

March - 06

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Supreme Court formed a committee Headed by Justice Abhay Manohar Sapre to examine the controversy following American short-seller Hindenburg Research's damning report against the Adani Group.
- ❖ The Union Health Ministry of India has been awarded the Porter Prize 2023 for successfully combating the COVID-19 crisis.
- ❖ NTPC has commissioned India's first Air cooled condenser installed Super Critical plant at North Karanpura in Jharkhand to demonstrate its Commitment towards water conservation through reduce, reuse and recycle.

TAMIL NADU

Dry Fish outlet in railway Station



- ❖ India's first Dry Fish (Karuvadu) outlet opened at Madurai railway station.
- ❖ Shungudi saree is currently sold at Madurai railway station.
- ❖ To promote popular local products, the railway administration is setting up outlets under the "One Station, One Item" scheme at the respective district railway stations.
- ❖ Around 5,000 railway stations across the country have allowed such sales.
- ❖ Below that, at the railway stations in the following other six railway lines under the Southern Railway, popular local products are available for sale.
 - Chinlapatti handloom sarees at Dindigul railway station,

- Macaroon at Tuticorin and Vanchi Maniachi,
- Seaweed products at Rameswaram,
- Coconut candy at Kovilpatti,
- karachevu at Virudhunagar and Chattru,
- Bamboo products at Thenkasi and Sengottai.

INTERNATIONAL

REAIM 2023

- ❖ The world's first international summit on the responsible use of artificial intelligence in the military held in the Netherlands.
- ❖ The REAIM 2023 brings together governments, corporations, academia, startups, and civil societies.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness, discuss issues,
- ❖ And possibly, it aims agree on common principles in deploying and using AI in armed conflicts.



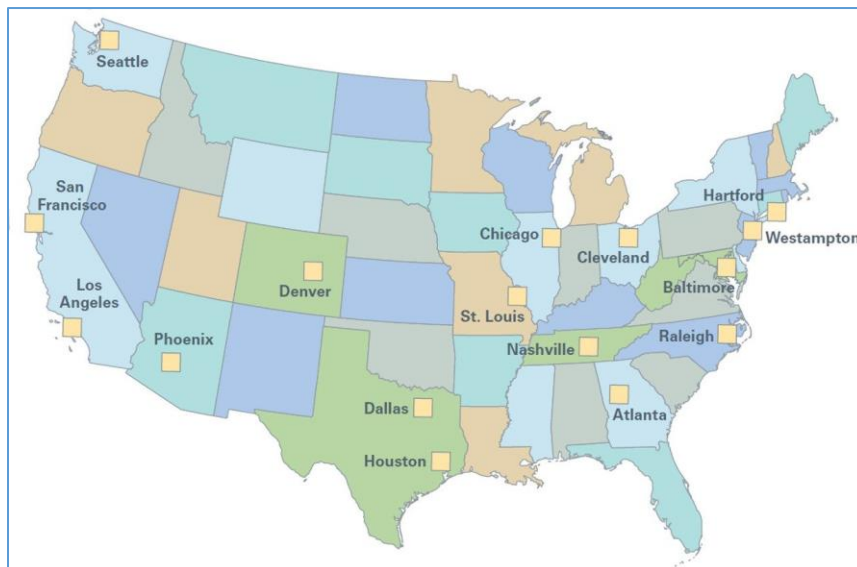
Nine Point Crypto Action Plan

- ❖ The International Monetary Fund has laid out a nine-point action plan for how countries should treat crypto assets.
- ❖ It was against to give cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin legal tender status safeguard monetary sovereignty.
- ❖ It was asked to guard against excessive capital flows.

- Instruction to adopt unambiguous tax rules and laws around crypto assets.
- Favour to developing and enforcing oversight requirements for all crypto market actors.
- Establishment of international arrangements to increase enforcement regulations.
- Setting up of methodologies to monitor the impact of cryptocurrency.
- Imposing taxes on organizations which using crypto.
- ❖ El Salvador in late 2021 became the first to adopt bitcoin as legal tender.
- ❖ It lost more than 60 million USD during its bitcoin experiment and faced an economic crisis and a very high deficit.



Ban on Caste Discrimination



- ❖ Seattle has become the first city in the US to bring in legislation banning caste-based discrimination.
- ❖ It prohibits “businesses from discriminating based on caste with respect to hiring, tenure, promotion, workplace conditions or wages.”
- ❖ Over 1,67,000 people from South Asia live in Washington state, largely concentrated in the Greater Seattle area.
- ❖ In December 2019, Brandeis University near Boston became the first U.S. college to include caste in its non-discrimination policy.

Vanuatu and climate justice



- ❖ A group of 16 countries has launched a gallant effort to fight the problem of climate change at the United Nations (UN).
- ❖ The group led by Vanuatu, seeks an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the issue of climate change.
- ❖ Vanuatu launched an initiative, through the UNGA, to seek an advisory opinion from the ICJ to “clarify the legal obligations of all countries to prevent and redress the adverse effects of climate change”.
- ❖ The ICJ has two types of jurisdictions: contentious and advisory.
- ❖ While contentious jurisdiction refers to resolving legal disputes between consenting states, under advisory jurisdiction.
- ❖ Unlike decisions given under the contentious jurisdiction, the ICJ’s advisory opinions are non-binding.

- ❖ The ICJ's advisory opinion on climate change will also be handy in climate-related litigation at the national level.

Intercontinental ballistic missile Hwasong 5

North Korea's main intercontinental ballistic missiles



| | Hwasong-14 | Hwasong-15 | Hwasong-17 |
|------------|--|---|--|
| Range (km) | 10,000 | 8,500-13,000 | At least 15,000 |
| Length | 19.8 m | 21-22.5 m | 22-24 m |
| Diameter | 1.85 m | 2-2.4 m | 2.4 m |
| Engine | Two-stage | Two-stage | Three-stage |
| Key facts | Two were successfully fired in July 2017, shortly before sixth nuclear test. | First launched in November 2017. Leader Kim Jong Un declared the "completion" of the "state nuclear force." | Thought capable of carrying multiple to be nuclear warheads. Thursday's launch apparently failed. Claim of first successful launch in March 2022 may have involved an older version. |

Sources: Center for Strategic and International Studies, Yonhap News TV, others.
Photos: Korean Central News Agency via Reuters.

- ❖ North Korea launched its Hwasong-15 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) in open waters of the East Sea of Korea.
- ❖ The missile flew 989 km with a maximum altitude of 5,768 km.
- ❖ It had the capacity to reach the continental United States given a normalized range of 14,000 kilometres.
- ❖ The missile had its maiden flight in 2017.

Munich Security Conference

- ❖ Munich Security Conference (MSC) is an annual conference on contemporary global security policy challenges in Munich, Germany.
- ❖ The MSC was founded by a German official and publisher Ewald-Heinrich von Kleist at the peak of the Cold War (1947-1991).
- ❖ The conference, started in 1963 and initially only focused on military issues.
- ❖ It was mainly attended by western countries and their high-profile officials.
- ❖ After the end of the Cold War, it expanded its agenda that went beyond defence and security matters to include issues such as climate change and migration.

- ❖ It also started to invite leaders from eastern nations, including Russia, India and China.



ECONOMY

Global trade and technology council of India

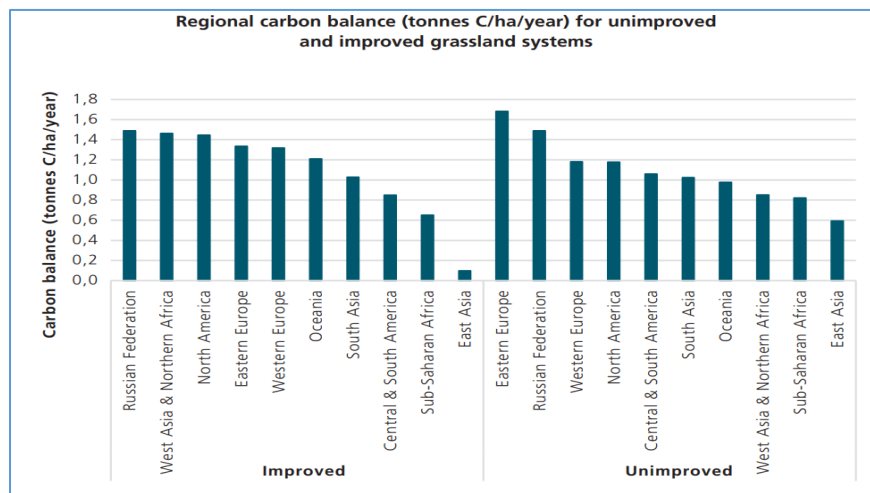


- ❖ India and the European Union announced setting up of a new Trade and Technology Council (TTC).
- ❖ The TTC is a strategic coordination mechanism that will allow both partners to tackle challenges at the nexus of trade, trusted technology and security.
- ❖ Under the TTC, three working groups have been established.
- ❖ The first working group is on strategic technologies, digital governance and digital connectivity.

- ❖ The second one will cover green and clean energy technologies.
- ❖ The third working group is on trade, investment and resilient value chains.
- ❖ The ministerial meetings of the TTC will take place at least once a year, with the venue alternating between the EU and India.
- ❖ It is the second such TTC after the first one with the United States that was firmed up in June 2021.

ENVIRONMENT

Global assessment of Soil Carbon



- ❖ The first FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) Global assessment of Soil Carbon in Grasslands measured the baseline of stocks of Soil Organic Carbon (SOC).
- ❖ SOC is the amount of carbon stored in soil organic matter.
- ❖ It is made in both semi-natural and managed grasslands and estimated their potential of SOC sequestration.
- ❖ Grasslands contain approximately 20 per cent of the world's SOC.
- ❖ The fodder gardens have a potential increase in soil carbon of 0.03 tonnes C/ha per year.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

76th BAFTA Awards

- ❖ The 76th British Academy Film Awards, also known as the BAFTAs were presented at the Royal Festival Hall in London, England.



❖ The winners are

| CATEGORIES | WINNERS |
|---|--|
| Best Film | All Quiet at the eastern Front |
| Leading Actress | Cate Blanchett for Tar |
| Leading Actor | Austin Butler for Elvis |
| Best Director | Edward Berger for All Quiet at the Western Front |
| Best Casting | Elvis |
| Best Cinematography | All Quiet on the Western Front |
| Adapted Screenplay | Edward Berger, Lesley Paterson, Lan Stokell for All Quiet on the western front |
| Editing | Paul rogers for Everything Everywhere All AT Once, |
| Cinematography | James friend for All Quiet on the western front, |
| Best Documentary | Navalny (Daniel Roher) |
| EE Bafta Rising star Award | Emma Mackey |
| Film Not in the English Language | All Quiet on The Western Front |

