

October - 31

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Tata Group will soon become the India's first iPhone Manufacturer after Wistron Corp approved the sale of an assembly plant near Bengaluru.
- ❖ Malaysia has announced that its next and 17th king will be Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar from the southern state of Johor.
- ❖ Reliance Jio has tested its satellite internet service, JioSpaceFiber, in four of the "remotest" districts in India.
- ❖ Kerala became the first state in India to have hallmarking centres in all 14 districts.

TAMIL NADU

1,300-year-old Pallava paintings



- ❖ The 1,300-year-old Pallava period paintings found at Talagirishwara temple at Panamalai in Villupuram district.

- ❖ The panel depicting the dance of Lord Shiva has almost faded away.
- ❖ Only the face of goddess Parvathi and a few patches remain now.
- ❖ The temple was constructed by Pallava king Narasimhavarman II, popularly known as Rajasimha.
- ❖ The paintings bear a close resemblance to the paintings in Ajantha and Sittannavasal.

Tiger Rewilding program



- ❖ A committee assessed the progress of Tamil Nadu's first tiger rewilding program in the Anamalai Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ The tiger, which was rescued from a tea estate near Valparai in September 2021, is about 30-months-old now.
- ❖ The tiger is taken care of by two dedicated staff of the Forest Department and being monitored through cameras.

NATIONAL

Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2023

- ❖ The Supreme Court has protected the right of parenthood of a woman, suffering from a rare medical condition, by staying the action of a law.
- ❖ Due to the complicated health condition, the petitioner women cannot produce her own eggs/oocytes.

- ❖ She suffers from a rare medical condition known as Mayer Rokitansky Kuster Hauser (MRKH) syndrome.
- ❖ However, a government notification on March 14 this year amended the law, banning the use of donor gametes.
- ❖ It said “intending couples” must use their own gametes for surrogacy.
- ❖ The petition was filed in the Supreme Court challenging the amendment as a violation of a woman’s right to parenthood.
- ❖ The 2023 amendment contradicted the Sections 2(r) and 4 of the Surrogacy Act, 2021.
- ❖ These sections recognised the situation when a medical condition would require a couple to opt for gestational surrogacy in order to become parents.
- ❖ The SC interpreted the law to mean that the child would be considered genetically related to the husband when Rule 14(a) applied, allowing the gestational surrogacy process to proceed.

Easing the path

On March 14, 2023, government notified amendments to the law to ban the use of donor gametes, saying ‘intending couples’ must use their own gametes for surrogacy

■ Supreme Court says the amendment cannot contradict Rule 14(a), which specifically recognises the absence of a uterus or any allied condition as a medical indication necessitating gestational surrogacy

The amendment which is now coming in the way of the Intending couple and preventing them from achieving parenthood through surrogacy, we find, is, prima facie contrary to what is intended under the main provisions of the Surrogacy Act both in form as well as in substance,” says SC Bench



INTERNATIONAL

1st Avian flu in Antarctic

- ❖ Scientists have detected the presence of avian flu for the first time in the Antarctic region.
- ❖ It is raising concerns for remote populations of penguins and seals.

- ❖ The viral disease HPIA or avian influenza, especially the H5 and H7 strains, mostly affects birds.
- ❖ These strains are highly pathogenic and have been reported in domestic poultry.
- ❖ It is resulting in high mortality if they manage to reach wild bird populations.
- ❖ The ongoing outbreak of HPAI H5N1 was first reported in 2022.
- ❖ In 2022 and 2023, HPAI H5N1 spread rapidly in South America.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Chandrayaan - Ejecta Halo

- ❖ Chandrayaan-3 Lander descended towards the Moon's south pole on August 23, 2023.
- ❖ The Module generated a spectacular 'ejecta halo' of lunar material.
- ❖ Around 2.06 tonnes of this lunar epiregolith or material were ejected during the landing event.
- ❖ The material was displaced over an area of 108.4 m² around the landing site.

- ❖ Epiregolith is lunar rocks and soil, or regolith, or Moon dust.



InSight lander

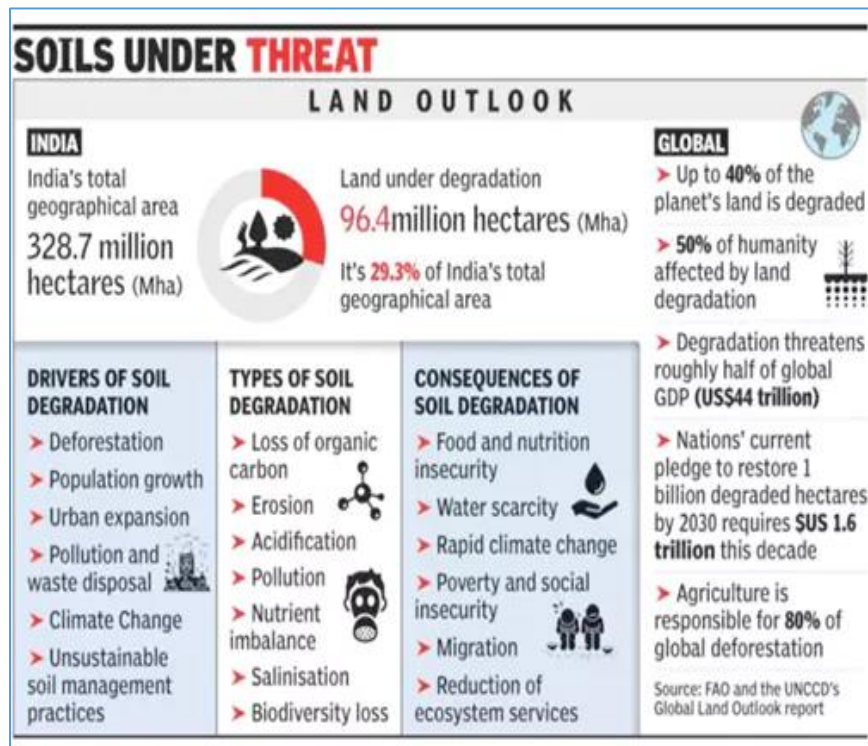


- ❖ Mars's liquid iron core is likely to be surrounded by a fully molten silicate layer.

- ❖ The InSight Mars Lander used an instrument called the Seismic Experiment for Interior Structure (SEIS) to record seismic waves passing through Mars's interior.
- ❖ Unlike Earth, Mars has a molten layer around its core.
- ❖ The new studies found that the liquid iron-nickel core of Mars is surrounded by an approximately 150 km-thick layer of near-molten silicate rock.
- ❖ This top layer was previously misinterpreted as the surface of the core.
- ❖ The size of the core, to be about 30% smaller in volume than previously thought, with a diameter of about 2,080 miles.

ENVIRONMENT

UNCCD's Report of land degradation in India

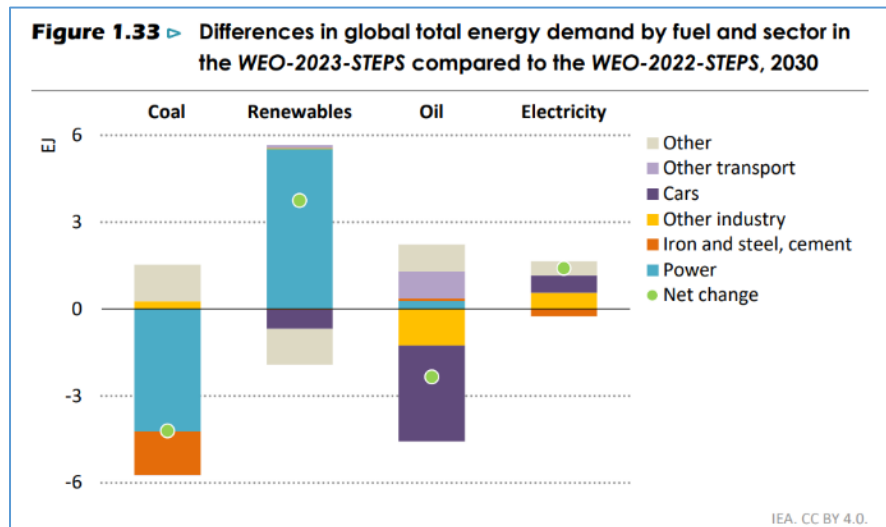


- ❖ From 2015-2019, 30.51 million hectares of India's total reported land was degraded.
- ❖ This means that 9.45 per cent of the country's landmass was degraded as of 2019.
- ❖ This was 4.42 per cent in 2015.
- ❖ India's total degraded land is equivalent to the size of 43 million football pitches.
- ❖ 854.4 million of the country's people were exposed to drought from 2015-2018.

- ❖ From 2015-2019, the world lost at least 100 million hectares of healthy and productive land each year.

REPORTS AND INDICES

World Energy Outlook 2023



- ❖ The International Energy Agency (IEA) released its World Energy Outlook 2023 report.
- ❖ Global coal consumption is projected to decline by 13.5% by 2030, but natural gas and oil consumption are both projected to rise.
- ❖ Even though global energy demand is set to grow by 7% to 2030 under the Stated Policies Scenario, demand will shift towards renewables and nuclear.
- ❖ However, fossil fuels will still account for over 70% of supply (down from ~82% in 2022).
- ❖ Electricity emerges as the "fuel" of the future, with its share of final consumption rising from 20% in 2020 to 28% in 2030.

IMPORTANT DAYS

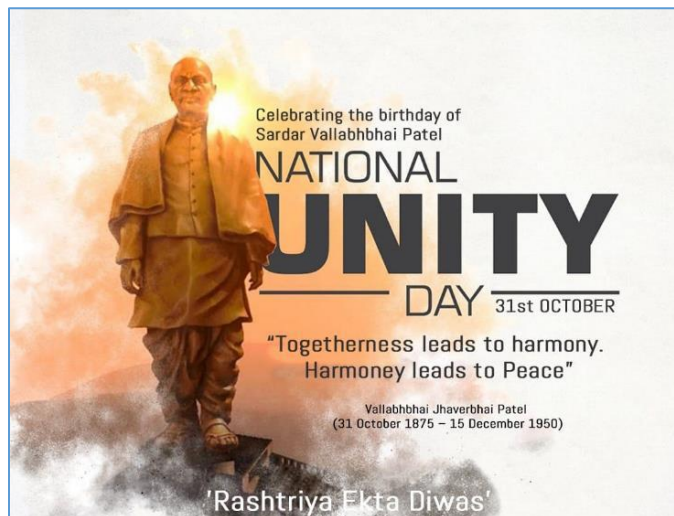
International Dwarfism Awareness Day 2023 - October 25

- ❖ The day spreads awareness for achondroplasia, a bone growth disorder that causes dwarfism.
- ❖ Achondroplasia means "without cartilage formation."
- ❖ It occurs in one in every 15,000 to one in 40,000 live births.

- ❖ Those who have this condition are called dwarfs, which is why this condition is also called dwarfism.



Rastriya Ekta Diwas 2023 - October 31



- ❖ Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birthday is now celebrated as Rashtriya Ekta Divas or National Unity Day.
- ❖ It aims to honour his monumental achievement of integrating more than 550 princely states into the Union of India.
- ❖ He is popularly known as the Bismack of India and "Iron Man of India".
- ❖ The celebration of Ekta Diwas was announced in 2014.

Halloween Day 2023 - October 31

- ❖ This festival is celebrated in Europe and it marks the difference between summer and winter.

- ❖ It is thought to have originated from the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain.
- ❖ Samhain was a celebration of the end of the harvest season and the beginning of the winter.



World Cities Day 2023 - October 31



- ❖ The day serves as an opportunity to promote the international community's interest in global urbanization.
- ❖ It enhances cooperation among countries in addressing challenges of urbanization and contribute to sustainable urban development around the world.
- ❖ Theme for 2023 is "Financing sustainable urban future for all"

