

July - 29

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's first 'State Agricultural Fair (Agriculture Sangamam)' was held in Trichy.
- ❖ The 4th Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) and Environment and Climate Ministers' meeting was held in Chennai.
- ❖ The United Kingdom government signed a memorandum of understanding with Tamil Nadu to set up projects to conserve native plants.
- ❖ The President of India has conferred the prestigious National Geoscience Awards-2022 (NGA) of the Ministry of Mines to Twenty-two Geoscientists.
- ❖ International Committee on Credit Reporting (ICCR) approved the Bank of Israel's accession as a member of the organization.
- ❖ Aditya Samant from Maharashtra becomes India's 83rd chess Grandmaster.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has decided to recognise Handball Association of India (HAI) as a National Sports Federation (NSF).
- ❖ The 5th Helicopter and Small Aircraft Summit (Heli Summit 2023) was jointly organized at Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
 - The theme of the event was "Reaching the Last Mile: Regional Connectivity through Helicopters and Small Aircraft".
- ❖ The World Nature Conservation Day was annually observed July 28.
 - The theme for 2023 is "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet".

NATIONAL

Manual scavenging free districts

- ❖ A total of 530 districts (out of 766) across the country had so far reported themselves to be free of manual scavenging.
- ❖ 100% of districts in States like Bihar, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and a few others have declared themselves free of manual scavenging.
- ❖ In several States and Union Territories, only about 15% to 20% of the districts have reported so.
- ❖ For instance, in Manipur, just two of the 16 districts have reported as being manual-scavenging free.



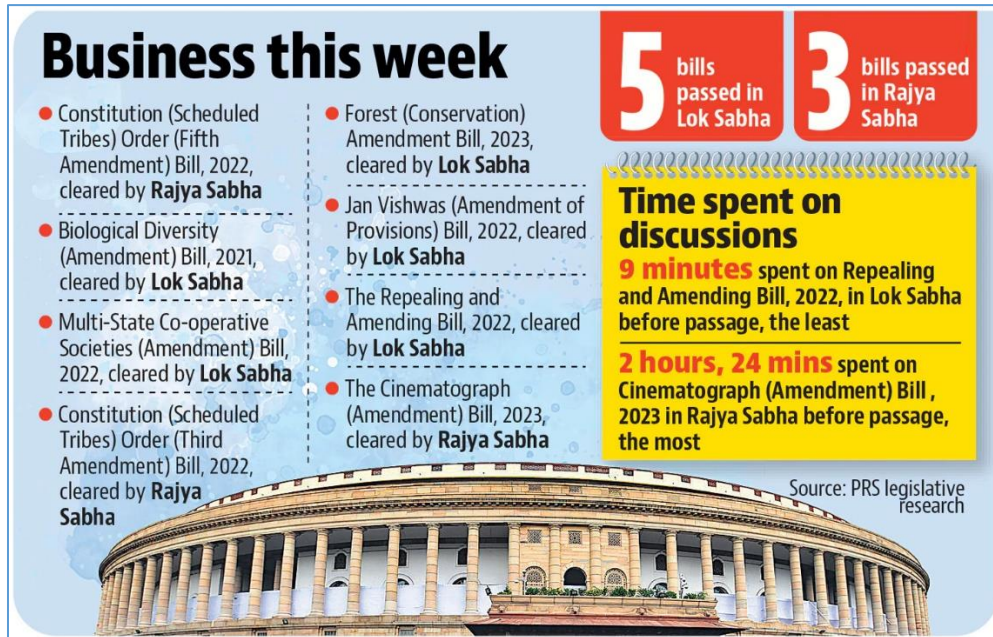
- ❖ Similarly, in Jammu and Kashmir, just 30% of the districts have declared themselves free of the practice with a similar number in Telangana.
- ❖ In Odisha and West Bengal too, over 60% districts are yet to report their respective status.

S No.	Name of States/UT	No. of Districts	No. of Districts from where Report regarding Manual Scavenging free	No. of Districts report not received
1	A AND N ISLANDS	3	3	0
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	26	11	15
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	26	14	12
4	ASSAM	35	19	16
5	BIHAR	38	38	0
6	CHANDIGARH	1	1	0
7	CHHATTISGARH	33	33	0
8	DELHI	11	8	3
9	GOA	2	2	0
10	GUJARAT	33	25	8
11	HARYANA	22	16	6
12	HIMACHAL PRADESH	12	12	0
13	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	20	6	14
14	JHARKHAND	24	12	12
15	KARNATAKA	31	29	2
16	KERALA	14	12	2
17	LADAKH	2	2	0
18	LAKSHADWEEP	1	1	0
19	MADHYA PRADESH	52	24	28
20	MAHARASHTRA	38	15	21
21	MANIPUR	16	2	14
22	MEGHALAYA	12	10	2
23	MIZORAM	11	11	0
24	NAGALAND	16	10	6
25	ODISHA	30	11	19
26	PUDUCHERRY	4	2	2
27	PUNJAB	23	16	7
28	RAJASTHAN	33	33	0
29	SIKKIM	6	6	0
30	TAMIL NADU	38	38	0
31	TELANGANA	33	10	23
32	DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN AND DIU	3	3	0
33	TRIPURA	8	8	0
34	UTTAR PRADESH	75	67	8
35	UTTARAKHAND	13	12	1
36	WEST BENGAL	23	8	15
	TOTAL	766	530	236

Constitution (STs) Order (5th Amendment) Bill

- ❖ The Rajya Sabha passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2022.
- ❖ It aims to include several communities from Chhattisgarh in the list of STs.
- ❖ Lok Sabha passed the Bill during the last Winter Session.
- ❖ The Bill was brought in to add Bhuinya, Bhuiyan and Bhuyan communities as synonyms of Bharia, Bhumia, Bharia.
- ❖ It also, add three Devanagari versions of Pando community and Dhanuhar and Dhanuwar communities, to substitute Kond for Kondh in the list.
- ❖ It will add Kisan community in entry 32 of the legislation.

- ❖ It includes Saunra and Saonra communities in entry 41 and to add Binjhia community in new entry 43.



The Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill 2021

Biological Diversity Amendment Bill 2021

To reduce the pressure on wild medicinal plants

Encouraging the cultivation of medicinal plants.

Exempt AYUSH practitioners from intimating biodiversity boards for accessing biological resources or knowledge.

Simplifying process

Easing compliance

Access and Benefit-sharing

Imbibing the Nagoya Protocol

- ❖ The Lok Sabha passed the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021.
- ❖ The Bill aims to amend the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- ❖ It proposes to “widen the scope of levying access and benefit sharing with local communities and for further conservation of biological resources.”
- ❖ The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 was framed to give effect to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity - 1992.

- ❖ It strives for sustainable, fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge.

INTERNATIONAL

Global Education Monitoring Report 2023

- ❖ The UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring Report 2023 was titled 'Technology in Education: A Tool on Whose Terms'.
- ❖ It has endorsed banning smartphones in schools in situations where "technology integration does not improve learning or if it worsens student well-being".
- ❖ It highlighted that "mere proximity to a mobile device was found to distract students and to have a negative impact on learning in 14 countries.
- ❖ Currently, less than one in four have banned smartphone use in schools".
- ❖ Only 16% of countries explicitly guarantee data privacy in education by law.
- ❖ The Global Education Monitoring Report: Established in 2002.

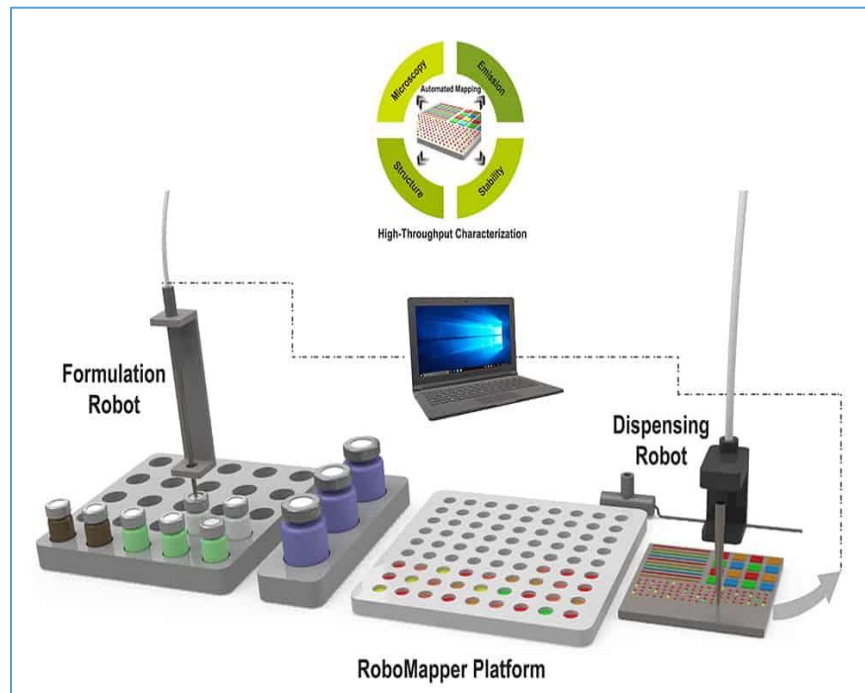


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

RoboMapper

- ❖ Researchers have successfully created a robot called RoboMapper.

- ❖ It is capable of conducting experiments to develop new semiconductor materials efficiently and sustainably.
- ❖ It takes a different approach by automating the process and miniaturizing the material samples using modern printing techniques.
- ❖ The robot has been found to be nearly 10 times faster than previous automated techniques.
- ❖ The process also reduced greenhouse gas emissions of the characterisation process by 10 times.

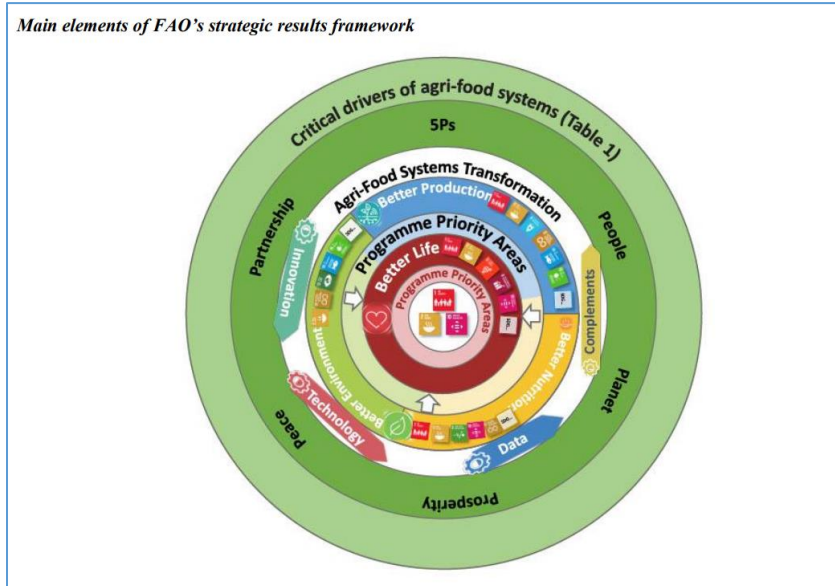


ENVIRONMENT

FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031

- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) has launched an Action Plan for Climate Change.
- ❖ It is designed to support the implementation of its ambitious Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031.
- ❖ It envisages agrifood systems as sustainable, inclusive, resilient and adaptive to climate change.
- ❖ The Action Plan is based on three pillars:
 - Advocacy at global and regional levels;
 - Policy support at the country level;

- The scaling-up of climate action on the ground with local actors and vulnerable population.



STATES

Highest deaths due to heatwave



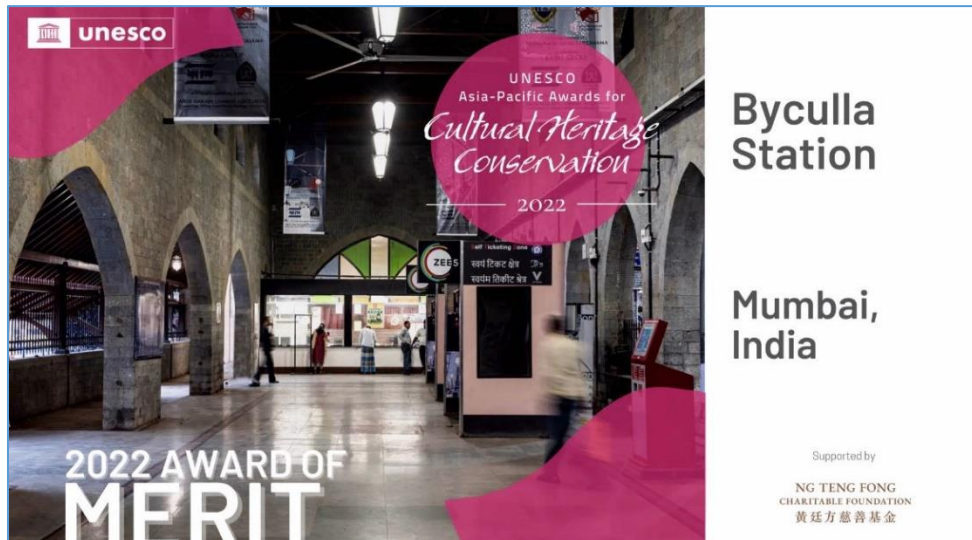
- ❖ As many as 120 people died in Kerala due to heatwave till June-end, the highest in the country.

- ❖ Kerala was followed by Gujarat with 35 deaths, Telangana 20, Maharashtra 14, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh 12 each, West Bengal 11 and Madhya Pradesh 10.
- ❖ States that saw fewer deaths this year till June were Himachal Pradesh (9), Bihar (8), Odisha (7), Andhra Pradesh (4).
- ❖ The Capital reported one death.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

2022 UNESCO Asia pacific award

- ❖ Mumbai's historic Byculla Railway Station was bestowed with the prestigious UNESCO Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage Award.
- ❖ It celebrates the station's significant role in conserving cultural heritage.
- ❖ The 169-year-old Byculla railway station in Mumbai is one of the oldest living railway stations in India.
- ❖ The station's history is intrinsically tied to the arrival of the first locomotive in Mumbai in 1852.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Hepatitis Day 2023 – July 28

- ❖ The day aims to promote prevention, testing and treatment, and to show support for those affected by hepatitis.
- ❖ This day was established by World Hepatitis Alliance in 2008.

- ❖ This day commemorated the birthday of Dr. Baruch Blumberg who discovered the hepatitis B virus in 1967.
- ❖ 2 years later he developed the first hepatitis B vaccine.
- ❖ These achievements culminated in Dr. Baruch Blumberg winning the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1976.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is "One life, one liver."
- ❖ Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver.
- ❖ It is caused by viral infection, alcohol consumption and many health conditions.
- ❖ 5 types of hepatitis are hepatitis A, B, C, D and E.
- ❖ According to WHO, around 354 million people live with chronic hepatitis B and C worldwide.

