

November - 10

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is launching an empowering initiative called “Women for Water, Water for Women Campaign” under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).
- ❖ Senior bureaucrat Heeralal Samariya has sworn in as the chief of the Central Information Commission (CIC).
 - He is the first Dalit person to hold that post.
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur has established a new centre of excellence — ATMAN (Advanced Technologies for Monitoring Air-quality iNdicators).
 - It will focus on building indigenous low-cost sensor manufacturing and AI/ML capabilities to enhance air quality.
- ❖ Bharat Botanics brand announced the opening of its wood-pressed cold oil processing facility in Gondal, Rajkot Gujarat.
- ❖ Mundra port became the India's first port to handle cargo volumes of 16.1 MMT in a month.
- ❖ Virat Kohli equalled Sachin Tendulkar’s record for most centuries (49) in One-Day Internationals.
- ❖ The Indian women's hockey team ousted Japan to win Asian Champions Trophy title.
- ❖ Vidit Gujrathi and R Vaishali claimed the two top titles at the FIDE Grand Swiss chess event at the Isle of Man.
 - R Vaishali and R Praggnanandhaa have made history by becoming the first brother-sister duo to qualify for the Candidates tournament.

TAMIL NADU

Dolphin conservation project

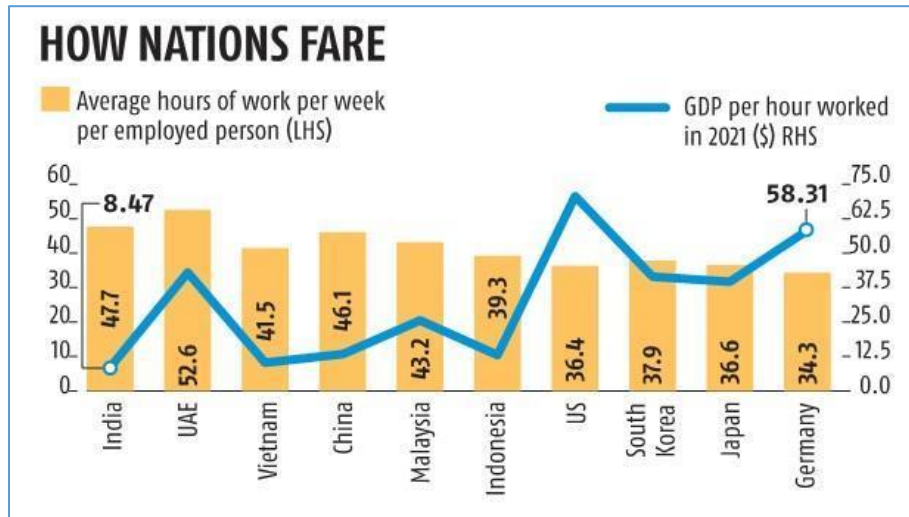
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has issued orders to implement Project Dolphin under the Union government’s Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats scheme.
- ❖ The Gulf of Mannar, extends from Rameswaram to Kanniyakumari and has a chain of 21 uninhabited islands stretching along 140 km of the coast.
- ❖ This region is known to have more than four species of dolphins including *Steno bredanensis*, *Stenella attenuata*, *Stenella longirostris*, and *Delphinus delphis*.

- ❖ Project Dolphin activities will include strengthening of patrolling and surveillance, improving habitat through restoration of coastal ecosystems, removing ghost nets, and encouraging involvement of locals with incentives.
- ❖ 60% of the amount will be given by the Union government, the State will bear the remaining cost.



NATIONAL

6th Most hard-working country



- ❖ The data from the International Labour Organization (ILO) reveals that Indians are among the hardest workers globally.
- ❖ They dedicating an average of 47.7 hours per week per employed individual as of 2023.

- ❖ This is higher than the U.S. (36.4), the UK (35.9), and Germany (34.4).
- ❖ They also work more than other Asian countries such as China (46.1), Singapore (42.6), and Japan (36.6).

INTERNATIONAL

Bletchley Declaration



- ❖ The United Kingdom hosted the world's first AI Security Summit.
- ❖ The “Bletchley declaration” on AI was unveiled at the summit.
- ❖ It encompasses not only avoiding catastrophe or threats to life and limb, but also priorities such as securing human rights and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- ❖ The declaration was signed by all 27 countries attending, including the UK, the US, China, and India, as well as the European Union.
- ❖ The Bletchley Park Declaration aims to establish a shared understanding of the risks and opportunities posed by “frontier AI.”
- ❖ The Frontier AI refers to highly advanced generative AI models with potentially dangerous capabilities that can pose significant risks to public safety.

Poppy cultivation and opium production

- ❖ Poppy cultivation and opium production have plunged more than 90 percent in Afghanistan since Taliban authorities banned the crop.
- ❖ Poppy cultivation has dropped by around 95 percent – from 233,000 hectares at the end of 2022 to 10,800 in 2023.

- ❖ Opium production has taken the same path, falling from 6,200 tonnes to 333 tonnes over the same period.
- ❖ Afghanistan was previously the world's top opium producer – responsible for over 80 percent of global supply.



ENVIRONMENT

Artificial Rains to Tackle Air Pollution

ARTIFICIAL RAIN COMETH!

WHAT IS ARTIFICIAL RAIN?
It is achieved by cloud seeding, a technology that alters weather to help induce rain in drought-affected areas or to clean air.

HOW IT WORKS
Rockets and aircraft are deployed to inject silver iodide or similar substance into the atmosphere to mimic ice particles

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
The process makes the cloud more efficient at generating ice crystals that either fall as snowflakes or melt to produce raindrops, depending on temperatures in and around the cloud. This technique is also used to disperse fog banks near airport.

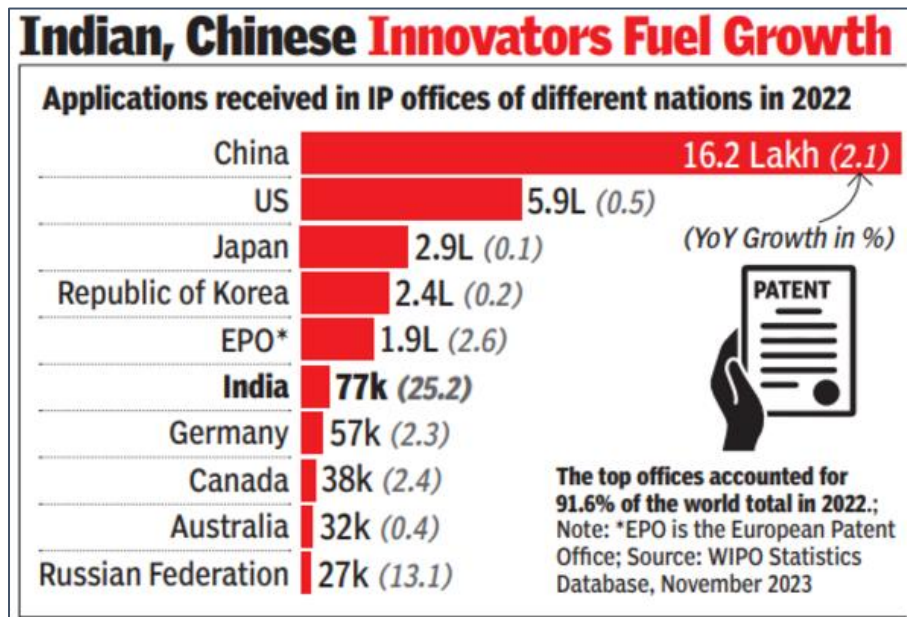


- ❖ The government of National Capital Territory of Delhi announced its plans for artificial rain in the city to tackle the air pollution crisis.
- ❖ It aims to enhance rainfall and subsequently clear the air of pollutants, thereby reducing pollution levels in a particular area.

- ❖ This innovative approach, supported by a comprehensive plan submitted by Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur.
- ❖ This is not the first time that a country has given cloud seeding a trial.
- ❖ Previously, China fired chemical rods into the sky to bring more rainfall to its dried-up parts.
- ❖ The United States, the United Arab Emirates, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Thailand, and Mexico are just some of the countries developing the method.

REPORTS AND INDICES

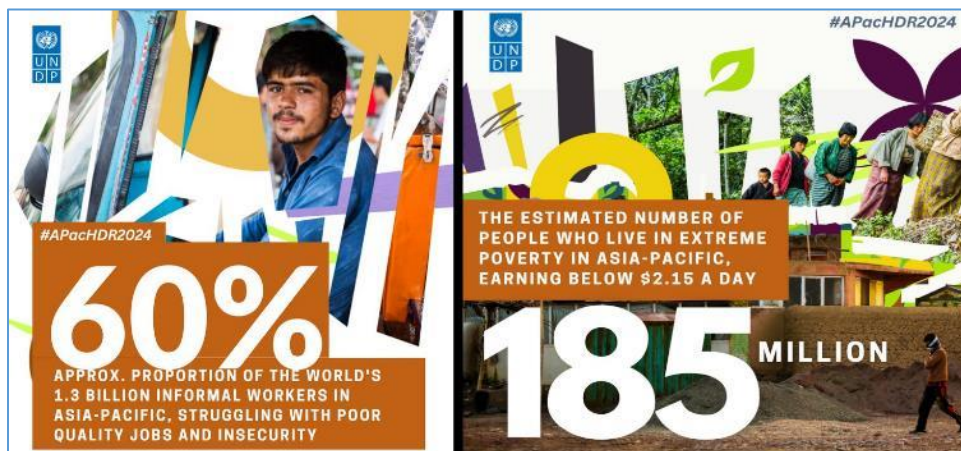
World Intellectual Property Indicators Report 2022



- ❖ This report was released by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).
- ❖ Patent filings by Indians surged by 31.6% in 2022, the sharpest increase globally, reflecting the country's growing innovation ecosystem.
- ❖ Innovators worldwide filed 3.46 million patent applications in 2022.
- ❖ It is 1.7% higher when compared with the previous year.
- ❖ The Indian innovators filed 15,495 more patent applications in 2022 than in the previous year.
- ❖ This is the 11th consecutive year of increase in patent applications by Indians.
- ❖ China received 33,605 more applications than in 2021.
- ❖ In absolute terms, India accounts for the sixth largest number of patent applications globally.

- ❖ China is by far the largest followed by the US, Japan, South Korea and European Union.
- ❖ China's share of the world total has risen from 27.7% in 2012 to 46.8% in 2022.
- ❖ In contrast, the US share has declined from 23% to 17.2% over the past decade.
- ❖ The bulk of intellectual property (IP) filing activity occurs in Asia, which accounted for 67.9% of global patent filing activity in 2022.
- ❖ China accounts for nearly half of the intellectual property filing activity globally.

2024 Asia-Pacific Human Development Report



- ❖ India has emerged among top countries with high income and wealth inequality.
- ❖ But the share of the population living in multidimensional poverty fell from 25 to 15 per cent between 2015-16 and 2019-21.
- ❖ In India, between 2000 and 2022, per capita income soared from USD 442 to USD 2,389.
- ❖ Whereas, between 2004 and 2019, poverty rates (USD 2.15 per day) plummeted from 40 to 10 per cent.
- ❖ Poverty remains persistently concentrated in states that are home to 45 per cent of the country's population but contain 62 per cent of its poor.
- ❖ India is expected to contribute 24 per cent to the global middle-class growth (192 million people).
- ❖ More than 185 million people continue to live in extreme poverty -- earning below USD 2.15 a day in the region.

