

March - 12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ China introduced the first “virus passports” aimed at boosting international travel.
 - The digital certificate shows a user’s vaccination status and virus test results.
- ❖ On the occasion of International Women’s Day, Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narrotam Mishra decided to appoint a woman constable as the state’s home minister for the day.
 - Meenakshi Verma acted as Madhya Pradesh’s home minister for the day, wherein she took important decisions and addressed public grievances.

NATIONAL

Amrit Mahotsav

- ❖ ‘Amrit Mahotsav’ will be celebrated to mark India’s 75 years of Independence.
- ❖ This could be held at 75 locations across the nation for 75 weeks.
- ❖ This grand festival will begin from Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad in Gujarat from March 12.

Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi as a single non-lapsable reserve fund.
- ❖ The major benefit will be enhanced access to universal & affordable health care through availability of earmarked resources, while ensuring that the amount does not lapse at the end of financial year.
- ❖ The fund will be administered and maintained by the Ministry of Health & Family welfare.
- ❖ This revenue in the fund will be used for the flagship schemes of the Health Ministry including the
 - National Health Mission,
 - Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centres and
 - Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- ❖ The fund also includes the emergency & disaster preparedness & responses during the health emergencies.

- ❖ It also seeks to achieve the progress towards Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the National Health Policy 2017.

INTERNATIONAL

China-Russia Planetary Pact

- ❖ Russia and China have announced plans for a joint lunar space station.
- ❖ Russia had signed an agreement with China's National Space Administration to develop a "complex of experimental research facilities created on the surface and/or in the orbit of the Moon".
- ❖ With this, Moscow is seeking to retake the lead in the space race.
- ❖ This year celebrates the 60th anniversary of Russia's first manned space flight when Yuri Gagarin entered into space in April 1961.

139

- ❖ The new Railway Helpline Number is 139.
- ❖ The Indian Railways has merged all railway helpline numbers into a single number (139) for all queries, complaints, assistance, and quick grievance redressal during the journey.



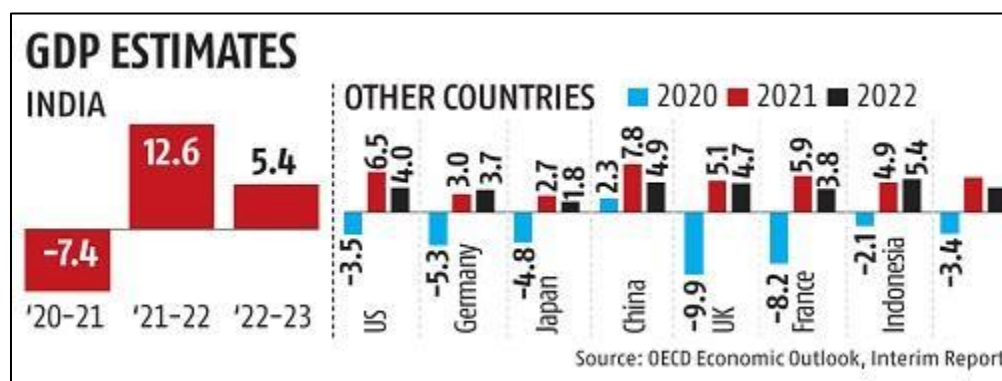
Transport Integration in Eastern South Asia

- ❖ The World Bank has recently published its report called “Connecting to thrive: Challenges and Opportunities of Transport Integration in Eastern South Asia”.
- ❖ As per the report, the greater transport connectivity in between India and Bangladesh can increase the national income of both the nations.
- ❖ It says that seamless transport connectivity between India and Bangladesh has the potential to increase national income of Bangladesh by 17 percent and 8 percent in India.
- ❖ Also, it says that seamless transport connectivity between the countries could increase India’s export by 172 percent while Bangladesh export to India could almost rise 3 times.

ECONOMY

OECD interim ‘Economic Outlook’

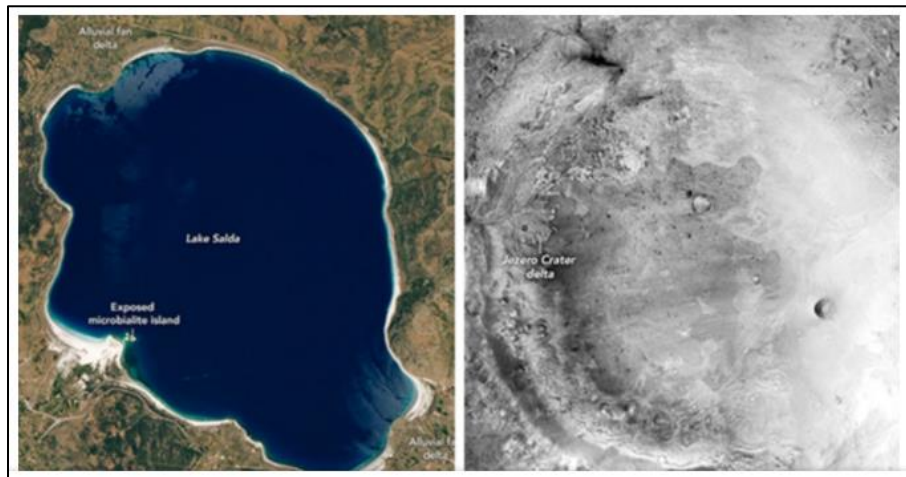
- ❖ The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development has raised the projection for India’s economic growth rate by 4.7 percentage points at 12.6 per cent for 2021-22.
- ❖ That would enable India to retain its earlier tag of the fastest growing large economy in the world.
- ❖ It, however, pegged economic growth rate to come down to 5.4 per cent in 2022-23.
- ❖ The Indian economy was officially projected to decline by 8 per cent in the current fiscal year.
- ❖ However, OECD believes that contraction would be less steep at 7.4 per cent.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Mars on Earth

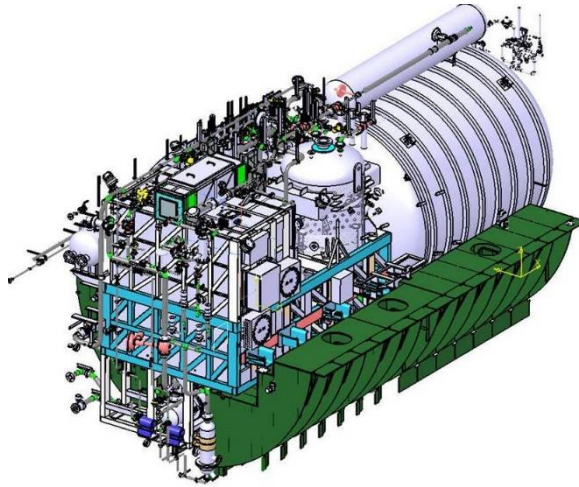
- ❖ NASA says the minerals and rock deposits at Salda are the nearest match on earth to those around the Jezero Crater.
- ❖ Jezero Crater is the place where the spacecraft (Perseverance) landed.
- ❖ It is also believed that Jezero Crater have once been flooded with water.
- ❖ The rocks along the shoreline of Lake Salda in Turkey were formed by microbes that trap minerals and sediments in the water which was once a major life form on Earth.
- ❖ NASA's Perseverance rover, now housed in Mars, will investigate whether there are microbialites in Jezero Crater.
- ❖ It will also compare sediments collected from Lake Salda with fossilised remains at Mars.
- ❖ This will help to understand the differences between the Mars sediments and Lake Salda.



AIP Technology

- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation has demonstrated an Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system recently.
- ❖ The design was tested on land in Mumbai.
- ❖ This will allow Indian Navy submarines to operate for up to two weeks without having to surface to recharge its batteries.
- ❖ The development of AIP technology is a major boost for the Atma Nirbhar Bharat campaign.

- ❖ US, France, China, UK and Russia are the only countries to have this key technology.
- ❖ The DRDO's AIP technology is based on a Phosphoric Acid Fuel Cell.
- ❖ The last two Kalvari class submarines will be powered by it.



Earth's Hidden Layer

- ❖ The Scientists have recently detected the signs of a hidden structure inside the core of Planet Earth.
- ❖ As per the long-standing narrative, there exists four layers namely
 - crust,
 - mantle,
 - outer core and
 - inner core.
- ❖ But this sign has the potential to change the long-standing narrative of what lies at centre of Earth.
- ❖ The recently detected layer is being termed as the fifth layer.
- ❖ The scientists have also spotted reportedly some changes in the structure of iron within the inner core.
- ❖ These changes suggests that a new 'boundary line' is stretching for about 650 kilometres from centre of the Earth.

DUSTLIK II

- ❖ The India - Uzbekistan joint military exercise DUSTLIK II commenced in Foreign Training Node Chaubatia, Ranikhet in Uttarakhand.

- ❖ This is the Second Edition of annual bilateral joint exercise of both armies.
- ❖ 45 Soldiers each from Uzbekistan and Indian Army are participating in the exercise.
- ❖ The first edition of the joint military exercise had taken place in Tashkent in November 2019.
- ❖ The focus of DUSTLIK II would be aimed at carrying out joint counter-terror operations in a mountainous rural and urban scenario.

STATES

First Gender budget

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh could be the first state in India to incorporate a concept called 'Gender Budget' in its annual Budget for the Financial Year 2021-22
- ❖ It is aimed to provide better service to women.
- ❖ The gender budget list outs the expenditure for women welfare under various schemes of the state.

