

May - 23

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Centre inaugurated the 8th All India Pension Adalat in Delhi to resolve chronic pension-related cases.
- ❖ The World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued an advisory on non-sugar sweeteners (NSS)
  - It recommends against the use of NSS to control body weight or reduce the risk of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).
- ❖ The Indian-origin Captain Pratima Bhullar Maldonado has become the highest-ranking South Asian woman in the New York Police Department (NYPD).

## NATIONAL

### No TDS on Interest from Mahila Samman Savings Certificate

Mahila Samman Savings Certificate 2023	
Eligible Period	1st April 2023 to 31st March 2025
Who can invest?	Women or girls
Minimum Investment	Rs.1,000
Maximum Investment	Rs.2,00,000
Interest Rate	7.50%
Compounding Frequency	Quarterly
Effective Rate	7.71%
Tenure of the investment	2 Yrs
How many times you can invest	As many times as you wish subject to the maximum limit of Rs.2 lakh.
Premature withdrawal	40% after a year
Premature closure	Eligible with certain restrictions
Tax Benefits	There is no such tax benefits while investing and at maturity.
Where to open?	At Post Office or at authorized Banks

- ❖ The recent Central Board for Direct Tax (CBDT) notification provides clarity on the taxation of interest earned from Mahila Samman Savings Certificate.
- ❖ As per the notification, if the interest earned does not exceed Rs. 40,000 in a financial year, no TDS will be applicable.
- ❖ It is aimed to encouraging more women towards investing.
- ❖ It has received a tax deducted at source exemption on interest earnings.



- ❖ The Mahila Samman Savings Certificate scheme was introduced during FY23 as a savings option exclusively for girls and women.
- ❖ It offers an attractive annual interest rate of 7.5%.
- ❖ It allows individuals to open an account in their name.
- ❖ The maximum deposit limit for the scheme is set at Rs. 2lakh.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **New antibacterial treatments 2023**



- ❖ The new WHO report is incentivising the Development of new antibacterial treatments 2023.
- ❖ It highlights progress in addressing antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
- ❖ It also identifies gaps in ensuring a robust pipeline of antibiotic treatments.
- ❖ It was responsible for nearly 5 million global deaths in 2019
- ❖ It is projected to cause over 2mn death by 2050 in India alone.
- ❖ Yet the development of new antibiotics is limited, and access to existing treatments remains a challenge.

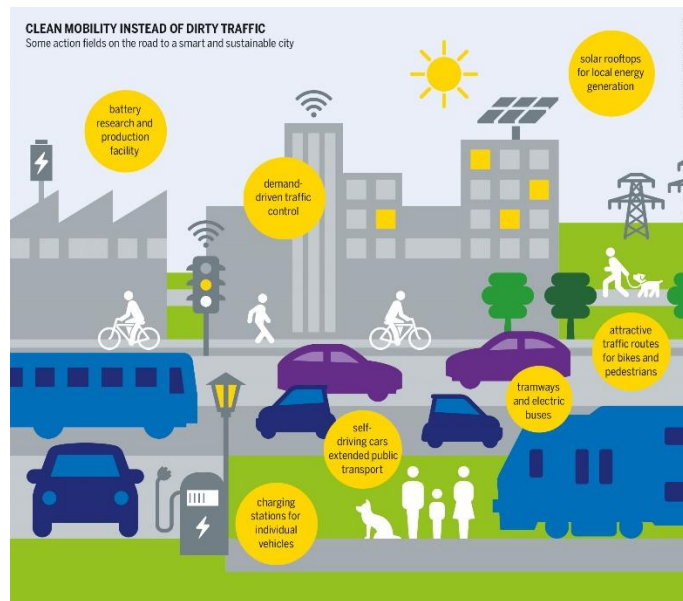
### **Rasht-Astara Railway Link**

- ❖ Russia and Iran have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to construct a rail link that will bolster the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
- ❖ It helps to connect Russian ports on the Baltic Sea with Iranian ports in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf.

- ❖ It facilitates the expansion of trade between India and Russia.
- ❖ This rail link holds immense potential in enhancing connectivity and promoting economic cooperation.
- ❖ The new connection will save four days off that traveling time.



## World Sustainable Transport Day



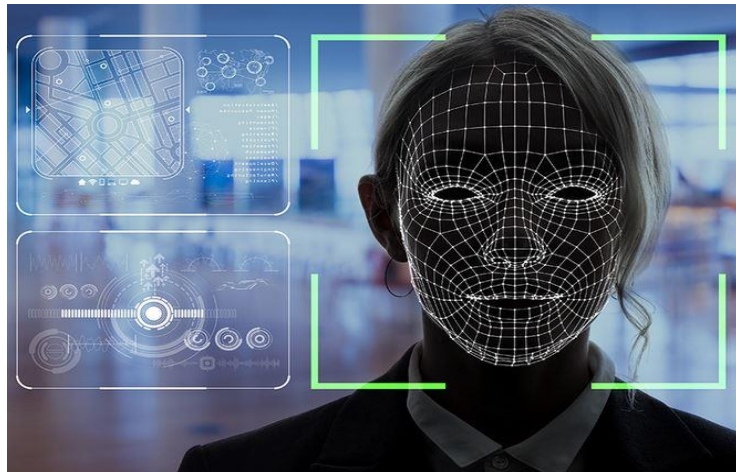
- ❖ The UN General Assembly declares November 26 as World Sustainable Transport Day.
- ❖ It took a significant step towards promoting sustainable and environmentally friendly transportation.

- ❖ This global initiative aims to raise awareness, educate the public, and foster international cooperation in addressing pressing issues related to transport sustainability.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### ASTR Verification

- ❖ The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched the Artificial Intelligence and Facial Recognition powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification (ASTR) tool.
- ❖ It aims to detect and block fraudulent mobile connections.
- ❖ The ASTR project was developed by the DoT's unit in Haryana between April 2021 and July 2021.
- ❖ It is capable of detecting all SIMs against a suspected face in less than 10 seconds from a database of 1 crore images.



## ENVIRONMENT

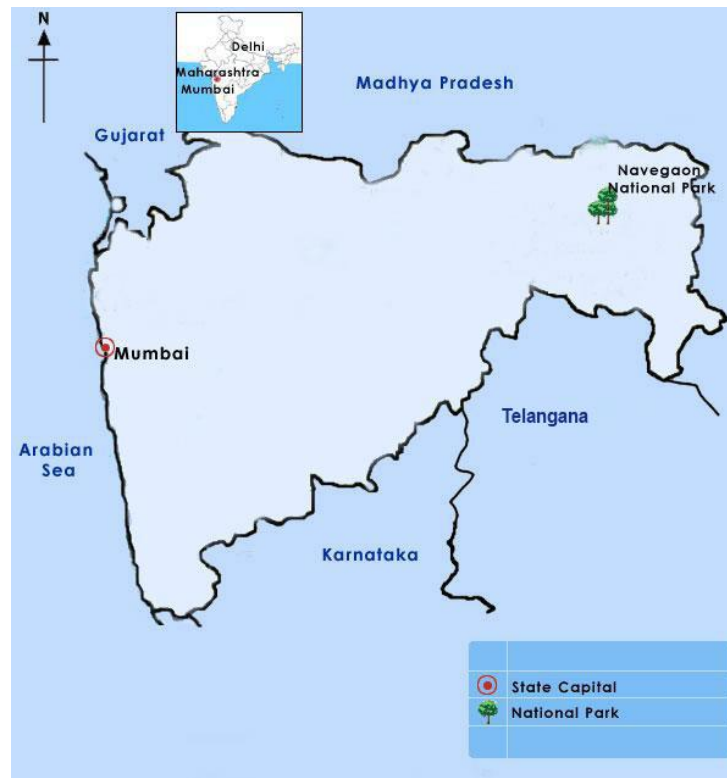
### Gekko Mizoramensis

- ❖ Researchers from the Mizoram University and the MaxPlanck Institute for Biology, Tubingen, Germany, found a new species of gecko in Mizoram along the Indo-Myanmar border.
- ❖ There are 13 species of them throughout the world.
- ❖ They are found in Southeast Asia.
- ❖ The species found inhabiting Mizoram.

- ❖ It has previously been discovered in parts of South Asia including Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia.
- ❖ Geckos are small, mostly carnivorous lizards found in warm climates throughout the world.
- ❖ The new species, which is around 20 cm in length, is an arboreal that lives on trees.



### **Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve**

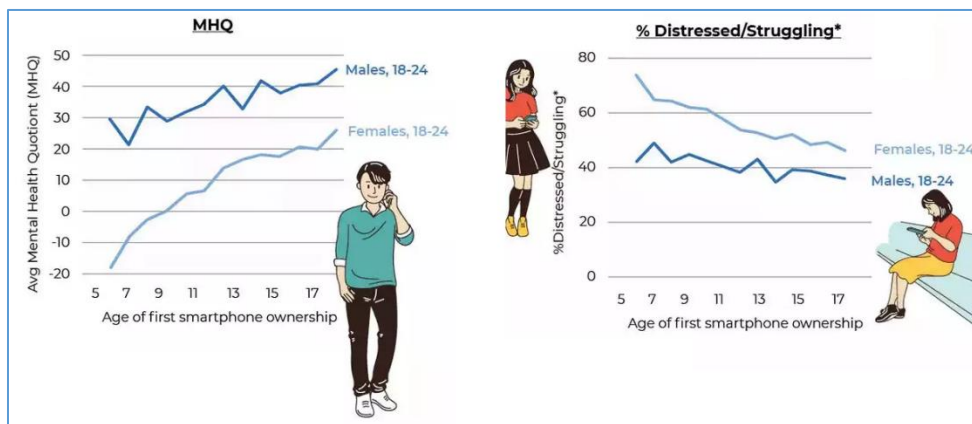


- ❖ A tigress has recently given birth to four cubs in the Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ It is situated in Gondia and Shandara Districts of Maharashtra.

- ❖ It was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1970.
- ❖ In 2012, state government announced to merging this sanctuary with another national park to include in Tiger Project.
- ❖ Now it is called as Nagzira Navegoan Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ It is connected with many surrounding tiger reserves like Pench, Kanha, Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, Indravati Tiger Reserve etc.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Addiction of smartphones



- ❖ The study titled 'Age of first smartphone and mental wellbeing outcome'.
- ❖ A survey conducted by US-based non-profit organisation Sapien Labs.
- ❖ It was conducted in over 40 countries and included over 27,969 adults aged 14–18 years of age.
- ❖ It includes 4,000 adolescents and young adults from India.
- ❖ Young women who obtained smartphones at the age of 6 reported more emotional upheavals and “serious mental health challenges” as young adults.
- ❖ On the other hand, individuals who received their first smartphone after 18 were less likely to experience mental distress.

### Annual Housing Price Growth

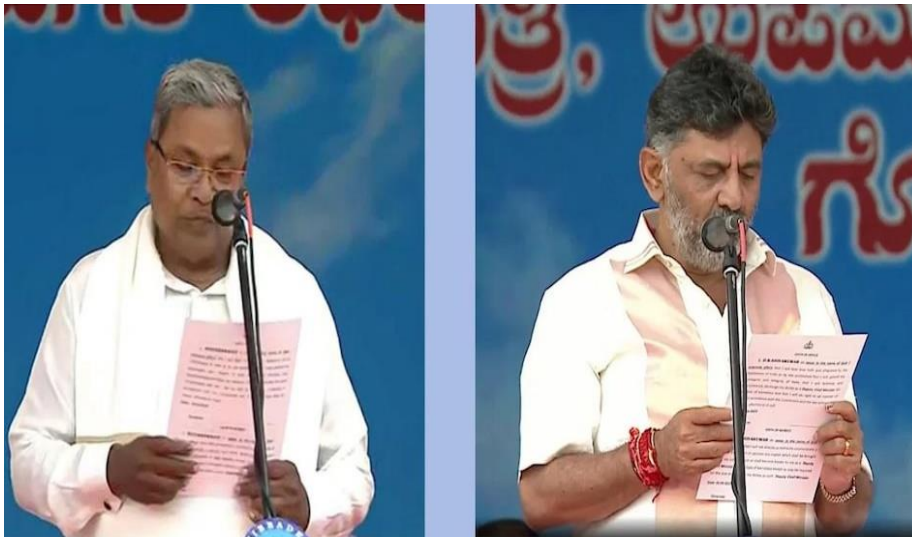
- ❖ The Prime Global Cities Index is a valuation-based index tracking the movement of prime residential prices across 46 cities worldwide.
- ❖ The report was released by real estate consultant Knight Frank India.
- ❖ The report, titled 'Prime Global Cities Index Q1 2023'.

- ❖ Mumbai moved up significantly from its 38th rank in Q1 2022.
- ❖ Bengaluru and New Delhi also witnessed an upward movement in index ranking.

Rank	City	12-month		3-month
		% change		% change
		(Q1 2022-Q1 2023)	(Q4 2022-Q1 2023)	(Q4 2022-Q1 2023)
1	Dubai	44.2	-3.3	
2	Miami	11.0%	0.0%	
3	Zurich	9.4%	0.7%	
4	Berlin	5.7%	1.0%	
5	Singapore	5.5%	1.1%	
6	Mumbai	5.5%	0.2%	
7	Edinburgh	5.1%	-0.2%	
8	Shanghai	5.1%	3.3%	
9	Lisbon	4.6%	0.9%	
10	Nairobi	4.5%	2.0%	
11	Paris	4.3%	2.0%	
16	Bengaluru	3.0%	0.4%	
22	New Delhi	1.2%	0.2%	

## STATES

### Karnataka new CM and Dy CM



- ❖ Congress Legislative Party leader Siddaramaiah took the oath of office as the 24th Chief Minister of Karnataka.
- ❖ He became the Chief Minister for the second term after his earlier five-year stint from 2013.

- ❖ Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president D.K. Sivakumar was sworn in as the deputy Chief minister.

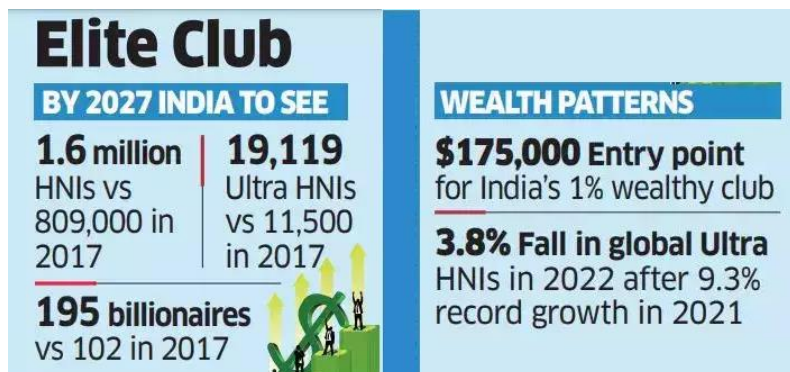
### Pahal initiative



- ❖ The online rural education initiative 'Pahal' was launched by the Uttar Pradesh Government.
- ❖ This program was developed through a partnership between the Department of Secondary Education and IIT Kanpur
- ❖ It aims to provide education to rural communities through online platforms.
- ❖ The rural online education program was started in 10 government schools in Uttar Pradesh.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### India's Ultra-High-Net-Worth individuals



- ❖ A recent report by Knight Frank indicates a significant rise in India's ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWI) population over the next five years.





- ❖ The study highlights a projected 58.4% increase in UHNWI individuals, with a net worth exceeding \$30 million.
- ❖ India's billionaire population is expected to grow from 161 individuals in 2022 to 195 individuals in 2027.
- ❖ It will from 12,069 in 2022 to 19,119 in 2027.

