

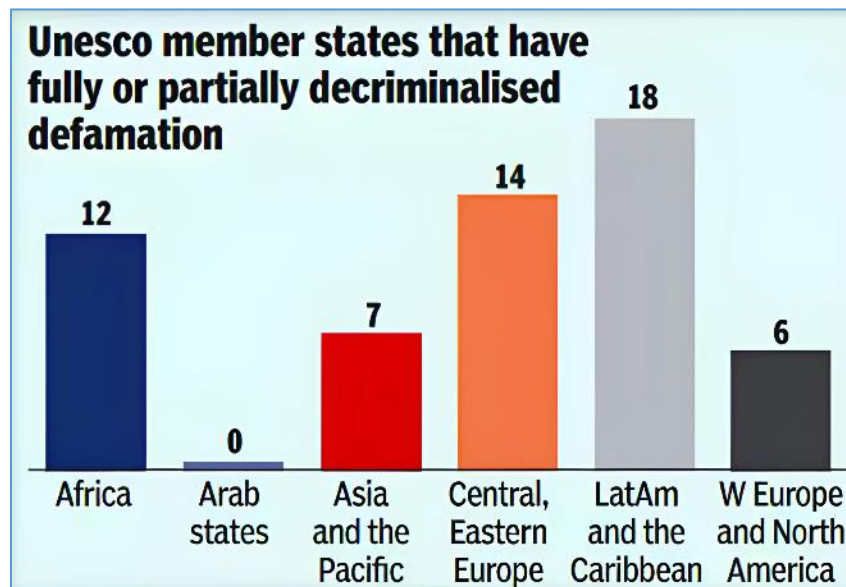
February - 11

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Central PSU, REC Limited received the 2024 Best Green Bond-Corporate Award at 'The Asset Triple A Awards for Sustainable Finance'.
- ❖ India recently successfully flight-tested the indigenously developed high-speed expendable aerial target, Abhyas.
- ❖ Bengaluru hosted the 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Astronomical Society of India.
- ❖ Hyderabad has been selected as the venue to host the FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifiers match between India and Kuwait.
- ❖ The Safer Internet Day has been observed on February 8<sup>th</sup> annually.
  - Theme for 2024 is "Inspiring Change. Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online".

## NATIONAL

### The Law of Criminal Defamation Report



- ❖ The 22<sup>nd</sup> Law Commission of India has submitted its Report No. 285 titled "The Law of Criminal Defamation" to the Government.
- ❖ It has recommended that criminal defamation should be retained within the scheme of criminal laws in India.

- ❖ The right to reputation is derived from Article 21 of the Constitution that guarantees the right to life and personal liberty.
- ❖ The whole jurisprudence around the law on criminal defamation has the essence of protecting one's reputation and its facets.
- ❖ Noting that it could be argued that criminal prosecution for defamatory statements stands opposed to the freedom of speech and expression.
- ❖ Speech ought to be illegal only where it is meant to do substantial harm and when such harm materialises.
- ❖ The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 has added a provision of community service as an additional punishment.

### **Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar program**

- ❖ The Centre announces a new project aimed at highlighting the cultural richness of villages across the nation.
- ❖ The initiative, known as "Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar", seeks to explore the life, history, and ethos of Indian villages.
- ❖ As a crucial component of the National Mission on Cultural Mapping, the project reflects the central government's commitment to document and map the cultural diversity inherent in villages across the country.



## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Free visa for Indians by Iran**

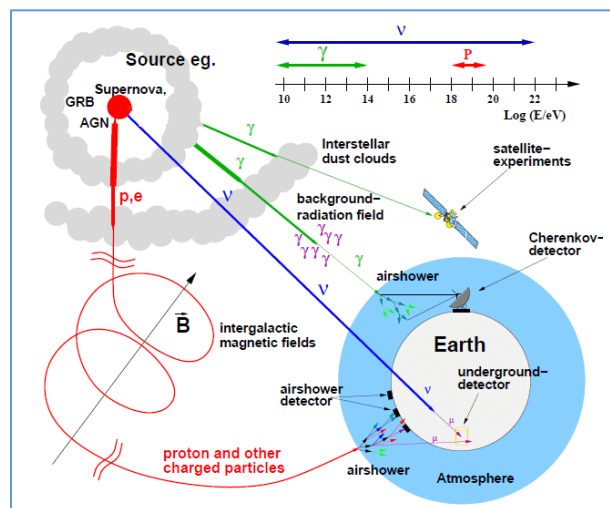
- ❖ Iran announced the initiation of a 15-day visa-free policy for Indian tourists visiting the country.

- ❖ Indian citizens would be allowed to enter Iran with ordinary passports once every six months and with a maximum stay of 15 days which will not be extended.
- ❖ Earlier, Vietnam, Thailand, Sri Lanka have also eased visa rules for Indian tourists.
- ❖ Sri Lanka has also allowed visa-free entry to visitors from seven countries, including India, China and Russia.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### GRAPES-3 experiment



- ❖ GRAPES-3 experiment researchers have identified a new characteristic in the cosmic-ray proton spectrum at an energy level of around 166 tera-electron-volt (TeV).

- ❖ This is a finding that spans a measurement range from 50 TeV to just over one peta-electron-volt (PeV).
- ❖ This observation introduces a potential shift in our understanding of cosmic ray origins, their acceleration processes, and how they move within the Milky Way.
- ❖ Cosmic rays, discovered over a century ago, represent the universe's most energetic particles.

### **India's first smart bullets**

- ❖ IIT Madras has joined hands with Munitions India (MIL) to develop India's first indigenous 155mm guided smart ammunition.
- ❖ This collaboration aims to enhance the accuracy and range of the existing shells used in artillery guns.
- ❖ Additionally, the project aims to increase the impact and lethality when the ammunition hits the target.

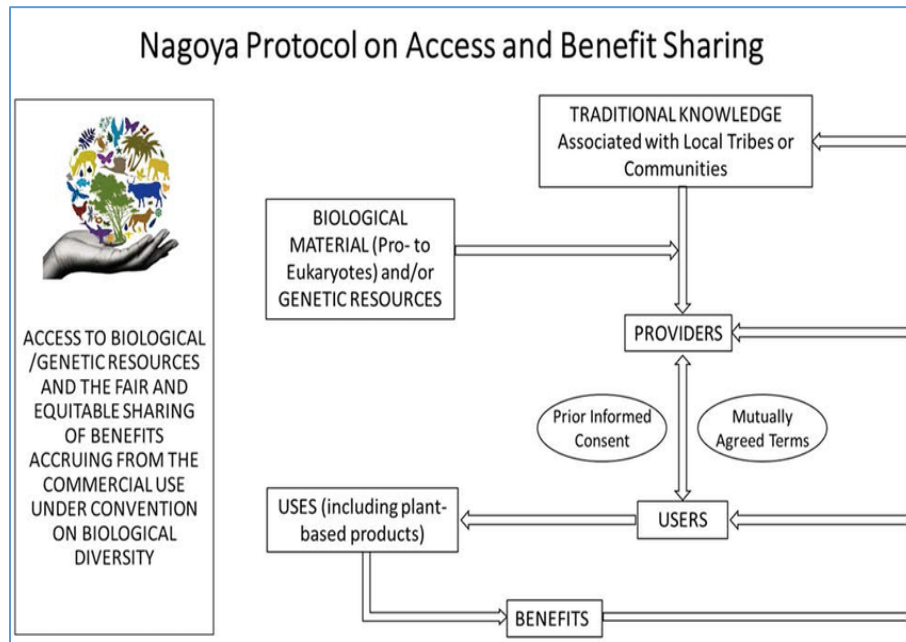


## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Nagoya Protocol – Cameroon**

- ❖ Cameroon in central Africa has now adopted the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing.
- ❖ It is an international agreement that aims to ensure that the benefits of using genetic resources and traditional knowledge are shared in a fair and equitable way.

- ❖ The Nagoya Protocol is an offshoot of the Convention on Biological Diversity that addresses fair and equitable benefit sharing in the context of biodiversity access.
- ❖ Cameroon is a biodiversity hotspot, with an estimated 11,000 plant, animal, and microorganism species.
- ❖ Nagoya Protocol was adopted by the CBD in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010 and entered into force in 2014.



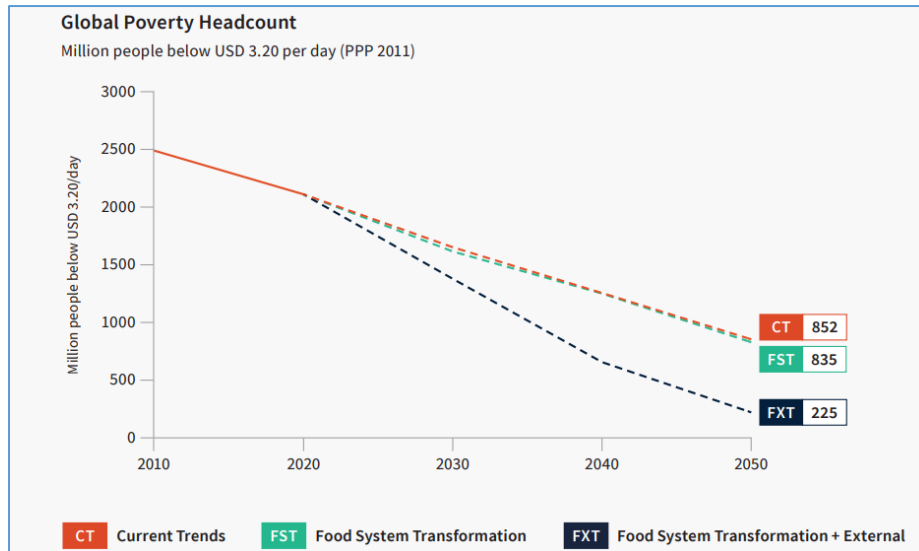
## REPORTS AND INDICES

### **The Economics of The Food System Transformation Report**

- ❖ The Food System Economics Commission has published a report titled - The Economics of the Food System Transformation.
- ❖ A sustainable transformation of existing food systems is urgently required at an estimated total cost of \$500 billion per year.
- ❖ This cost is equivalent to only 0.2–0.4 per cent of global GDP and is small relative to the multi-trillion dollar benefits it could bring.
- ❖ The annual environmental cost of the current food systems was \$3 trillion, and the additional costs to health was at least \$11 trillion.
- ❖ The Current trends showed that by 2050, the food insecurity will still leave 640 million people (including 121 million children) underweight in some parts of the world, while obesity will increase by 70 per cent globally.



- ❖ The food system transformation can reduce diet-related mortality from 12 million deaths per year attributable to poor diets in 2020 to 7.7 million in 2050 by decreasing rates of diet-related diseases.



## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Grammy Awards 2024



- ❖ The 66th Annual Grammy Awards 2024 were held in Los Angeles, USA.
- ❖ Indian musicians Shankar Mahadevan and Zakir Hussain's fusion band 'Shakti' bagged the Grammy's award for 'Best Global Music Album'.
- ❖ Zakir Hussain also secured the 'Best Global Music Performance' Grammy for his contribution to 'Pashto'.

- ❖ The top Grammy Awards
  - Album of the year - Taylor Swift, *Midnights*
  - Record of the year - Miley Cyrus, *Flowers*
  - Song of the year - Billie Eilish, *What Was I Made For?*
  - Best new artist - Victoria Monét
- ❖ Taylor Swift becomes the first performer to win the prize for album of the year four times.
- ❖ South African singer Tyla made history by picking up the first ever award for best African performance.

### **Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2024**



- ❖ The 25<sup>th</sup> edition of Bharat Rang Mahotsav, India's premier theatre festival is being organised in 13 cities across the country.
- ❖ It's a 21-day cultural event featuring over 150 plays, along with workshops and discussions.
- ❖ The ambassador for the festival, known as 'Rangdhoot' this year, is actor Pankaj Tripathi and actor Paresh Rawal.
- ❖ There will be folk plays, street plays, modern dramas, and plays from Bangladesh, Nepal, Russia, and Italy.

