

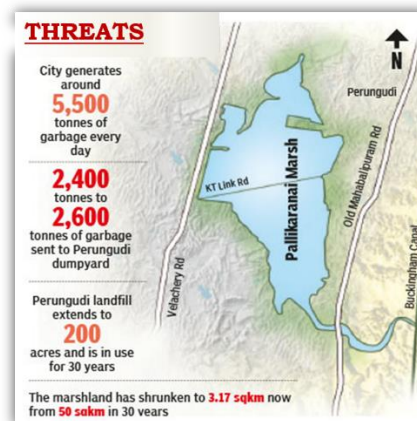
March - 14

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Writer Kannaiyan Dakshnamurthy's book 'Karunkundram' has been selected for Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize 2023.
  - Kannaiyan Dakshnamurthy has translated Mamang Dai's English novel 'The Black Hill' into Tamil.
- ❖ Nayab Singh Saini became the new chief minister of Haryana after Manohar Lal Khattar resignation.
- ❖ The Railway Protection Force (RPF) hosts the largest share of women personnel (9%) among Central Paramilitary Forces in India.
- ❖ The first-of- its-kind "National Speed Breeding Crop Facility" was inaugurated at the premier National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) in Mohali.
- ❖ The world's first mosque built using 3D printing technology was recently inaugurated in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ India has become the second-biggest mobile phone-producing country, only after China.
- ❖ World Plumbing Day is annually celebrated on the 11<sup>th</sup> of march around the world to spread awareness of the importance of plumbing in protecting public health.

## TAMIL NADU

### Kazhuveli watershed region



- ❖ The Eri (tank) network in the Kazhuveli watershed region in Villupuram district is to be proposed for nomination to the World Monuments Fund Watch 2025 programme.



- ❖ The watershed area stretches from Gingee to Marakkanam all the way up to the Auroville plateau, and covers an area of 740 sq. km.
- ❖ The Watch 2025 is a nomination-based programme that connects local heritage preservation to global awareness and action.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Zero-food children**

- ❖ India had by far the largest number of zero-food children (6.7 million).
- ❖ It is almost half of all zero-food children in the 92 countries.
- ❖ Nigeria had the second-highest number of zero-food children (962 000).
- ❖ It is followed by Pakistan (849 000), Ethiopia (772 000), and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (362 000).
- ❖ The Zero-food children are children between 6 and 23 months old who did not consume any milk, formula, or food in the last 24 hours.

**Table 2. Categorization of Countries by the Estimated Number of Zero-Food Children and Zero-Food Prevalence<sup>a</sup>**

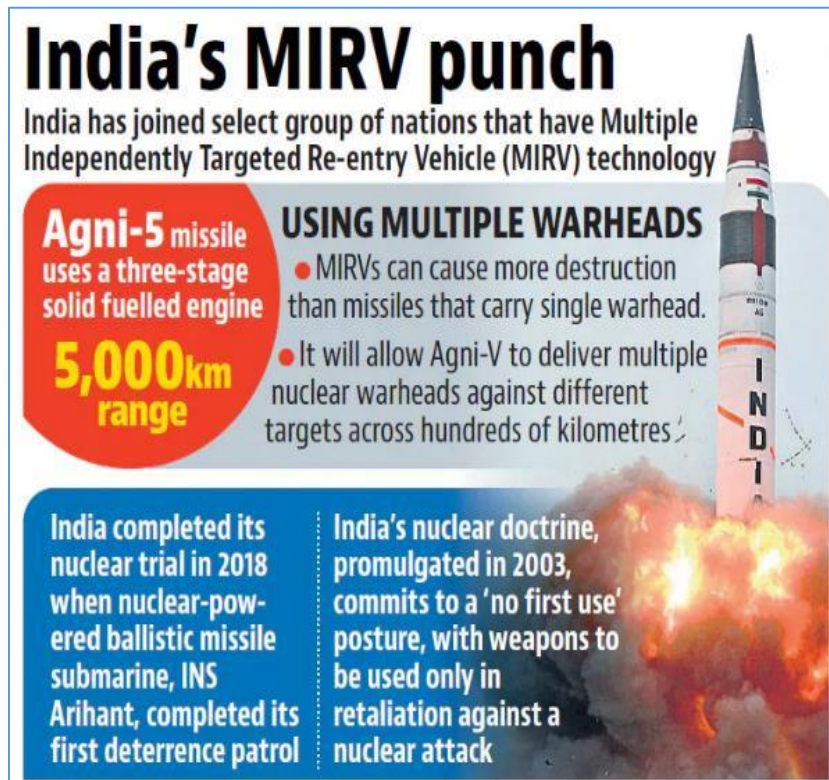
Country	No., thousands (%)
<b>Many children and high prevalence</b>	
India	6732.2 (19.3)
Nigeria	961.9 (8.8)
Pakistan	848.5 (9.2)
Ethiopia	771.9 (14.8)
Democratic Republic of the Congo	362.4 (7.4)
Egypt	254.5 (6.8)

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Mission Divyastra**

- ❖ India has conducted the first flight test of the indigenously produced Agni-5 missile as part of its 'Mission Divyastra'.

- ❖ The weapon is equipped with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology.
- ❖ This technology enhances its effectiveness in delivering multiple warheads to different targets with precision.
- ❖ This is the first flight test of indigenously developed 5,000-km range Agni-5 nuclear missile.
- ❖ At present, the US, UK, France, China, Russia and India are among the elite group that possesses the technology.
- ❖ The project was led by a woman scientist from the country's missile complex in Hyderabad, Sheena Rani.
- ❖ Her husband, PSRS Sastry, also worked with the DRDO on missiles and was also in-charge of the Kautilya Satellite launched by ISRO in 2019.



## India's MIRV punch

India has joined select group of nations that have Multiple Independently Targeted Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology

**Agni-5** missile uses a three-stage solid fuelled engine  
**5,000km** range

**USING MULTIPLE WARHEADS**

- MIRVs can cause more destruction than missiles that carry single warhead.
- It will allow Agni-V to deliver multiple nuclear warheads against different targets across hundreds of kilometres

India completed its nuclear trial in 2018 when nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, INS Arihant, completed its first deterrence patrol

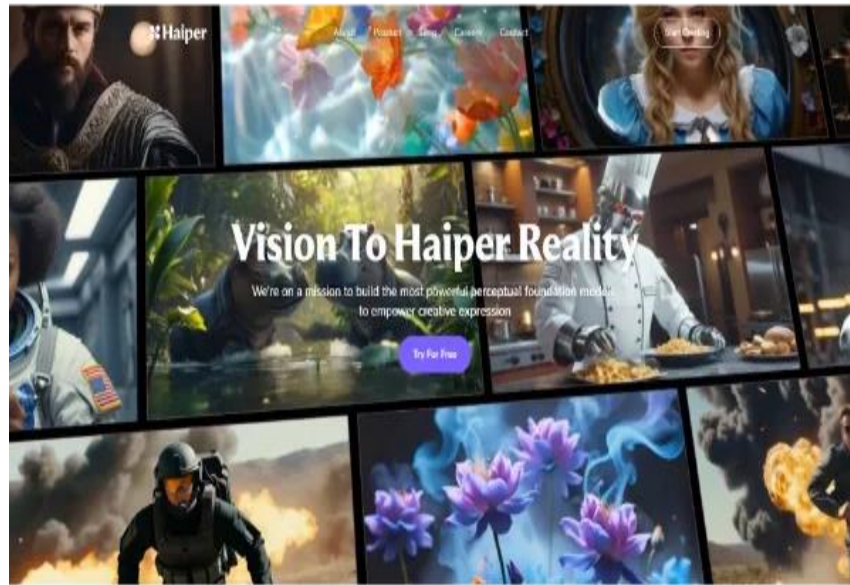
India's nuclear doctrine, promulgated in 2003, commits to a 'no first use' posture, with weapons to be used only in retaliation against a nuclear attack

### Haiper AI model

- ❖ Haiper, a company founded by former members of Google DeepMind, TikTok, and top labs from research academia, has introduced a eponymous new text-to-video model.
- ❖ It allows everyone, with or without technical training, to generate high-quality video content with ease.



- ❖ Haiper offers tools such as text-to-video, animated static images, video repainting tools, etc.



## ENVIRONMENT

### India's golden langur population 2024



- ❖ As per the latest survey, there are an estimated 7,396 golden langurs in India.
- ❖ The entire distribution range of the golden langur (*Trachypithecus geei*) covers the Manas Biosphere Reserve and all fragmented forests in the western part of Assam.

- ❖ The population of golden langurs is divided into two major sub-populations - The northern extended population and the southern fragmented population.
- ❖ The previous population estimation in 2008-09 recorded 6,000 golden langurs in India.

### **Cheetah Population in Kuno National Park**

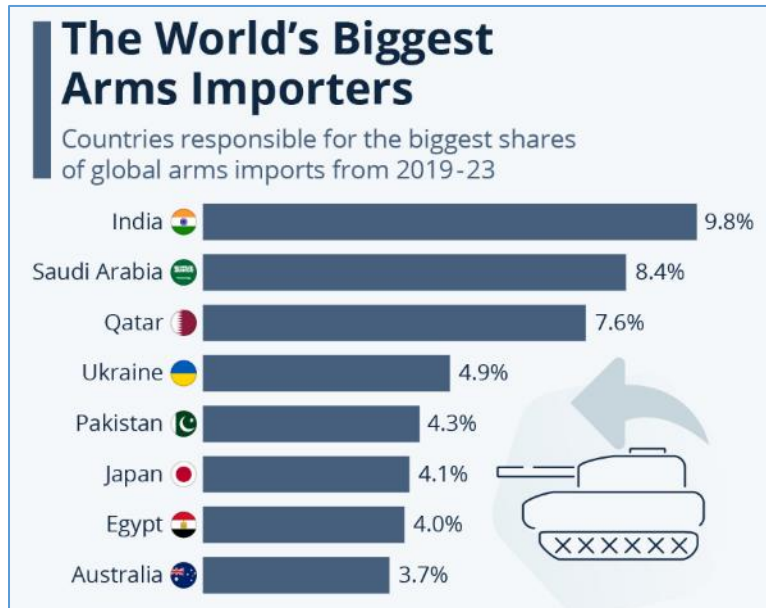


- ❖ In Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh, India, the population of Indian-born cheetahs has reached 13, with the recent addition of five cubs born to South African Cheetah Gamini.
- ❖ The total cheetah population, including cubs, now stands at 26.
- ❖ This is marking a significant achievement for India's conservation project.
- ❖ This is the first litter by a South African Cheetah in India.

- ❖ Eight Namibian cheetahs arrived at Kuno National Park on September 17, 2022.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Trends in International Arms Transfers - 2023

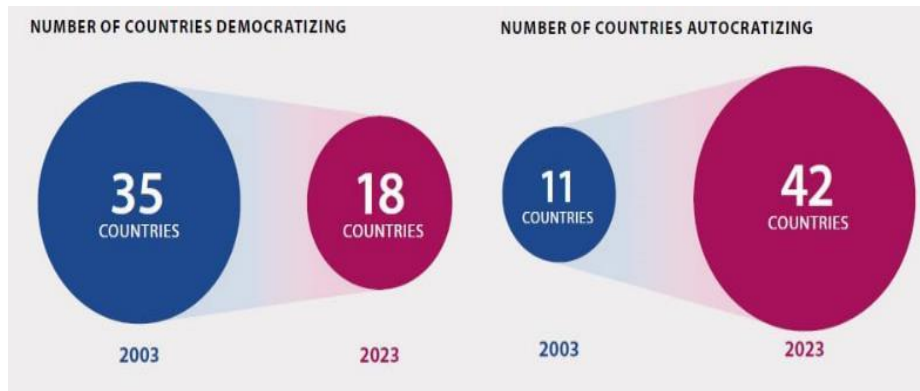


- ❖ India continues to hold the title of the world's largest arms importer.
- ❖ Between 2019 and 2023, the country accounted for a significant 9.8% of the total global arms imports.
- ❖ India's arms imports increased 4.7% in-between 2014-18 and 2019-23.
- ❖ Russia remained India's main arms supplier, accounting for 36 per cent of its arms imports.
- ❖ The period between 2019-23 marked the first five-year span since 1960-64 where Russian deliveries comprised less than half of India's arms imports.
- ❖ France and the United States are emerging as key suppliers to India, collectively accounting for 46% of its arms imports.
- ❖ India's position as the top arms importer is followed by Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Ukraine, Pakistan, Japan, Egypt, Australia, South Korea, and China.
- ❖ Among the top arms exporters, the United States leads with a 42% share, followed by France and Russia.
- ❖ The top arms exporters include the United States (42%), France (11%), Russia (11%), China (5.8%), Germany (5.6%), Italy (4.3%), UK (3.7%), Spain (2.7%), Israel (2.4%), and South Korea (2%).



- ❖ China plays a pivotal role as the primary arms supplier to Pakistan, with a substantial 61% of its exports directed towards Islamabad.
- ❖ India's defense sector has attracted only a meager Rs 5,077 crore in FDI since its opening to private companies in 2001.

## Democracy Report 2024



- ❖ India still remains an electoral autocracy with falling scores for the various components, according to V-Dem Institute's Democracy Report 2024.
- ❖ India also lists in the top 10 standalone autocratizers in 2023.
- ❖ India was to be in the bottom 40-50% of the 179 countries reviewed, and now situated between Niger (better) and Ivory Coast (worse).
- ❖ Autocratisation is ongoing in "42 countries, home to 2.8 billion people, or 35% of the world's population.
- ❖ India, with 18% of the world's population, accounts for about half of the population living in autocratising countries."
- ❖ The report finds "South and Central Asia is now the second most autocratic region in the world."

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### 96th Academy Awards

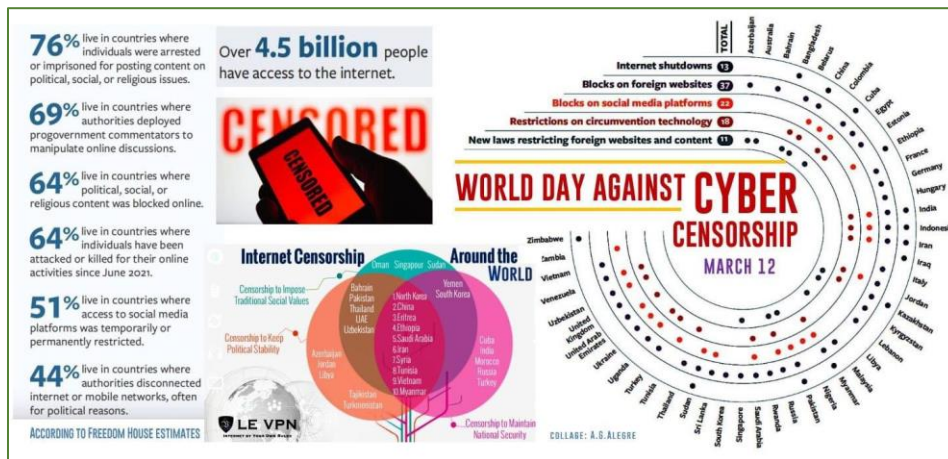
- ❖ The 96th edition of the Academy Awards held at the Dolby Theatre in California, USA.
- ❖ Christopher Nolan's epic biographical thriller Oppenheimer swept seven awards.
- ❖ Winner's list
  - Best Picture - Oppenheimer
  - Best Director - Christopher Nolan, Oppenheimer

- Best Actor - Cillian Murphy, Oppenheimer
- Best Actress - Emma Stone, Poor Things
- Cinematography – Oppenheimer
- Best Supporting Actor - Robert Downey Jr., Oppenheimer
- Editing - Oppenheimer
- Original Score – Oppenheimer
- Documentary Feature - 20 Days in Mariupol
- Original Song - “What Was I Made For?” (Barbie)



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Day Against Cyber Censorship 2024 - March 12



- ❖ Amnesty International and Reporters Without Borders first observed this day in 2008.
- ❖ This day seeks to unite people in favour of an unrestricted single Internet.



- ❖ Additionally, the organisation wants to guarantee that everyone can access the internet.

