

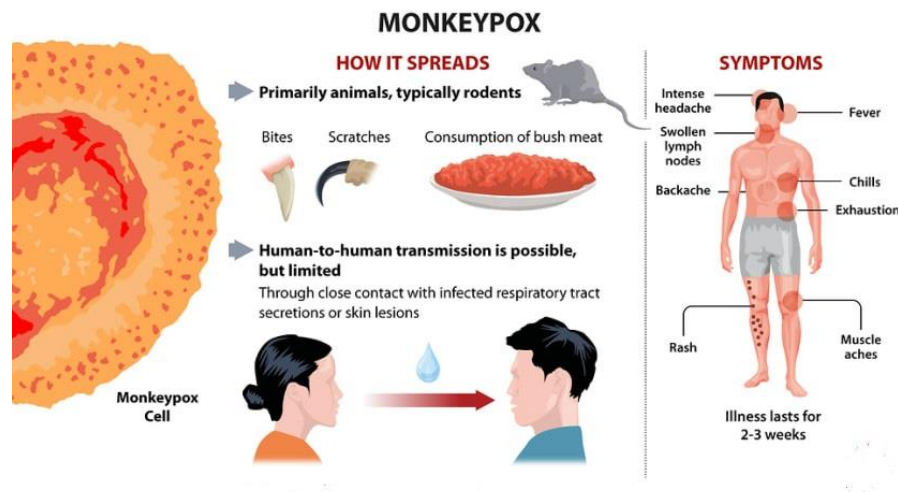
July - 16

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The former CPM MLA from Piravom M.J. Jacob (82) has won two bronze medals in the 200-meter hurdles and 80-meter hurdles competitions at the World Masters Athletics Championship 2022 held at Tampere, Finland.
- ❖ Prime Minister unveils the centenary memorial pillar of the Bihar Assembly building to mark the conclusion of the one-year centennial celebration of the state legislature building.
- ❖ The Union home minister Amit Shah virtually unveiled the 'Statue of Peace' of Swamy Ramanujacharya in Srinagar, located in a temple in the Sonwar region.
- ❖ Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Meenakshi Lekhi has launched a book 'Swadhinata Sangram Na Surviro' which celebrates 75 freedom fighters and shares the stories of the sacrifices made by them for the country

NATIONAL

First Monkeypox Case



- ❖ India confirmed its first monkeypox case in Kerala.
- ❖ A majority of these cases have been reported from the European region (86 per cent) and the Americas (11 per cent).
- ❖ Monkeypox is a viral zoonosis (a virus transmitted to humans from animals).
- ❖ Its symptoms are similar to those seen in the past in smallpox patients.

- ❖ With the eradication of smallpox in 1980 and the subsequent cessation of smallpox vaccination, monkeypox has emerged as the most important orthopoxvirus for public health.

Natural Farming Conclave



- ❖ The Natural Farming Conclave was organised in Surat, Gujarat.
- ❖ PM has asked at least 75 farmers from each village to switch to natural farming.
- ❖ Thus, under an initiative in Surat, 75 farmers were identified in every village panchayat and were trained to do natural farming.
- ❖ A Training was given in 90 different clusters.
- ❖ A total of 41000 farmers were trained across the district.
- ❖ Now, PM urged to adopt this “Surat Model of Natural farming” across India.

SVANidhi Mahotsav





- ❖ On the occasion of second anniversary of the Prime Minister Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme, the 'SVANidhi Mahotsav was launched.
- ❖ The festival will be organized in 75 cities across all states and Union Territories, and showcase various cultural activities, digital training activities and loan melas.
- ❖ It will also have functions for felicitation of distinguished Street vendors.

6th National Conclave on Mines and Minerals



- ❖ The 6th National Conclave on Mines & Minerals was held recently in New Delhi.
- ❖ The highlights of the conclave were
 - The launch of three modules of the Mining Tenement System (MTS).
 - Awards for 5-Star rated mines for the years 2020–21, and
 - The National Geo Science Awards–2019.

Global Gender Gap Index

- ❖ World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2022 was released recently.
- ❖ It ranks India 135 out of 146 countries.
- ❖ India ranks poorly among its neighbours and is behind Bangladesh (71), Nepal (96), Sri Lanka (110), Maldives (117) and Bhutan (126).
- ❖ Only the performance of Iran (143), Pakistan (145) and Afghanistan (146) was worse than India in South Asia.
- ❖ This report says that it will now take 132 years to reach gender parity.
- ❖ In 2021, India was ranked 140 out of 156 countries.
- ❖ India is the worst performer in the world in the "health and survival" sub-index in which it is ranked 146.

- ❖ Iceland is ranked 1 and Bangladesh is ranked 9 in Political Empowerment.
- ❖ India ranks 107th out of 146 in Educational Attainment.
- ❖ And its score has marginally worsened since last year.
- ❖ In 2021, India was ranked 114 out of 156.

The gender score | India ranked 135 in gender parity out of 146 countries, according to the Global Gender Gap Report 2022 released by the World Economic Forum. A look at India's ranking in the four sub-indexes based on which the overall ranking was determined

India	Rank 2022*
Global gender gap index	135
Economic participation and opportunity	143
Educational attainment	107
Health and survival	146
Political empowerment	48



*out of 146 countries

Dragon Fruit Cultivation

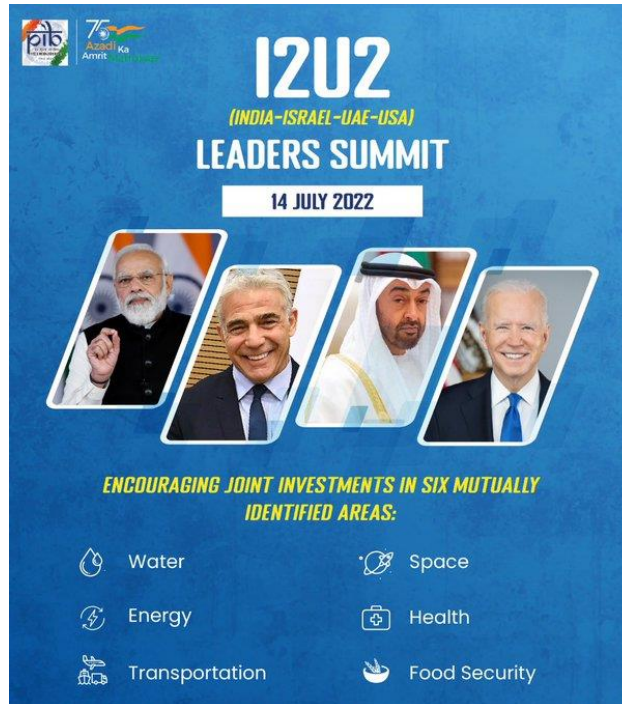
- ❖ The Centre has decided to promote the cultivation of dragon fruit, known as a “super fruit” for its health benefits.
- ❖ The Gujarat Government recently renamed dragon fruit as kamlam (lotus) and announced an incentive for farmers who cultivate it.
- ❖ The Haryana Government also provides a grant for farmers who are ready to plant this exotic fruit variety.
- ❖ The fruit is usually grown in Thailand, Sri Lanka, Israel, and Vietnam.
- ❖ But is now slowly gaining traction in India.

INTERNATIONAL

I2U2 Leader's Summit 2022

- ❖ Indian Prime Minister participated in the first I2U2 Leaders' Summit.

- ❖ The I2U2 group is being projected as the QUAD grouping for West Asia.
- ❖ The grouping was proposed with the aim of encouraging investments in six mutually identified areas including water, food security, energy, health, transportation and space.
- ❖ An agricultural park project worth USD 2 billion was announced during the Summit.
- ❖ The project will be partly funded by the UAE with support from US private sector and technical expertise will be provided by Israel.



ENVIRONMENT

Introduction of Red Pandas

- ❖ Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park of West Bengal has started a programme to release 20 Red Pandas in about five years to the forests.
- ❖ The Singalila National Park, the highest protected area in West Bengal, will soon get new denizens.
- ❖ It is located at the Singalila Ridge in Darjeeling district of West Bengal.
- ❖ In 1994, it was declared a major wild habitat for red pandas.
- ❖ Two species of Panda are found worldwide, namely, Giant Pandas and Red Pandas.
- ❖ They are also regarded as an indicator species for ecological change.

- ❖ In India, two subspecies of Panda are found viz, Himalayan red panda and Chinese red panda.
- ❖ Red panda is endemic to the forests of India, Bhutan, Nepal, north Myanmar and south China.
- ❖ Red Pandas are categorized in “Endangered” category of IUCN Red list.
- ❖ Giant Pandas are Vulnerable in IUCN Red List.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Mrs Universe



- ❖ India’s Pallavi Singh has won the Mrs Universe Divine Title at the finals held at Yeosu City, South Korea.

- ❖ She won the title of Mrs India held in Jaipur in 2020.
- ❖ She then won the title of Mrs Indo-Asia Universe in the Asia-level competition held in Delhi in 2021.

MISCELLANEOUS

World's Greatest Places of 2022



- ❖ “50 extraordinary destinations to explore” this year was released by TIME Magazine.
- ❖ Kerala and Ahmedabad, were the two Indian entries into the list of the world’s greatest places of 2022.
- ❖ Kerala is one of India's most beautiful states, with spectacular beaches and lush backwaters, temples, and palaces.
- ❖ As India's first UNESCO World Heritage City, Ahmedabad boasts both ancient landmarks and contemporary innovations that make it a mecca for cultural tourism.

