

March - 17

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Deepika Padukone become the third Indian presenter at the 95<sup>th</sup> Oscar Academy Awards of 2023.
  - The previous Indian presenters are Persis Khambatta (1980) and Priyanka Chopra (2016).
- ❖ The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has extradited 33 fugitives involved in various criminal activities under its 'Operation Trishul' in the past one year.

## TAMIL NADU

### Thiruppugazh Panel final report

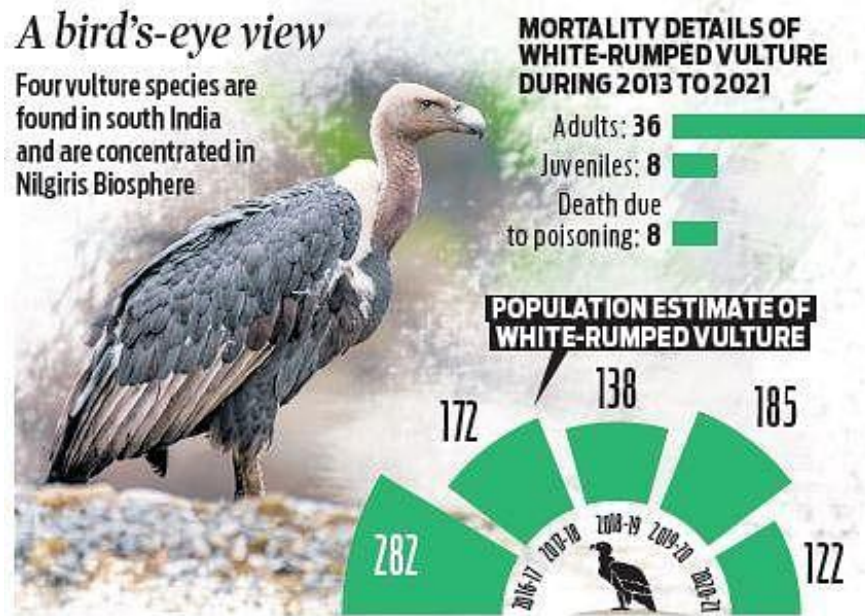


- ❖ Thiruppugazh Committee for the Chennai Flood Disaster Mitigation and Management submitted its final report to Chief Minister in Tamilnadu.
- ❖ It had recommended reforms to the regulatory framework and improved gauging of climate change induced flooding and techno-legal regime in mitigating flood management in Chennai.
- ❖ The CM had requested the committee to give area-specific stormwater drainage plans.
- ❖ The committee has also proposed area-specific detailed long-term flood management plans for 600 and odd vulnerable areas in the city.

### First-ever synchronized survey

- ❖ As many as 246 vultures were spotted in the first ever synchronised survey conducted along the borders of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu continues to remain a favourite nesting and roosting ground for vultures among all three states.
- ❖ Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) alone accounts for 98 of the bird species.
- ❖ The 98 includes the rare sighting of two Egyptian vultures and one Himalayan vulture.
- ❖ The Bandipur and Nagarhole tiger reserves in Karnataka, recorded a combined population of 94 vultures.
- ❖ Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala is home to 52 vultures.



## NATIONAL

### New cities in Swadesh Darshan 2.0

- ❖ As many as 30 cities from across 15 states are being shortlisted to be developed as sustainable and responsible destinations Swadesh Darshan 2.0 programme.
- ❖ The 15 states also include Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- ❖ The Swadesh Darshan Scheme was launched by the Centre in 2014-15 for the integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits.
- ❖ Under the scheme, the Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to states and Union territories for the development of tourism infrastructure.

- ❖ Swadesh Darshan 2.0, focussing on one destination at a time, to attract domestic tourists, was conceptualised.



The infographic features the 'myGov' logo at the top right with the tagline 'मेरी सरकार'. The main title is 'Building India's Cultural Tourism: SWADESH DARSHAN'. Below this, it states 'Development of infrastructure in tourism destinations' and '500+ Destinations, 31 States and 15 Theme based circuits under development'. A circular badge on the right says '8 Years Seva, Sushasan, Garib Kalyan'. A list of 15 theme-based circuits is provided in a white box with a yellow border. To the right of the list are four small images: a person in traditional attire, a temple complex, a large stone temple structure, and a group of people performing a dance.

**Building India's Cultural Tourism: SWADESH DARSHAN**

Development of infrastructure in tourism destinations

**500+ Destinations, 31 States and 15 Theme based circuits** under development

**8 Years** Seva, Sushasan, Garib Kalyan

- Buddhist Circuit
- Coastal Circuit
- Desert Circuit
- Eco Circuit
- Heritage Circuit
- Himalayan Circuit
- Krishna Circuit
- North-East Circuit
- Ramayana Circuit
- Rural Circuit
- Spiritual Circuit
- Sufi Circuit
- Tirthankar Circuit
- Tribal Circuit
- Wildlife Circuit

## INTERNATIONAL

### Graduate from Least Developed Countries

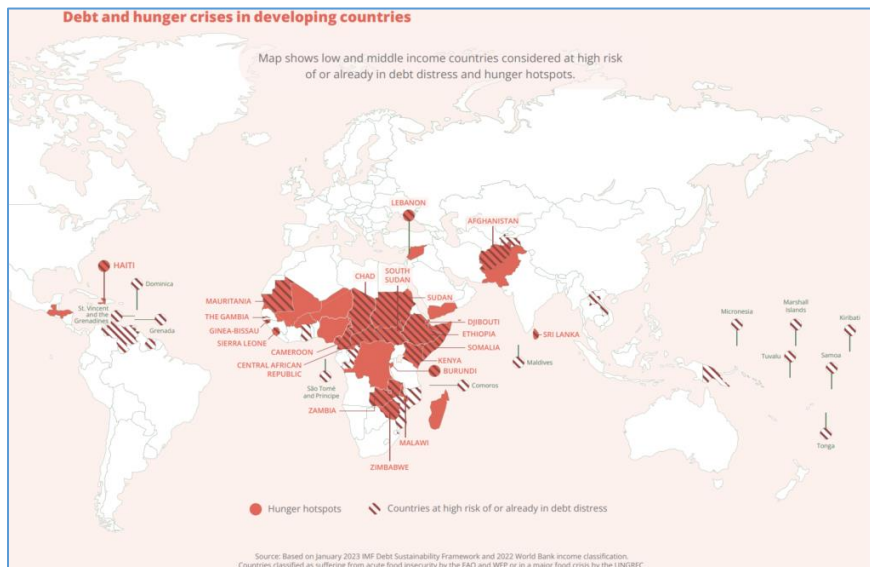
- ❖ Bhutan become the seventh nation to graduate from the United Nations' (UN) list of Least Developed Countries (LDC).
- ❖ Bangladesh, Laos, and Nepal were suggested for deletion from the list at the UN's triennial review of LDC nations in 2021.
- ❖ In 1971, Bhutan was added to the initial list of LDCs.
- ❖ Bhutan first achieved graduation criteria in 2015 and then again in 2018.
- ❖ Bhutan was so expected to complete its graduation in 2021.
- ❖ With an average annual growth rate of more than 7 per cent, Bhutan's economy has grown more than eight times in the previous 20 years.
- ❖ Its hydropower exports to India currently make about 20% of its economy.

- ❖ UN definition for LDC: A country that exhibits the lowest indicators of socio economic development, with low levels of income, human capital, and economic diversification, high levels of economic vulnerability, and a population that is disproportionately dependent on agriculture, natural resources, and primary commodities.
- ❖ The UN now recognises 46 nations as LDCs.
- ❖ One from the Caribbean, 9 from Asia, 33 from Africa, and 3 from the Pacific region make up the remaining group.



## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Special report by the IPES-Food



- ❖ The IPES-Food (International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems) released a special report.

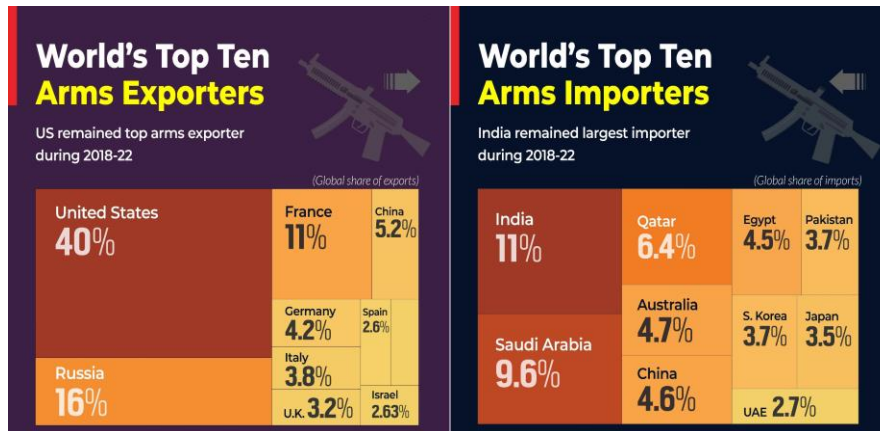


- ❖ 60% of low-income countries are now considered at high risk of, or already in, debt distress.
- ❖ Some 21 countries are nearing catastrophic levels of both debt distress and food insecurity.
- ❖ Zambia, Sri Lanka, and Suriname already defaulted on their debts.
- ❖ Ghana and Pakistan are currently in urgent talks to avoid default.
- ❖ The world's poorest countries saw the costs of servicing their debt increase by 35% in 2022.
- ❖ They paid 47% of external debt payments to private lenders, 12% to China, 14% to other governments and the remaining to multilateral institutions like the IMF.
- ❖ Several countries are now stuck in what has been described as a 'fertilizer trap'.
- ❖ India, Kenya, and the Philippines are among a host of governments ramping up fertilizer subsidies in the face of the crisis, alongside rising fuel import costs.

### **SIPRI report 2022**

- ❖ The new data on global arms transfers between 2018 and 2022 released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).
- ❖ India's arms imports fell 11% between 2013-17 and 2018-22.
- ❖ In 2022, India's imports fell 21% between 2012-16 and 2017-21.
- ❖ But that the country was still the world's biggest arms importer.
- ❖ India's share of the global arms imports was the highest in the past five years at 11%.
- ❖ It is followed by Saudi Arabia (9.6%), Qatar (6.4%), Australia (4.7%) and China (4.7%).
- ❖ The ranking system is dynamic as it depends on how orders are placed in a particular year.
- ❖ France's arms exports jumped 44% between 2013-17 and 2018-22.
- ❖ India is receiving 30% of its exports during the past five years.
- ❖ US was the world's top most military exporter in the past five years, accounting for 40% of global exports.
- ❖ It is followed by Russia (16%), France (11%), China (5.2%) and Germany (4.2%).
- ❖ US arms exports jumped 14% between 2013-17 and 2018-22.
- ❖ Russia's fell 31% during the same period.
- ❖ Russia's imports to India fell 37%.
- ❖ Ukraine was the third biggest importer of major arms in 2022.

- ❖ The report also highlighted that arms imports, especially long-range strike weapons, rose in South Korea by 61 per cent, in Japan by 171 per cent, and in Australia by 23 per cent.



## STATES

### Vote-From-Home



- ❖ Karnataka is all set to elect its next government in the elections in April-May.
- ❖ For this, the Election Commission of India has introduced the Vote-From-Home Option.
- ❖ It will be beneficial to those above the age of 80 years and also those who are suffering from any disabilities.
- ❖ This is for the first time that the Election Commission is providing this facility to those above the age of 80 years.
- ❖ A mobile application 'Saksham' has been introduced through which they can login and choose the facility to vote.
- ❖ Another mobile application called, 'Suvidha' has been developed.



- ❖ This is an online portal for candidates to file their nomination and affidavits.
- ❖ Candidates can use this portal to seek permission for meetings and rallies.

