

November - 04

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ In ISSF World Championship, Indian shooter Rudrankksh Balasaheb Patil won gold medal in men's 10m air rifle event in Cairo, Egypt.
- ❖ The Fifth Khelo India Youth Games - 2022 will be held in Madhya Pradesh.

NATIONAL

Merger of NAA

- ❖ The National Anti-Profiteering Authority (NAA) is likely to merge with the Competition Commission of India.
- ❖ The tenure of the GST watchdog is expired leaving around 400 cases pending before it which dealt with customer complaints regarding not receiving tax cut benefits.
- ❖ The NAA came into existence on 30 November 2017.
- ❖ It was constituted under Section 171 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017.
- ❖ It aims to ensure that the reduction in the rate of tax or the benefit of the input tax credit is passed on to the recipient by way of commensurate reduction in prices.



Approval for GM mustard

- ❖ The Government of India has granted the environmental clearance for the indigenously developed genetically modified (GM) mustard seeds.

- ❖ The latest decision has paved a way for the commercial use of its first genetically modified food crop.
- ❖ The GM crops regulator, the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), had cleared GM mustard in 2017.
- ❖ But the Indian government raised questions and asked for more studies, which has taken another five years.
- ❖ Now, even if the government gives the mandatory final approval, it will be another three years before farmers finally get GM mustard seeds for commercial cultivation.

MODIFIED MUSTARD ON YOUR PLATE



What is GM mustard?
It is a mustard variety developed by DU's Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants. The project was publicly funded.

What do opponents say?
GM mustard data not made public, so no way of independently assessing it

Why is it in the news?
Regulator GEAC is making a final review of biosafety data to decide whether it can be allowed

Will the govt clear it?
That's an unknown, but Narendra Modi-led central government says it stands in favour of GM research

₹70cr
What the project is worth

INTERNATIONAL

World Energy Outlook 2022

- ❖ The World Energy Outlook 2022 report was released by the International Energy Agency to provide insights into the implications of the global energy shock.
- ❖ Russia has been the world's top exporter of fossil fuels.
- ❖ Natural gas prices have reached unprecedented levels.

- ❖ The Forum has become an important place for policy discussions on sovereignty and security aspects of Africa.
- ❖ This is the first time that India is participating in the Forum at a Ministerial level.

ECONOMY

Russia - India's trade

- ❖ Russia is now India's seventh-largest trading partner-up from its 25th position last year.
- ❖ India's bilateral trade with Russia between April and August 2022 skyrocketed to a record high \$18.2 billion.
- ❖ India's imports from Russia have typically included petroleum oil and other fuel items, and fertilizers, mixed in with consumables such as coffee and tea, spices, and animal and vegetable fats.
- ❖ But in 2022 so far, fertilizers and fuel alone accounted for over 91% of bilateral trade.
- ❖ In September, Russia became India's second-largest crude oil supplier.
- ❖ India depends on imports to meet 85% of its petroleum needs.
- ❖ India is also the world's third biggest oil importer and consumer.
- ❖ Imports from Russia have surged over 500% year-on-year during the months of June, July, and August.



ENVIRONMENT

2 New Blue Flag Beaches

- ❖ Minicoy Thundi beach and Kadmat beach, from Lakshadweep have been accorded the coveted International eco-label 'Blue Flag'.

- ❖ Together the two beaches have taken India's tally of Blue Beaches to 12.
- ❖ Blue Beaches are the worlds cleanest and most eco-friendly “beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators”.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

SJFI medal



- ❖ The Sports Journalists' Federation of India medal (SJFI medal) for 2019 was presented to badminton legendary star Prakash Padukone.

- ❖ Vijay Amritraj was the inaugural recipient of the award, which was established in 2018.

India's Most Generous philanthropist

- ❖ With an annual donation of Rs 1,161 crore, HCL's founder, Shiv Nadar, has bagged the title of 'India's Most Generous'.
- ❖ This is declared as per the EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2022.
- ❖ He had donated Rs 3 crore per day.
- ❖ Wipro's Azim Premji slipped to the second spot.
- ❖ Gautam Adani came seventh in the list
- ❖ Among the women, Rohini Nilekani emerged as the most generous woman philanthropist.

Top 10 philanthropists	Donation (in ₹ crore)	Primary Cause	Company
Shiv Nadar & family	1,161	Education	HCL Technologies
Azim Premji & family	484	Education	Wipro
Mukesh Ambani & family	411	Education	Reliance Industries
Kumar Mangalam Birla & family	242	Healthcare	Aditya Birla
Susmita and Subroto Bagchi	213	Healthcare	Mindtree
Radha and NS Parthasarathy	213	Healthcare	Mindtree
Gautam Adani & family	190	Disaster Relief	Adani
Anil Agarwal & family	165	Disaster Relief	Vedanta
Nandan Nilekani	159	Societal Thinking	Infosys
AM Naik	142	Healthcare	Larsen & Toubro

SPORTS

U-23 World Wrestling Championships

- ❖ India's Greco-Roman wrestler Sajan Bhanwala won a historic Bronze in the 77kg division.
- ❖ This is the India's first Greco-Roman medal in U-23 Wrestling World Championship, held at Pontevedra, Spain.
- ❖ Bajrang Punia and Ravi Kumar Dahiya take home the silver.

- ❖ India placed sixth overall in the U-23 World Wrestling Championships 2022 with six gold, silver, and bronze medals.



Equal pay for men and women players

Format	Old pay	Revised*
Test	₹2.5 lakh	₹15 lakh
ODI	₹1 lakh	₹6 lakh
T20I	₹1 lakh	₹3 lakh

*REVISED PAY STRUCTURE FOR CENTRALLY CONTRACTED WOMEN PLAYERS

RETAINERSHIP: MALE VS FEMALE PLAYERS

- There is a big difference in the annual retainer fee for male and female cricketers
- Male players' categories: Grade A+ (₹7 cr annually), Grade A (₹5 cr), Grade B (₹3 cr) and Grade C (₹1 cr)
- Female players' categories: Grade A (₹50 lakh), Grade B (₹30 lakh), Grade C (₹10 lakh)



- ❖ In a landmark move, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced that it will be implementing a new pay equity policy for its contracted women cricketers.
- ❖ Thus, it is effectively paying men and women cricketers the same match fees.

- ❖ In cricket, apart from the match-wise fees, there is a retainership payment system.
- ❖ The first country to do so was New Zealand in July 2022.
- ❖ Similarly, the Committee of Administrators of the Table Tennis Federation of India, said in May 2022 that it would offer equal prize money for men and women in all the national zonal tournaments.

MISCELLANEOUS

The coldest year of the rest of their lives



- ❖ UNICEF recently released a report titled “The coldest year of the rest of their lives”.
- ❖ It provided estimates on how many children will be exposed to following 4 measures of heatwaves by 2050.
- ❖ The 4 measures are High heatwave frequency, High heatwave duration, High heatwave severity and Extreme high temperatures.
- ❖ The report made assessment based on “low greenhouse gas emission scenario” (1.7°C warming) and “very high greenhouse gas emission scenario” (2.4°C warming).
- ❖ Climate change-induced heat waves will become an unavoidable hazard and affect every child on Earth.
- ❖ Around 624 million children are currently exposed to one of the three other high heat measures.



- ❖ Children in northern regions will experience the most dramatic increase in heat wave severity by 2050.
- ❖ Nearly 50 per cent of children in Africa and Asia will be continuously exposed to extremely high temperatures.

