

February - 25

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ 1st G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) Meeting 2023 held in Bengaluru.
- ❖ Coal India Limited has successfully transformed 30 abandoned mining areas into eco-parks and eco-tourism destinations.

NATIONAL

New pilgrim center for PRASHAD Scheme



- ❖ The Union government has identified four pilgrim centres for development under the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme.
- ❖ The 4 new centres are
 - Chamundeshwari temple in Mysuru,
 - Sri Madhwa Vana in Kunjaragiri in Udupi district,
 - Papnash temple in Bidar district and
 - Sri Renuka Yallamma Temple in Saundatti in Belagavi district
- ❖ The heritage sites of Hampi and Mysuru have already been selected under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.
- ❖ PRASAD Scheme was launched by the Ministry of Tourism in the year 2014-15.

- ❖ The name of the scheme was changed from PRASAD to PRASHAD in October 2017.

Shiv Sena name and symbol



- ❖ The Election Commission of India allotted the name 'Shiv Sena' and the party's bow and arrow symbol to the Eknath Shinde bloc.
- ❖ This effect was recognising it as the original party founded by Balasaheb Thackeray.
- ❖ The Commission had decided this based on a "test on majority".
- ❖ The group of MLAs supporting the Eknath Shinde group had got nearly 76% of the votes and the Uddhav Thackeray faction got only 23.5% of votes.
- ❖ Eknath Shinde's faction has claimed the support of 40 of the Shiv Sena's 56 MLAs and 13 of the 18 Members of the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ The Shiv Sena party have 56 MLAs, who won the 2019 Maharashtra Assembly Elections.
- ❖ The two factions have been locked in a fight over the party's name and symbol since last June.

INTERNATIONAL

18th World Security Congress

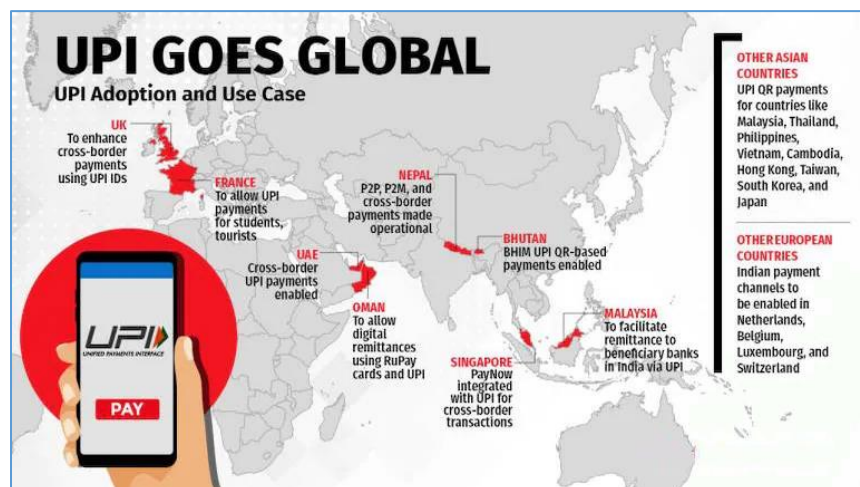
- ❖ The 18th World Security Congress 2023 held in Jaipur.

- ❖ The three-day conclave is being held jointly by the International Union of Railways (UIC) and the Railway Protection Force (RPF).
- ❖ Theme of the event is "Railway Safety Strategy: Responses and Vision for the Future".
- ❖ Earlier, in 2006 and 2015, India hosted the International UIC World Security Congress in New Delhi.
- ❖ International Union of Railways is headquartered in Paris, France.
- ❖ It is a professional association which has been in existence since 1922.
- ❖ It represents the railway sector and promotes rail transport around the world.



ECONOMY

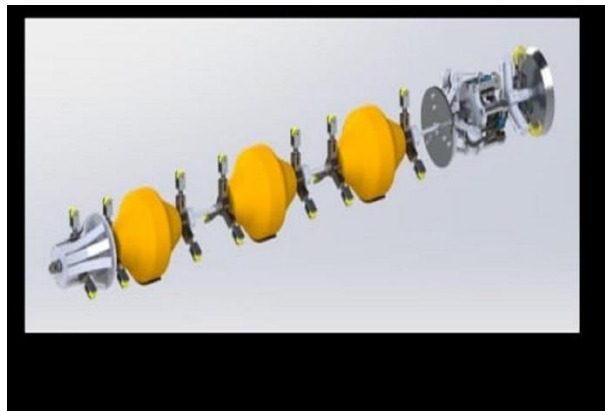
UPI tie-up with Singapore



- ❖ India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Singapore's Pay Now were officially connected for a "real-time payment linkage".
- ❖ Singapore has now become the first country with which cross-border Person to Person (P2P) payment facilities have been launched.
- ❖ This will help the Indian diaspora in Singapore, especially migrant workers/students and bring the benefits of digitalisation.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Cargo hyperloop



- ❖ IIT Kanpur has developed an energy-efficient compressed air-based pipeline system for transporting coal and minerals.
- ❖ The cargo-based hyperloop system will address challenges such as material loss, uncertainty in delivery time and air pollution.
- ❖ The system is designed to transport coal or slurry from one point to another with compressed air as its energy source.
- ❖ The robot travels at around 120 km an hour and can transport the loaded block to the designated receiving or unloading sub-section continuously.
- ❖ The system also has an accurate, reliable, and continuous vehicle/robot positioning system.

ENVIRONMENT

Omorgus Khandesh

- ❖ A new beetle species has been discovered in India.
- ❖ The beetle is important for forensic science as it helps detect the time of death of an animal or human.

- ❖ Omorgus Khandesh is necrophagous and is, therefore, also called a keratin beetle.
- ❖ The new species belongs to the Trogidae family.
- ❖ With the addition of this new species, now there are a total of 14 extant species of this family in India.
- ❖ The beetles of this group are sometimes called hide beetles as they tend to cover their body under the soil and hide.



STATES

India's first Agri chatbot



- ❖ India's first AI chatbot for the agriculture sector - Ama Krush AI launched at the farewell session of 'Krushi Odisha 2023'.
- ❖ This chatbot will help farmers with the best agronomic practices, government schemes and loan products from more than 40 commercial and cooperative banks.

- ❖ It has been built using the recently launched ChatGPT system and Bhashini, a language interpretation platform developed by IIT Madras.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

ELECRAMA 2023

- ❖ The 15th edition of ELECRAMA 2023 inaugurated at the India Expo Mart, Greater Noida.
- ❖ It aims to showcase innovation in the power sector such as Smart Meters, Smart Feeder Management Systems, Methanol production etc
- ❖ Theme of the event is 'Re-imagining the Future: Metamorphosis of the Power Sector in India'.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Scout Day - February 22



- ❖ It commemorates the birth anniversary of the founder of the Boy Scouts Movement, Lord Robert Baden-Powell.
- ❖ Scouting's inception dates back to over a century ago, in 1907 in United Kingdom.



- ❖ In 1908, 'Scouting for Boys' was published by Baden Powell for the first time.
- ❖ The first Boy Scout camp was organised by Lord Baden-Powell back then with a ragtag group of 20 youngsters.
- ❖ As of 2022, the Scout Movement is spread across 172 National Scout Organisations with 57 million members.
- ❖ The 2023 theme is "Our World: Our Equal Future: The Environment and Gender Equality".

World Thinking Day - February 22



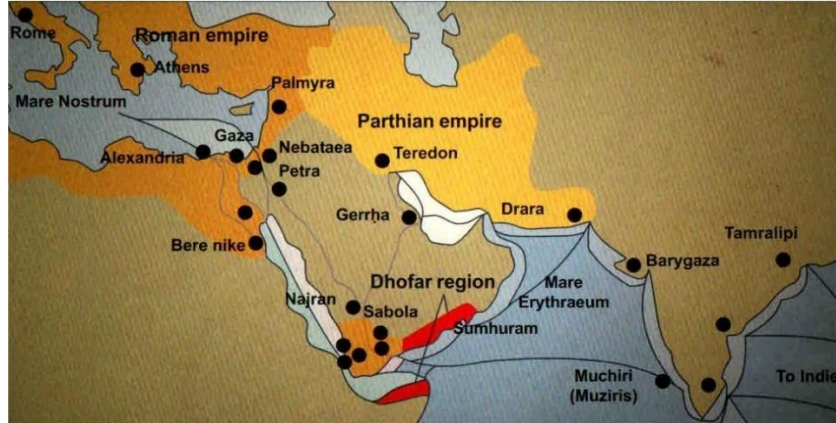
- ❖ The World Organization of girl Guides and girl Scouts (WAGGGS) observes World Thinking Day.
- ❖ On World Thinking Day, female scouts are also encouraged to build enduring bonds with one another that prioritise loyalty and respect.
- ❖ This day celebrates sisterhood, solidarity, and women's empowerment.
- ❖ At the fourth female scout international conference in 1926, the need for World Thinking Day was brought up.
- ❖ "Our Planet, Our Peaceful Future," is the theme of World Thinking Day 2023.

MISCELLANEOUS

BBC documentary on Muziris

- ❖ BBC recently released a video titled "Muziris: The first emporium of India lost for 700 years".
- ❖ Muziris was a major ancient port city for the spice trade.
- ❖ It was also known as Murachipattanam in the present-day Kerala.
- ❖ Sangam literature describes Roman ships coming to Muziris laden with gold to be exchanged for pepper.
- ❖ Around 1341, the profile of the water bodies in the Periyar River basin underwent a major transformation and Muziris dropped off the map due to flood and earthquake.

❖ The Muziris Heritage Project is one of the biggest conservation projects in India.



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