

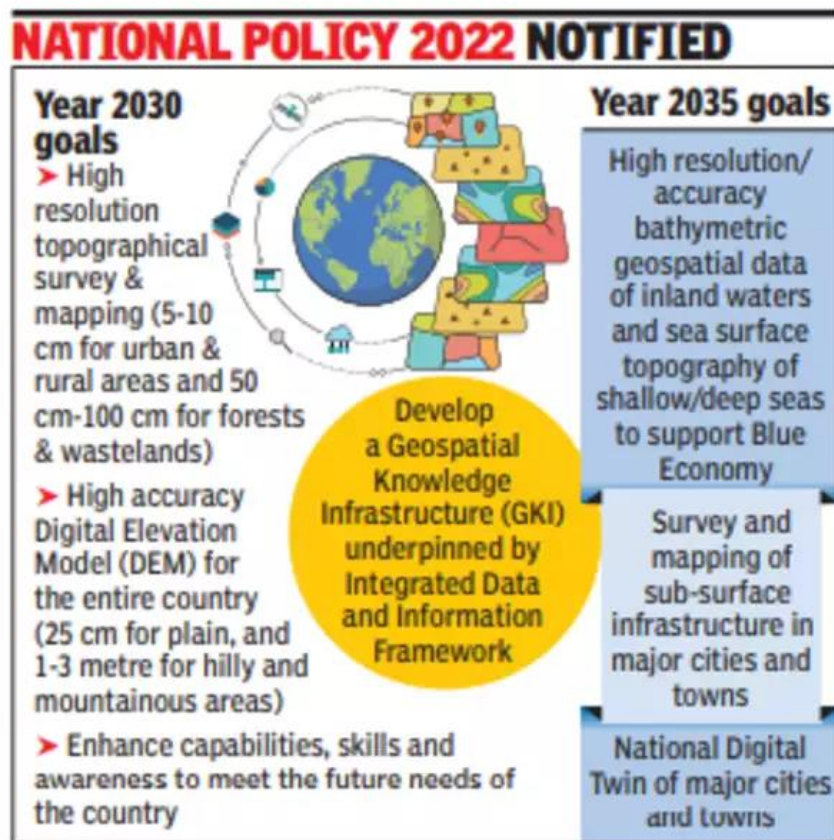
January - 12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Kerala declared as the first state in the country to go fully digital in its banking service.

NATIONAL

National Geospatial Policy 2022



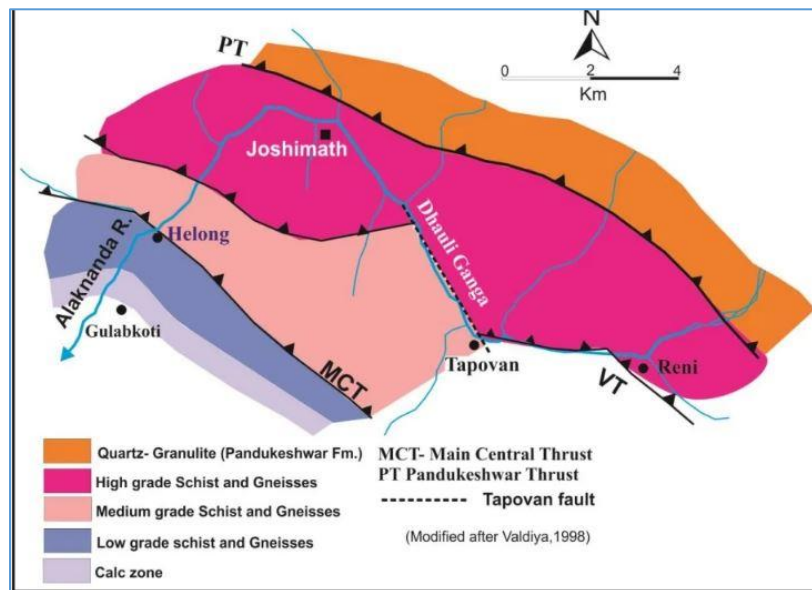
- ❖ The National Geospatial Policy 2022 was notified by the Ministry of Science and Technology recently.
- ❖ It is a citizen-centric policy that seeks to strengthen the Geospatial sector to support national development, economic prosperity and a thriving information economy.
- ❖ The policy is aimed to set up high resolution topographical survey and mapping, with a high-accuracy Digital Elevation Model (DEM) by 2030.

- ❖ India's geospatial economy is expected to cross Rs 63,000 crore by 2025 at a growth rate of 12.8% and to provide employment to more than 10 lakh people.

SPRINT initiative

- ❖ The Indian Navy has recently inked an agreement with Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt. Ltd for acquiring armed autonomous boat swarms under the 'SPRINT' initiative.
- ❖ 'SPRINT' Scheme is an initiative to promote development of niche defence technologies by domestic companies.
- ❖ SPRINT stands for "Supporting Pole-Vaulting In Research and Development through Innovations for Defence Excellence.
- ❖ It was launched in July, 2022.

Landslide-subsidence zone

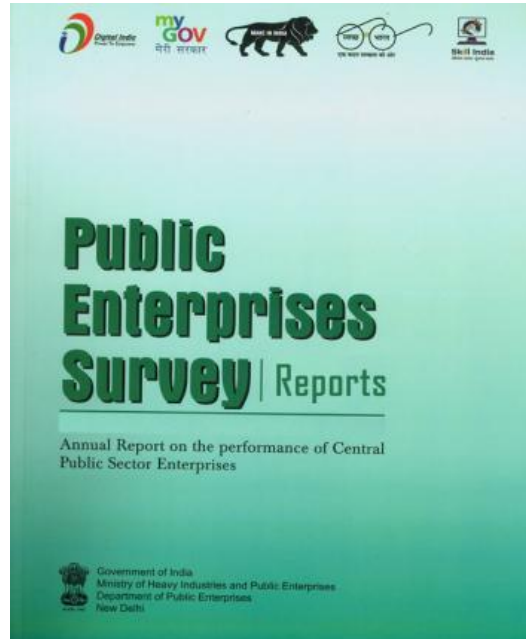


- ❖ The tiny town of Joshimath in Uttarakhand is on edge with 610 of a total of 4,500 buildings developing cracks.
- ❖ Authorities have declared it a landslide-subsidence zone.
- ❖ It is a gradual settling or sudden sinking of the Earth's surface due to removal or displacement of subsurface earth materials.
- ❖ Subsidence is most often caused by the removal of water, oil, natural gas, or mineral resources out of the ground by pumping, fracking, or mining activities.
- ❖ As per the 1976 Mishra committee report, Joshimath is built on a fault plane.



- ❖ Joshimath is built on a landslide material that means thousands of years ago.
- ❖ Joshimath falls on the route to Badrinath and Hemkund Sahib.
- ❖ It is on a high-risk seismic 'Zone-V'.

Public Enterprises Survey 2021-22



- ❖ Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) was placed first in the services sector.
- ❖ It was also ranked third among the Top 10 profit-making Closes.
- ❖ The results were published by the Department of Public Enterprises.
- ❖ POWERGRID is engaged in the transmission of bulk power across different states of India.
- ❖ In India, the power grid transmits around 50% of all the power.
- ❖ The original name of POWERGRID was “National Power Transmission Corporation Limited”.

Low smoke superior kerosene oil

- ❖ Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), launched the Low Smoke Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO) for the Indian Army in Jammu.
- ❖ SKO supply to the Army is vital as it is consumed as fuel in the room heaters at the high-altitude camps.

- ❖ Normal kerosene emits substantial smoke, which poses a health hazard to the Army personnel who use it at higher altitudes, where oxygen level is very low.



ENVIRONMENT

Living Root Bridges



- ❖ A farmer takes forward the State's traditional practice of building root bridges and connects two areas across Umkar river in Cherrapunjee.
- ❖ His creation over Umkar river in Siej village near Cherrapunjee, also known as Sohra, in the undulating East Khasi Hills of Meghalaya has grown into a living marvel.
- ❖ As is the traditional practice, he used the roots of the rubber fig (*Ficus elastica*).
- ❖ The living root bridge across the Umkar has grown to two decks, stretching to 20 metres and 15 metres, respectively.
- ❖ Meghalaya is known for its living root bridges, locally known as jingkieng jri.

- ❖ They are on the tentative list of UNESCO's World Heritage sites.
- ❖ Many bridges across the State are over a century old.

STATES

International Kite Festival 2023



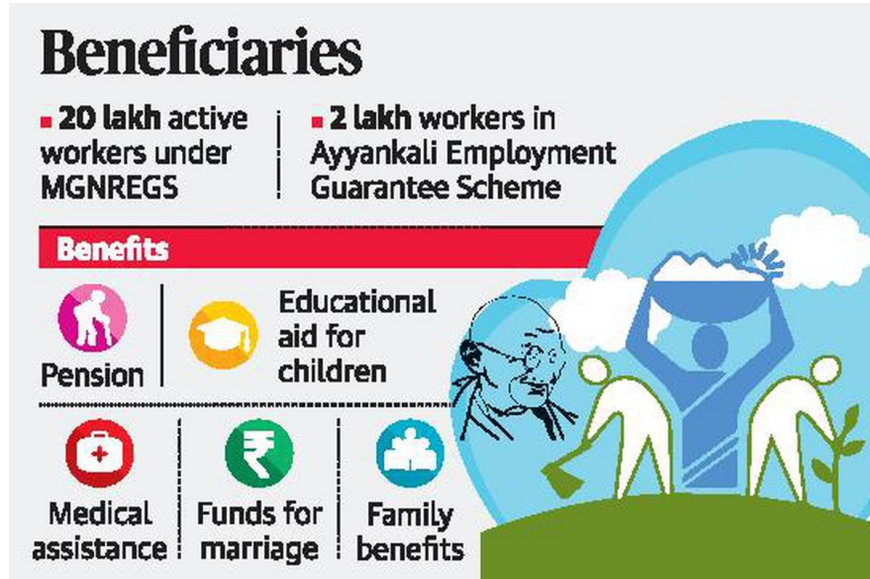
- ❖ The International Kite Festival 2023 was inaugurated in Ahmedabad.
- ❖ This year, The International Kite Festival will be held with the theme of G20 - 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'.
- ❖ The event is organized after a gap of two years due to the covid 19 pandemic.
- ❖ The International Kite Festival has been held in Ahmedabad as part of the official celebration of Uttarayan since 1989.

Khelo India Youth Games 5.0



- ❖ The mascot, torch, and anthem of Khelo India Youth Games-2022 was unveiled in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh is hosting the fifth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games.
- ❖ For the first time, water sports, canoeing and fencing competitions will be part of this edition of Khelo India Games.

Pension to MGNREGS Workers



- ❖ For the first time in the country, Kerala government has launched a welfare fund board for the workers registered for the MGNREGS and the state's urban job guarantee scheme — Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme.
- ❖ The welfare fund board will have a chief executive officer, five official members and eight unofficial members as directors of the fund board.
- ❖ This will facilitate the workers to get a monthly pension from the board on they turn 60.
- ❖ This is the first time that a state government has formed a welfare fund board for MGNREGS workers.
- ❖ In 2021, the state Assembly had passed a Bill pertaining to the formation of the board.
- ❖ Any worker between the age of 18 and 55 can take the membership in the fund board.
- ❖ They have to pay an amount as premium (Rs 50 tentatively fixed) every month until the age of 55.



- ❖ Member who has paid the contribution for at least 10 years will be eligible for pension.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

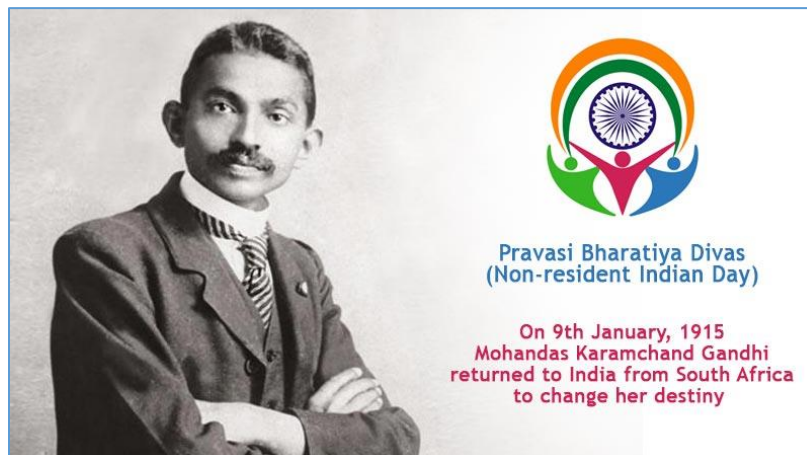
Manpreet Monica Singh

- ❖ Indian-origin Manpreet Monica Singh has been sworn in as a Harris County judge.
- ❖ Thus, she is becoming the first female Sikh judge in the US.
- ❖ Her father immigrated to the US in the early 1970s.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas - January 09





- ❖ It is also known as Non-Resident Indian Day.
- ❖ It is an annual event celebrated on January 9th to mark the contribution and achievements of the overseas Indian community to the development of India.
- ❖ The day also commemorates the return of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi from South Africa to India in 1915.
- ❖ This day was first celebrated in 2003.
- ❖ The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards were bestowed on this day.
- ❖ They are classified into three categories – Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Gold, and Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Life Time Achievement.

