

March - 15

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Indian Bureau of Mines celebrated its 75th Foundation Day on March 1.
 - It was established on 1st of March 1948 based on the recommendations of the National Mineral Policy Conference.
- ❖ Delhi airport has been declared as the cleanest airport in the Asia Pacific region by Airports Council International.
- ❖ Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu wins 2022 BBC Indian Sportswoman of The Year for second year in a row.
- ❖ 'Mundaka Upanishad: The Gateway to Eternity', written by former MP Karan Singh was released recently.
 - Another book in the same name was released by Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan in 1987.
- ❖ Spain became the first country in the world to give mothers and fathers the same parental leave.
 - In this, 16 weeks are non-transferable and fully paid.

TAMIL NADU

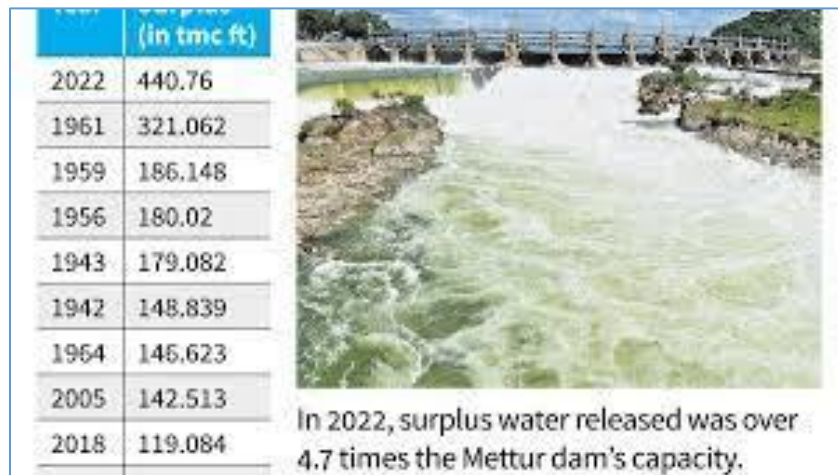
M sand Policy

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has introduced a new policy to regulate quarries of manufactured sand (popularly known as M-sand) in the state.
- ❖ It aims to improve the quality of M-sand, a type of crushed sand that is used as a construction aggregate, and regulate the quarries.
- ❖ The government will establish a single-window portal and a centralised system to monitor the activities of M-sand and crushed sand units.
- ❖ As per the new policy, the pollution control board, public works department, mines, and other departments will be merged to ensure that quarry owners receive speedy clearance for their licences.
- ❖ At present, there are 378 licensed crushed stone sand manufacturing units in the state.
- ❖ Under the new policy, all crusher units must be registered with the Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health under the Factories Act of 1948.
- ❖ M-sand or crushed sand is produced by crushing rock quarry stones into sand-sized particles.

- ❖ The policy also states that no quarry lease will be granted exclusively for manufacturing m-sand.
- ❖ Overall, the new policy is expected to bring more regulation and transparency to the M-sand industry in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The M-sand units are classified into two groups
 - Integrated units, which are owned and operated by persons who hold operational stone quarry leases.
 - Standalone units, which are operated by persons who do not hold valid stone quarry leases.



Water release from Mettur dam



- ❖ In 2022, the highest-ever quantum of excess water (440.76 tmcft) being released from the Mettur dam.
- ❖ This is the highest quantity since it was built in 1934.
- ❖ The amount of surplus water let out was over 4.7 times the dam's capacity.

- ❖ The total surplus quantum in the last 88 years was about 3,614 thousand million cubic feet (tmcft).

All-women production line



- ❖ Ashok Leyland has unveiled a new production line in Hosur completely operated by women employees.
- ❖ It aims to promote women empowerment and encourage them take up roles in manufacturing industry.
- ❖ This firm set up this new line with 80 women employees.

NATIONAL

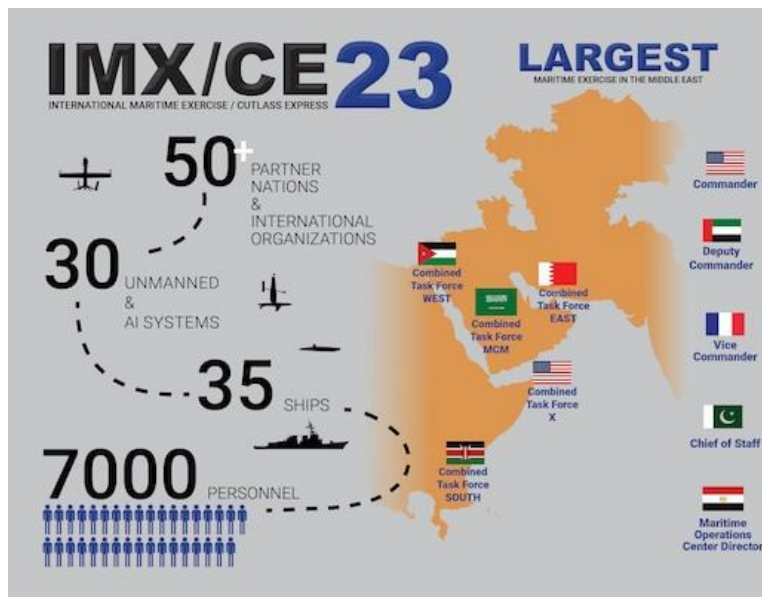
Nano liquid DAP



- ❖ The Government recently approved the launch of nano liquid DAP (di-ammonium phosphate) fertilizer in India.
- ❖ It has been notified in the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO).
- ❖ It has been issued under the Essential Commodities Act 1955.
- ❖ Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), introduced nano liquid urea in 2021.
- ❖ DAP is the second most consumed fertilizer in the country after urea.
- ❖ Out of the estimated annual consumption of around 10-12.5 million tonnes, local production is around 4-5 million tonnes, while the rest has to be imported.

INTERNATIONAL

IMX/CE-23 Exercise

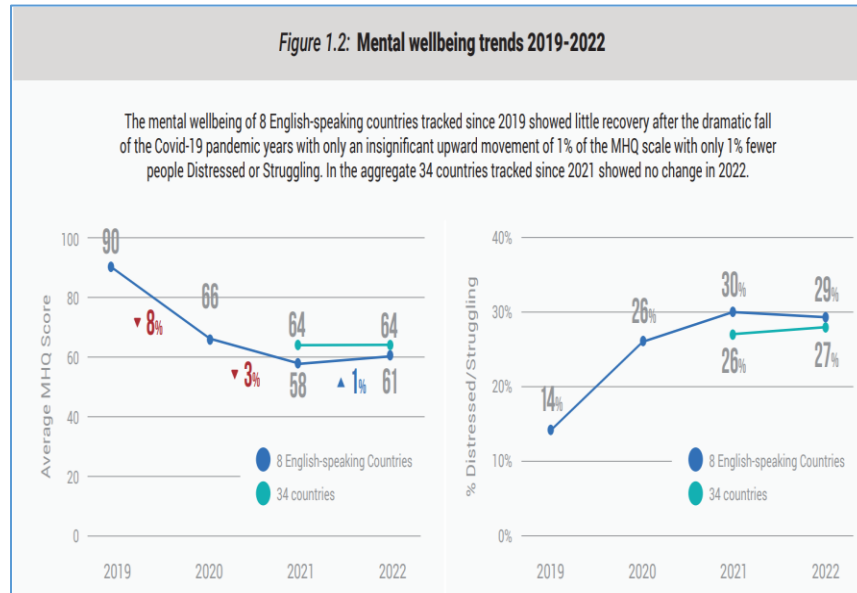


- ❖ INS Trikanth is taking part in the International Maritime Exercise/ Cutlass Express 2023 (IMX/CE-23), being held at the Gulf region.
- ❖ It is organized by the US-led Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), a 34-nation naval group.
- ❖ Trikanth will participate in the exercise alongside participants from over 50 nations and international maritime agencies.
- ❖ IMX/CE-23 is one of the world's largest multinational maritime exercises.
- ❖ While this is the Indian Navy's first IMX participation, it is also the second time an Indian Naval ship has participated in a CMF exercise.

- ❖ Previously, in November 2022, INS Trikand took part in the CMF-led Operation Sea Sword 2.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Mental State of the World Report



- ❖ The third annual mental state of the world report (MSW) was released by Sapien Labs.
- ❖ The survey found that there has been little recovery in declining mental health during the pandemic.
- ❖ The group measures by a score called “mental health quotient”.
- ❖ It had found that average score had declined by 33 points over the past two years and still showed no signs of recovery.
- ❖ People aged 18 to 24 also had a lower “social self”.
- ❖ It is a metric that measures how an individual perceives themselves and the ability to maintain meaningful relationships.
- ❖ The global average Mental Health Quotient was 64.
- ❖ Tanzania, Panama, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela are countries with the top 5 highest rankings of mental health.
- ❖ Britain, Ireland, Australia, South Africa and Brazil all have lower mental health rankings.
- ❖ India placed at 49th rank and Pakistan in 48th place.

- ❖ Peru, India, Bolivia tops the list with over 42% more young adults 18-24 Distressed or Struggling with their mental health compared to those aged 55-64.
- ❖ The report did not include any details about China.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Controller General of Accounts



- ❖ Senior Civil Accounts Service officer S.S. Dubey took charge as the 28th Controller General of Accounts (CGA).
- ❖ He will be the principal adviser on accounting matters to the Union government.
- ❖ He is responsible for preparation of the accounts and conduct of internal audits for the central government.
- ❖ The Office of CGA prepares monthly and annual analysis of expenditure, revenues, borrowings and various fiscal indicators for the Union government.
- ❖ The Controller General of Accounts (CGA) works under the Department of Expenditure in the Finance Ministry.
- ❖ The accounting functions of the CAG were taken away in 1976 and handed over to the CGA.

IMPORTANT DAYS

54th CISF Raising Day - March 10

- ❖ The CISF was set up under the act of the Parliament of India on March 10, 1969.



- ❖ The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is one of the five Central Armed Police Forces in India.
- ❖ The primary objective is providing security to public sector undertakings.
- ❖ This is the first time that this Day is celebrated at Hyderabad, outside the National capital.

