

September - 08

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The conference on "Green Hydrogen Pilots in India" was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ International Cruise Terminal at Visakhapatnam Port inaugurated recently.
 - It will serve as a pivotal gateway for both domestic and international cruise tourism along the eastern coast of India.
- ❖ The Technology Development Board (TDB) has joined forces with Aloe Ecell Pvt. Ltd., a Lucknow-based startup, to support the project "Commercialization of Eco-friendly 1.5V AA size Aloe Vera-based batteries.

NATIONAL

Aarogya Maitri Cube



- ❖ India has built the world's first disaster hospital, that can be airlifted, packed in 72 cubes.
- ❖ It is Known as 'Aarogya Maitri Cube'.
- ❖ India has built the product under project BHISHM – Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri.
- ❖ This includes three frames, each accommodating 12 mini-cubes.
- ❖ The cubes can handle several severe injuries, including 40 bullet injuries, 25 major bleeds, 25 major burns, around 10 head injuries, long limb fractures, spinal injuries, chest injuries and spinal fractures.

- ❖ Each cube has been designed to weigh below 20kg so that it can be easily carried manually up to a kilometre.

INTERNATIONAL

43rd ASEAN

- ❖ 2023 chair of ASEAN, Indonesia hosted the 43rd summit In Jakarta.
- ❖ It was commenced on a note of unity and cultural celebration.
- ❖ This year, Indonesia assumed the chairmanship with the theme “ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth.”
- ❖ By encouraging ASEAN countries to strengthen collaboration, Indonesia aims to retain the region’s position as the world’s centre of economic growth.



Global South’s Debt Problem

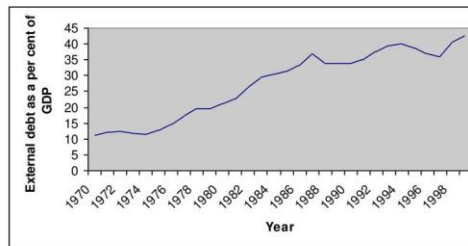
- ❖ The 18th G20 Heads of State and Government Summit will be held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The meeting will witness discussion on a wide variety of topics, including climate, green development, digital economy, public infrastructure and many more.
- ❖ One of the key issues up for talks will be the persistent and crippling problem of debt among a number of developing countries.
- ❖ The external debt is the money borrowed from richer countries, multilateral creditors like the World Bank and IMF, or private lenders such as banks.



- ❖ Of these nations, mostly in the global south has gone up by 150% between 2011 and 2023, reaching their highest levels in 25 years.
- ❖ Zambia in June clinched a \$6.3 billion debt rework deal with the “Paris Club” creditor nations.
- ❖ Its other big bilateral lender is China.
- ❖ Ghana is aiming to reduce its international debt payments by \$10.5 billion over the next three years.
- ❖ Pakistan needs upwards of \$22 billion to service external debt and pay other bills for fiscal year 2024.
- ❖ Kenya’s public debt stands at nearly 70% of GDP.
- ❖ Lebanon has been in default since 2020, with no clear resolution in sight.

'Third World' Debt Crisis

External debt in the global South



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Pragyan into sleep mode

- ❖ On September 2, Pragyan had completed its assignments and it had been safely parked and set into sleep mode.
- ❖ Pragyan’s receiver had been kept on.
- ❖ The ISRO added that Vikram would fall asleep next to Pragyan once the solar power was depleted and the battery was drained.
- ❖ Once the sun sets on the moon, temperature can plunge below minus 200°C.
- ❖ The solar panel is oriented to receive the light at the next sunrise expected on September 22.
- ❖ ISRO is hoping for a successful awakening for another set of assignments.
- ❖ Else, it will forever stay there as India’s lunar ambassador.


- ❖ The lander and the rover, with a mission life of one lunar day (14 earth days), have scientific payloads to carry out experiments on the lunar surface.




ENVIRONMENT

Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and their Control


INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES
can have devastating
impacts on **biodiversity**




for the native species



for assemblages on islands




for mainland assemblages



for assemblages in other settings with high proportions of endemic species

source: IPBES #GlobalAssessment



- ❖ The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) has issued this new publication.
- ❖ It has found that there are 37,000 alien species, including plants and animals, that have been introduced by many human activities to regions and biomes around the world.



- ❖ It is including more than 3,500 invasive alien species and that invasive alien species have played a key role in 60% of global plant and animal extinctions recorded.
- ❖ Invasive alien species are one of the five major direct drivers of biodiversity loss globally
- ❖ Not all alien species establish and spread with negative impacts on biodiversity, local ecosystems and species.
- ❖ About 6% of alien plants; 22% of alien invertebrates; 14% of alien vertebrates; and 11% of alien microbes are known to be invasive, posing major risks to nature and to people.
- ❖ At least 218 invasive alien species have been responsible for more than 1,200 local extinctions.
- ❖ 34% of the impacts of biological invasions were reported from the Americas, 31% from Europe and Central Asia, 25% from Asia and the Pacific and about 7% from Africa.
- ❖ Most negative impacts are reported on land (about 75%) with considerably fewer reported in freshwater (14%) and marine (10%) habitats.
- ❖ Most countries (80%) have included targets related to managing invasive alien species in their national biodiversity plans.

STATES

Manipur - More Autonomy

- ❖ To solve the ongoing conflict in Manipur and assuage Kukis, the Manipur state has proposed to the Centre that the existing autonomous hill councils be given more autonomy.
- ❖ The state government is opposed to the demand of “separate administration” made by Kukis.
- ❖ The British divided the hill regions of Assam into “excluded” and “partially excluded” areas through the Government of India Act, 1935.
- ❖ Currently, there are 10 ADCs under the Sixth Schedule in the North East, with three each in Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram, and one in Tripura.
- ❖ Manipur has six ADCs, but these came into existence in 1971 under an act of Parliament.
- ❖ In December 1971, the Parliament passed the Manipur (Hill Areas) District Council Act, paving the way for creation of ADCs in Manipur’s hill areas.

- ❖ These regions constitute 90% of its geographical area, inhabited by tribes such as Nagas, Kukis, Zomis, Hmars, etc.
- ❖ At that time, Manipur was a Union Territory.
- ❖ The Manipur ADCs are dependent on the state Assembly due to the provisions of the Act.
- ❖ Some changes for greater autonomy brought in through an amendment Bill in 2000 in the state assembly were effectively revoked by another bill in 2006.
- ❖ Since 2021, a Bill proposing amendments to grant more autonomy to the ADCs has not been introduced in the Assembly due to resistance from sections in the Valley.

