

July - 18

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Government has now launched the Open Acreage Licensing Programme Bid Round-VIII, offering 10 oil blocks, for International Competitive Bidding.
- ❖ Abhishek Verma, and Jyothi Surekha Vennam took home bronze at the World Archery Games 2022 in Birmingham, USA.
- ❖ The Western Railway opened longest skywalk (314m) from the Khar Road railway station to the nearby Bandra Terminus at Mumbai.
- ❖ International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has appointed Spain's Alvaro Lario as new President for four-year term.
- ❖ Monty Norman, a British composer who wrote the theme tune for the James Bond films, has passed away recently.
- ❖ The first elevated urban expressway in India, Dwarka Expressway connecting Delhi to Haryana, will be operational in 2023.

## NATIONAL

### Longest double-decker bridge

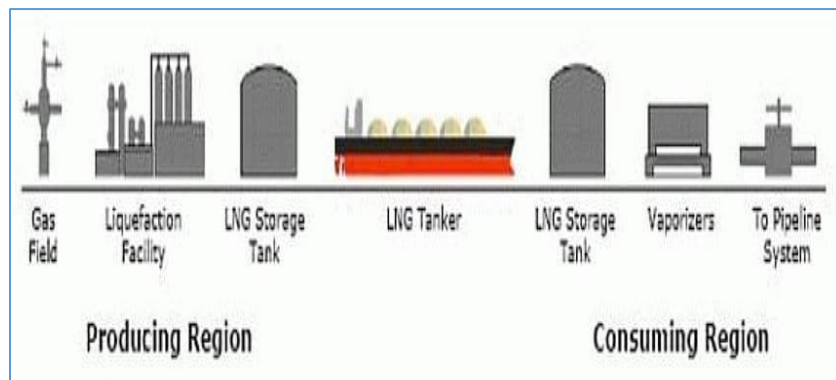


- ❖ The National Highways Authority of India and Maharashtra Metro achieved the world record for constructing the longest double-decker bridge.

- ❖ It has a length of 3.14 km in Nagpur.
- ❖ The maximum metro stations constructed on a double-decker flyover are recognized by the Asia Book of Records & India Book of Records.

### **First floating LNG terminal**

- ❖ India's First floating terminal of India for liquefied natural gas (LNG) is to be operationalised at Jaigarh in Maharashtra.
- ❖ Another floating terminal at Jafrabad in Gujarat will also begin operations in this year.
- ❖ Both are expected to add 11 million tonnes per annum of regasification capacity.



## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **10<sup>th</sup> World Peace Forum**



- ❖ Tenth World Peace Forum 2022 was organized by Tsinghua University in Beijing, China.

- ❖ As a part of the World Peace Forum, panel discussion on “BRICS Cooperation: Opportunities and Challenges” was held.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### ALH Squadron INAS 324

- ❖ Indian Naval Air Squadron 324 (INAS 324) was commissioned into the Indian Navy at INS Dega in Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ This is the first Naval Squadron on the Eastern Seaboard operating the indigenously designed and built Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK III (MR) helicopters.
- ❖ The first ALH Squadron INAS 324 has been named “KESTRELS”.
- ❖ It has good sensory capabilities.
- ❖ It symbolizes the envisaged role of the Aircraft and the Air Squadron.

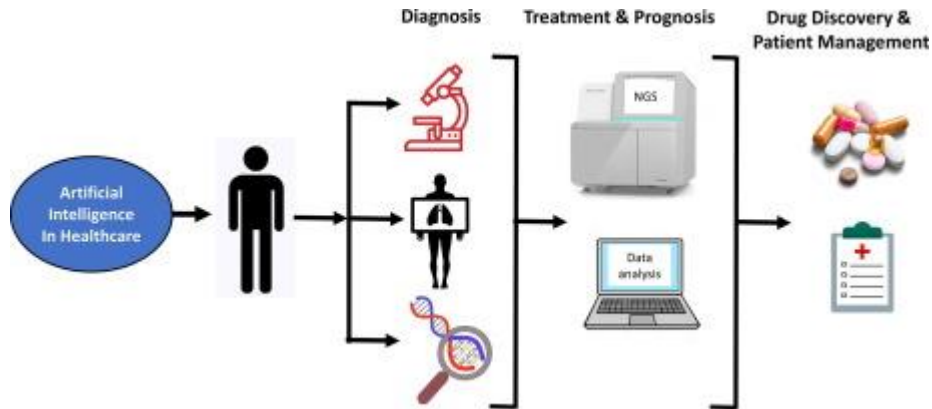


### AI-based tool to detect Cancer

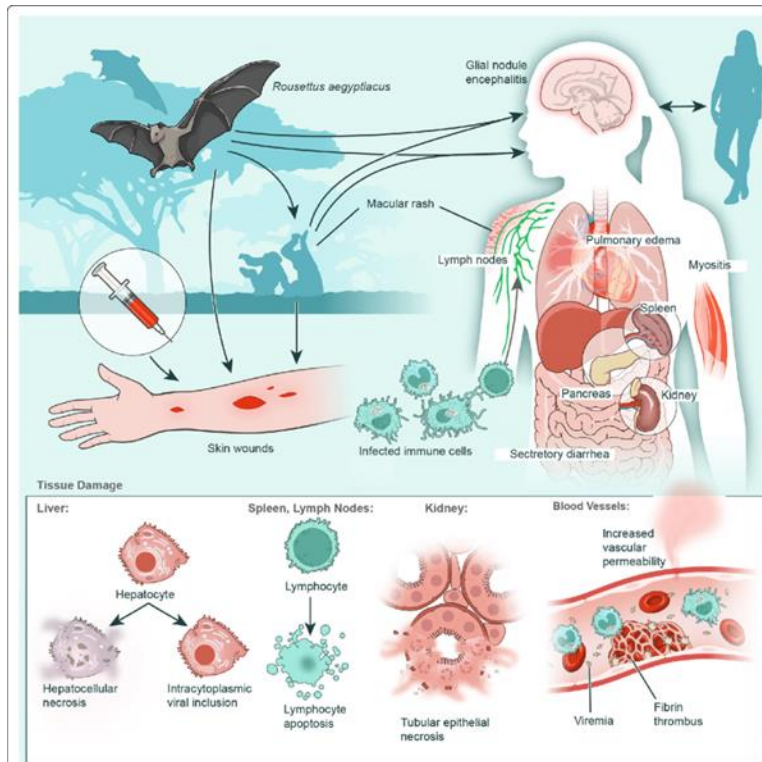
- ❖ An Artificial Intelligence-based tool called ‘PIVOT’ has been developed by IIT Madras.
- ❖ PIVOT is capable of predicting cancer-causing genes in patients.
- ❖ This AI-based tool will help in formulating strategies for personalized cancer treatment.
- ❖ It has been designed to predict genes which are responsible for causing cancer.



- ❖ It uses different data, including mutation & gene expression, to foresee the cancer-causing genes.



## Marburg virus Disease



- ❖ Two suspected cases of Marburg virus disease were reported in Ghana recently.
- ❖ The Marburg Virus disease is an infectious haemorrhagic fever.
- ❖ It belongs to same family as Ebola.
- ❖ The virus is transmitted to people via fruit bats.
- ❖ People to people transmission also takes place.

- ❖ It spreads through direct contact with bodily fluids of infected person or surfaces.
- ❖ It has an incubation period of 2-21 days.
- ❖ This disease is potentially very harmful and deadly.
- ❖ Fatality rates in previous outbreaks have ranged from 24% to 88%.

## ENVIRONMENT

### **Eoscansor cobrensis**

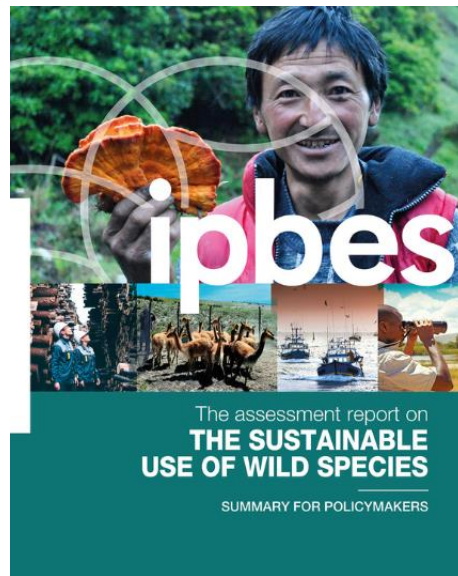
- ❖ New Fossil of Eoscansor cobrensis was discovered from New Mexico.
- ❖ Eoscansor cobrensis is a reptile, belonging to Pennsylvanian subperiod of Carboniferous period.
- ❖ It lived around 305 million years ago in area around present-day New Mexico.
- ❖ The species belongs to Varanopidae, which is an extinct family of reptiles.
- ❖ They were similar to monitor lizards.



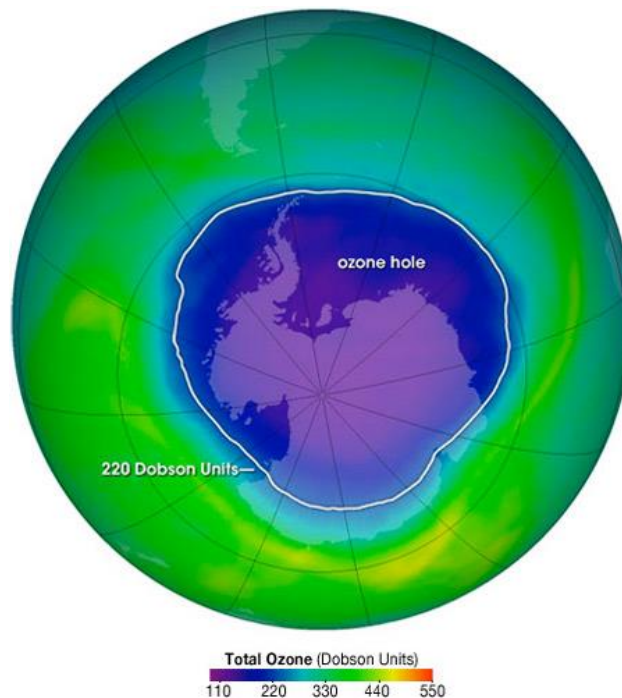
### **Sustainable Use of Wild Species**

- ❖ The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) released a report recently.
- ❖ This report has found that with the accelerating global biodiversity crisis, a million species of plants and animals are facing extinction.
- ❖ The assessment shortlisted five categories of practices used for wild species - Fishing, Gathering, Logging, Terrestrial animal harvesting.
- ❖ About 70% of the world's poor population is directly dependent on wild species.

- ❖ 20% source their food from wild plants, algae and fungi.
- ❖ About 34% of marine wild fish stocks are overfished and 66% are fished within biologically sustainable levels.
- ❖ The survival of an estimated 12% of wild tree species is threatened by unsustainable logging.
- ❖ Illegal trade in wild species represents the third largest class of all illegal trade.



## Ozone Hole 2022



- ❖ The scientists discovered a new large ozone hole in the lower stratosphere.
- ❖ It is seven times larger than the one over Antarctica.
- ❖ The new ozone hole was discovered over the tropics.
- ❖ This is the area between the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn.
- ❖ It has reportedly been there for over 30 years.
- ❖ The Ozone layer is a gas layer in the Earth's stratosphere
- ❖ That envelops the planet and protects it from the Sun's harmful ultraviolet rays.
- ❖ It is generally found in the lower portion of the stratosphere, about 15-35 kilometres above Earth.

## STATES

### NEP Implementation



- ❖ Uttarakhand has become the first state in the country to initiate the process of implementing the Centre's New Education Policy.
- ❖ The implementation of the New Education Policy marks the beginning of culture-based education in the country.
- ❖ It is focusing on the overall personality development of students.

### 13 expressways in UP

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh become the first state to have 13 expressways.



- ❖ Six of the 13 expressways totaling 3200 km are in use while the other seven are under construction.

### "Right To Health" bill

<b>PROBLEMS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF RIGHT TO HEALTH ACT</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Rajasthan is the biggest state of the country and many of its hamlets are not connected with proper roads. Ferrying patients to hospitals can be a problem</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Sanctioned posts of doctors have not been increased for a long time even as number of patients have increased manifold</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ For successful implementation of Right to Health Act, posts of doctors should be occupied. But, in the state, at least 20% of the doctors' posts are vacant</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Machines for diagnosis and medical equipment are out of order</li><li>➤ Implementation will need excessive budget</li></ul>

- ❖ Rajasthan government will enact a law on "right to health".
- ❖ This will be the "first of its kind in India".
- ❖ It aims to commit to quality and affordable health care services through government and private health care providers.

### India's biggest shopping festival

- ❖ Delhi will host its first ever government-backed shopping festival from January 2023.
- ❖ The festival will have 200 concerts for entertainment, food walks and will also offer huge discounts on products.
- ❖ This will be the biggest ever shopping festival in India.

## SPORTS

### Asian U-20 Wrestling Championships

- ❖ The Indian team won as many as 22 medals in Asian U-20 Wrestling Championships, held at Manama, Bahrain.
- ❖ It won 4 gold medals, 9 silver and 9 bronze medals.





❖ It includes both the men's and women's wrestling.



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