

February - 06

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The month-long Khadi Fest - 2023 was inaugurated in Mumbai.
- ❖ Luminous Power Technologies planned to build the country's first green energy-based solar panel manufacturing facility in Uttarakhand.
- ❖ A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carried 51 Starlink satellites into low-Earth orbit in a launch from the California coast in USA.

NATIONAL

Beating Retreat Ceremony 2023

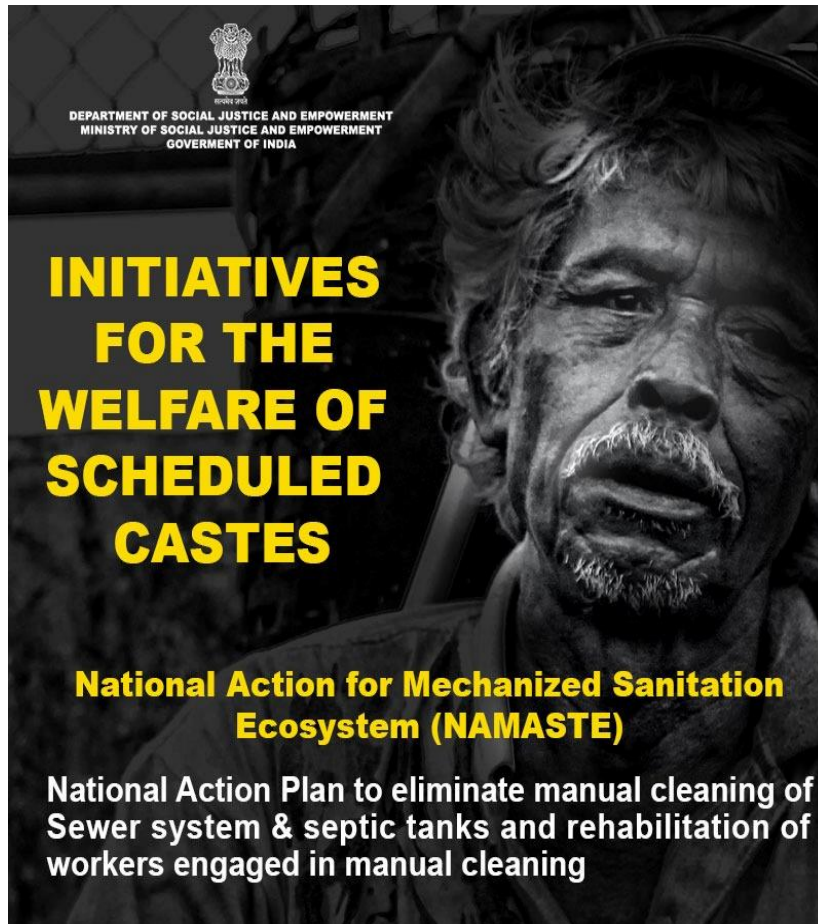


- ❖ The Beating Retreat ceremony, which marks the formal end of the Republic Day celebrations, held at Vijay Chowk.
- ❖ The Beating Retreat ceremony was graced by the presence of the United Nations General Assembly president Csaba Korosi.
- ❖ For the first time, a 3-D anamorphic projection was done on the facade of North Block and South Block during the grand event at Vijay Chowk.
- ❖ It also witnessed the country's biggest drone show, comprising 3,500 indigenous drones.



- ❖ The day marks a centuries-old military tradition.
- ❖ Such a ceremony is also held by Armed Forces in the UK, US, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and others.

NAMASTE scheme

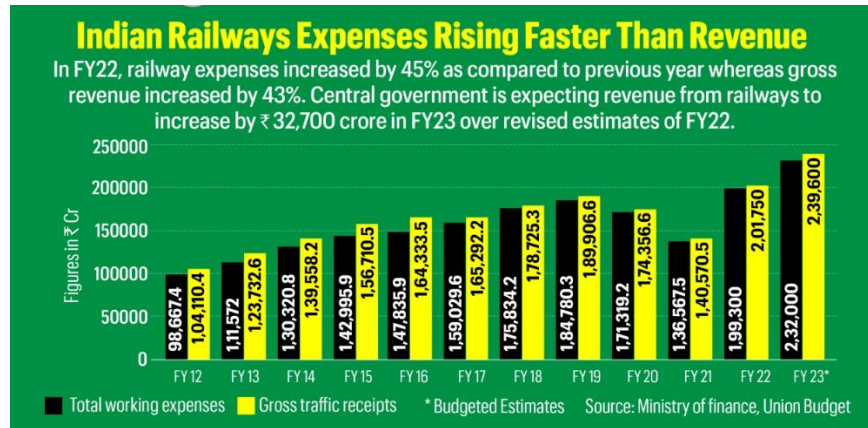


- ❖ The Government of India allocated Rs 100 crores for the NAMASTE scheme in budget 2023.
- ❖ NAMASTE stands for 'National Action Plan for Mechanised Sanitation Eco system'.
- ❖ The scheme aims to provide an alternate livelihood to sanitation workers.
- ❖ In addition, NAMASTE will strive to bring behavioural changes to them.

Railway Budget 2023

- ❖ The capital outlay for the railways has been increased to the highest-ever Rs 2.40 lakh crore in the Union Budget for 2023-24.

- ❖ It is nine times higher amount than provided in 2013-2014.
- ❖ The government proposed to manufacture 35 hydrogen fuel-based trains.



First Employment Working Group Meeting

- ❖ India's first Employment Working Group meeting began in Jodhpur.
- ❖ The panel held discussions focussed on developing a collaborative road map for global skills under India's G20 presidency.
- ❖ The panellists shared insights and ideas on the priority area - 'Addressing Global Skills Gaps'.



ECONOMY

Top buyer of MSME Goods in 2022

- ❖ The Ministry of Defence was the top procuring ministry of goods and services from MSME sellers in the calendar year 2022.
- ❖ The Government e-Marketplace was launched in 2016.

- ❖ It is an online platform used for procuring goods and services online.
- ❖ The ministry has purchased products and services worth Rs 16,747 crore in 2022 from the portal.
- ❖ This is 250 per cent higher than the previous year.



Export of Aviation Gas

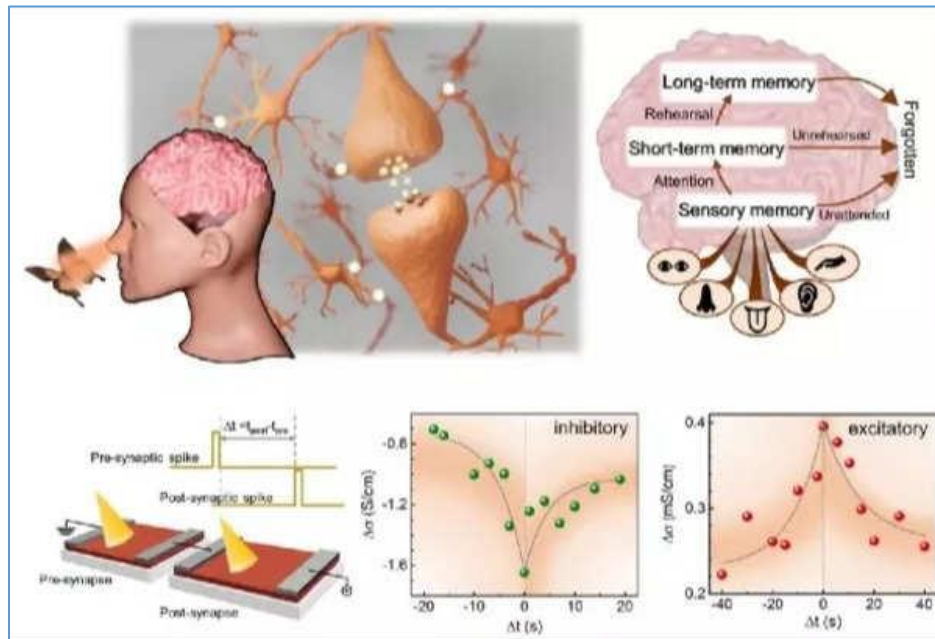


IndianOil

- ❖ In a first, national oil marketer Indian Oil Corporation has started exports of aviation gasoline.
- ❖ This is the fuel that fires unmanned aerial vehicles and small planes.
- ❖ The indigenous production of the gas was named AV gas 100 LL.
- ❖ This export was turning a chapter in the nation's fuel history from being a net importer to an exporter.
- ❖ The first consignment of 80 barrels of aviation gas was shipped to Papua New Guinea.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Artificial Synapse for Brain-Like Computing



- ❖ A team of scientists from Bengaluru's Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) have developed a low energy consuming, high-speed tech that has brain-like computing capability.
- ❖ For this, they used scandium nitride, a semiconducting material with supreme stability to develop brain-like computing.
- ❖ Traditional computers have physically separated memory storage and processing units.
- ❖ They take enormous energy and time to transfer data between these units during an operation.



- ❖ In contrast, the synapse (the junction between two neurons) in the human brain serves as both a processor and a memory storage device.
- ❖ This was making it a superior biological computer that is both smaller and more effective.

Nuclear Fission powered Spacecraft

- ❖ NASA and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), have unveiled plans to test nuclear-powered rockets that would fly humans to Mars.
- ❖ DARPA will develop the nuclear reactor and engine for this nuclear rocket.
- ❖ NASA hope to fly in an in-space demonstration as early as 2027.
- ❖ This mission is called as DRACO-Demonstration Rocket for Agile Cislunar Operations.
- ❖ DRACO is to run on nuclear fission reaction.
- ❖ The USA began testing the technology in 1955, and this project stalled Due to a lack of funds.
- ❖ Nuclear fission-powered rockets will help scientists reduce traveling time greatly.



Meteorite in Antarctica

- ❖ An international team of researchers discovered five new meteorites, including one of the largest ever found on the continent.

- ❖ The rare meteorite is about the size of a cantaloupe but weighs a hefty 17 pounds (7.7 kilograms).
- ❖ Roughly 45,000 meteorites retrieved from Antarctica over the past century.



ENVIRONMENT

Plan to eradicate invasive plant

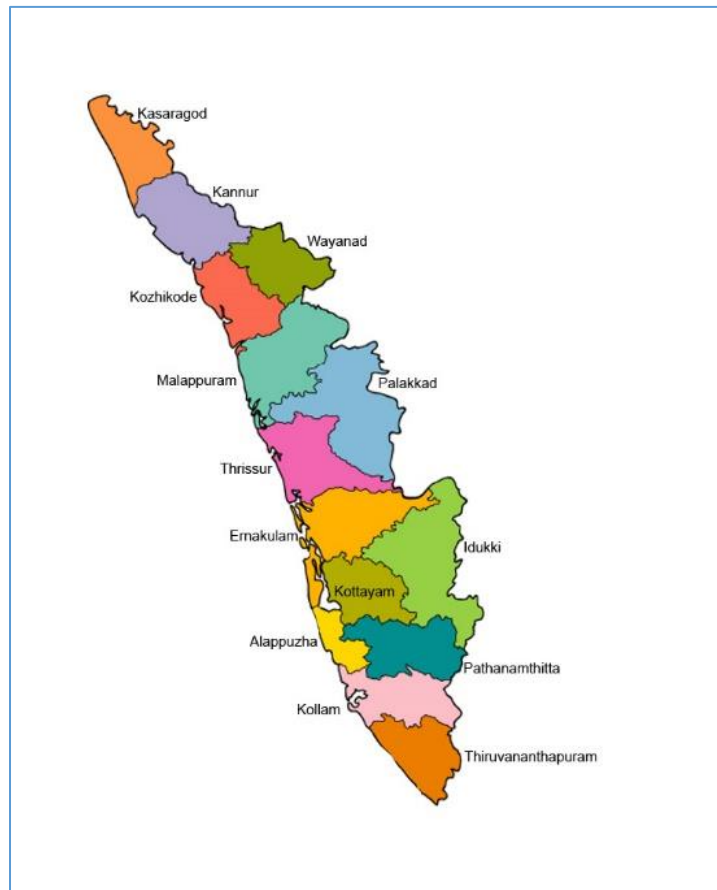


- ❖ The Nodal Centre for Biological Invasions (NCBI) at the Kerala Forest Research Institute has come out with a management plan to eradicate *Senna spectabilis*.
- ❖ It is the exotic invasive plant that is posing a severe threat to the State's wildlife habitat.
- ❖ *Senna spectabilis* is a deciduous tree native to tropical areas of America.

- ❖ It grows up to 15 to 20 metres in a short period of time and distributes thousands of seeds after flowering.
- ❖ The thick foliage of the tree arrests the growth of other indigenous tree and grass species.
- ❖ Thus, it causes food shortage for the wildlife population, especially herbivores.
- ❖ It also adversely affects the germination and growth of the native species.
- ❖ It is categorised as 'Least Concern' under IUCN Red List.

STATES

First District to register 10,000 new MSMEs



- ❖ Ernakulam has become the first district in the state to register more than ten thousand new MSMEs.
- ❖ The other districts such as Thrissur and Malappuram are also moving close to the number.

- ❖ The Kerala Government launched the Enterprises Campaign during its 2022-23 budget.
- ❖ Also, the state government declared the financial year 2022-23 as the Year of Enterprises.
- ❖ This was done to boost the development of the MSME sector in the state.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Vani Jayaram

- ❖ Veteran playback singer Vani Jairam (77) who sang over 10,000 songs in several languages passed away recently.
- ❖ She was recently awarded the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian award.
- ❖ She was a part of the film industry for five decades.
- ❖ She received the National Best Playback Singer award thrice.
- ❖ She also got state awards in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Odisha.

