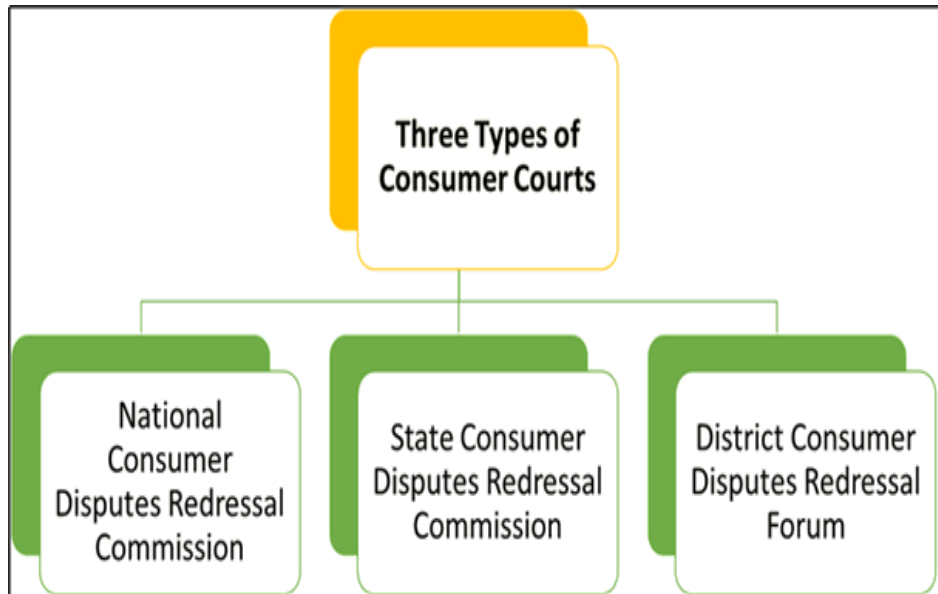


March - 13

NATIONAL

Criterion for Consumer courts



- ❖ The Supreme Court used reduced the mandatory professional experience from 20 to 10 years to preside over consumer courts.
- ❖ For this, the Supreme Court used its extraordinary powers under Article 142.
- ❖ It also introduced written exams and viva voce to check the candidates' performance.
- ❖ The Centre has proposed several amendments to the Consumer Protection (Qualification for appointment, method of recruitment, procedure of appointment, term of office, resignation and removal of President and Members of State Commission and District Commission) Rules, 2020.

‘World’s first’ bamboo crash barrier

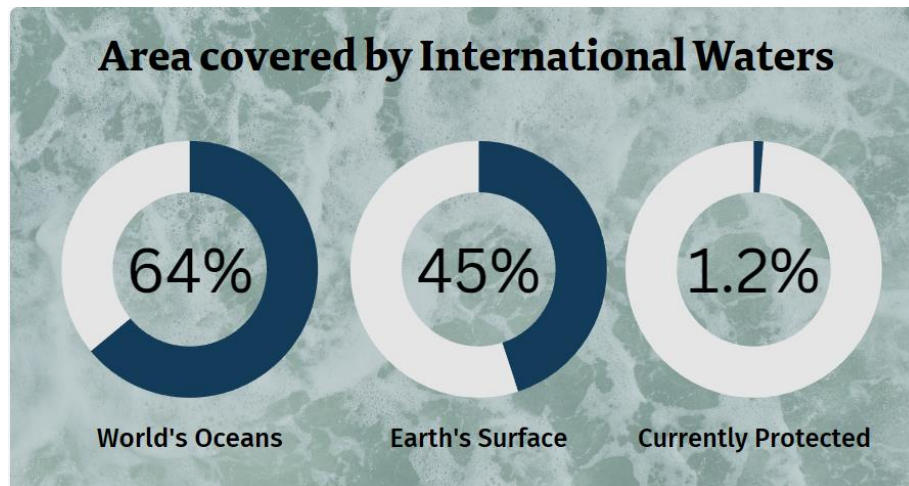
- ❖ India has tested bamboo crash barrier as an environmentally friendly alternative to steel.
- ❖ This world’s first 200-meter-long Bamboo Crash Barrier has been installed on the Vani-Warora Highway in Maharashtra.
- ❖ The bamboo crash barrier will be an alternative to steel and will be environmentally friendly.

- ❖ The recycling value of the bamboo crash barrier is 50-70%, while that of steel barriers is 30-50%.



INTERNATIONAL

UN High Seas Treaty



- ❖ Members of the United Nations have agreed on an international treaty to protect biodiversity in international waters, which cover nearly two-thirds of the ocean.
- ❖ It is also referred to as the 'Paris Agreement for the Ocean'.
- ❖ In 1982, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, or UNCLOS was adopted.
- ❖ The Convention delineated rules to govern the oceans and the use of its resources.
- ❖ But there was no comprehensive legal framework that covered the high seas.

- ❖ Parts of the sea that are not included in the territorial waters or the internal waters of a country are known as the high seas, according to the 1958 Geneva Convention on the High Seas.
- ❖ It is the area beyond a country's Exclusive Economic Zone which extends up to 200 nautical miles (370 km) from the coastline.
- ❖ No country is responsible for the management and protection of resources on the high seas.
- ❖ The high seas account for more than 60% of the world's ocean area and cover about half of the Earth's surface.
- ❖ At the COP of the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15), countries agreed to protect 30% of oceans by 2030.
- ❖ It is a part of the '30 x 30 pledge' made by the historic Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

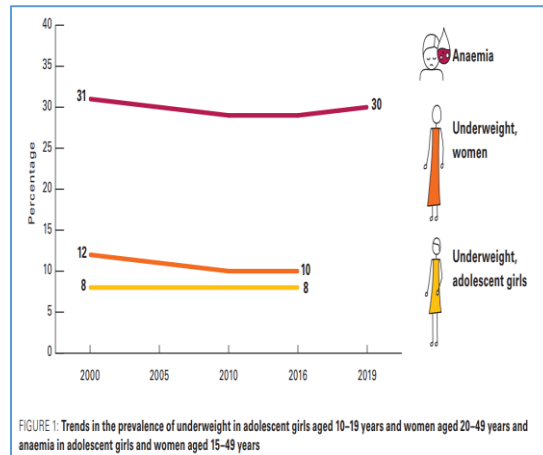
50th anniversary of CITES



- ❖ The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was signed in 3rd March 1973.
- ❖ CITES is an international treaty that aims to regulate and monitor the trade of endangered plants and animals, including their parts and derivatives.
- ❖ Under CITES, member countries are required to regulate and monitor the trade of endangered species through a system of permits and quotas.
- ❖ They must also report regularly on their implementation of the treaty and collaborate with other countries to ensure its effectiveness.
- ❖ CITES protects almost 40,000 species against over-exploitation because of international trade.

- ❖ Currently, CITES has 184 parties.

Undernourished and Overlooked



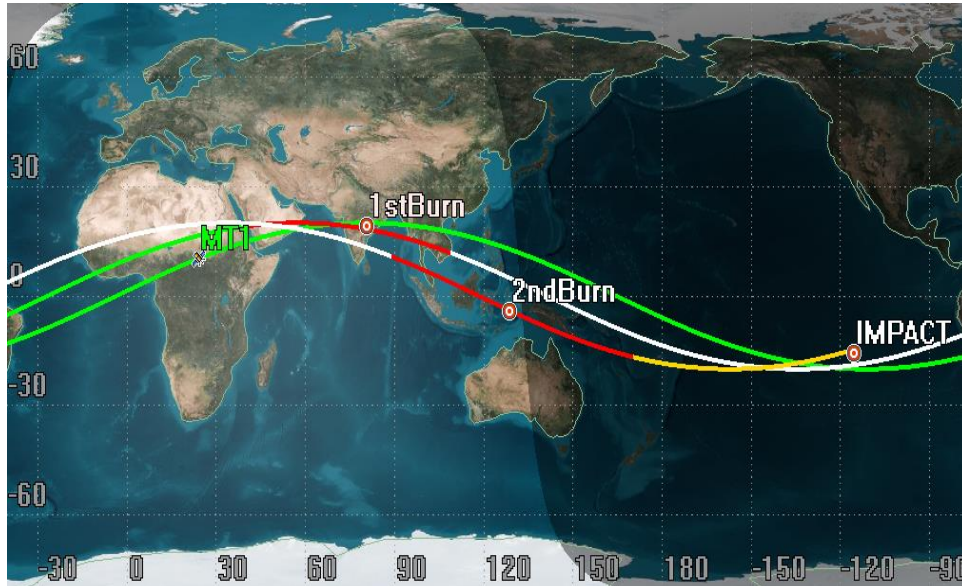
- ❖ UNICEF released a report named 'Undernourished and Overlooked: A Global Nutrition Crisis in Adolescent Girls and Women'.
- ❖ It examines the current status, trends and inequities in the nutritional status of adolescent girls and women of reproductive age.
- ❖ The number of pregnant and breastfeeding adolescent girls and women suffering from acute malnutrition has soared from 5.5 million to 6.9 million or 25 per cent since 2020 in 12 countries.
- ❖ The 12 countries are including Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen.
- ❖ Globally, 51 million children under 2 years suffer stunting, meaning they are too short for their age due to malnutrition.
- ❖ South Asia and sub-Saharan African remain the epicentre of the nutrition crisis among adolescent girls and women.
- ❖ They are the home to 2 in 3 adolescent girls and women suffering from underweight globally, and 3 in 5 adolescent girls and women with anaemia.
- ❖ In 2021, there were 126 million more food insecure women than men, compared to 49 million more in 2019.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Decommission of Megha-Tropiques 1

- ❖ A decommissioned Indo-French weather satellite, Megha-Tropiques 1 (MT-1), was safely disintegrated in the Earth's atmosphere.

- ❖ It was done by ISRO after the controlled re-entry operation that was successfully carried out on March 7.
- ❖ The weather satellite was launched on October 12, 2011, as a collaborative effort between ISRO and French space agency CNES.



Handover of NISAR satellite



- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has received the NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR) satellite from the U.S. space agency.
- ❖ NISAR is a Low Earth Orbit observatory jointly developed by NASA and ISRO.
- ❖ The satellite is expected to be launched in 2024 into a near-polar orbit.
- ❖ NISAR carries L and S dual-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR).

- ❖ According to ISRO, NISAR will map the entire globe in 12 days.

ENVIRONMENT

151st anniversary of Yellowstone National Park

- ❖ Yellowstone National Park of USA, the first national park in the world, celebrated its 151st anniversary.
- ❖ It is located in the northwest corner of Wyoming and extending into Montana and Idaho.
- ❖ It was established by the US Congress on March 1, 1872 with the Yellowstone National Park Protection Act.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

CBIP Award 2022

- ❖ NTPC Limited was awarded CBIP Award 2022 for the 'Outstanding Contribution in Power Generation'.
- ❖ The Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL) has been conferred with the Central Board of Irrigation and Power Award 2022.
- ❖ OPTCL awarded for the 'best-performing transmission power sector'.
- ❖ The State-run utility has been conferred with this award for the first time since its inception.

- ❖ Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has been awarded the CBIP Award 2022 for 'Best Contribution in Solar Energy'.



8th National Photography Awards



- ❖ A total of thirteen awards were presented during the ceremony including 6 each in the Professional and Amateur category and one Lifetime Achievement Award.

- ❖ The theme for the Professional category was “Life and Water”.
- ❖ The theme of the Amateur category was “Cultural Heritage of India”.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Women’s Day - March 08

- ❖ This global day is celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.
- ❖ It was first celebrated in 1911, in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland.
- ❖ This year we are celebrating the 111th International Women's Day.
- ❖ In 1975, the United Nations started celebrating the day.
- ❖ The UN's theme for 2023 is "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality".

