

February - 14

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Skye Air, a Gurugram-based drone solutions provider, launched traffic management system for drones in India.
- ❖ MobiKwik becomes the first fintech app to support RuPay Credit Card on UPI.
- ❖ Salman Rushdie released a new novel “Victory City” – a fictionalized story of the Vijayanagara Kingdom.
- ❖ Veteran Journalist Dr. A.B.K. Prasad has been chosen for the prestigious “Raja Ram Mohan Roy National Award” for excellence in Journalism-2020 for his outstanding contribution towards journalism.
- ❖ Tata Consultancy Services has been named to FORTUNE magazine's list of the World's Most Admired Companies.
- ❖ Pakistan captain Babar Azam bagged the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for the ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2022 after being named the ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year.

NATIONAL

QR Code-based Coin Vending Machine



- ❖ Reserve Bank of India will start a pilot project to launch QR code-based coin vending machines.
- ❖ These vending machines will dispense coins against debit to the customer's account.
- ❖ This will enhance the ease of accessibility to coins.

- ❖ The machine is to be launched in 12 cities in the first phase.

India's First Glass Igloo Restaurant

- ❖ India's first glass igloo restaurant in Gulmarg has become a popular destination for tourists.
- ❖ This glass-wall restaurant was built in the middle of snow by the Kolahoi Green Heights hotel of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.
- ❖ In 2021, the same hotel built a snow igloo in Gulmarg which was the biggest snow igloo in Asia.



INTERNATIONAL

Global Climate Resilience Fund



- ❖ Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton attended the 50th-anniversary celebration of SEWA in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- ❖ During the event, she announced a USD 50 million Global Climate Resilience Fund for women to combat climate change.
- ❖ The fund will empower women and communities to fight climate change and help provide new livelihood resources and education.
- ❖ SEWA is Self Employed Women Association.
- ❖ It was founded by the late activist Ela Bhatt in 1972.

India-South Korea diplomatic relations

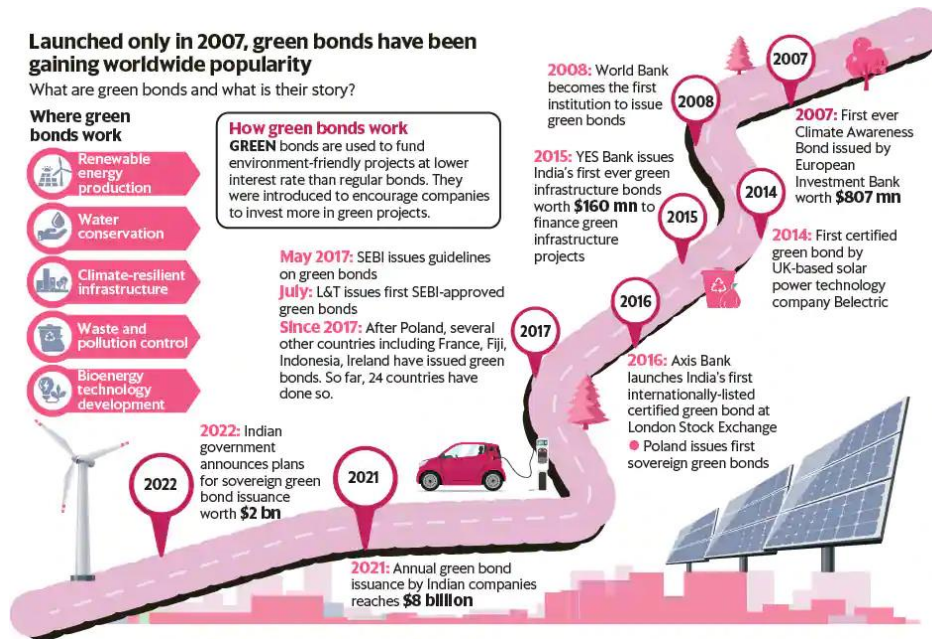


- ❖ The year 2023 marks 50 years (from 1973) of the establishment of full diplomatic relations between India and Qatar as well as India-South Korea.
- ❖ From India, Buddhism reached the Korean peninsula in the 3rd century during the three kingdoms period.
- ❖ India played an important and positive role in Korean affairs after Korea's independence in 1945.
- ❖ Mr. K P S Menon of India was the Chairman of the 9-member UN Commission set up in 1947 to hold elections in Korea.
- ❖ During the Korean War (1950- 53), both the warring sides accepted a resolution sponsored by India.
- ❖ From that, the ceasefire was declared on 27 July 1953.
- ❖ 1962 saw the establishment of bilateral consular ties, which were elevated to ambassadorial status in 1973.

- ❖ Agreement on Trade Promotion and Economic and Technological Co-operation was signed in 1974.
- ❖ Former President APJ Abdul Kalam visited South Korea in 2006.
- ❖ It resulted in the formation of a Joint Task Force, operationalized in 2010.
- ❖ The then President Lee made a visit to India, as Chief Guest at India's Republic Day celebrations in 2010.
- ❖ India and South Korea launched an initiative 'Korea Plus' in 2016 to promote and facilitate Korean Investments in India.
- ❖ South Korea participated in the Defence Expo India and Maritime India Summit in 2016.
- ❖ Bilateral relationship upgraded to a special-strategic partnership in 2018.
- ❖ In 2022, trade between the two nations reached an all-time high at USD 27.8 bn.

ECONOMY

Maiden Tranche of Sovereign Green Bonds



- ❖ The first tranche of India's debut sovereign green bonds worth ₹80 were auctioned recently.
- ❖ These bonds that bring in resources to implement such climate-related projects are called Sovereign Green Bonds.
- ❖ They are similar to government securities.
- ❖ The Sovereign Green Bonds were launched by the Reserve Bank of India.

- ❖ Two different types of bonds have been launched.
- ❖ The one Bond maturing in 2028 and the another maturing in 2033.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Medium-density amorphous ice

- ❖ Scientists discovered a new form of ice that more closely resembles liquid water than any other.
- ❖ The new form of ice is amorphous.
- ❖ In the ordinary crystalline ice, the molecules arrange themselves in a regular pattern.
- ❖ But in amorphous ice, the molecules are in a disorganized form that resembles a liquid.
- ❖ Though it is named as ice, its molecular structure is close to water.
- ❖ Amorphous means no clear state.
- ❖ It is neither water nor ice and hence amorphous ice.
- ❖ While warmed and then recrystallized, amorphous ice releases an extraordinary amount of heat.
- ❖ The heat energy released is very high that it may cause ice quakes.
- ❖ Ice quakes are common in planets like Saturn and Jupiter.



REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Minority report

- ❖ The Patna-based research institute Centre for Policy Analysis released the “Global Minority Report”.
- ❖ India placed at the top of the index.

- ❖ It is followed by South Korea, Japan, and the US.
- ❖ Maldives, Afghanistan, and Somalia are at the bottom of the list
- ❖ UK and the UAE coming in at positions 54 and 61, respectively.



STATES

Indore Municipal green bonds

Response to Indore Municipal Corporation's Green Bonds Issue							
Category	Issue Size		Bonds Subscribed		Amount Oversubscribed		No. of Times Oversubscribed
	(₹Billion)	(~\$ Billion)	(₹Billion)	(~\$ Billion)	(₹Billion)	(~\$ Billion)	
Institution	0.61	0.007	1.074	0.013	-0.464	-0.006	1.76
Corporate	0.61	0.007	1.218	0.015	-0.608	-0.007	2
HNI	0.61	0.007	0.020	0.000	0.590	0.007	0.03
Retail	0.61	0.007	0.718	0.009	-0.108	-0.001	1.18
Total	2.44	0.030	3.029	0.037	-0.589	-0.007	1.24

Source: IMC Mercom India Research

- ❖ Indore Municipal Corporation's (IMC) green bond of Rs 244 crore was oversubscribed within three hours of the opening.
- ❖ IMC became the first civic body in the country to launch an IPO (Initial Public Offering).

- ❖ With this, the local civic body will install a 60-megawatt captive solar power plant on 100 acres of land in Khargone to reduce its electricity expenses.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

ATD Best Awards 2023



- ❖ NTPC Limited, has been honoured with 'ATD Best Awards 2023' by the Association for Talent Development (ATD), USA.
- ❖ This is the sixth time that NTPC Limited has won this award.
- ❖ This is awarded for demonstrating enterprise success in the field of talent development.
- ❖ The award is testimony to NTPC's contemporary HR practices.
- ❖ The ATD Best Awards recognises organisations that demonstrate enterprise through talent development.
- ❖ The award includes small and large private, public, and not-for-profit organizations from across the globe.

