

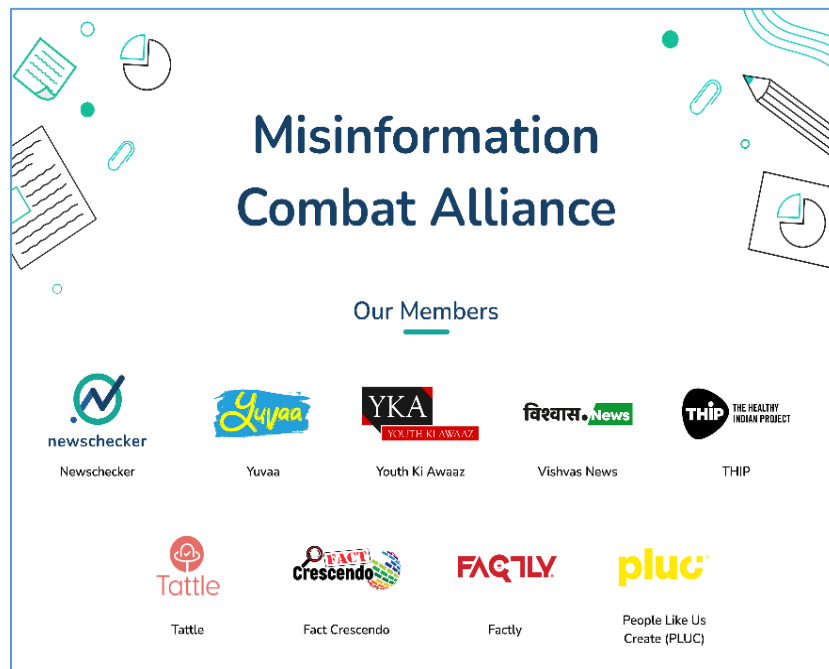
April - 28

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of India's first Digital Science Park in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala as part of state's major infrastructure push worth Rs 1,500 crore.
- ❖ French President Emmanuel Macron has signed into law of pension reforms which raises the state pension age from 62 to 64.
- ❖ The United Nations' High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism recently launched a new report titled "A Breakthrough for People and Planet: Effective and Inclusive Global Governance for Today and The Future".

NATIONAL

Misinformation Combat Alliance



- ❖ The Misinformation Combat Alliance (MCA) is an alliance of media companies set up in March 2022.
- ❖ It aims to combat misinformation and build tools to aid fact-checking.
- ❖ Recently, it has approached the government to act as a self-regulating body to flag fake news online in line with the IT Rules, 2021.

- ❖ It is currently a network of 14 digital publishers which includes publications such as Boom Live, Factly, The Logical Indian, Vishwas News and The Quint.
- ❖ Membership in the MCA is open to any organization that applies.

INTERNATIONAL

Multilateral exercise Orion

- ❖ For the first time, four Rafale fighter jets took part in multilateral exercise Orion at Mont-de-Marsan, France.
- ❖ Ex Orion is one the largest exercises held by France in recent times involving around 12,000 troops, including NATO.
- ❖ Besides the India and the France, Air Forces from Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, U.K. and U.S. was also part of this multilateral exercise.



Oxford's malaria vaccine



- ❖ Ghana has become the first country in the world to approve a new malaria vaccine from Oxford University.
- ❖ The R21/Matrix-M vaccine is the first to exceed the World Health Organization's target of 75% efficacy.
- ❖ It has been cleared for use by Ghana's Food and Drugs Authority in children aged 5-36 months.
- ❖ They are the group at highest risk of death from malaria in the country.
- ❖ In Ghana, the disease is both endemic and perennial, an estimated 5.3m cases and 12,500 estimated deaths were recorded.

25 Years of Good Friday Agreement

How checks between Britain and Northern Ireland work

Certain goods, such as meat and eggs, need to be checked when they enter Northern Ireland from Great Britain



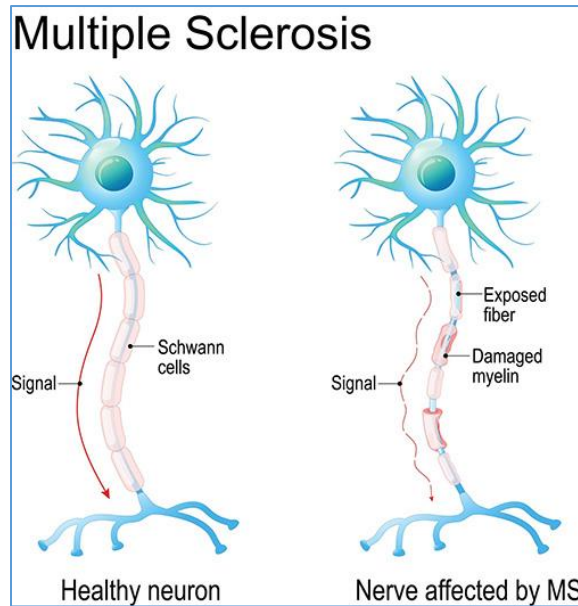
- ❖ The Good Friday Agreement was signed on April 10, 1998.
- ❖ It was signed between factions of Northern Ireland, and the governments of Britain and Ireland.
- ❖ It aims to end decades of violence in Northern Ireland among those who wished to remain with the United Kingdom (UK) and those who wanted to join Ireland.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

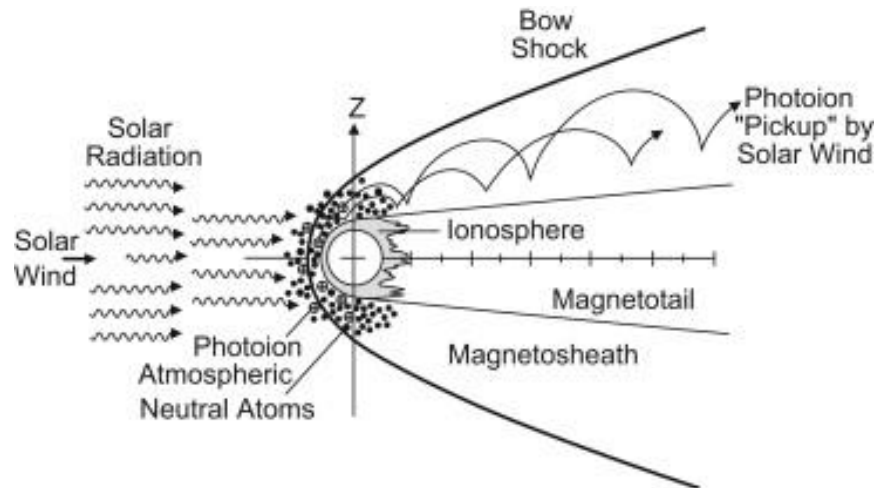
Myelin Sheath

- ❖ Scientists have fabricated monolayers of pure myelin basic protein (MBP), a major protein component of myelin sheath.
- ❖ It is a protective membrane that wraps around the axon of nerve cells and acts as a model protein in studying diseases like multiple sclerosis (MS).

- ❖ MBP helps in compactification of the myelin sheath.
- ❖ The fabricated tailored monolayers can give an in-depth understanding of the role of MBP in forming multi-lamellar myelin sheath structure.



Electromagnetic Ion Cyclotron waves



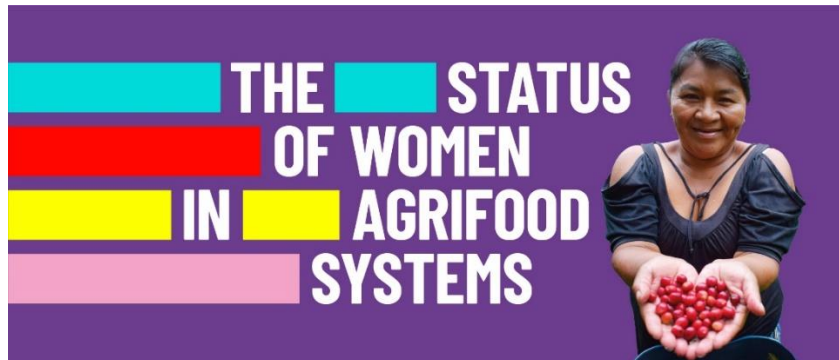
- ❖ Scientists have identified Electromagnetic Ion Cyclotron (EMIC) waves, a form of plasma waves in the Indian Antarctic station, Maitri.
- ❖ These waves play an important role in precipitation of killer electrons.
- ❖ The killer electrons are the electrons having speed close to speed of light, which form the radiation belt of planet Earth.
- ❖ The study can help understand the impact of energetic particles in the radiation belts on the low orbiting satellites.

- ❖ The Electromagnetic Ion Cyclotron (EMIC) are the traversing plasma waves observed in the Earth's magnetosphere.

REPORTS AND INDICES

The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems

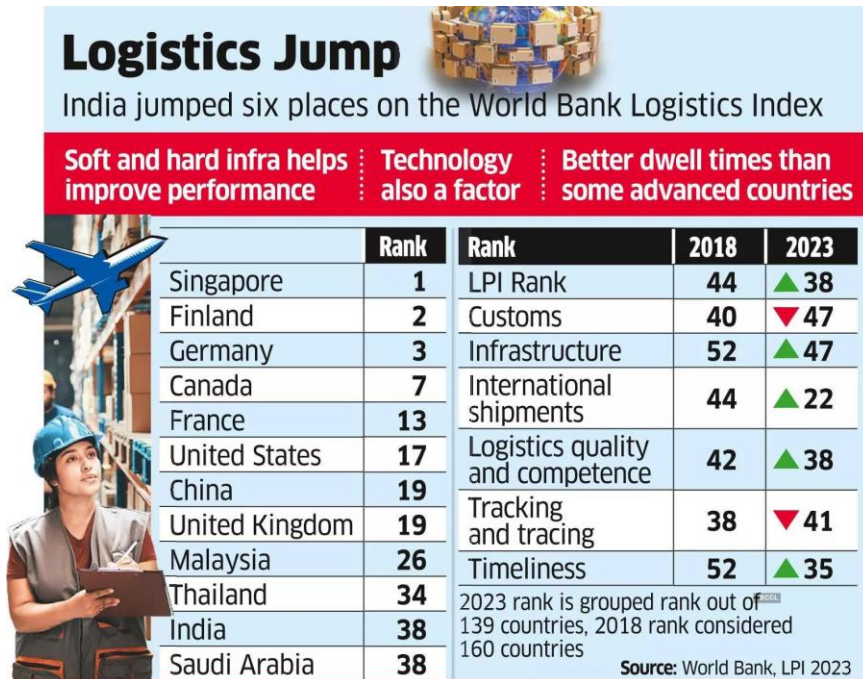
- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) recently released this report.
- ❖ It explains the gender disparities in agriculture and its impact on global economy and food security.
- ❖ Currently, over 345 million people are estimated to experience acute food insecurity.
- ❖ There is a 24% gender gap in land productivity between farms managed by men and women of the same size.
- ❖ In wage employment in agriculture, women earn 82 cents for every dollar that men earn, indicating a gender wage gap.
- ❖ In sub-Saharan Africa, 66% of women's employment is in agrifood systems, while in southern Asia, it is 71%.



Logistic Performance Index (LPI) – 2023

- ❖ India has climbed six places on the World Bank's Logistic Performance Index (LPI) 2023.
- ❖ It is now ranking 38th in the 139 countries index.
- ❖ India was ranked 44th on the index in 2018 and has now climbed to 38th in the 2023 listing.
- ❖ India's performance has drastically improved from 2014, when it was ranked 54th on the LPI.
- ❖ India's rank moved up five places in infrastructure score from 52nd in 2018 to 47th in 2023.

- ❖ It climbed to the 22nd spot for international shipments in 2023 from 44th in 2018 and moved four places up to 48th in logistics competence and equality.
- ❖ According to the report, the average dwell time for containers between May and October 2022 was three days for India and Singapore.
- ❖ The dwell time for the U.S. was seven days and for Germany, it was 10 days.



STATES

New biodiversity hotspots in West Bengal

Table 1. The four biodiversity hotspots in India

Biodiversity hotspots	Indian area
Himalaya	Eastern Himalaya – West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh
Western Ghats	Western Himalaya – Kashmir
Indo-Burma	Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu
Sundaland	Andaman Islands and Meghalaya
	Nicobar Island

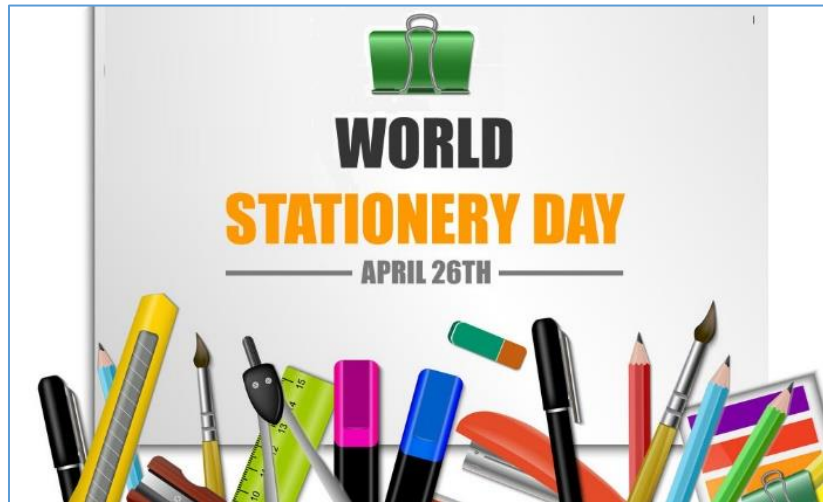
- ❖ The state government has added four new biodiversity heritage sites (BHS) in West Bengal.
- ❖ With this, West Bengal now has the highest number of biodiversity heritage parks in the country.
- ❖ The four new sites are
 - Char Balidanga- Nadia,

- State Horticulture Research and Development Station campus - Nadia,
- Namthing Pokhar in Darjeeling and
- Amkhoi Fossil Park in Birbhum.
- ❖ Namthing Pokhari is the home to the Himalayan salamander.
- ❖ Amkhoi Fossil Park is the first wood fossil park in West Bengal.
- ❖ The existing four BHS in Bengal are: Chilkigarh Kanak Durga in Jhargram, Baneswar Shiv Dighi in Cooch Behar, Tonglu and Dhotrey in Darjeeling.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Stationery Day - April 26

- ❖ It is an annual event observed every last Wednesday of April.
- ❖ It was first celebrated in 2012 and has since become a global event.
- ❖ It was created to celebrate the written word and to encourage people to use stationery in their daily lives.
- ❖ The day is also an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of writing and its role in communication, education, and creativity.



World Day for safety and Health at Work - April 28

- ❖ This day is dedicated to creating awareness and preventing occupational disease in addition to accidents across the world.
- ❖ The day is also known as International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers or International Workers' Memorial Day.
- ❖ This day is initiated by the International Labour Organization 2003.

- ❖ Theme for 2023 is: "A safe and healthy working environment as a fundamental principle and right at work".

