

December - 27

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Ministry of Textiles has launched “Paat-Mitro” mobile application to provide important information about MSP and agronomy to jute farmers.
- ❖ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has been awarded Leif Erikson Lunar Prize for the remarkable success of its most recent lunar mission, Chandrayaan-3.
 - This is the first time that ISRO has received this award.
- ❖ The Union Home Ministry has approved the deployment of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in the Parliament complex for its protection.
- ❖ The President of France Emmanuel Macron will be visiting India as the Chief Guest for the 75th Republic Day celebrations.
- ❖ The grand finale of Smart India Hackathon (Software)-2023 was organised at IES College of Technology nodal centre at Bhopla, in which team 'Go Green' of IES College emerged victorious.
 - Smart India Hackathon (SIH) is a nationwide initiative by the innovation cell of the ministry of education.
- ❖ The International Gita Mahotsav – 2023 was held in Kurukshetra, Haryana.
- ❖ The SASTRA-Ramanujan Awards for 2022 and 2023 were presented, respectively, to Yunqing Tang and Ruixiang Zhang, both mathematicians at the University of California in Berkeley.
- ❖ Sheikh Mishal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah takes constitutional oath as Kuwait's new emir.
- ❖ The Colorado Supreme Court disqualified former President Donald Trump from the ballot in the state's presidential election next year over his role in the 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol by his supporters.
- ❖ The International Basketball Federation (FIBA) celebrates the first World Basketball Day on December 21, 2023.

NATIONAL

Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, 2023


- ❖ This Bill will replace a British-era law governing the publishing industry and simplify the process of registration of periodicals.

- ❖ It will make the registration of periodicals a one-step process as against the eight-step process in the archaic law.
- ❖ The Bill replaces the Press and Registration of Books (PRB) Act, 1867.
- ❖ Newspapers and periodicals will now be able to get registered within 60 days as against the two-three years required earlier.
- ❖ For certain violations, financial penalties have been proposed instead of conviction as earlier.

ONLINE REGISTRATION

Salient features of the Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, 2023

- Bill provides for simple online mechanism to apply for title verification and grant of certificate of registration by the Press Registrar General to a periodical as a simultaneous process
- No requirement of furnishing any declaration before local authority or its authentication by local authority
- A person who has been convicted by any court for an offence involving terrorist act or unlawful activity, or having done anything against the security of the State not permitted to bring out a periodical
- Facsimile edition of a foreign periodical can be printed in India with prior approval of the Central government and its registration with the Press Registrar General



Project PRAYAS

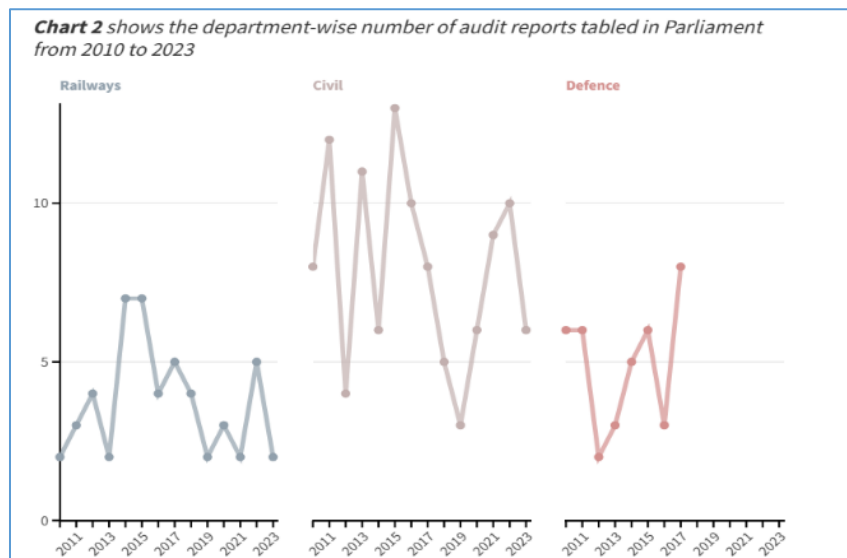


- ❖ The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) launched Project PRAYAS.
- ❖ It aims to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration for Indian workers and students.

- ❖ The PRAYAS stands for Promoting Regular & Assisted Migration for Youth and Skilled Professionals.
- ❖ Established in 1951, IOM is a UN agency dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration.

CAG Audits in 2023

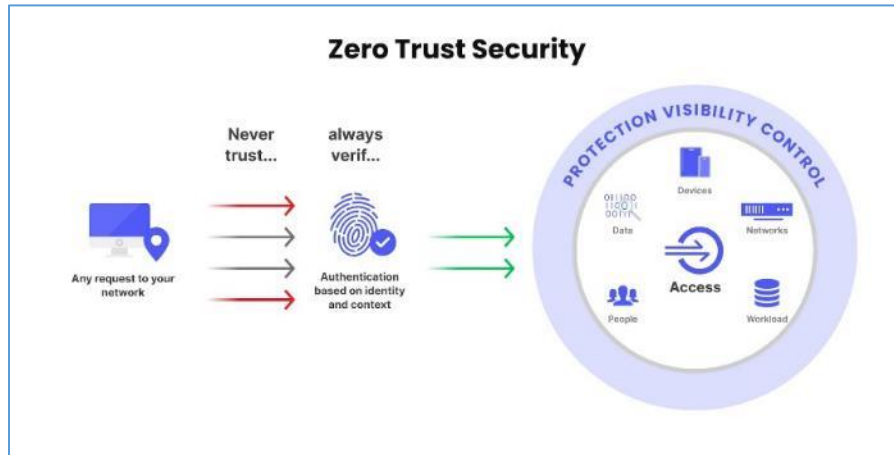
- ❖ In the calendar year 2023, only 18 audit reports on the Union government's accounts, prepared by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), were tabled in Parliament.
- ❖ This number has been steadily decreasing over the last few years – averaging at 22 between 2019 and 2023.
- ❖ This is down from 40 between 2014 and 2018 – 2023 saw a new low.
- ❖ 14 audit reports of the Railways Department were tabled in the last five years, down from 27 in the previous five-year period.
- ❖ The CAG is a constitutional authority which heads the Indian Audit and Accounts Department (IA&AD).
- ❖ The two entities are known as the Supreme Audit Institution of India (SAI).



Zero Trust Authentication

- ❖ The Centre has set up a secure e-mail set-up for 10,000 users in critical ministries and departments.
- ❖ The e-mail system that works on Zero Trust Authentication (ZTA) has been designed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).

- ❖ The 10,000 emails span across 17 union ministries and departments.
- ❖ For this, User name and passwords are not enough, now a two-factor authentication has been activated.
- ❖ Other than passwords, facial recognition or biometrics is required.
- ❖ The log-in and log-out times are recorded and monitored.
- ❖ 165 data breach incidents involving citizen data were observed from January 2018 till October 2023.



INTERNATIONAL

EU's New Pact on Migration and Asylum




- ❖ The European Union countries reached an agreement on a new set of rules to manage asylum requests what are being called the 'irregular' migrants.

- ❖ The European Union countries agreed for an overhaul of migrant and asylum-granting process in the bloc.
- ❖ The new system will give countries that are not at EU border two options.
 - One, they can take in their share of 30,000 asylum applicants.
 - Or, they can deposit at least 20,000 euros (USD 21,870) per asylum seeker into an EU fund.

ECONOMY

Decline in Agriculture's GDP Share in 2023

INVESTMENTS DRYING UP					
Sector	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
Agriculture	26.14	25.88	27.83	30.98	30.23
Industry	29.23	26.26	24.54	23.42	24.67
Services	44.63	47.86	47.63	45.60	45.10



*FY-Financial Year,
Figs in %,
Source: State
Economic Survey

- ❖ The share of agriculture in India's GDP declined to 15% last fiscal year from 35% in 1990-91 due to rapid growth in the industrial and service sector.
- ❖ The share of agriculture in total Gross Value Added (GVA) of the economy has declined from 35% in 1990-91 to 15% in 2022-23.
- ❖ The decline is brought out not by the decline in agricultural GVA but a rapid expansion in industrial and service sector GVA.
- ❖ The agriculture and allied sectors have registered an average annual growth of 4% during the last five years.

- ❖ The share of agriculture in the world's GDP has also declined over the decades and stands at about 4% in recent years.

STATES

Black Tigers in India

- ❖ There are 10 black tigers (melanistic tigers) in India and all are found exclusively in Odisha's Simlipal tiger reserve.
- ❖ As per the 2022 cycle of the All-India Tiger Estimation, 16 individuals were recorded at Simlipal Tiger Reserve, out of which 10 were melanistic.
- ❖ Based on genetic composition, the Simlipal Tiger Reserve has been identified as a distinct genetic cluster for conservation.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

UNESCO's 2023 Prix Versailles

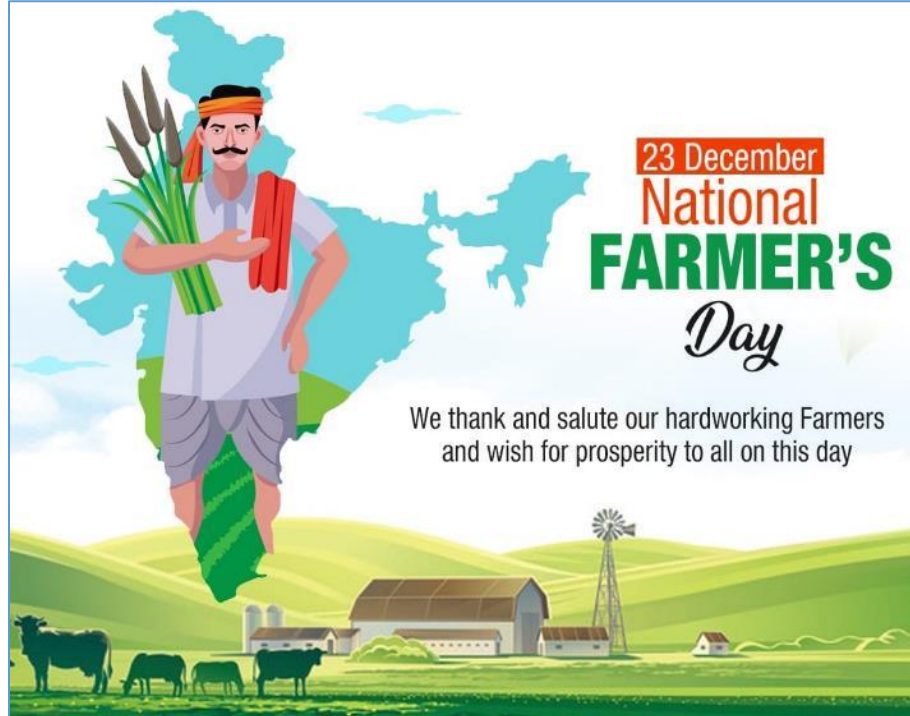
- ❖ Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport has achieved a prestigious recognition at UNESCO's 2023 Prix Versailles.
- ❖ Bengaluru airport's Terminal 2 (T2) has earned distinction as one of the 'World's most beautiful airports'.
- ❖ It secured the coveted 'World special prize for an interior 2023.'

- ❖ Terminal 2 was previously honored with the prestigious IGBC platinum certification by the Indian Green Building Council.



IMPORTANT DAYS

National Kisan Diwas 2023 - December 23



- ❖ The day aims to spread awareness about the contribution of farmers to the socio-economic development of the nation.

- ❖ The day celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh, the fifth Prime Minister of India.
- ❖ He served the nation from July 28, 1979, to January 14, 1980.
- ❖ He is Known for his pioneering work to promote the welfare of farmers in India and the agricultural sector.
- ❖ He introduced several welfare schemes for them.
- ❖ Charan Singh established the Kisan Trust in 1978.

MISCELLANEOUS

World's Oldest Known Fort

- ❖ Team of archaeologists has found the world's oldest known fort which dates back to 8,000 years in a remote region of Siberia.
- ❖ This indicates hunter-gatherers made complex defence structures, much before than once believed.
- ❖ The site is located along the Amnya River in western Siberia.
- ❖ It features around 20 scattered pit-house depressions divided into two sections, Amnya I and Amnya II.

