

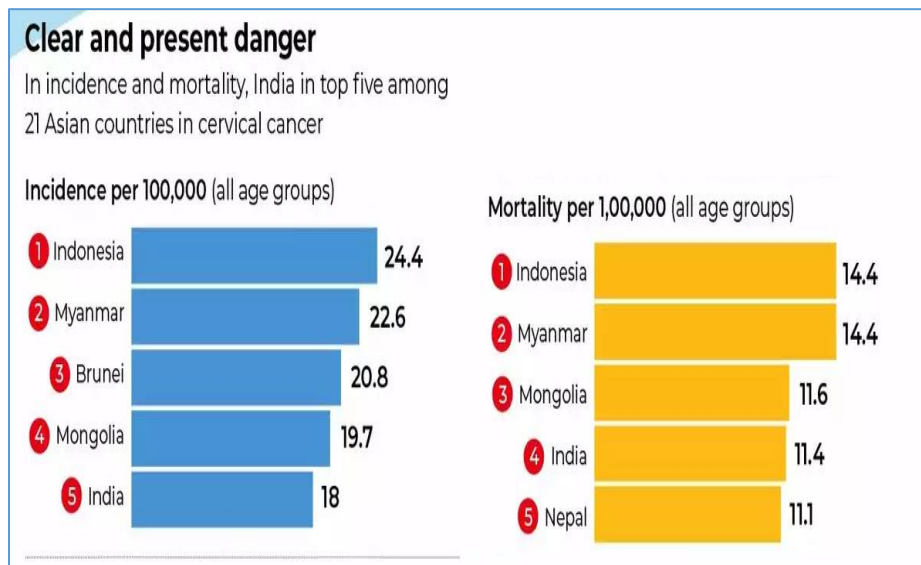
January - 22

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India's First National Highway Steel Slag Road section on NH- 66 Mumbai-Goa National Highway was inaugurated recently.
- ❖ Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) surpassed State Bank of India (SBI) to become the country's most valued PSU firm by market valuation.
- ❖ Former Chief Justice of India and Rajya Sabha MP Ranjan Gogoi will receive the highest civilian award in Assam, the 'Assam Baibhav'.
- ❖ Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa becomes India's No. 1 chess player, surpassing Viswanathan Anand.

NATIONAL

Vaccine drive for cervical cancer



- ❖ In a significant step that can reduce the incidence of cervical cancer, the government is set to roll out a human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign for girls in the 9-14 years age group.
- ❖ The immunisation drive is planned in three phases over three years.
- ❖ India accounts for about a fifth of the world's cervical cancer cases.
- ❖ With about 1.25 lakh new cases and 75,000 deaths each year.
- ❖ Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among women in India, after breast cancer.

- ❖ About 83 per cent of invasive cervical cancer cases are attributed to HPV 16 or 18 in India.

Astra Missile

- ❖ Minister of State for Defence flagged off the indigenously developed Astra Missiles for supply to the Indian Air Force.
- ❖ Astra is a beyond visual range (BVR) air-to-air missile indigenously developed by DRDO.
- ❖ Astra Weapon System is best in its class of weapon systems in the world in the category of air-to-air missiles.
- ❖ The missile has a range of 100 plus km.



Samavesha project

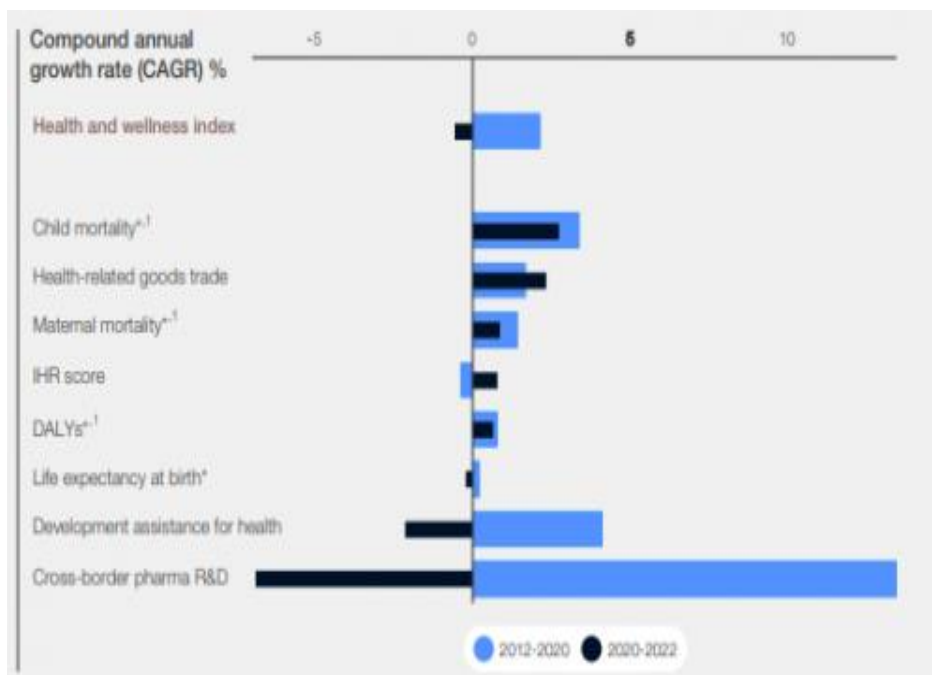
A promotional poster for the 'Samavesha' project. The poster features the I-STEM logo at the top left, with the tagline 'Indian Science, Technology and Engineering facilities Map'. The main title 'SAMAVESHA' is in large orange letters, followed by the subtitle 'Uniting Minds & Igniting Innovation'. Below this, it says 'Inaugural Episode' and '16 January 2024, Tuesday 9:00 AM IST IISc Bengaluru'. There are two QR codes: one labeled 'Scan to Register' and another labeled 'Scan to Contact Us'. The background of the poster shows an illustration of people working at a table with various scientific and technological icons like gears, a lightbulb, and a DNA helix. At the bottom, there is a blue bar with the website 'https://www.istem.gov.in', the phone number '080-22932680', and the email 'events@istem.co.in'.

- ❖ I-STEM (Indian Science, Technology, and Engineering facilities Map) is launching a major project called 'Samavesha'.

- ❖ It aims to revolutionize research collaboration in India by enhancing accessibility to facilities and labs.
- ❖ The project is working towards optimizing resource utilization nationwide.
- ❖ The Researcher or the industry looking to avail advanced scientific equipment can connect with the institution that has the equipment they are looking for and rent it to conduct their experiments, through I-STEM Portal.

INTERNATIONAL

The Global Cooperation Barometer 2024



- ❖ The barometer was developed in collaboration with management consultants McKinsey & Company.
- ❖ The five pillars are trade and capital; innovation and technology; climate and natural capital; health and wellness; and peace and security.
- ❖ Life expectancy at birth for the World declined to 71 in 2021 from 72.8 in 2019.
- ❖ An estimated 241 million malaria cases and 627,000 deaths from malaria were reported worldwide in 2020.
- ❖ This means that 14 million more people contracted malaria and 69,000 more people died from it than in 2019.
- ❖ Maternal mortality rates increased for the first time in three decades.

- ❖ In 2020, the global maternal mortality ratio was 152 deaths per 100,000 live births, up from 151 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2019.
- ❖ Of the estimated 287,000 maternal deaths recorded in 2020, 70 per cent (202,000) took place in sub-Saharan Africa.

ENVIRONMENT

Tibetan Brown Bear

- ❖ India has recorded its first-ever confirmed record of a rare Tibetan Brown Bear.
- ❖ The bear was spotted in high altitudes of Northern Sikkim.
- ❖ The discovery adds a new subspecies to the mammal diversity of the country.
- ❖ An omnivore, it usually inhabits high-altitude alpine forests and meadows 4,000 metres and above from sea level.
- ❖ The Tibetan brown bear — sometimes also called the Tibetan blue bear — is an endangered species in the Himalayan.
- ❖ So far, the animal had been sighted in some parts of Nepal, Bhutan and the Tibetan plateau.

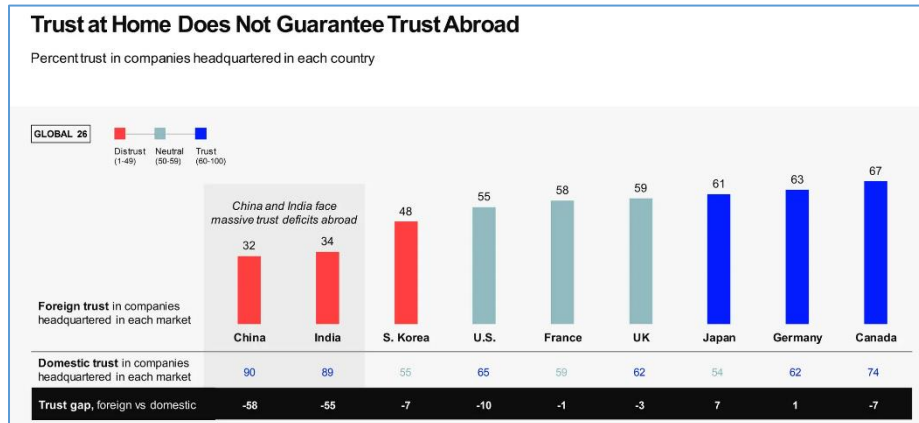


REPORTS AND INDICES

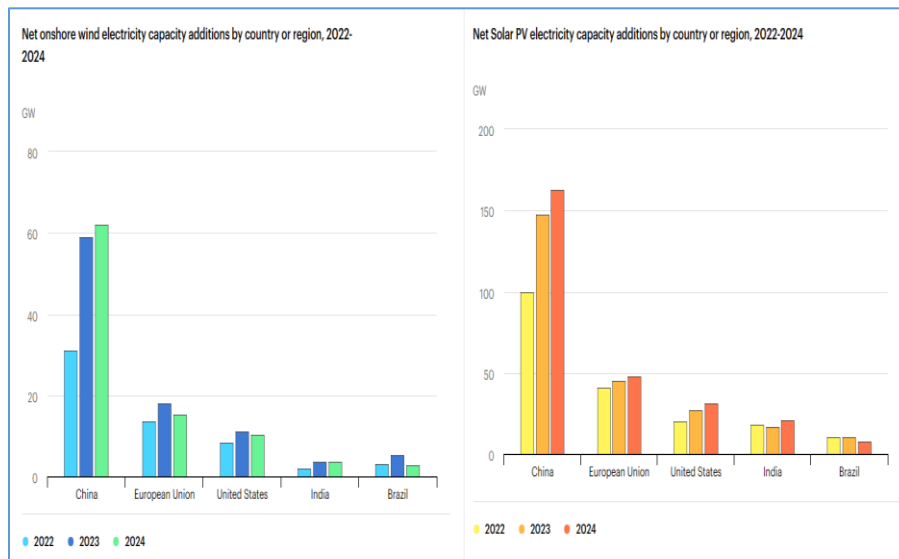
Edelman Trust Barometer 2024

- ❖ India tops the charts in terms of trust in businesses and NGOs.
- ❖ But it is fourth in terms of trust in media and fifth for the government.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia on the top for trust shown by their people in the government and China for trust in media.

- ❖ In terms of trust shown in one's employer, Indonesia emerged at the top followed by India at the second place.
- ❖ The UK replaced South Korea as the least trusted nation.
- ❖ 61% globally worry about government leaders deliberately spreading false information.



IEA renewables 2023 report

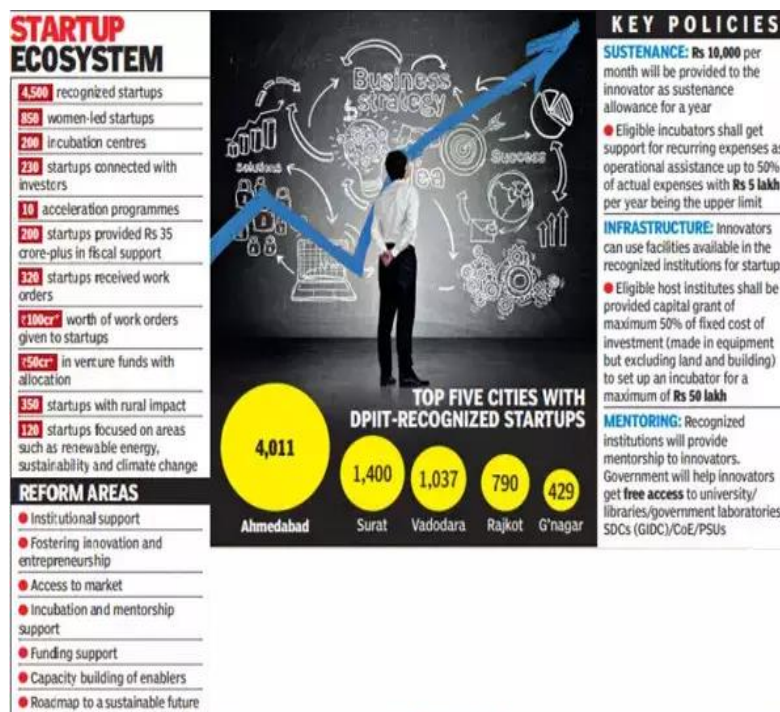


- ❖ Renewable electricity capacity additions soared globally in 2023, reaching an estimated 507 GW.
- ❖ This marked a nearly 50% increase from the previous year.
- ❖ Global renewable capacity is forecast to reach 7300 GW by 2028.
- ❖ In 2024, variable renewable generation is expected to exceed hydropower.
- ❖ By 2025, renewables are projected to outpace coal-fired electricity generation.

- ❖ Additionally, in 2025, wind energy is likely to surpass nuclear electricity generation.
- ❖ In 2026, solar is expected to surpass nuclear electricity generation
- ❖ Finally, by 2028, solar is projected to exceed wind electricity generation.
- ❖ In 2028, renewable energy sources could account for 42% of global electricity generation, with the wind and solar share making up 25%.
- ❖ India is anticipated to account for half of the region's growth, with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations contributing 14% and Japan 11%.
- ❖ India, in particular, is expected to add 205 GW of renewable capacity over 2023-2028.

STATES

Startup ecosystem



- ❖ Gujarat, Kerala and Karnataka have emerged as the best-performing States in developing startup ecosystems for budding entrepreneurs.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Telangana are also categorised as top performers.
- ❖ The States' startup ranking for 2022 was prepared by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

- ❖ A total of 33 States and UTs participated in the exercise.
- ❖ DPIIT ranked them under five categories -- best performers, top performers, leaders, aspiring leaders and emerging startup ecosystems.
- ❖ The rankings are based on the initiatives taken to develop the startup ecosystem for promoting budding entrepreneurs.

MISCELLANEOUS

3000-Year-Old City

- ❖ A huge city hidden by the luxuriant vegetation of the Amazon rainforest has been discovered in Ecuador.
- ❖ The houses and plazas in the ancient city in Upano valley were connected by a network of roads and canals.
- ❖ The area lies in the shadow of a volcano that created rich local soils.
- ❖ This is older than any other site we know in the Amazon.
- ❖ The city is between 3,000 and 1,500 years old - older than other pre-Columbian ones discovered in the Amazon.
- ❖ It also said that people lived there for up to 1,000 years.
- ❖ The discovery was made using LiDAR, a popular remote sensing method.
- ❖ It uses light to measure distances and is also known as laser scanning or 3D scanning.

