

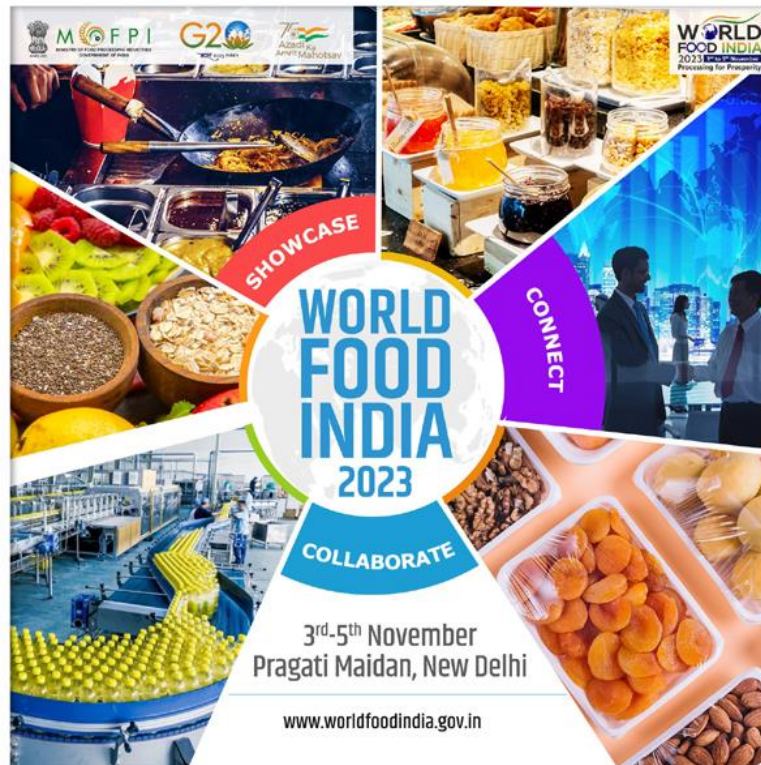
November - 08

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The domestic sailing of the first International (Italian) Cruise Liner 'COSTA SERENA' in India was launched at Mumbai.
- ❖ The crest of Indian Navy's latest warship 'Surat' was unveiled by Gujarat Chief Minister.
  - This is the first warship named after a city in Gujarat.
- ❖ Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar won the gold in rifle 3-position event in the 15th Asian shooting championship in Changwon, South Korea.

## NATIONAL

### World Food India 2023




- ❖ The three-day “2<sup>nd</sup> World Food India 2023” was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ It aims to showcase India as the “food basket of the world” and celebrate 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

- ❖ The Netherlands was served as the partner country, while Japan was the event's focus country.
- ❖ The first edition of the event was held in 2017.

### Free Ration Scheme for 5 More Years

<b>LAUNCHED DURING PANDEMIC</b>	
<p>➤ Centre launched PMGKAY to provide <b>5kg extra free foodgrain every month to 80cr people under National Food Security Act</b> during pandemic. This was in addition to 5kg grain at subsidised rate</p> <p>➤ Though <b>initially meant for only 3 months, govt extended scheme 6 times</b> to provide free grain for 28</p>	<p>months. In Dec last year, govt amalgamated PMGKAY with NFSA and announced making the subsidised foodgrain free for the poor</p> <p>➤ With One Nation One Ration Card in place, those entitled to get free 5kg foodgrain, including migrant workers, can avail of them <b>anywhere in the country</b>, the PM said Saturday</p>



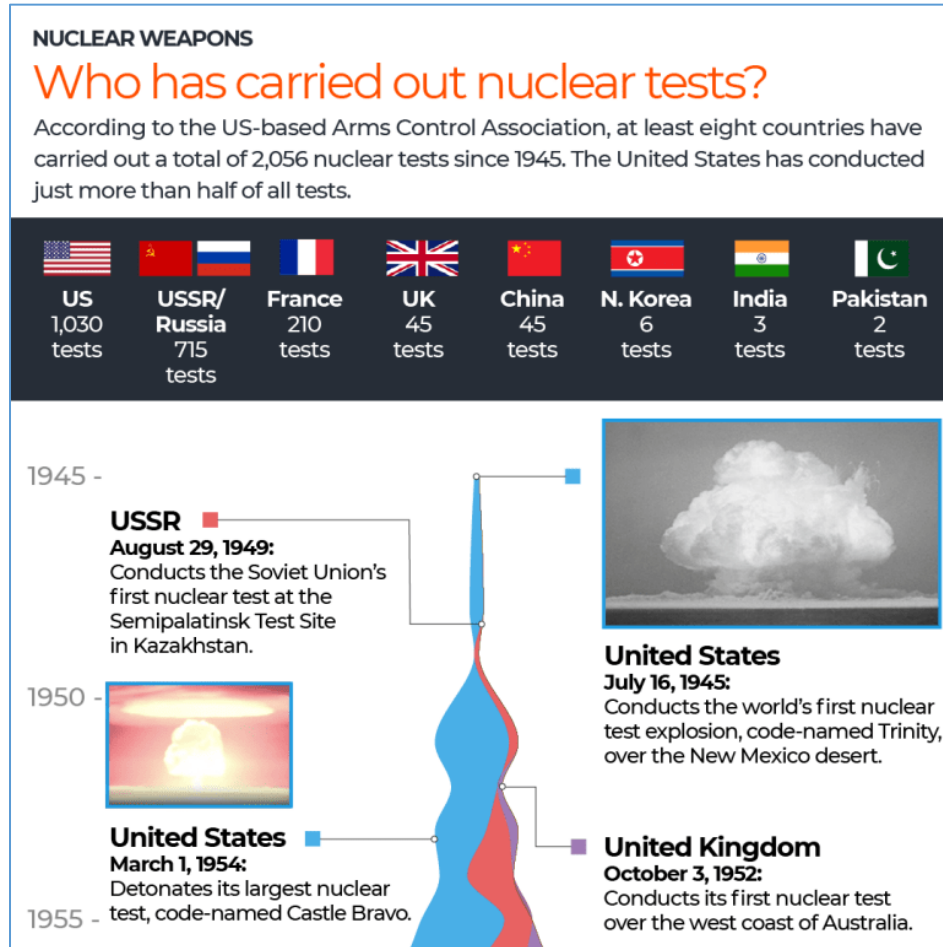
- ❖ Centre announced the extension of the free foodgrain scheme, the PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojna (PMGKAY) for the next five years.
- ❖ The extension of the free ration scheme will benefit around 80 crore people.
- ❖ The announcement is expected to cost Rs 2 lakh crore in subsidy annually.
- ❖ The NFSA covers 50 per cent of the urban population and 75 per cent of the rural population.
- ❖ There are two categories of beneficiary households under the NFSA – Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Households.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Global nuclear test ban treaty

- ❖ Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a bill revoking Russia's ratification of a global nuclear test ban.
- ❖ It is rescinding the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, also known as the CTBT.
- ❖ It would “mirror” the stand taken by the U.S., which has signed but not ratified the nuclear test ban.

- ❖ The CTBT, adopted in 1996, bans all nuclear explosions anywhere in the world, but the treaty was never fully implemented.
- ❖ In addition to the U.S., it has yet to be ratified by China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, Israel, Iran, and Egypt.

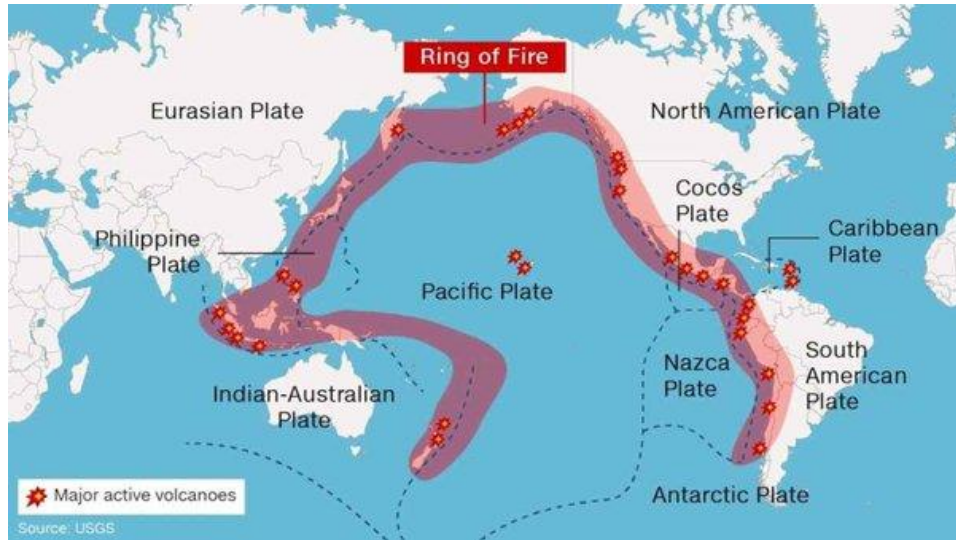


### New Earthquake Threat in Pacific region

- ❖ A series of shallow earthquakes has the potential to strike the Pacific Northwest of the US with similar devastating force to the San Francisco quake of 1906.
- ❖ This newfound earthquake threat poses a substantial risk to over 4 million residents in the Pacific Northwest.
- ❖ It is encompassing major cities like Seattle, Tacoma, and Olympia.
- ❖ The research harnesses tree ring science and state-of-the-art radiocarbon dating methods to bridging the years 923 C.E. and 924 C.E.
- ❖ The study revealed that similar shallow faults, located less than 18 miles beneath the surface, ruptured approximately 1,000 years ago.

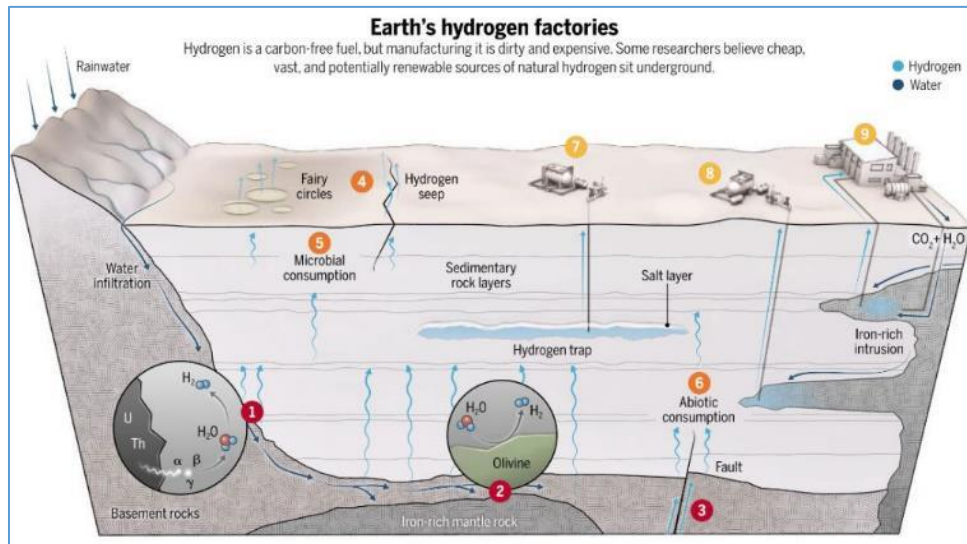


- ❖ It is known as the millennial cluster that occurred either simultaneously to produce an estimated 7.8 magnitude quake and devastated parts of the Middle East.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### White Hydrogen



- ❖ White hydrogen, also known as "natural," "gold," or "geologic" hydrogen, is a naturally occurring form of hydrogen found in the Earth's crust.
- ❖ Until recently, significant quantities of hydrogen gas in its pure form were not thought to be present within the earth.

- ❖ But the recent findings indicated a vast reservoir of hydrogen, potentially one of the largest deposits of white hydrogen ever discovered.
- ❖ They estimated the deposit could contain between 6 million and 250 million metric tons of hydrogen.
- ❖ White hydrogen Causes no CO2 emissions when used as a fuel.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **New species of gecko**

- ❖ A new species of gecko has been discovered in the Western Ghats near Rajapalayam in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ So far, 93 species of gecko have been documented and this is the 94<sup>th</sup> species.
- ❖ The new species is also called Rashid's dwarf gecko as it is the smallest among the genus.
- ❖ The new species was found at an altitude of 1,245 metres at Kottamalai estate near Rajapalayam.

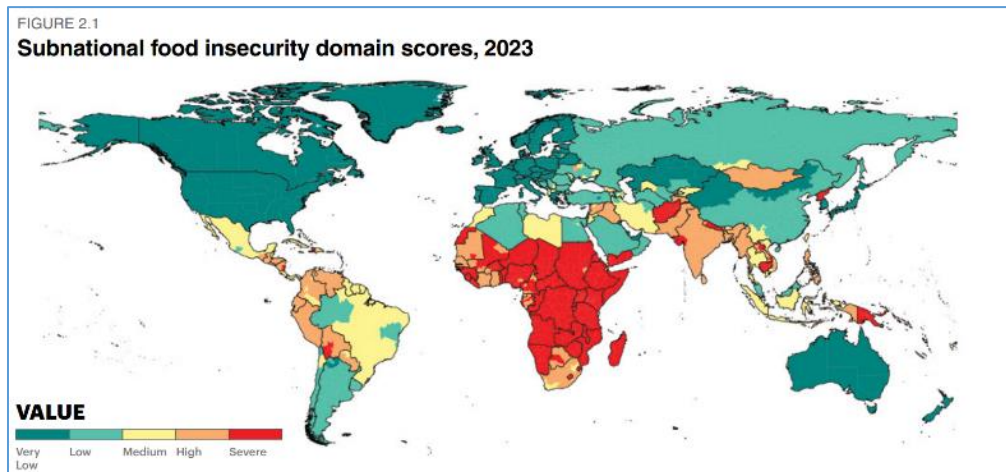


## **REPORTS AND INDICES**

### **Ecological Threat Report 2023**

- ❖ The report focuses on four categories of threat: Food insecurity, natural disasters, demographic pressure and water risk.

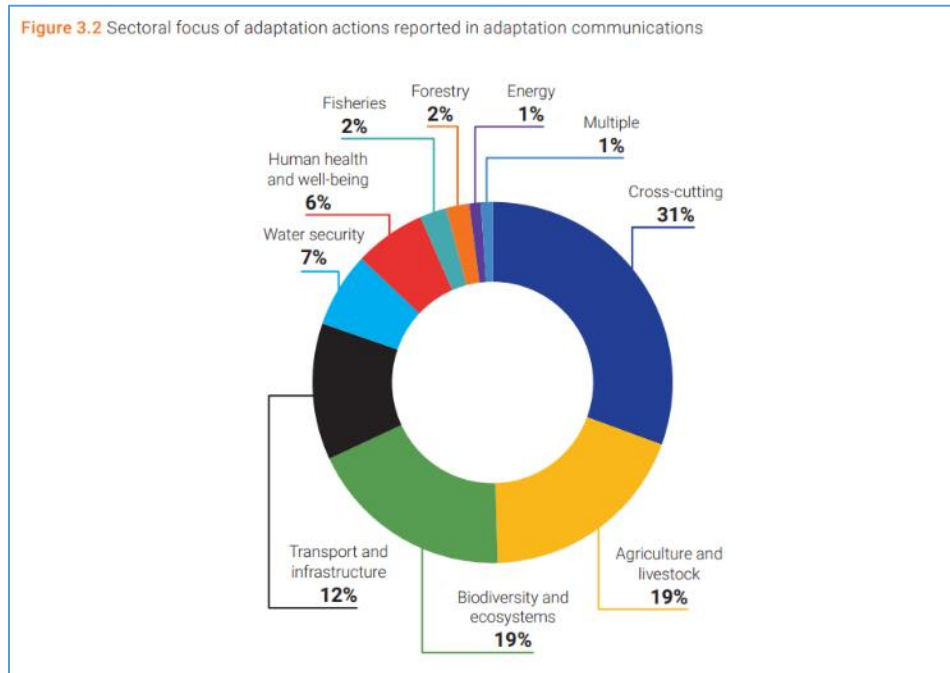
- ❖ The number of people residing in countries facing severe ecological threats will go up to 2.8 billion by 2050.
- ❖ More than half of the hotspot countries facing a severe threat are in sub-Saharan Africa.
- ❖ The report covered 221 countries and independent territories, which were divided into 3,594 sub-national areas.
- ❖ It is accounting for 99.99 percent of the world's population.
- ❖ Of these countries and territories, 66 face at least one severe ecological threat.
- ❖ Of the 30 hotspot countries that face severe ecological threats and have low levels of societal resilience, 19 are in sub-Saharan Africa.
- ❖ The most at risk countries are Ethiopia, Niger, Somalia and South Sudan, of which Ethiopia and Niger have recently emerged as hotspots.
- ❖ Europe and North America are the only two regions where no country currently faced a severe ecological threat.
- ❖ There are currently 42 countries experiencing severe food insecurity, and nearly four billion people live in areas experiencing high or severe food insecurity.



### **Adaptation Gap Report - 2023**

- ❖ Climate adaptation finance flows from public multilateral and bilateral source declined by 15 per cent to around \$21 billion in 2021.
- ❖ The finance needs of developing countries are now 10-18 times as big as international public finance flows.
- ❖ For developing countries, the total cost of adaptation amounts to \$215 billion per year.

- ❖ Modelled adaptation costs for Least Developing Countries and Small Island Developed nations are estimated at \$25 billion per year (2 per cent of GDP) and \$4.7 billion per year (0.7 per cent of GDP), respectively.



## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### NASA astronaut Thomas Kenneth Mattingly



- ❖ Ken Mattingly, an astronaut, passed away recently.
- ❖ He is remembered for his efforts on the ground that helped bring the damaged Apollo 13 spacecraft safely back to Earth.



- ❖ He played a key role in the rescue by helping the crew conserve power during re-entry into the atmosphere.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### **International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict 2023 - November 06**

- ❖ The day is aimed at raising awareness about the devastating effects of war on the environment.
- ❖ The United Nations established this day in order to raise awareness about the problem and to ensure the protection of the environment during war.
- ❖ It highlights the connection between environmental safeguard and peace as part of peace-building.

