

November - 17

INTERNATIONAL

Malabar Naval Exercise 2022

- ❖ India is participating in 26th International Malabar Naval Exercise which begins in Japan.
- ❖ Australia, Japan and the USA are also participating in the Naval Exercise.
- ❖ The MALABAR exercise was initiated in 1992 between the navies of India and the United States.
- ❖ Japan became a permanent member of the exercise in 2015.



World Travel Market (WTM) 2022



- ❖ The World Travel Market is one of the largest international travel exhibitions, held in London.
- ❖ India's participation is significant to step up the recovery of Inbound tourism to the pre-pandemic level.
- ❖ The theme of this year's exhibition is 'The Future of Travel Starts Now'.
- ❖ Kerala Tourism bags top honours at the Global Responsible Tourism Awards 2022.

International Drought Resilience Alliance



The poster features a gradient background transitioning from orange to green. On the left, the IDRA logo is displayed with the text 'Alliance International Drought Resilience Alliance'. On the right, the event details are listed: '7 NOVEMBER 2022', '15:00 - 16:00 UTC', and 'LIVE on @UNCCD #UNited4Land #COP27'. A large, stylized white graphic resembling a knot or a ribbon is positioned in the lower right quadrant. The central text reads: 'Join the high-level virtual launch of the new global initiative to boost drought resilience through coordinated early action.'

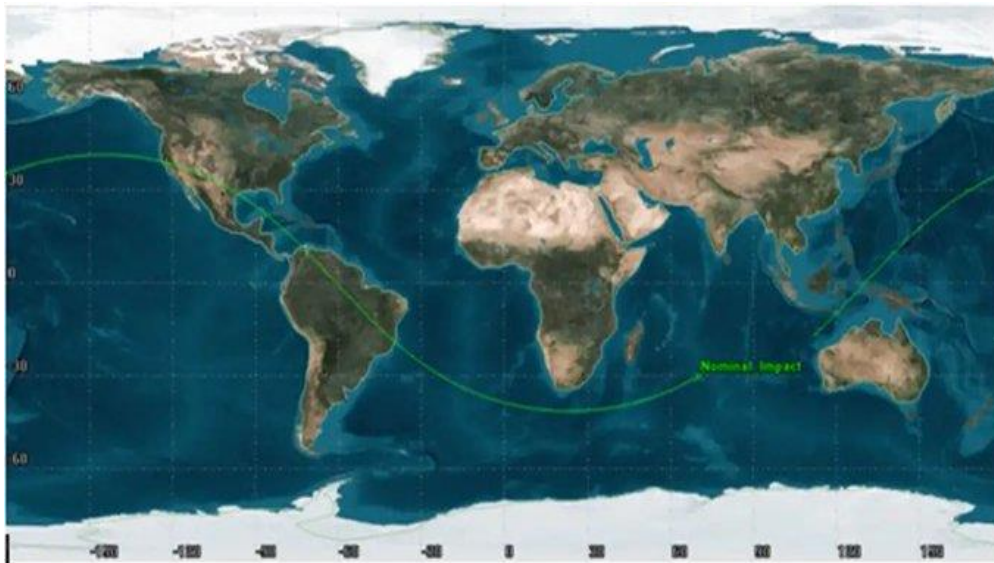
- ❖ The International Drought Resilience Alliance (IDRA) was launched in the COP27 to the UNFCCC.
- ❖ Spain and Senegal jointly launched the IDRA.
- ❖ It aims to promote cooperation to increase preparedness against future droughts.
- ❖ The Alliance has 30 countries and 20 organisations.
- ❖ The IDRA was first announced by Spain at the 77th session of the UNGA in September this year.

- ❖ The recent occurrences of droughts have been more frequent and severe.
- ❖ The frequency of droughts has surged by 29 per cent since 2000.
- ❖ Over 55 million people are affected each year.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

RISAT-2 - Uncontrolled re-entry

- ❖ RISAT-2, made an uncontrolled re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere at the predicted impact point.
- ❖ It was launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in 2009.
- ❖ RISAT-2 Satellite carried 30 Kg of fuel for an initial designed life of four years.
- ❖ By economical usage of fuel RISAT-2 provided very useful payload data for 13 years.
- ❖ The pieces generated due to aero-thermal fragmentation would not have survived re-entry heating and hence no fragments would have impacted on Earth



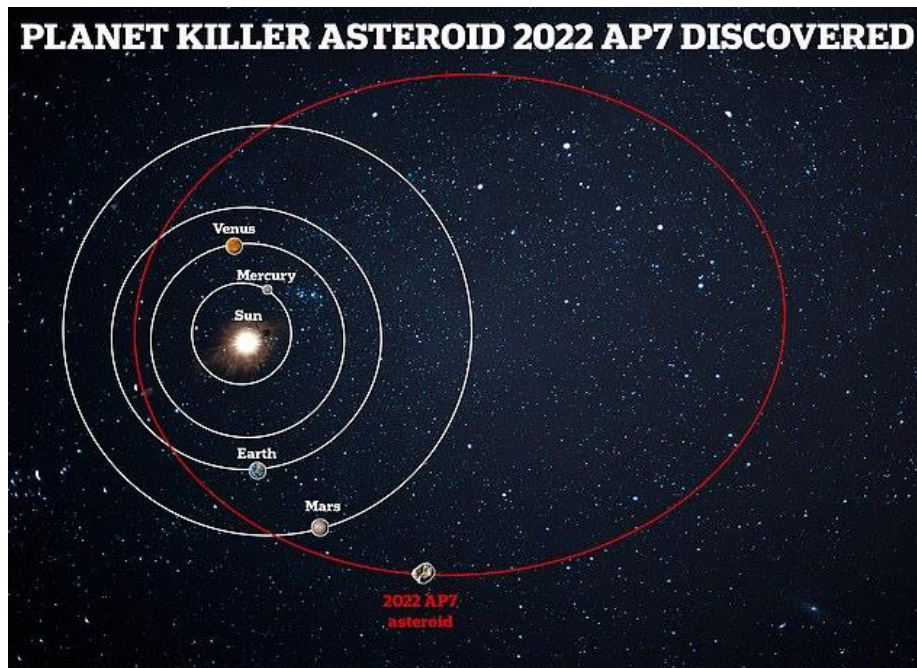
SPACE facility - NPOL

- ❖ DRDO launched the Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterization and Evaluation (SPACE) facility at Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL).
- ❖ It is a state-of-the-art testing and evaluation facility for sonar systems.
- ❖ It is developed for use by the Indian Navy onboard various platforms, including ships, submarines and helicopters.

- ❖ The uniqueness of this facility lies in the specially designed submersible platform.
- ❖ It can be lowered up to depths of 100 meters using a series of synchronously operated winches.



Asteroid 2022 AP7



- ❖ A team of astronomers has discovered three massive near-Earth asteroids hiding in the glare of the Sun.
- ❖ Of these, one called 2022 AP7 is believed to be the largest planet killer-sized asteroid to be spotted in nearly a decade.
- ❖ It is “potentially hazardous” to Earth.

- ❖ It is 1.5-kilometre-wide and has an orbit that may someday put it on a collision course with our planet.
- ❖ The other two- 2021 LJ4 and 2021 PH27 have orbits that are safely constrained inside the limits of Earth's orbit.
- ❖ At less than a kilometre in diameter, 2021 LJ4 is the smallest in size.
- ❖ The asteroid, 2021 PH27, is the closest known asteroid to the Sun.
- ❖ Due to this, its surface gets hot enough to melt lead.

ENVIRONMENT

Executive Action Plan of Early Warnings



- ❖ The Executive Action Plan of Early Warnings for All was released by during a roundtable meeting at the COP27 to UNFCCC.
- ❖ It aims to develop a global early warning system for extreme weather events that have been intensified because of climate change.
- ❖ The plan proposes the initial investment of around 3.1 billion USD for delivering early warning systems for all.
- ❖ Early warning systems are still not accessible to 33 per cent of the global population.
- ❖ Over 60 per cent of the population in Africa do not have access to these systems.
- ❖ Just 24 hours' notice of an impending disaster event can minimise damage by 30 per cent.

Indian Black Honeybee

- ❖ A new species of endemic honeybee has been discovered in the Western Ghats.

- ❖ The new species has been named *Apis karinjodian* and given the common name Indian black honeybee.
- ❖ A new species of honeybee has been spotted from the Western Ghats after a gap of more than 200 years.
- ❖ The last honeybee described from India was *Apis indica* in 1798 by Fabricius.
- ❖ Although Fabricius named the Indian bee *Apis indica*, it was not considered a valid species till now.
- ❖ The research team restored the status of *Apis indica* based on a new measure for species discrimination in honeybees termed 'Radio-Medial Index (RMI)'.
- ❖ Till date, only a single species, *Apis cerana* was noted across the plains of central and southern India and Sri Lanka.
- ❖ The new find has increased the species of honeybees in the world to 11.



REPORTS AND INDICES

WTW Global Gender Wealth Equity report

- ❖ Global Gender Wealth Equity Report was jointly developed by Willis Towers Watson (WTW) and the World Economic Forum.

- ❖ It explores gender-based wealth differences across five regions in the world.
- ❖ It assesses the reasons behind the inequality like interlinked effects of career, family support, life events and financial literacy.
- ❖ It quantifies gender wealth gap between women and men at retirement.
- ❖ when women retire from work, will have just 74 per cent of wealth accumulated by men.
- ❖ India has the worst gender wealth gap in the Asia-Pacific.
- ❖ India's gender pay gap is higher than the global average.
- ❖ Leadership roles for women are limited.
- ❖ Only 3 per cent of women in workforce hold senior-level positions.
- ❖ Long-term financial decisions generally rest in the hands of men.
- ❖ Financial literacy of working women is low in India.
- ❖ On average, Asia-Pacific has one of the lowest global wealth gaps.
- ❖ Women in this region amass just around three-quarters (76 per cent) of men's wealth levels.
- ❖ It is just 2 points above the global average.
- ❖ In the Asia-Pacific region, gender wealth gap across 12 countries is between 64 per cent in India and 90 per cent in best performer - South Korea.
- ❖ Women in six countries in the index have higher wealth at retirement when compared with the global average.
- ❖ These include China (78%), Japan (82%), Philippines (79%) and Singapore (79%).

