

March - 24

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Development bank SIDBI has secured approval from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for its first anchored project, Avaana Sustainability Fund (ASF), valued at USD 120 million.
- ❖ India's first Ayurvedic café - 'Soma: The Ayurvedic Kitchen', was inaugurated at the Maharishi Ayurveda Hospital, Delhi.
- ❖ Nepal Prime Minister Prachanda declared Pokhara as the "tourism capital of Nepal".
- ❖ Meta has unveiled a 'comprehensive approach' to limit misinformation, eliminate voter interference and increase transparency and accountability on its platform during the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

NATIONAL

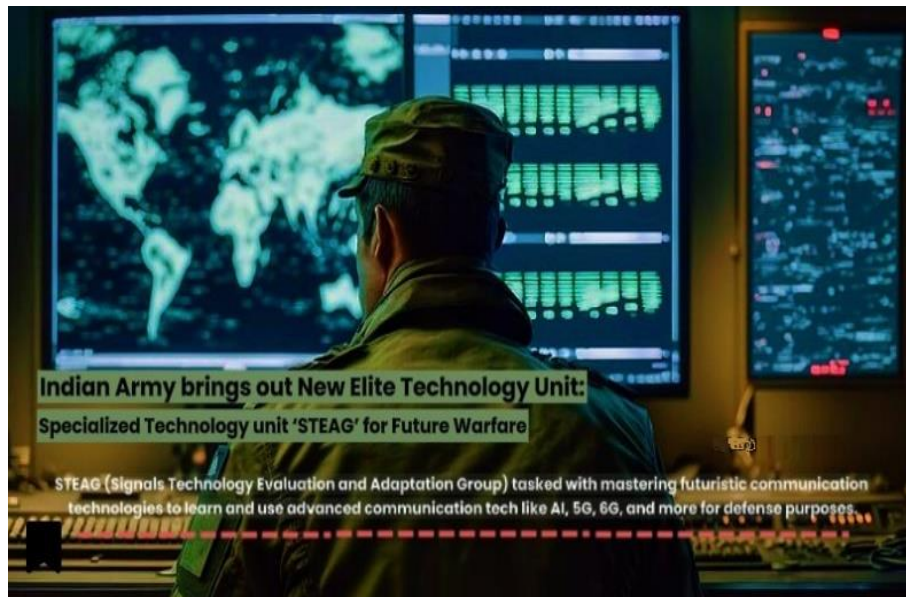
Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024



- ❖ The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has brought out the Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024.
- ❖ It aims to facilitate the transfer and transport of elephants.
- ❖ The circumstances under which captive elephants can be transferred are
 - When an owner is no longer in a position to maintain the elephant,
 - The elephant will likely have a better upkeep than in the present circumstances; or

- when a state's Chief Wildlife Warden "deems it fit and proper" in the circumstances of the case for better upkeep of the elephant.
- ❖ Until August 2022, the Wildlife Protection Act explicitly prohibited the trade in wildlife including both wild and captive elephants.
- ❖ However, amendments to the Act brought in an exemption that for the first time allowed captive elephants to be transferred.
- ❖ The captive elephant population of Kerala had dwindled to an all-time low of 400.

STEAG Group



- ❖ The Indian Army has established the first of its kind, the Signals Technology Evaluation and Adaptation Group (STEAG).
- ❖ It will function as an elite technology Unit which will research and evaluate futuristic communication technologies.
- ❖ It includes technologies like AI, 5G, 6G, machine learning and quantum technologies for defence applications.

World Cooperative Economic Forum

- ❖ World Cooperation Economic Forum will collaborate with many organisations including ICAR-Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture.
- ❖ This collaboration aims to promote the cultivation of exotic horticulture crops in the Himalayan region.
- ❖ The forum has been set up to strengthen cooperative movement in India.

- ❖ The initial focus will be on promoting Hazelnut, Walnut and other exotic crops across 13 Himalayan States/ Union Territories.
- ❖ Based on New Delhi, it is formed on the lines of World Economic Forum.



Kalpa Suvarna



- ❖ A new dwarf coconut variety named 'Kalpa Suvarna' and two new hybrid varieties of cocoa developed by the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI) were released recently.

- ❖ One of the cocoa varieties released is tolerant to black pod rot which is high in high rainfall regions of Karnataka and Kerala.
- ❖ Kalpa Suvarna' variety is ideal for tender coconut and copra production.
- ❖ The coca varieties – VTL CH I and VTL CH II – released have high fat and nutrient contents.
- ❖ The VTL CH I is a high yielder and can be cultivated as an inter-crop both in Arecanut and coconut plantations.

SAKHI App



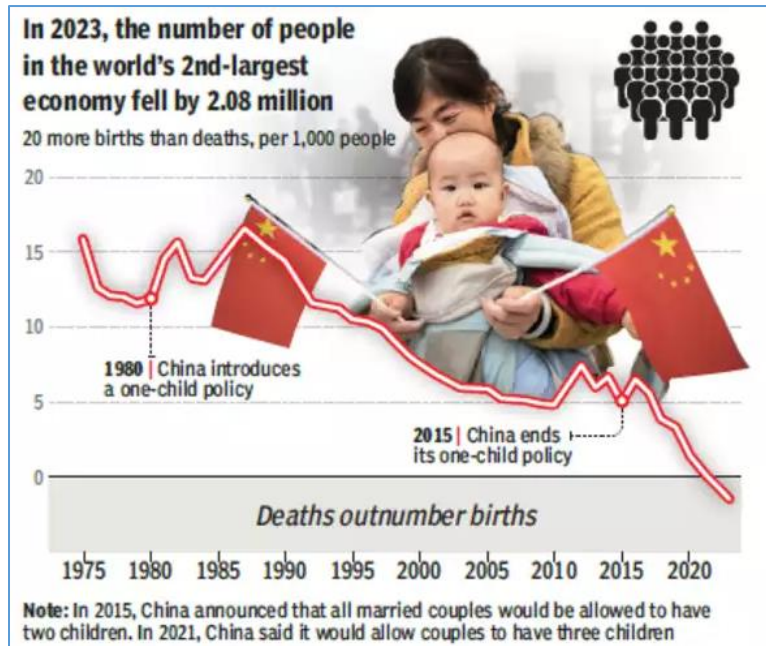
- ❖ The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) has developed a multi-purpose app named 'SAKHI'.
- ❖ SAKHI stands for 'Space-borne Assistant and Knowledge Hub for Crew Interaction'
- ❖ It will help astronauts on the Gaganyaan space flight mission carry out a range of tasks such as looking up vital technical information or communicating with one another.
- ❖ SAKHI will also keep a close watch on their health like blood pressure, heart rate and oxygen saturation.

INTERNATIONAL

China's Marriage Rates

- ❖ China's Marriage Rates rose for the first time in nine years.

- ❖ The number of newlyweds rose to 7.7 million last year.
- ❖ This was up 845,000 couples from 2022 but still far below the peak of 13.5 million couples hit in 2013.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Red Sprite



- ❖ A European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut recently photographed an uncommon occurrence termed a red sprite.
- ❖ These images have captured for the Thor-Davis experiment at Danish Technical University.

- ❖ The experiment aims to investigate upper atmospheric lightning and its implications on greenhouse gas levels, thereby influencing global warming.
- ❖ The Scientists approximated the dimensions of the red sprite in the image to be around 14 by 26 kilometres (8.7 by 16.2 miles).
- ❖ A red sprite represents an extraordinary meteorological phenomenon categorized as a Transient Luminous Event (TLE).
- ❖ Occasionally dubbed red lightning, it occurs above thunderclouds at altitudes between 40 and 80 kilometres (25 - 50 miles) above the Earth's surface.

Cassiopeia A: New Image of Star

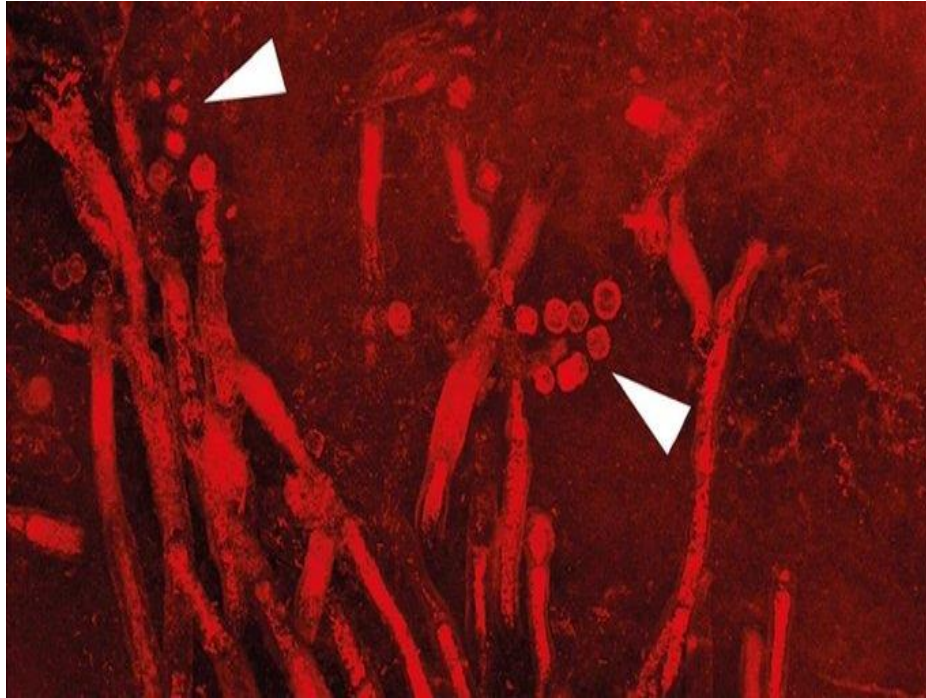


- ❖ A star that exploded in the supernova remnant Cassiopeia A (Cas A) has been captured by NASA's James Webb Space Telescope.
- ❖ Cas A is one of the most thoroughly researched supernova remnants across the entire universe.
- ❖ The whole of Cas A spans 10 light-years, or 60 trillion miles.
- ❖ The Cas A supernova remnant is located 11,000 light-years away in the constellation Cassiopeia.
- ❖ It is estimated to have exploded about 340 years ago from our point of view.

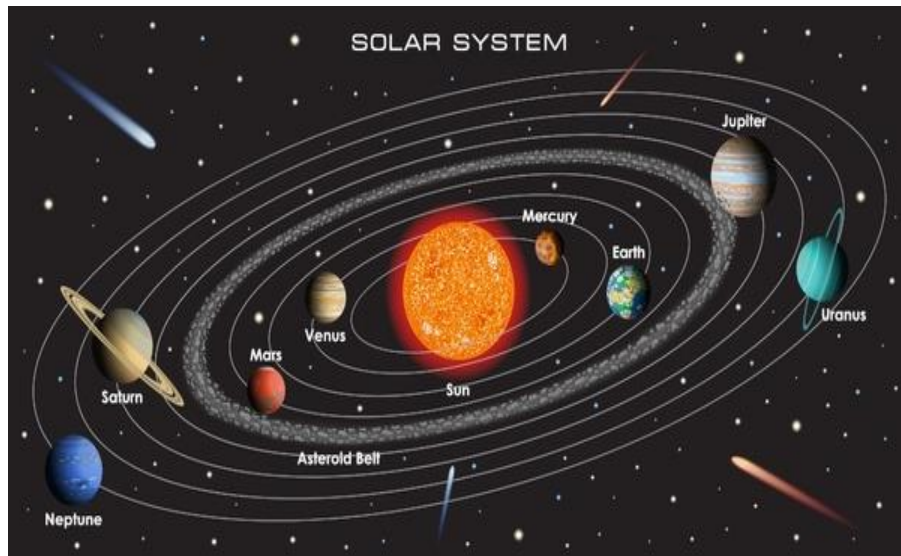
Oldest Disease-Causing Fungus

- ❖ A 407-million-year-old fossilized fungus was found in Natural History Museum of London.

- ❖ This is the oldest evidence of a disease-causing fungus ever.
- ❖ It is named *Potteromyces asteroxylicola*, after the renowned mycologist Beatrix Potter.



Mars resonance on Earth



- ❖ Mars is almost 140 million miles away from the Earth.
- ❖ However, it still has impact on the Earth due to gravitational push or pull factors, often termed as resonance.



- ❖ Mars' resonance may be responsible for giant whirlpools in the Earth's deep oceans.
- ❖ This phenomenon may cause serious climatic conditions on the Earth.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Diana Legacy Awards



- ❖ A total of 20 people from the world were honored with the 'Diana Memorial Award'.
- ❖ India's Uday Bhatia and Manasi Gupta were honored with the 'Diana Memorial Award'.
- ❖ Uday's low-cost invention can provide relief from power cuts.
- ❖ During the pandemic, Manasi Gupta's mental health services were appreciated and she got a different recognition.
- ❖ This award is given every two years in memory of Princess Diana.
- ❖ This award is given to exceptional youth of the world for their social work or humanitarian services.

Golden Book Award 2024

- ❖ Author Rakhi Kapoor wins her second Golden Book Award for her twenty-sixth book titled Breaking Free Embracing Me – healing from childhood abuse and Toxic Conditioning.
- ❖ This prestigious award recognizes and applauds the literary achievements that captivate readers and contribute significantly to the world of Literature.

- ❖ Some of other winners of the Golden Book Awards 2024 are:
 - Srividya Balakrishnan – Tales in verse from distant lands
 - Navveen Balani – Echoes of Tomorrow: The Responsible AI Awakening
 - BK Shivani – The Power of One Thought: Master Your Mind, Master Your Life
 - Sahana Murali – Fish can fly
 - Prakash Narkhede – Unbox Your Creativity.

