

May - 01

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India took part along with 164 other member nations of the World Trade Organisation in the 13th Ministerial Conference of WTO in Abu Dhabi (MC13) of UAE.
- ❖ SJVN Ltd has inaugurated the India's first multipurpose Green Hydrogen Pilot Project at its 1,500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station (NJHPS) in Himachal Pradesh's Jhakri.
- ❖ Adani Group's Vizhinjam Port in Kerala has received approval from the shipping ministry to operate as India's first transshipment port.
- ❖ The Indian Historical Records Commission (IHRC) has adopted a new logo and motto.
 - The new motto is 'Yatra Itihasam Bhavishyaam Prasakshantah'.
- ❖ Microsoft unveiled the latest version of its 'lightweight' AI model – the Phi-3-Mini.
 - It is a family of open AI models that are the most capable and cost-effective small language models (SLMs) available.

TAMIL NADU

Illegal solid waste movement from Kerala



- ❖ The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has devised an action plan for the prevention of illegal interstate movement of solid waste from Kerala to Tamil Nadu.



- ❖ Following a directive from the southern bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), which is hearing a suo motu case against the illegal dumping of waste from Kerala near Anamalai.
- ❖ The CPCB found the mismanagement of biomedical wastes generated from the households in violation against the Bio Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- ❖ The Kerala SPCB has been asked to ensure that all local bodies prepare a detailed inventory of the waste management system in their jurisdiction.
- ❖ To strengthen the capacity of solid waste management, the CPCB has directed Kerala's Suchitwa Mission to identify the gaps in solid waste management specifically with respect to non-recyclable wastes.

TN Heritage Commission Act



- ❖ Tamil Nadu government bring into force the Tami Nadu Heritage Commission Act of 2012 (as amended in 2017), 12 years since it was enacted by the legislature.
- ❖ The court has now directed the government to constitute the commission to preserve the heritage structures in the State.
- ❖ This act is required for the constitution of a Tamil Nadu Heritage Commission.
- ❖ It will be chaired by an eminent person with concern for heritage conservation and comprising top government officials.
- ❖ There were several historic buildings in the State outside the purview of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Acts of the Centre (enacted in 1958) and the State (1966).

- ❖ The commission will be protecting heritage sites and monuments in the state as mandated under the Act.

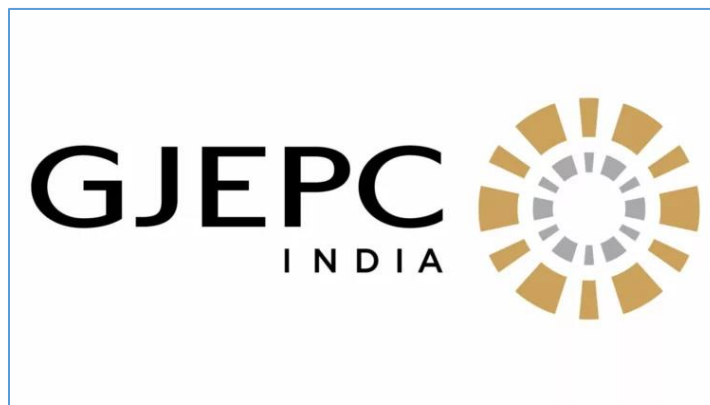
Phase 2 of Grand Anicut Canal renovation project

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government gave sanction for the second phase of 'extension, renovation and modernisation' of the Grand Anicut (GA) Canal system in the Cauvery delta.
- ❖ The canal was built during the British era.
- ❖ It serves as a source of irrigation for about 2.25 lakh acres in Budalur, Orathanadu, Pattukottai and Peravurani areas in Thanjavur district and parts of Pudukkottai district.



NATIONAL

Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) status



- ❖ The Centre has extended Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) status to the gem and jewellery sector.

- ❖ The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) is the apex body of the sector.
- ❖ The AEO is a programme under the World Customs Organisation (WCO) SAFE Framework of Standards to secure and facilitate global trade.
- ❖ The aim is to enhance international supply chain security and facilitate movement of legitimate goods.

INTERNATIONAL

Priority Watch List for IP Protection

USTR'S KEY CONCERNS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Inadequate enforcement of intellectual property rights➤ Points to India being among countries where high level of counterfeit medicines originated➤ Also listed among countries with significant trademark violations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ High rates of online piracy➤ Extensive trademark opposition backlog➤ Insufficient legal means to protect trade secrets➤ India yet to implement the WIPO Internet Treaties
Progress in addressing issues with trademark infringement investigations, pre-grant opposition proceedings	

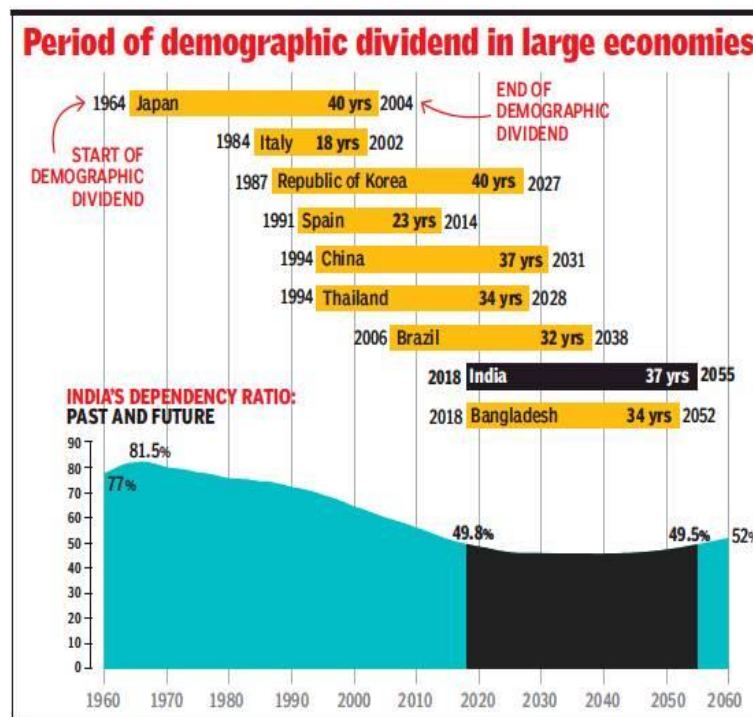
- ❖ India has been placed on the Priority Watch List on the US administration's 2024 Special 301 Report.
- ❖ It remains "one of the world's most challenging" major economies with respect to the protection and enforcement of intellectual property (IP).
- ❖ Numerous long-standing problems remain with respect to India like
 - Inadequate IP enforcement,
 - High rates of online piracy,
 - An extensive trademark opposition backlog, and
 - Insufficient legal means to protect trade secrets.
- ❖ Further, India still needs to fully implement the WIPO Internet Treaties and to ensure that copyright statutory licenses do not extend to interactive transmissions.

- ❖ Besides India, the other countries included in the list are Argentina, Chile, China, Indonesia, Russia and Venezuela.

ECONOMY

Demographic dividend data - RBI

- ❖ To harness the full potential of its demographic dividend, the Indian economy must grow at 8-10% annually over the next decade.
- ❖ The working-age population is set to expand at the rate of about 9.7 million per annum during 2021-31 and 4.2 million per annum during 2031-41.
- ❖ India can achieve a growth rate of 10% in the next decade and become the second-largest economy by 2032 and the largest by 2050.
- ❖ In the past 10 years, the average annual real GDP growth in India has been less than 6%.

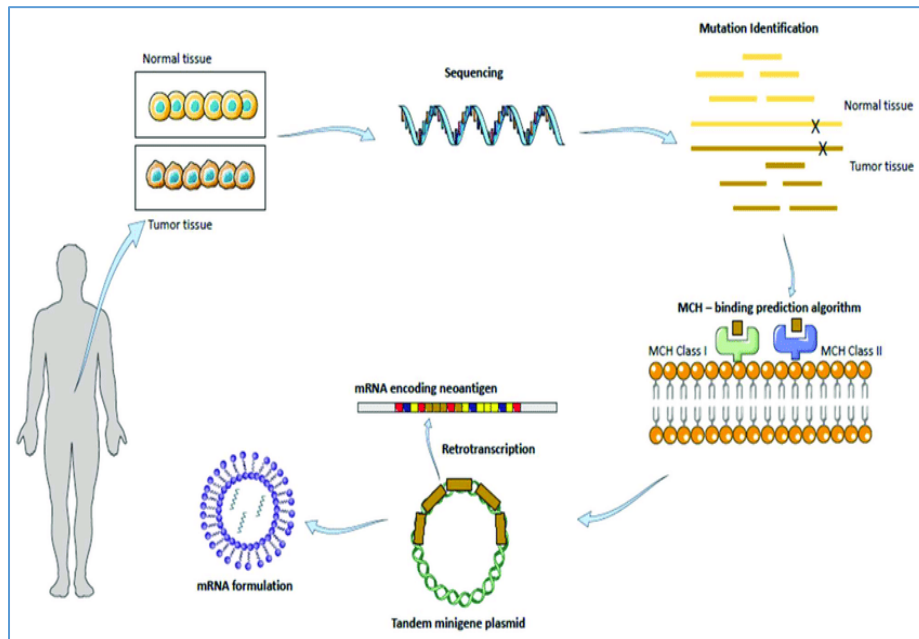


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Personalized mRNA vaccine for melanoma

- ❖ Doctors have started the trials on hundreds of patients for the world's first personalised mRNA cancer vaccine for melanoma.

- ❖ Melanoma, the leading cause of skin cancer deaths globally, affects approximately 132,000 people annually.
- ❖ The vaccine, called mRNA-4157 (V940), is a personalised treatment that activates the immune system to fight a patient's specific cancer.
- ❖ It targets tumour neoantigens, which are unique markers found on tumours and can be recognised by the immune system.



China's Shenzhou - 18 Crew

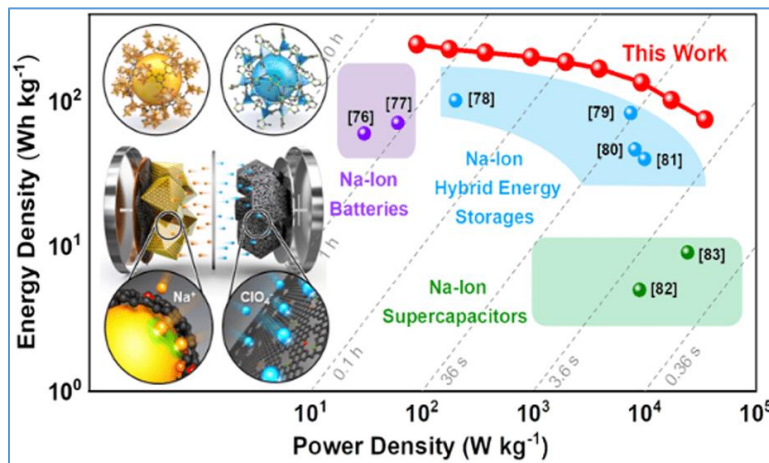


- ❖ China has launched its seventh crew to the Tiangong space station.
- ❖ The rocket carried the Shenzhou 18 spacecraft and its three-person crew into orbit.

- ❖ The Shenzhou-18 spacecraft completed rendezvous and docking with Tiangong's radial docking port.
- ❖ This marks the most recent mission in Beijing's space programme, which is working towards sending astronauts to the Moon by 2030.

Fast-Charging Sodium-Ion Battery

- ❖ The South Korean researchers have developed a high-power hybrid sodium-ion battery that can be charged in seconds.
- ❖ Sodium is nearly 1000 times more abundant than lithium and is less rare a mineral.
- ❖ So, a sodium-ion electrochemical energy storage would be a cheaper and potentially more feasible source of energy.
- ❖ At present, the available sodium-ion energy storage systems are poor in rechargeability as they have a low power density while providing a relatively high energy density.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Human Exploration Rover Challenge 2024 Awards

- ❖ Nasa awarded two Indian students' teams from Delhi-NCR and Mumbai for the human exploration rover challenge.
- ❖ The KIET Group of Institutions from Delhi-NCR won the award in "Crash and Burn".
- ❖ Kanakia International School from Mumbai received the "Rookie of the Year" award.

- ❖ Parish Episcopal School of Dallas in the United States won first place in the high school division.



Subramanya Dhareshwar

- ❖ Yakshagana thespian Subrahmanya Dhareshwar (67) passed away recently.
- ❖ He had earned the fame of 'Bhagavata Shrestha' for his scintillating voice.
- ❖ He served 46 years in the field of Yakshagana, a unique dance form from coastal Karnataka.
- ❖ It involves distinct singing, dancing and drama style that has resemblance with the Theyyam art form of neighbouring Kerala.

