

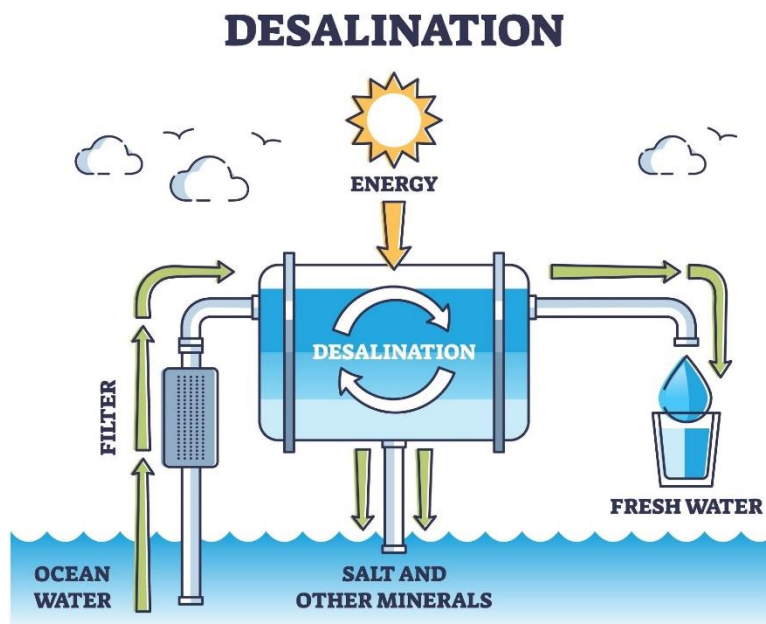
July - 26

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Kotak Mahindra Bank has completed its technical integration with the Income Tax department's e-filing portal.
  - This will allow the customers of Kotak Mahindra Bank to pay their direct taxes online through the e-pay tax page of the portal.
- ❖ EU gives Croatia final approval to adopt euro currency in 2023.
  - Thus, Croatia will become the 20<sup>th</sup> country to join the eurozone on January 1, 2023.

## NATIONAL

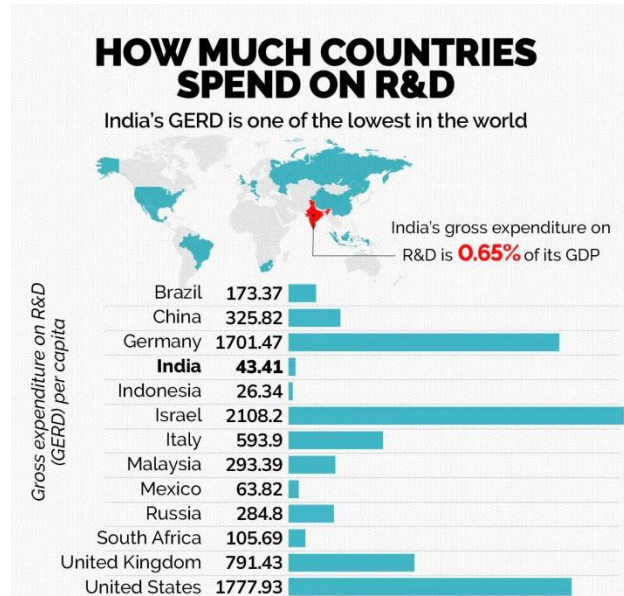
### Low Temperature Thermal Desalination



- ❖ A Desalination Plant has been developed by National Institute of Ocean Technology of Chennai.
- ❖ It will convert the saline or saltish seawater into drinking water.
- ❖ This technology has been successfully demonstrated in Lakshadweep islands.
- ❖ The Desalination Plant is based on Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) technology

- ❖ Three Plants have been installed and demonstrated at Kavaratti, Agati and Minicoy Islands of Lakshadweep.

## Study on India's R&D expenditures



- ❖ India Innovation Index was recently released by NITI Aayog.
- ❖ It is providing ranks to states and union territories based on their innovation performance.
- ❖ As per NITI Aayog's India Innovation Index 2021, gross expenditure on research and development in India is lowest in the world.
- ❖ India spends USD 43 per capita on R&D.
- ❖ Russia spends USD 285 per-capita, Brazil spends USD 173, while Malaysia spends USD 293.
- ❖ India's expenditure is lower as compared to Brazil (1.16%) and South Africa (0.83%).
- ❖ Only Mexico (0.31%) had a lower share of GERD as percentage of GDP, than India.

## INTERNATIONAL

### G-20 Foreign Ministers Meeting

- ❖ G-20 Foreign Ministers' meeting 2022 was hosted by Indonesia recently.

- ❖ They “deliberated on issues of contemporary relevance, such as-Strengthening multilateralism and Current global challenges including food and energy security”.
- ❖ India will assume the G20 Presidency for 2023.



## **ECONOMY**

### **Long-term resilient supply chains**

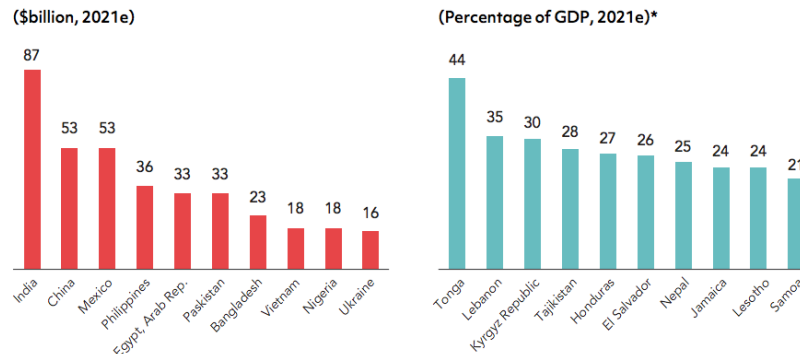
- ❖ A partnership of 18 economies has unveiled a four-point roadmap for building collective, long-term resilient supply chains.
- ❖ It is including steps to counter risks arising from supply dependencies and vulnerabilities.
- ❖ The countries include India, the US and the European Union (EU).

### **Digital Banks**

- ❖ NITI Aayog has released a Report titled 'Digital Banks: A Proposal for Licensing & Regulatory Regime for India'.
- ❖ It suggested setting up Digital Banks and a licensing and regulatory framework for such Banks.
- ❖ India has made rapid strides in furthering Financial Inclusion, catalysed by the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and India Stack.

- ❖ But credit penetration remains a policy challenge, especially for the nation's 63-million-odd MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises).

## Top remittance recipient – 2021



Source: World Bank-KNOMAD staff.

Note: \*Somalia and South Sudan are excluded due to data validity. GDP = gross domestic product; e = estimate.

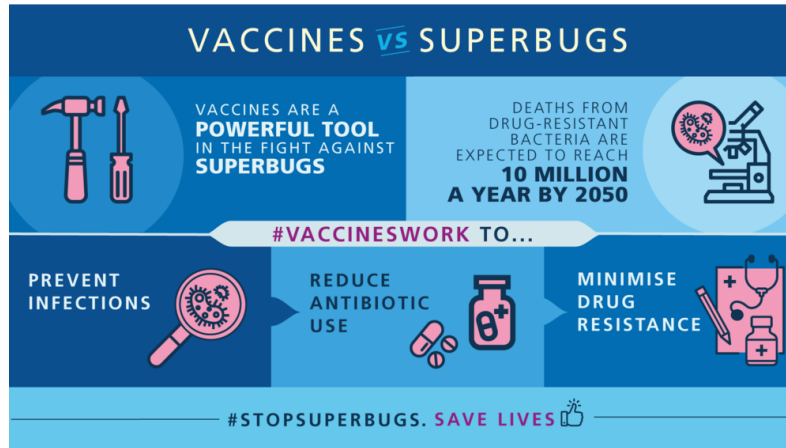
- ❖ The first WHO World report on the health of refugees and migrants released recently.
- ❖ As per the report, one in eight people in the world, around one billion, are migrants.
- ❖ With USD 87 billion, India was the top remittance recipient among low and middle-income countries.
- ❖ The top five remittance recipients in 2021 were India, China, Mexico, the Philippines and Egypt.
- ❖ The United States was the largest source country for remittances in 2020,
- ❖ It is followed by the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Switzerland.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Antimicrobial resistance vaccines

- ❖ The WHO released the first-ever report on the pipeline of the vaccines currently developing to prevent infections by AMR bacterial pathogens.
- ❖ Resistant-bacterial infections are associated with nearly 4.95 million deaths per year.
- ❖ In that, 1.27 million deaths are directly attributed to AMR.
- ❖ There are already vaccines available against four priority bacterial pathogens:
  - Pneumococcal disease (*Streptococcus pneumoniae*),
  - Hib (*Haemophilus influenzae* type b)

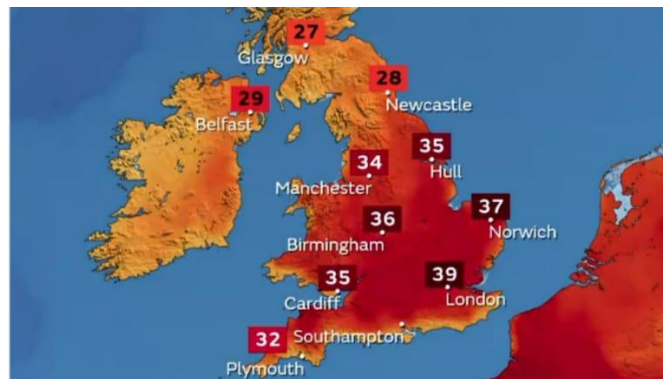
- Tuberculosis (mycobacterium tuberculosis) and
- Typhoid fever (Salmonella Typhi).
- ❖ Except TB vaccine, the remaining three vaccines are effective.



## ENVIRONMENT

### First-ever red weather warning

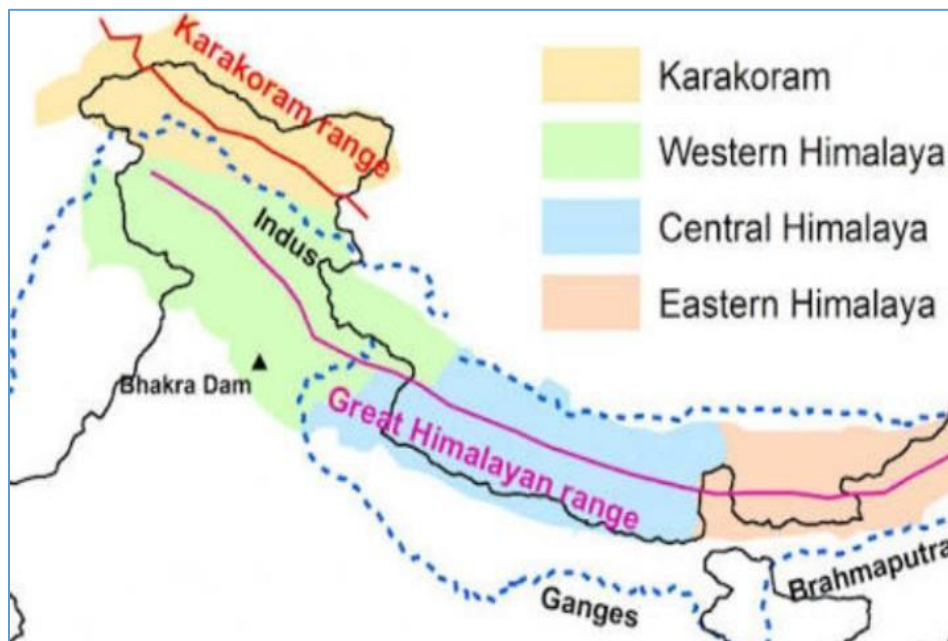
- ❖ The UK's Meteorological Office issued a first-ever red extreme heat warning for parts of England, including London.
- ❖ A red warning is the highest alert used by the Met Office under its alert system.
- ❖ It means a risk to life is likely as temperatures could hit 40 degrees Celsius.
- ❖ The hot weather is being treated as a national emergency with contingency plans in place



### Karakoram Anomaly

- ❖ Large number of glaciers are melting and are decreasing around the world.

- ❖ But the glaciers of central Karakoram in Himalaya have surprisingly remained unchanged or slightly increased in the last few decades.
- ❖ This phenomenon has been puzzling glaciologists and providing climate deniers with a very rare straw to clutch at.
- ❖ This is peculiar because the behaviour seems to be confined to a very small region.
- ❖ Kunlun ranges is being another example of showing similar trends in the whole of Himalaya.
- ❖ Recent studies revealed that western disturbance has been instrumental in triggering and sustaining the Karakoram Anomaly since the advent of the 21st century.



## STATES

### **e-FIR system**

- ❖ Gujarat Government offers e-FIR service for the crimes like mobile or two-wheeler theft.
- ❖ Taking a step towards digital governance, the “e-FIR system” was launched in State.
- ❖ The e-governance initiatives and e-FIR system has been launched as a part of “e-GujCop project”.
- ❖ The e-FIR system is currently offering 16 Police-related services in online mode.

- ❖ The eGujCop Project was launched on September 2013.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **World's Best SME Bank**



Live more, Bank less

- ❖ Development Bank of Singapore Limited (DBS Bank) has been recognized as the 'World's Best SME Bank' by Euromoney.
- ❖ The bank has established its position as a global industry leader in association with Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to enhance growth and development.
- ❖ DBS' latest global best SME bank accolade comes from leading UK-based financial publication Euromoney.
- ❖ It got this title for the second time since 2018.
- ❖ It also got following three first-time awards
  - World's Best Financial Innovation of the year 2022
  - Asia's Best Bank for Wealth Management 2022
  - Asia's Best Bank for SME award 2022

## **SPORTS**

### **2025 World Athletics Championships**

- ❖ The World Athletics Council has selected Japan's Tokyo to host the 2025 World Athletics Championships.
- ❖ The 18th edition of the World Athletics Championships of 2022 begins in Oregon USA.
- ❖ Budapest in Hungary will host the 2023 event.
- ❖ 2024 World Athletics Cross Country Championships will be held in Medulin and Pula in Croatia.

- ❖ The 2026 World Athletics Cross Country Championships will be held in Tallahassee, Florida, USA.

