

December - 11

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Bihar garnered global recognition for its afforestation efforts under the Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali Abhiyan at the COP28 Climate Summit in Dubai.
- ❖ The R21 /Matrix-M malaria vaccine developed by the University of Oxford and the Serum Institute of India, has been recommended for use by the WHO.
 - Earlier the RTS, S/AS01 vaccine received a WHO's recommendation in 2021.

TAMIL NADU

Law Officers to the High Court

SCs, STs & OBCs IN LOWER JUDICIARY							
States	SC Judges	% of total	ST Judges	% of total	OBCs	% of total	Total working strength
MP	183	14	192	14	186	14	1,328
Delhi	37	8	06	1.24	NA	NA	482
Odisha	65	15	90	20	45	10	441
Punjab	91	23	Nil	Nil	56	14	398
Chhattisgarh	59	15	97	25	72	18	395
Haryana	70	20	Nil	Nil	52	15	348
Assam	13	7	20	12	NA	NA	174
Jharkhand	17	11	47	31	26	17	153
Himachal	20	14	06	4	08	5	148
Tripura	08	10	14	17	NA	NA	83
Sikkim	NIL	NIL	06	26	12	52	23
Total	563	14	478	12	457	12	3,973

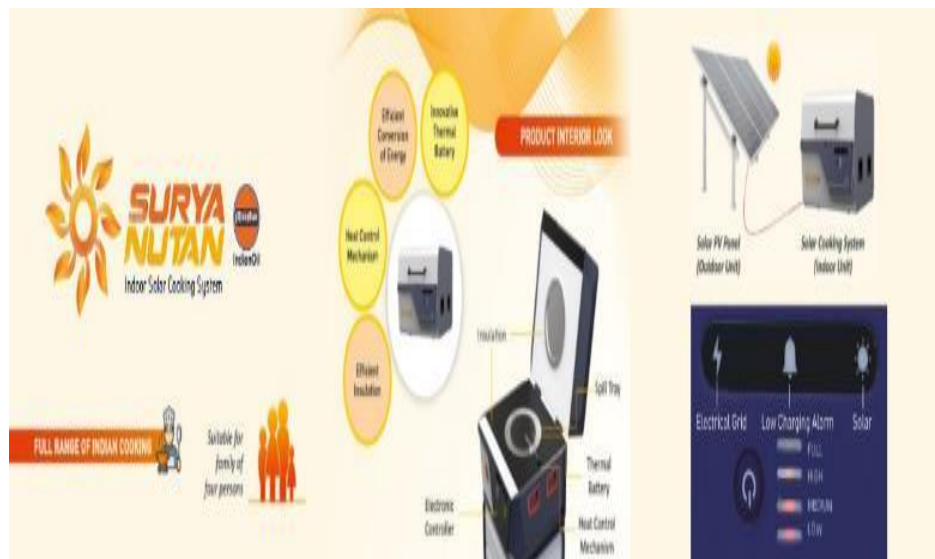
- ❖ The Madras High Court said merit must be the sole criterion for law officers' appointments.
- ❖ The rule of vertical/horizontal reservation need not be followed in the appointment of such appointments.
- ❖ The government is duty-bound to engage only the most proficient, competent and capable lawyers to represent it before the courts of law.

- ❖ The relationship between the government and the law officer is purely professional and not that of a master and a servant.
- ❖ Since law officers engaged by the government do not hold a civil post, Article 16(4) of the Constitution will not be applicable.”

NATIONAL

Surya Nutan

- ❖ Indian Oil Corporation unveiled a stationary, rechargeable and indoor cooking stove named Surya Nutan.
- ❖ Indian Oil and EKI Energy ink deal to promote the cooking stove.
- ❖ It uses the sun's energy to cook food while always being kept in the kitchen.
- ❖ The stove, which entails a one-time procurement cost and has zero maintenance, is being touted as a substitute for fossil fuels.



GIAN scheme

- ❖ The Ministry of Education is gearing up to restart the fourth phase of the Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN).
- ❖ The Central government has spent at least ₹126 crore in payment to support foreign faculty's travel and honorarium since the inception of GIAN.
- ❖ Up to 41.4% (668) of academicians who visited India belonged to the U.S.

- ❖ The rest consisted of experts from the U.K. (143), Germany (93), Canada (89), France (56), Italy (58), Nordic countries (47), China, Japan and Taiwan (63), ASEAN countries (42) and other countries (259).
- ❖ Up to 72,000 Indian students directly benefitted.



Voluntary Code of Ethics

- ❖ Four leading gaming industry bodies in India signed a voluntary code of ethics for online gaming intermediaries.
- ❖ It aims to build a "safe, trusted, and accountable" sector with a focus on user protection.
- ❖ This follows the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) notifying gaming-related amendments to the IT Act 2021 in April 2023.



Arbitration agreement on non-signatory firms

- ❖ The Supreme Court held that an arbitration agreement can be binding even on non-signatory firms under the 'group of companies' doctrine.

- ❖ This doctrine makes an arbitration agreement binding on a firm which, though not a signatory, is a member of a group of companies which is a party to the agreement.
- ❖ The definition of “parties” under Section 2(1)(h), read with Section 7 of the Arbitration Act, 1996 included both the signatory as well as non-signatory parties.

Section I
The Doctrine

- A non-signatory may benefit from or be bound by an arbitration agreement signed by a group company because of its role in the transaction
- Used to justify extending the scope and effects of a tribunal’s jurisdiction to non-signatory companies of the corporate group to which the signatory company belongs

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INTERNATIONAL

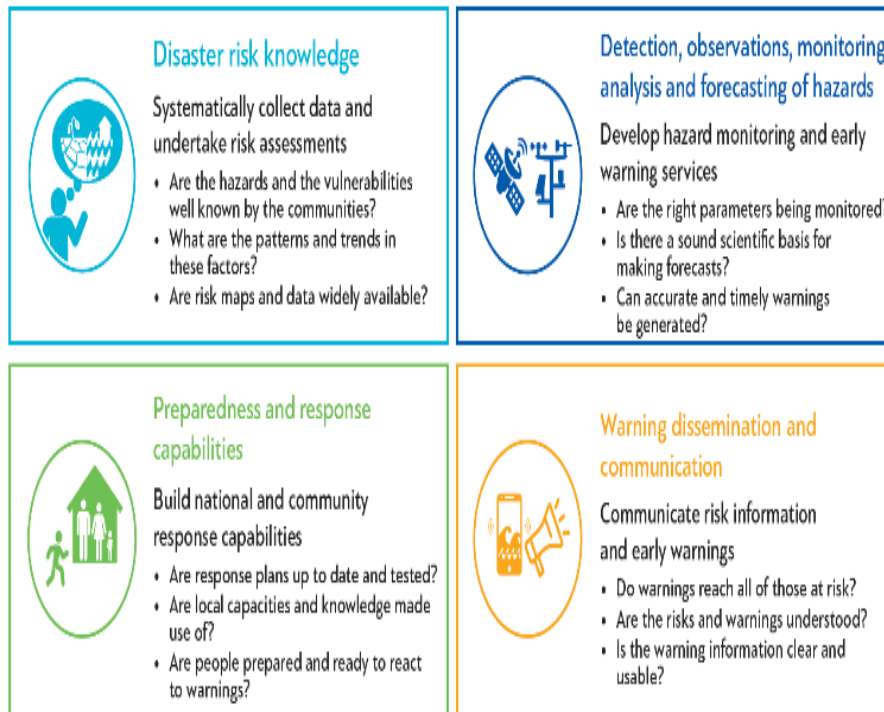
Essequibo region



- ❖ Venezuelan plans to take over Essequibo, the oil-rich region controlled by neighbouring Guyana.

- ❖ More than 95% of Venezuelan voters approved a referendum claiming rights over Essequibo.
- ❖ Essequibo has been under the authority of Guyana - and before its British Guiana - for more than a century, but Venezuela has long sought to control it.
- ❖ Venezuela claims that the Essequibo River to the region's east forms a natural border.
- ❖ The region also has the world's biggest reserves of crude oil per capita.
- ❖ The estimated reserves are at least 10 billion barrels – more than Kuwait or the United Arab Emirates.

Early Warnings for All 2027



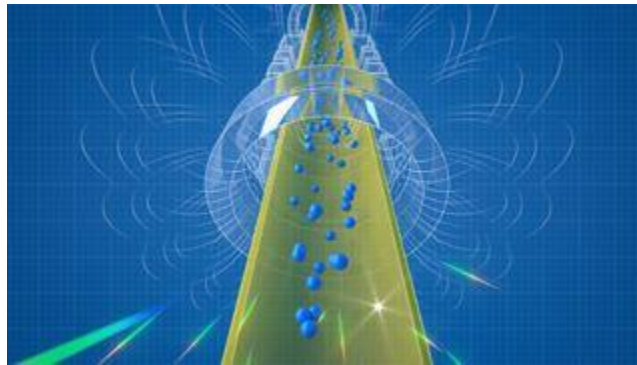
- ❖ This initiative aimed at providing life-saving early warning systems to protect everyone on Earth from hazardous weather, water, or climate events by the end of 2027.
- ❖ An Executive Action Plan for the EW4All initiative was launched at COP27 focused on mobilizing investments of \$3.1 billion over five years.
- ❖ As part of the plan, 30 countries have been prioritized for accelerated implementation of the EW4All initiative for 2023.
- ❖ The initiative, led by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

- ❖ UNDP (along with FAO, OCHA, UNEP, UNESCO, IFRC, and WFP) is an implementing partner of the EW4All initiative through its existing projects and programmes on the ground.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Antimatter responds to gravity

- ❖ CERN, the world's largest particle accelerator, had confirmed that antimatter falls down with gravity — just like everything else.
- ❖ Antimatter is the enigmatic twin of ordinary matter, possessing the same mass but with an opposite electrical charge.
- ❖ Almost all subatomic particles, such as electrons and protons, have an anti matter counterpart.
- ❖ While electrons are negatively charged, antielectrons are positively charged.
- ❖ Likewise, while protons are positively charged, antiprotons are negatively charged.
- ❖ Einstein's general theory of relativity, predicts that all masses, irrespective of differences in their internal structures, react to gravity in a similar manner.



ENVIRONMENT

Manis Mysteria

- ❖ Scientists recently discovered a ninth variety species of pangolins, tentatively named “Manis mysteria”.
- ❖ Pangolins are mammals of the family Manidae and the monotypic order Pholidota.
- ❖ Eight extant species of pangolins are currently recognized till date.

- ❖ The four Asian pangolins belonging to the genus *Manis*, and the four African pangolins belonging to the genera *Phataginus* and *Smutsia*.
- ❖ This new species is believed to have diverged from its Philippine and Malayan relatives approximately five million years ago.



STATES

Total Fertility Rate – Kerala

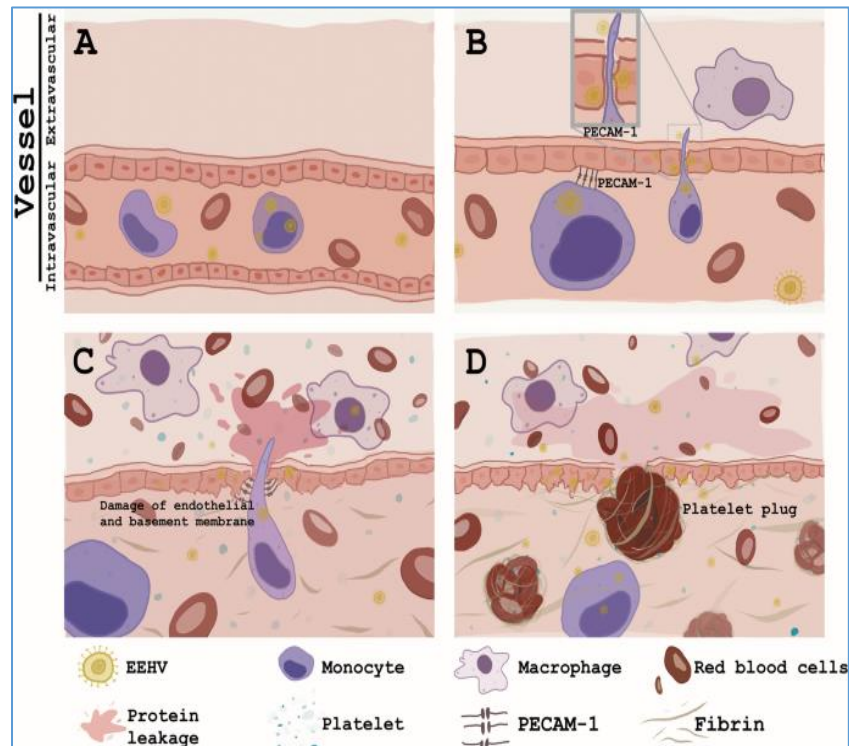
INDICATOR	SRS 2014	SRS 2019	SRS 2020
Crude Birth Rate (CBR)	21.0	19.7	19.5
Total Fertility Rate	2.3	2.1	2.0
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (ENMR) – 0- 7 days	20	16	15
Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR)	26	22	20
Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)	39	30	28
Under 5 Mortality Rate (USMR)	45	35	32

- ❖ Kerala is the only State in the country with high total fertility rate among educated women.
- ❖ This is revealed by the Sample Registration System Statistical Report 2020.

- ❖ Thus, Kerala breaks the general assumption that educated women have fewer children than uneducated women.
- ❖ The rate of fertility is 0.2 among the illiterates compared to the fertility rate of 1.5 among 'literate' women.
- ❖ The total fertility rate of Kerala in both categories is 1.8.
- ❖ At the national level, the total fertility rate for women with educational status 'illiterate' is 3.1, much higher than the 'literate' group (1.9).
- ❖ The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is the average number of children born to a woman during her reproductive years (15-49 years).

MISCELLANEOUS

Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpes Virus



- ❖ Recently, the ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (ICAR-IVRI), Bareilly, has found the exact status of elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus subtypes (EEHV) and its subtypes circulating among Asian elephant population in India.
- ❖ EEHVs is a type of herpesvirus that can cause a highly fatal haemorrhagic disease in young Asian elephants.
- ❖ It is a double-stranded DNA virus that is classified in the family Herpesviridae.
- ❖ Majority of elephants also carry this virus.



- ❖ When EEHV is triggered, the elephant dies of massive internal bleeding and symptoms which are hardly visible.
- ❖ The disease is usually fatal, with a short course of 28-35 hours.

