

July - 16

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ S. Rajasekaran, from Coimbatore, was presented with the Sir J.C. Bose Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contributions to research in spinal diseases.
- ❖ The Chief election commissioner participated with the executive board members of the Association of World Election Bodies (A- WEB) at the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the member countries held in Cartagena, Colombia.
  - A-WEB has 119 Bodies as members & 20 regional associations/organisations as associate members.
- ❖ The government extended the tenure of Brajendra Navnit as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- ❖ Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, has won the Insurer Innovation Award 2023 for the APAC region at the World's Digital Insurance Awards.
- ❖ International Telecommunication Union convened AI for Good Global Summit took place in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ India celebrates the National Day of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery every July 15.
- ❖ July 15, birth anniversary of former Chief Minister Kamarajar, is observed as Education Development Day in Tamil Nadu schools.

## TAMIL NADU

### First flying training school



- ❖ India now has 36 DGCA-approved flying schools.

- ❖ The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) gave its nod to EKVI Air Training Organization Pvt Ltd.
- ❖ It will be based at Salem Airport.
- ❖ This will be the first flying training organisation (FTO) in Tamil Nadu.

## INTERNATIONAL

### World's most powerful military

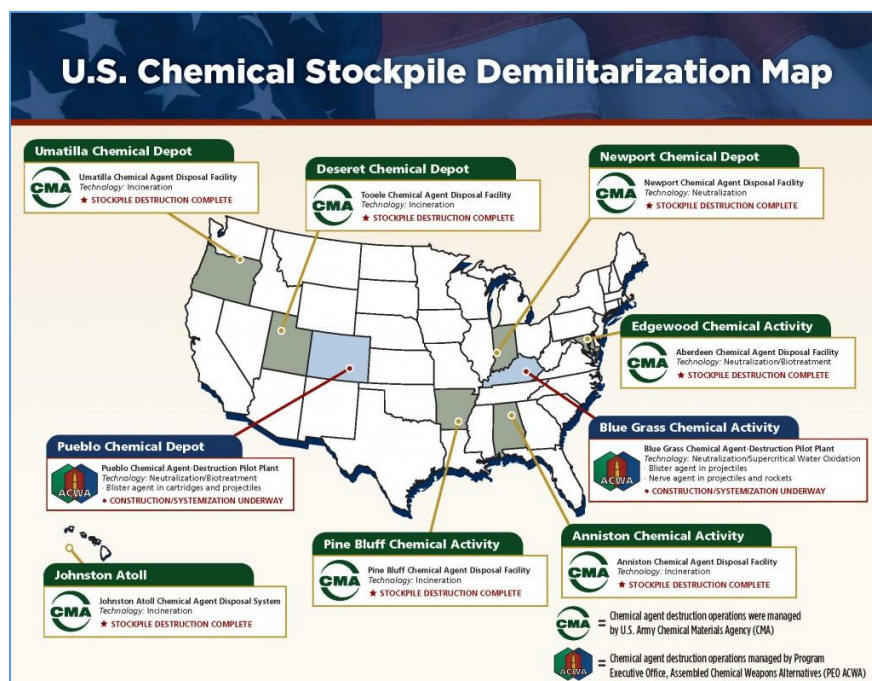


- ❖ According to Global Firepower, the United States possesses the most powerful military force worldwide.
- ❖ Russia and China follow closely in second and third place, respectively.
- ❖ While India secures the fourth position.
- ❖ The report lists 145 countries and also compares each nation's year-on-year ranking changes.
- ❖ The top four nations remain as they were in the 2022 Global Firepower list.
- ❖ Pakistan has entered the top 10, securing the seventh spot.

### U.S chemical weapons

- ❖ The United States has destroyed the last of its declared chemical weapons stockpile.

- ❖ Chemical weapons were first used in modern warfare in World War I.
- ❖ They were estimated to have killed at least 100,000 people.
- ❖ Nearly 800,000 chemical munitions containing mustard agent were stored since the 1950s.
- ❖ The US faced a September 30 deadline to eliminate its remaining chemical weapons under the international Chemical Weapons Convention.
- ❖ This Convention took effect in 1997 and was joined by 193 countries.
- ❖ Only three countries - Egypt, North Korea and South Sudan have not signed the treaty.
- ❖ A fourth, Israel, has signed but not ratified the treaty.










## ECONOMY

### Highlights of the 50th GST Council Meeting

- ❖ The 50<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the GST Council took place in New Delhi.
- ❖ It decided to reduce the GST rate on uncooked/unfried snack pellets to 5%.
- ❖ The Council has exempted IGST on medicines and Food for Special Medical Purposes (FSMP) when imported for personal use.
- ❖ To encourage better utilization of LD slag, the GST rate on LD slag has been reduced from 18% to 5%.

- ❖ Casinos, horse racing and online gaming will be taxed at a uniform rate of 28%.
- ❖ The Council recommends extending the GST exemption on satellite launch services supplied by ISRO.
- ❖ Food and beverages sold at the cinemas to get covered under 'restaurant service', liable to 5% GST.
- ❖ Fish soluble paste reduced from 18% to 5%.
- ❖ Imitation Zari threads/yarn reduced from 12% to 5%.

<h2 style="text-align: center;">Know the Key Highlights of the 50th GST Council Meeting</h2>		
 <b>Cancer related drugs to be exempted from GST</b>	 <b>Reduction of GST Rates on certain items</b>	 <b>Reduction of GST Rates on food served in cinema halls</b>
 <b>Levy of GST on online games</b>	 <b>GST exemption on satellite launching services</b>	 <b>Taxability of services by the director of the company</b>
 <b>Continuation of Relaxations in Form GSTR-9 &amp; GSTR-9C</b>		

### Trade in Indian rupee

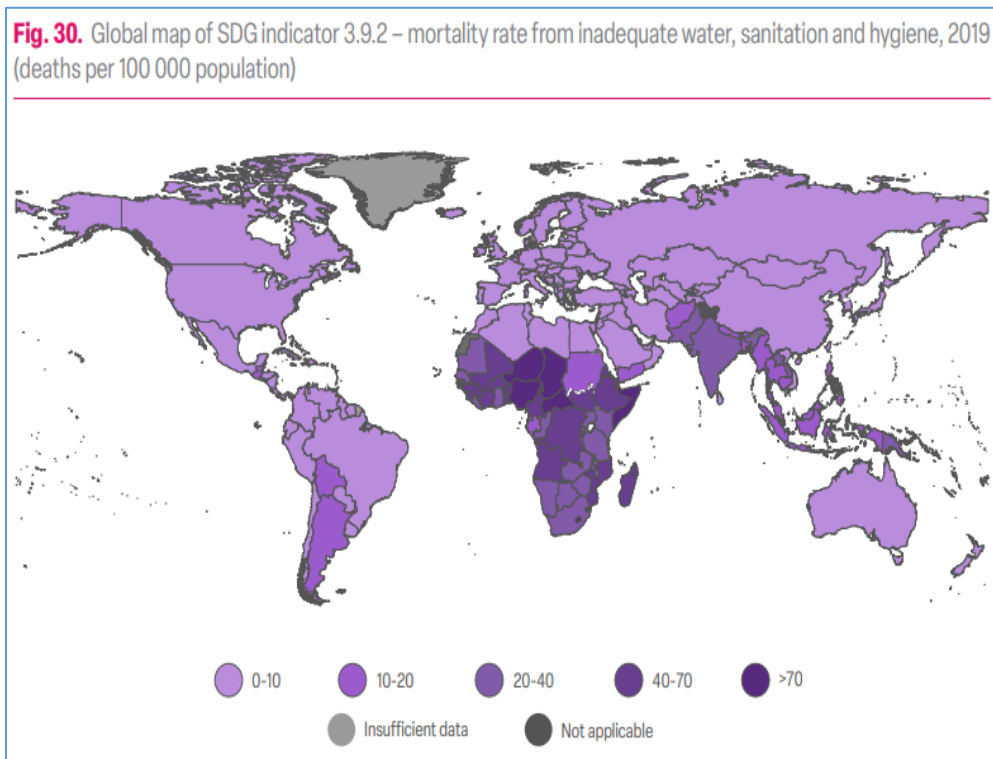


- ❖ Bangladesh and India launched a much-anticipated trade transaction in rupees.

- ❖ This move is aimed at reducing dependence on the US dollar and strengthening regional currency and trade.
- ❖ This is the first time Bangladesh has done bilateral trade with a foreign country in addition to the US dollar.
- ❖ The exports from Bangladesh to India amounts to USD 2 billion.
- ❖ Bangladesh's imports from Dhaka to India are worth USD 13.69 billion.
- ❖ Earlier India and Malaysia have agreed to settle trade in the Indian rupees.
- ❖ India-Malaysia bilateral trade touched \$19.4 billion during 2021-22.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Report on unsafe drinking water

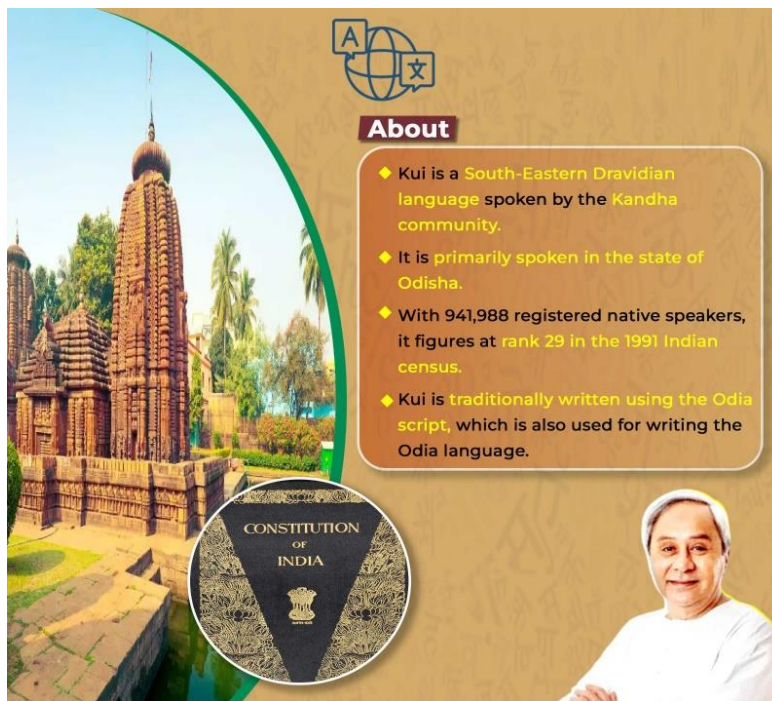


- ❖ The report named, Burden of disease attributable to unsafe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene: 2019 update, was released recently by the WHO.
- ❖ Half of the world's population still does not have adequate access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene.
- ❖ It caused the death of at least 1.4 million people and 74 million disability-adjusted life years (DALY) in 2019.

- ❖ Globally, 771 million people lack access to safe water and 1.7 billion people don't have a toilet.
- ❖ Unsafe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) were responsible for 395,000 deaths among children under five years of age.
- ❖ This includes 273,000 deaths from diarrhoea and 112,000 deaths from acute respiratory infections.
- ❖ Soil-transmitted helminthiases affect an estimated 1.5 billion people or 24 per cent of the world's population.
- ❖ Diarrhoeal diseases accounted for the majority of the attributable burden with more than a million deaths and 55 million DALYs.
- ❖ Acute respiratory infections identified as the second-largest contributor, with 356,000 deaths and 17 million DALYs.
- ❖ 10 per cent of the burden of undernutrition — Protein-energy malnutrition (PEM) representing a total of 8,000 deaths and 825,000 DALYs in this age group.
- ❖ Almost 384,000 diarrhoea deaths and 20 million DALYs in 2019

## STATES

### Kui language



**About**

- ◆ Kui is a South-Eastern Dravidian language spoken by the Kandha community.
- ◆ It is primarily spoken in the state of Odisha.
- ◆ With 941,988 registered native speakers, it figures at rank 29 in the 1991 Indian census.
- ◆ Kui is traditionally written using the Odia script, which is also used for writing the Odia language.

- ❖ The Odisha state cabinet approved a proposal to recommend the inclusion of the Kui language in the eighth schedule of the Constitution of India.



- ❖ Inclusion of Kui in the eighth schedule will help in the preservation, promotion and propagation of the language and culture.
- ❖ Kui (Kandh, Khondi, Khond, Khondo) is a South-Eastern Dravidian language spoken by the Kandha community.
- ❖ It is traditionally written using the Odia script, which is also used for writing the Odia language.

## SPORTS

### World Archery Youth Championships 2023

- ❖ India won 11 medals at the World Archery Youth Championships 2023 in Limerick, Ireland.
- ❖ A total of 11 includes six golds, one silver and four bronzes.
- ❖ Six were bagged in the U21 category - four gold and two bronze.
- ❖ The remaining five medals were claimed in the U21 category - two gold, one silver and two bronze.
- ❖ It finished second behind Korea, which collected six golds and four silvers.

Archer	Event	Medal
Priyansh	Compound men's individual	Gold
Parth Salunkhe	Recurve men's individual	Gold
Avneet Kaur and Priyansh	Compound mixed team	Gold
Avneet Kaur, Parneet Kaur and Pragati	Compound women's team	Gold
Parth Salunkhe and Ridhi	Recurve mixed team	Bronze
Bhajan Kaur	Recurve women's individual	Bronze

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Youth Skills Day 2023 - July 15

- ❖ It aims to spread awareness about technical, and vocational education training, and the development of other skills relevant to both local and global economies.
- ❖ The Skill India Mission was also launched on this day in 2015.

- ❖ The theme for 2023 is 'Skilling teachers, trainers and youth for a transformative future'.

