

April - 29

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Sudhir Kakar, the "Father of Indian Psychology", is passed away recently.
- ❖ The 26th edition of World Energy Congress was held in Rotterdam, Netherlands.
- ❖ A coalition of ten Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) has launched a new co-financing platform named "Global Collaborative Co-Financing" to channel additional capital for development scale and impact.
- ❖ Actor Randeep Hooda has been bestowed with the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award in recognition of his contributions to Indian cinema.
- ❖ The second plenary session of ASEAN Future Forum 2024 (AFF 2024) was held in Hanoi, Vietnam.
  - They discussed ways to ensure comprehensive security for the people-centred ASEAN Community.
- ❖ International Dance Day is celebrated every year on 29 April to promote dance as a universal value.

## NATIONAL

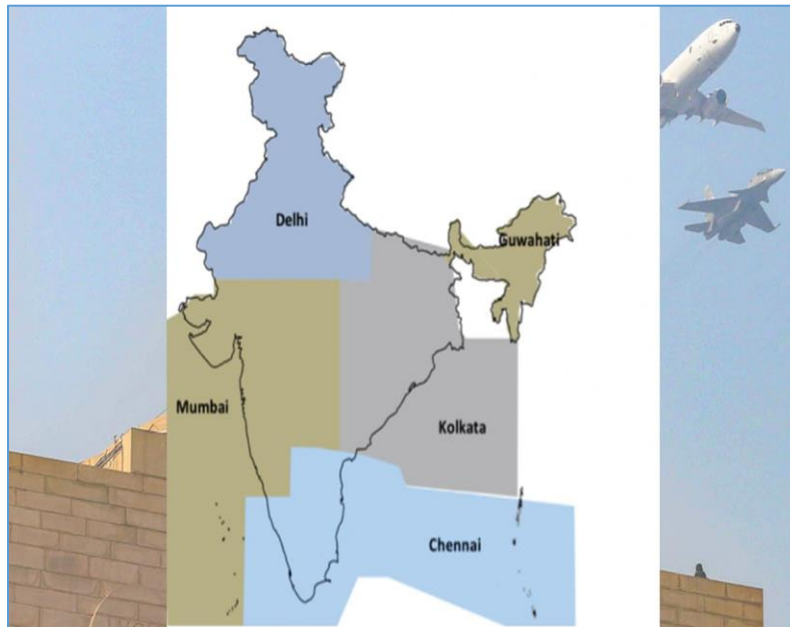
### SC on Childcare Leave



- ❖ The Supreme Court asserted that the provision of a two-year childcare leave, in addition to the mandatory 180-day maternity leave, is a constitutional right for women employees.

- ❖ The verdict makes it clear that the state and the employer have responsibilities to enable women to join and retain their employment.
- ❖ As per the Time Use Survey of India, 2019, Indian men spend 173 minutes compared to 433 minutes spent by women for unpaid domestic and care work.

### **Mission ISHAN**

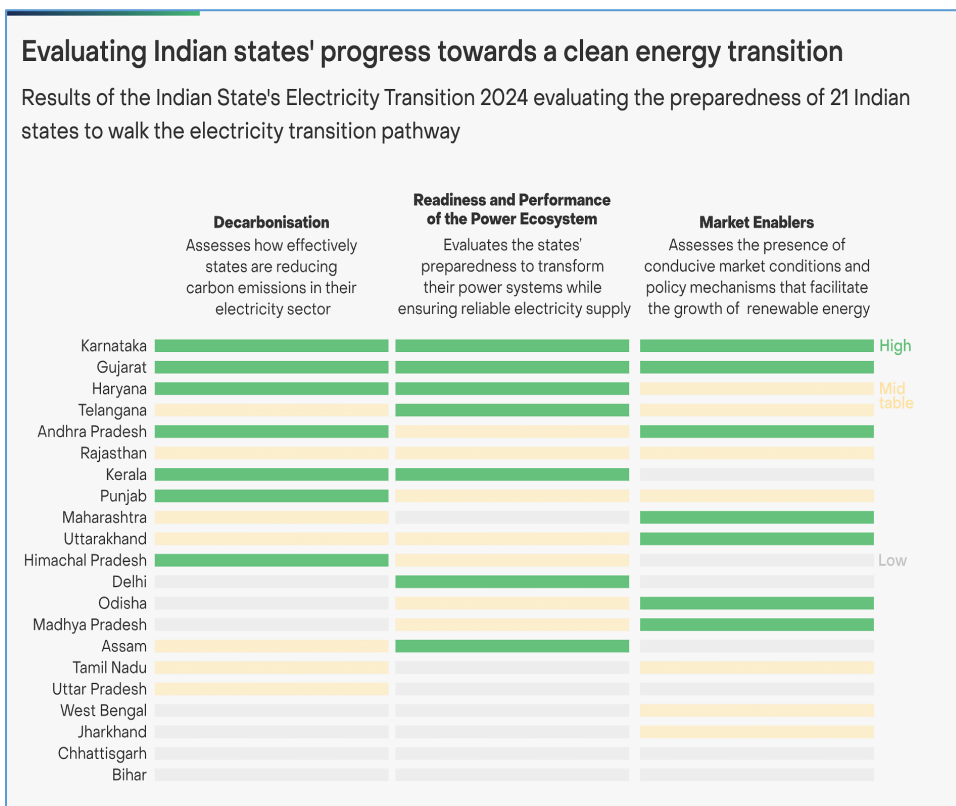


- ❖ The Airports Authority of India invited expressions of interest (EoI) for the preparation of a detailed project report for an Indian Single Sky Harmonized Air Traffic Management at Nagpur (ISHAN) (One Nation, One Airspace).
- ❖ This consolidation is expected to streamline operations, enhance capacity, and alleviate congestion, benefiting both airlines and passengers.
- ❖ Currently, Indian airspace is divided into four flight information regions (FIRs) and a sub-FIR, each managed separately.
- ❖ Unifying these FIRs under a single authority in Nagpur is projected to improve efficiency, safety, and seamlessness in air traffic operations.
- ❖ The move comes amidst a significant surge in aviation industry growth, with domestic passenger traffic expected to double by 2030.

### **India's Clean Energy Transition**

- ❖ Karnataka and Gujarat have shown the way for the second consecutive year by effectively transitioning to renewable energy.

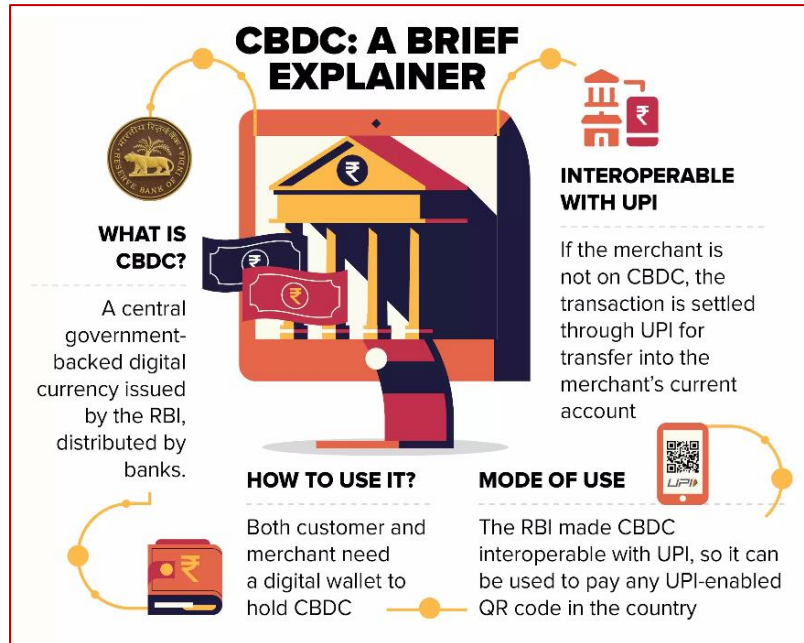
- ❖ Renewable energy sources mainly solar and wind, meet 37 percent of Karnataka’s total energy consumption, one of the highest percentage shares among all states.
- ❖ However, its share is still not the highest as Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, reliant on hydroelectric power.
- ❖ Gujarat has added 24 percent of total renewable energy capacity in India since 2020.
- ❖ Its share of renewable energy consumption as part of the state’s total energy consumption is only 17 percent.
- ❖ States like Odisha, Delhi, and Madhya Pradesh perform well on parameters like readiness of power ecosystem and market enablers.



### IndusInd’s CBDC

- ❖ The IndusInd Bank successfully executed the RBI’s programmable Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) as pilot mode.
- ❖ This involved an alternate form of CBDC wherein the bank can program the end use of funds, specifically targeting farmers for carbon credit generation.
- ❖ The Bank had initiated the programmable CBDC disbursement to 50 farmers in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra and will cover around 1,000 farmers going ahead.

- ❖ It is marking a milestone in the adoption of innovative financial solutions for the agriculture sector.



### Great Nicobar Island Development Project

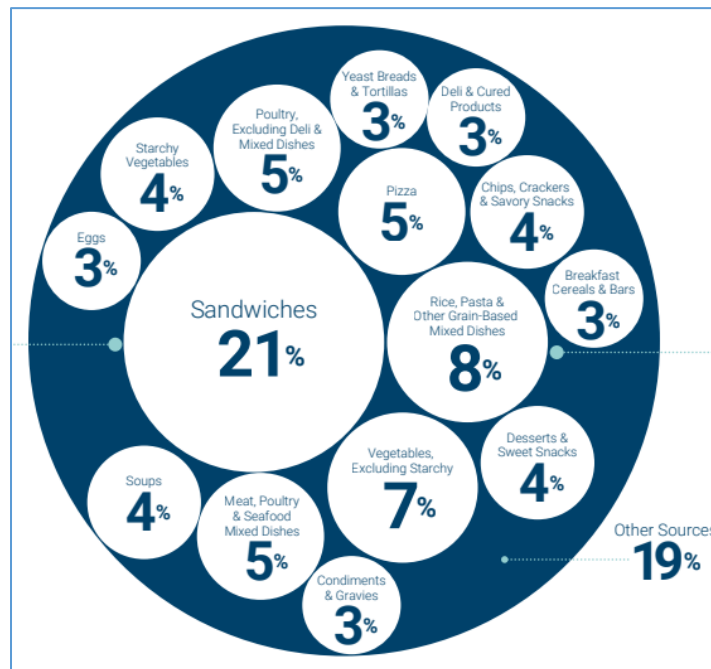


- ❖ The mega infrastructure project, titled 'Holistic Development of Great Nicobar', is piloted by Niti Aayog and implemented by the Port Blair-based Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO).

- ❖ It involves the construction of a transshipment port, an international airport, a township and a power plant.
- ❖ There are raised concerns about the project's clearances violating constitutional mandates and ignoring the views of the tribals.
- ❖ More than half of the area of the Project lies over the Tribal Reserve Area.
- ❖ Six indigenous tribes inhabit the islands, including the Shompen and Nicobarese in the Great Nicobar Island
- ❖ The Shompen are a hunter-gatherer community with a population of around 200-300 individuals.
- ❖ The Nicobarese are a larger tribal group with a population of around 27,000, spread across the Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ The Great Nicobar Island has a tribal reserve measuring 751.01 square kilometres.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Global sodium benchmark



- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) has released the second edition of its global sodium benchmarks.
- ❖ This is an updated list of reference values for sodium content that can be used to assess progress in reducing sodium consumption and preventing chronic conditions related to high blood pressure and obesity.

- ❖ The first edition of the WHO global sodium benchmarks, published in May 2021, contained 10 pre-determined benchmarks for different food categories.

### **Global Plastics Treaty Negotiations**

- ❖ The fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-4) to develop an international legally binding treaty on plastic pollution held recently in Ottawa, Canada.
- ❖ Previous sessions were held in Uruguay, France, and Kenya.
- ❖ In March 2022, the UN Environment Assembly adopted a historic resolution to develop a global treaty on plastic pollution
- ❖ The treaty aims to address the full life cycle of plastic, including production, design and disposal
- ❖ INC began its work in late 2022 with the ambition to complete negotiations by end of 2024.

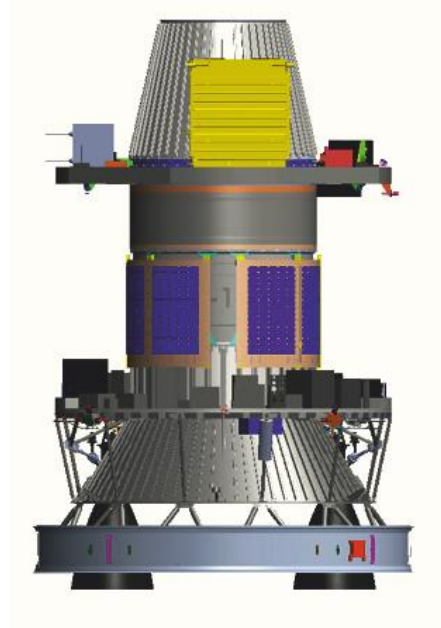


## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cell**

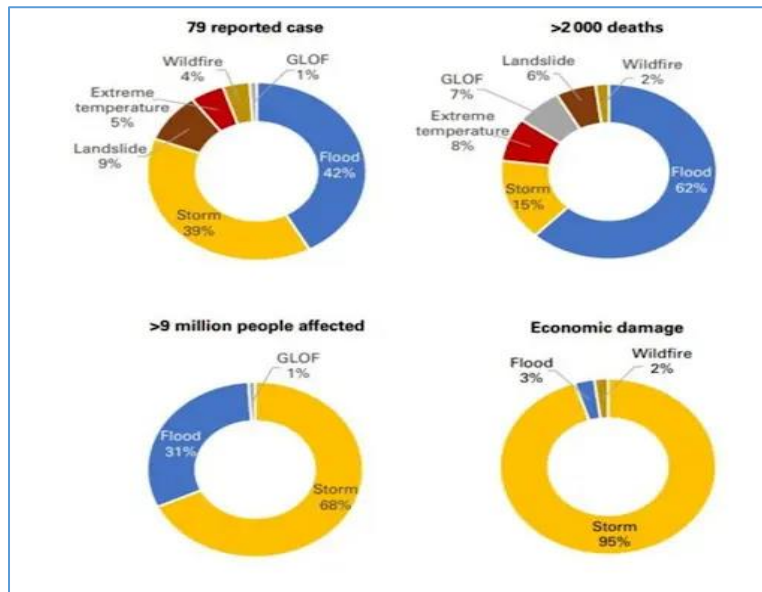
- ❖ ISRO has successfully tested a 100 W class Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cell based Power System (FCPS) in its orbital platform POEM3.
- ❖ It aims to assess Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel cell operation in space and to collect data to facilitate the design of systems for future missions.
- ❖ Polymer electrolyte membrane (PEM) fuel cells, also called proton exchange membrane fuel cells.
- ❖ It uses a proton-conducting polymer membrane as the electrolyte.
- ❖ Hydrogen is typically used as the fuel.

- ❖ These cells operate at relatively low temperatures and can quickly vary their output to meet shifting power demands.



## REPORTS AND INDICES

### State of the Climate in Asia 2023



- ❖ The World Meteorological Organisation released the 2023 'State of the Climate in Asia' report.

- ❖ The Asian continent is struggling with the extreme climate events like floods and heatwaves, with record-breaking temperatures and precipitation reported across its countries.
- ❖ It also repeated that the year 2023 was the warmest on record around the world.
- ❖ More than 2,000 people were killed and more than nine million were affected by extreme climate events across Asia in 2023.
- ❖ More than 80% of these events were related to storms and floods.
- ❖ In India, severe heat waves in April and June killed around 110 people by heat stroke.
- ❖ The highest temperature recorded at the Beijing Observatory was 41.1 degrees C, the second highest since records began in 1951.
- ❖ Japan also experienced its hottest summer on record since 1898.
- ❖ The Hong Kong Observatory headquarters recorded an hourly rainfall total of 158.1 mm on September 7, the highest since records began in 1884.

