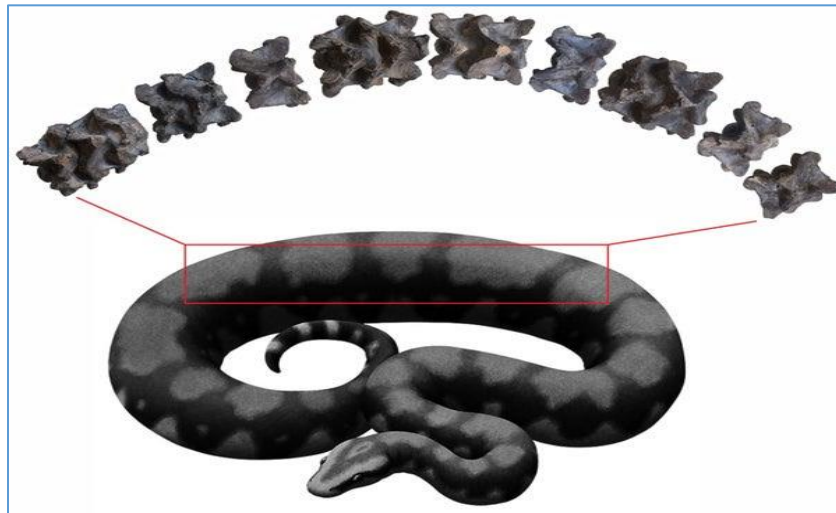
- ❖ English Language Day is celebrated on 23 April, the date traditionally observed as both the birthday and date of death of William Shakespeare.

- ❖ At the United Nations, English is one of the two working languages, along with French.
- ❖ Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish are the six official languages of the United Nations.
- ❖ The UN Spanish Language Day is in response to the anniversary of the death of the great genius of Spanish letters, Miguel de Cervantes.



MISCELLANEOUS

Vasuki Indicus



- ❖ Scientists have said that a fossil vertebra unearthed in Gujarat are the remains of the largest snake that ever lived, which was longer than the T-rex.

- ❖ The discovery of 'Vasuki Indicus' was made in 2005 by scientists from IIT-Roorkee and recently confirmed as a giant snake.
- ❖ They lived 47 million years ago in the marshy swamps of Kutch.
- ❖ It establishes India's crucial link in the origin and evolutionary process of various species, especially reptiles.
- ❖ The researchers have discovered 27 vertebrae from the snake, and some of them looks like a large python and would not have been venomous.
- ❖ They estimate the length of the snake to be in the range of 11-15 metres (about 50 feet) and it must have weighed 1 tonne.
- ❖ By size, the Vasuki indicus may have exceeded the now-extinct Titanoboa, the largest known snake that measured 42 feet.

