

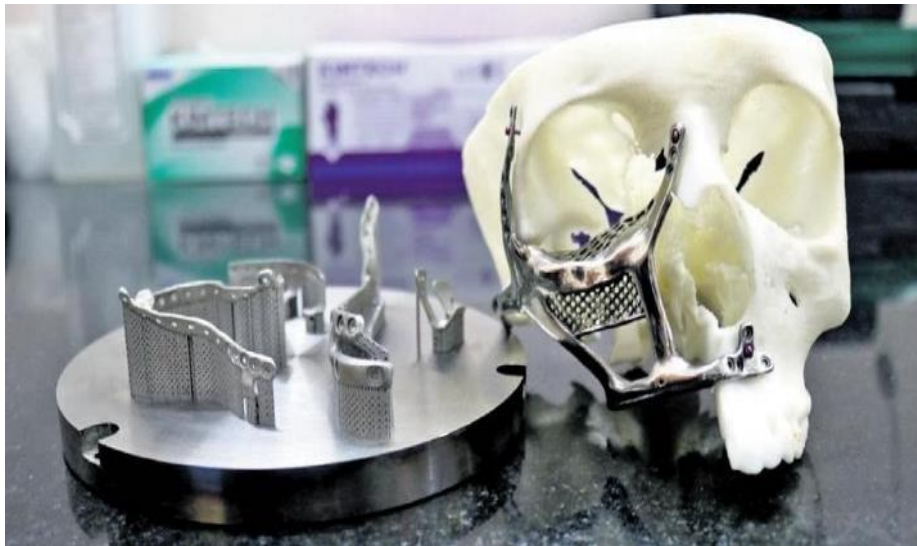
December - 29

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ President Draupadi Murmu on December 25 gave her assent to 3 new laws — the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Act.
 - They will replace the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872.
- ❖ India's Mines Ministry has recognized around 22 critical mineral blocks under exploration across 9 states for possible future auctions.
 - These blocks contain cobalt, titanium, gallium, vanadium, tungsten, lithium, and rare earth elements reserves.
- ❖ IndusInd Bank has launched 'IndusInd Bank eSvarna', India's first Corporate Credit Card.
- ❖ India recorded their maiden victory against Australia in a women's test match at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.
 - This is India's first victory against Australia in 11 tests since the team's first clashed in the format in 1977.

TAMIL NADU

3D-printed face implants

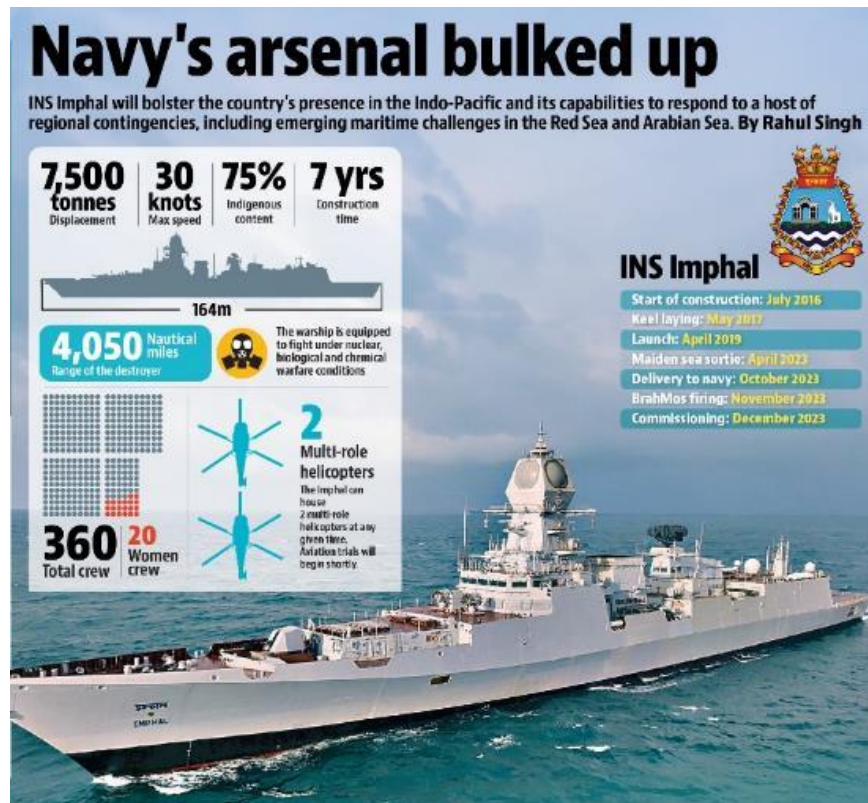


- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology Madras have developed 3D-printed face implants for patients affected by black fungus.

- ❖ The condition is prevalent among COVID-19 patients, persons with uncontrolled diabetes, HIV/AIDS and other medical conditions.
- ❖ Black fungus disease, also known as mucormycosis, can cause devastating effects, with the affected person losing their defining facial features.
- ❖ Around 60,000 mucormycosis cases were registered in India after the pandemic.
- ❖ In severely affected persons, the fungus invaded the tissues of the face, causing necrosis and disfigurement.

NATIONAL

Commissioning of INS Imphal



- ❖ INS Imphal (Pennant D68) is the third of four warships of Project 15B that together form the Visakhapatnam class stealth-guided missile destroyers.
- ❖ This Visakhapatnam class has BrahMos surface-to-surface cruise missiles and vertically launched Barak-8 surface-to-air missiles for long-range engagement of shore and sea-based targets.
- ❖ Between 2014 and 2016, the Indian Navy commissioned three guided missile destroyers of Kolkata class under a project codenamed '15A'.
- ❖ The Kolkata class included INS Kolkata, INS Kochi and INS Chennai.

- ❖ These ships were a step ahead of their precursor Delhi class of ships, which included INS Delhi, INS Mysore and INS Mumbai.
- ❖ They built under Project 15 and commissioned between 1997 and 2001.

INTERNATIONAL

Angola and OPEC

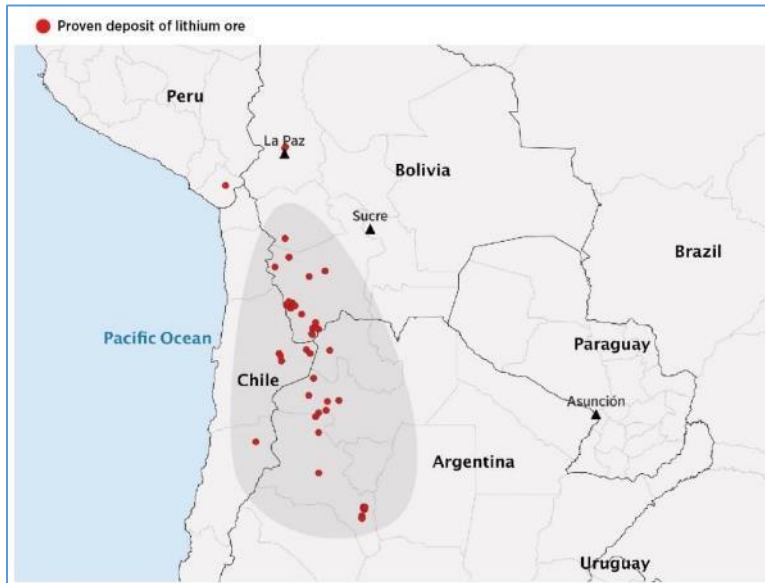


- ❖ Angola announced its leaving OPEC following 16 years of membership amid a dispute over oil production quotas.
- ❖ It had rejected a reduced output limit imposed by the leaders of the cartel to reflect the country's dwindling capacity.
- ❖ Angola's move will shrink membership of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to 12 nations.

India - lithium blocks in Argentina

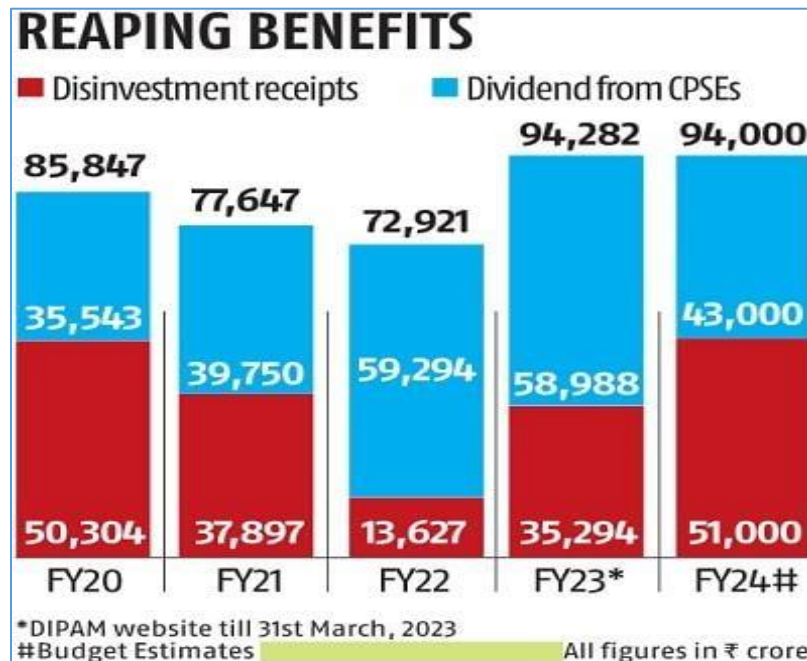
- ❖ India is in the final stages of negotiations to secure a deal for the exploration and development of five lithium blocks in Argentina.
- ❖ After Australia, this is India's second attempt to sign a foreign partnership for sourcing critical minerals.
- ❖ In 2022, India signed a MoU with Australia's Critical Minerals Facilitation Office (CMFO) to explore five blocks — two dedicated to lithium and three to cobalt.
- ❖ Argentina is home to 21 per cent of the global lithium reserves, which totals 98 million tonnes.

❖ This places Argentina second in the world, with Bolivia holding the top spot.



ECONOMY

Disinvestment - FY24 Target



❖ The disinvestment target for current fiscal year is again likely to be missed.

❖ In the current fiscal, the budgeted amount is ₹51,000 crore.

- ❖ But, about 20% or ₹10,049 crore only has been collected through minority stake sales via IPO (Initial Public Offering) and OFS (Offer for Sale).
- ❖ The privatisation of all the CPSEs in the list and IDBI Bank are likely to move into the next financial year.
- ❖ In total, there are around 11 transactions which are being processed by DIPAM (Department of Investment and Public Asset Management) currently.
- ❖ Out of the around ₹4.20 lakh crore raised in the last 10 years from disinvestments, ₹3.15 lakh crore was realised from minority stake sales and Rs 69,412 crore came from strategic transactions in 10 CPSEs.

ENVIRONMENT

New Jumping Spiders

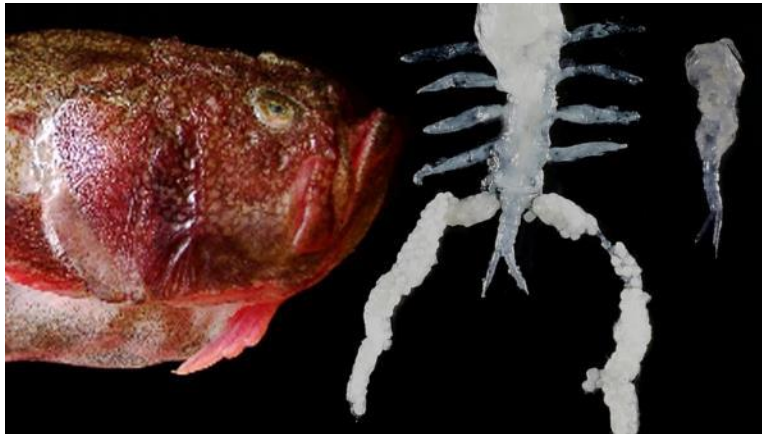


- ❖ A team of researchers have discovered two new species of jumping spiders that belong to the genus *Afraflacilla*.
- ❖ Only three species belonging to the genus had been hitherto discovered in the country.
- ❖ Specimens of *Afraflacilla kerala* were spotted in Irinjalakuda and Kuttanad.
- ❖ *Afraflacilla adavathurensis* was discovered from Adavathur in Tiruchirappalli.
- ❖ Jumping spiders of the genus *Afraflacilla* are widespread from Africa to Australia with various known species.

- ❖ Recent findings have revealed the presence of the genus in Rajasthan, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ With the new findings, the number of known *Afraflacilla* species has grown to 47 with Africa reporting the most at 19.

Dollfus' Stargazer

- ❖ Researchers discovered two new genera, and four new species of millimetre-sized crustacean parasites that infest fishes and other marine life forms.
- ❖ Researchers have named the new family *Uranoscopicolaidae*, as this parasitic copepod was found to live off the Dollfus' Stargazer (*Uranoscopus guttatus*).
- ❖ It is a fish dwelling in depths ranging from 300-550 m off the southwest Indian coast.
- ❖ This is also the first discovery and description of a new crustacean family from India.
- ❖ The discovery of the new family *Uranoscopicolaidae* has also led to the creation of a new genus and species, *Hirodai ohstukai*, under it.
- ❖ The team also discovered a new genus and isopod species which has been named *Glyptothoa sagara*.
- ❖ Another new isopod crustacean parasite species, named *Elthusa aquabio*.
- ❖ The fourth new species is a 11-12 mm "flesh-penetrating parasitic copepod."



STATES

India's first-ever gyrocopter safari

- ❖ Uttarakhand is all set to launch India's first-ever gyrocopter safari by the year's end.

- ❖ It aims to redefine the concept of adventure tourism in the state.
- ❖ The first gyrocopter trial flight was successfully completed at Bairagi Camp,
- ❖ A gyrocopter is distinguished by the absence of an engine turning the rotors, and resembles a small helicopter.



India's First AI City



- ❖ Uttar Pradesh is planning to build the country's first AI city in Lucknow.
- ❖ This city is intended to accommodate and foster the AI ecosystem.
- ❖ The AI city aims to serve as a breeding ground for innovative ideas and the development of future professionals.

- ❖ The AI Centre of Excellence, located in IIIT Lucknow, provides support to over 15 AI and Machine Learning start-ups.
- ❖ The global AI market was valued at \$137 Bn in 2022 and is expected to witness a compound annual growth rate of 37.3% from 2023 to 2030.

Most preferred State to work

- ❖ Kerala has emerged the most preferred State to work in the India Skills Report 2024.
- ❖ Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram have come second and fourth respectively among cities where both men and women prefer to work regardless of their age.
- ❖ Kochi is the first among the top 10 cities where most women prefer to work.
- ❖ Kerala is the second state with the most employable resources among the 18-21 age group.

