

November - 18

## NATIONAL

### South's first Vande Bharat

- ❖ Prime Minister flagged off the Chennai-Mysuru Vande Bharat Express at Kranthiveera Sangolli Rayanna (KSR) Railway Station in Bengaluru.
- ❖ This is the fifth Vande Bharat Express in the country and the first such train in south India.
- ❖ The train connects Mysuru and Chennai via Bengaluru.
- ❖ He also flagged Bharat Gaurav Kashi Darshan Train at the KSR railway station.
- ❖ Karnataka is the first state to take up this train under the Bharat Gaurav scheme.
- ❖ This train covers holy places, including Varanasi, Ayodhya and Prayagraj.



### India's first national repository for life science data

- ❖ India's first National Repository for Life Science data was unveiled recently.
- ❖ The National Repository for Life Science data was generated from publicly-funded research in India.
- ❖ It was established at the Regional Biotechnology Center Faridabad, Haryana.

- ❖ It has a storage capacity of four petabytes and is also home to the 'Brahm' High-Performance Computing facility.



## INTERNATIONAL

### World's longest passenger train

#### World's longest passenger train passes through Swiss Alps



- ❖ Switzerland is now home to the world's longest passenger train.
- ❖ The train has 100 coaches, measures 1910 metres and consists of 4,550 seats.



- ❖ The train was seen passing through the mountainous landscape in the Swiss Alps on October 29th, 2022.
- ❖ It was announced at an event marking the 175th anniversary of Switzerland's railway system.

### **UN resolution on combating Nazism & neo-Nazism**

- ❖ India has voted in favour of the Russia-sponsored draft resolution in the UN on 'Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism.
- ❖ It also includes other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance'.
- ❖ The draft resolution put to vote at the UN General Assembly was backed by 105 countries including India.
- ❖ Fifty-Two states (largely NATO and European states) voted against, while 15 states abstained.



### **2nd BIMSTEC Agriculture Ministers meeting**

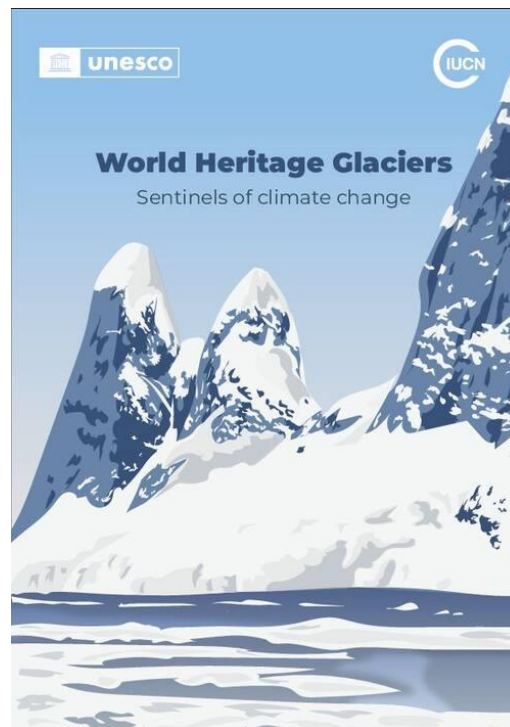
- ❖ India hosted the 2nd BIMSTEC Agriculture Ministers meeting under the chairmanship of Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar.
- ❖ Agriculture ministers of Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand participated in the meeting.
- ❖ It adopted the Action Plan for Strengthening BIMSTEC Agricultural Cooperation (2023-2027).
- ❖ BIMSTEC was established in the year 1997.

- ❖ It includes five countries of South Asia - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and two countries of South-East Asia – Myanmar and Thailand.



## ENVIRONMENT

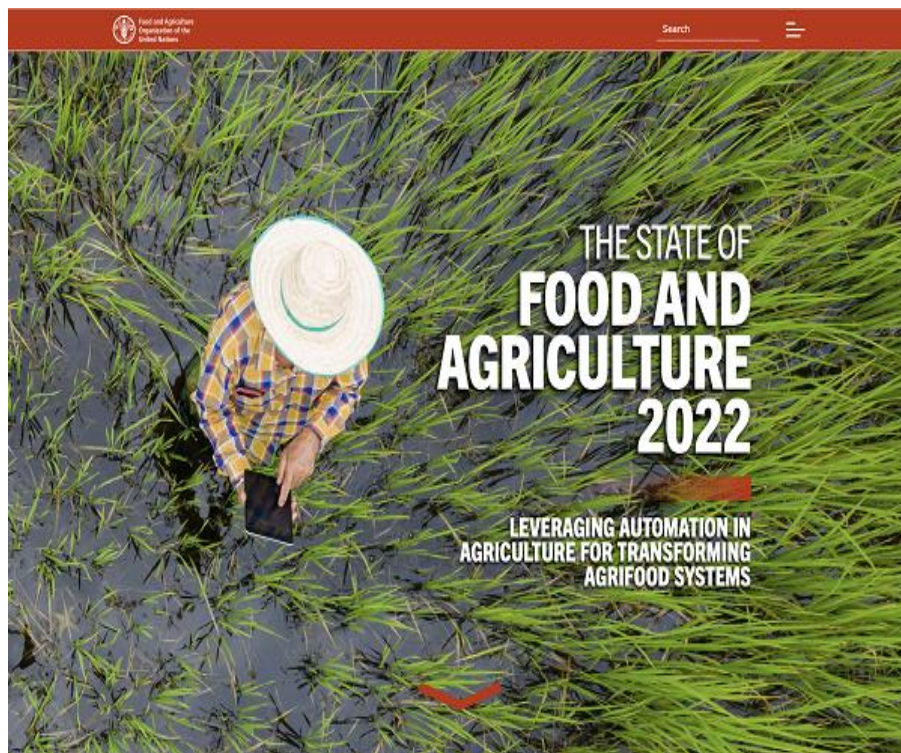
### Glaciers under threat



- ❖ As per the UNESCO study, one third of the glaciers on the UNESCO World Heritage list are under threat.
- ❖ These glaciers have been retreating at an accelerated rate since 2000 due to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, which are warming temperatures.
- ❖ Fifty UNESCO World Heritage sites are home to glaciers, representing almost 10% of the Earth's total glacierised area.
- ❖ They include the highest (next to Mt Everest), the longest (in Alaska), and the last remaining glaciers in Africa.
- ❖ The UNESCO study has partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- ❖ They are currently losing 58 billion tons of ice every year.
- ❖ It is equivalent to the combined annual water use of France and Spain.
- ❖ They are responsible for nearly 5% of observed global sea-level rise.
- ❖ The glaciers under threat are in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America and Oceania.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### State of Food and Agriculture report 2022





- ❖ The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) is one of the annual flagship reports released by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- ❖ It provides comprehensive insights into the various issues related to the field of food and agriculture based on science-based assessment.
- ❖ It covers topics that are important for rural and agricultural development as well as global food security.
- ❖ The report looked at 27 case studies from all over the world, representing different technologies.
- ❖ Only 10 of the 27 service providers are profitable and financially sustainable.
- ❖ There are significant differences in the spread of automation technologies between and within countries.
- ❖ The adoption is especially limited in sub-Saharan Africa.
- ❖ Agriculture in this region is dominated by human and animal power, limiting the productivity significantly.
- ❖ The report recommends setting up sustainable rental mechanisms to address this issue.

## STATES

### Mandia Divas – Odisha



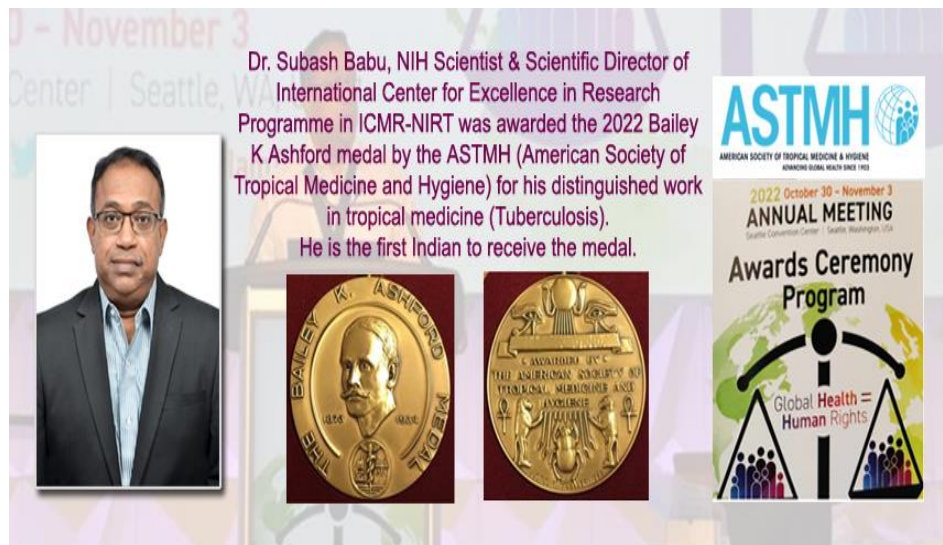
- ❖ Odisha celebrated Mandia Divas (Millet Day) on November 10, 2022.
- ❖ It aims to promote millet cultivation and its consumption across the State.

- ❖ In order to improve their condition and ensure nutrition for the people, Odisha launched Millet Mission.
- ❖ UN General Assembly has declared the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Bailey K. Ashford Medal for 2022

- ❖ Prominent Indian physician and scientist Dr Subhash Babu has been conferred the prestigious 2022 Bailey K. Ashford Medal and 2022 Fellow of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) award.
- ❖ This is awarded for his exemplary research work and contribution in tropical medicine.
- ❖ ASTMH is the world's largest scientific organization in tropical medicine.
- ❖ The medal is awarded annually to one or more mid-career-investigators for distinguished work in tropical medicine.
- ❖ In the 82-year history of the award, it has never been awarded before to an Indian scientist or for work done at an Indian institution.



### ICC Hall of Fame

- ❖ ICC has announced the latest legends who join the prestigious list of cricketing greats that make up the ICC Hall of Fame.

- ❖ West Indies Shivnarine Chanderpaul, England Women's team Charlotte Edwards and Pakistan Abdul Qadir become inductees' number 107, 108 and 109 respectively.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund



- ❖ It was announced by the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) at the India Pavilion of COP27.
- ❖ This multi-donor trust fund was established with the assistance from the UNDP and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).
- ❖ The fund will be managed by the United Nation Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (UN MPTFO) in New York.
- ❖ It will assist the global efforts towards creating disaster-resilient infrastructure systems, especially in developing countries and Small Island Developing States.





- ❖ Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) was launched in 2019 by Indian Prime Minister at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York.

