

July - 17

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tata Technologies, a Tata Motor subsidiary, inaugurated 22 industry 4.0 technology centres across Tamil Nadu to upskill youth on latest manufacturing technologies.
- ❖ The Bombay Stock Exchange, Asia's oldest stock exchange, launched a new logo on its 149th foundation day (July 10, 2023).
- ❖ The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved the procurement of 26 Rafale-M fighters to operate off the aircraft carriers and three additional Scorpene-class diesel-electric submarines from France.
- ❖ The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced equal prize money for men's and women's teams at ICC events.
- ❖ India collected Rs 1.61 lakh crore Goods and Services Tax (GST) for the month of June 2023.
 - Gross GST collection crosses ₹1.6 lakh crore mark for fourth time since inception of GST.

TAMIL NADU

Clay doll at Vembakottai



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA) recently found a clay doll at the Vembakottai excavation site in Virudhunagar district.
- ❖ It is a clay doll of a male figure which was painted with black color.
- ❖ The headdress and the lip smile are polished.

- ❖ The eyes and their blows are drawn in the shape of a kayal.
- ❖ The second phase of archaeological excavation in Vembakottai has led to the discovery of over 800 artefacts.
- ❖ It includes terracotta era lobes, smoking pipe, spindle whorl, copper coin and glass beads.

Tamil translations of Homer's Greek epics

- ❖ The Tamil translations of The Iliad and The Odyssey, the two Greek epics of Homer, were released recently.
- ❖ It was part of the project, launched by Chief Minister, to translate and publish international classics into Tamil.
- ❖ The International Institute of Tamil Studies is in charge of the project.
- ❖ Professor Marudanayagam has rendered The Iliad into Tamil in prose form.
- ❖ Pon Chinnathambi Murugesan, a former government employee at the Secretariat, has translated The Odyssey into Tamil in verse form.
- ❖ Mr. Murugesan earlier translated Tao of Physics by Fritjof Capra, The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho, Roots by Alex Haley and The Travels of Marco Polo.



NATIONAL

25 years of strategic partnerships with France

- ❖ Prime Minister made a visit to France as the Guest of Honour for the Bastille Day celebrations.

- ❖ The visit also marks 25 years of the strategic partnership between France and India.
- ❖ France was the first country to recognise the strategic importance of India after the nuclear tests in 1998.
- ❖ France has emerged as a key trading partner of India with annual trade of \$12.42 billion in 2021-22.
- ❖ France is the 11th largest foreign investor in India with 1.7% of the total foreign direct investment inflows into India.
- ❖ France has become the second largest defence supplier in 2017- 2021.
- ❖ In 2018, leaders of both countries welcomed the “Joint Strategic Vision of India-France Cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region”.
- ❖ The French Scorpene submarines was built in India under technology transfer agreement of 2005.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force have received 36 Rafale fighter jets.
- ❖ The Tata group has also tied up with Airbus to manufacture C-295 tactical transport aircraft in Vadodara, Gujarat.



INTERNATIONAL

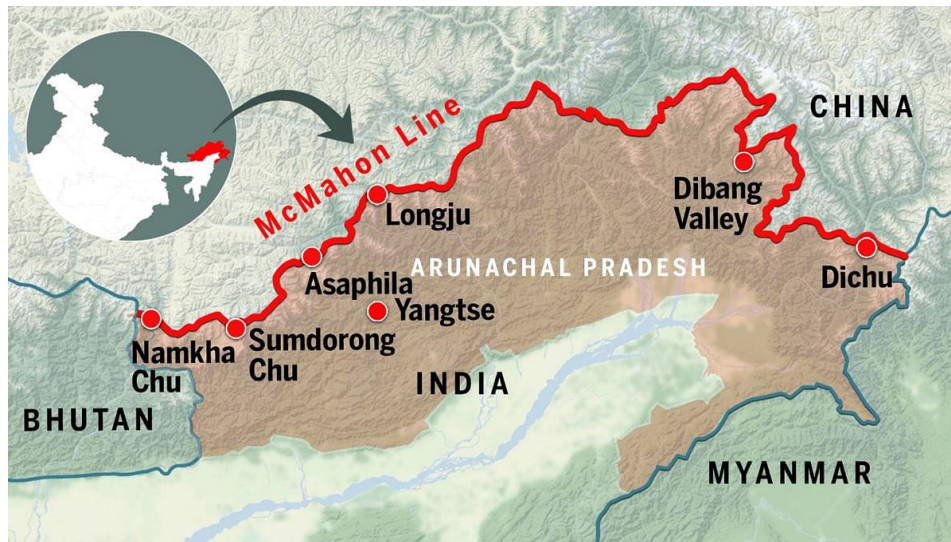
Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering

- ❖ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has become the first Arab country to be granted observer status of the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG).
- ❖ APG is an inter-governmental organization that has 41 members.

- ❖ It was founded in 1997 and part of the global network of similar Financial Action Task Force-Style Regional Bodies.
- ❖ It is the largest in terms of membership numbers and geographical size.



U.S. Senate Committee's Resolution on Arunachal Pradesh



- ❖ U.S Congressional Senatorial Committee has passed a resolution recognising Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of India.
- ❖ The resolution reaffirms that the United States recognises the McMahon Line as the international boundary between China and the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ It pushes back against Chinese claims that large portions of Arunachal Pradesh are PRC territory.
- ❖ The resolution will now go to the Senate floor for a full vote.
- ❖ China refers to Arunachal Pradesh as Zangnan.

- ❖ Beijing claims Arunachal Pradesh as South Tibet.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Zhuque-2 carrier rocket

- ❖ A private Chinese company has launched the world's first methane-liquid oxygen space rocket named Zhuque-2 into orbit.
- ❖ The launch was the second attempt by Beijing-based firm LandSpace.
- ❖ The first launch attempt of the Zhuque-2 in December had failed.

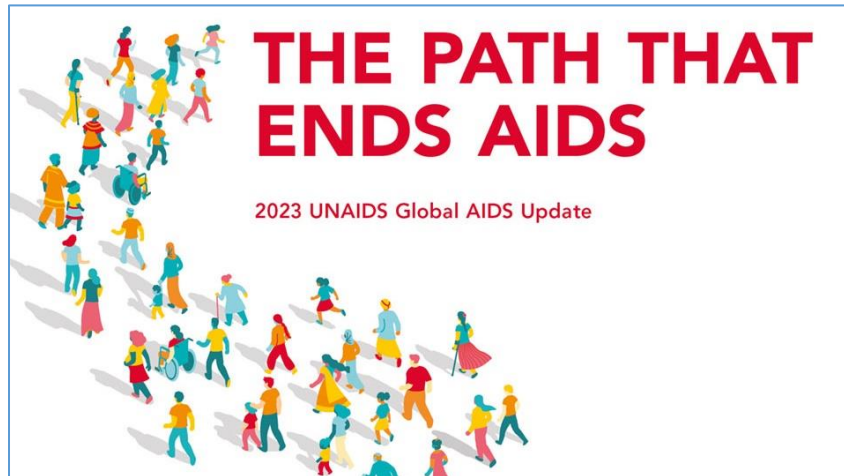


REPORTS AND INDICES

Global AIDS Update Report 2023

- ❖ HIV remains a major global public health issue, having claimed 40.4 million [32.9–51.3 million] lives so far.
- ❖ There were an estimated 39.0 million [33.1–45.7 million] people living with HIV at the end of 2022.
- ❖ Two thirds of whom (25.6 million) are in the WHO African Region.
- ❖ In 2022, 6,30,000 [4,80,000–8,80,000] people died from HIV-related causes.
- ❖ 1.3 million [1.0–1.7 million] people acquired HIV during the same period.
- ❖ WHO, the Global Fund and UNAIDS all have global HIV strategies that are aligned with the SDG target 3.3 of ending the HIV epidemic by 2030.

- ❖ By 2025, as per the 95:95:95 strategy
 - 95% of all people living with HIV (PLHIV) should have a diagnosis,
 - 95% of those should be taking lifesaving antiretroviral treatment (ART) and
 - 95% of PLHIV on treatment should achieve a suppressed viral load for the benefit of the person's health and for reducing onward HIV transmission.
- ❖ In 2022, these percentages were 86(%) [73→98%], 89(%) [75→98%] and 93(%) [79→98%], respectively.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour

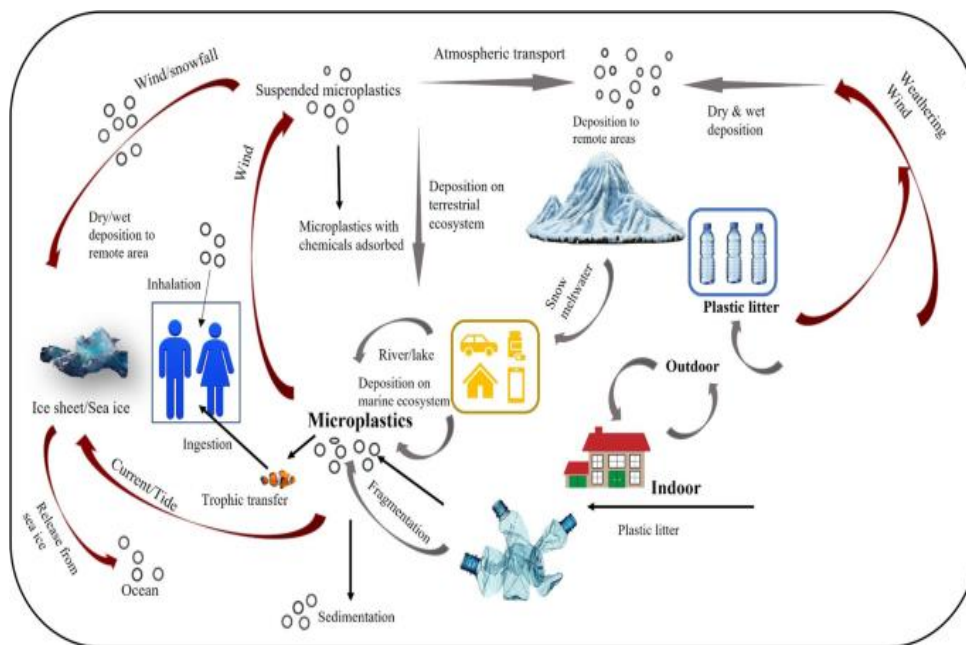


- ❖ The Indian Prime Minister was conferred with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, France's highest award.

- ❖ The Legion of Honour is the highest French decoration given to the most deserving citizens in all fields of activity.
- ❖ It has been conferred to prominent personalities for two centuries.
- ❖ It was established by former French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802.
- ❖ The Legion of Honour is divided into five degrees (lower to higher) – Knight, Officer, Commander, Grand Officer and Grand Cross.
- ❖ The PM was awarded the fifth honour.
- ❖ Other personalities who received this honour include Nelson Mandela, King Charles, Angela Merkel, and Former UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

MISCELLANEOUS

Impact of Microplastics and Nano plastics



- ❖ The FAO released a report on Impact of Microplastics and Nano plastics on Human Health.
- ❖ Microplastics has led to intestinal inflammation and gut dysbiosis — changes in the gut microbiome and microbiota.
- ❖ The findings stood true for aquatic species and rodents as well.
- ❖ They are known to affect larger soil microorganisms and penetrate the entire food web.



- ❖ They have eventually deposited in human lung tissue, placenta, stool, blood and meconium.
- ❖ Size of Microplastics (0.1 to 5 000 μm) and nano plastics (0.001 to 0.1 μm).

