



January - 20

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India's first Centre of Excellence (CoE) of online gaming will be set up in Shillong, Meghalaya by March 2023.
- ❖ Falak Mumtaz, a 11-year-old, from South Kashmir bagged a gold medal in National Sqay Championship, held in Jammu.
- ❖ As part of India's G-20 presidency, a Business-20 (B-20) inception meeting will be organised at Gandhinagar in Gujarat between the 22nd to 24th of January.
- ❖ Chief Economic Adviser to the Treasury of UK, Clare Lombardelli, has been appointed as the new OECD Chief Economist.
 - She is the first British person has held this role in thirty years.
- ❖ Sultan al-Jaber, the head of the United Arab Emirates' national oil company was named as president of this year's COP28 climate talks.

NATIONAL

Aarogya Maitri project

I would now like to announce a new '**Aarogya Maitri**' project. Under this project, India will provide essential medical supplies to any developing country affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crisis.

PM Modi's opening remarks on day 2 of
Voice of Global South Summit,
13 January 2023

- ❖ Under this project, India will provide essential medical supplies to any developing country affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crisis.

- ❖ India will also establish a 'Global-South Center of Excellence'.
- ❖ It will undertake research on development solutions or best-practices of any developing nation,
- ❖ India will also institute 'Global-South Scholarships' for students from developing countries to pursue higher education in India.

Vande Bharat Express

- ❖ The new Vande Bharat Express train connecting Secunderabad with Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ The train is the eighth Vande Bharat Express introduced by Indian Railways.
- ❖ This is the first train which connecting the two Telugu-speaking States.

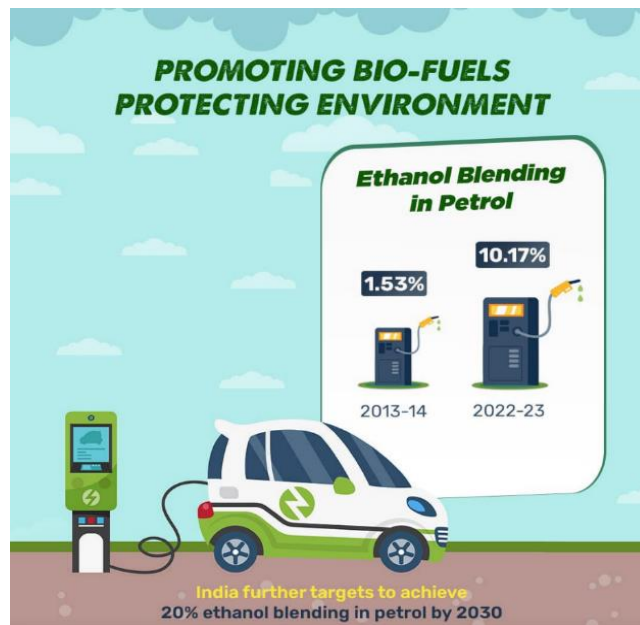


'Soul of Steel' expedition



- ❖ A 'Soul of Steel' challenge will be launched in India in order to test one's high-altitude endurance.
- ❖ This effort would be undertaken in Uttarakhand.
- ❖ It is spearheaded by a venture, CLAW Global, run by veterans and is being supported by the Indian Army.
- ❖ The feat is on the lines of the 'Ironman triathlon' long-distance triathlon challenge in Europe, which tests an individual's grit and endurance.

20 percent ethanol blended Petrol



- ❖ The phased roll-out of E20 (20 per cent ethanol blending in gasoline) will begin on April 1.
- ❖ India achieved the target of supplying petrol mixed with 10 per cent ethanol (10 per cent ethanol, 90 per cent petrol) ahead of schedule in June 2022.
- ❖ Also, it has advanced the target of making petrol with 20 per cent ethanol by five years to 2025 from 2030.
- ❖ For a 20 per cent blend, 1,000 crore litres of ethanol will be required.

INTERNATIONAL

World's Strictest Anti-Smoking Laws

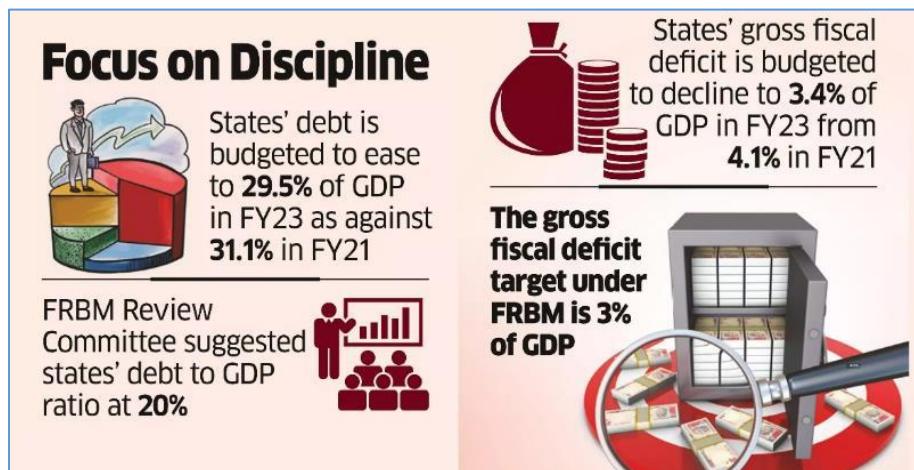
- ❖ Mexico has recently imposed one of the world's strictest anti-tobacco laws.

- ❖ It enforces a total ban on smoking in public places, including hotels, beaches, and parks.
- ❖ It will also include the total ban on the promotion, advertising, and sponsorship of tobacco products.
- ❖ The sale and use of e-cigarettes and vapes are also due to face new restrictions.
- ❖ With this, Mexico joins nations such as Ireland, Greece, Hungary, and Malta as those with the most stringent smoke-free environments.



ECONOMY

Gross fiscal deficit of states



- ❖ The Gross fiscal deficit (GFD) of states is budgeted to narrow to 3.4 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2022-23 from 4.1 per cent in 2020-21

- ❖ While states' debt is budgeted to ease to 29.5 per cent of GDP in 2022-23 as against 31.1 per cent in 2020-21.
- ❖ But it is still higher than the 20 per cent recommended by the FRBM Review Committee, 2018.

Trade deficit with China

- ❖ India's bilateral trade with China reached a record \$135.98 billion in 2022.
- ❖ India's exports to China fell from \$28.1 billion to \$17.48 billion.
- ❖ The trade deficit reached \$101.02 billion, up by 45%, from \$69.4 billion in 2021.
- ❖ From 2015 to 2021, India-China bilateral trade grew by 75%, an average yearly growth of 13%.

Trade imbalance

Chinese customs data on Friday showed bilateral trade had climbed 8.4% last year to \$135.98 billion



- India's imports accounted for \$118.5 billion of 2-way trade, up from \$97.5 billion the previous year

- India's exports to China fell from \$28.1 billion to \$17.48 billion

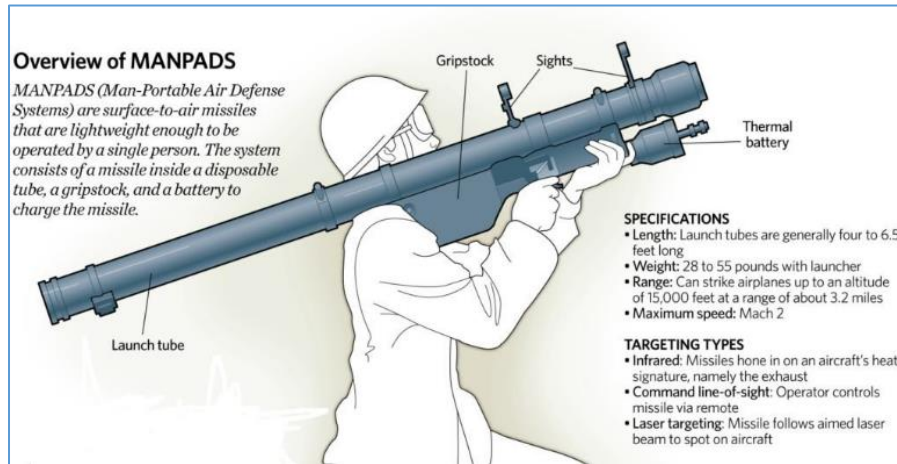
- Trade deficit widened to \$101.02 billion, up by 45%, from the \$69.4 billion seen in 2021

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

VSHORAD Missile System

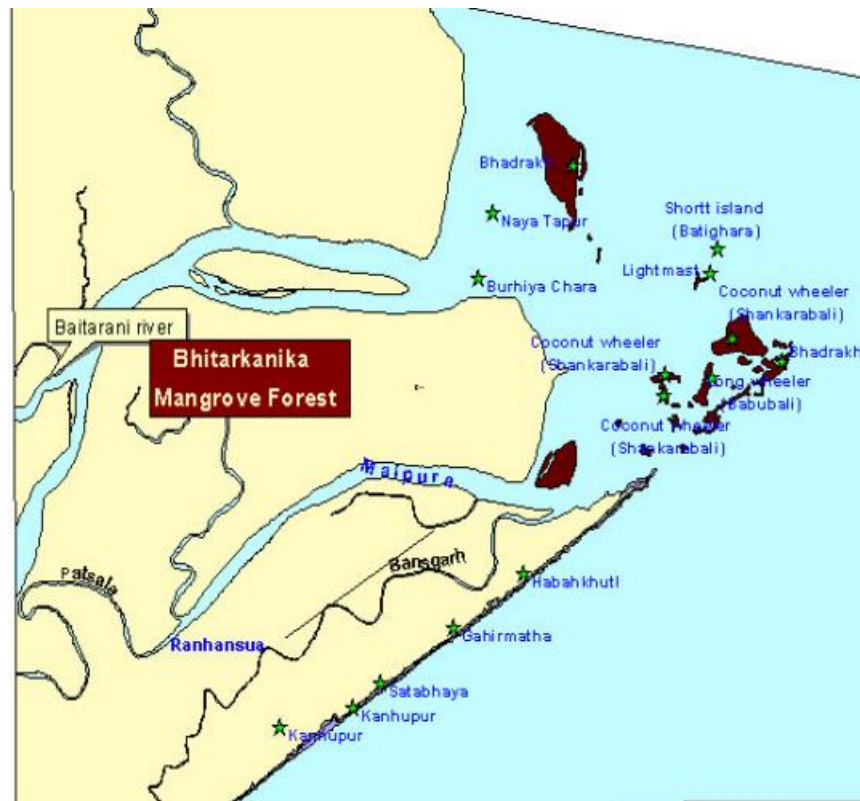
- ❖ The Defence Acquisition Council accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) to procure the Very Short-Range Air Defence System or VSHORAD missile system.
- ❖ It is designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.
- ❖ VSHORADS is a man portable Air Defence System (MANPAD).
- ❖ The missile, meant for neutralizing low-altitude aerial threats at short ranges is propelled by a dual-thrust solid motor.

- ❖ The AoN is the first step in the long capital procurement process in defence.



ENVIRONMENT

Saltie census 2023



- ❖ The population of saltwater crocodiles in the water bodies of Bhitarkanika National Park and its nearby areas in Odisha's Kendrapara district has marginally increased in 2023.

- ❖ This year, forest officials counted 1,793 crocodiles.
- ❖ These included 20 whitish individuals.
- ❖ Last year, officials had sighted 1,784 reptiles.

STATES

Mongeet Festival of Music, Culture, and Food

- ❖ Mongeet, the Soul Songs festival will be held at Dekasang in Majuli and Sadiya in Assam.
- ❖ The festival provides a platform for young talents in the state to showcase their original music.
- ❖ They will guide and mentored by famous musicians.
- ❖ Having begun in 2020 as a movement of arts and music, Mongeet aims to nurture upcoming musical talents of Assam.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Third richest actor

- ❖ As per a recent list released by the World of Statistics, Shah Rukh Khan is the third richest actor in the world.
- ❖ The list is led by Jerry Seinfeld and Tyler Perry with \$1 billion.

- ❖ They are followed by Dwayne Johnson, with \$800 million.
- ❖ Shah Rukh Khan is the only Indian on the list.
- ❖ Tom Cruise follows Shah Rukh on the list with \$620 million.
- ❖ Jackie Chan ranked 5th with \$520 million.



MISCELLANEOUS

1200-year-old miniature stupas

- ❖ Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has discovered two 1200-year-old miniature votive stupas near Sarai Tila mound within the premises of 'Nalanda Mahavihara'.
- ❖ These, carved from stone depicting Buddha figures, must be around 1200-year-old.
- ❖ Beginning in the 7th century CE in India, small miniature terracotta stupas became popular as votive offerings.
- ❖ The Nalanda Mahavihara site comprises the archaeological remains of a monastic and scholastic institution dating from the 3rd century BCE to the 13th century CE.



- ❖ It includes stupas, shrines, viharas (residential and educational buildings) and important art works in stucco, stone and metal.

