

November - 04

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Swedish vendor Ericsson announced the launch of its “India 6G” program with the formation of an India 6G Research team in its Chennai R&D Center.
- ❖ Kozhikode in Kerala and Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh have made it to the prestigious creative cities list of UNESCOs for contributions in the fields of literature and music respectively.
  - Kozhikode is the first city in India to receive this prestigious title in literature.
- ❖ The White House of USA hosted the 50 members (including India) International Counter Ransomware Initiative (CRI) summit recently.

## TAMIL NADU

### Ban on manja threads

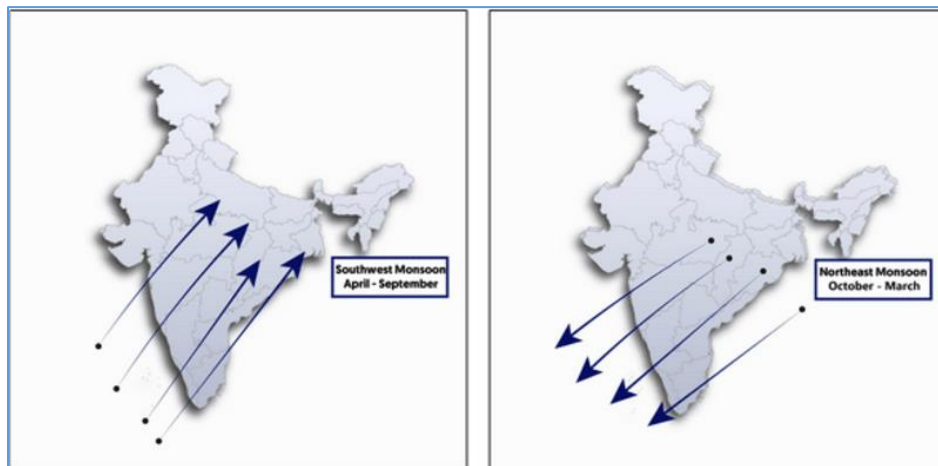


- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has issued a complete ban on the manufacture, sale, storage and use of kite flying threads popularly known as ‘manja threads.’
- ❖ It may be made out of nylon, plastic or any other synthetic material.
- ❖ Order to this effect was issued by the government on October 6, 2023 which was further notified in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette on October 30.

- ❖ Those found violating the ban shall be subjected to legal action under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (Central Act 29 of 1986).

### **Sixth Driest October in 123 years**

- ❖ Kerala has received 1% excess rainfall during October 2023.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana together experienced the sixth driest October in the past 123 years.
- ❖ These regions received only 74.9mm of rain in October, which was over 60 per cent below normal.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu received nearly 9.9 cm of rainfall this October.
- ❖ This is the ninth lowest rainfall in October since 1901.
- ❖ Kanniyakumari was the only district with a whopping excess of 116% of monsoon rainfall in October.
- ❖ The month ended with a shortfall in rain by nearly 42% against its normal share of 17.1 cm.
- ❖ Unlike the past few years, the southwest monsoon ended nearly on time after a 134-day season this year.
- ❖ Notably, 2023, 2016 and 1988, among the six driest October months over the southern peninsula, were El Nino years.

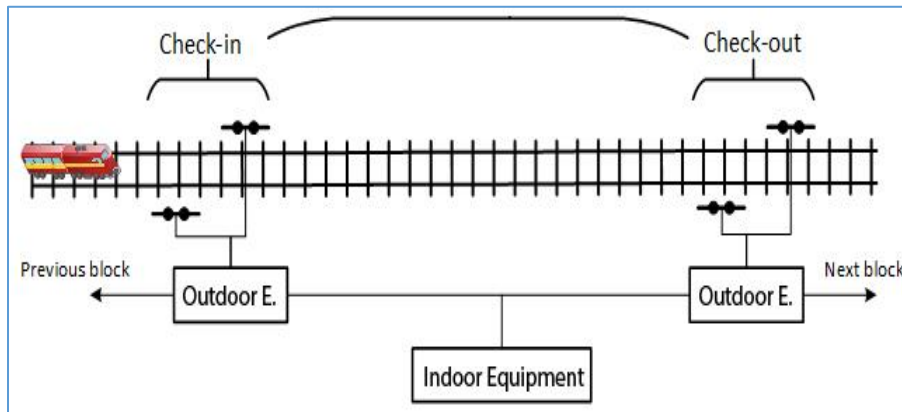


## **NATIONAL**

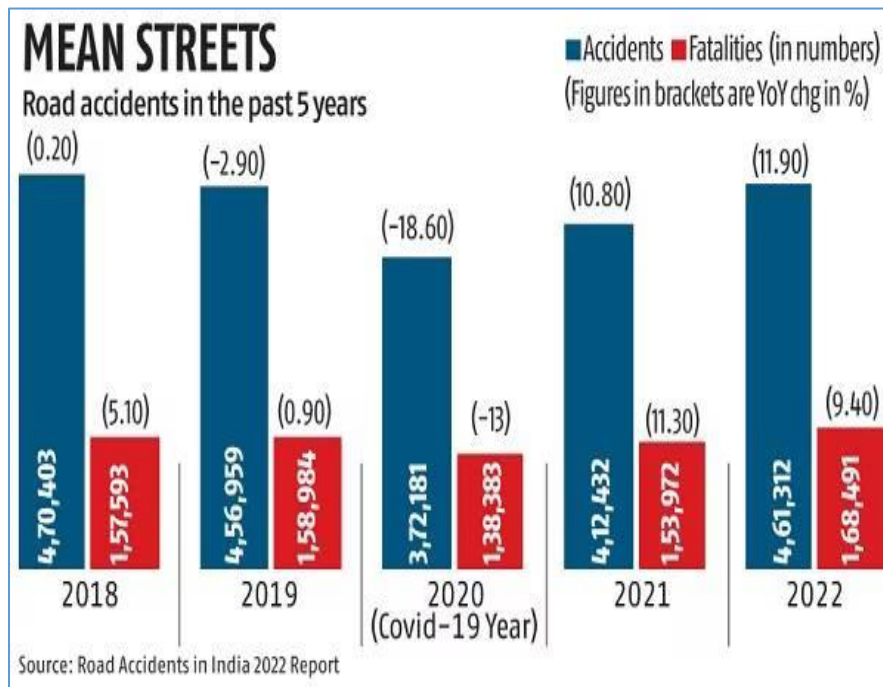
### **Block Proving by Axle Counter System**

- ❖ The Central Railway has commissioned the block proving by axle counter (BPAC) system in the Vasind-Asangaon section of Mumbai Division.

- ❖ The BPAC system plays a pivotal role in maintaining the utmost safety of train operations.
- ❖ Specifically, it meticulously examines the last vehicle of a section, subsequently confirming the section's clearance before granting authorization for another train to enter.
- ❖ Earlier, the BPAC system was exclusively deployed up to Vashind railway station within the Kalyan-Igatpuri section.



## Road accidents in 2022



- ❖ India witnessed 53 accidents and 19 deaths every hour, or an average of 1,264 accidents and 42 deaths daily due to road crashes last year.

- ❖ There were a total 4,61,312 road accidents across the country, which claimed as many as 1,68,491 lives.
- ❖ The number of road accidents in 2022 increased by 11.9% and deaths rose by 9.4%.
- ❖ The severity of road crashes is measured by the number of people killed per 100 accidents.
- ❖ It has increased over the past decade from 28.2% in 2012 to 36.5% in 2022, with a consistent increase every year.
- ❖ With a crash severity of 38.15, India ranks among the 20 worst countries for road crashes.
- ❖ India was followed by China (with a crash severity of 25.22) and the United States of America (with a crash severity of 2.01).
- ❖ In terms of road crash fatalities, Uttar Pradesh registered the maximum share of deaths at 13.4%.
- ❖ This was followed by Tamil Nadu at 10.6% and Maharashtra at 9%.
- ❖ majority of the accidents occurred on national highways (1,51,997).
- ❖ In this category, Tamil Nadu saw the highest number of accidents (18,972, 12.5 per cent of the total accidents).

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Passenger-carrying flying taxi**



- ❖ China approved the world's first airworthiness "type certificate" for EH216-S AAV.
- ❖ It is a fully autonomous drone taxi designed to carry two passengers.

- ❖ They are powered by 16 electric rotors and can fly at speeds of up to 80 mph and distances of up to 18 miles.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### INFUSE Mission

- ❖ NASA launched the Integral Field Ultraviolet Spectroscope Experiment (INFUSE) mission.
- ❖ This mission aims to study the Cygnus Loop, a supernova remnant located about 2,600 light years away from Earth.
- ❖ NASA believes the original blast happened 20,000 years ago.
- ❖ Since the event, matter has blown out at a speed of 930,000 mph (1.5 million kilometers).
- ❖ It is a rate of speed which enough to travel from Earth to the Moon in just minutes.
- ❖ It spanned three times the size of a full moon back in 2012 and is now thought to be 120 light-years across.

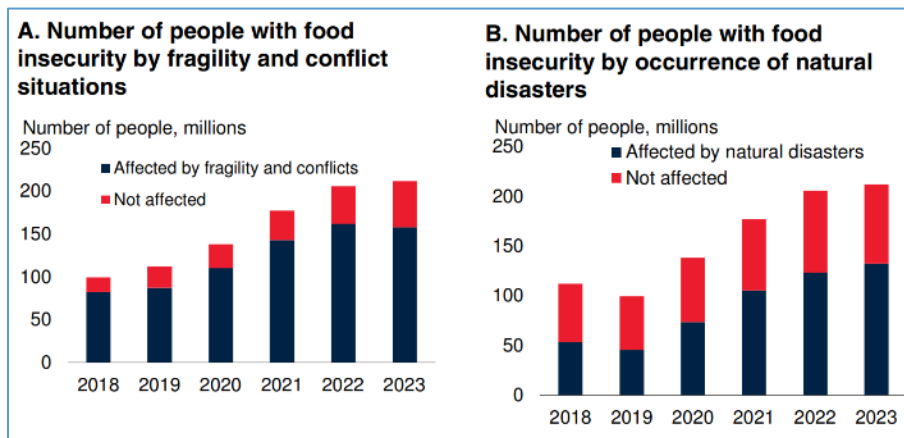


## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Commodity Market Outlook Report

- ❖ The World Bank released a report named Commodity Markets Outlook.
- ❖ The Russian invasion of Ukraine, has resulted in limited impact on commodity prices.

- ❖ It could bring “dual shock” to commodity markets as energy market turmoil could intensify food insecurity.
- ❖ The ban on exports of non-basmati rice by India has “roiled global markets since mid-July.
- ❖ Higher oil prices, if sustained, inevitably mean higher food prices.
- ❖ If a severe oil-price shock materialises, it would push up food price inflation that has already been elevated in many developing countries.
- ❖ At the end of 2022, more than 700 million people—nearly a tenth of the global population—were undernourished.
- ❖ India accounts for nearly 40 per cent of the world’s rice exports.



## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### 2023 Mahatma Awards



- ❖ Digital transformation solutions company UST has won the 2023 Mahatma Awards.

- ❖ They are awarded for their sustainable and impactful contributions to corporate social responsibility (CSR) in areas such as education, health, livelihood, environment, and disaster relief.
- ❖ This award is an initiative of Aditya Birla Group, the award was presented on Gandhi Jayanti.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### **International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists 2023 - November 02**

- ❖ The day came into existence when the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed a resolution in December 2013.
- ❖ The day draws attention to impunity, i.e., culprits going unpunished, to crimes against journalists.
- ❖ Theme for 2023 is "Violence against journalists, the integrity of elections, and the role of public leadership"
- ❖ 117 journalists were killed in 2020-2021.
- ❖ In 2020 and 2021, Latin America and the Caribbean accounted for 38% of killings, followed by Asia and the Pacific with 32% of killings.
- ❖ In 2021, the percentage of women among all journalists killed almost doubled, rising to 11% from 6% the previous year.

