TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Bengaluru airport is to be first in India to phase out gadgets-in-tray security check system.
  - o Kempegowda International Airport begin passenger trials of CTX machines, integrated with Automatic Tray Retrieval System and full-body scanners.
- ❖ The Hamfest India 2023, was inaugurated by Devusinh Chauhan, the Minister of State for Communications at Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
  - o It serves as a comprehensive platform for amateur radio enthusiasts.
- ❖ OneWeb India, backed by Bharti Group, has received authorizations from IN-SPACe to launch commercial satellite broadband services in India.
  - o It is the first company in India to receive these approvals, making it the sole satellite broadband services provider.
- ❖ The lower house of the Indian Parliament has successfully passed the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023.
  - o The primary focus of this bill is the establishment of the 'Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University' in Telangana
- ❖ Punjab-origin writer Meira Chand (81) was among the three Singaporeans conferred the Cultural Medallion, the city-state's most prestigious arts accolade.
  - o She shared this with novelist Suchen Christine Lim and Malay dance veteran Osman Abdul Hamid.

NATIONAL

First-Ever Auction of Critical Mineral Blocks

- ❖ The process of auction of Critical and strategic Minerals have been initiated by the Central Government for the first time in India.
- ❖ The Central Government has amended the MMDR Act, 1957 through the MMDR Amendment Act, 2023.
- ❖ Under this, 24 critical and strategic minerals have been inserted in the MMDR Act, 1957.
- ❖ Further, the amended Act has also empowered Central Government to auction blocks of these minerals.
- ❖ Revenue from auction of these blocks will accrue to the concerned State Governments.

❖ They are located across Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

❖ There are two lithium blocks — one in Jammu & Kashmir and the other in Chhattisgarh.

❖ It is marking for the first time, the rights for mining lithium ore are auctioned to private parties.

❖ Before commencing operations, the licensee must obtain 15 approvals and clearances, including forest and environmental clearances, Gram Sabha consent, and others.

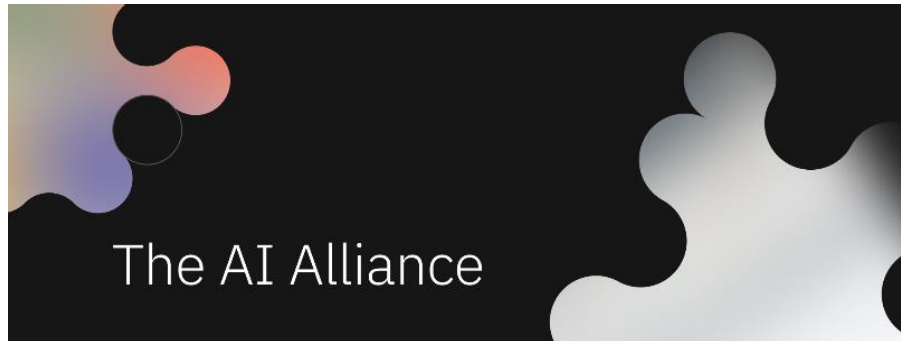❖ As of now, India heavily depends on imports for lithium, nickel, and copper.

Sl No	Block Name	State	Commodity	ML/CL*
1	Chutia-Nauhatta Glauconite Block	Bihar	Potash	CL
2	Pipradih-Bhurwa Glauconite Block	Bihar	Potash	CL
3	Genjana Ni, Cr & PGE Block	Bihar	Nickel, Platinum Group Elements and Chromium	CL
4	Kundol Nickel and Chromium Block	Gujarat	Nickel & Chromium	CL
5	Muskaniya-Gareriatola-Barwari Potash Block	Jharkhand	Potash	CL
6	Dudhiasol East Nickel and Copper Block	Odisha	Nickel and Copper	ML
7	Babja Graphite and Manganese Block	Odisha	Graphite and Manganese	ML
8	Biarapalli Graphite and Manganese Block	Odisha	Graphite and Manganese	ML
9	Akharkata Graphite Block	Odisha	Graphite	CL
10	Vellakal Central (Segment-A) Molybdenum Block	Tamil Nadu	Molybdenum	CL
11	Nochchipatti Molybednum Block	Tamil Nadu	Molybdenum	CL
12	Velampatti North A & B Molybdenum Block	Tamil Nadu	Molybdenum	CL
13	Kurunjakulam Graphite Block	Tamil Nadu	Graphite	CL
14	Iluppakudi Graphite Block	Tamil Nadu	Graphite	CL
15	Mannadipatti Central Molybdenum Block	Tamil Nadu	Molybdenum	CL
16	Marudipatti (Central) Molybdenum Block	Tamil Nadu	Molybdenum	ML
17	Kurchha Glauconite Block	Uttar Pradesh	Potash	CL
18	Pahadi Kalan - Gora Kalan Phosphorite Block	Uttar Pradesh	Phosphorite	CL
19	Salal-Haimna Lithium, Titanium and Bauxite (Aluminous Laterite) Block	UT: Jammu and Kashmir	Lithium, Titanium and Bauxite (Aluminous Laterite)	CL
20	Katghora Lithium and REE Block	Chhattisgarh	Lithium and Rare Earth Elements	CL

INTERNATIONAL

AI Alliance

❖ Meta and IBM have joined forces to establish the AI Alliance.

- This aims to promote an "open-science" approach to AI development.
- It is setting them apart from competitors such as Google, Microsoft and Open AI.
- It emphasizes the importance of open scientific exchange, open innovation and the use of open-source technologies in shaping the future of AI.
- The term "open-source" has its roots in the decades-old practice of building software with freely accessibly code.
- OpenAI, despite its name, primarily develops closed AI systems.

The AI Alliance

WHO's Commission on Social Connection (2024–2026)

The WHO Commission on Social Connection aims to catalyse global leadership in the area.

It will do so by increasing the priority of social connection as a public health issue, setting the agenda, and scaling up effective solutions.

World Health Organization

WHO Commission on Social Connection

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a Commission on Social Connection.

❖ It is co-chaired by U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy and African Union Youth Envoy Chido Mpemba.

❖ It is a 3-year initiative to address loneliness as a global health threat.

❖ It aims to analyse the role of social connection in health, well-being, economic progress, social development, and innovation.

ECONOMY

Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA) platform

❖ It was launched by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

❖ It has been jointly developed by all the stock exchanges – BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange), NSE (National Stock Exchange), NCDEX (National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange), MCX (Multi Commodity Exchange) and Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India (MSE)

❖ It aims to provide a 'safety net' for investors in case of technical glitches faced by a trading member or a stock broker.

❖ Its purpose is to provide investors with an opportunity to square off/close their open positions and cancel pending orders using this platform in case of technical glitches or unforeseen outages.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

54th International Film Festival - Goa

❖ The International Film Festival of India (IFFI), founded in 1952, is one of the film festivals in Asia, annually held at Goa.

- French, British and Greek co-production Drift directed by Anthony Chen received the prestigious ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal.

- Hollywood actor and producer Michael Douglas was honored with the prestigious Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Cinema.

- Madhuri Dixit Nene was honored with the 'Special Recognition for Contribution to Bharatiya Cinema' award.

- 'Kantara' scripted history as it became the first Kannada film to win an award at IFFI.

- Kannada actor and filmmaker Rishab Shetty was honoured with the Special Jury Award for Kantara film.

- Endless Borders' movie wins the Golden Peacock award.

- Iranian actor Pouria Rahimi Sam bagged the Best Actor award for his role in 'Endless Borders'.

Award List

- Golden Peacock Best Film: 'Endless Borders'
- Best Actor-Male: Pouria Rahimi Sam for 'Endless Borders'
- Best Actor (Female): Melanie Thierry for 'Party of Fools'
- Best Director: Stephan Komandarev for 'Blaga's Lessons'
- Special Jury Award: Rishab Shetty For 'Kantara'
- Best Debutant Director: Reger Azad Kaya for his Syrian-Arab Republic film 'When the Seedlings Grow'
- Best Web Series: 'Panchayat Season 2'
- Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award: Michael Douglas

SPORTS

79th National Squash Championship – Chennai

- Anahat Singh (15) of Delhi becomes the second youngest to win the national squash championship title 2023 (women).

- Velevan Senthilkumar from Tamil Nadu won the Senior National Squash Championships 2023 in men's category.

- ❖ Joshna Chinappa from Chennai holds the record for being the youngest champion in India.
- ❖ She bagged the first of her record 19 national titles at the age of 14 in 2000.
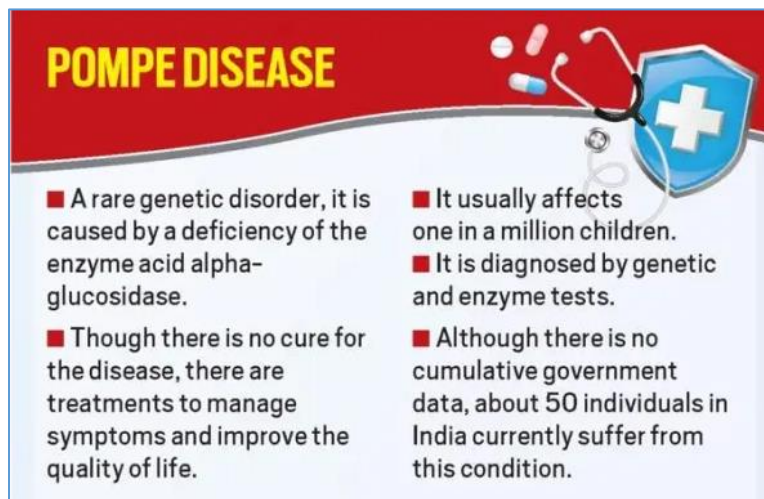

Inter Command Ocean Sailing Race 2023

- ❖ The Indian Navy kicked off the second edition of the Inter Command Ocean Sailing Race 2023 at Naval Base, Kochi.
- ❖ The race is to be held from Kochi to Goa.
- ❖ It is organized by the Southern Naval Command under the aegis of the Indian Naval Sailing Association (INSA) based at Naval Headquarters, New Delhi.

- The race features four 40-footer Indian Naval Sailing Vessels (INSVs) named Bulbul, Neelkanth, Kadalpur, and Hariyal.
- This edition of the race is distinct as it includes a mixed crew comprising both men and women officers and sailors.
- It symbolizing gender neutrality and providing equal opportunity to all.

MISCELLANEOUS

Pompe Disease

- India's first patient diagnosed with the Pompe disease died after spending nearly six years in a semi-comatose state.
- Pompe disease is a rare inherited disorder that affects one child per million.
- In 2010, Prasanna Shirol, father of a child with Pompe disease, initiated the Organisation for Rare Diseases India (ORDI).
- ORDI is the first NGO in the country dedicated to rare diseases.
- Pompe Disease is also known as Glycogen Storage Disease Type II.
- It is a rare genetic disorder resulting from a deficiency of the enzyme acid alpha-glucosidase (GAA).
- This enzyme plays a crucial role in breaking down glycogen into glucose within cell lysosomes.
- While there is currently no cure for Pompe disease, Enzyme Replacement Therapy (ERT) serves as a standard treatment.

POMPE DISEASE

- A rare genetic disorder, it is caused by a deficiency of the enzyme acid alpha-glucosidase.
- It usually affects one in a million children.
- It is diagnosed by genetic and enzyme tests.
- Though there is no cure for the disease, there are treatments to manage symptoms and improve the quality of life.
- Although there is no cumulative government data, about 50 individuals in India currently suffer from this condition.

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