

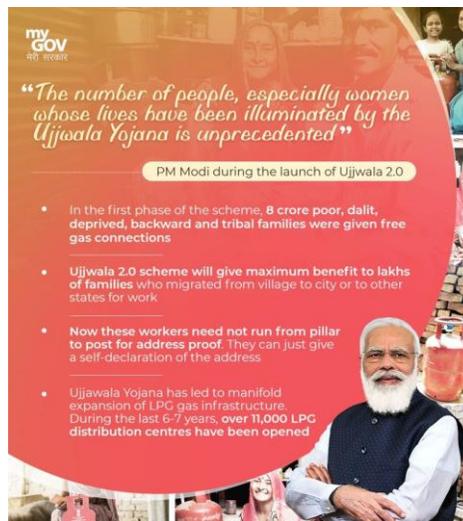
May - 05

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ MS Dhoni returned as captain of Chennai Super Kings on May 1, 2022 after Ravindra Jadeja relinquished the position on April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between India and the United Arab Emirates came into force on May 1, 2022 which was signed on February 18, 2022.
  - The agreement allows no customs duty to be levied on various products.
- ❖ The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has appointed Nand Mulchandani, an Indian-American IT expert, as its first-ever Chief Technology Officer.
- ❖ The first Indian sports documentary 'Maitanam- The Story of Football in Kerala' went live on FIFA+ on May 1, 2022.
- ❖ In Asia Badminton Championships, India's P.V. Sindhu won her second Asian bronze medal.
- ❖ Vinay Mohan Kwatra took charge as India's new Foreign Secretary.
  - He succeeded Harsh Vardhan Shringla who retired from service.

## NATIONAL

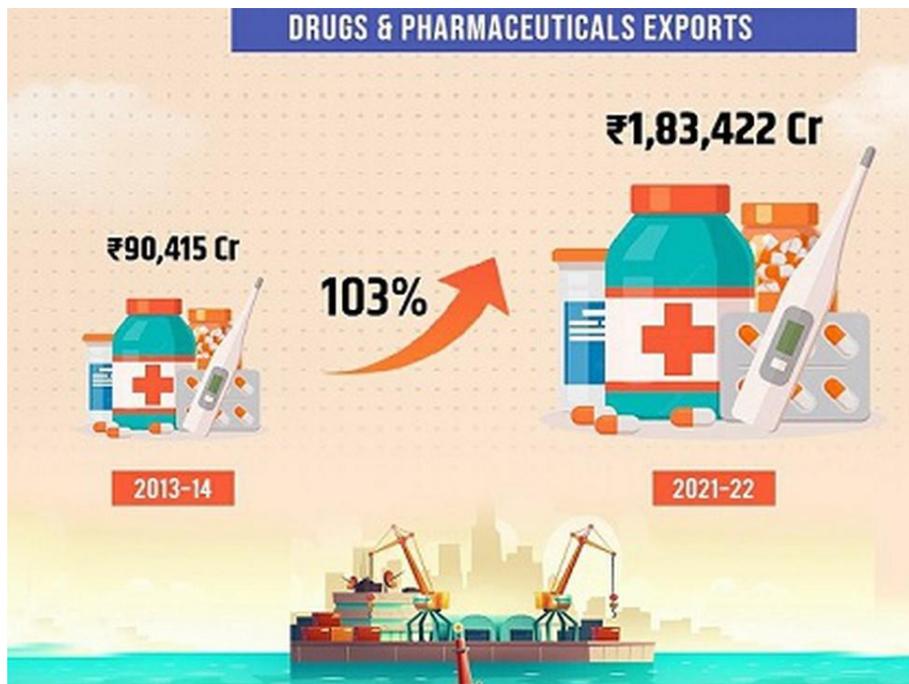
### Ujjwala Diwas



- ❖ The Ujjwala Yojana was launched by the Prime Minister on 1st May 2016 at Ballia, Uttar Pradesh.

- ❖ The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has decided to celebrate 1st May 2022 as Ujjwala Diwas
- ❖ The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) aims to provide free LPG connection to every BPL household.
- ❖ The Prime Minister launched the second phase of the PMUY or Ujjwala cooking gas scheme in August 2021.
- ❖ Ujjwala 2.0 now aims to cover 10 million more beneficiaries in the second phase of the scheme.

### India's Pharma Exports 2021-22



- ❖ India's pharma sector recorded its best-ever export performance in 2021-22.
- ❖ India's pharma sector witnessed a growth of 103% since 2013-14.
- ❖ India is a major exporter of Pharmaceuticals, with 60% of the world's vaccines and 20% of generic medicines coming from India.
- ❖ India supplies over 50% of Africa's requirements for generic medicines.
- ❖ India is a leading supplier of DPT, BCG, and Measles vaccines.
- ❖ 70% of WHO's vaccines (as per the essential Immunization schedule) are sourced from India.
- ❖ India has been serving as the 'pharmacy of the world'.



- ❖ The Indian pharmaceutical industry is the world's 3rd largest by volume and 14<sup>th</sup> largest in terms of value.

### **Gene bank to preserve biodiversity**

- ❖ The Maharashtra Cabinet approved the country's first-of-its-kind gene bank program in the State.
- ❖ It is aimed at conserving native biodiversity to ensure that natural resources are passed on to the next generation.
- ❖ The project has identified seven sections — marine biodiversity; native crop seed; local breed of livestock; freshwater biodiversity; barren land, grazing land and grass land biodiversity; protection and management of forest land; and, rejuvenation of forest land.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Global Security Initiative**



- ❖ Chinese President Xi Jinping has put forward a new Global Security Initiative in Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2022.
- ❖ The initiative is to promote security for all in the world and to oppose unilateralism, and group politics and bloc confrontation.

- ❖ The initiative is aimed at countering the initiatives of west like the Indo-Pacific strategy of the USA, the Quad and the AUKUS (Australia-U.K.-U.S.) security pact.

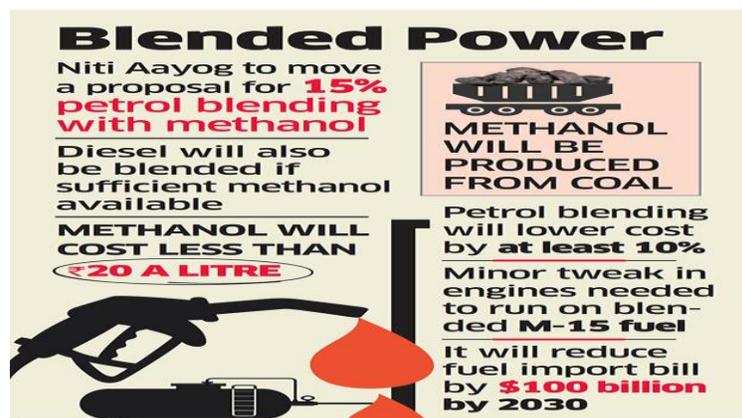
## Mandatory Reporting of Cyber Incidents



- ❖ All cybersecurity incidents in the country must be informed to the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) by the respective companies within a six hours' time frame.
- ❖ The new guidelines have been mandated by CERT-In to all the companies that are operating in India like intermediaries, service providers, companies, data centres, and government organizations.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Pilot Project of Methanol-blended Petrol

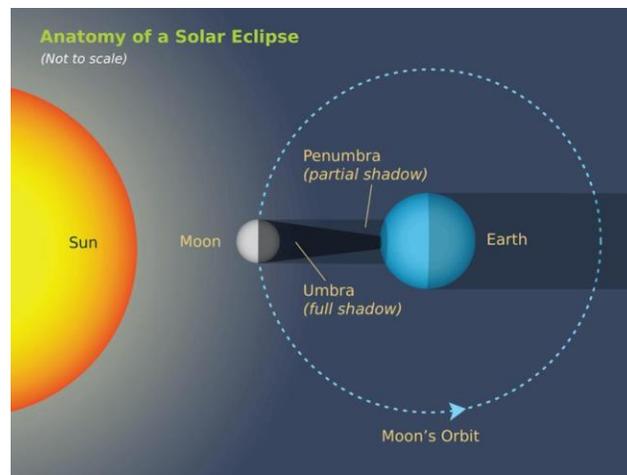
The infographic is titled "Blended Power" and discusses a proposal for 15% petrol blending with methanol. It features a fuel pump nozzle and a car at the bottom. The text is as follows:

**Blended Power**  
Niti Aayog to move a proposal for **15% petrol blending with methanol**  
Diesel will also be blended if sufficient methanol available  
**METHANOL WILL COST LESS THAN ₹20 A LITRE**

**METHANOL WILL BE PRODUCED FROM COAL**  
Petrol blending will lower cost by at least **10%**  
Minor tweak in engines needed to run on blended M-15 fuel  
It will reduce fuel import bill by **\$100 billion** by 2030

- ❖ The Indian Oil Corporation rolled out M15 petrol on a pilot basis in Assam's Tinsukia district.
- ❖ M15 is a blend of 15 % methanol and 85 % Petrol.
- ❖ It helps lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by about 5 to 10%.
- ❖ Blending 15% methanol in petrol would bring down GHG emissions by 20% in terms of particulate matter, NOx, and Sox.
- ❖ Methanol is a liquid chemical with the formula CH<sub>3</sub>OH.
- ❖ It is a light, volatile, colorless, and flammable liquid.

### First solar eclipse of this year



- ❖ The first solar eclipse of this year was witnessed in some parts of the world on Saturday, April 30, 2022.
- ❖ A solar eclipse is a phenomenon in which the moon passes between the sun and the earth.
- ❖ It forming a dark shadow on the earth that can completely or partially block sunlight in some areas.
- ❖ This was also coincided with another celestial event – the second new moon of the month, also known as the Black Moon.

### PK2 molecule

- ❖ Researchers at IIT Mandi have identified a drug molecule that can be used to treat diabetes.
- ❖ The molecule, called PK2, is able to trigger the release of insulin by the pancreas.

- ❖ It can potentially be used as an orally administered medicine for diabetes.
- ❖ PK2 was also able to prevent and even reverse beta cell loss, a cell essential for insulin production.
- ❖ It is making it effective for both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes.

**A chemical discovered by researchers at IIT Mandi may one day be used to treat diabetes.**



**A small amount found in the brain indicates that the molecule may be able to cross the blood-brain barrier.**



## MISCELLANEOUS

### THE Impact Rankings 2022

TOP 10 INDIAN UNIVERSITIES IN TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION'S IMPACT RANKINGS 2022	
RANK	UNIVERSITIES
41	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham
74	Lovely Professional University
101-200	Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences
201-300	Amity University, Gurugram
201-300	University of Calcutta
201-300	Chitkara University
201-300	KIIT University
301-400	JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research
301-400	Symbiosis International University
301-400	VIT University

- ❖ Calcutta University has been ranked first among all the central and state-aided public universities in the country.



- ❖ The varsity has been ranked 14th globally in the ‘Decent Work and Economic Growth’ sub-category.
- ❖ 64 universities from the country featured in the rankings making India the fourth best-represented country.
- ❖ Eight universities from India made it into the top 300 list globally.
- ❖ Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham claiming 41st place in the overall table and eighth place for SDG 3 (good health and well-being) and SDG 5 (gender equality).

### **World Press Freedom Index 2022**

- ❖ The 2022 edition of the World Press Freedom Index has been published by the Reporters Without Borders.
- ❖ It assessing the state of journalism in 180 countries and territories.
- ❖ India has dropped down to 150<sup>th</sup> rank with Pakistan at 157<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ The trio of Nordic countries has grabbed a top position with Norway at first place followed by Denmark and Sweden.
- ❖ On the other hand, the top 10 countries below the press freedom index include nations such as China, North Korea, Iran, Cuba, and Myanmar.

Rank	Countries	Rank	Countries
1.	Norway	176	Myanmar
2.	Denmark	177	Turkmenistan
3.	Sweden	178	Iran
4.	Estonia	179	Eritrea
5.	Finland	180	North Korea

