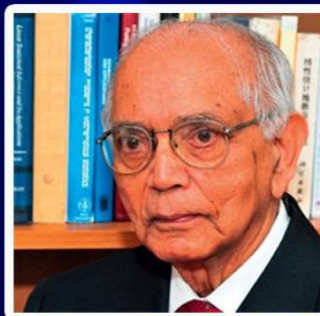


TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM CURRENT AFFAIRS AUGUST 2023

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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh sports department is launching India's first 'online gaming academy' in August.
- ❖ Tripura's Asmita Dey wins gold in women's 48 kg category in Junior Asian Judo Championships, China.
- ❖ UK Professor Jim Skea has been elected Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
- ❖ India AI and Meta India signed a pact to foster collaboration in the field of AI and emerging technologies.
- ❖ The recently concluded Semicon India 2023 event showcased the country's most interesting startups that are shaping the future of this critical global resource.
- ❖ South Korea's NongHyup Bank opened its 1st Indian branch in Noida.
 - With this, the Nonghyup Bank becomes the sixth Korean bank in India to get permission to conduct business in India.
- ❖ Dravidar Kazhagam president K. Veeramani will receive the 'Thagaisal Thamizhar' Award that was instituted by the Tamil Nadu government to honour a distinguished Tamil personality every year.
- ❖ The Indian women's hockey team defeated hosts Spain to win the three-nation Torneo del Centenario 2023 tournament in Terrassa, Barcelona.
- ❖ England's star Test pacer Stuart Broad announced his retirement from international matches.
- ❖ Australia's space agency has confirmed that the mysterious object that washed up on one of the country's beaches is ISRO's PSLV rocket debris.
- ❖ World Lung Cancer Day is observed every year on August 1 to raise awareness around the disease and encourage more research on it to break the stigma around the disease.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government appointed Bellie, of The Elephant Whisperers fame, as the first permanent woman elephant caretaker in the Theppakadu Elephant Camp, Nilgiri.
- ❖ The Justice G. Rohini-headed Commission for the sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBC) caste groups submitted its report after 6 years.
- ❖ Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd of ONGC become the single-largest PSU refinery (single location) in the nation for 2022-23.
- ❖ India has successfully extracted lithium from mineral concentration "in laboratory scale".



- ❖ London-based Indian-origin author Chetna Maroo's debut novel 'Western Lane' is among 13 books took place in the 2023 Booker Prize longlist.
- ❖ August 1st is observed as World Fintech Day to celebrating and recognizing the financial technology and its transformative impact on the global financial industry.
- ❖ The fourth and final G-20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) and Environment and Climate Ministers meeting held in Chennai.
- ❖ State Bank of India achieved its highest-ever quarterly profit in Q1 2023-24.
 - It was driven by improved asset quality and increased interest income.
- ❖ Ethiopia declares the State of Emergency in Amhara Region.
 - It is the surge in violence between the local ethnic militia called Fano and the national army.
- ❖ Sashidhar Jagdishan, the CEO of HDFC Bank has taken the top spot as the highest paid bank CEO in FY23 with Rs. 10.55 crore pay.
- ❖ The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) program has successfully completed its eight-year tenure since 2015, garnering an enrolment of over 5.25 crore subscribers.
- ❖ The AU Small Finance Bank is the largest small finance bank in India.
 - It is the first financial services provider in India to present a 24×7 live video banking solution.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board has filed an application seeking GI tag for Madurai sengarumbu, peravurani coconut and mulanur kuttaimurungai.
- ❖ NCERT has established a 19-member National Syllabus and Teaching Learning Material Committee (NSTC), chaired by NIEPA chancellor MC Pant, to revise textbooks for classes 3 to 12.
- ❖ The Supreme Court announced the launch of portal 'SuSwagatam', which would enable advocates, visitors, interns and others to register themselves online and get e-passes to enter the apex court.
- ❖ India is ambitiously working to increase its current 6% natural gas share in its energy composition to 15% by 2030.
- ❖ India is the largest source of Human Hair (raw material) in the world.
 - India had exported 169.23 million dollars in value of Human Hair during last fiscal.
- ❖ Dravidar Kazhagam president K. Veeramani received the 'Thagaisal Thamizhar Award'.



- ❖ Tata-backed Air India unveiled its new logo, branding and plane livery - The Vista.
- ❖ India is committed to eradicate Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027, ahead of the global target by three years.
- ❖ The first World Health Organization Global Summit on Traditional Medicine was inaugurated at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ Pakistan's parliament has been dissolved to prepare for a national election without former Prime Minister Imran Khan.
 - Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar sworn in as Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister on Independence Day.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government announced the Constitution of a separate board for the welfare of gig workers employed in food and cab aggregators.
- ❖ The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has announced a renaming of the women's fare-free bus travel scheme into 'Vidiyal Payanam'.
- ❖ The Kalaignar Memorial Centenary Park, to be established on a plot of 6.09 acres at Chennai, will be modelled after the Botanical Garden and Gardens by the Bay in Singapore.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board has filed an application seeking a GI tag for Madurai sengarumbu, peravurani coconut and mulanur kuttaimurungai.
- ❖ Learners Cortex, a partner of Magoosh Inc USA, is organising a one-day Global Education Meet 2023 in Chennai.
- ❖ Sulabh International founder, Padma Bhushan recipient, and social worker Bindeshwar Pathak passed away recently.
- ❖ SEBI halved the timeline for listing of shares on stock exchanges after the closure of Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) to three days from six days at present.
- ❖ Goa became the first state in India to provide free IVF treatment along with assisted reproductive technology (ART) and intrauterine insemination (IUI) at Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim.
- ❖ 17 years old, Aditi Swami from Satara, became the youngest-ever senior world champion and the first Indian to win an individual compound gold medal at the World Archery Championships.
- ❖ Indian Navy conducted a bilateral naval maritime partnership exercise with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Navy under the bilateral exercise named 'Zayed Talwar'.



- ❖ Hyundai Motor India has signed an Asset Purchase Agreement (APA) for the acquisition of identified assets at General Motors India's Talegaon Plant in Maharashtra.
- ❖ The Madras High Court has directed the State government to acquire all private forests that fall within the notified elephant corridor on Sigur Plateau in the Nilgiris district.
- ❖ The "Janjatiya Gaurav Corridor" initiative has been launched to boost rail infrastructure and enhance rail connectivity in tribal-dominated regions.
- ❖ The Karnataka government launched the Gruha Jyothi free power scheme which provide free electricity up to 200 units for every household in the state.
- ❖ India and China held 19th round of Corps Commander level talks at the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point.
- ❖ Indian-American economist Raj Chetty has been awarded Harvard University's coveted George Ledlie Prize.
- ❖ The new facility named 'Freedom Filling Station' (A unit of Tamil Nadu Prisons Department) is set up by the central prison in Madurai.
- ❖ Milasha Joseph from Alappuzha has scaled three mountains — Kilimanjaro, Damavand and Elbrus — in the past 21 months.
- ❖ The RBI has directed regulated entities to provide personal loan borrowers the flexibility to switch from floating to fixed rate interest regimes at the time of interest rate resets.
- ❖ The President of India has assented the bills, namely the Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023.
- ❖ Indian wrestler Priya Malik secured a gold medal at the ongoing U20 World Wrestling Championships at Amman, Jordan.
- ❖ India's Anahat Singh clinched the gold medal in the U-17 category of the Asian Junior Squash Individual Championships held at China.
- ❖ Every year August 21 observed as World Senior Citizens' Day to honour the efforts and contributions made by them.
- ❖ Every year on August 22, the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief is observed.
- ❖ The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has given Anna University a rating of 3.54 (A++) out of 4 in its recent assessment.
- ❖ The Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI) has introduced the CSIR Prima ET11, the country's first indigenous e-Tractor.



- ❖ Tulip Garden Srinagar has been included in the World Book of Records as Asia's largest tulip garden.
 - It has displayed 1.6 million tulips of 68 varieties.
- ❖ The weight loss drug Wegovy was shown to reduce the risk of heart attack, stroke or heart-related death by 20%.
- ❖ The Chandrayaan-3 Mission Soft-landing LIVE Telecast, broadcasted on August 23, 2023, captured the attention of over 80 lakh peak concurrent viewers, making it the most-watched live stream globally.
- ❖ Sachin Tendulkar is recognised as 'national icon' of the Election Commission (EC) to encourage greater voter participation in the electoral process.
- ❖ NTPC Ltd, India's largest power producer and a central PSU under Ministry of Power, has started a trial run of a hydrogen bus in Leh.
- ❖ Prakash Shrivastava, the Former Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court, took charge as chairperson of the National Green Tribunal.
- ❖ Khelo India Women's League was renamed as Asmita Women's League.
- ❖ Raja Anirudh Sriram, from Tirupati has bagged a silver medal at the Singapore International Math Olympiad Challenge (SIMOC) recently.
- ❖ Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport in Assam became the first airport in the northeast to get 'Digi Yatra' facility.
- ❖ The BRICS countries have come to an agreement to establish an autonomous university rating system.
 - The decision follows concerns raised about the current rankings, which have faced criticism for their failure to encompass impartial data.
- ❖ International Dog Day is celebrated on August 26 every year.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has granted a tax exemption for Tamil movie, 'Kakkan', which is based on the life of freedom fighter and former state Home Minister P. Kakkan.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has framed the terms of reference for the Justice K. Chandru Committee constituted to recommend measures for preventing violent incidents due to differences based on caste or creed among school and college students.
- ❖ NMDC's Nagarnar steel plant (NSP) in Chhattisgarh has achieved the feat of producing its final product - HR (hot rolled) Coil in just nine days.
- ❖ India's first inaugural artificial intelligence school has been opened in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.



- ❖ The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has been suspended by the sport's world governing body for not holding elections after its chief was charged with sexual misconduct.
- ❖ DRDO successfully tested the ASTRA indigenous Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air missile.
- ❖ Mizoram become the first state in India to operationalize Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission's (ABDM) microsite project.
- ❖ Finland, Europe's leading producer of fox fur, has begun slaughtering 120,000 foxes and mink to stem an outbreak of avian flu that has hit fur farms.
- ❖ John Warnock, who helped invent the PDF and co-founded Adobe Systems, has passed away recently.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has issued directions for allocating ₹3 crore to the State Official Language (Legislative) Commission for translating the judgments of the Madras High Court in Tamil.
- ❖ The Telangana government and UNESCO will be collaborating to implement the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- ❖ Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has successfully manufactured the first set of indigenous SCR Catalysts for limiting NOx emissions from thermal power plants.
- ❖ HDFC Bank and Marriott Bonvoy joined to launch India's first co-branded hotel credit card - 'Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card'.
- ❖ A central advisory committee has recommended that licenses to food business operators (FBOs) can be issued for up to five years instead of one year.
- ❖ The National Small Industry Day is observed in India on August 30 every year.
- ❖ Indian badminton player HS Prannoy secured a bronze medal in the men's singles at the BWF World Badminton Championships 2023, held at Denmark.
 - This achievement marked Prannoy as the fifth Indian men's singles player to win a medal at the BWF World Badminton Championships.
- ❖ After Delhi and Pune, Kolkata becomes 3rd Indian city to get air quality early warning system (AQEWS).
 - It is developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM).
- ❖ Neeraj Chopra made history by winning the gold medal in the men's javelin throw event at the World Athletics Championships held in Budapest, Hungary.

TAMIL NADU

New GI products for Tamilnadu

- ❖ The GI registry is to confer GI recognition for Jaderi Tiruman (Namakatti) of Tiruvannamalai district, Matti Banana of Kanyakumari district and the Chedibutta sarees of Tirunelveli district.
- ❖ The GI Hall of fame has nearly 420 products so far.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's tally has reached 58 and topped in the list.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh is in second position with 50-plus products, followed by Karnataka with 48.



Tamil Nadu's Own Tax Revenue

A substantial rise

The tax collection in Tamil Nadu has increased by over 50% in the first quarter of fiscal 2023

	Q1 2023	Q1 2022	% change
State Goods and Services Tax	13692.84	9224.11	48.4
Stamps and Registration Fees	4457.95	2314.46	92.6
Land Revenue	58.46	38.07	53.5
Taxes on Sales, Trade etc	13119.24	9484.81	38.3
State Excise Duties	2594.55	1199.23	116.3
Total	33923.04	22260.68	52.3

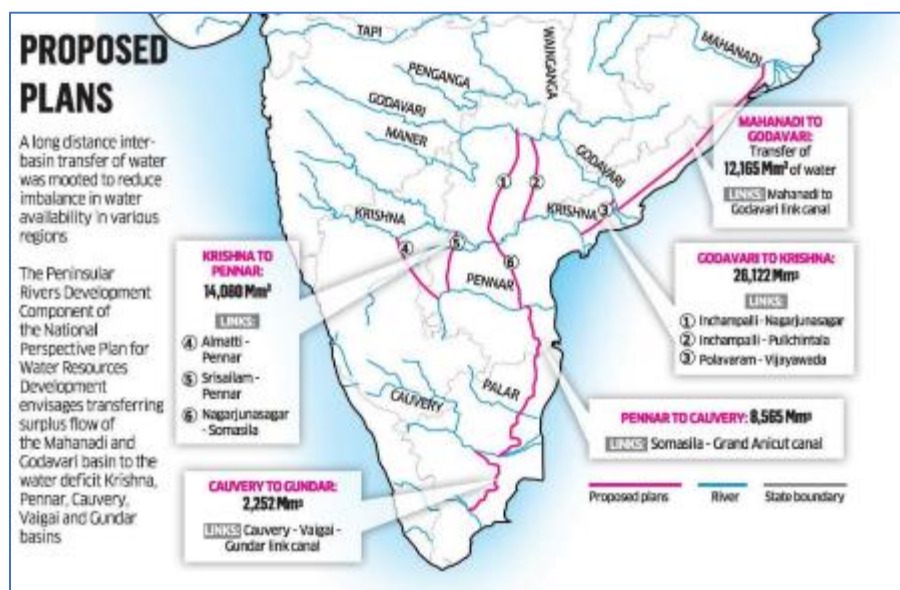
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Own Tax Revenue grew marginally to ₹34,311.23 crore in April-June 2023.
- ❖ This stands at ₹33,923.04 crore in the same period last year.

- ❖ The State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) accounts for 70% of the total revenue.
- ❖ Land Revenue increased to ₹60.43 crore in April-June 2023 from ₹58.46 crore in the comparable period last year.
- ❖ The State Excise Duties (which reflect liquor revenue) increased to ₹2,620.66 crore in the first quarter of 2023-24.
- ❖ This stood at ₹2,594.55 crore in the same period last year.

Fresh clause in T.N. welfare scheme

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Manual Workers (Construction Workers) Welfare Scheme, 1994, has introduced a fresh clause.
- ❖ It aimed at benefiting families of manual and inter-State migrant workers in case of accidents resulting in death.
- ❖ According to the clause, if a manual worker dies due to an accident at their work site, financial assistance will be provided to their nominee or legal heirs for transporting the body to their native place.
- ❖ This provision also applies to inter-State migrant workers.
- ❖ To qualify for the assistance, the accident must be solely and directly linked to the worker's employment.
- ❖ It should not involve intentional self-injury, suicide, intoxication, insanity, or breach of the law.

Godavari-Cauvery link project



- ❖ The Central government has told that the implementation of the link project of the Godavari-Cauvery rivers “solely depends” upon the ability of the States concerned to reach a consensus.
- ❖ The term, “party States,” covers Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu apart from the Union Territory of Puducherry.
- ❖ The project envisages the transfer of surplus water of the Godavari River from the Inchampalli dam in Karimnagar district of Telengana to the Grand Anicut, near Thanjavur, on the Cauvery.
- ❖ It has three components such as Godavari (Inchampalli)- Krishna (Nagarjuna Sagar); Krishna (Nagarjuna Sagar)-Pennar (Somasila) and Pennar (Somasila) - Cauvery (Grand Anicut).

Hostel ‘Thozhi’



தொழி
பணிபுரியும் மகளிர் விடுதி
துவக்கம்

அறிமுகம்
படுத்திக் கொள்ளும்
புதிய
பணிபுரியும்
மகளிர் விடுதி

- 24*7 பாதுகாப்பு வசதி
- பார்க்கிங் வசதி
- பவே-மெட்ரிக்
- இலவச Wi-Fi
- சுத்திகரிக்கப்பட்ட சூயிங் வசதி
- பொழுதுபோக்கு அம்சங்கள்
- அலுவல் வசதி
- கெய்ஸ் வசதி
- ஃபீசு
- கைதாண்டாள் கழிவறை
- பான்ட்ரி
- படிக்கும் அறை

முன்னேறும் மகளிரின் முகவரி

2 பேர்
தங்கும் அறை
(AC & Non-AC),
4 பேர்
தங்கும் அறை
106
படுக்கை
வசதிகள்

தமிழ்நாடு பணிபுரியும்
மகளிர் விடுதிகள் நிறுவனம்

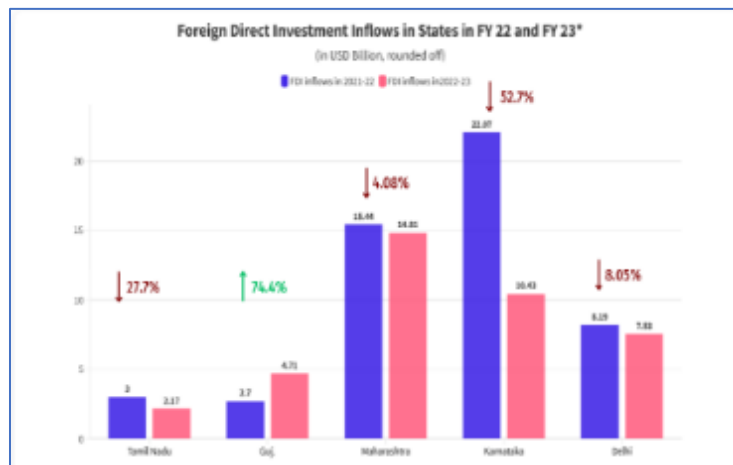
Ph: 0431-330200 | E-mail: tnwwhcl@tnwwhcl.in | Insta: tnwwhcl | Web: www.tnwwhcl.in

- ❖ Tamil Nadu’s Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment has started eleven hostels for working women in Nine districts.
- ❖ The hostels named “Thozhi” (translates to a female friend).
- ❖ It will be operated under the aegis of the Tamil Nadu Working Women’s Hostel Corporation Ltd (TNWWHCL).
- ❖ They aim to provide safe and affordable accommodations to women.
- ❖ The hostels are located in Chennai, Chengalpattu, Salem, Trichy, Tirunelveli, Vellore, Villupuram, Perambalur and Thanjavur.

‘Smart Classrooms’ in Radha Puram

- ❖ Chief Minister inaugurated 303 Smart Classrooms created at a cost of at ₹6.86 crore in Radhapuram, Tamilnadu.
- ❖ Radhapuram Assembly segment has become the first Legislative constituency in the entire country to get ‘Smart Classrooms’ in all government and government-aided schools.
- ❖ The Smart Classrooms, have been created in 297 government and government-aided primary, high and higher secondary schools and other institutions.

Foreign direct investment inflows 2022-23



- ❖ Tamil Nadu’s Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows declined 27.7% to about 2.17 billion USD in the financial year 2022-23.
- ❖ This was around 3 billion USD in 2021-22.
- ❖ India’s FDI inflows as a whole, declined 16.34% to \$70.97 billion in 2022-23 from \$84.84 billion in 2021-22.
- ❖ Maharashtra has seen a 4.08% decline in FDI inflows and Karnataka has seen a 52.74% drop to \$10.43 billion.
- ❖ Gujarat’s inflows jump 74.4% to \$4.71 billion in 2022-23 from \$2.70 billion in 2021-22.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu’s fresh investments increased to ₹1,73,494.34 crore in FY 2023 from ₹1,72,974.93 crore in FY 2022, with share of private investment at 75.20%.

1,556 new farm ponds

- ❖ The district administration of Tirupathur commenced a door-to-door awareness campaign about the Farm Pond scheme.

- ❖ Within a span of 30 days, 1,556 farm ponds were constructed under this scheme.
- ❖ It was entirely made through the effort of workers covered under the MGNREGA.
- ❖ Tirupathur has surpassed Tiruvannamalai which set a world record in the same category in 2021 with 1,121 ponds to its credit.



Best State award for organ and tissue transplantation

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has won the best-performing state award for organ donations at the national level.
- ❖ This event was organised by National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO).
- ❖ The state now has 13 transplant hospitals and 26 organ retrieval centres.
- ❖ TN-based NGO, MOHAN foundation, also received the award for best NGO working in the organ donation sector.
- ❖ Since the inception of the deceased donor organ transplantation programme in Tamil Nadu in 2008, there have been 1,706 donors.

Proportion of own revenue to expenditure

- ❖ The last six years, Tamil Nadu witnessed a declining trend in the proportion of its own revenue to the revenue expenditure.
- ❖ If a State is able to achieve a higher proportion, its reliance on other sources, including borrowings, proportionately goes down.
- ❖ Revenue deficit will be lower.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's figure was lower than those of Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- ❖ While the State has fared better than Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Revenue reckoner

Tamil Nadu's performance in own revenue collection

Year	State's own revenue (₹ in crore)	Revenue expenditure (₹ in crore)	Own revenue as % of revenue expenditure
2017-18	1,07,236.17	1,67,873.60	63.88
2018-19	1,20,337.68	1,97,200.60	61.02
2019-20	1,20,350.13	2,10,434.70	57.19
2020-21	1,16,574.80	2,36,402.20	49.31
2021-22	1,33,668.48	2,59,150.97	51.59
2022-23	1,58,337.17	2,84,188.45	55.72

Note: State's own revenue is the sum of State's own tax revenue and non-tax revenue

Proportion of own revenue in revenue expenditure: How other States fare (in %)

Year	Andhra Pradesh	Telangana	Karnataka	Maharashtra	Gujarat	Uttar Pradesh
2017-18	46.39	77.32	67.95	77.98	75.15	48.61
2018-19	49.06	77.3	63.49	76.47	70.78	50.68
2019-20	44.31	68.9	63.15	67.68	68.92	68.44
2020-21	39.83	59.05	59.61	58.02	53.59	44.13
2021-22	45.5	74.78	61.54	62.25	72.92	49.32
2022-23	49.03	70.6	67.37	66.31	76.03	53.51

Source: Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary's reply in Rajya Sabha on August 1, 2023

Ban on hookah bars

- ❖ The State government has issued a gazette notifying the prohibition of hookah bars in the State.
- ❖ The State Assembly amended the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003, in its application to Tamil Nadu.

Scheme for civil services aspirants

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has rolled out a scheme to help civil services aspirants access better coaching facilities and materials.
- ❖ Under the scheme, which was announced in the State Budget 2023-24.
- ❖ 1,000 civil services aspirants would be shortlisted every year through a test.
- ❖ Each of them would be provided ₹7,500 a month for 10 months to prepare for the preliminary examination.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC) would implement the 'Naan Mudhalvan' scheme in coordination with Anna Administrative Staff College.



Foundation stone for Adichanallur museum

- ❖ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman lays foundation stone for Adichanallur museum.
- ❖ This is the first onsite archaeological museum in the country.
- ❖ It will exhibit 3,000-year-old artefacts.
- ❖ An excavation by the Archaeological Survey of India, in Adichanallur in Thoothukudi district, has unearthed a number of burial urns, metal and bronze products and even a gold diadem.
- ❖ Though an excavation in Adichanallur was taken up in 1876 itself, it has been realized today after 145 years.

Tamil manuscripts from Italy

- ❖ Palm manuscripts from the 18th Century titled Gnanamuyarchi have been discovered in an Armenian monastery in Northern Italy.
- ❖ Tamil Bharathan, a doctoral scholar, was allowed access to the manuscripts.
- ❖ It could be a copy of the first translation of Ignatius' Spiritual Exercise in Tamil.
- ❖ This translation is most likely by Michele Bertoldi, known in Tamil as Gnanaprakasasamy.
- ❖ This is a prose text from the early 18th Century (likely the 1720s).
- ❖ It has been printed several times in the 19th Century by the Mission Press in Puducherry.
- ❖ The library had categorised the manuscripts as 'Indian Papyrus Lamulic Language-XIII Century'.



Bharathiyar Mandapam

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu unveiled a portrait of nationalist Tamil poet-journalist Subramania Bharathi at the Raj Bhavan, Chennai.
- ❖ She also renamed the Durbar Hall on the campus as 'Bharathiar Mandapam'.

Fourth edition of Kalaignar Memorial International Marathon

- ❖ It sets Guinness world record for largest running race series.
- ❖ A total of 73,206 persons participated in this held at Chennai.
- ❖ It included 50,629 men, 21,514 women, and 1,063 transpersons.
- ❖ Last year, the marathon was recorded as the Asia's largest marathon.
- ❖ It held in the 100th birth anniversary of former chief minister M Karunanidhi.

Amputation Free Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Dr Sekar Foundation and Kauvery Hospital of Chennai launched the programme 'Amputation Free Tamil Nadu'.
- ❖ It was launched in observance of World Vascular Surgery Day on August 6.
- ❖ In India, there are about 350 vascular surgeons for a population of 140 crore.
- ❖ Only about 20 medical colleges in India have separate vascular surgery departments and majority of them are in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The most common causes for amputation are injury and diabetes.
- ❖ Eighty five percent of leg amputation is preceded by a leg ulcer.

Weighing unit made of crystal quartz - Keeladi

- ❖ A weighing unit made of crystal quartz was found in the 9th phase of the excavations in Keeladi.
- ❖ It was the first time a crystal quartz had been unearthed in Keeladi since 2014.
- ❖ It is transparent in nature.
- ❖ It is black-and-red ware and red slipped ware.
- ❖ The excavation also yielded a fragment of a snake figurine made of terracotta.
- ❖ It is located in Sivagangai District dates from the Sangam-Era site near Madurai.
- ❖ The archaeological excavations in Tamil Nadu threw up the following surprises
- ❖ Artefacts unearthed in Keeladi near Madurai pushed the Sangam Era to 600 BCE from 300 BCE

- ❖ Rice husks found in a burial urn in Sivakalai was found to be 3,200 years old
- ❖ Tamils were aware of iron technology in 2172 BCE, 4,200 years ago.



MSSRF's research centre

- ❖ The MSSRF's Fish for All Research and Training Centre at Poompuhar is one of the seven winning proposals.
- ❖ It is one out of 260 applications to bag the “Women Connect Challenge” Award for 2023 given by Reliance Foundation and USAID.
- ❖ The Poompuhar Centre is developing a range of information, communication, technologies (ICT) to reduce the gender digital divide among women.
- ❖ The Women Connect Challenge is a global call for solutions to improve women’s participation in everyday life.
- ❖ The Former WHO chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan is the head to M S Swaminathan Research Foundation.
- ❖ It was founded by her father, the legendary agricultural scientist M S Swaminathan.

Session VII
Panel Discussion on Enabling Policy Environment for Millets as 'Climate Smart Nutri-Cereals'

Chair
Dr. Soumya Swaminathan
Chairperson, MSSRF

Draft Recommendations from the deliberations
Dr. R. Rangakulini
Executive Director, MSSRF

Dr. Alessandra Marchionni
Research Associate & Programme Director, ICRISAT

Ms. Ujjwal Sondhi
Project Officer, ICRISAT
Development Programme

Dr. Sanjay K. Mishra
Professor, Centre for Millet & Nutri-cereals
ICRISAT, Patancheru, Telangana

Mr. C. Ashwani Kumar Reddy (IFS (Retd.))
Chairperson, National Bio-cereals Committee

Dr. Rajeev Anand
Executive Director of Management & Agriculture, IIT Delhi

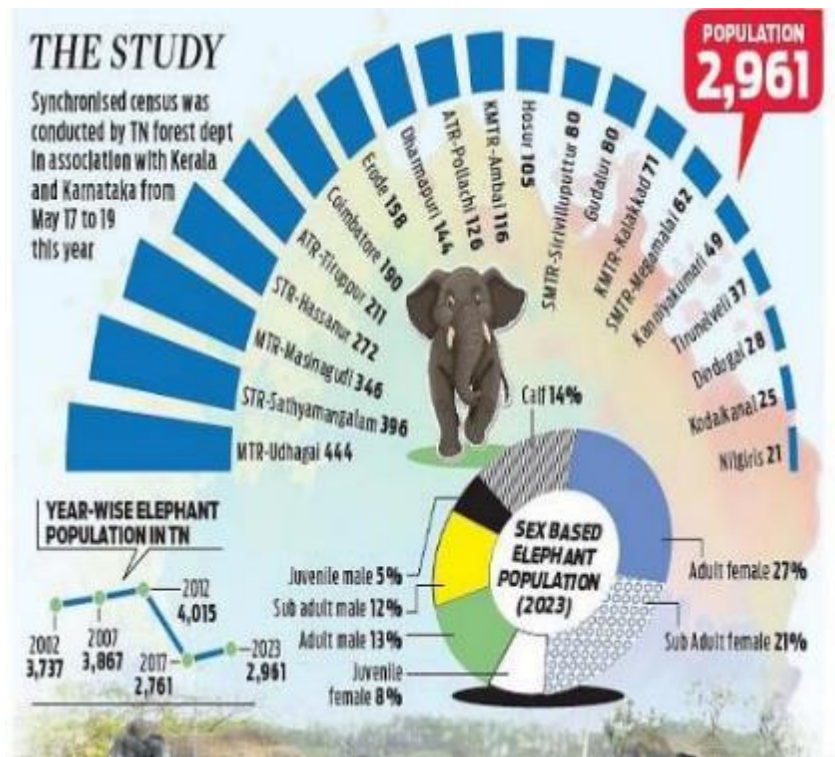
Prof. Jitendra Kumar
Professor, Centre for Development
University of Delhi, New Delhi

August 4, 2024
3.50 - 5.00 per

Work on airport complex in Vellore

- ❖ Work on the multi-crore airport complex on Chennai-Bengaluru Highway (NH 44) in Vellore is nearing completion.
- ❖ It will start operation by November after a safety audit is completed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.
- ❖ Airports Authority of India has decided to operate small flights on the new runway in Vellore from November.
- ❖ The new airport in Vellore was sanctioned a few years ago under the second phase of the UDAN - Regional Connectivity Scheme (UDAN-RCS).
- ❖ UDAN aims to improve connectivity in smaller towns.
- ❖ The new airport will be helpful to domestic travellers in areas like Ambur, Arcot, Vanniyambadi, and Vellore.

Synchronized Elephant Population Estimation 2023 Report



- ❖ Tamil Nadu recorded an increase in the number of elephants in the wild as per the latest synchronised elephant population estimation report.
- ❖ The Tamilnadu state accounts for 2,961 elephants.
- ❖ It is up by 200 over the 2017 estimates of 2,761 elephants.



- ❖ Among the 26 forest divisions, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve had the highest estimated density of elephants.
- ❖ It is followed by Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) Masinagudi division and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) Hasanur division.
- ❖ Among the five elephant reserves, the Nilgiris Eastern Ghats Elephant Reserve had the highest estimated density.
- ❖ It is followed by Agasthyamalai Elephant Reserve, Nilambur Silent Valley - Coimbatore Elephant Reserve and Periyar Elephant Reserve.
- ❖ According to Elephant Census-2023, Karnataka leads the country in the total number of elephants.
- ❖ Their population range is estimated to be between 5,914 and 6,877.
- ❖ The number of elephants in Karnataka has increased by 346, from an estimated 6,049 in 2017 to 6,395 now.
- ❖ It is the highest in the country.

Tamilnadu - outstanding farm loans

- ❖ Tamil Nadu finishes on top in having the highest amount of outstanding farm loans.
- ❖ As on June 30 this year, the figure of outstanding farm loans was Rs. 3.47 lakh crore,
- ❖ It is accounting for about 16.5% of the total.
- ❖ There were 2.79 crore accounts in the state of Tamilnadu.
- ❖ It was again the highest in the country.
- ❖ The subject of agricultural loans is quoted by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
- ❖ It covers short term loans for agriculture (crop production up to 18 months), medium term loans (more than 18 months up to 5 years) such as dairy or tractor loans and long-term loans (beyond 5 years) such as horticulture.
- ❖ Of the total figure for the State, commercial banks constituted the dominant share with nearly ₹3.15 lakh crore; regional rural banks (RRBs) - ₹19,129 crore and cooperative institutions - ₹13,348 crore.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh came next with about ₹2.43 lakh crore of the outstanding agricultural loans.
- ❖ Karnataka was in the third slot.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan were in the fourth, fifth and sixth slots respectively.



482 Medical Colleges in India

- ❖ There are a total of 482 recognised medical colleges in the country.
- ❖ It was according to the information released by the National Medical Commission (NMC) and the Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare.
- ❖ Karnataka (56), Maharashtra (49), Tamil Nadu (48), and Uttar Pradesh (46) are having the maximum number of medical colleges.

Epigraphist S. Rasu (85)

- ❖ An Epigraphist, archaeologist and Tamil scholar 'Pulavar' S Rasu passed away in Coimbatore.
- ❖ He born in 1938 at Vellode in Chennimalai union near Erode.
- ❖ Pulavar S. Rasu identified Kodumanal village as the one mentioned as 'Kodumanam' as inscribed in Padhitrupathu of Sangam literature.
- ❖ Following his identification, excavations began for the first time in 1985.
- ❖ It brought to light two cultural periods – megalithic and early historic.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government had in 2012 presented the U.V. Swaminatha Iyer Award to the poet for his contribution as Tamil scholar.

Chennai City Partnership

- ❖ The World Bank is set to provide funding for projects aimed at creating safe and efficient streets in Chennai as part of the second phase of the Chennai City Partnership.
- ❖ It is for promotion of urban mobility and spatial development with the timeline of 2022-2027.
- ❖ It will also be enhancing the city's digital infrastructure for e-mobility and smart parking solutions.

Logo for Tamil Nadu Global Investors' Meet 2024

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister unveiled the 'logo' for the state government's ambitious Global Investors Meet
- ❖ It is scheduled to be held on January 7 and 8 in 2024.
- ❖ The logo symbolizes the Tamil word 'Tha' (த) depicting mother tongue Tamil and also the state -- Tamil Nadu flourishing in all parameters.
- ❖ The logo's colors and aesthetics reflect digital transformation and industrialization, an urbanized society and rapid industrial growth.

- ❖ The meet will help the State march towards the goal of achieving a \$1 trillion economy by 2030.

Golden Rock Railway Workshop in Ponmalai in Tiruchi

- ❖ It has been entrusted with the task of converting 100 old ICF passenger coaches, into automobile carriers.
- ❖ It converted 176 old passenger coaches into new-generation automobile carriers to transport newly manufactured two-wheelers and four-wheelers.
- ❖ It emerged first among other workshops in the country to convert the coaches.
- ❖ It was established in 1928.

Freedom Filling Station

- ❖ It is located at Puzhal central prison, Chennai.
- ❖ It has the Special Prison for Women (SPW-Puzhal).
- ❖ It is the nation's first retail fuel outlet run by women convicts.
- ❖ The prisoners will get Rs 6,000 each as monthly salary for this work.
- ❖ Earlier, the same kind was established at Coimbatore in 2019 by Indian Oil.
- ❖ But it was the male prisoners and this time it was female.

Porpanai kottai – circular brick structure



- ❖ A portion of a circular brick structure has been unearthed by archaeologists at Porpanaikottai
- ❖ It is a Sangam-age site in Pudukkottai district.



- ❖ Potsherds, comprising glazed ware, blackware, black and red ware, roof tiles, perforated ware and three pieces of rouletted ware, a distinctive type of decorated pottery, have also been found.
- ❖ A hopscotch made of rouletted ware is a rare and important find.
- ❖ A Sangam-age fort is believed to have existed here.
- ❖ A habitation mound, spread over 1.26 hectares, is believed to have existed within the fort.

Judice K. Chandru committee

- ❖ One-man committee under retired judge K. Chandru has been appointed to advise the government on measures to eliminate caste and racial differences among students in educational institutions.
- ❖ The committee has been constituted in the wake of the recent incident at Nanguneri in Tirunelveli district.
- ❖ The committee had been formed since this was an important issue that had to be addressed urgently.

Tamil Nadu Elephant Conclave 2023

- ❖ The two-day Tamil Nadu Elephant Conclave concluded in Coimbatore.
- ❖ The Forest Department released a handbook on camp elephant management and a standard operating procedure (SOP) for handling orphaned elephants.
- ❖ The state announced the creation of a separate cadre within the TN forest department for dedicated veterinary service
- ❖ 42 Elephant corridors (24 south of Palghat and 18 north of Palghat) have been identified so far.
- ❖ The Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) announced the launch of 'Yaanaai Thiruvizha' in Tamil Nadu.

Daily coal stock availability

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's daily coal stock availability declined from 2 million tonnes as on March 31 to 1.5 million tonnes as on July 26.
- ❖ The stock is sufficient to run Tangedco's power plants for 10 days.
- ❖ Mettur Thermal Power Station had just 3% of coal stock as against the normative requirement.
- ❖ The North Chennai and Tuticorin power stations had 19% stock each, as against their respective normative requirements.



- ❖ Tamil Nadu has the highest energy consumption among the southern States.
- ❖ The State saw an all-time high peak demand of 19,387 MW on April 20.
- ❖ On that day, an all-time high daily consumption of 423.785 million units was recorded.
- ❖ On August 12, the State's peak power demand was 15,928 MW and daily consumption was 345.834 million units.

Best performing municipal corporation

- ❖ Tiruchi Corporation has bagged the Chief Minister's Award for the best performing municipal corporation this year.
- ❖ Tambaram Corporation came second place.
- ❖ The government has selected Rameswaram as best performing municipality.
- ❖ Thiruthuraipoondi and Mannargudi in Tiruvarur district was awarded as the second and third best performing municipalities.
- ❖ Vikravandi in Villupuram district, Alangudi in Pudukkottai district and Veerakkalpudur in Salem district secured the top three spots among town panchayats.

TN CM's Independence Day Awards

Award Name	Recipient
Thakaisal Tamil Award	Dr. K. Veeramani
ABJ. Abdul Kalam Award	Dr. W. B. Vasantha Gandaswamy
Kalpna Chawla Award for Courage and Adventure	Na. Muthamishelvi
Chief Minister's Good Governance Award	Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency Dr E Theranirajan W. Badrinarayanan
Tamil Nadu Government Awards for outstanding service to the differently abled	T. Jayakumar - Best doctor Shanthi Nilayam - Best institution Ratan Vidyaakar - Best social worker M/S Teddy Exports - Best private employer Ramanathapuram central cooperative bank - best district central cooperative bank
Outstanding contribution to social welfare and outstanding service	Village light - welfare of women Best charity D. Stanley Peter - Great social worker
Best Corporations	Tiruchirappalli Tambaram
Best Municipal Corporation	Rameswaram Thirutharapoondi Mannargudi
Best municipalities	Vikravandi, Villupuram Alangudi, Pudukottai Veerakalputur, Salem

- ❖ On the occasion of the country's 77th Independence Day, TN Chief Minister honoured the people belonging to various departments.
- ❖ It includes various categories.

Capital expenditure 2023-24

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's capital expenditure increased by about 31% to Rs. 5,196.21 crore in the first quarter of 2023-24.
- ❖ This was Rs.3,976.45 crore in the same period last year.
- ❖ However, Tamil Nadu's share in aggregate capex among 20 States went down to 5% in the first quarter of 2024 from 6.7% in first quarter of 2023.
- ❖ Capital expenditure is incurred by State governments to create fixed assets such as roads and bridges, irrigation structures, schools, hospitals and investments made in public sector undertakings.
- ❖ It helps to improve economic activity and create jobs.

Weak capex spending

Particulars	in ₹ cr		% of Actuals to BE	
	Budget Estimates 2022-23	Actuals (Apr-Dec)	Current year	Corresponding period of the previous year
Revenue receipts	2,31,407	1,65,323	71	66
SOTR*	1,42,800	1,09,714	77	67
Revenue expenditure	2,89,609	1,81,018	63	57
Capital expenditure	44,863	21,476	48	57

*State own tax revenue *Provisional figures Source: CAG

Exhibition of exotic animals



- ❖ The Forest Department of Tamilnadu prohibits exhibition of exotic animals in private aviaries and petting zoos across the state.

- ❖ All privately-run aviaries and petting zoos in Tamil Nadu face closure by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department.
- ❖ Private collectors of exotic animals have, till recently, exhibited animals through a license obtained from the Animal Welfare Board of India.
- ❖ Exotic animals are those listed under the appendices I, II and III of the CITES and included in Schedule IV of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

UAV Common Testing Centre

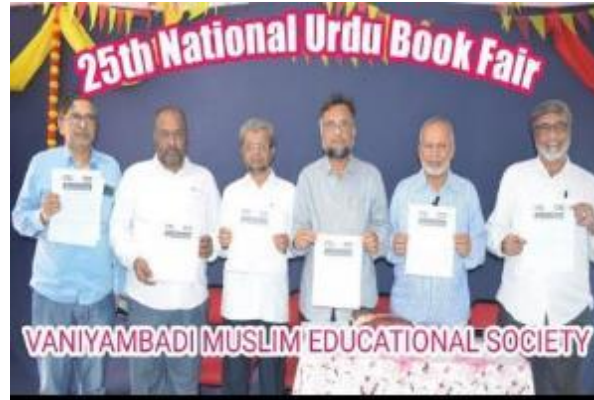
- ❖ India's first Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drone) Common Testing Centre under Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS) will be established in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ This centre would be established at the SIPCOT Industrial Park, Vallam Vadagal near Sriperumbudur.
- ❖ This will be established by the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO).
- ❖ TIDCO is the nodal agency for the implementation of the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor (TNDIC).
- ❖ The testing centre would enable the State to be a significant contributor to the self-reliance of the country in the aerospace and defence sectors.



First-ever night street racing circuit

- ❖ A new street circuit, which will also hold night races, was launched by the Tamil Nadu government and Racing Promotions Private Limited (RRPL).
- ❖ It would become the first-ever street circuit in India and South Asia that will be hosting a night race.
- ❖ The newly launched track is set to host a couple of events - the F4 Indian Championship and the Indian Racing League.
- ❖ RRPL is also the promoter of the Indian Racing League and F4 Indian Championship.

Aligarh of the south



- ❖ Vaniyambadi in Tirupathur district is known as ‘Aligarh of the south’.
- ❖ This is because of its affinity to the Urdu language and the many educational institutions thriving here since the 19th Century.
- ❖ The National Council for the Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) held the 25th All India Urdu Book Fair at the Islamiah College in Vaniyambadi.
- ❖ Urdu-speaking Muslims here trace their roots to two historical periods.
- ❖ First were the Deccan sultanates, notably Bijapur and Golconda in the 15th and 16th Centuries, who popularised ‘Dakhni’, an early form of Urdu of the region written in adapted Arabic script.
- ❖ Second was a sub-division of Tamil speaking migrants (Tamil Dakhni) who had reached Vaniyambadi from Thanjavur, Madurai and elsewhere in the present-day Tamil Nadu in the late 19th Century.
- ❖ The following Tamil Muslims of the Arcot region were to make a major contribution to Urdu literature.
 - Kaka Abdul Azeez Faheem (1898-1943),
 - Lappai Khateeb Mohamed Azam ‘Maqbool’ (1898-1958) and
 - Bangi Abdul Qadir Daanish Farazi (1922-1981).

Tamil Nadu Startup Thiruvizha 2023

- ❖ Startup TN, hosted the 'TamilNadu Startup Thiruvizha 2023' event at the CODISSIA Trade Fair Complex in Coimbatore.
- ❖ Startup TN is the State's nodal agency for Startup and Innovation.
- ❖ It is highlighting the government's efforts to assist entrepreneurs.
- ❖ It serves as a venue for networking, learning, and presenting cutting-edge products and solutions.



Startups in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ The number of start-ups registered in Tamil Nadu has tripled in the last two-and-a-half years.
- ❖ The number of registered start-ups in the State in March 2021 was 2,300 and it stood at over 6,800 now.
- ❖ The State government gives seed fund (TANSEED) to some start-ups.
- ❖ Start-ups in Chennai attracted ₹150 crore in investments.
- ❖ This is 71% more than the previous year.
- ❖ A call centre (dial 155343) was launched for start-ups recently.



Southeast Asia's largest desalination plant

- ❖ Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for a new desalination plant to come up at Perur, Chennai.
- ❖ It will have a capacity to treat 400 million litres of seawater per day.
- ❖ Once set up, the plant will be the biggest of its kind in Southeast Asia.
- ❖ The project having funding support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Category 1 university

- ❖ The University of Madras has been graded as A++ University in the recent NAAC assessment.
- ❖ This means the University Grants Commission has granted it full autonomy as the University is now a top-ranked institution in the country.
- ❖ In the previous cycle in 2014, the university had received A grade.
- ❖ It can have two off-campus and offshore campus, develop any curriculum in any general discipline.

Green Fellowship Program

- ❖ Chief Minister launched the Chief Minister's Green Fellowship Programme (CMGFP).
- ❖ The scheme was announced in the Assembly as part of the 2021-22 Budget demand for the Department of Environment and Climate Change.
- ❖ The programme was "designed to provide a platform to passionate young individuals who are committed to environmental conservation, renewable energy, biodiversity protection, and other aspects of sustainable living".
- ❖ The fellows will also be introduced to the three missions of the State — Green Tamil Nadu Mission, Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission, and Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission.

Reservation in Local Body polls



Empowering Transgender Persons
Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2019 Approved

-  To mitigate the **stigma, discrimination & abuse** against transgender persons
-  To **bring transgender into the mainstream** of the society & make them productive members.
-  To bring **greater accountability of all stakeholders** dealing with Transgender persons, and make them more responsive

- ❖ The Madras High Court directed the Tamil Nadu government to initiate steps to grant reservation for transgender persons in local body polls.
- ❖ The direction aims to helping them slowly become part of mainstream society.
- ❖ The Justice also directed the Cuddalore district collector to remove the president and members of Nainarkuppam village panchayat by invoking the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994.
- ❖ The Government of India enacted the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, which bestowed rights and protection to the Transgender community in India.

India Centre for Advanced Manufacturing



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government in collaboration with the World Economic Forum, hosted a public-private discussion for establishing the 'India Centre for Advanced Manufacturing' in Chennai.
- ❖ The discussion highlighted three key focus areas for the Centre — technology adoption and innovation, industry-academia engagement, and sustainable production.
- ❖ In the past, Tamil Nadu had already established three Centers of Excellence in collaboration with Siemens, G.E., and Dassault Systems.

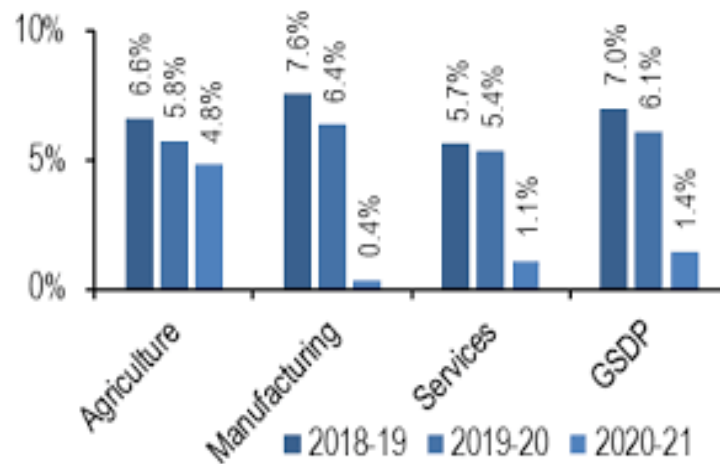
Extension of Breakfast Scheme

- ❖ Chief Minister's breakfast scheme was launched On September 15, 2022.
- ❖ On August 25, the scheme was extended to the entire state.
- ❖ The scheme will be extended to cover 15.75 lakh students of class one to five in 31,008 government schools across the state.
- ❖ The initiative will benefit students studying in schools from 1st to 5th standard across the entire state.

Tamil Nadu Land Consolidation Act, 2023

- ❖ The Governor R.N. Ravi granted assent to the Tamil Nadu Land Consolidation (for Special Projects) Act, 2023.
- ❖ According to the legislation, a project proponent would submit an application for a proposal for consolidation of project land to the government.
- ❖ If the conditions are fulfilled, the government would notify it as a special project, and forward it to the respective District Collector.
- ❖ The government has to constitute an expert committee.
- ❖ It would publish the consolidation proposal and conduct a public hearing.
- ❖ The panel would prepare a draft land consolidation scheme, get the views of interested persons and submit it to the Collector.
- ❖ Along with his recommendation to the competent authority, which shall “either approve or approve with conditions, as it may deem fit”

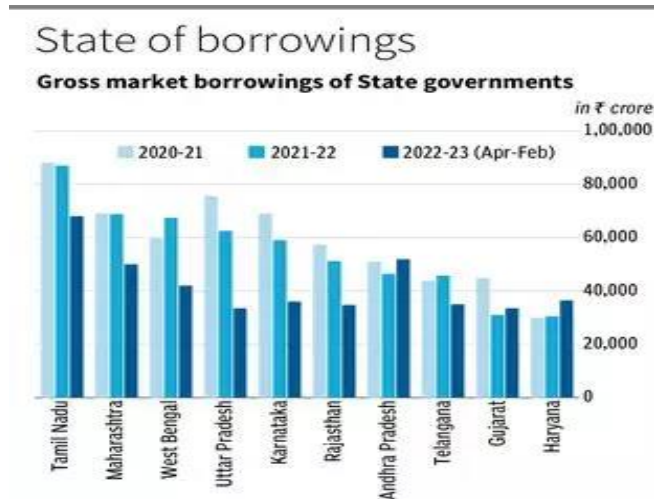
Tamil Nadu’s economic growth



- ❖ Tamil Nadu’s economic growth has increased to about 8% at constant prices in the post-COVID-19 years of 2021-22 and 2022-23.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu’s GSDP was ₹14,53,321 crore at constant prices and ₹23,64,514 crore at current prices in 2022-23.
- ❖ It’s GSDP growth in 2022-23 was 8.19% at constant prices and 14.16% at current prices.
- ❖ For the same period, India’s GDP growth was 7.24% at constant prices and 16.06% at current prices.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu’s GSDP was ₹13,43,287 crore at constant prices and ₹20,71,286 crore at current prices in 2021-22.

- ❖ It grew at 7.92% at constant prices and 15.84% at current prices in the period.
- ❖ India's GDP growth was 9.05% at constant prices and 18.36% at current prices in 2021-22.
- ❖ The contribution of the services sector was 50.94% in 2021-22 and 50.92% in 2022-23.

Tamil Nadu's gross market borrowings

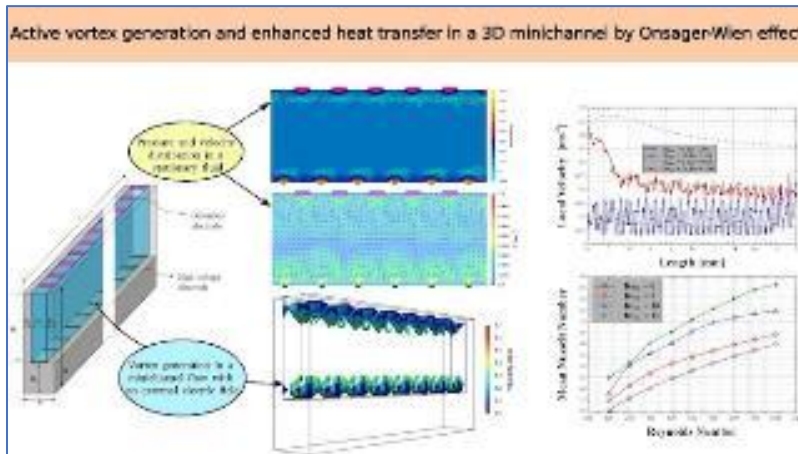


- ❖ Tamil Nadu's gross market borrowings increased to ₹25,000 crore in the first quarter of fiscal 2023-24.
- ❖ It was ₹8,000 crore in the same period last year.
- ❖ After adjusting for repayments, the net borrowings stood at ₹17,000 crore in April-June 2023 period.
- ❖ It was ₹5,528 crore in April-June 2022.
- ❖ State borrows from the market through the auction of bonds known as State Development Loans (SDL).
- ❖ The Centre has fixed a borrowing ceiling for the States.
- ❖ States can borrow up to 3% of their Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for 2023-24.
- ❖ An additional borrowing of 0.5% of GSDP is allowed for fulfilment of power sector reforms.

Cooling solution for electronics applications

- ❖ The Madras IIT and Khalifa University of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have developed an innovative cooling solution for electronics applications.

- ❖ They developed an electro-hydrodynamics-based method for effective cooling of electronic devices.
- ❖ The process uses the 'Onsager-Wien Effect' to induce vortices in the mini-channels, which leads to better heat transfer.
- ❖ This method uses minimal external power and is operationally safe.



First honey bee park

- ❖ Jawadhu Hills in Tiruvannamalai is getting ready to have Tamil Nadu's first honey bee park in Athipattu.
- ❖ The tribal hamlet is located amidst deciduous forests on the ridges of the hills.
- ❖ The park aims to bring back tribals in the hills to their native work— honey collectors.
- ❖ For non-tribals, the park will exhibit the key role played by honey bees in protecting nature.
- ❖ At present, only around 300 tribals are honey collectors in the hills, which have 272 hamlets in their 38 revenue villages and a population of over 30,000 residents.

Puthirai Vannar Welfare Board

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has recently reconstituted Puthirai Vannar Welfare Board.
- ❖ It consists of 13 ex-officio members and 13 non-official members.
- ❖ It also includes three legislators – S. Stalinkumar (Thuraiyur), K. Sivagama Sundari (Krishnarayapuram) and M. Panneerselvam (Sirkazhi).

Private projects in Tamil Nadu 2022 – 23

- ❖ The number of private sector projects in Tamil Nadu financed by banks and financial institutions increased to 44 in 2022-23 from 40 in 2021-22.
- ❖ However, the State's share in overall project cost of ₹2,66,547 crore dipped to 4.8% in 2022-23.
- ❖ This has a share of 8.8% in the total project cost of ₹1,41,976 crore in 2021-22.
- ❖ Overall, about 547 private projects got assistance from banks and financial institutions during 2022-23 with a record high total project cost.
- ❖ In 2022-23, the top five states are Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- ❖ In 2022-23, Uttar Pradesh accounted for the highest share 16.2% in the total cost of projects.

Capital subsidy under NEEDS scheme



- ❖ The Tamilnadu State government has disbursed highest ever capital subsidy in 2022-23 under its flagship New Entrepreneur cum Enterprise Development Scheme (NEEDS).
- ❖ It is a State-funded programme to promote first generation entrepreneurs.
- ❖ The scheme is run by the State's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Department.
- ❖ It has seen subsidy disbursement of ₹163.88 crore in 2022-23, when compared to about ₹97.25 crore in 2021-22.
- ❖ The scheme, which has been operational since 2012-13, also saw over 1,000 sanctions for the first time ever in 2022-23.
- ❖ Under NEEDS, the minimum project cost is ₹10 lakh and the maximum project cost is up to ₹5 crore.
- ❖ The individual-based capital subsidy under NEEDS is given at the rate of 25% of the project cost (not exceeding ₹75 lakh).

UPS technology center in Chennai

- ❖ Chief Minister inaugurated American multinational shipping and supply chain management company United Parcel Service's (UPS) Technology Centre in Chennai.
- ❖ The UPS centre is the company's first such facility in India.
- ❖ It will invest \$15 to \$20 million in India to provide jobs for 1,000 people by 2025.

NATIONAL

The Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill 2023



- ❖ The Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2023, was passed by the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ It seeks to strengthen cooperatives by making them transparent and introduces a system of regular elections.
- ❖ The Bill seeks to reform the composition of the Board of multi-State co-operative societies and establishment of 'Co-operative Election Authority'.
- ❖ The elections laws provisioned in the Bill is at par with those of the Election Commission.

100 Microsites project



- ❖ The National Health Authority (NHA) has launched 100 microsites project under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).
- ❖ These microsites shall be a cluster of small and medium-scale clinics, nursing homes, hospitals with less than 10 beds, laboratories, pharmacies, and other healthcare facilities.
- ❖ They are ABDM-enabled and offer digital health services to patients.

Project Tiger and Elephant Division

- ❖ The Project Tiger division has been merged with Project Elephant and a new division with the name 'Project Tiger and Elephant Division' has been created.
- ❖ Project Tiger completed 50 years in 2022.
- ❖ Project Elephant completed 30 years in 2022.
- ❖ Similar proposal was made by the erstwhile Planning Commission in 2011 to merge three centrally sponsored schemes - Project Tiger, Project Elephant, and Integrated Development under Wildlife Habitat into one.
- ❖ The amalgamated budget of Project Tiger and Project Elephant schemes in 2023-24 stands at Rs 331 crore.



IDWH



Project Tiger



Project Elephant



ULLAS mobile application

- ❖ Union Minister of Education introduced the mobile application of the ULLAS: Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram.
- ❖ The occasion coincided with the third anniversary of NEP 2020.
- ❖ It serves as a digital gateway to engage learners with diverse educational resources through the DIKSHA portal of NCERT.
- ❖ It targets citizens aged 15 and above who missed the opportunity to attend formal schooling.
- ❖ He also introduced the logo and slogan "Jan Jan Sakshar".

TechEquity

- ❖ India launched TechEquity - a digital inclusion platform that seeks to bridge the gender digital divide on G20 EMPOWER summit in Gandhinagar.
- ❖ The platform will impact two to three million women across the globe over the next year.
- ❖ It will collate best-in-class courses on digital and financial literacy, tech skill development and core skill enhancement.
- ❖ The platform - to be funded by India for the next three years - will be maintained by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).

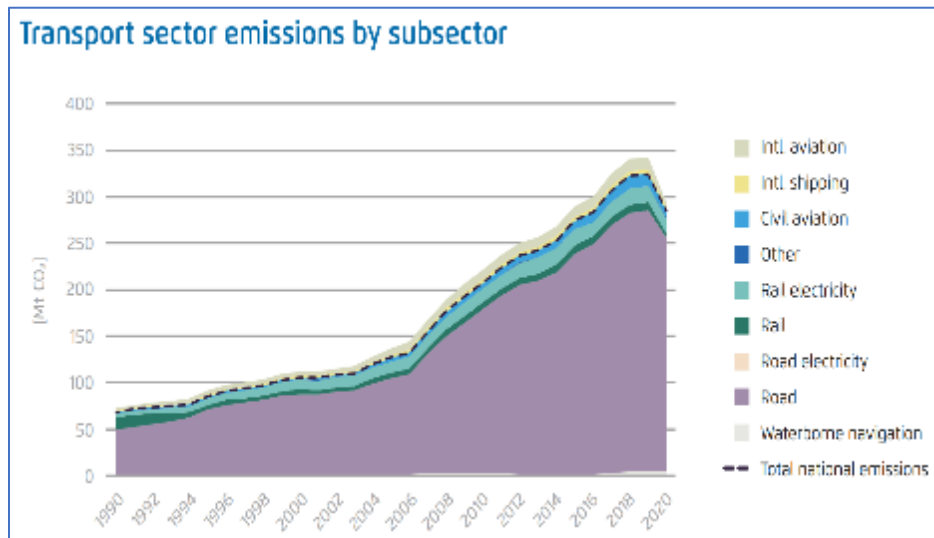
FMR-FIR modality

- ❖ UIDAI is engaging artificial intelligence-based technology to address fraud in the Aadhaar-enabled Payment System.
- ❖ The technology is called Finger Minutiae Record–Finger Image Record (FMR-FIR) modality.
- ❖ The Finger Minutiae Record–Finger Image Record (FMR-FIR) modality is an Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning technology.
- ❖ It will check the liveness of a fingerprint to detect the use of cloned fingerprint during the authentication process.
- ❖ It is ensuring that only real fingerprints are used for verification.

“Towards Decarbonizing Transport 2023” report

- ❖ NITI Aayog released the “Towards Decarbonising Transport 2023” report.
- ❖ It aims to support global discussions on sustainable transport during India’s G20 presidency.

- ❖ Decarbonising Transport refers to the process of reducing or eliminating CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector.
- ❖ The transport sector in India contributes to around 14-15% of the country's total greenhouse gas emissions in 2021.
- ❖ Within the transport sector, road transport contributes to more than 90% of the total CO₂ emissions.



MASI App

- ❖ National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has developed an application 'MASI'.
- ❖ MASI stands for Monitoring App for Seamless Inspection.
- ❖ It aims to real time monitoring of the Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and their inspection mechanism across the country.
- ❖ The app is linked to the monitoring Portal where the automatic reports are generated.

Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023

- ❖ Rajya Sabha cleared the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023 by a voice vote.
- ❖ The bill allows the Centre to exclusively auction mining leases and composite licences for certain critical minerals of the country, with states also getting their revenue.
- ❖ The bill also seeks to allow increased private sector participation.



- ❖ Players now allowed to mine six out of 12 atomic minerals, including lithium, and deep-seated minerals such as gold and silver.
- ❖ Earlier, all 12 atomic minerals were reserved for mining and exploration by government entities.

Delhi services bill

- ❖ The Delhi services bill, officially known as the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023, was passed in the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ This bill will replace an existing ordinance that overrides a Supreme Court order giving the Delhi government control over most services.
- ❖ The ordinance had granted the elected government in Delhi the authority to handle the transfer and appointments of bureaucrats.

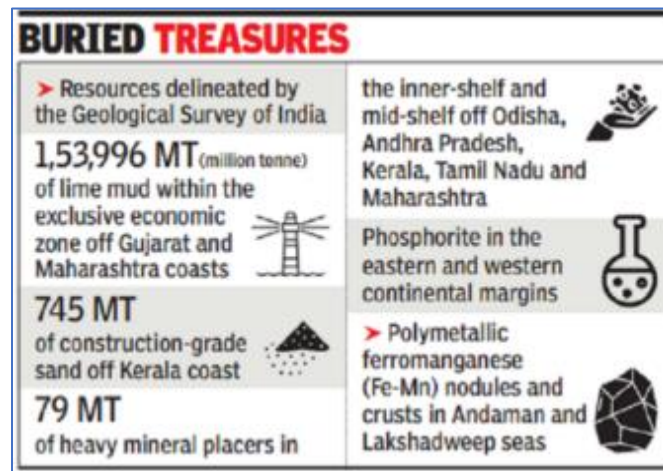
Press and Registration of Periodicals (PRP) Bill, 2023

- ❖ The Rajya Sabha passed the Press and Registration of Periodicals (PRP) Bill 2023.
- ❖ The Bill seeks to replace the existing Press and Registration of Books (PRB) Act, 1867.
- ❖ The aim of the new Bill is to bring transparency and ease of doing business.
- ❖ It will provide for a simple process that will help small and medium publishers

Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023

- ❖ The Parliament passed the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023.
- ❖ It introduces a paradigm shift in the allocation process, ushering in transparency, competitiveness, and prolonged tenure for private sector involvement.
- ❖ The Private sector entities will be granted two distinct types of operating rights through a process of auction via competitive bidding.
- ❖ The bill also reserves the allocation of operating rights for Atomic Minerals exclusively to Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).
- ❖ Geological Survey of India has delineated the resources of the following minerals in the offshore areas:
 - 1,53,996 million tons of lime mud within the EEZ off Gujarat and Maharashtra coasts.

- 745 million tons of construction-grade sand off Kerala coast.
- 79 million tons of heavy mineral placers in the inner-shelf and mid-shelf off Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.
- Phosphorite in the Eastern and Western continental margins.



Rajmargyatra App

- ❖ The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has launched a new app called 'Rajmarg yatra'.
- ❖ It aims to improve user experience on highways and create a 'citizen-centric unified mobile application'.
- ❖ It will help provide travellers with comprehensive information about India's highways and also offer them an efficient grievance redressal mechanism.
- ❖ 4 Essential features of the Rajmarg Yatra app:
 - Essential highway information
 - Complaint Redressal
 - FASTag services
 - Safe driving features.

Study in India (SII) Portal

- ❖ This portal will provide an integrated one-stop solution for student registration and visa application process.
- ❖ It aims to establishing India as a global hub for education by welcoming students from diverse backgrounds.
- ❖ It will also benefit the domestic students by connecting them more closely to a globalised world and prepare them better for the global workplace.



Ayush Visa

- ❖ The ministry of home affairs has announced the introduction of Ayush (AY) visa.
- ❖ The visa is aimed at facilitating travel for foreign nationals seeking treatment under Ayush systems/traditional systems of medicine, including therapeutic care, wellness, and yoga.
- ❖ It will boost Medical Value Travel in India.
- ❖ Introduction of Ayush Visa category is part of India's roadmap for the Heal in India initiative of the government.

Age of Consent for voting

- ❖ A Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievance, Law and Justice has recommended reducing the age for contesting Lok Sabha and Assembly elections to 18 years.
- ❖ It is the minimum age of voting in India.
- ❖ It said that the viewpoint for reducing the age was reinforced by a vast amount of evidence, such as global practices, the increasing political consciousness among young people, and the advantages of youth representation.
- ❖ However, this view was contested by the Election Commission of India.
- ❖ It has found that it is unrealistic to expect 18-year-olds to possess the necessary experience and maturity for these responsibilities.
- ❖ India's age of consent for sex is set at 18 years under the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, regardless of gender.
- ❖ In 1892, the marital rape and subsequent death of a 10-year-old girl, Phulmoni Dasi, caused the age of consent to be raised from 10 to 12 years.
- ❖ In 1949, it was raised to 16 years after agitation from women's groups about the adverse effect of early pregnancy.
- ❖ The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, of 2013 increased the legally permissible age for sexual consent from 16 to 18.

Who Is An Adult? Definitions of adulthood by statutes

<p>Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 LAW Age of marriage for men and women is 21 and 18 respectively.</p>	<p>18 Women 21 Men</p>	<p>Child Labour Prohibition Act, 1986 LAW Children below 14 can't work.</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>Indian Penal Code 16 Boys 18 Girls LAW Protection against kidnapping of girls and boys is 18 and 16 respectively.</p>
<p>Indian Evidence Act, 1872 LAW Admissibility of evidence in courts. The age of minor is below 16 under this law.</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>Right to Education Act, 2009 LAW End of compulsory education is at 14.</p>	<p>14</p>	

Anatomy of Age The way the brain develops

- By 16** Temporal lobe doubles in size.
- By 19-24** Maximum growth in frontal lobe.
- Till 16** Parietal lobe stays immature.
- By 20** Occipital lobe matures.

Amrit Bharat Station Scheme



- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi lay the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 508 railway stations spread across the country.
- ❖ It is a plan that envisions the re-development of railway stations.

- ❖ It aims to improve the infrastructure of selected railway stations on a continuous basis.
- ❖ The identified 508 stations include 87 in Gujarat, 83 in Rajasthan, 80 in Madhya Pradesh and 34 in Haryana.
- ❖ Out of a total of 1,309 stations, 508 have been chosen for the initial phase of redevelopment under the Amrit Bharat Scheme.
- ❖ These stations are located in 10 states: Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Chennai Egmore station is also included in this.

Rajiv Gauba



- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has given another one-year extension in service to Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba.
- ❖ It was making him the longest-serving cabinet secretary in India's history.
- ❖ The Central government has the authority to grant an extension in service to the cabinet secretary in the public interest.
- ❖ However, this extension cannot exceed four years in total.
- ❖ By relaxing the All-India Services (Death-Cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958, this extension was made.
- ❖ The ACC committee is composed of the Prime Minister of India (ex-officio Chairman) and the Minister of Home Affairs.

India's sugar surplus

- ❖ India became the world's top sugar producer in 2021-2022, surpassing Brazil.
- ❖ But the extensive use of resources in sugar production is depleting rapidly, leading to a potential crisis in the future.

- ❖ The sugar surplus and high exports are a result of policies favouring sugarcane cultivation, such as the fair and remunerative price (FRP) scheme and State government subsidies.
- ❖ India's top sugarcane-growing states rely heavily on groundwater for irrigation, leading to concerns over groundwater depletion.



Red sanders export quota

- ❖ The commerce ministry notified an annual export quota of 900 tonnes for artificially propagated red sanders wood for Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It has also notified a zero-export quota for wild specimens of red sanders, subject to certain conditions.
- ❖ Red sanders are an Indian endemic tree species, with a restricted geographical range in the Eastern Ghats.
- ❖ The species is a native and endemic to a distinct tract of forests in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Red Sanders usually grow in the rocky, degraded and fallow lands with Red Soil and hot and dry climate.
- ❖ It is a very slow-growing tree species that attains maturity in natural forests after 25-40 years.
- ❖ The International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) recently categorised the Red Sanders (or Red Sandalwood) again into the 'endangered' category in its Red List.
- ❖ It is listed under Schedule IV of The Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.
- ❖ China remains the largest importer for this, followed by Hong Kong and Singapore.

The potential and the problem



1,000 metric tonnes

The annual market demand for Red Sanders

Rs 50 lakh - 1 cr

The price commanded by a tonne of this timber in international markets

50-80%

The population decline in this species over the last 3 generations



1,000 sq km

The area of occupancy by Red Sanders that's endemic to the Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh

117

Smuggling cases of Red Sandalwood registered in 2011



60-100 years

For Red Sanders to reach good harvestable width

Unmesha Festival

- ❖ The President inaugurated the 'Unmesha' International Literature Festival in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The festival is organized by the Sahitya Akademi.
- ❖ The 'Unmesha' festival brings together literary enthusiasts from around the world.
- ❖ It is Asia's largest literary gathering.
- ❖ With over 575 authors participating in 102 languages across more than 75 events, 'Unmesha' is on the path to becoming the world's largest literature festival.

Utkarsh Festival

- ❖ The President inaugurated the 'Utkarsh' Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The festival is organized by the Sangeet Natak Akademi.
- ❖ Through 'Utkarsh,' India proudly displays a vivid tapestry of its cultural diversity, fostering appreciation for indigenous arts and showcasing their value in a modern, interconnected world.

Devika river

- ❖ It is North India's first river rejuvenation project.
- ❖ It is considered the sister of the sacred Ganga River.
- ❖ It originates from the hilly Suddha Mahadev temple in the Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ It flows down towards western Punjab (now in Pakistan) where it merges with the Ravi River.
- ❖ This project has been included in the Government of India's National River Conservation Project (NRCP).



Justice Rohini panel's findings

CENTRAL GOVT EMPLOYEES BY SOCIAL CATEGORY						
	TOTAL	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	OTHERS
Group-A	50,068	6,440 (12.86%)	2,826 (5.64%)	8,455 (16.88%)	11 (0.02%)	32,226 (64.58%)
Group-B	1,25,732	20,954 (16.66%)	8,244 (6.55%)	19,829 (15.77%)	5 (0.04%)	76,700 (61.0%)
Group-C (excluding safai karmacharis)	3,22,503	58,744 (18.22%)	22,296 (6.91%)	72,710 (22.54%)	84 (0.03%)	1,68,639 (52.29%)
Group-D (safai karmacharis)	13,722	4,507 (32.72%)	1,056 (7.66%)	2,774 (20.14%)	0	5,435 (39.46%)
TOTAL	5,12,075	90,675 (17.70%)	34,422 (6.72%)	1,03,768 (20.26%)	100 (0.02%)	2,83,110 (55.28%)

- ❖ The Justice G. Rohini-led Commission was established in 2017.
- ❖ It was to explore the sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes (OBC) groups.
- ❖ It was appointed by the President under the powers conferred by Article 340 of the Constitution.
- ❖ Major Findings
 - The Dominance of Few Caste Groups: A small number of caste groups among all OBC groups were found to dominate the reservation quotas meant for OBCs.
 - Equitable Redistribution: The need to ensure a more equitable distribution of benefits among OBC communities was identified, aiming to address the imbalance caused by the dominance of certain groups.
 - Reservation Allocation Formula: The Commission formulated a formula to allocate reservation shares based on historical underrepresentation, with the objective of providing a larger share to historically marginalized groups and reducing the share of dominant groups.
 - Rationalization of Central OBC List: The Commission suggested corrections and replacements in spellings within the Central OBC list, aiming to rectify errors and inaccuracies in the entries.

State of Elementary Education in Rural India 2023



- ❖ Recently, the Ministry of Education has released this report for the first time in India.
- ❖ The study was focused on children in rural communities between the age of 6 to 16 years.
- ❖ It was highlighting the Prevalence of Smartphone Usage among students.

- ❖ It was based on a survey conducted by the Development Intelligence Unit (DIU), a collaboration between NGO Transform Rural India and Sambodhi Research and Communications.
- ❖ According to the survey, one-fourth of male children dropped out of school during primary schooling.
- ❖ The dropout rate at this stage was higher for female children at nearly 35 per cent.
- ❖ Major findings
 - 49.3% have access to smartphones.
 - In contrast, only 34% of students use smartphones for study-related downloads.
 - Students in higher classes (Class VIII and above) have greater access to smartphones (58.32%).
 - 78% of parents aspire for their children to attain graduation-level education or above.

All-Woman Panel to Oversee Relief in Manipur



- ❖ Chief Justice of India, D.Y. Chandrachud, has announced the formation of an all-women panel, consists of three former High Court judges to oversee relief in Manipur.
- ❖ The panel will consist of three former High Court judges, with Justice Gita Mittal as its head.
- ❖ Other members of the broad-based committee would be Justice Shalini Phansalkar Joshi, a retired Bombay High Court judge, and Justice Asha Menon, a former Delhi High Court judge.
- ❖ Director General of Police (DGP) from six different states will nominate six Deputy Inspector General (DIG) rank officers each to supervise the Special Investigation Teams (SITs) formed for these cases.



Water neutrality in Indian industries

- ❖ NITI Aayog has outlined a standard definition and approach of water neutrality for industries.
- ❖ The standard definition will prevent greenwashing and promote best practices for water conservation.
- ❖ It is described as achieving a balance between total freshwater consumption, including both direct and indirect usage, and quantifiable water savings resulting from efficiency strategies.
- ❖ National Water Mission's Goal 4 (Increasing water use efficiency by 20%) includes the promotion of water-neutral and water-positive technologies.

NITIE - IIM Mumbai

- ❖ National Institute of Industrial Engineering - NITIE Mumbai was established in 1963 with the support of the United Nations Development Programme and the International Labour Organization.
- ❖ It prepares to become the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Mumbai.
- ❖ The amendment to the IIM Act will result in NITIE Mumbai being rechristened as IIM Mumbai.
- ❖ With this, IIM Mumbai will now be the 21st IIM in the country
- ❖ The first two IIMs, IIM Calcutta and IIM Ahmedabad, were established in November 1961 and December 1961, respectively.
- ❖ Over the years, more IIMs were set up, including IIM Bangalore in 1973, IIM Lucknow in 1984, IIM Kozhikode and IIM Indore in 1996, IIM Shillong in 2007, and IIM Raipur, IIM Ranchi and IIM Rohtak in 2010.
- ❖ The most recent additions to the list are IIM Tiruchirappalli and IIM Udaipur, established in 2011, and the latest being IIM Mumbai in 2023.


Panel to select Election Commissioners

- ❖ The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023 was introduced by Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal in the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ Instead of the CJI, the three-member panel would consist of a cabinet minister besides the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, and the Prime Minister, who would head it.
- ❖ It aims at removing the Chief Justice of India (CJI) from a three-member panel to select the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners.

- ❖ At first, a list of five persons would be prepared for the selection committee's consideration for appointment as the CEC and Election Commissioners.
- ❖ In March, the Supreme Court had ruled that the selection panel should comprise the Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha and the CJI.
- ❖ The court had said the order would hold good until a law was made by Parliament.
- ❖ Till this SC ruling, Election Commissioners and CECs had been appointed by the President after recommendations from the government.

Unevenly Balanced

Clause 7 (1) of The Chief Election Commissioner And Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service And Term of Office) Bill, 2023, says



CEC and ECs shall be appointed by President on the recommendation of a selection committee consisting of the PM (chairperson), the Leader of the Opposition in the House of the People (or leader of the single largest party in the Lok Sabha) and Union Cabinet minister nominated by the PM

Clause 6 says search committee will be headed by the Cabinet Secretary, and comprise of two other members not below the rank of secretary of the Government of India

133rd report on Judicial Process and their Reforms

- ❖ A Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice has recommended extending the retirement age of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts of India.
- ❖ It further recommended that judiciary needs to be sensitized from shutting down courts en masse for a couple of months a year.
- ❖ The committee suggested six reforms that includes
 - Social Diversity in the appointment of Judges in the High Court and Supreme Court;

- Feasibility of Regional Benches of Supreme Court;
- Exploring the possibilities of increasing the retirement age of High Court and Supreme Court Judges;
- Vacations in the Supreme Court and High Courts;
- Mandatory declaration of assets by the Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts;
- Preparation and publication of Annual Reports by the Supreme court and High court.



Health Management Information System (HMIS) 2022-23

- ❖ It reveals that 6 States/Union Territories (UTs) have attained full immunization coverage (FIC) of 100%.
- ❖ While 17 States have achieved FIC of over 90%.
- ❖ The Mission Indradhanush (MI) initiative is operating under the Universal Immunization Program (UIP).
- ❖ It focuses on low-immunization areas to vaccinate children and pregnant women who missed Routine Immunization.

Independence Day 2023

- ❖ India celebrates its 77th Independence Day on August 15, 2023.
- ❖ Theme for this year's Independence Day is "Nation First, Always First".
- ❖ The invitees of this year encompass a wide range of individuals.
- ❖ It includes sarpanches from 'Vibrant Villages', teachers, nurses, farmers, fishermen, labourers who contributed to the construction of the Central Vista Project.
- ❖ Roughly 1,800 individuals had received invitations to attend PM's speech on Independence Day.

Monsoon session 2023



- ❖ Lok Sabha functioned for only 43% of its scheduled time and Rajya Sabha 55% in the just-concluded Monsoon session.
- ❖ But the legislative activity remained high with 23 bills being passed.
- ❖ The lower house had 17 sittings, which lasted for about 44 hours 15 minutes.
- ❖ The debate on no-confidence motion lasted for 19 hours and 59 minutes.
- ❖ Twenty-three bills were passed during the session.
- ❖ Most of the bills were passed with little scrutiny.
- ❖ Around 56% of the bills introduced in this session were passed by both houses.
- ❖ On an average, a bill introduced in this session was passed within eight days.
- ❖ Out of the bills introduced, three have been referred to committees.
- ❖ In this Lok Sabha, 17% bills have been referred to committees.
- ❖ This is lower as compared to the last three Lok Sabhas.
- ❖ Of the 23 bills passed in this session, seven have been examined by standing committees.
- ❖ The bills to create the National Nursing and Midwifery Commission and the National Dental Commission were discussed and passed together in Lok Sabha within three minutes.
- ❖ The CGST and IGST amendment bills were passed together within two minutes in Lok Sabha.
- ❖ Rajya Sabha passed 10 bills in three consecutive days.

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita bill 2023



Current Law	To Be Replaced By	Key Details
Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860	Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023	• It will have 356 sections (instead of 511 sections in IPC) • 175 sections have been amended • 8 sections have been added, and 22 sections have been repealed
Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973	Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023	• It will have 533 sections (instead of 478 sections in CrPC) • 160 sections have been changed • 9 sections have been added, and 9 sections have been repealed
Indian Evidence Act, 1872	Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023	• It will have 170 sections (instead of 167 sections in IEA) • 23 sections have been changed • 1 section has been added, and 5 sections have been repealed

- ❖ The Union Home Ministry introduced three new Bills in the Lok Sabha to replace IPC, CrPC and the Indian Evidence Act.
- ❖ They are
 - Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 to replace IPC of 1860,
 - Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 to replace CrPC of 1973 and,
 - Bharatiya Sakshya, 2023 to replace the Indian Evidence Act of 1872.
- ❖ The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) has 356 Sections, with 175 sourced from the IPC having undergone alterations.
- ❖ 22 Sections are being repealed and 8 new Sections are introduced.
- ❖ A new chapter dealing with offences against women and children has been added.
- ❖ It has introduced community service as a form of punishment for petty offences.
- ❖ For the first time, organised crime will be defined under the penal code.
- ❖ In another first, a 'terrorist act' has been defined under the code.
- ❖ It contains Section 150 which punishes "acts endangering sovereignty, unity and integrity of India".
- ❖ The proposed code does not feature unnatural offences.
- ❖ Adultery is no longer an offence under the proposed code.
- ❖ The punishment for extortion has been enhanced.

Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita bill 2023

- ❖ Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita Bill will have 533 sections including 160 sections of old law have been changed.
- ❖ 9 new sections have been added and 9 sections have been repealed.
- ❖ The right of an accused to fully participate in the trial and offer a defence is part of the legal process.
- ❖ The trials, appeal proceedings, recording of depositions including those of public servants and police officers may be held in electronic mode.
- ❖ There is a provision on procedures allowing a convict to file mercy petitions in cases of death sentence.
- ❖ There are also provisions for police to detain or remove any person resisting or refusing directions given as part of preventive action.
- ❖ The Bill also lays down provisions for preventive detention, detention of a person who has mental illness.

Proposed New Laws Sent to Parliamentary Committee



<p>Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, will be replaced by Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita</p> <p>Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita will have 356 sections instead of the earlier 511; 175 sections have been changed, 8 new added and 22 repealed</p>		<p>Criminal Procedure Code, 1898, will be replaced by the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita</p> <p>Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita has 533 sections; 160 sections of old law changed, 9 new added and 9 repealed</p>
<p>Indian Evidence Act, 1872, will be replaced by Bharatiya Sakshya</p> <p>Bharatiya Sakshya Bill will have 170 sections instead of the earlier 167; 23 sections changed, 1 new added and 5 repealed</p>	<p>The law expands the definition of documents to include electronic or digital records, e-mails, server logs, computers, smart phones, laptops, SMS, websites, locational evidence, mails, messages on devices</p> 	<p>18 states, 6 Union Territories, Supreme Court, 16 high courts, 5 judicial academies, 22 law universities, 142 MPs, nearly 270 MLAs and the public have given suggestions</p> <p>Discussions held on these laws since 2019 and Shah was present in 158 consultation meetings</p>

Status of supreme court in 2023

- ❖ Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud announced the expansion of Supreme Court infrastructure in two phases.
- ❖ The new building would accommodate 27 additional courts, 51 judges' chambers, four registrar courtrooms, 16 registrar chambers as well as other facilities for lawyers and litigants.
- ❖ The proposal is awaiting approval from the Department of Justice.
- ❖ SC aims to translate all 35,000 judgments of the top court since its inception in all Indian languages.

- ❖ Till now, 9,423 judgments have been translated.
- ❖ Of this, 8,977 judgments translated in Hindi and the rest in various other regional languages.


Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan

Focus districts

Under the PM-USHA, focus districts should be identified to improve the overall quality of higher educational institutions

The challenge method of selection of districts involves 3 stages:

- **First stage:** The States and Union Territories sign an MoU with the Union Education Ministry with commitments on implementation of the National Education Policy, 2020 reforms
- **Second stage:** The State governments will shortlist universities, colleges, and districts
- **Third stage:** The Ministry will evaluate the proposals and then send them for approval by a project approval board



- ❖ PM-USHA is the new name for the Education Ministry's scheme to improve the quality of higher education in State Universities.
- ❖ It provides an outlay of ₹12,926.10 crore between 2023-24 and 2025-26.
- ❖ The MoU is being signed to show the willingness of States and UTs to participate in the PM-USHA scheme.
- ❖ 40% of the expenses under PM USHA is borne by the States.
- ❖ Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are among 14 States and Union Territories which are yet to sign a crucial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Union Education Ministry.
- ❖ This MoU mandates the implementation of the National Education Policy in order to avail funds worth almost ₹13,000 crore for the next three years.

Unsung women warriors of freedom struggle.

- ❖ President Murmu pays tribute to Matangini Hazra, Kanaklata Barua, remarkable women who made indelible contributions to the movement.
- ❖ Hazra was arrested for taking part in the Civil Disobedience Movement in 1930 and the Salt March led by Gandhi.
- ❖ Hazra was 73 when she fell to British bullets, leading a march during the Quit India movement of 1942, in Tamluk in West Bengal.

- ❖ In 1977, the first statue in the Kolkata Maidan dedicated to a woman revolutionary was that of Matangini Hazra.
- ❖ Kanaklata Barua is of the youngest martyrs of the Quit India Movement.
- ❖ Barua, then 17, led the Mrityu Bahini, a procession of freedom fighters, to unfurl the Tricolour at Gohpur police station on September 20, 1942.
- ❖ In 2020, the Coast Guard named a Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) after her, the ICGS Kanaklata Barua.



Health Facilities for Tribal Women Report

- ❖ A Parliamentary Committee on the empowerment of women tabled a report in the House.
- ❖ It shows that the Union government not having disaggregated data on the health conditions of tribal populations in the country.
- ❖ The committee was headed by MP Heena Gavit.
- ❖ Genetic conditions like sickle cell disease and G-6 PD deficiency are rising in tribal areas.
- ❖ There is higher prevalence of communicable diseases like leprosy, tuberculosis, cholera, etc. compared to other social groups.



- ❖ They having better sex ratio of 990 as compared to India's average of 930.
- ❖ Child marriage, early motherhood, low body mass index, and high incidence of anaemia are causing high rates of mortality among tribal women.

Third 'Pink Station'

- ❖ The Central Railway's New Amravati station becomes the third station of Central Railway to be a Pink Station.
- ❖ Pink Station refers the Station which fully managed by women staff.
- ❖ The 1st Zone on Indian Railways to set up an All-Women managed station is Matunga station on Mumbai division, followed by Ajni station on Nagpur division.



Bharatiya Sakshya Bill 2023

Proposed New Laws Sent to Parliamentary Committee		
<p>Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, will be replaced by Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita</p> <p>Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita will have 356 sections instead of the earlier 511; 175 sections have been changed, 8 new added and 22 repealed</p>		<p>Criminal Procedure Code, 1898, will be replaced by the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita</p> <p>Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita has 533 sections; 160 sections of old law changed, 9 new added and 9 repealed</p>
<p>Indian Evidence Act, 1872, will be replaced by Bharatiya Sakshya</p> <p>Bharatiya Sakshya Bill will have 170 sections instead of the earlier 167; 23 sections changed, 1 new added and 5 repealed</p>	 <p>The law expands the definition of documents to include electronic or digital records, e-mails, server logs, computers, smart phones, laptops, SMS, websites, locational evidence, mails, messages on devices</p>	<p>18 states, 6 Union Territories, Supreme Court, 16 high courts, 5 judicial academies, 22 law universities, 142 MPs, nearly 270 MLAs and the public have given suggestions</p> <p>Discussions held on these laws since 2019 and Shah was present in 158 consultation meetings</p>

- ❖ This bill aims to replace the outdated Indian Evidence Act of 1872.
- ❖ It modifies 23 provisions, and introduces one entirely new provision, resulting in a total of 170 sections.
- ❖ The new bill makes electronic or digital records admissible as evidence.



- ❖ The bill broadens the scope of secondary evidence.
- ❖ It establishes precise and uniform rules governing the handling of evidence during the trial of criminal cases.

Niveshak Sarathi

- ❖ Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) launched the investor awareness vans titled 'Niveshak Sarathi'.
- ❖ This move is aligning with the theme 'From Unawareness to Financial Independence'.
- ❖ These specially equipped vans are equipped with a TV screen running 'Hisab Ki Kitab'.
- ❖ This is a series of investor awareness movies created by IEPFA.
- ❖ IEPFA was established by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to manage the Investor Education and Protection Fund.

Pharmacy (Amendment) Bill, 2023

- ❖ The Bill amends the Pharmacy Act, 1948 which regulates the practice and profession of pharmacy.
- ❖ Registration under the Pharmacy Act, 1948 is mandatory to practice pharmacy in India.
- ❖ The Bill looks at the insertion of new section 32C, which provides a special provision relating to persons registered or qualified under the Jammu and Kashmir Pharmacy Act, 2011.
- ❖ Anyone who is registered as a pharmacist under the Jammu and Kashmir Pharmacy Act, 2011 or possesses qualifications prescribed under the 2011 Act will be deemed to be registered as a pharmacist under the Pharmacy Act, 1948.
- ❖ The Bill seeks to repeal 65 laws that are obsolete or that have been made redundant by other laws.
- ❖ It also corrects a minor drafting error in the Factoring Regulation Act, 2011
- ❖ The First Schedule of the Bill lists 24 laws that would be repealed.
- ❖ Of these, 16 are amending Acts, and two are from before 1947.
- ❖ The Second Schedule of the Bill lists 41 Appropriation Acts that would be repealed.
- ❖ These include 18 Appropriation Acts for the Railways.



Bhagat Bridge




- ❖ The Indian Army linked this Last Village on LoC in Machhal Sector, Kupwara District, of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) with 115 Feet Long Bridge.
- ❖ This Bridge has been named as Bhagat Bridge in memory of Late Major Bhagat Singh.
- ❖ The Veer Chakra awarded Major laid down his life defending this sector in the 1965 war.






Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill – 2023

- ❖ The Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was recently passed by the Parliament.
- ❖ The bill seeks to address ambiguities, streamline administrative processes, and integrate emerging aquaculture practices.
- ❖ The amendments aim to bring all coastal aquaculture activities under the purview of the Act.

- ❖ It is removing the ambiguities between different aspects of coastal aquaculture.
- ❖ It acknowledges the evolution of environmentally friendly aquaculture practices beyond shrimp farming.
- ❖ It upholds the 'Polluter Pays Principle,' mandating aquaculture unit owners to bear the cost of any environment-related damage or demolition assessed by the Authority.
- ❖ Establishments like hatcheries, Broodstock multiplication centers (BMC), and Nucleus Breeding Centres (NBC) are now permitted to operate within 200 meters from the High Tide Line (HTL).



main objectives of the Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill are:

-  to harmonize the CAA Act with the CRZ Notifications issued from time to time and to treat the registration granted under CAA Act as a valid permission under CRZ Regulations;
-
-  to keep Coastal Aquaculture outside the prohibitions imposed by CRZ Notifications;
-
-  to reduce the regulatory compliance burden without diluting the core principles of environment protection in coastal areas;
-
-  to remove difficulties and ambiguities in the Act for effective implementation, and for promoting ease of doing business;
-
-  to decriminalize the offence(s) under the Act;
-
-  Amendment Bill is bringing a major policy reform to provide representation for all 13 coastal States and Union Territories in the Authority

National Dental Commission Bill – 2023

- ❖ It will replace the Dentists Act, 1948.
- ❖ The Act envisions a complete overhaul of the dental education and profession landscape to bring it on par with international benchmarks.
- ❖ Key features include:
 - The constitution of a national dental commission and state dental councils,
 - Three autonomous boards for under- and postgraduate studies,
 - The ethics and dental registration board (EDRB),

- Fixed tenure and professional development,
- Industry collaboration and technological innovation,
- An online national register, and
- A dental advisory council.
- ❖ It empowers the commission to frame guidelines for fee determination for 50% of seats in private dental colleges and deemed universities.
- ❖ All State governments will be directed to establish dental councils or joint dental councils.



National Nursing and Midwifery Commission (NNMC) Bill, 2023

- ❖ It repeals the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947.
- ❖ The Bill provides for the regulation and maintenance of standards of education and services for nursing and midwifery professionals.
- ❖ It provides for the constitution of the National Nursing and Midwifery Commission.
- ❖ The Bill also provides for the constitution of three autonomous boards under the supervision of the National Commission.
- ❖ Every state government must constitute a State Nursing and Midwifery Commission where no such Commission exists under state law.
- ❖ The Ethics and Registration Board will maintain an online Indian Nurses and Midwives' Register.
- ❖ The central government will also establish the Nursing and Midwifery Advisory Council.



The National Nursing And Midwifery Commission Bill, 2023

- Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya today introduced the National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill, 2023 in the Lok Sabha.
- The Bill seeks to provide for regulation and maintenance of standards of education and services by nursing and midwifery professionals.
- National Nursing and Midwifery Commission shall be setup with a Chairperson, 16 ex officio Members and 12 Members.

Functions of the Commission:

To frame policies and regulate standards for the governance of nursing and midwifery education and training

To regulate nursing and midwifery institutions, researches, professionals and associates

Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers

- ❖ The Standing Committee of Parliament on Chemicals and Fertilizers, is headed by senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor.
- ❖ Its reports have called for ending the import dependency on fertilizers such as urea, diammonium phosphate (DAP), muriate of potash (MOP), nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium (NPK).
- ❖ The production of these fertilizers up to November, 2022 was 281.83 lakh metric tonnes but the consumption was 401.46 LMT.
- ❖ The committee noted that GST for fertilizers is at 5% and GST on raw materials like sulphuric acid and ammonia are at 18%.
- ❖ The panel sought the review of a nutrient-based subsidy (NBS) that covers fertilizers like P&K fertilizers.

Direct Incentive Disbursement Program

- ❖ The Postal Life Insurance (PLI) has initiated the 'Direct Incentive Disbursement' for its sales force in the Delhi and Uttarakhand circles.
- ❖ This program aims to revolutionize the way PLI's agents are rewarded and compensated.
- ❖ This initiative highlights PLI's recognition of the instrumental role played by its sales force in achieving organizational milestones.

Interpol Global Academy Network

- ❖ The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Academy joined the Interpol Global Academy Network at a virtual event.
- ❖ The network supports academic collaboration among law enforcement training institutions across the world.
- ❖ The event was organised by the agency and the Singapore-based Interpol Global Complex for Innovation.

Removing gender stereotypes in Law

Combating stereotypes		Stereotype	Why the handbook says they should be avoided
Gender-unjust terms	What should be used instead...		
Affair	Relationship outside of marriage	Women are physically weaker than men.	While men and women are physiologically different, it is not true that women are physically weaker. A person's strength does not depend solely on gender but also on factors like genetics, nutrition
Career woman	Woman	Women who work outside of the home do not care about their children.	It has no correlation with a woman's love or concern for her children. Parents of all genders may work outside while also caring for their children.
Eve teasing	Street sexual harassment	Men who sexually assault or rape are typically strangers and not known to the woman.	Very often men sexually assault or rape a woman known to them... The woman may be a colleague, employer, neighbour, or family member, etc
Fallen woman	Woman	Rape is a crime which taints the honour of the survivor/victim. If the rapist marries her, her honour is restored.	Rape does not taint the honour of the survivor/victim or her family. The marriage of the rapist to the survivor/victim does not restore honour. It intensifies the trauma. Rape is a criminal offence, which cannot be undone by marriage.
Housewife	Homemaker	Transgender individuals cannot be raped.	Transgender individuals can be raped. In fact, transgender individuals are one of the groups which are most vulnerable to sexual violence because they are stigmatised and face structural discrimination.
Ladylike	Use a gender neutral description of behaviour or characteristics (eg: amusing or assertive)		
Marriageable age	A woman who has attained the legal age required to marry		
Mistress	Woman with whom a man has had romantic or sexual relations outside of marriage		
Prostitute	Sex worker		
Provider/Breadwinner	Employed or earning		
Provocative clothing /dress	Clothing/dress		
Sex change	Sex reassignment or gender transition		
Spinster	Unmarried woman		
Transsexual	Transgender		
Unwed mother	Mother		

- ❖ In a new handbook, released by the top court, the SC has offered the correct terms that should be used instead: woman, woman, wife, street sexual harassment, intersex.
- ❖ The 30-page Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes aims to free the judiciary and the legal community from the mechanical application of gender stereotypical language in judgments, orders, and court pleadings.

- ❖ The purpose of the amendment of the Code was not legal, but a recognition of the humanity of the people it had previously referred to as paupers.

Vishwakarma Yojana

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the PM Vishwakarma scheme to support people with traditional skills.
- ❖ The scheme aims to strengthen and nurture the “Guru-Shishya Parampara” or the family-based practice of traditional skills by artisans.
- ❖ Vishwakarma Yojana is expected to benefit 30 lakh craftsmen families.
- ❖ The scheme will further provide skill upgradation, toolkit incentive, incentive for digital transactions and marketing support.
- ❖ The government will promote traditional skills including pottery, blacksmithing, construction, tailoring, and boat-building which have been transferred through the previous generations.



PM Vishwakarma
Central Sector Scheme to support traditional artisans and craftspeople of rural and urban India

Cabinet Decision
8 August 2022

- Financial outlay of Rs. 13,000 crore
- Eighteen traditional trades to be covered in the first instance
- Artisans and craftspeople to be provided recognition through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card
- Credit Support upto Rs.1 lakh (First Tranche) and Rs.2 lakh (Second Tranche) with a concessional interest rate of 9%
- Scheme to provide Skill upgradation, Toolkit Incentive, Incentive for Digital Transactions and Marketing Support.

PM Vishwakarma

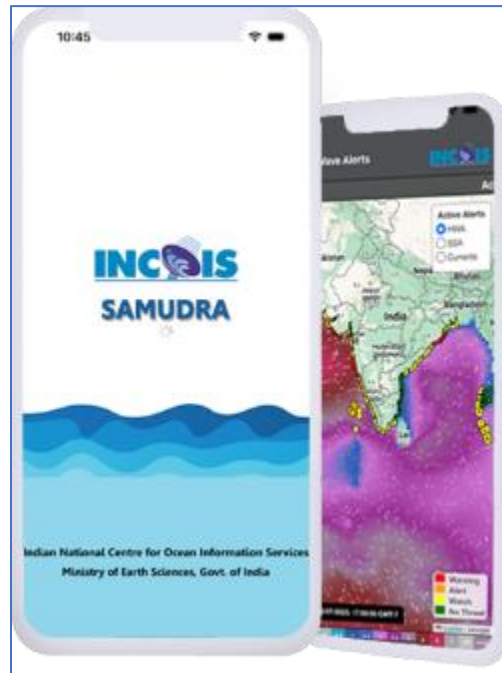
Eighteen traditional trades will be covered in the first instance under PM Vishwakarma

Cabinet Decision
8 August 2022

- Darpanar (Sudhar)
- Boat Maker
- Armourer
- Blacksmith (Usther)
- Hammer and Tool Kit Maker
- Locksmith
- Goldsmith (Soner)
- Potter (Kumhaar)
- Sculptor (Mochkar, stone carver), Stone broker
- Cobbler (Dhamkar)/ Shoemithy/Footwear artisan
- Mason (Pajmistr)
- Basket/Wat/ Broom Maker/Cole Weaver
- Cart & oxen Toy Maker (Traditional)
- Barber (Nadi)
- Garland maker (Malakaar)
- Washerman (Dhobi)
- Tailor (Dare)
- Fishing Net Maker

‘SAMUDRA’ mobile app

- ❖ The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has come out with a new mobile application ‘SAMUDRA’.
- ❖ SAMUDRA stands for Smart Access to Marine Users for Ocean Data Resources and Advisories.
- ❖ It is offering comprehensive information on all ocean related services, useful for both seafarers and the fishing community.



PM-eBus Sewa



- ❖ The Cabinet approved the Rs 57,613 crore PM-eBus Sewa initiative to augment the use of electric buses in 169 cities.
- ❖ A total of Rs 57,613 crore will be spent to get around 10,000 new electric buses.
- ❖ The scheme will augment city bus operations, under which priority will be given to cities having no organised bus service.
- ❖ The scheme will cover cities with 300,000 and above population, according to Census 2011.

- ❖ The e-buses will be provided under the public-private partnership (PPP) mode for 10 years.

Tarang Shakti

- ❖ The Indian Air Force's multi-national exercise Tarang Shakti, has been postponed to next year.
- ❖ This reschedule aims to better align with the schedules of the participating friendly foreign countries and to ensure maximum participation.
- ❖ This would also enable the inclusion of certain Air Forces who have evinced an interest in the exercise

INS Vindhya Giri



- ❖ The Indian President, introduced the modern stealth frigate dubbed INS Vindhya Giri.
- ❖ This is the sixth of the seven vessels being constructed for the Navy as part of Project 17 Alpha.
- ❖ The frigate is the third and last stealth frigate for the Navy.
- ❖ The Project 17A vessels boasted in-house designs by the country's Warship Design Bureau.

UDGAM Portal

- ❖ RBI has launched a centralised web portal called UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access Information).
- ❖ It allows people to search for their unclaimed deposits across multiple banks.
- ❖ Unclaimed deposits are “balances in savings/current accounts which are not operated for 10 years, or term deposits not claimed within 10 years from date of maturity”.

3D-Printed Post Office

- ❖ India's first 3D printed post office was inaugurated in Bengaluru.
- ❖ This is the first commercial building to have used 3D printing technology.
- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras helped the construction team with the structural design.
- ❖ It saves cost by 30-40% when compared with conventional construction methods.



Flood Watch Application



- ❖ The Central Water Commission launched an app, called 'Flood watch'.
- ❖ It can forecast the chances of floods a day in advance.
- ❖ It also provides a seven-day advisory on the chances of floods at various stations in the country.

- ❖ A 'green' circle indicates 'normal'; yellow, above normal; orange, 'severe' and red, 'extreme'.

'Lakhpati Didi' scheme

Right from the Banks to the Anganwadis,
there exists no platform in which the women
have not been contributing.

Now, my dream is to make 2 crore
lakhpati Didi (Sisters) in the villages.

For this, we have decided to launch a new scheme
in which 15,000 women SHGs will be imparted
training to operate and repair the drones!

It will empower the rural women and
will strengthen the Agri-Tech sector of the country!

- ❖ The union government is planning skill development training for two crore women under the 'Lakhpati Didi' scheme.
- ❖ It aims to encourage them to start micro-enterprises.
- ❖ Skill development training is given to women through Self Help Groups (SHGs).
- ❖ It will enable them to earn at least Rs 1 lakh annually.

19th Maritime State Development Council

- ❖ The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways organized the 19th meeting of the Maritime State Development Council (MSDC).
- ❖ This event aims to bring together pivotal figures from the industry to explore opportunities, understand challenges, and stimulate investment within India's maritime sector.
- ❖ MSDC is an apex advisory body for the development of the Maritime sector and aims to ensure integrated development of Major and non-Major Ports.

Bharat New Car Assessment Programme

- ❖ It aims to improve road safety by raising the safety standards of motor vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes in India.
- ❖ It provides a tool to the car customers to make a comparative assessment of crash safety of motor vehicles available in the market.



- ❖ Under this programme, car manufacturers can voluntarily offer their cars tested as per Automotive Industry Standard (AIS) 197.
- ❖ Based on the performance of the car in the tests, car will be awarded star ratings for Adult Occupants (AOP) and Child Occupant (COP).

Jan Dhan Accounts

- ❖ The total number of Jan Dhan accounts in the country has crossed 50 crore-mark.
- ❖ 56 per cent of the accounts are belonging to women.
- ❖ About 67 per cent of these accounts have been opened in rural and semi-urban areas.
- ❖ The National Mission on Financial Inclusion (PMJDY) was launched on August 28, 2014.

Global Initiative on Digital Health

- ❖ Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched the ‘Global Initiative on Digital Health’.
- ❖ GIDH is one of the key deliverables of India’s G-20 Presidency.
- ❖ It will consolidate the evidence and “amplify recent and past gains in global digital health”.
- ❖ The GIDH will be a WHO-managed network that will promote equitable access to digital health by addressing challenges.
- ❖ It aims to support the implementation of the Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020–2025.

Longest Scorpene Submarine Deployment

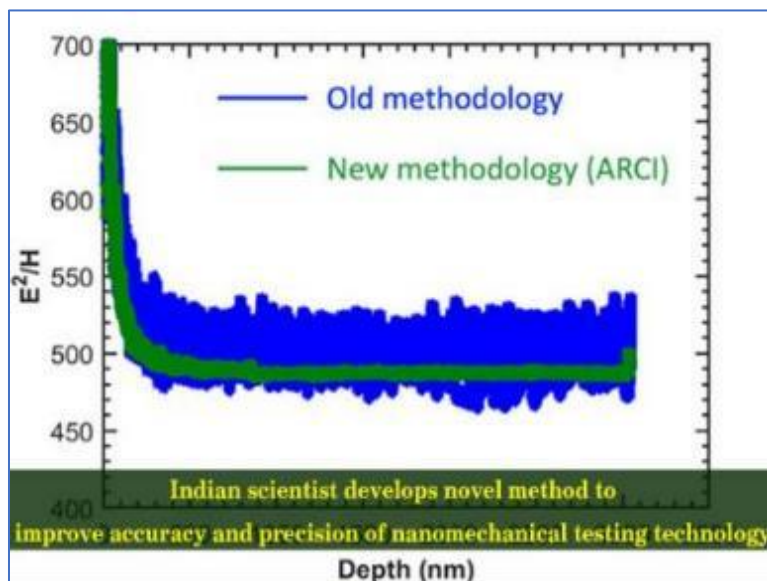
- ❖ India’s Scorpene submarines, INS Vagir, has made its way to Australia, covering a distance of nearly 7,000 km or a little over 4,000 nautical miles.
- ❖ This is a first-if-its-kind and longest ever deployment of India’s Scorpene submarines.
- ❖ This trip is aimed at participating in underwater drills with the Royal Australian Navy.
- ❖ INS Vagir is the fifth Scorpene-class submarine.



9th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

- ❖ The Ninth Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region Conference took place in Udaipur, Rajasthan.
- ❖ The conference brought together the Presiding Officers from 23 states and union territories.
- ❖ The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) serves Parliamentarians from Commonwealth countries.
- ❖ It is facilitating regular consultation and the exchange of ideas and information among members of the Commonwealth Parliament.

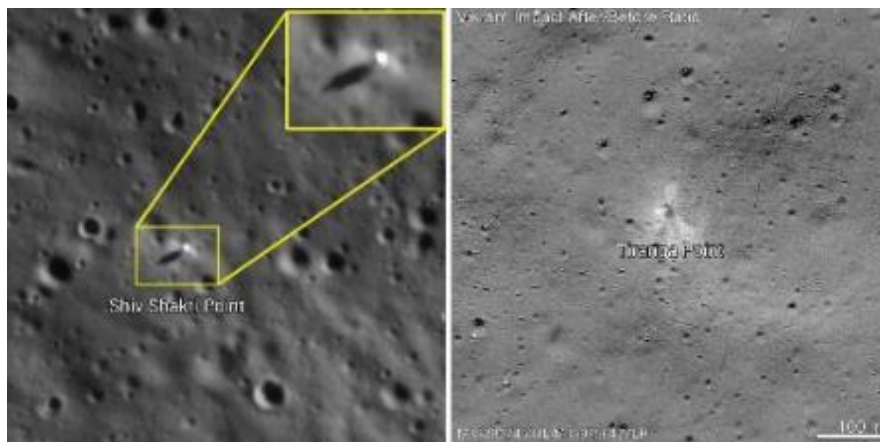
New nanomechanical testing technology



- ❖ The Indian scientist developed a novel method to improve accuracy and precision of nanomechanical testing technology.
- ❖ The new method enables faster testing of mechanical strength of extremely small volumes of materials for a wide range of fields from medicine to space
- ❖ The technique has been widely used to measure the strength of semiconductor devices and structural materials.

‘Shivashakti’ and ‘Tiranga Point’

- ❖ Prime Minister announced that the touchdown point of Chandrayaan 3 will be called ‘Shiv Shakti’.
- ❖ The site where Chandrayaan 2 left its footprints will be called ‘Tiranga’.
- ❖ He also announced that August 23, the day the Chandrayaan-3 lander touched down on the lunar surface, would be celebrated as "National Space Day".

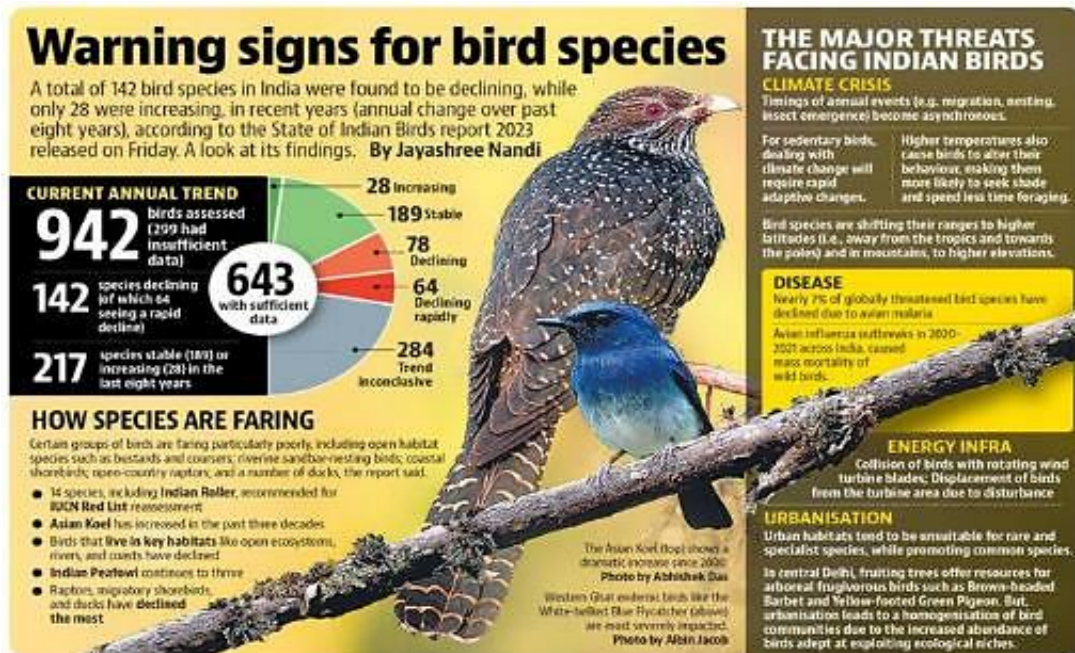


Committee for revamp DRDO

- ❖ The Ministry of Defence has decided to revamp India’s premier defence research agency - Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ❖ For this, the ministry has set up a nine-member committee
- ❖ This is headed by K. Vijay Raghavan, the former principal scientific advisor to the government.
- ❖ It has members with links to the three Services, industry and the ministry itself.
- ❖ The committee’s primary task is to come up with recommendations of restructuring and redefining the role of the DRDO

State of India's Birds report

- ❖ India is home to more than 1,350 bird species.
- ❖ 338 bird species studied in India for changes in numbers over the last 30 years, 60 per cent have experienced a decline.
- ❖ Out of the 942 bird species assessed, 204 species, i.e., almost one-fourth, have declined in the last 30 years.
- ❖ Also, 40 per cent (142) of the 359 species evaluated for change over the last seven years have declined.



Alcoholic Beverage Norms

- ❖ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has come out with 'Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) First Amendment Regulations, 2023'.
- ❖ It will come into force on March 1, 2024.
- ❖ Alcoholic beverage shall not contain any nutritional information on the label except energy content in kcal.
- ❖ Such declaration is related to energy content shall be voluntary.
- ❖ Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) Regulations, 2018 was stated that alcoholic beverages should not contain any nutritional information on the label.

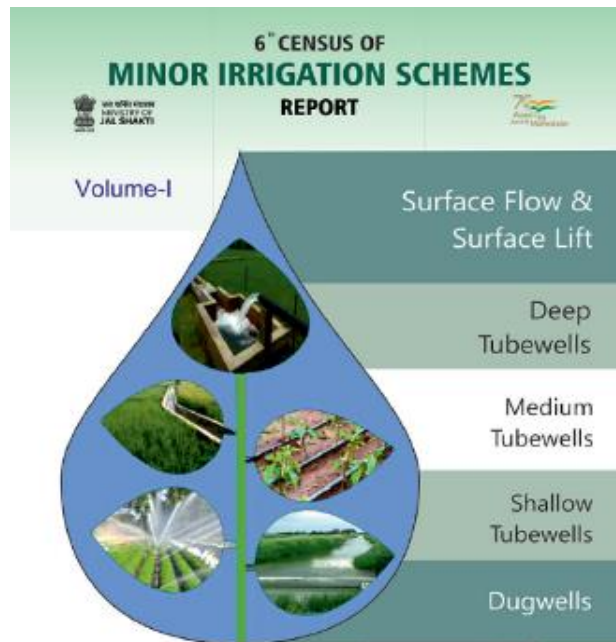


National Award for e-Governance 2023

- ❖ SVAMITVA Scheme of Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been conferred with the prestigious National Award for e-Governance 2023 (Gold).
- ❖ This is awarded under 'Application of Emerging Technologies for Providing Citizen Centric Services' at the 26th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG).
- ❖ SVAMITVA stands for 'Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas'.
- ❖ National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) was organised on the theme 'Viksit Bharat, Empowering Citizens'.
- ❖ The National e-Governance Awards were presented under 5 categories
 - Government process re-engineering for digital transformation,
 - Application of emerging technology for providing citizen-centric services,
 - District-level initiative for e-Governance,
 - Research on citizen-centric services by academic and research institutions, and
 - Application of emerging technology in e-Governance by start-ups.

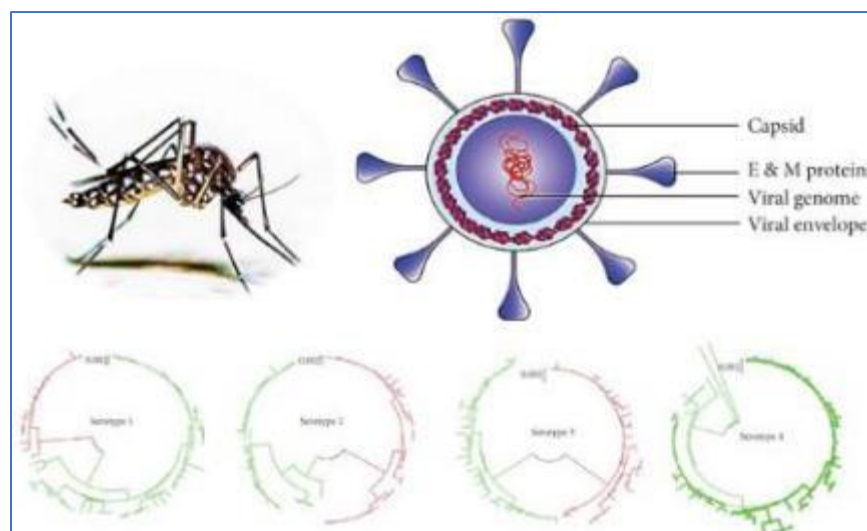
6th census on Minor irrigation scheme

- ❖ The Ministry of Jal Shakti releases the 6th Census Report on Minor Irrigation (MI) Schemes.
- ❖ Out of 23.14 million MI schemes, 21.93 million (94.8%) are Ground Water and 1.21 million (5.2%) are Surface Water Schemes.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has possessed the largest number of MI Schemes, followed by Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The census was conducted under the centrally sponsored scheme "Irrigation Census".



Higher temperature and dengue virus

- ❖ A team of researchers at Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB) has found that the Dengue virus can become more virulent at higher temperatures.
- ❖ The dengue becomes more severe in animal models when grown in mosquito derived cells exposed to higher temperatures.
- ❖ The study will help to predicting and mitigating the severity of Dengue outbreaks, particularly in the context of global warming and its potential effects on infectious disease dynamics.



Lead poisoning in India

- ❖ A 2021 study estimated that more than half of our children (close to 20 crore) have lead levels in their blood greater than 5 micrograms per decilitre ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$).
- ❖ According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), any level above 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ is “a trigger for a thorough review of the ways in which a person is being exposed to lead and for action to reduce or end this exposure.”
- ❖ Children are the most vulnerable.
- ❖ Lead poisoning accounts for a fifth of the learning gap between rich and poor countries.
- ❖ The consequences of lead poisoning range from neurological impairments and learning disabilities to stunted growth and organ damage.
- ❖ Despite being a recognised global concern, lead poisoning in India remains unaddressed.

LEAD FOUND IN PATNA AND SURROUNDING AREAS		
<p>Mainly in places with open recycling of old batteries without safety measures.</p> <p>In soil of areas where car/bike/inverter batteries are repaired</p> <p>Specific locations Karmalichak, Kanikarbagh, Hajipur, Khemnichak.</p>	<p>Effects of lead exposure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Memory loss ● Loss in coordination and negative speech development. ● Intelligence loss in children. ● Stomach pain, numbness, fatigue and weight loss ● Disability, may result in death at high doses 	<p>How to reduce lead exposure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wash hands and face frequently. ● Keep your house clean with wet mopping and cleaning. ● Clean dishes thoroughly. ● Take extra precautions in lead-contaminated areas. ● Clean vehicle interiors to remove dust. ● Avoid walking barefoot in dusty areas. ● Use unpolluted clean soil cover for yards.
<p>Major sources of lead</p> <p>Lead acid batteries: Car batteries, dirty recycling practices contaminate neighborhood, spices, turmeric and chilli (vibrant yellow and red added for colour and weight), glazing on artisanal pottery and aluminum pots</p>		

INTERNATIONAL

13th Amendment of Sri Lanka

- ❖ India expects Sri Lanka to implement the Thirteenth Amendment of constitution and ensure a “life of respect and dignity” for its Tamil population.
- ❖ The 13th Amendment is a three-decade old Sri Lankan legislation.
- ❖ It brought based on the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord of 1987 — and holding provincial council elections.
- ❖ It pledged the devolution of power to the nine provinces which is yet to be fulfilled.

FLASHBACK: 13TH AMENDMENT

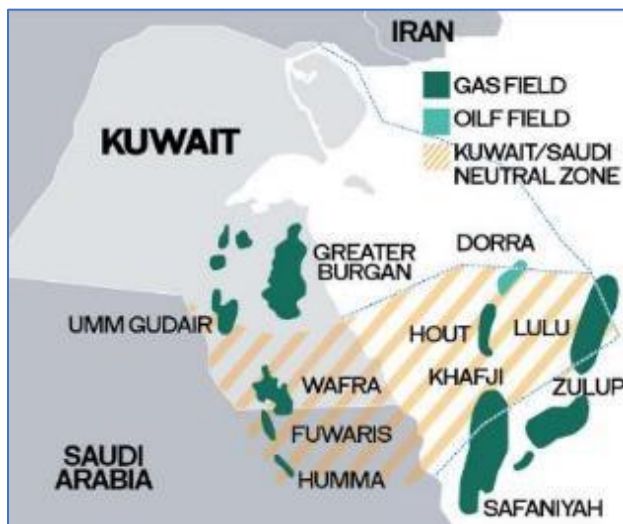
- **Jan. 27, 2023:** The President Ranil Wickremesinghe said the 13th Amendment to the Constitution is being implemented accordingly or the Parliament should abolish the 13th amendment.
- **Jan 16:** President said that the Social Justice Commission would be established in order to build a country where everyone can live in harmony, by solving the problems of the people belonging to all sections of the population and that the government expects to fully implement the 13th Amendment to the Constitution.
- **February 2016:** The Chief Minister of Northern Province, C.V. Wigneswaran sought India's direct intervention in the complete implementation of the amendment
- **July 29, 1987:** Indo-Sri Lanka Accord was signed between Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene which stated the devolution of powers to the provinces.
- Hence on 14th November 1987 the Sri Lankan Parliament passed the 13th Amendment to the 1978 Constitution of Sri Lanka and the Provincial Councils Act No 42 of 1987 to establish provincial councils



Colombo Security Conclave framework

- ❖ A joint expedition of ocean scientists from India, Bangladesh and Mauritius successfully concluded.
- ❖ It was organised by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) under the regional framework of Colombo Security Conclave (CSC).
- ❖ It aims to build capacity in ocean observation and services apart from collection of ocean data to predict and manage changes in the regional environment of the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ The expedition onboard ORV Sagar Nidhi was unique in nature as it was the first of its kind under the CSC framework.

Arash-Dorra Gas Field Dispute



- ❖ An offshore gas field Dorra, in the Gulf waters has long been a bone of contention among the two countries claiming ownership over it.
- ❖ It is located on the eastern maritime border of Kuwait.
- ❖ This Dorra gas field was discovered in 1967.
- ❖ Iran, which calls the field Arash, says the field extends into its waters.
- ❖ The Kuwaiti and Saudi authorities declared that, they alone have full sovereign rights to exploit the wealth in that area".

G-20 negotiators - climate change hurdle

- ❖ The concerns have grown after two G-20 ministerial meetings on energy transitions, environment and climate in July
- ❖ It was ended without joint language on a number of key issues, including emissions targets, cutting down on fossil fuels, and climate finance.
- ❖ The differences carried into virtual Sherpa negotiations for a “zero-draft” or first draft of the Leaders’ Declaration.
- ❖ The first meeting was the G-20 Energy Transition Working Group (ETWG) in Goa.
- ❖ It was followed by the G-20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG), held in Chennai.
- ❖ According to India, differences between members were recorded on global emissions targets of peaking by 2025 and a 60% reduction in emissions by 2035 (compared to 2019).
- ❖ The developing countries, including India, did not commit to the reduction of emissions in 2035.



World rice price index

- ❖ The FAO All Rice Price Index, reached an average of 129.7 points in July this year.
- ❖ It stands as the highest level observed since September 2011.
- ❖ Robust rice demand is among the key drivers behind the increasing rice prices.
- ❖ An additional factor is India's recent decision to limit exports.
- ❖ Countries such as India, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Pakistan are prominent rice exporters.
- ❖ Whereas China, the Philippines, Benin, Senegal, Nigeria, and Malaysia play a crucial role as rice importers.
- ❖ US, Thailand, Italy, Spain, and Sri Lanka are the noteworthy destinations for India's non-basmati white rice exports.

G20 Principles for Financing Cities of Tomorrow

- ❖ In the third IWG meeting, the substantive progress was discussed towards the work streams of the 2023 infrastructure agenda.
- ❖ The flagship priority discussed in this meeting is 'financing cities of tomorrow: inclusive, resilient and sustainable'.
- ❖ The third meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBGs) concluded in Gandhinagar.
- ❖ This meeting marked a significant milestone in addressing key global financial issues, building upon the agenda set during the first meeting under the Indian Presidency in February 2023.
- ❖ Multilateral development banks (MDBs) face increasing demands from donor and borrowing countries to expand their lending operations.

G20 EMPOWER Tech Equity Digital Inclusion Platform

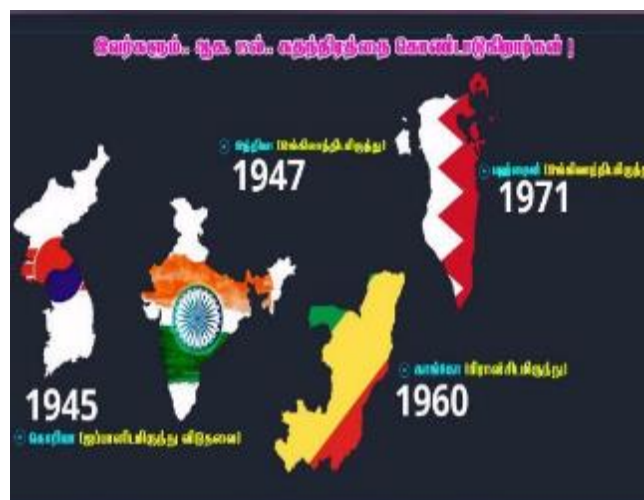
- ❖ India will launch Tech Equity - a digital inclusion platform.
- ❖ It seeks to bridge the gender digital divide G20 EMPOWER summit held in Gandhinagar.
- ❖ The platform is available in over 120 languages and offers digital skilling courses for women across G20 nations.
- ❖ The platform is to be funded by India for the next three years.
- ❖ It will be maintained by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (Ficci).

- ❖ The summit was organized around the theme ‘Women-Led Development: ensuring a sustainable, inclusive, and equitable global economic growth’.
- ❖ EMPOWER is the G20 Alliance for Empowerment and Progression of Women's Economic Representation that was launched in 2019.

Belem Declaration

- ❖ The South American nation leaders convened to prioritize the Amazon rainforest's protection during the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization summit (ACTO).
- ❖ It marks the first meeting of the 45-year-old organization (1978) in 14 years.
- ❖ It held at Belem, a Brazilian city.
- ❖ It reinforces Brazilian President's strategy to leverage global concern for Amazon's preservation
- ❖ ACTO serves as a global entity dedicated to fostering sustainable growth within the Amazon Basin.
- ❖ The nations involved in this organization are Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela.
- ❖ The Amazon stretches across an area twice the size of India.
- ❖ Two-thirds of it lie in Brazil, with seven other countries and one territory share the remaining third.
- ❖ Its vast expanse still holds 10 percent of Earth's biodiversity.

Independence Day on August 15



- ❖ There are five other countries that also mark this day as a national Independence Day.

- ❖ Bahrain gained independence from the United Kingdom on August 15, 1971.
- ❖ On August 15, 1945, the Korean peninsula was freed from Japanese rule.
- ❖ South Korea and North Korea both celebrate this day as their National Liberation Day.
- ❖ In the year 1960, the Democratic Republic of the Congo gained full independence from France.
- ❖ One of the smallest countries of the world, Liechtenstein gained independence from German rule on the same day in 1866.

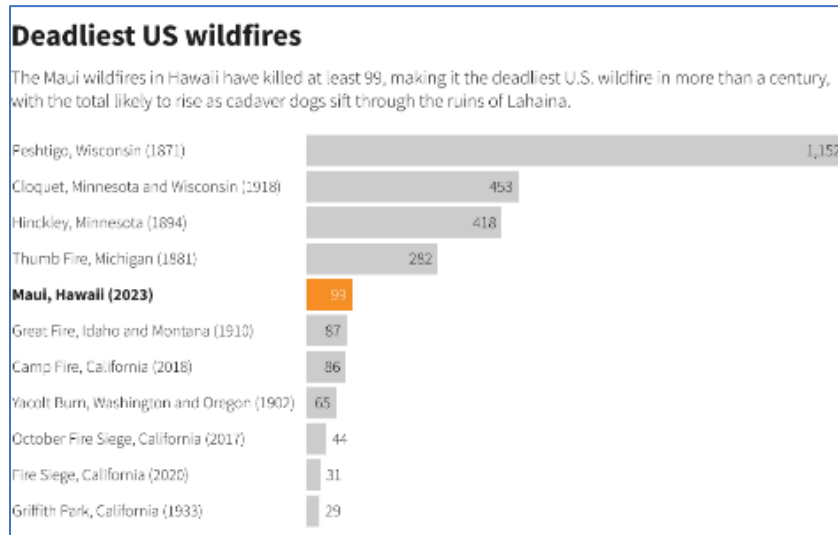
Malabar 2023

- ❖ INS Sahyadri and INS Kolkata is participating in Exercise MALABAR 2023 at Sydney, Australia.
- ❖ Indian Navy, US Navy (USN), Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) and the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) are the participants of the exercise.
- ❖ MALABAR series of maritime exercise commenced in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between Indian Navy and US Navy
- ❖ The 2020 edition witnessed the maiden participation of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN).
- ❖ This year marks the 27th edition of MALABAR which is being hosted by Royal Australian Navy (RAN).



Wildfires Hawaiian Island of Maui

- ❖ Wildfires on the Hawaiian island of Maui have left a landscape of destruction.
- ❖ The fires are fuelled by dry conditions and strong winds from a passing hurricane.
- ❖ This became the deadliest U.S. wildfire since the 2018 Camp Fire in California.



Indian Buddhist Culture and Heritage Centre

- ❖ The construction work of the Indian Buddhist Culture and Heritage Centre has begun in Lumbini, Nepal.
- ❖ This heritage Centre is expected to be lotus shaped which will be built in zero-net technology.
- ❖ This will promote spiritual and religious tourism.



Recession in Dutch economy

- ❖ The Dutch (Netherlands) economy has entered its first recession since the pandemic.
- ❖ Economic growth in the Netherlands had been almost 5% per year in 2021 and 2022.
- ❖ Consumer spending fell 1.6%, while exports were 0.7% lower than in the first three months of the year.

- ❖ Inflation in the Netherlands has dropped since hitting a peak of 14.5% in September last year.
- ❖ But it was still relatively high at around 6% in the second quarter of 2023.
- ❖ The gross domestic product decreased 0.3 per cent over the prior three months between April and June.
- ❖ The outcome follows the 0.4 per cent corrected decline in the first quarter and is much below the 0.2 per cent growth.

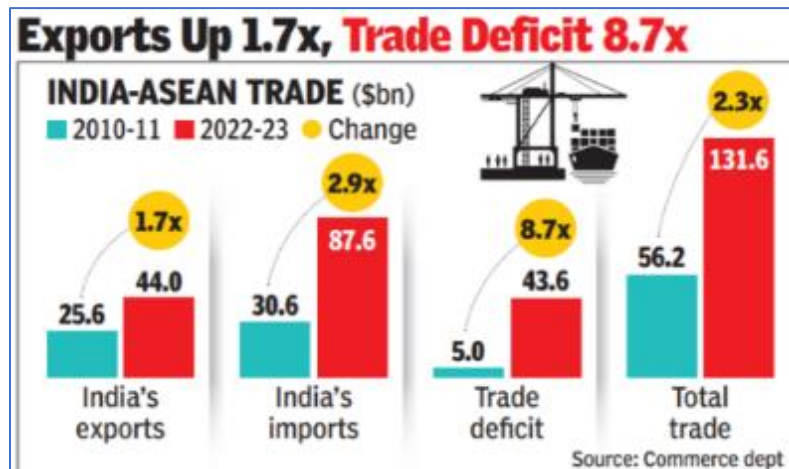


9th International Military-Technical Forum

- ❖ Army 2023, the 9th International Military-Technical Forum organised by Russia.
- ❖ India, China and Iran have set up pavilions at the event.
- ❖ The India pavilion has stalls by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), and three PSUs.
- ❖ The 11th Moscow Conference on International Security is being organised on the sidelines of Army 2023.

ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement

- ❖ India and the ASEAN countries reached an agreement to review their free trade pact for goods.
- ❖ ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) was signed in 2009.
- ❖ The review of the AITIGA was a long-standing demand of Indian businesses and the early commencement of the review would help in making trade facilitative and mutually beneficial.
- ❖ The review of AITIGA is expected to enhance and diversify trade while addressing the current asymmetry in the bilateral trade.



Hurriquake

- ❖ Hurricane Hilary, a major tropical cyclone, hits Southern California.
- ❖ Also, an earthquake with magnitude 5.1 hit the same area.
- ❖ The epicentre of the earthquake was in Ojai, between Santa Barbara and Ventura.
- ❖ The quake occurred along the Sisar fault.
- ❖ The term “hurriquake” trended on social media due to this rare occurrence.



Suspension of Niger from African Union

- ❖ The African Union suspended Niger from all of its institutions and activities.
- ❖ Soldiers overthrew Niger’s democratically elected president almost four weeks ago and quickly entrenched themselves in power
- ❖ President Mohamed Bazoum, his wife and son have been kept under house arrest in the capital, Niamey, Niger.

RSV Vaccine

- ❖ The US Food and Drug Administration approved the first vaccine that protects newborns from respiratory syncytial virus, known as RSV.
- ❖ The vaccine was made by Pfizer.
- ❖ It is given to mothers late in their pregnancies and provides protection to infants through their first six months of life.
- ❖ RSV is a common illness and major cause of hospitalization in infants and the elders.

BRICS Summit 2023

- ❖ The 15th BRICS summit was hosted by South Africa in Johannesburg.
- ❖ The theme for the Summit is “BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism”.
- ❖ This summit marked by expanding its membership from five to eleven countries.
- ❖ Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Ethiopia, and Argentina joined to the BRICS in the event.
- ❖ Their Full membership will take effect on January 1, 2024.

Indian PM's Greece visit

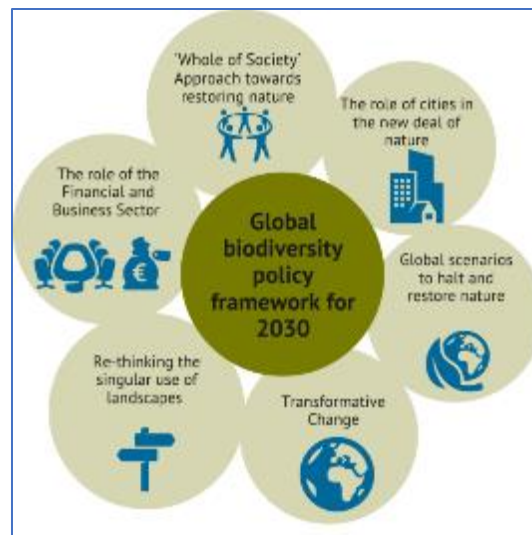


- ❖ Indian Prime Minister made an official visit to Greece.
- ❖ This was the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Greece in 40 years.

- ❖ Prime Minister was conferred with the prestigious Grand Cross of the Order of Honour by Greek President.
- ❖ The last high-level visit to Greece took place in September 1983 when then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi travelled to the country.

Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF)

- ❖ The Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) has been ratified and launched during the 7th Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in Vancouver, Canada.
- ❖ This framework is designed to help halt and reverse biodiversity loss and put nature on a path to recovery by 2030.
- ❖ It channels financial resources to achieve goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework established by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), by the year 2030.



African Swine Fever

- ❖ African swine fever (ASF) is a highly contagious viral pig disease.
- ❖ ASF has spread to 49 countries and resulted in around 1.5 million animal losses since 2021.
- ❖ The 49 countries were located in five different world regions of Asia, Africa, Americas, Europe and Oceania.
- ❖ The livestock disease was first reported in Kenya in 1921.
- ❖ The disease is still prevalent in India, with the most recent cases reported in May and June 2023 from Meghalaya and Mizoram.

- ❖ There is no treatment for the disease, some versions can have a 100% mortality rate in certain circumstances.
- ❖ It is not the same as swine flu.
- ❖ It can be transmitted through direct contact with infected animals.
- ❖ It can also spread via insects such as ticks.
- ❖ But the virus can also survive several months in processed meat, and several years in frozen carcasses.



Exercise Bright Star-23



- ❖ For the first time, Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent is participating in Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23.
- ❖ It is a biennial multilateral tri-service exercise scheduled to be held at Cairo (West) Air Base, Egypt.
- ❖ It also witnesses the participation of contingents from the United States of America, Saudi Arabia, Greece, and Qatar.

Oil drilling Amazon



- ❖ Ecuadorians voted against the oil drilling of a protected area situated within Yasuni National Park.
- ❖ It is one of the world's most biodiverse regions.
- ❖ The area is inhabited by two uncontacted tribes - Tagaeri and Taromenani.
- ❖ In 1989, Yasuni was designated as a world biosphere reserve by UNESCO.
- ❖ The outcome represents a significant blow to current government which advocated for oil drilling, asserting that its revenues are crucial to the country's economy.

ECONOMY

'Star Series' banknotes

- ❖ RBI confirmed that, a Rs 500 banknote with a star (*) symbol is identical to any other legal banknote and it is genuine.
- ❖ The asterisk (*) was introduced on the new ₹500 banknotes in December 2016.
- ❖ The Star symbol is an identifier that it is a replaced/reprinted banknote.
- ❖ This practice was introduced earlier with Rs 10, 20, 50, and 100 banknotes, even before 2016.
- ❖ These banknotes are to replace defectively printed banknotes during the printing process.



Central Govt debt

- ❖ The central government's debt stood at Rs 155.6 lakh crore or 57.1 per cent of the GDP at the end of March 2023.
- ❖ The debt of state governments at the end of 2022-23 is estimated to be about 28 per cent of GDP.
- ❖ Central Government's capital expenditure has increased from 2.15 per cent of GDP in 2020-21 to 2.7 per cent of GDP in 2022-23.

(i) Year-wise details of the Central Government debt/total liabilities outstanding from FY 2013-14 to FY 2022-23 are given in the following table:

FY	Central Government's debt/total liabilities*	
	Amount (₹ lakh crore)	% of GDP
2013-14	58.6	52.2%
2014-15	64.1	51.4%
2015-16	71.0	51.5%
2016-17	75.0	48.7%
2017-18	82.9	48.5%
2018-19	92.5	49.0%
2019-20	105.2	52.4%
2020-21	122.1	61.6%
2021-22	138.9	58.7%
2022-23 (RE)	155.8	57.3%

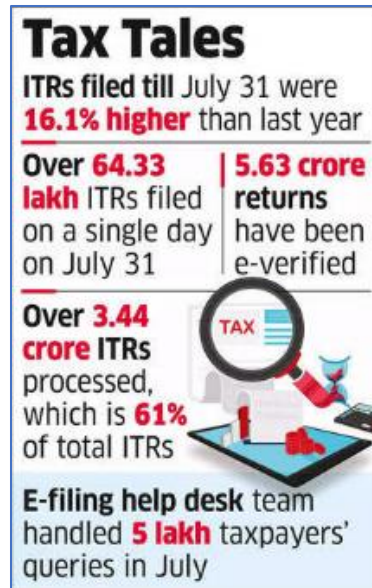
*Includes External Debt valued at current exchange rates as on 31st March of the respective financial year.

RE: Revised Estimates

New record of Income Tax Returns

- ❖ The Income Tax Return (ITR) filing for the AY 2023-24 has set a new record with over 6.77 crore filings till July 31.
- ❖ The filings before the deadline are 16.1 percent more than the total ITRs for AY 2022-23.

- ❖ The ITR filings peaked on the last day of the filing (July 31) with over 64.33 lakh filing.
- ❖ The IT department also received 53.67 lakh ITRs from first time filers.
- ❖ The highest per-hour rate of filing was witnessed between 5 PM to 6 PM with a total of 4,96,559 ITR filing.
- ❖ The highest per-second rate of ITR filing of 486 at 16:35:06.
- ❖ The highest per-minute rate of ITR filing of 8,622 at 17:54 on July 31.



Oil India – Maharatna

- ❖ The Finance Ministry upgraded two oil sector companies, Oil India and ONGC Videsh, to Maharatna and Navratna categories of central public sector enterprises (CPSEs), respectively.
- ❖ The new status will help the companies take decisions on large investments on their own, both within India and abroad.
- ❖ Oil India was earlier a Navratna company, while ONGC Videsh was a Miniratna company.
- ❖ OIL will be the 13th Maharatna amongst the CPSEs
- ❖ Its origins are dating back to 1889 — the year of oil discovery in India.
- ❖ The state-owned enterprise is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and
- ❖ OIL is the second largest national oil and gas company in India.
- ❖ The Maharatna scheme was introduced for CPSEs in 2010 in order to empower them to expand operations and emerge as global giants.

- ❖ CPSEs fulfilling the following criteria may be considered for Maharatna status: Holding Navratna status; listed on the Indian stock exchange, with a minimum prescribed public shareholding under SEBI regulations.
- ❖ An average annual net profit exceeding Rs 2,500 crore during the last three years; and the significant global presence or the international operations will also be considered.
- ❖ OVL will be 14th Navratna amongst the CPSEs.
- ❖ A Navratna CPSE can incur capital expenditure, without any monetary ceiling, on the purchase of new items or for replacement.
- ❖ It can enter into technology joint ventures or strategic alliances. It can obtain, through purchase or other arrangements, technology and knowhow.
- ❖ It can raise debt from the domestic capital markets and international market, subject to the approval of RBI/Department of Economic Affairs.
- ❖ It can establish financial joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries in India or abroad within an investment ceiling of Rs 1,000 crore.



Anti-dumping duty on optical Fibre imports



- ❖ The Finance Ministry has enforced anti-dumping duties on particular optical fiber imports from China, South Korea, and Indonesia.
- ❖ It aims to mitigate the adverse effects on the domestic industry.
- ❖ It was based on the recommendations of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR).
- ❖ Anti-dumping actions are implemented to uphold equitable trade practices.
- ❖ And it aims to establish a balanced competitive environment for the domestic industry.
- ❖ Their purpose is not to hinder imports or unjustly inflate product costs.
- ❖ They impose duties in accordance with the global framework set by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Fortune global 500 lists of 2023



- ❖ Fortune Global 500 list has been released.
- ❖ It ranks companies by total revenues for their respective fiscal years ended on or before 31 March 2023.
- ❖ U.S. reaches its highest company total since 2010 and is highest as stand-alone country in 2023.
- ❖ Walmart was named the largest corporation by revenue for the 11th straight year.

- ❖ Saudi's Aramco is at No 2, while State Grid (China) is at 3rd slot.
- ❖ Eight Indian companies have been featured in the list.
- ❖ Reliance Industries had been ranked at number 104 in the 2022 ranking.
- ❖ And in the 2023 ranking it is placed at number 88.
- ❖ In that state-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) jumped 48 places to rank at number 94.
- ❖ Meanwhile, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LICI) slipped nine places to rank at 107.

Jan Dhan beneficiaries

- ❖ In the fiscal year 2022-23, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu emerged as the leading three states in terms of the most number of beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana.
- ❖ The core aim of the Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is to ensure equitable access to a range of financial services.
- ❖ It is including the availability of fundamental savings accounts, access to customized credit, seamless remittance capabilities, insurance coverage, and pension benefits for underserved segments, notably weaker sections and low-income groups.

State	Beneficiary Rank	Beneficiary Count	Fiscal Year	Scheme Impact
Bihar	1st	84,89,231 individuals	2022-23	Exemplary success, underscores scheme triumph, inclusive growth
Uttar Pradesh	2nd	68,08,721 individuals	2022-23	Penetration in populous regions, financial stability, self-sufficiency
Tamil Nadu	3rd	64,06,513 individuals	2022-23	Impact in developed economic landscape, widespread scheme reach

RBI Policy Meeting Highlights August 2023

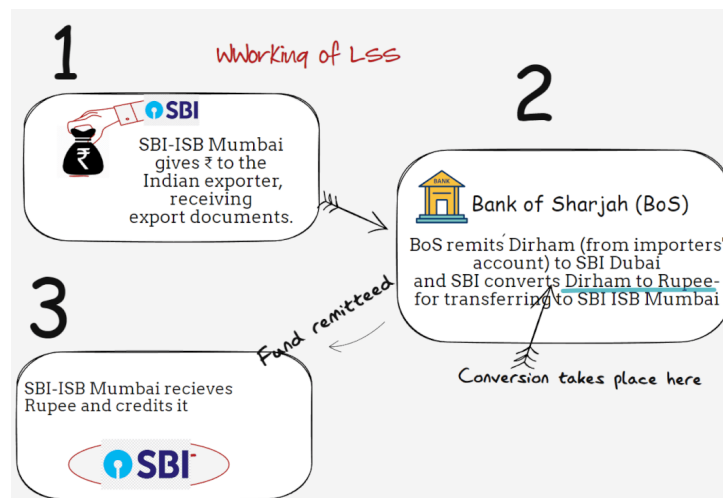
- ❖ This is the third meeting on the trot that the MPC decided to maintain the status quo on the repo rate.
- ❖ The RBI Monetary Policy Committee has kept the key policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5%
- ❖ The MPC last raised this rate from 6.25 per cent to 6.50 per cent at its meeting in February.

- ❖ It has announced that the cash reserve ratio (CRR) remains unchanged at 4.5 per cent
- ❖ The Reserve Bank is planning to artificial intelligence (AI) in UPI payments.
- ❖ The Near Field Communication (NFC) technology will be deployed in offline payments via in UPI-Lite.
- ❖ The central bank raised payment limit via UPI lite to Rs 500 from Rs 200.

Meeting Schedule of the Monetary Policy Committee for 2023-2024	
As per Section 45ZI of Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, it has been decided that Monetary Policy Committee will meet during 2023-24 on the dates indicated below:	
Dates of meetings of Monetary Policy Committee for 2023-24	
April 3, 5 and 6, 2023	
June 6-8, 2023	
August 8-10, 2023	
October 4-6, 2023	
December 6-8, 2023	
February 6-8, 2024	

Local Currency Settlement (LCS) system

- ❖ Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) completed the first-ever crude oil transaction under the newly implemented Local Currency Settlement (LCS) system.
- ❖ This will significantly reduce transaction costs and time, while also promoting the use of national currencies for cross-border transactions.
- ❖ The LCS mechanism provides traders with the flexibility to choose the payment currency based on mutual agreement.





India's 1st Eco-Friendly Debit Card

- ❖ Airtel Payments Bank has become the first Indian bank to launch an eco-friendly debit card.
- ❖ The debit cards will come in r-PVC material, a certified eco-friendly material.
- ❖ Every batch of 50,000 cards produced, will lead to a substantial reduction of 350 kgs of carbon emissions compared to the conventional PVC cards commonly used in the market.
- ❖ Moreover, the r-PVC cards' production will result in a 43% decrease of hydro carbon usage.
- ❖ It is effectively reducing petroleum consumption during manufacturing.

Windfall tax on crude

- ❖ The government has hiked the windfall profit tax on crude oil produced in the country and on export of diesel.
- ❖ Special additional excise duty on domestically produced crude oil has been raised to ₹7,100 per tonne from ₹4,250 per tonne.
- ❖ India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1st last year.
- ❖ A windfall tax is a special tax imposed by governments on companies that generate unusually high profits due to favourable market conditions or exceptional circumstances.

Guidelines for Penal Charges on Loan Defaults

- ❖ RBI has issued the notification titled 'Fair Lending Practice - Penal Charges in Loan Accounts'.
- ❖ It covers commercial and other banks, Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) and other lenders.
- ❖ It aims to ensure reasonableness and transparency in disclosure of penal interest.
- ❖ When a customer defaults or is not able to comply with the terms of borrowing, lenders can levy penalty.
- ❖ But from the beginning of 2024 they will not be allowed to charge any interest on such penalty.

Murmansk port - India's exports

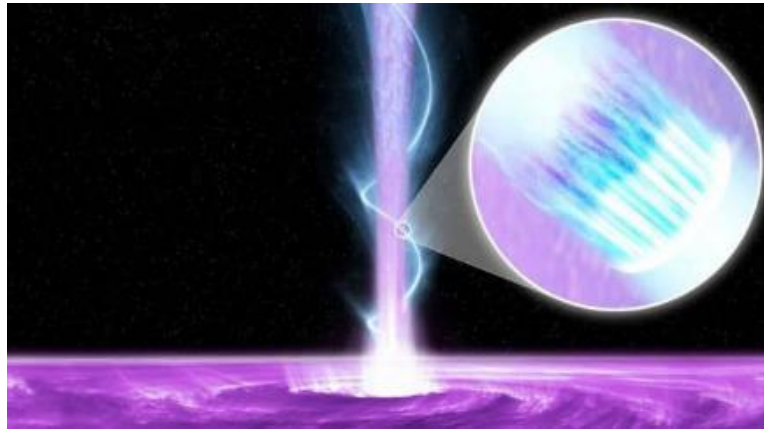
- ❖ India-bound goods constituting the maximum share of cargo handled this year by Murmansk.
- ❖ This port located about 2,000 km northwest of Moscow.
- ❖ Murmansk port is the main northern gateway of Russia and a transshipment hub.
- ❖ It handled eight million tonnes of cargo.
- ❖ Of this, India accounted for 35% of cargo.
- ❖ Turkey (34%) and China (13%) were among other countries served by the Murmansk port with the former's share being and the latter.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

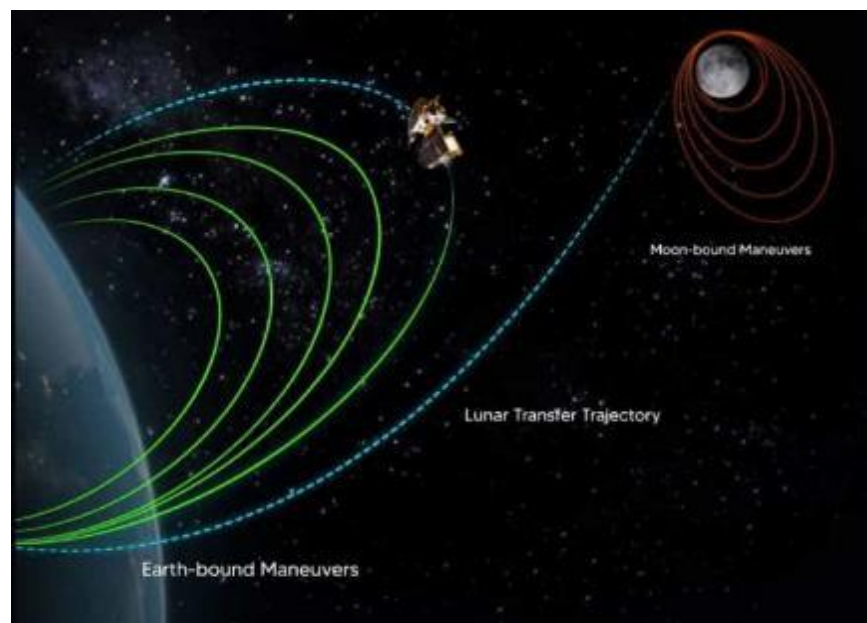
Markarian 421

- ❖ A supermassive black hole, named Markarian 421, is emitting its high-energy jet toward Earth.
- ❖ This astral spectacle is taking place at a safe distance of approximately 400 million light-years away.
- ❖ This blazar is located in the constellation Ursa Major.
- ❖ Jets like the one beaming out of Markarian 421 can extend millions of light-years in length.
- ❖ They are especially bright because as particles approach the speed of light.
- ❖ They give off a tremendous amount of energy and behave in weird ways that Einstein predicted.

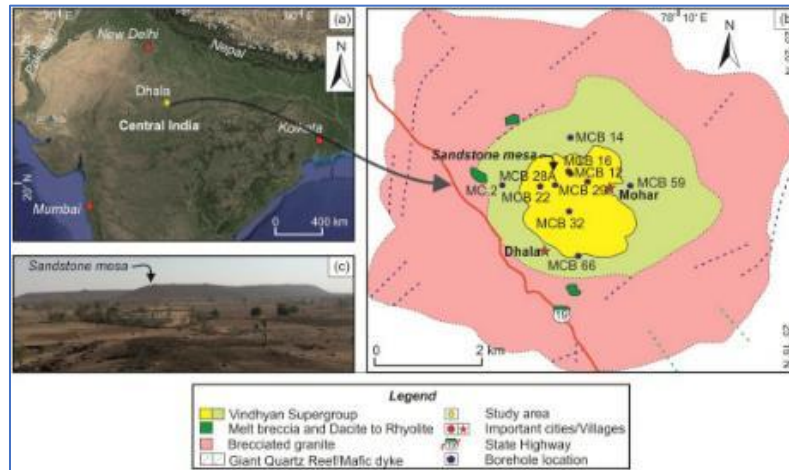


Trans Lunar Injection

- ❖ Chandrayaan-3 was released from Earth orbit into trans-lunar orbit after a successful slingshot manoeuvre.
- ❖ It will follow a path that will take it to the vicinity of the moon.
- ❖ Chandrayaan-3 is currently in trans-lunar orbit.
- ❖ It will begin to experience the influence of lunar gravity when it reaches a distance of around 40,000 km from the Moon.
- ❖ From there, each lunar manoeuvre will reduce the apolune from 4,000 km to 5,000 km.
- ❖ Then reduced to 1,000 km before the spacecraft enters a 100 km circular orbit.



Ureilite Meteorite



- ❖ Scientists have discovered that the Dhalak structure in India was formed by a rare ureilite meteorite between 2500 and 1700 million years ago.
- ❖ This making it the world's seventh oldest impact structure.
- ❖ The around 11 km diameter Dhalak impact structure is the largest confirmed impact structure reported so far between Mediterranean and south-east Asia.
- ❖ Ureilites are a unique class of primitive achondrite, comprising only a tiny fraction of all known meteorites on Earth.

Watermelons in Vostok Station



- ❖ Scientists have achieved the remarkable milestone of cultivating watermelons in Antarctica.
- ❖ They cultivated at the Russian research facility - Vostok Station situated at the Pole.
- ❖ This location is classified as the coldest spot-on Earth.

- ❖ Here the temperatures plunge to minus 128.6 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 89.2 degrees Celsius).
- ❖ Watermelons are originating over 4,300 years ago in present-day Sudan.
- ❖ Korean scientists achieved watermelon cultivation at the King Sejong Station in West Antarctica in 2021.
- ❖ That site recorded temperature as low as minus 78.1 F (minus 25.6 C).

Room-temperature superconductor

- ❖ The South Korean researchers have claimed the discovery of a practical superconductor.
- ❖ The material, dubbed LK-99, is made by introducing a small number of copper atoms into a relatively common mineral called lead apatite.
- ❖ Superconductors are materials that allow electrical current to flow without resistance.
- ❖ Existing superconducting materials only display their superconducting properties at extremely low temperatures.
- ❖ This making them impractical for widespread use.

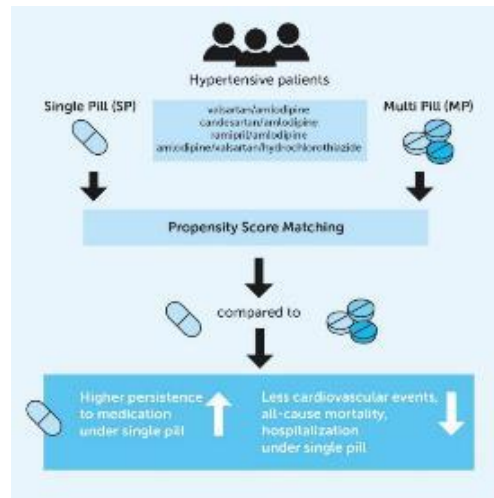
New blood testing technology



- ❖ Researchers have developed a new blood testing technology called GEMINI.
- ❖ GEMINI stands for Genome-wide Mutational Incidence for Non-Invasive detection of cancer.
- ❖ It combines genome-wide sequencing of single molecules of DNA with machine learning.
- ❖ This technology has the potential to allow earlier detection of lung and other cancers.
- ❖ Advanced level of GEMINI detected over 90% of lung cancers, including stage I and II diseases.

Single-pill strategy

- ❖ WHO included three fixed dose combinations of cardiovascular medicines or polypills on its revised Model Lists of Essential Medicines (EML) 2023.
- ❖ This will be used in primary and secondary prevention of atherosclerotic cardiovascular diseases.
- ❖ The polypill is an important low-cost public health intervention.
- ❖ It can prevent over millions of cardiovascular events and deaths every year.



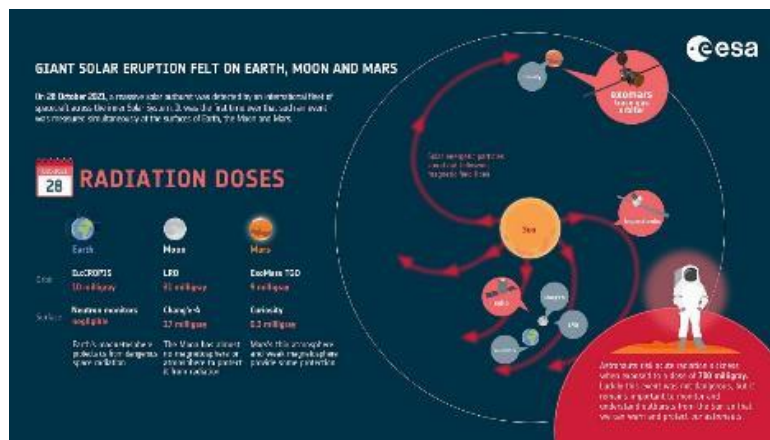
HelioLinc3D

- ❖ A newly-designed algorithm for discovering near-Earth asteroids, in its first, identified a "potentially hazardous asteroid."
- ❖ The algorithm named HelioLinc3D is still in its testing phase.
- ❖ The "potentially hazardous" asteroid, which has been named 2022 SF289.
- ❖ It is 600 feet long and was found while the algorithm was being tested in Hawaii.



Coronal Mass Ejection (CME)

- ❖ A coronal mass ejection (CME) exploded from the Sun recently.
- ❖ This time it was spread so wide that it was detected on both Mars and Earth.
- ❖ This is the first time that a solar event was recorded on Earth, on the Moon and on Mars simultaneously.
- ❖ The two planets were on opposite sides of the Sun, around 250 million kilometres apart.
- ❖ Yet they still received the blast of energetic particles.
- ❖ Neither the Moon nor Mars generate their own magnetic fields.
- ❖ And therefore, solar particles can easily reach their surfaces.
- ❖ However, Mars does have a thin atmosphere
- ❖ It stops a lot of the lower-energy solar particles and slows down the higher-energy ones.
- ❖ CMEs are large expulsions of plasma and magnetic field from the Sun's corona.
- ❖ They can eject billions of tons of coronal material and carry an embedded magnetic field (frozen in flux).
- ❖ It is stronger than the background solar wind interplanetary magnetic field (IMF) strength.
- ❖ CMEs travel outward from the Sun at speeds ranging from slower than 250 kilometers per second (km/s) to as fast as near 3000 km/s.
- ❖ The fastest Earth-directed CMEs can reach our planet in as little as 15-18 hours.



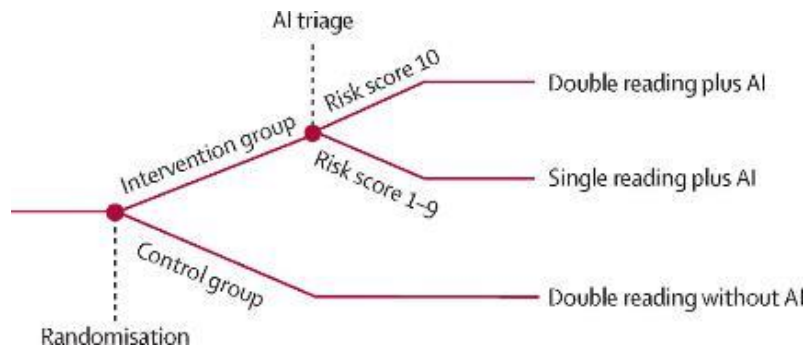
Bhu-Vision (Krishi-RASTAA)

- ❖ It is an IOT-based Automated Soil Testing and Advisory Platform.
- ❖ It will play a vital role in completing the nation's soil health map.

- ❖ It has been jointly developed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research - Indian Institute of Rice Research of Hyderabad (ICAR-IIRR) and Krishi Tantra.

Mammography Screening with Artificial Intelligence (MASAI) Trial

- ❖ Retrospective studies have shown promising results using artificial intelligence (AI) to improve mammography screening accuracy and reduce screen-reading workload.
- ❖ However, a randomised trial has not yet been conducted.
- ❖ Planned interim safety analysis of the first randomised trial is investigating the use of AI in a national breast cancer screening programme.
- ❖ It underscores the potential of AI to make mammography screening more accurate and efficient.
- ❖ Interim findings from a cohort of over 80,000 women in Sweden reveal AI-supported screening detected 20% more cancers.
- ❖ The use of AI did not increase false positives (when a mammogram is incorrectly diagnosed as abnormal) and reduced the mammogram reading workload by 44%.
- ❖ Mammography screening supported by artificial intelligence (AI) detected one-fifth more breast cancers compared with standard screening.



LK-99

- ❖ A team of scientists from South Korea claimed to develop a material (LK-99) that could act as a superconductor at room temperature.
- ❖ A superconductor is a material that attains superconductivity, a state of matter with no electrical resistance.
- ❖ In a superconductor, an electric current can persist indefinitely.
- ❖ In regular conductors, resistance gradually reduces.
- ❖ But the superconductor's resistance drops to zero below a fixed temperature, which is the critical temperature.

- ❖ At this temperature, a superconductor can conduct electricity with no resistance.
- ❖ No resistance means no heat, sound, or other forms of energy would be discharged from the material when it reaches the critical temperature (T_c).



Neerakshi

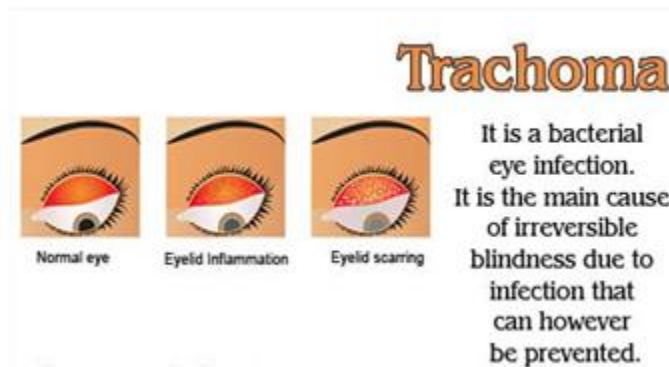
- ❖ It is an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) designed to detect mines.
- ❖ A first of its kind in the country was launched.
- ❖ It is a collaboration of Kolkata-based warship maker Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd and MSME entity AEPL.
- ❖ It is expected to undergo user trials by the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, and Army before a commercial launch.



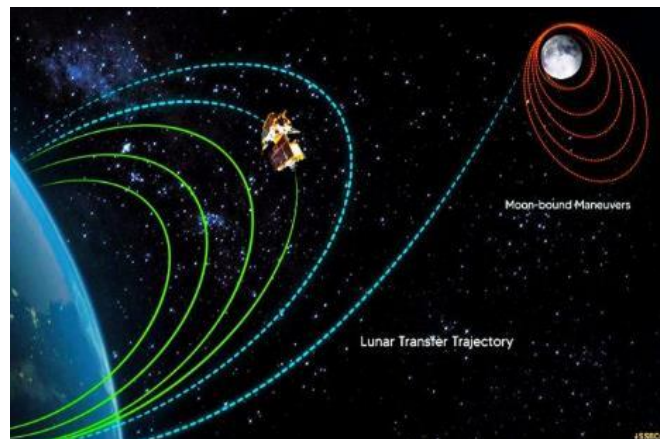
Eliminating Trachoma

- ❖ Iraq has been officially recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the 18th country to successfully eliminate trachoma as a public health concern.
- ❖ This achievement also marks Iraq as the fifth nation within the WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region to accomplish this milestone.
- ❖ Additionally, the WHO has acknowledged Iraq as the 50th country to eliminate at least one Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) on a global scale.

- ❖ This accomplishment signifies a significant step towards the goal of having 100 countries achieve similar milestones by 2030, as outlined in the 2021-2030 NTD roadmap.
- ❖ Trachoma is a contagious bacterial eye infection caused by bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*.
- ❖ It primarily affects the surface of the eye and the inside of the eyelid.
- ❖ It is transmitted through direct contact with the eye or nose secretions of infected individuals or from fomites and flies or indirectly through contaminated objects like towels or clothes.



Chandrayaan 3 – Lunar Orbit



- ❖ Chandrayaan-3 was successfully inserted into lunar orbit after a journey of twenty-three days.
- ❖ It marks a significant step in India's endeavour to become the first nation to achieve a soft landing on the moon.
- ❖ As the spacecraft started circling the moon, it began transmitting signals to the Mission Operators Complex (MOX) at the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC).

- ❖ As of now, Chandrayaan-3 is in an elliptical orbit around the moon.
- ❖ It is situated approximately 18,074 km from the lunar surface at its farthest point and 164 km at its nearest.
- ❖ However, this elliptical orbit is not the final configuration.
- ❖ The mission aims to achieve a circular orbit, with an altitude of 100 km x 100km above the moon's surface.
- ❖ ISRO will carry out four orbit manoeuvres to make the spacecraft enter into its final orbit.
- ❖ The Chandrayaan-3 consists of a lander module (LM), a propulsion module (PM) and a rover.
- ❖ The lander is expected to touch down on the moon surface on August 23.

Anti-tank guided missiles



- ❖ India's indigenous Nag Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) and the variant of HELINA (Helicopter-launched NAG) Weapon System called 'Dhruvastra' are set to be inducted into the Indian armed force.
- ❖ Both the Nag ATGM and Helina (Dhruvastra) missiles are developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ❖ And they are manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
- ❖ Nag is the surface-to-air missile.
- ❖ Dhruvastra is the air-to-surface missile.

Nag ATG

- ❖ NAG, also known as Prospina, is a third generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile with Fire and Forget top attack capability.
- ❖ Nag ATGM is developed under the integrated guided missile development programme (IGMDP).
- ❖ IGMDP also includes four other missiles Agni, Akash, Trishul and Prithvi.
- ❖ The Nag has an operational range of up to 4 km.
- ❖ It is armed with a tandem High- Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT) warhead.

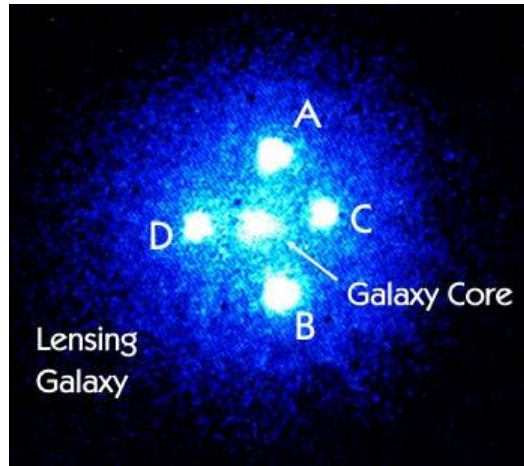


Helina (Dhruvastra)

- ❖ Helina is an Air to Surface Missile system launched from Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH).
- ❖ ALH is fitted with two Twin launchers, each carrying eight missiles.
- ❖ It has the operational range up to 7 km and length of 1.946m, and a diameter of 0.150m.
- ❖ It has a High-Resolution Imaging Infrared Seeker (IIR) operating in the Lock on Before Launch (LOBL) mode.
- ❖ It is capable of automatic target detection and tracking in adverse weather conditions.
- ❖ In 2022, DRDO has successfully flight tested at high-altitude ranges as part of user validation trials.



Einstein crosses



- ❖ This event was first predicted by Albert Einstein in 1915 as a consequence of his theory of general relativity.
- ❖ The Einstein Cross is a fascinating astronomical phenomenon.
- ❖ It was discovered in 1985 by a team of astronomers led by Dennis Walsh.
- ❖ It is also known as Q2237+0305, located in the constellation Pegasus.
- ❖ It had a redshift of $z= 1.7$.
- ❖ That makes it one of the most distant known quasars.
- ❖ The phenomenon was named the “Einstein Cross” due to the cross-like pattern.
- ❖ The pattern was created by the four bright images of the quasar around the lensing galaxy.
- ❖ In this case, a foreground elliptical galaxy, has distorted and split a beam of light from a background galaxy about 11 billion light-years away.
- ❖ That elliptical galaxy is located around 6 billion light-years from Earth.
- ❖ The lens responsible for the Einstein Cross’s stunning display was recently developed in 2021 by the Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument at Kitt Peak National Observatory in Arizona, USA.

Maya Operating System

- ❖ The defence Ministry introduces an indigenously developed operating system, Maya OS.
- ❖ It is an innovative operating system crafted by the Union Ministry of Defence to fortify its computer systems against cyberattacks.
- ❖ It stands on the open-source Ubuntu platform, utilizing freely available software.

- ❖ Notably, Maya OS aims to replicate the interface and functionalities of Windows OS.
- ❖ Maya OS boasts a feature named Chakravyuh, an end-point anti-malware and antivirus software.
- ❖ Maya OS will be implemented on all ministry computers by the end of the year.
- ❖ Ubuntu is one of the most widely used Linux distributions in the world.
- ❖ And it is known for its high level of security.
- ❖ Windows has a large number of malware and vulnerabilities due to running more services and its backwards compatibility,
- ❖ But Ubuntu has very few malwares and exploits.



Hughes JUPITER 3 Mission



Hughes JUPITER™ 3 Next Generation Ultra High Density Satellite
Launching a new era of connectivity.

JUPITER 3 Quick Facts

- Spectrums: Ka-band, Q- and V-bands for gateways
- Coverage: North & South America
- Speed: Up to 100 Mbps
- Capacity: More than 500 Gbps
- Stowed Size: 25 feet long
- Deployed Size: Solar arrays span 127 feet
- Solar Arrays: 14 total
- Position: 95° West longitude
- Distance: 22,300 miles above the equator
- Manufacturer: Maxar
- Launcher: SpaceX
- Service sectors: Consumer, small business, enterprise, government, service providers and aeronautical and maritime mobility
- Spot beams: 300. Each beam carries 500 MHz or more, providing more than 1 Gbps to the VSAT users in each cell allowing faster service plans of up to 100 Mbps.

JUPITER 3 Gateways

- Active Gateways: 18
- Diverse Gateways for Service Continuity: 2
- Each gateway transmits 11 GHz of V-band and Ka band and receives 4 GHz in Q-band.

JUPITER Fleet

- JUPITER fleet total capacity: More than 1 Tbps
- JUPITER 1 (EchoStar XVII): Launched July 2012 with 120 Gbps capacity
- JUPITER 2 (EchoStar XIX): Launched December 2016 with 200 Gbps capacity
- JUPITER 3 (EchoStar XXIV): Launching 2023 with more than 500 Gbps capacity

Follow along with us on the journey to JUPITER 3.
Visit hughes.com/JUPITER3

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- ❖ SpaceX launched the world's largest commercial communications satellite, Jupiter 3.
- ❖ The Jupiter 3 joined others in the Hughes Jupiter satellite fleet already in orbit.
- ❖ It will enable HughesNet customers in the United States and Latin America to access satellite broadband with speeds as high as 100 Mbps

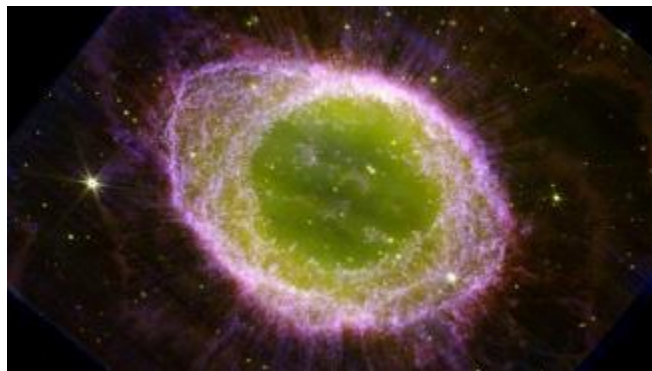
Long-Range Revolver 'Prabal'

- ❖ India's first long-range revolver 'Prabal' will be launched by AWEIL.
- ❖ The Prabal revolver boasts a firing range of up to 50 metres.
- ❖ This is more than twice the reach of other revolvers.
- ❖ Advanced Weapons and Equipment India (AWEIL) is a state-owned firm in Kanpur's Armapur.



The gorgeous Ring Nebula

- ❖ The James Webb Space Telescope captured stunning photos of the end stages of a star.
- ❖ The pictures show more detail of what appears to be a doughnut-type structure called Ring Nebula.
- ❖ It was born after the dying star expelled its outer layers into space.
- ❖ The nebula, Messier 57 (M57) is located 2,600 light years from Earth.



Luna-25 Spacecraft



- ❖ Russia's Luna-25 spacecraft crashed into the Moon after it spun into an uncontrolled orbit.
- ❖ The lunar mission was Russia's first since 1976.
- ❖ The pilotless spacecraft was aiming to be the first ever to land on the south pole of the Moon.
- ❖ A previous Indian attempt to land at the south pole in 2019 ended when the spacecraft crashed into the moon's surface.
- ❖ Alongside Luna 25, India's Chandrayaan-3, launched on July 14, is hoping to land in the south pole area as well.
- ❖ Till now, only three governments have managed successful moon landings: the Soviet Union, the United States and China.

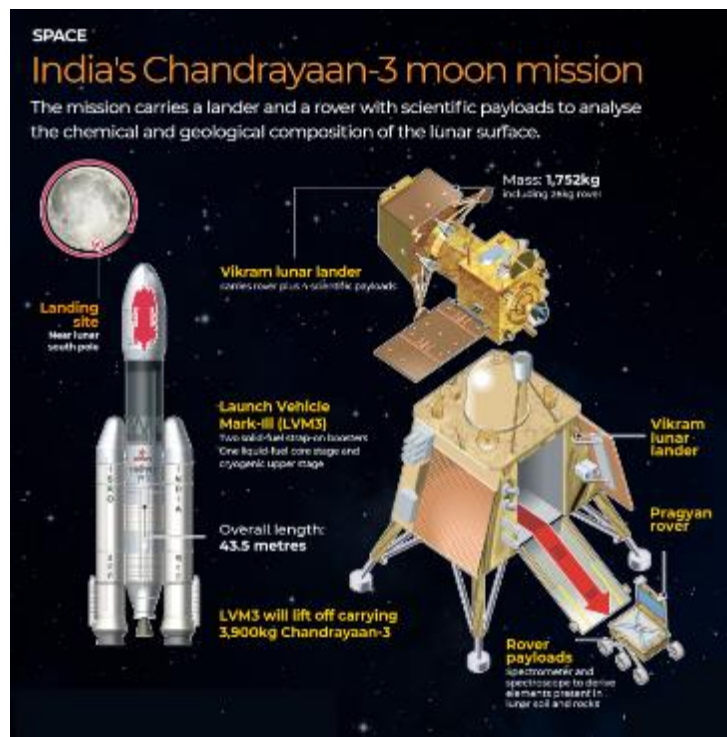
Chandrayaan 3 mission

- ❖ The Chandrayaan 3 mission launched on July 14 onboard Launch Vehicle Mark III.
- ❖ It took 41 days to touch down on the moon's surface.
- ❖ The successful moon mission has made India the fourth country to achieve a soft landing on the lunar surface after the US, China, and the erstwhile Soviet Union.
- ❖ India also became the first country to land on the moon's south pole.
- ❖ The 'Pragyaan' rover has been deployed on the south pole.
- ❖ It will be used by ISRO, over the next 14 days to explore the composition of lunar soil and rocks.

- ❖ The south pole is expected to have ice deposits and minerals.

15 Minutes of Terror

- ❖ The critical landing sequence for Chandrayaan-3, commenced at approximately 5:45 pm and spans 15 minutes, aptly dubbed "15 minutes of terror".
- ❖ Throughout this period, the spacecraft operates autonomously, rendering engineers and scientists' mere spectators.
- ❖ Everything hinges on the onboard computers of the Vikram Lander.
- ❖ This manoeuvre involved transitioning the craft from a high-speed horizontal orientation to a gradual vertical descent, facilitating a gentle touchdown on the lunar surface.



FDA's Approval for Zurzuvae

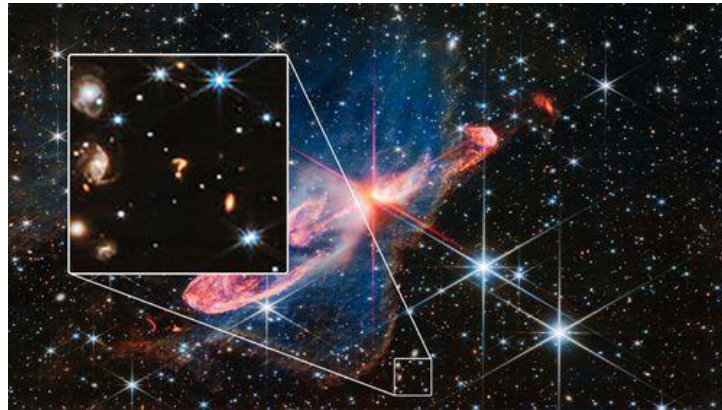
Approval of Zuranolone (Zurzuvae™), first oral treatment for postpartum depression (PPD)

FDA Press Statement
08 AUGUST 2023

On 04 August 2023, the US Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) approved Zuranolone (Zurzuvae™), the first and only oral treatment for postpartum depression (PPD) in adults. PPD is a major depressive episode that usually occurs after childbirth but may also start during the later stages of the pregnancy.

- ❖ The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Zurzuvae (zuranolone) for the treatment of postpartum depression (PPD) in adults.
- ❖ PPD has far-reaching consequences on the lives of women who experience it.
- ❖ The disorder severely hampers their ability to return to normal functioning after pregnancy.

Vela Constellation



- ❖ The James Webb Space Telescope has delivered a unique insight into a pair of actively forming stars.
- ❖ This pair of young stars is named Herbig-Haro 46/47.
- ❖ This is located 1,470 light-years away from Earth in the Vela Constellation.
- ❖ This can provide insights into how much mass stars gather over time.
- ❖ This could help in modelling the Sun and decoding how our relatively low-mass star and the solar system formed.

Maisies Galaxy



- ❖ The James Webb Space Telescope has enabled astronomers to confirm that a galaxy initially spotted last summer ranks among the earliest ever observed.
- ❖ The first detection of Maisie's galaxy has shown that it dates back to 390 million years after the Big Bang.
- ❖ For reference, the universe as a whole is about 13.77 billion years old.
- ❖ The team is currently evaluating about 10 other galaxies that might be from an era even earlier than Maisie's.

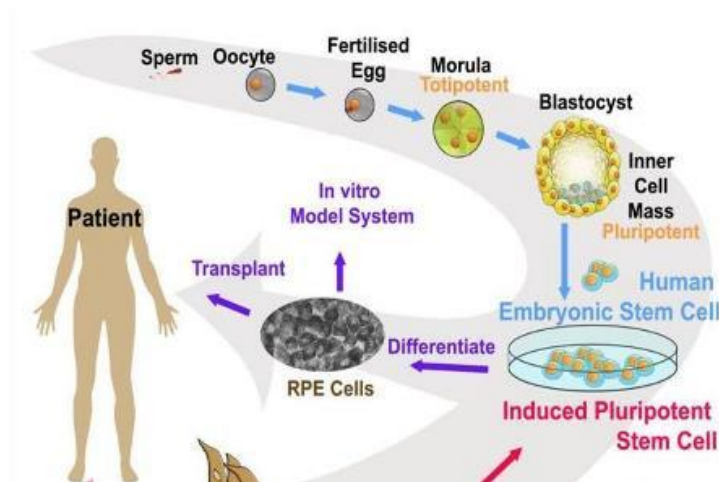
World's first humanoid robot pilot

- ❖ The South Korean scientists have unveiled a humanoid robot capable of piloting an aircraft.
- ❖ The robot – called PIBOT – uses AI technology to memorize flight charts and emergency protocols.
- ❖ It is fitted with multiple cameras capable of monitoring the aircraft's systems and operational conditions.
- ❖ PiBot can also communicate with air traffic control (ATC) and other humans on the flight deck, meaning it can operate via a Captain or First Officer.



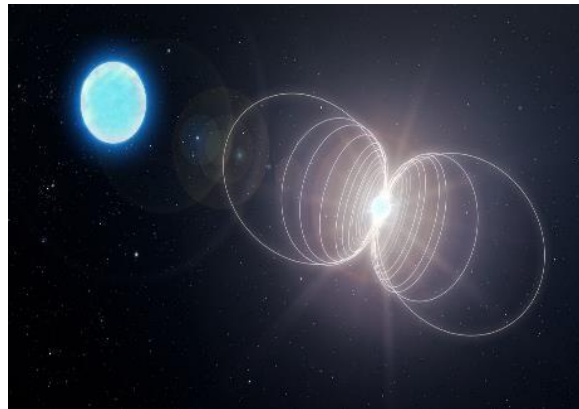
Human Skin Cells Conversion Method

- ❖ The Indian Researchers successfully developed a technique to transform regular human skin cells into pluripotent stem cells.
- ❖ It is known as Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells (iPSCs).
- ❖ The research paves the way for personalized stem-cell therapies targeting various diseases.
- ❖ These iPSCs are patient-specific, reducing the risk of immune rejection when used for transplants.



HD 45166

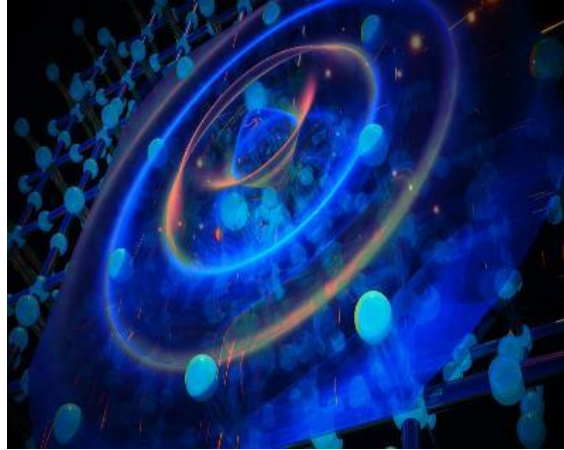
- ❖ A star that could become the strongest magnet in the universe has been discovered by astronomers.
- ❖ The star, named HD 45166, is a giant helium-rich star that is several times larger than the sun.
- ❖ It is located 3,000 light years away from Earth.
- ❖ It has the most powerful magnetic field ever detected in a massive star – 43,000 gauss.



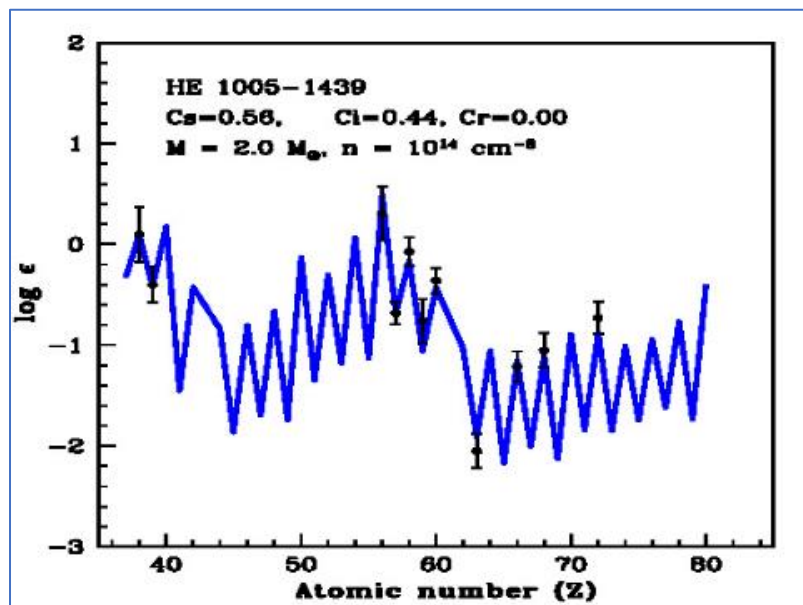
Demon particle

- ❖ A “demon” particle that has been found in an experiment by American researchers.
- ❖ It is not a particle in the traditional sense like a proton or electron.
- ❖ It is a “composite” particle made up of a combination of electrons, in a solid.

- ❖ It holds the potential to usher in a new era of superconductors.
- ❖ Current superconductors require the temperature to fall below 100 degrees Fahrenheit-mark to maintain their properties.



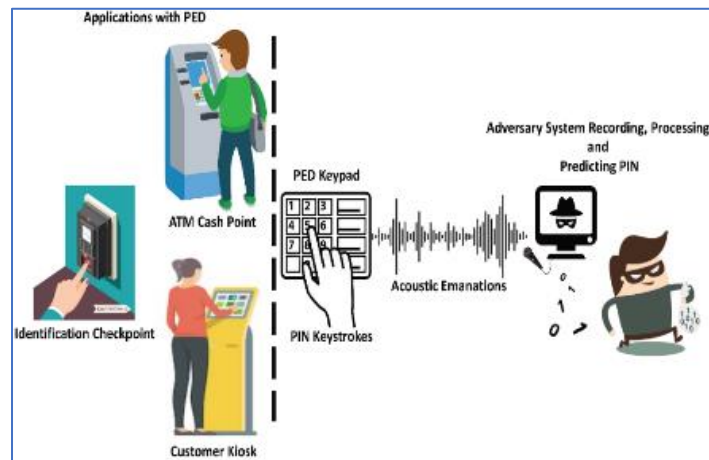
HE 1005-1439



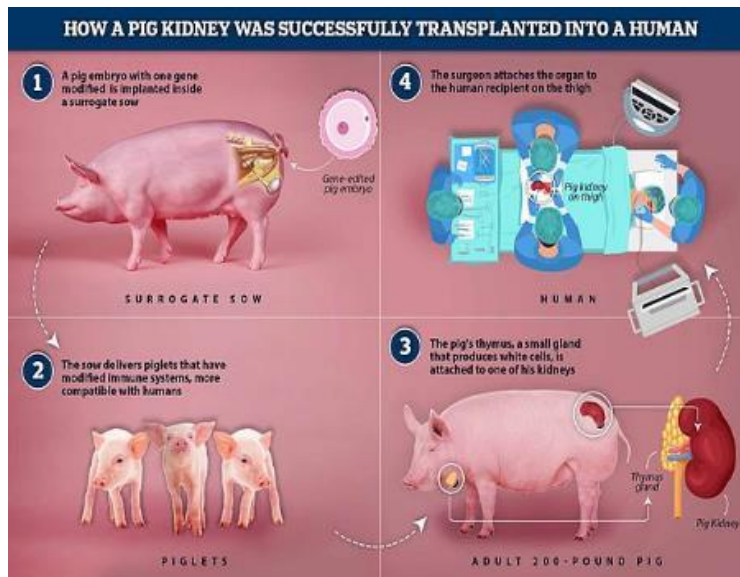
- ❖ The Scientists at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru, have discovered a unique star named “HE 1005-1439.
- ❖ It classified as a carbon-enhanced metal-poor (CEMP) star.
- ❖ It defies previous classifications and challenges previous understanding of star formation processes.
- ❖ It also shows signs of having been formed through the combination of two different neutron-capture processes — the slow (s-) and intermediate (i-).

Acoustic Side Channel Attack

- ❖ A recent report revealed that Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be used to decode passwords by analysing the sound produced by keystrokes.
- ❖ This technique uses the sounds produced by typing on a keyboard to determine what keys are being pressed.
- ❖ By analysing these unique sounds, hackers equipped with the right tools can decode the precise letters and numbers being typed.
- ❖ Side Channel Attacks are a method of hacking a cryptographic algorithm based on the analysis of auxiliary systems used in the encryption method.



Pig kidney into a human



- ❖ The Doctors from New York City have successfully transplanted a genetically engineered pig kidney into a human who was declared brain dead.

- ❖ The transplantation of animal organs into humans are known as Xeno transplantation.
- ❖ Historically, these surgeries have mostly failed, because the human immune system attacks the foreign tissue, even with immunosuppressive drugs.

ESO 300-16

- ❖ The Hubble Space Telescope has captured an image of the irregular galaxy ESO 300-16.
- ❖ It is located at a distance of 28.7 million lightyears in the southern constellation of Eridanus.
- ❖ Irregular galaxies do not have a clearly defined shape, and appear as diffuse clouds.
- ❖ ESO 300-16 is a relatively small and remote dwarf galaxy.

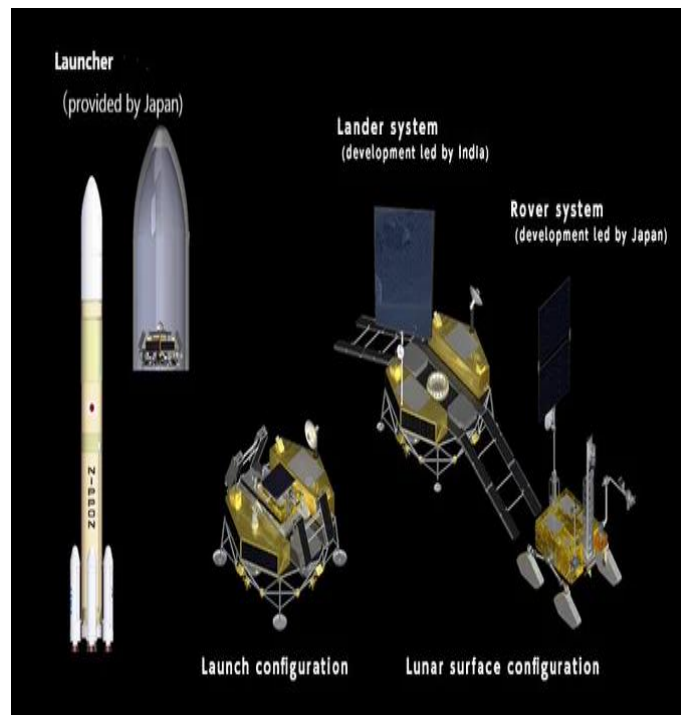


Soil in the lunar surface



- ❖ The Chandrayaan-3 mission aims at soft-landing of the spacecraft on the unexplored southern pole of the Moon.
- ❖ The soil samples at Siddampoondi village in Namakkal district are said to be very similar to the soil in the lunar surface, especially in the South Pole.
- ❖ This district had sent soil samples to the ISRO in conducting the tests for both Chandrayaan-2 and Chandrayaan-3 missions.

LUPEX Mission



- ❖ ISRO and Japan's JAXA are partnering for the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX).
- ❖ It aims to explore the lunar polar region for potential sustainable activities and water-ice resources.
- ❖ The mission will involve a rover developed by JAXA and a lander developed by ISRO, along with instruments from NASA and ESA.

3D Eye Scans and Parkinson

- ❖ 3D eye scans could help to identify people at high risk of developing Parkinson's disease up to seven years before they have symptoms.
- ❖ This research explores into the emerging field of 'oculomics,' utilizing retinal imaging to identify markers of various neurological disorders.

- ❖ Ocular changes can be an early indicator of the disease, potentially transforming early diagnosis and intervention.



Predicting Markers of Systemic Disease through Ophthalmic Imaging

Smoking	Anemia
Atherosclerosis	RBC
Hematocrit	eGFR
Blood Pressure	Age
Hypertension	Gender
Diabetes	Weight
Creatinine	Height
CKD	BMI

SeamlessM4T

- ❖ Meta unveiled their new artificial intelligence tool called as Seamless M4T.
- ❖ A multimodal AI model capable of speech recognition and speech-to-text translation for nearly 100 different languages.
- ❖ SeamlessM4T is the first all-in-one multilingual multimodal AI translation and transcription model.
- ❖ This single model can perform speech-to-text, speech-to-speech, text-to-speech, and text-to-text translations for up to 100 languages depending on the task.

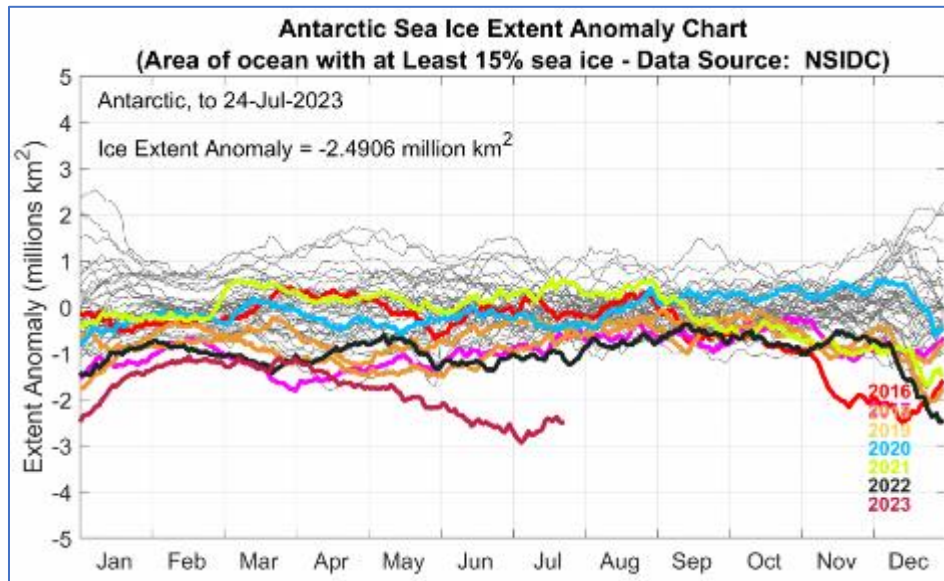
ENVIRONMENT

International Big Cat Alliance

- ❖ India recently launched the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) for the conservation of seven big cats on the planet.
- ❖ The project focuses on the conservation of seven big cats namely Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma.
- ❖ The alliance aims to reach out to 97 range countries covering the natural habitats of seven big cats.



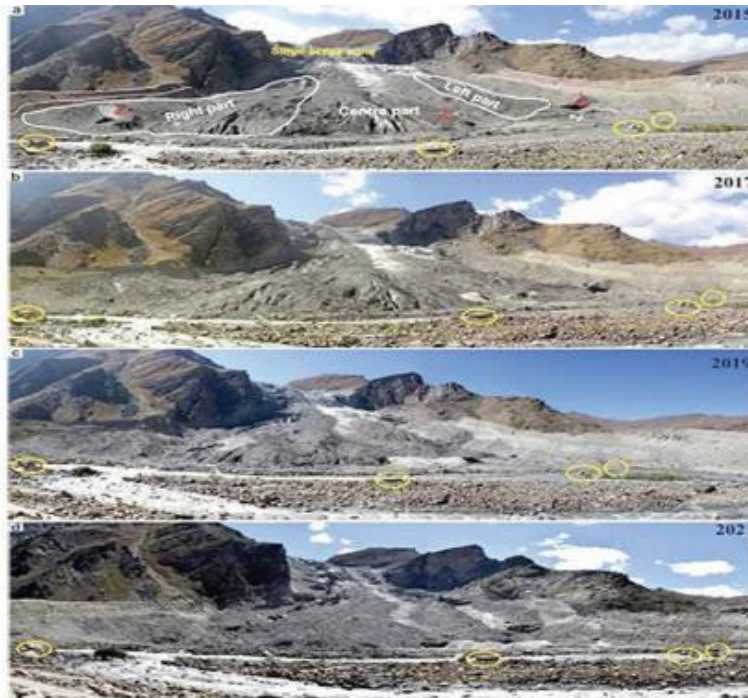
Antarctica's sea ice



- ❖ The sea ice cover in Antarctica has deviated from the 1991-2020 average by over six standard deviations (SD).
- ❖ As of July 25, 2023, the sea ice extent was about 14.2 million square kilometres.
- ❖ The normal amount of sea ice for this time of year should be closer to 16.7 million sq km.

- ❖ In June 2023, the sea ice extent was 11.02 million square kilometres, deviating by 18.13 per cent from the 1991-2020 mean.
- ❖ This value is ranked the smallest in the last 45 years.
- ❖ Antarctica lost about 2.6 million square kilometres of sea ice compared to the long-term average of the satellite era.

Parkachik Glacier in Ladakh



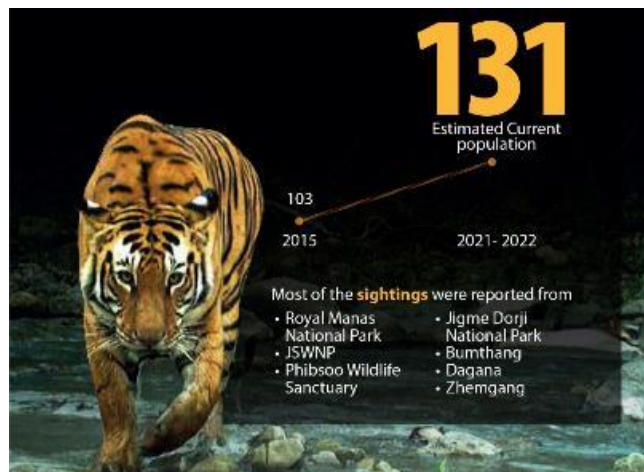
- ❖ Accelerated melting of the Himalayan Parkachik Glacier in Ladakh could give rise to three glacial lakes.
- ❖ They may have an average depth ranging between 34 and 84 metres.
- ❖ These lakes could be a potential source of glacial lake outburst floods in the Himalayas.
- ❖ The lake area of each of these lakes could range from 43 to 270 hectares.
- ❖ The glacier's yearly melting rate was 6 times faster between 1999 and 2021 (22 years) than that calculated from 1971 to 1999 (28 years).
- ❖ The retreat was at an average rate of around 12 metres per annum.
- ❖ Parkachik Glacier is one of the largest glaciers in the Suru River valley.
- ❖ It is a part of the Southern Zaskar Ranges, western Himalaya.
- ❖ The Zaskar Range, part of the Himalayas, lies in the union territory of Ladakh.

Western Tragopan

- ❖ Himachal Pradesh's State bird – Western Tragopan (*Tragopan-melanocephalus*) has been facing habitat loss in parts of the country.
- ❖ But because of authorities' efforts, there has been a gradual increase in the population of this species at the State's Sarahan pheasantry, the conservation breeding centre.
- ❖ Its population has steadily gone up over the past two decades.
- ❖ The bird has a disjunct distribution in the northwest Himalayas from north Pakistan (Indus-Kohistan district) to India, including Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, and the western parts of Uttarakhand.



Bhutan's Tiger Population



- ❖ India and Bhutan have seen a significant surge in their wild tiger populations.
- ❖ Bhutan's wild tiger population has increased to 131, up 27% since the first systematic survey in 2015.
- ❖ India recorded a count of 3,682 tigers, establishing it as the habitat for 75% of the global wild tiger population.

- ❖ In Nepal, the population of wild tigers has nearly tripled since 2010 to 355.
- ❖ Bangladesh has about 114 tigers, mainly in the Sundarbans Reserve Forest, according to the last census conducted in 2018.
- ❖ The first all-India tiger census revealed just 1,827 tigers in 1972, down from an estimated 40,000 in the early twentieth century.

2023 Plastic Overshoot Day Report



- ❖ Nearly 68,642,999 tonnes of additional plastic waste will end up in nature this year.
- ❖ India is among the 12 countries which are responsible for 52 per cent of the world's mismanaged plastic waste.
- ❖ The world's worst offender is Iceland, with annual consumption of 128.9 kg per person.
- ❖ This is 24.3 times higher than the yearly consumption per person of 5.3 kg in India.
- ❖ The global average consumption of plastic per person per year is 20.9 kg.
- ❖ 159 million tonnes of plastics (which can be used only for a short time) to be produced globally in 2023.

- ❖ 43 per cent of above (68.5 million tonnes) will end up causing pollution.
- ❖ Short-life plastics account for approximately 37 per cent of the total plastic commercialised annually.
- ❖ Three countries with the highest mismanaged waste — Mozambique (99.8 per cent), Nigeria (99.44 per cent) and Kenya (98.9 per cent).
- ❖ India ranks fourth in the MWI, with 98.55 per cent of generated waste being mismanaged.
- ❖ India has a cumulative capacity to process 14.2 million tonnes of plastic waste annually.

Endangered Himalayan Vulture

- ❖ The first instance of captive breeding of Himalayan vulture was recorded in India at the Assam State Zoo, Guwahati.
- ❖ The species is categorised as ‘Near Threatened’ with an estimated population of 66,000
- ❖ These Vultures are native to the high Himalayas.
- ❖ It is the second instance in the world, after France.
- ❖ Vulture population have experienced drastic declines in recent years.
- ❖ It was leading to ‘Critically Endangered’ status for three resident Gyps vulture species.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

9 RECORDED SPECIES:
Oriental white-backed, long-billed, slender-billed, Himalayan, red-headed, Egyptian, bearded, cinereous and the Eurasian Griffon.

(4 CRITICALLY ENDANGERED, 1 ENDANGERED, 3 NEAR THREATENED)

THE CRISIS:
A massive dip in vulture populations came into limelight in the mid-90s, and in 2004 the cause of the crash was established as diclofenac, a veterinary nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug.



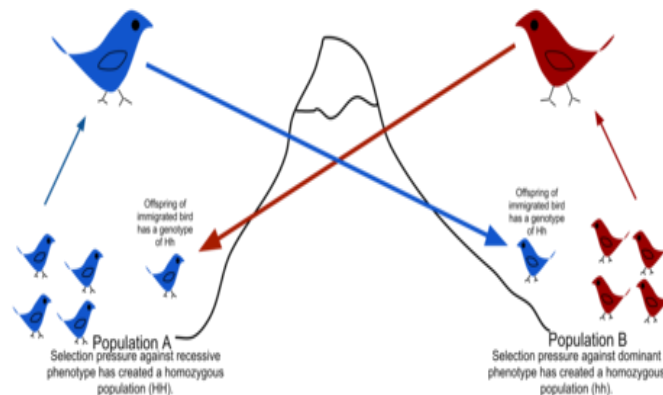
WHAT NEXT AFTER 2006 PROJECT:

- Testing of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs on vultures, development of new NSAIDs
- Covering two more species in the breeding programme that earlier focussed on 3 critically endangered species
- Additional conservation breeding centres and four rescue centres planned across India
- Nationwide vulture survey once in four years

Ketoprofen and Aceclofenac

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has imposed a ban on the manufacturing, sale, and distribution of ketoprofen and aceclofenac to protect vultures in the country.
- ❖ It is prohibited under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- ❖ These are non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).
- ❖ They are frequently employed to relieve pain and inflammation in both humans and animals.
- ❖ The recommendation of this ban was made by the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB).
- ❖ DTAB is the apex authority for making statutory decisions on technical drug-related matters in India.
- ❖ It was established under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940.
- ❖ This authority operates as part of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).
- ❖ It operates under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Endogamy - harmful genetic variants

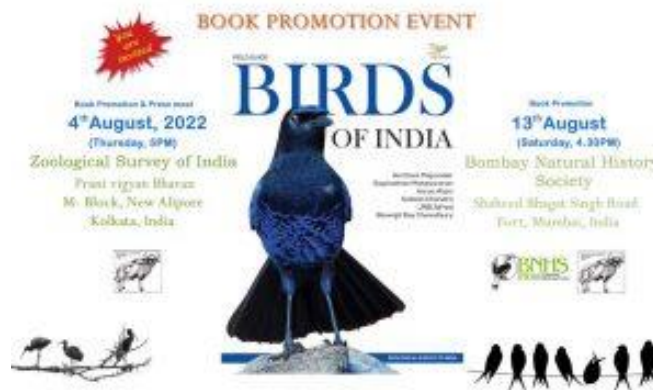


- ❖ A new study has found higher frequency of homozygous genotypes in South-Asian populations, most likely as a result of caste, endogamy, and consanguineous sexual unions.
- ❖ Such a frequency could lead to higher risk of genetic disorders.
- ❖ South-Indian and Pakistani subgroups were estimated to have a high degree of inbreeding.
- ❖ The study found stark genetic differences between people from different regions of the subcontinent.

- ❖ Humans typically have two copies of each gene.
- ❖ When an individual has two copies of the same variant, it is called a homozygous genotype.

5 percent of birds in India - endemic

- ❖ A recent publication titled as, 75 Endemic Birds of India, was released by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) on its the 108th foundation day.
- ❖ It points out that about 5% of the birds found in the country are endemic.
- ❖ They are not reported in other parts of the world.
- ❖ India is home to 1,353 bird species.
- ❖ It represents approximately 12.4% of the global bird diversity.
- ❖ Of these, 78 (5%) are endemic to the country.



MP strategy for tigers

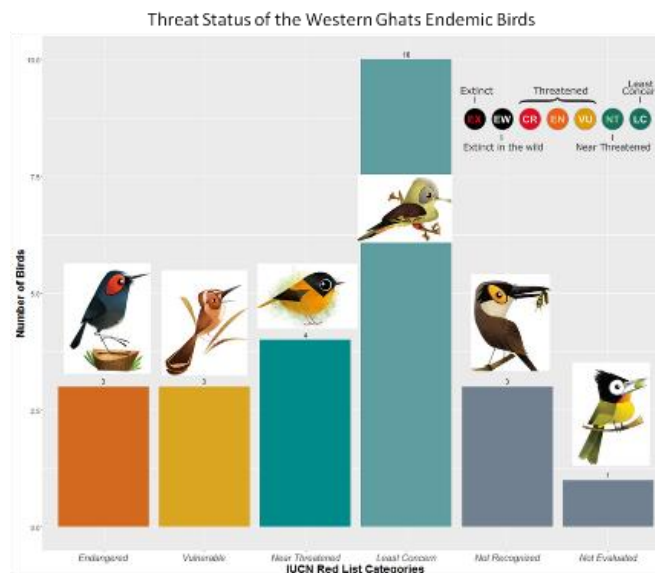


- ❖ Balancing the population of predators and prey was a key factor enabling a 50% surge in Madhya Pradesh's tiger population.

- ❖ It is helping the State snag the top spot in the 2022 census of the big cat.
- ❖ The project translocating African cheetahs to the Kuno National Park in the State has taken a beating, with six of the animals dying.
- ❖ An update to the 2022 tiger census publicised last week reported a count of 3,682 nationally.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh, for the second time in the past three censuses, reporting the highest number at 785.
- ❖ The State has reported a 50% rise in the number of tigers since the previous census.
- ❖ It was a jump exceeded only by Bihar, which has a much fewer 54 tigers.

75 Endemic Birds of India

- ❖ It provides details of bio-geographic regions where the species are found, their conservation status, historical relevance, differences in subspecies, distinguishing traits, and preferred habitats.
- ❖ Of the 78 species, three species have not been recorded in the last few decades.
- ❖ They are mentioned in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.



- ❖ They are
- ❖ Manipur Bush Quail, listed as 'Endangered' with its last recorded sighting in 1907;
- ❖ Himalayan Quail, listed as 'Critically Endangered' with its last recorded sighting in 1876;



- ❖ Jerdon's Courser, listed as 'Critically Endangered' with its last confirmed sighting in 2009.
- ❖ The highest number of endemic species have been recorded in the Western Ghats, with 28 bird species.
- ❖ The Malabar Grey Hornbill, Malabar Parakeet, Ashambu Laughing Thrush and the White-bellied Sholakili are recorded in the country's bio-geographic hotspot, the Western Ghats.
- ❖ 25 bird species are endemic to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ Nicobar Megapode, Nicobar Serpent Eagle, Andaman Crake, and Andaman Barn Owl are only found in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ Four species of birds are endemic to the Eastern Himalayas, and one each to the Southern Deccan plateau and central Indian forest.
- ❖ Of the 78 endemic species, 25 are classified as 'Threatened' by the IUCN.
- ❖ Three species (Bugun Liocichla; Himalayan Quail; Jerdon's Courser) are listed as 'Critically Endangered'.
- ❖ Five of the endemic birds in India are categorised as 'Endangered', and 17 as 'Vulnerable', while 11 are categorised as 'Near Threatened' on the IUCN Red List.

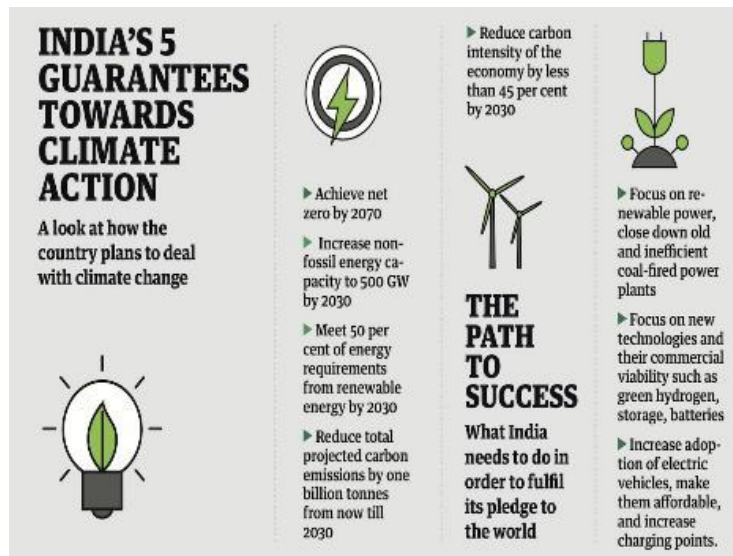
First-ever centre for species survival in South Asia

- ❖ IUCN Species Survival Commission has partnered with Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) to set up the first-ever Center for Species Survival in South Asia.
- ❖ This will be the 10th Centre for Species Survival in the world and the first of its kind in South Asia.
- ❖ India has great variety of fauna, numbering 92,037 species, of which insects alone include 61,375 species.
- ❖ About two times that number of species still remain to be discovered in India alone.
- ❖ It is with a vision to create a just world that values and conserves nature.
- ❖ This collaborative effort aims to enhance conservation efforts by wildlife experts and specialist groups and safeguard the rich biodiversity of India.

India's Emissions reduction

- ❖ Over the past 14 years, India has showcased significant progress in reducing its carbon footprint.
- ❖ From 2005 to 2019, the country remarkably decreased its greenhouse emissions rate by 33%.

- ❖ By 2030, the nation has pledged to reduce its emissions intensity by 45% from its 2005 levels.
- ❖ It includes sources like hydro, nuclear, and renewables, contributed to 25.3% of India's total power generation.
- ❖ Nevertheless, thermal power stations remain a dominant force, supplying 73% of the consumed electricity, down from about 75% in 2019.
- ❖ 42.3 percent of the total electric power installed capacity from non-fossil-based energy resources.
- ❖ As of 2019, forests and trees covered 24.56%, or 80.73 million hectares, of India.
- ❖ The Group of 20 (G20) failed twice in recent times to reach a consensus on phasing out fossil fuels.
- ❖ The rate of emissions intensity is the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions emitted for every unit increase of gross domestic product (GDP).

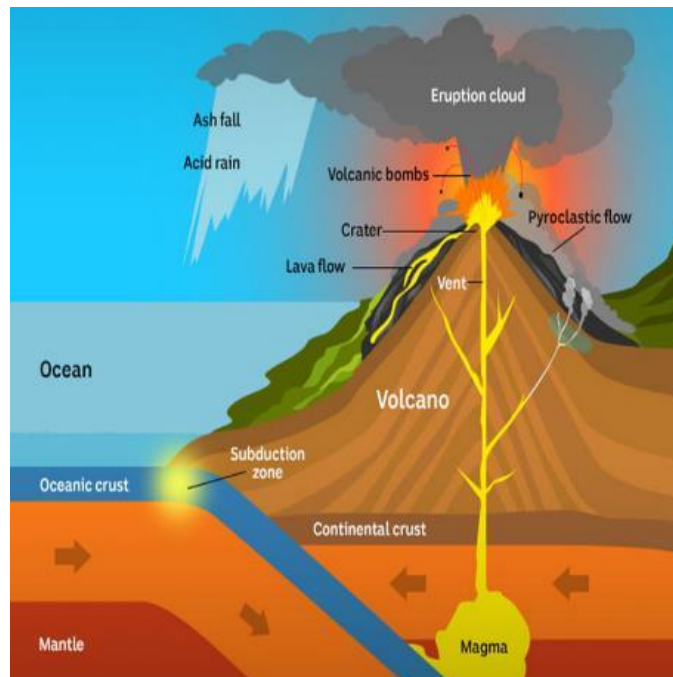


CarbonLite Metro Travel

- ❖ The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has unveiled a pioneering initiative called CarbonLite Metro Travel.
- ❖ It aims to educate passengers about their significant contribution towards reducing carbon emissions by choosing metro trains.
- ❖ Delhi Metro's daily commuters will now be able to know on the go about the average amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions they are reducing by virtue of their metro journeys.



Carbon Dioxide Drives Volcanic Eruption



- ❖ A new study brings a shift in the understanding of the causes behind the eruption of volcanoes.
- ❖ The researchers have claimed that it is not water vapor, rather it is carbon dioxide (CO₂) that propels the eruption of basaltic volcanoes.
- ❖ They studied the magma at Pico do Fogo, one of the world's most active ocean island volcanoes.
- ❖ They found unusual levels of carbon dioxide that generally originate at a depth of 12 to 19 miles below the crust.

- ❖ Higher levels of ferrous and ferric oxides have been found in the mantle.
- ❖ This depth is much below and is within the mantle.

Indian eagle owl



- ❖ The Indian eagle-owl was classified as a species only in recent years.
- ❖ This is distinguishing it from the Eurasian eagle-owl.
- ❖ It is also called the rock eagle owl or Bengal eagle owl.
- ❖ The slightly larger female can reach a total length of two and a half feet, with a wingspan of six feet.
- ❖ Its nocturnal habits have meant that very little is known about this bird.

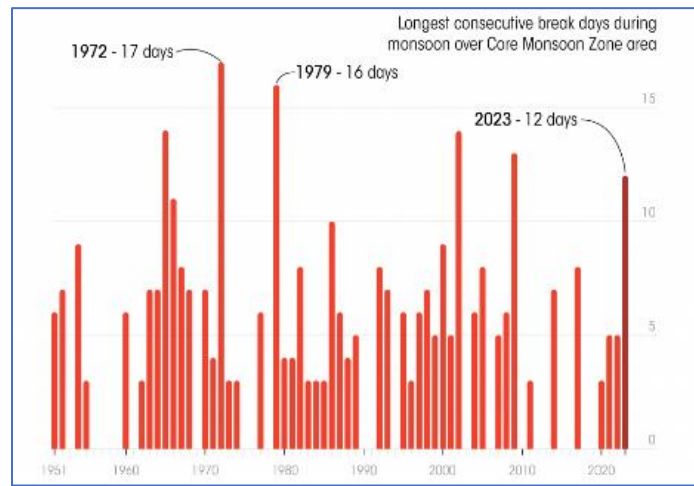
Impact of Climate Change on Shaligrams



- ❖ For more than 2,000 years, Hinduism, Buddhism and the shamanic Himalayan religion of Bon have venerated Shaligrams.
- ❖ It is an ancient fossil of ammonites, a class of extinct sea creatures related to modern squids.
- ❖ Shaligram stones are viewed primarily as manifestations of the Hindu god Vishnu.

- ❖ It is originating from a single remote region in northern Nepal — the Kali Gandaki River Valley of Mustang.
- ❖ Climate change, faster glacial melting, and gravel mining in the Kali Gandaki are changing the course of the river.
- ❖ Due to this impacts, fewer Shaligrams are only appearing each year.

Third-longest monsoonal break



- ❖ The current monsoon break that started on August 7, 2023 has finally ended on August 18.
- ❖ This current monsoonal break makes it the third-longest for this century after 2002 and 2009.
- ❖ A monsoonal break occurs when the monsoon trough shifts northward.
- ❖ It enhances rainfall along the Himalayan foothills and parts of eastern India while rainfall is suppressed in the rest of the country.
- ❖ This happens especially in the core monsoon zone area or the region stretching from Gujarat in the west-to-West Bengal and Odisha in the east.
- ❖ In the last 73 years, there have been a total of 10 instances when the break spell has stretched over 10 days.
- ❖ The longest consecutive break spell was reported in 1972 (17 days).

New salamander species

- ❖ The scientists have discovered a new 'cryptic' species of salamander in the mountain lakes of Manipur.
- ❖ The newfound species known as *Tylotriton zaimeng*.

- ❖ This was mistaken for its close relatives *T. himalayanus* and *T. verrucosus* until now.
- ❖ The new species has been named after Zaimeng, a mountain lake located at 2,215 m above sea level atop the Khongtheng mountain range in Manipur.
- ❖ Zaimeng is a Liangmei dialect word, meaning “Puzzle Lake” or “Mystery Lake”.



IWC's First Extinction Alert

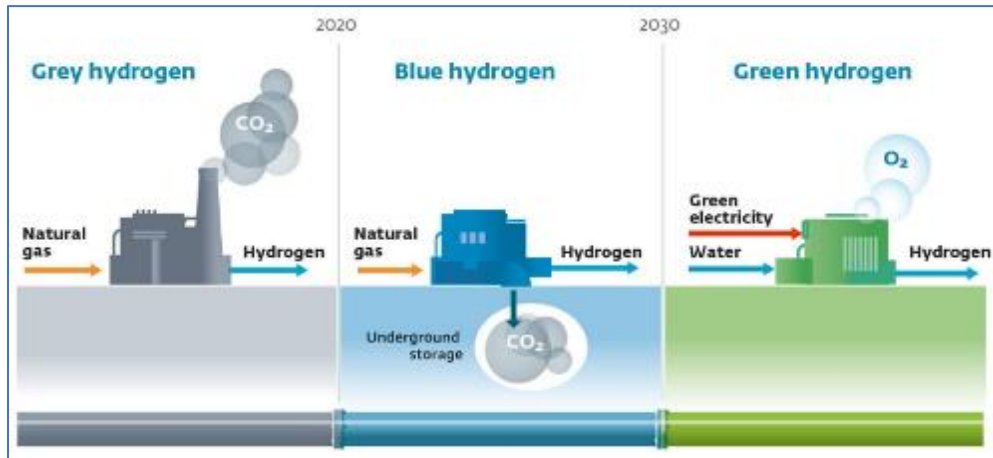
- ❖ The International Whaling Commission (IWC) issued its first 'extinction alert' for the endangered vaquita porpoise.
- ❖ This species is teetering on the edge of extinction with a mere 10 individuals remaining in the Gulf of California, Mexico.
- ❖ This alert aims to encourage wider recognition of the warning signs of impending extinctions, and to generate support and encouragement at every level for the actions needed now to save the vaquita.



Green Hydrogen Standards

- ❖ The ministry of New and Renewable Energy notified the green hydrogen standard for India
- ❖ It is outlining the emission thresholds for production of hydrogen that can be classified as 'green'.

- ❖ India became one of the few countries to have a definition for green hydrogen.
- ❖ The notification specifies that a detailed methodology for measurement, reporting, monitoring, on-site verification and certification of green hydrogen.
- ❖ The government launched National Green Hydrogen Mission early this year with an aim to produce 5 million metric tonne (MMT) green hydrogen per annum.



Antarctic Strawberry Feather Star

- ❖ Researchers have discovered an otherworldly, 20-tentacled creature in Antarctic Ocean.
- ❖ This is one of four new species of crinoids that scientists found at the bottom of the ocean.
- ❖ The Antarctic strawberry feather star gets its name from the strawberry-like nub on its body.
- ❖ Crinoids like these dominated the young seas of our planet.
- ❖ But they were largely wiped out — along with 95% of life on Earth — during the Permian mass extinction roughly 251 million years ago.



National Carbon registry



- ❖ The UNDP has developed an open-source software which allows countries to effectively manage national data and processes for trading carbon credits.
- ❖ The software, called the National Carbon Registry, has recently been accredited as a digital public good (DPG).
- ❖ As a DPG, the registry uses open-source code, which allows countries to replicate and adapt the information to fit their own needs and contexts.
- ❖ The registry's modules, software and technical documentation can be reused and tailored by countries
- ❖ It could potentially reduce production costs and implementation timelines.

State Liability on Climate Breach

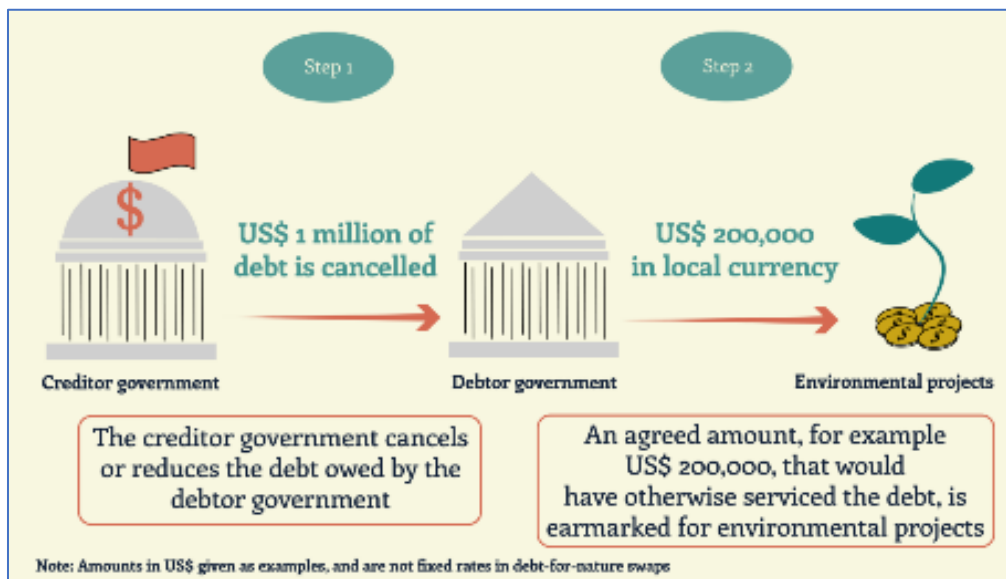


- ❖ A group of residents from Montana's Missoula of USA successfully sued their own state for violating their constitutional right to a clean and healthful environment.

- ❖ A district court has ruled that the state's negligence in addressing climate change while approving fossil fuel projects was unconstitutional.
- ❖ It is the first time that a US court has held a government responsible for breaching the constitution based on climate change.
- ❖ The judgement could further invigorate the environmental movement and also influence thousands of pending climate change lawsuits in the country.

Debt-for-nature swap deal

- ❖ Gabon announced a \$500 million debt-for-nature swap.
- ❖ This is the world's second-largest deal signed under blue bond to refinance.
- ❖ In Africa, it is the largest such deal signed by any country to refinance its debt and conserve marine resources.
- ❖ Debt-for-nature swaps allow heavily indebted developing countries to seek help from financial institutions in the developed world with paying off their debt if they agree to spend on conservation of natural resources.
- ❖ Usually banks in developed countries buy the debts of such countries and replace them with new loans which mature later.
- ❖ These have lower interest rates.
- ❖ Gabon's debt has been restructured under a Blue Bond is the world's second-largest debt-for-nature swap.
- ❖ In May 2023, the world's first and largest debt swap to conserve oceans was signed by Ecuador.



White-bellied Sea eagles

- ❖ White-bellied Sea eagles in India are beginning to emulate their counterparts in Australia and Thailand.
- ❖ They are making their homes on power towers holding high-tension wires.
- ❖ They have a wide distribution range on the sea coast of India from Mumbai to the eastern coast of Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka in southern Asia, through all coastal south-eastern Asia, southern China to Australia.
- ❖ It is categorised as being of 'least concern' on the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.
- ❖ It occupies the same localities for years and generally builds nests in tall trees near the seacoast, tidal creeks, and estuaries.

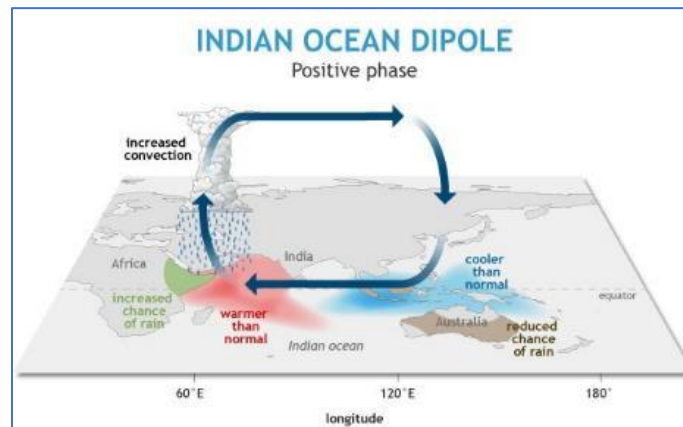
CONCERN ON HABITAT LOSS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ White Bellied Sea Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>) is a resident raptor from accipitridae family	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Widely distributed along the coastline from India to Australia and feeds on sea snakes and fish	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Occasionally they are seen in inland water bodies like tidal rivers and lakes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The nesting season is observed from November to March though there is a record from June to August in Papua New Guinea	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ A monogamous bird species, the female lays two eggs and both birds play an active role in parenting

54th Tiger reserve of India



- ❖ The 54th tiger reserve was established in the Karauli and Dholpur districts of Rajasthan.
- ❖ This reserve is the Rajasthan's fifth Tiger reserve.
- ❖ The existing reserves are Ranthambore, Sariska, Mukundra Hills, and Ramgarh Vishdhari.

Indian Ocean Dipole - positive



- ❖ A report by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology highlights that the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) index has exceeded the positive threshold.
- ❖ IOD refers to the shift in sea-surface temperatures from warm to cool in the Indian Ocean basin to the South of Sri Lanka.
- ❖ Warmer in the western side of the basin is referred to as a positive IOD event, while the reverse indicates a negative event.
- ❖ A positive IOD event has boosted the performance of India's South-West monsoon.
- ❖ IOD index must remain above the threshold for a sustained period before it can declare a positive event.

Mass leaf death

- ❖ A recent study published in the Nature journal highlights new dangers posed by climate change to tropical forests.
- ❖ The study suggests that rising temperatures could lead to a phenomenon known as "mass leaf death".
- ❖ This detonates that the leaves of tropical trees die or cease photosynthesis due to extreme heat.



- ❖ Even small temperature changes brought on by climate change could significantly impact plant species.
- ❖ The study found that some tropical regions have experienced an average temperature increase of 0.5 degrees Celsius per decade.
- ❖ If individual leaf temperatures surpass a critical threshold (around 46.7 degrees Celsius), photosynthesis stops, and leaves may die if the exposure to such temperatures is prolonged.
- ❖ The study warns that prolonged heat exposure could lead to the collapse of tropical forests.

Emperor Penguins

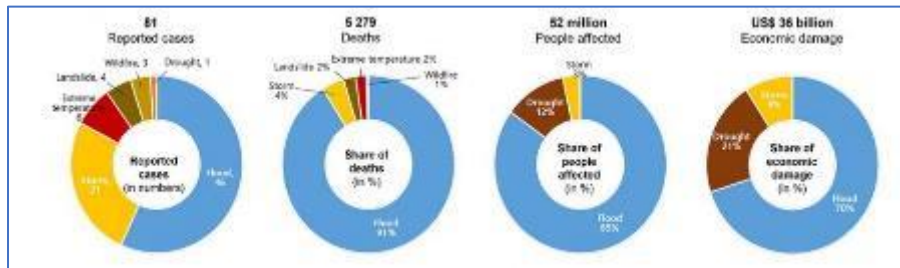
- ❖ A recent study conducted by researchers from the British Antarctic Survey reveals that emperor penguins are facing a grave threat of “quasi extinction” due to a rapid reduction in sea ice.
- ❖ They are the iconic symbol of Antarctica ecosystem.
- ❖ The study found that colonies of emperor penguins failed to breed at an unprecedented level.
- ❖ The study predicts that if current global warming trends continue, 90% of emperor penguins could be “quasi extinct” by the end of the century.
- ❖ Emperor penguins rely entirely on stable sea ice ("land-fast" ice) for breeding and nurturing their young.
- ❖ The shrinking sea ice caused early abandonment of breeding sites is preventing chicks from developing waterproof feathers.

REPORTS AND INDICES

WMO's The State of climate in Asia 2022 report

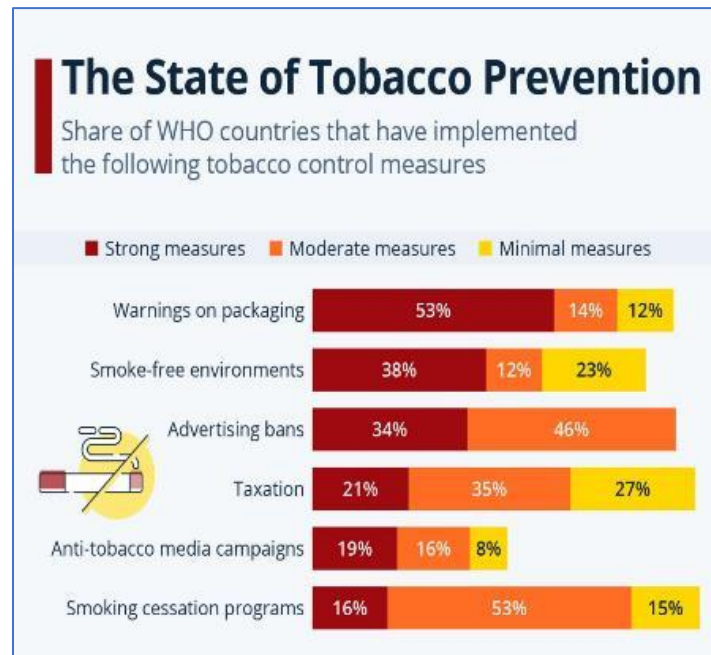
- ❖ Asia is the world's most disaster-prone region and more than 50 million people were directly affected due to 81 weather-, climate- and water-related disasters in Asia during 2022.
- ❖ The number of reported disaster events in the region decreased in comparison to 2021.
- ❖ Some 5,879 Asians died due to natural disasters in 2022.

- ❖ This is almost 55 per cent more than the human deaths recorded in 2021 across the region.
- ❖ A whopping 52 million people on the continent were affected due to disasters in 2022.
- ❖ This too is an increase from the 48.3 million affected in 2021.
- ❖ The economic cost of the damage due to these events has been more than \$ 36 billion.
- ❖ Pakistan accounted for 42 per cent of this, with economic losses of at least \$15 billion.
- ❖ The economic losses associated with drought in 2022 (\$7.6 billion).
- ❖ It mainly occurred in China, exceeded by nearly 200 per cent, the 20-year average from 2002 to 2021 (\$ 2.6 billion).



Global tobacco epidemic 2023

- ❖ WHO released a report called the 'global tobacco epidemic, 2023: protect people from tobacco smoke'.
- ❖ The global rate of the prevalence of smoking had dropped from 22.8 per cent in 2007 to 17 per cent in 2021.
- ❖ Netherlands, Mauritius, Brazil and Turkey are only implementing all the recommended measures to reduce tobacco smoking globally.
- ❖ More than seven in 10 people on the planet (5.6 billion) are now protected by measures to curb the dangers of tobacco smoke.
- ❖ 8.7 million people still die from tobacco-related diseases every year.
- ❖ 2.3 billion people in 44 countries remain unprotected without any WHO anti-tobacco measures in place.
- ❖ 74 countries have no regulations in place addressing such products, meaning no bans on use in public places, no labelling requirements and no bans on advertising.



Internet Resilience Index

- ❖ India achieved an overall score of 43 percent in the Internet Resilience Index (IRI), ranking sixth in the South Asian region.
- ❖ Countries like Bhutan (58 percent), Bangladesh (51 percent), Maldives (50 percent), Sri Lanka (47 percent), and Nepal (43 percent) are ahead of India in the IRI ranking.
- ❖ In terms of market readiness, India's Internet market's ability to self-regulate and provide affordability ranks relatively low.
- ❖ Further, mobile performance in India (29 percent) is nearly half that of fixed network performance (55 percent).

Our overall measure of Internet resilience is based on the following pillars:

Infrastructure
The existence and availability of physical infrastructure that provides Internet connectivity.

Performance
The ability of the network to provide end-users with seamless and reliable access to Internet services.

Security
The ability of the network to resist intentional or unintentional disruptions through the adoption of security technologies and best practices.

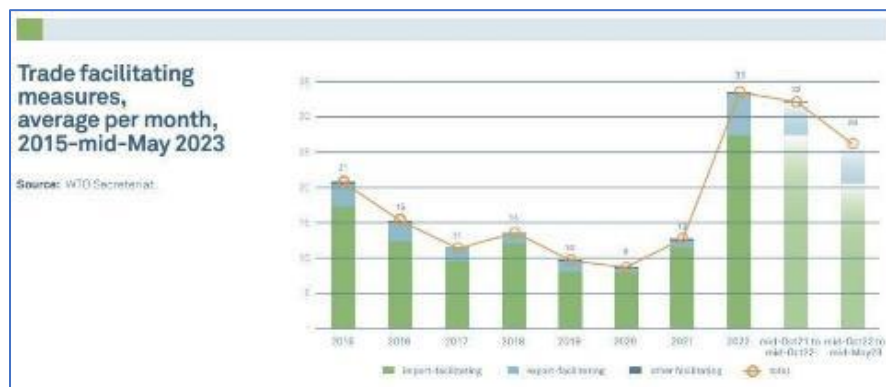
Market Readiness
The ability of the market to self-regulate and provide affordable prices to end-users by maintaining a diverse and competitive market.

“Still Unprepared” Report

- ❖ The report titled 'Still Unprepared' builds on a 2022 assessment.
- ❖ It finds that despite the accelerating impacts of climate change, there remain significant gaps in the preparedness of the Indian banking sector to measure, manage and mitigate climate risks.
- ❖ The analysis finds little progress towards climate-preparedness among India's 34 largest banks.
- ❖ In 2022, extreme weather events battered India on 314 out of 365 days.
- ❖ Yes Bank, HDFC Bank, and Axis Bank have emerged as the top three performers in climate-risk preparedness.
- ❖ Only 10 banks have disclosed their green financing activities.



World trade service review 2023



- ❖ The World Trade Organization (WTO) published the World Trade Statistical Review 2023.
- ❖ In 2022, global merchandise trade volume experienced 4.7% growth.
- ❖ Developed economies saw a growth of 4.2%.

- ❖ Developing economies and Least Developed Countries witnessed a more pronounced increase of 5.3% and 5.8%, respectively.
- ❖ China remained the top merchandise exporter in 2022.
- ❖ The United States and Germany ranked second and third in merchandise exports.
- ❖ India ranked 18th in merchandise exports and 7th in services exports.
- ❖ India was the 9th largest goods importer and 9th in services imports.

Global Wealth Report 2023

Region	Median/mean wealth per adult (%)		Average annual growth rate (%) 2000–22				
	2000	2022	GNI per adult	Median wealth per adult	Wealth per adult	Gini	Share top 1%
Africa	8.6	14.9	3.50	9.70	6.97	-0.08	-0.30
Asia-Pacific	3.2	8.5	2.97	8.76	4.06	-0.13	-0.26
China	46.7	36.0	9.90	10.90	12.21	0.80	1.92
Europe	10.5	16.1	3.56	6.80	4.71	-0.15	-0.27
India	31.3	22.8	5.92	5.94	7.49	0.46	0.89
Latin America	16.3	19.4	3.05	7.15	6.32	0.04	-0.73
North America	22.4	20.5	3.13	4.01	4.43	0.10	0.12
World	5.0	10.2	3.53	8.29	4.86	-0.18	-0.36

- ❖ The fourteenth edition of the Global Wealth Report was launched jointly by Credit Suisse and UBS.
- ❖ The wealth holdings of 5.4 billion adults across 200 markets, says global wealth will reach \$629 trillion over the next five years.
- ❖ In current nominal USD, total net private wealth fell by USD 11.3 trillion (-2.4%) to USD 454.4 trillion at the end of 2022.
- ❖ Wealth per adult also declined by USD 3,198 (-3.6%) to reach USD 84,718 per adult.
- ❖ In terms of wealth per adult, Switzerland continues to top the list followed by the USA, Hong Kong SAR, Australia and Denmark.
- ❖ Asia Pacific recorded losses of USD 2.1 trillion.
- ❖ Latin America is the outlier with a total wealth increase of USD 2.4 trillion.
- ❖ The largest wealth increases at the other end were recorded for Russia, Mexico, India and Brazil.

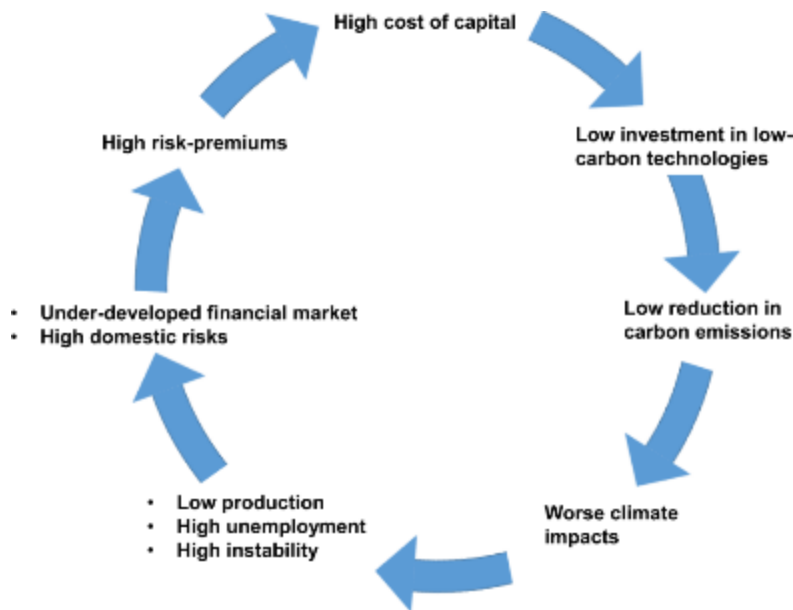
- ❖ The global wealth will rise by 38% over the next five years, reaching USD 629 trillion by 2027.
- ❖ The BRICS countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - will rise 30% by 2027.

Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas



- ❖ The World Resources Institute (WRI) released a report named Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas.
- ❖ As many as 25 countries or a quarter of the world's population are currently exposed to extremely high-water stress annually.
- ❖ This means they use over 80 per cent of their renewable water supply for irrigation, livestock, industry and domestic needs.
- ❖ Globally, at least 50 per cent of the world's population live under highly water stressed conditions for at least one month of the year.
- ❖ By 2050, this number could be closer to 60 per cent.
- ❖ 'Water stress' defined as the demand for water exceeds the available volume or when poor quality restricts use.
- ❖ India is one among the 25 most water-stressed countries.
- ❖ The most water-stressed regions are West Asia and North Africa, where 83 per cent of the population is exposed to extremely high-water stress.
- ❖ South Asia's 74 per cent population is exposed.
- ❖ Just four countries — India, Mexico, Egypt and Turkey — will account for over half of the exposed GDP in 2050.
- ❖ Global water demand is projected to increase by 20-25 per cent by 2050.

Debt-Fossil Fuel Trap Report



- ❖ The Debt-Fossil Fuel Trap report was published by the anti-debt campaigners Debt Justice and partners in affected countries.
- ❖ Poor countries with heavy debts have been forced to continue to rely on fossil fuels for generating revenue to return the loans taken from richer countries and private lenders.
- ❖ Their external debt payments have gone up by 150% between 2011 and 2023.
- ❖ It was reaching their highest levels in 25 years.
- ❖ Moreover, 54 countries are in a debt crisis.
- ❖ They had to cut their public spending budgets during the pandemic to repay the loans.

STATES

First-ever floating store

- ❖ Amazon India announced its first-ever floating store on Dal Lake in Srinagar, Kashmir.
- ❖ This initiative comes as a part of its last-mile delivery programme “I Have Space.”
- ❖ This programme was launched in 2015 and has 28,000 neighbourhood and kirana partners in about 420 towns and cities across the country.



Free Movement Regime



- ❖ The illegal migration of tribal Kuki-Chin peoples into India from Myanmar is one of the key issues in the ongoing ethnic conflict between Meiteis and Kukis in Manipur.
- ❖ The FMR in Manipur allows tribes living along the border on either side to travel up to 16 km inside the other country, without a visa.
- ❖ The border between India and Myanmar runs for 1,643 km in the four states of Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ India temporarily suspended the FMR in September 2022.

Paddari Tribe

- ❖ The Centre has introduced a bill to include four communities from Jammu and Kashmir in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) list - "Paddari Tribe", "Gadda Brahmin", "Koli", and "Pahari Ethnic Group".
- ❖ The Paddaris live in the hilly remote area of Kishtwar district, Jammu and Kashmir.

- ❖ The main ST communities in the Union Territory are Bakerwals and Gujjars, who are dominant in the districts of Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi, Kupwara, Ganderbal, Anantnag, Kishtwar, and Bandipora.
- ❖ Out of these, the Bakerwals are mostly nomadic.
- ❖ The Gujjar-Bakerwal form the third largest group in J&K after Dogras and Kashmiris.
- ❖ They were given ST status in 1991, along with two minority groups of Sippis and Gaddis.
- ❖ This empowered these communities with 10 per cent reservation in educational institutes and government jobs.

GI tags from Rajasthan and U.P

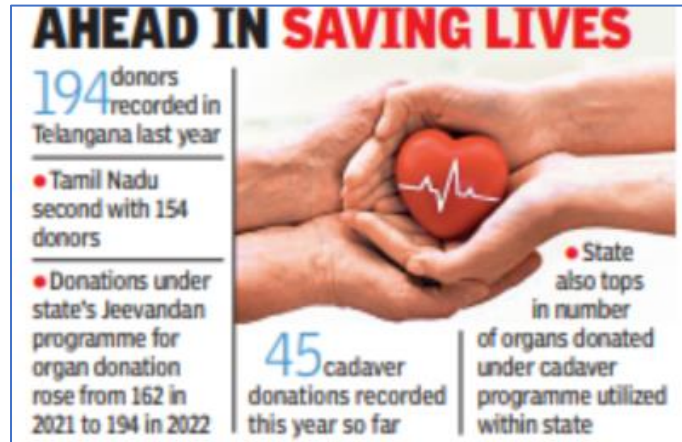
- ❖ Seven products from across India, including four from Rajasthan, were given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ They are
 - Jalesar Dhatu Shilp - Uttar Pradesh
 - Goa Mankurad Mango - Goa
 - Goan Bebinca - Goa
 - Udaipur Koftgari Metal Craft - Rajasthan
 - Bikaner Kashidakari Craft - Rajasthan
 - Jodhpur Bandhej Craft - Rajasthan
 - Bikaner Usta Kala Craft - Rajasthan



Cadaver organ donation

- ❖ Telangana for securing the highest number of deceased organ donors in the country.

- ❖ 194 people are having donated organs in 2022.
- ❖ It is followed by 156 donations by Tamil Nadu, 151 by Karnataka, and 148 by Gujarat.



Kuttikkanam Palace



- ❖ Kuttikkanam is a picturesque hill station lying between Wagamon and Thekkady in Kerala's Idukki district.
- ❖ It will soon get a historical monument of its own with the State Archaeology department.
- ❖ It is also known as Ammachi Kottaram.
- ❖ The palace was constructed around 1890.
- ❖ The 130-year-old palace once served as the summer residence of the kings of erstwhile Travancore.
- ❖ The palace was constructed during the reign of Moolam Thirunal Rama Varma who ruled the Travancore princely state from 1885 to 1924.

State Assembly's Resolution on Keralam



- ❖ The Kerala Legislative Assembly has passed a resolution requesting the Central government to change the name of the state from 'Kerala' to 'Keralam'.
- ❖ In Malayalam, the state was denoted as 'Keralam', but in alternative languages, it is called as 'Kerala'.
- ❖ The term 'Keralam' traces its roots to the fusion of two Malayalam words – “Kera,” symbolizing coconut, and “Alam” denoting land.
- ❖ Thus, 'Keralam' intricately encase the essence of the “Land of Coconut Trees”.
- ❖ It is a pivotal contributor amounting to about 45% of India's overall coconut harvest.
- ❖ It is sought to be instituted through the provisions of Article 3 of the Constitution to change it in the first schedule.
- ❖ This alteration would encompass the adoption of 'Keralam' as the state's official name across all languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Fiscal Health report card

- ❖ A report on the fiscal health of the key 17 states was penned by Kaushik Das, the chief economist at Deutsche Bank India.
- ❖ Based on the FY24 first budget estimates, the top three states are Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Telangana.
- ❖ The bottom three states are Bengal, Punjab and Kerala.
- ❖ Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh typically in the top quartile during fiscals 2004 to 2016.
- ❖ For the 2004-2016 period, the states that featured repeatedly in the bottom quartile are Bengal, Bihar, UP, and Rajasthan.

Top States on Drug Seizure Chart



- ❖ The Border Security Force (BSF) has seized the highest amount of heroin from Punjab and Rajasthan.
- ❖ Maximum quantity of 'ganja' confiscated from Tripura and West Bengal.
- ❖ The Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act of 1985 empowers the Border Security Force (BSF).

New GI Tag for Products

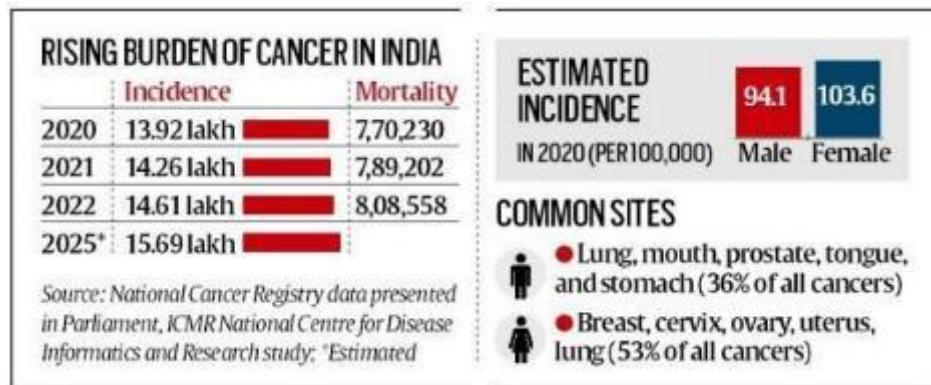


- ❖ Chikri wood craft from Rajouri district and Mushqbudji rice of Anantnag district in Jammu and Kashmir have received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ Chikri is a pale, honey coloured, fine grained softwood found in hill ranges of Rajouri district of Jammu province.
- ❖ Mushqbudji rice is a premium variety of short, bold, aromatic rice grown in higher reaches of the Kashmir valley especially in Anantnag district.

Maximum Cases of Cancer

- ❖ The trend of a steady rise in the number of cancer cases across India sustained itself in 2022 as well.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh is topping with 2.10 lakh new cases- up from 2.01 lakh in 2020.

- ❖ Of the total cases reported across India in 2022, as many as 8,08,558 died.
- ❖ The mortality rate is over 55 per cent.
- ❖ UP topped the list with 1,16,818 deaths.
- ❖ The death rate for UP was same as the national average.
- ❖ Maharashtra stood second in terms of deaths.



‘Koosina Mane’ Creches

- ❖ Karnataka government announced plans to set up “Koosina mane” across 4,000-gram panchayats for children of working mothers.
- ❖ “Koosina mane” translates to child homes or creches.
- ❖ It is aimed at providing healthcare, nutrition, and safety for children whose mothers are employed under MGNREGA.
- ❖ It also helps to other mothers living in the vicinity.

Kalka-Shimla heritage railway line

- ❖ Flood situation in Himachal Pradesh has caused destruction of the historic 94-km Kalka-Shimla railway line.
- ❖ The Kalka-Shimla railway line was opened to the public in 1903.
- ❖ At present, the route has 102 tunnels and 919 curves between 20 stations.
- ❖ The railway line comes under the UNESCO World Heritage Site named Mountain Railways of India.
- ❖ It shares the title with other two sites – Darjeeling Himalayan Railway and Nilgiri Mountain Railway.



Private Corporate Investment



- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has topped the list of states that attracted investment funds from banks and financial institutions.
- ❖ The state accounted for the highest share (16.2 per cent) in the total cost of projects sanctioned by banks/financial institutions.
- ❖ It is followed by Gujarat, Odisha, Maharashtra and Karnataka during 2022-23.

India's First Village Atlas

- ❖ The goa Chief minister released a biodiversity atlas of Mayem village in North Goa.
- ❖ This is termed as "India's first village atlas".
- ❖ This atlas gives a socio-cultural history of Mayem village that dates back to 12th century.



World's Highest Motorable Road



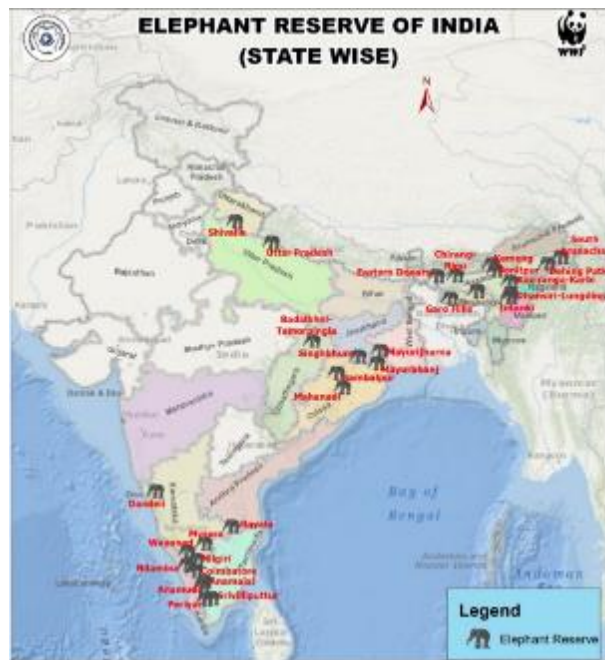
- ❖ The BRO is working on constructing the 'Likaru-Mig La-Fukche' road in Ladakh.
- ❖ It will be the new highest motorable road in the world.
- ❖ The strategic road, 'Likaru-Mig La-Fukche', will pass through an altitude of about 19,400 feet, the highest anywhere in the world.
- ❖ Currently, the world's existing highest motorable road at Umling La in Ladakh is at an altitude of 19,024 feet.

Plastic Free Mysuru Palace



- ❖ The iconic Mysuru Palace will soon become ‘plastic-free’.
- ❖ It will be the second tourist destination after the Mysuru zoo to plastic free.
- ❖ This concept has worked really well at the Mysuru zoo.
- ❖ Visitors deposit a sum of ₹20 per bottle to carry inside the zoo.
- ❖ After the visit, they would get back the money in return for the bottle.

Maharashtra’s 1st elephant reserve

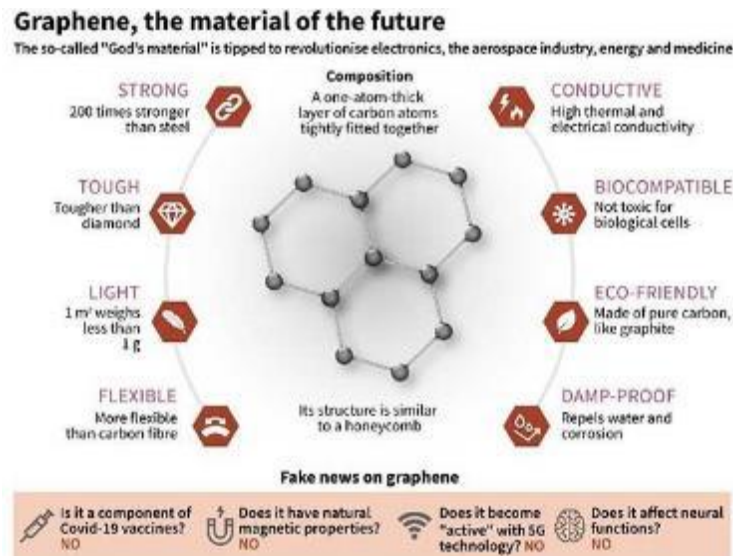


- ❖ The Maharashtra government declared almost 3,000 hectares of Tillari forest land as a conservation reserve for elephants.
- ❖ Tillari is a forest located in the hilly ranges of Konkan-Western Ghats corridor.
- ❖ Maharashtra is home to 62 conservation reserves, of which 13 are in the Western Ghats.

Graphene-Aurora Program

- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) launched the ‘Graphene-Aurora program’ at a function in Maker Village Kochi.
- ❖ The program shall be implemented by Digital University Kerala.
- ❖ It will act as a bridge between research and commercialization.
- ❖ It is providing a comprehensive facility for startups and industries to develop and scale graphene technologies.

- ❖ Graphene is a material that is extracted from graphite and is made up of pure carbon.
- ❖ It is one of the most important elements in nature which we find in daily objects like the lead of a pencil.
- ❖ It is the world's thinnest, strongest, and most conductive material of both electricity and heat.
- ❖ It conducts electricity better than copper.
- ❖ It is 200 times stronger than steel but six times lighter.



India's First Hydrogen Bus

- ❖ NTPC Ltd has started a trial run of a hydrogen bus in Leh.
- ❖ NTPC is India's largest power producer and a central PSU under Ministry of Power.





PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

First 'Udyog Ratna' award

- ❖ The Maharashtra government has taken the decision to introduce the prestigious Udyog Ratna Award starting this year.
- ❖ The state honoured Ratan Tata, the Chairman of the Tata group, with the first esteemed Maharashtra Udyog Ratna Award.
- ❖ This is the highest state honor presented to distinguished individuals by the state.
- ❖ Just like the Maharashtra Bhushan award, it is also presented to distinguished persons.
- ❖ Ratan Tata has also been honoured with two of India's most prestigious civilian awards: the Padma Vibhushan in 2008 and the Padma Bhushan in 2000.

Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2023

- ❖ PM was conferred with the Lokmanya Tilak National Award after the inauguration of various projects.
- ❖ He is the 41st recipient of the award.
- ❖ The award is conferred on people to honour the legacy of Indian independence activist, Bal Gangadhar Tilak.
- ❖ The award was constituted by Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust in 1983.
- ❖ It is given to people who have worked for the progress and development of the nation and whose contribution can only be looked upon as remarkable and extraordinary.
- ❖ The award is presented every year on August 1, which is the death anniversary of Bal Gangadhar Tilak.
- ❖ Last year, the Lokmanya Tilak National Award was conferred upon senior scientist Tessy Thomas, popularly known as India's "missile woman."

Balladeer Gaddar of Telangana (74)

- ❖ Recently he passed away leaving behind the revolutionary legacy.
- ❖ He became a member of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) or CPI-ML (People's War Group - PWG) in 1980s as a moist.
- ❖ The direct talks held between the Congress state government in Andhra Pradesh and the PWG in 2004.

- ❖ Gaddar, along with revolutionary writers Varavara Rao and Kalyan Rao, acted as emissaries for the Naxalites.
- ❖ However, in 2017, Gaddar had severed all ties with Maoists and declared himself an 'Ambedkarite'.
- ❖ And in the 2018 Assembly elections, he voted for the first time in his life.
- ❖ Gaddar also had supported the Telangana agitation in his early days.

Swedish rights prize

- ❖ Exiled Belarusian opposition leader Svetlana Tikhanovskaya won a rights prize.
- ❖ This prize is given in memory of Sweden's assassinated foreign minister Anna Lindh for her "tireless" fight for democracy.
- ❖ It is given "to encourage primarily women and youth who, show the courage to work against indifference, prejudice, oppression and injustice.

76 Gallantry awards



- ❖ The President Droupadi Murmu has approved 76 Gallantry awards to Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces personnel.
- ❖ These include
 - 4 Kirti Chakra (posthumous),
 - 11 Shaurya Chakras, including five posthumous,
 - 2 Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry),
 - 52 Sena Medals (Gallantry),
 - 3 Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry) and
 - 4 Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).
- ❖ The President has also approved 30 Mention-in-Despatches to the Army.
- ❖ It is including to Army dog Madhu (Posthumous), and one to Air Force personnel for their significant contributions in different military operations.

2023 International Young Eco-Hero award

- ❖ 17 teen environmental activists from across the globe to receive the 2023 International Young Eco-Hero Award.
- ❖ Five youths from India have been named among the 17 awardees.
- ❖ They were recognised for their efforts by the US-based non-profit organisation, “Action For Nature”.
- ❖ The Indian awardees are
 - Eiha Dixit from Meerut,
 - Manya Harsha from Bengaluru,
 - Nirvaan Somany and Mannat Kaur from New Delhi and
 - Karnav Rastogi from Mumbai.



Statistical scientist CR Rao

- ❖ The world’s most eminent statistician Calyampudi Radhakrishnan Rao (102) passed away.
- ❖ He taught and researched at the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata.
- ❖ He was also a member of several government committees for the development of national statistical systems, statistical education and research in India.
- ❖ He served as
 - Chairman of the Committee on Statistics (1962-69),
 - Chairman of the Demographic and Communication for Population Control (1968-69),
 - Chairman of the Committee on Mathematics, Atomic Energy Commission, AEC (1969-78),
 - Member of the Committee on Science and Technology, COST (1969-71).
- ❖ He was awarded India’s highest honours the Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan in 1969 and 2001, respectively.

69th National Film Awards 2023

Category	Winner(s)
Best Feature Film	Rocketry
Best Actor	Allu Arjun, Pushpa
Best Director	Nikhil Mahajan, Godavari
Best Actress	Alia Bhatt (Gangubai Kathiawadi)
Nargis Dutt Award for Best Film on National Integration	The Kashmir Files
Best Supporting Actor	Pankaj Tripathi (Mimi)
Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment	RRR
Best Female Playback Singer	Shreya Ghoshal (Iravin Nizhal)
Best Tamil Film	Kadaisi Vivasayi
Special Mention	Late Shri Nallandi, Kadaisi Vivasayi
Best Educational Film	Sirpigalin Sirpangal

- ❖ The 69th National Film Awards were announced recently
- ❖ The National Film Awards, held annually, are to honor the stream of Indian cinema.
- ❖ The National Film Awards are organized by the Directorate of Film Festivals, under the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- ❖ The National Film Awards were started in 1954 in the name of State Awards.

Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan - 2023

Rank	Population Category	City
1st	> 10 lakhs	Indore
2nd	> 10 lakhs	Agra
3rd	> 10 lakhs	Thane
4th	> 10 lakhs	Srinagar
5th	> 10 lakhs	Bhopal

- ❖ Indore has secured first position in Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan-2023, conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board.
- ❖ It is followed by Agra, Thane, Srinagar and Bhopal.

India Smart Cities Award Contest – 2022

- ❖ Indore has been adjudged the best Smart City while Madhya Pradesh has been chosen as the top State for exemplary performance in the Smart Cities Mission.

- ❖ Surat and Agra are the second and third-place winners among cities.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is the second in the State category followed by Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh in the India Smart Cities Award Contest (ISAC), 2022.
- ❖ The award for the best Union Territory has gone to Chandigarh.



Chandrayaan-3 Project Director

- ❖ P. Veeramuthuvel worked as the project director for Chandrayaan-3 mission.
- ❖ He is belonging to Tamil Nadu's Villupuram district.
- ❖ He completed ME mechanical engineering at the erstwhile Regional Engineering College (now National Institute of Technology), Trichy.
- ❖ He had received his doctoral degree from IIT, Madras.
- ❖ He was offered a position at HAL in 2003, but declined the offer.
- ❖ He joined ISRO in 2014.
- ❖ He was named as the associate project director for the prestigious Chandrayaan-2 project.
- ❖ Before he was appointed as the project director of Chandrayaan-3, P Veeramuthuvel worked as deputy director of ISRO.



SPORTS

ISSF Junior World Championships 2023

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	12	9	7	28
2	India	6	6	5	17
3	Ukraine	5	3	2	10
4	Kazakhstan	4	4	2	10
5	Italy	4	3	4	11
6	USA	4	1	8	13
7	Korea	3	6	8	17
8	France	2	2	1	5
8	Switzerland	2	2	1	5
10	Norway	2	1	3	6

- ❖ The ISSF Junior World Championships 2023 was held in Republic of Korea.
- ❖ India's contingent of 90 shooters for the 2023 junior world championships was the largest, followed by Korea's squad of 66.
- ❖ India finished with 17 medals- six gold, six silver and five bronze at the event.
- ❖ Seven Indians managed to bag more than one medal.
- ❖ Sainyam won three medals.
- ❖ Abhinav Shaw and Kamaljeet won two golds each.
- ❖ India, with 43 medals including 17 golds, had topped the medals tally at the last junior world championships held in Lima, Peru, two years back.

Asian Champions Trophy 2023

- ❖ International Hockey Federation handed over the Pass the Ball Trophy to TN Chief Minister.
- ❖ The 7th edition of the men's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament is taking place in Chennai from August 3.
- ❖ It was instituted in 2011.
- ❖ This city holds the tournament after a gap of 15 years.
- ❖ India, South Korea, Malaysia, Japan, Pakistan and China's teams are participating.

- ❖ India and Pakistan have lifted the trophy three times each.
- ❖ While India emerged champions in 2011 and 2016, Pakistan won it in 2012 and 2013.

GM Gukesh record

Following in the footsteps of Anand

The tables and graphs are based on data collected from olimpbase.org, 2700chess.com, fide.org. The ratings and rankings are after D. Gukesh's win against S.L. Narayanan on Sunday.



Table 1 | The table shows the top five players from India at various points of time

INDIA TOP 5, JANUARY 1996				
No.	Player	Rating	Ranking	Age
1	Pravraj Thiagaraj	2485	149	27
2	V. Anand	2405	160	17
3	Dibyendu Barua	2395	641	20
4	Raja Rameshwar	2390	704	32
5	K. Sathishkar Babu	2280	810	31

INDIA TOP 5, JULY 2006				
No.	Player	Rating	Ranking	Age
1	V. Anand	2620	426	17
2	V. Ravindh Harsani	2610	525	32
3	Dibyendu Barua	2400	621	20
4	Raja Rameshwar	2395	658	32
5	Pravraj Thiagaraj	2275	825	27

INDIA TOP 5 AS @ M MARCH 16, 2014 (LIVE RATINGS)				
No.	Player	Rating	Ranking	Age
1	P. Harikrishna	2762.3	13	29
2	V. Anand	2763	14	48
3	B. Adhiban	2653	83	23
4	S.P. Sethuraman	2658	92	23
5	Abhishek Gupta	2654	99	27

INDIA TOP 5 AS @ M AUGUST 4, 2023 (LIVE RATINGS)				
No.	Player	Rating	Ranking	Age
1	D. Gukesh	2758.6	9	17
2	V. Anand	2704	10	54
3	Vedh Bujaroti	2718.0	28	28
4	R. Praggnanandhae	2714.6	27	17
5	P. Harikrishna	2711	30	37

Chart 2 | The chart shows Viswanathan Anand's world rankings over time. He has remained within the top 17 players in the world from January 1991 till now

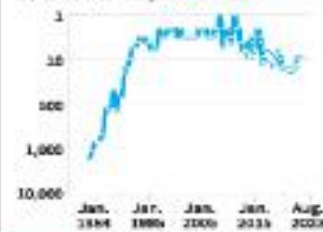


Chart 3 | The chart plots Gukesh and Anand's FIDE ratings against their age in months. Anand began his chess journey in a different era when there were fewer Super GMs

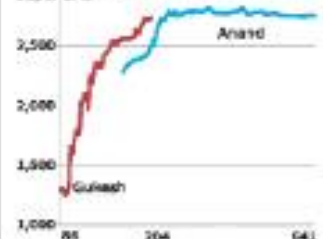


Table 4 | Oldest players in top 100 and their ranking

55 years	Noris Gattsoff (34th)
54 years	Vasyl Ivanchuk (67th)
53 years	V. Anand (10th)
51 years	Alexei Shirov (14th)
51 years	Michael Adams (75th)
48 years	Veselin Topalov (23rd)
47 years	Peter Swidler (41st)
46 years	Evgeniy Najer (96th)
43 years	Kaalemsharov (52th)
43 years	Petar Leko (72th)
42 years	Maksimov (88th)

- ❖ Chess Grandmaster Dommaraju Gukesh has now become India's top-ranked chess player.
- ❖ He is surpassing India's first GM Viswanathan Anand in live ratings.
- ❖ This comes after the 17-year-old from Chennai Gukesh qualified for the third round of the FIDE Chess World Cup, a major single-elimination tournament held in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- ❖ Anand has been India's top chess player for the last 36 years.

World Archery Championships 2023

- ❖ The Indian women's compound team won the gold medal after defeating the Mexico.
- ❖ It was held at Berlin, Germany.
- ❖ Indian archery team has won a gold medal for the first time since making its debut at World Archery Championships in 1981.

Asian Champions Hockey Trophy 2023

- ❖ The Indian hockey team defeated Malaysia to win for the fourth time at the Asian Champions Trophy 2023.
- ❖ With four Asian Champions Trophy titles, India is the most successful team in the history of the tournament.
- ❖ Pakistan, with three titles, are at the second spot now.

World University Games campaign

Rank	Country/Organisation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	103	60	35	178
2	Japan	21	29	43	93
3	Korea, Korea	17	18	23	58
4	Italy	17	10	21	56
5	Hungary	15	16	12	63
6	Tanzania	11	12	12	35
7	India	11	5	10	26
8	Chinese Taipei	10	17	19	46
9	Ukraine	6	4	2	12
10	France	5	8	10	23

- ❖ India ended its World University Games (WUG) campaign 26 medals, including 11 gold held at China.
- ❖ India finished at seventh spot with 11 gold, 5 silver and 10 bronze, the best ever standing in the medal tally.
- ❖ India had won just 21 medals (6 gold, 6 silver and 9 bronze) before the 2023 World University Games.
- ❖ The 21-member shooting team performed the best with 8 gold, 4 silver and 2 bronze while archers won 3 gold, 1 silver and 3 bronze.
- ❖ One bronze came from judo.
- ❖ Host China has topped the standings with a whopping 178 medals), followed by Japan (79) and Korea (58).

FIFA Women's World Cup 2023

- ❖ Spain beat England in the final of the FIFA Women's World Cup held at Australia.
- ❖ With this win, Spain became only the second nation to clinch both the men's and the women's World Cups after Germany.

Chess World Cup final



- ❖ Magnus Carlsen of Norway has won the Chess World Cup by defeating India's Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa.
- ❖ Praggnanandhaa is the runner-up of the 2023 FIDE World Cup held at Kazakhstan.
- ❖ It was Carlsen's first World Cup triumph, having won the World Championship five times.
- ❖ Praggnanandhaa, thus, became the third youngest player after the Bobby Fischer and Carlsen to qualify for the Candidates tournament.
- ❖ Praggnanandhaa became the youngest international master in history at age 10 in 2016.
- ❖ He had earned the title of International Chess Federation master by age seven.

New members to join World Boxing

- ❖ The World Boxing is a new body which is seeking International Olympic Committee (IOC) recognition to run the sport.
- ❖ The national federations of Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Germany, Honduras and Sweden joined the body newly.
- ❖ It was bringing the total number of members to 12.
- ❖ New Zealand, Australia, England, Great Britain, the Dutch and the United States are already members.
- ❖ The IOC has stripped the recognition of the Russian-led International Boxing Association over its failure to meet a set of governance, financial and sports reforms.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Wide Web Day 2023 - August 01

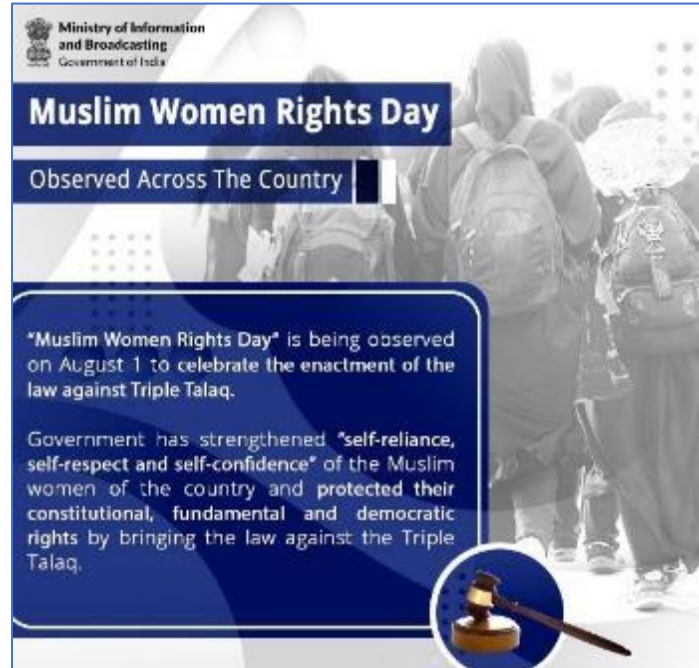
- ❖ It is a day dedicated to commemorating the birth of the World Wide Web (www) and recognising its impact on the world.
- ❖ On this day in 1991 that Tim Berners-Lee posted a proposal for the World Wide Web on the alt. hypertext newsgroup.
- ❖ The World Wide Web, commonly known as the Web, was created by Sir Tim Berners-Lee in 1989.
- ❖ He submitted a proposal for a "distributed information system" to facilitate sharing and updating information among researchers at CERN.
- ❖ The first web server, "httpd," and the first web browser, "WorldWideWeb" (later renamed Nexus), were created by Berners-Lee and his colleague Robert Cailliau in 1990.



Muslim Women's Rights Day 2023 - August 01

- ❖ The day marks the enactment of the law against Triple Talaq, which came into effect on August 1, 2019.
- ❖ It was in 2021 that Muslim Women Rights Day was celebrated for the first time.
- ❖ The law against Triple Talaq liberated them from the atrocities committed on them in the terms of the divorce.
- ❖ Triple Talaq is also known as Talaq-e-Biddat.
- ❖ It is a form of divorce that was practiced in Islam, in which a man could divorce his wife by pronouncing Talaq three times.

- ❖ Moreover, it wasn't needed for the man to cite any reason for the divorce, and at the time of the pronouncement of Talaq.
- ❖ The wife was also not needed to be present on site.

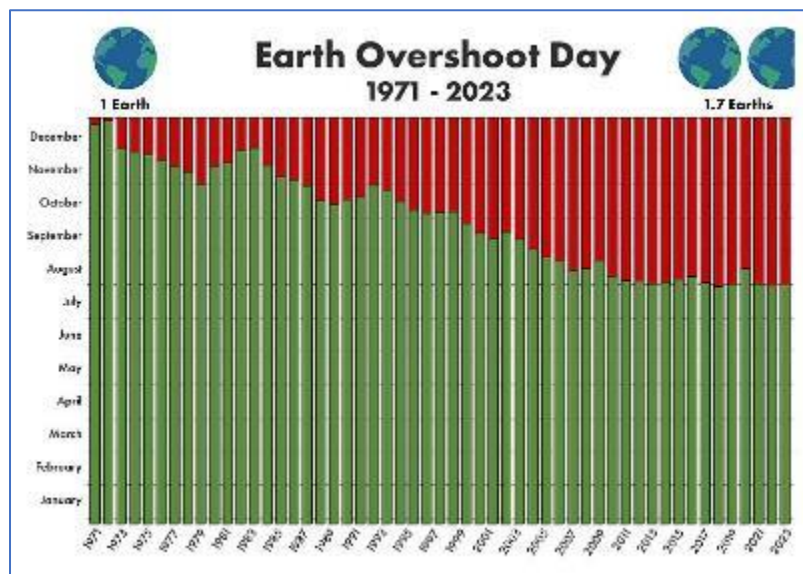


World Breastfeeding Week - August 01/07



- ❖ It is celebrated globally to raise awareness and promote the importance of breastfeeding for the health and well-being of both infants and mothers.
- ❖ In 1991, the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) was formed to promote the benefits of breastfeeding.
- ❖ Theme of this year is "Enabling Breastfeeding: Making a difference for working parents".
- ❖ The WHO states that breastfeeding could save the lives of 8,20,000 children below the age of five years annually.

Earth overshoot day 2023 - August 02



- ❖ August 2 marks Earth Overshoot Day for 2023.
- ❖ The date each year at which humans have consumed more natural resources than Earth can naturally replenish in one year's time.
- ❖ Every year, the nonprofit Global Footprint Network uses U.N. data to calculate the supply and demand for ecological categories.
- ❖ The first Earth Overshoot Day was calculated in 1971.
- ❖ At the time, it fell on December 25th of that year.

Indian Organ Donation Day 2023 - August 03

- ❖ This day commemorates the first successful deceased heart transplant in India in 1994.
- ❖ The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act was promulgated in the year 1994.

- ❖ The national organ day is celebrated on the 27th of November until 2022.
- ❖ India's organ donation rate has increased from 0.05 per ten lakh populations to 0.8 per ten lakh populations in a duration of few years.



Hiroshima Day 2023 - August 06

- ❖ On August 6, 1945, during World War II, a U.S. plane Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb code-named "Little Boy" on Hiroshima, Japan.
- ❖ Seventy-seven years have elapsed since then.
- ❖ And every year the world remembers August 6 as a day of solemn remembrance and reflection.
- ❖ This day stands as a poignant reminder of the cataclysmic impact of nuclear warfare
- ❖ It makes the urgent call for global unity in pursuit of peace and disarmament.

Friendship day 2023 - August 06

- ❖ National Friendship Day occurs every year on the first Sunday of August.
- ❖ It can be traced back to 1958 when Joce Hall, the owner of Hallmark Cards, proposed the idea of celebrating Friendship Day in Paraguay.
- ❖ However, it was in 2011 when United Nations announced an official date to mark the festival.
- ❖ They declared July 30 as International Friendship Day.
- ❖ The theme for Friendship Day 2023 is "Sharing the Human Spirit through Friendship."
- ❖ Though it has since been moved to 7 August due to de-synchronisation in the United States.



International Forgiveness Day 2023 - August 06

- ❖ It takes place on the first Sunday in August each year.
- ❖ The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.”- Mahatma Gandhi.
- ❖ It was incepted in 1994 by the Christian Embassy of Christ’s Ambassadors (CECA).

National Handloom Day 2023 - August 07

- ❖ It is observed annually on 7th August to honour the handloom weavers in across the country.
- ❖ It will be under the coordination of the Ministry of Textiles.
- ❖ The Union Government had declared this day in July 2015.
- ❖ August 7 was chosen as the National Handloom Day to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement.
- ❖ It was launched on this day in 1905 in Calcutta Town Hall to protest against the partition of Bengal by the British Government.
- ❖ The theme of this Day in 2023 is "Handlooms for Sustainable Fashion".
- ❖ The handloom sector is key to women empowerment as over 70% of handloom weavers and allied workers are women.

National Bone and Joint Day 2023 – August 04

- ❖ The first week of August is observed as National Bone and Joint week since 2012.
- ❖ But This country-wide health campaign on the year basis was started by the Indian Orthopaedic Association (IOA) in 2021.
- ❖ The theme for this year is ‘Each one Train one Save one’.
- ❖ The main reasons for deteriorated bone and joint health include lack of awareness about essential physical activities, lack of proper nutrition enriched with vitamin D, habits like alcohol consumption, tobacco chewing and smoking, and lack of calcium intake in young and postmenopausal women.
- ❖ Dairy products are the main food sources providing bone-beneficial nutrients, such as calcium, phosphorus and magnesium.
- ❖ Fermented milk products, such as yogurt or soft cheese, are also an important source of calcium, phosphorus and protein.

3rd 'Javelin Throw Day' – August 07



- ❖ The Athletics Federation of India, the apex governing body for athletics in the nation, made a decision to mark this day as National Javelin Day.
- ❖ On August 7th of 2021, a remarkable chapter in Indian athletics history was etched by Neeraj Chopra.
- ❖ Neeraj Chopra made this during the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.

World Cat Day 2023 - August 08

- ❖ It was created in 2002 by the International Fund for Animal Welfare.
- ❖ International Cat Care has been the custodianship of International Cat Day since 2020.
- ❖ It is a British non-profit group working in favour of cats since 1958.

Nagasaki Day 2023 - August 09

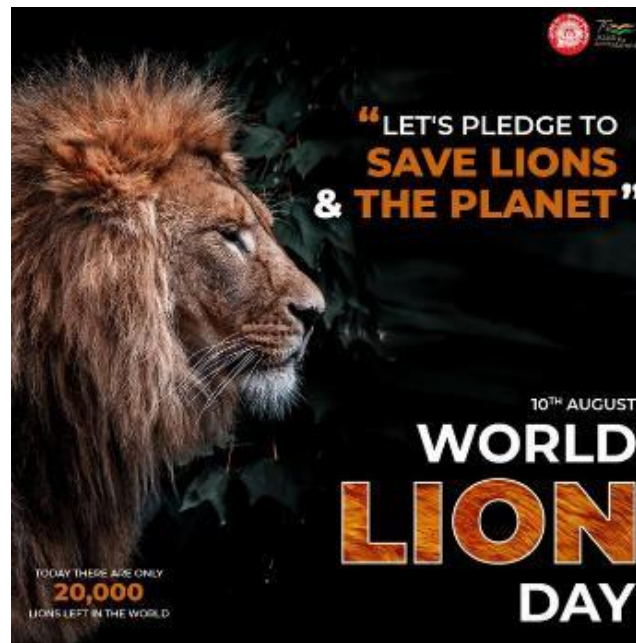
- ❖ The day marks the horror of the second atomic attack in Japan.
- ❖ On 9 August 1945, the US dropped the second nuclear bomb 'Fat Man' on the Nagasaki region of Japan
- ❖ It was just after three days after the Hiroshima bombing.
- ❖ The Plutonium Bomb was used for the nuclear attack on Nagasaki.

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples or World Tribal Day 2023 - August 09

- ❖ It is also known as World Tribal Day.
- ❖ It was chosen in recognition of the first meeting of the UN Working Group on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights held in Geneva in 1982.

- ❖ In December 1994, the United Nations General Assembly decided that the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples should be observed on August 9th each year.
- ❖ The UN designated 2019 to be the International Year of Indigenous Languages.
- ❖ This year's theme for World Tribal Day is "Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change for Self-determination."
- ❖ They make up about 5% of the world's population, but they account for more than 15% of the world's poorest people.

World Lion Day 2023 - August 10



- ❖ It was first established in 2013 by Big Cat Rescue organisation of the USA.
- ❖ It is the world's largest accredited sanctuary dedicated to lions.
- ❖ It was co-founded by team of Dereck and Beverly Joubert.
- ❖ Lions are scientifically known as Panthera Leo.
- ❖ According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, lions are classified as a "vulnerable" species.
- ❖ It ranks as the second-largest cat species globally.
- ❖ The Asian tiger is taking the lead and weigh between 300 and 550 pounds.
- ❖ African lions are the most social of all big cats and live together in groups or "pride."
- ❖ The Gir Forest serves as the second-largest habitat for the lions outside of Africa.



World Biofuel Day 2023 - August 10

- ❖ This day honours the research experiments by Sir Rudolf Diesel of Germany.
- ❖ He was behind the development of the diesel engine in 1892.
- ❖ He ran an engine with peanut oil in the year 1893.
- ❖ His research experiment had predicted that vegetable oil is going to replace fossil fuels in the next century to fuel different mechanical engines.
- ❖ The World Biofuel Day is being observed by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas since 2015.
- ❖ The National Policy of Biofuels in 2018 amendments additionally highlights a target of reaching 20% ethanol-blending and 5% biodiesel-blending by 2030.
- ❖ Biofuels are environment-friendly fuels that can be produced using biological materials like agricultural waste, trees, crops or even grass.
- ❖ Biofuels can be produced in a very short time and stored in either liquid or gaseous form.
- ❖ In contrast to fossil fuels, biofuels are renewable, sustainable and biodegradable in nature.
- ❖ The biofuels programme is also in synergy with the Government of India initiatives for Make in India, Swachh Bharat and enhancing farmers' income.
- ❖ Important Biofuel categories in India are such as Bioethanol, Biodiesel, Advanced biofuels, Second Generation (2G) Ethanol, Drop-in fuels, algae based 3G biofuels, Drop-in fuels and Bio-CNG.

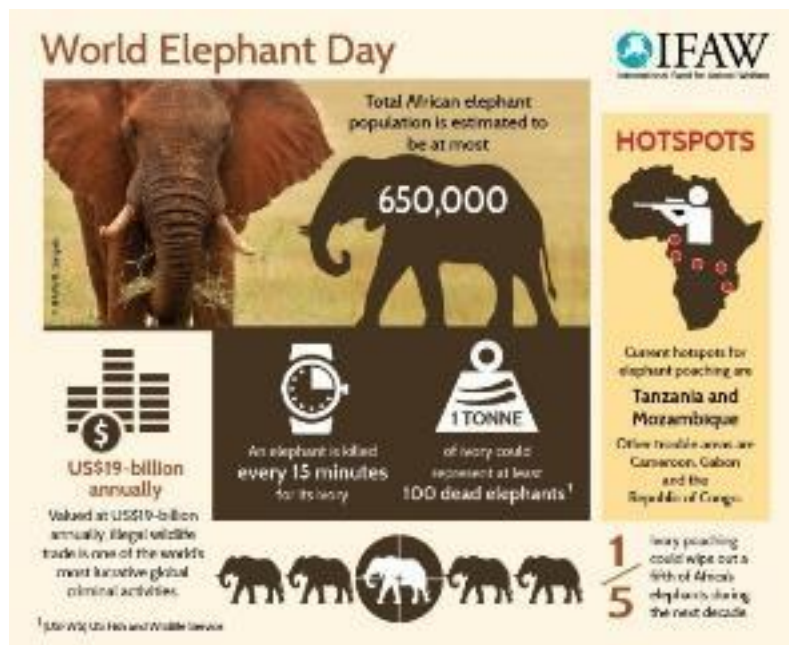
World steelpan day 2023 - August 11

- ❖ On July 24th, the United Nations prepares to adopt a draft resolution in this regard.
- ❖ It is the first ever World Steelpan Day by the UN.
- ❖ It is also known as a steel drum or simply “pan”, steel drum or part of steel band.
- ❖ The steelpan is a musical wonder hailing from Trinidad and Tobago.
- ❖ When French planters arrived in the 1700s, they brought this tradition with them.
- ❖ It was crafted from everyday metal objects like car parts, oil drums, and biscuit tins.
- ❖ In the context towards the 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals, the steelpan serves as a beacon of cultural diversity and enrichment.

International Youth Day 2023 - August 12

- ❖ The origins of International Youth Day can be traced back to 1965.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly set in motion a concerted effort to elevate the global youth community.
- ❖ Its culmination with the endorsement of the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect, and Understanding between Peoples.
- ❖ The theme for this year of this day is 'Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World'.

World Elephant Day 2023 - August 12



- ❖ This day serves as a platform to highlight the challenges elephants encounter, including habitat loss, poaching for ivory, human-elephant conflicts, and the need for better conservation efforts.
- ❖ On August 12, 2012, Patricia Sims, a Canadian, and the Elephant Reintroduction Foundation of Thailand, an initiative of Queen Sirikit of Thailand, co-founded World Elephant Day.
- ❖ The theme for this day is "Safeguarding Elephant Habitats for a Sustainable Tomorrow".
- ❖ Amongst all land mammals, elephants possess the largest brains.
- ❖ African elephants are listed as "Vulnerable" and Asian elephants as "Endangered" on the IUCN Red List of threatened species.



World Sanskrit Day 2023 - August 12

- ❖ It was first celebrated in 1969 in India.
- ❖ The day also marks the birth anniversary of the renowned Sanskrit grammarian and scholar Pāṇini.
- ❖ A linguist named Panini wrote a grammar guide, containing eight chapters Aṣṭādhyāyī.
- ❖ The oldest Sanskrit college is the Benares Sanskrit College founded by Jonathan Duncan in 1791 during East India Company rule. resident of the East India Company.
- ❖ The initiative was sanctioned by governor general lord Cornwallis.
- ❖ In 2005, Sanskrit was declared as classical language of India after Tamil in 2004.

International Lefthanders Day 2023 - August 13

- ❖ This day aims to raise awareness about the challenges and accomplishments of left-handers.
- ❖ It is promoting inclusivity and understanding in a predominantly right-handed world.
- ❖ This day was first observed in 1976, initiated by Dean R. Campbell, founder of the Left-Handers Club.
- ❖ Theme of 2023 is "Left-Handers in Sports."

World Organ Donation Day 2023 - August 13

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and transplantation.
- ❖ It encourages people to pledge to donate their organs and tissues after death to save lives and improve the quality of life for those in need.
- ❖ This day was first observed in 2005.
- ❖ The first organ donation was performed in 1954, when Ronald Lee Herrick donated his kidney to his twin brother.
- ❖ The first organ donor in India is widely recognized as Lalitha Raghuram.
- ❖ In 1994, she became the first recorded living organ donor in the country when she donated a kidney to her husband.
- ❖ Theme for 2023 is "Step up to volunteer; we need more organ donors to fill the lacunae".



Partition Horrors Remembrance Day in India 2023 - August 14

- ❖ Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas is observed on August 14 to remember all those who lost their lives due to partition.
- ❖ The partition caused one of the largest migrations in human history, affecting about 20 million people.
- ❖ Millions of families had to abandon their ancestral villages/towns/cities and were forced to start anew as refugees.

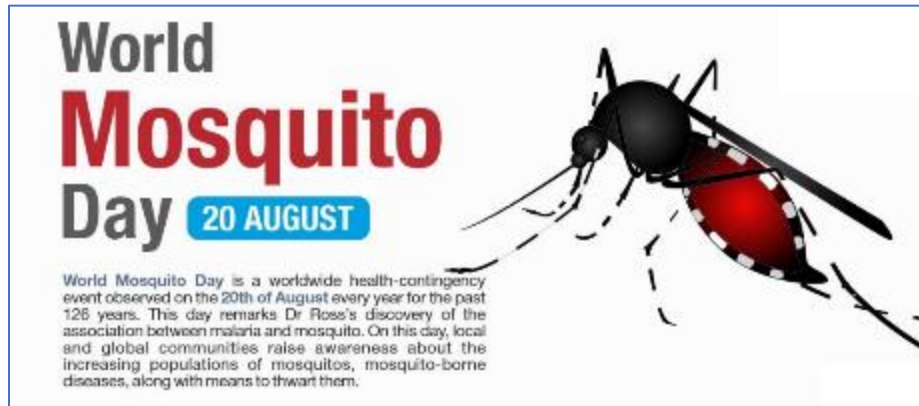
World Photography Day 2023 - August 19

- ❖ World Photography Day originated on 19 August 1839.
- ❖ The first picture was captured in 1861.
- ❖ The theory about the digital photograph was invented in 1957.
- ❖ The theme for this year is "LANDSCAPES."

World Humanitarian Day 2023 - August 19

- ❖ This day honours the memory of those who lost their lives two including humanitarian workers in the Baghdad bombings in 19 August 2003.
- ❖ 362 million people in the world are in need of humanitarian assistance by the middle of 2023.
- ❖ Moreover, 444 humanitarian aid workers were attacked, 116 killed, 143 wounded and 185 kidnapped during 2022.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is 'No matter what'.

World Mosquito Day 2023 - August 20



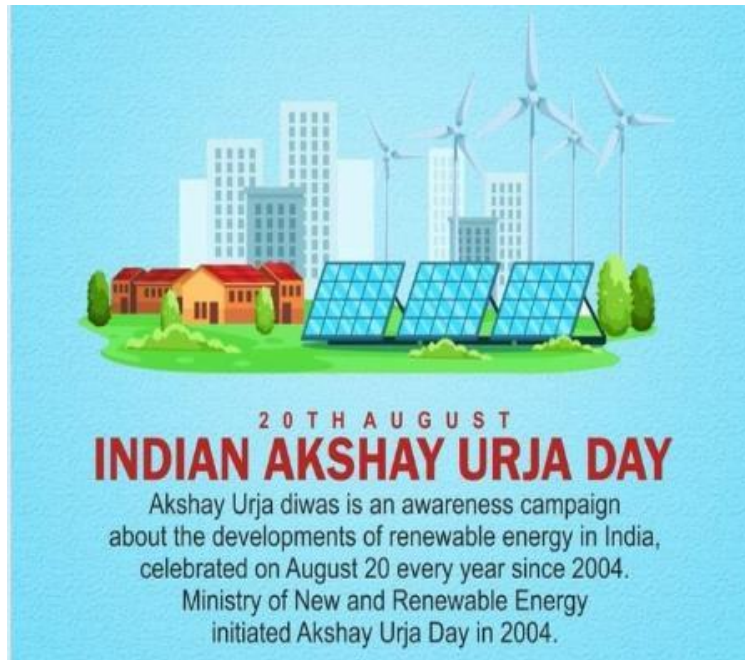
- ❖ This commemorates the contributions of British doctor Sir Ronald Ross.
- ❖ He was the first person to discover the connection between malaria and female anopheline mosquitoes.
- ❖ In 1897, Sir Ronald Ross discovered that mosquitoes are responsible for transmitting malaria.
- ❖ The day is aims to create awareness among people about the mosquito-borne diseases, and their effect.

Sadbhavna Diwas 2023 - August 20

- ❖ This day dedicated to promoting national integration and peace among various communities in honour of Rajiv Gandhi's memory.
- ❖ This year marks the 79th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- ❖ He proposed a National Policy on Education in 1986 to modernise and expand higher education in India.
- ❖ He remains India's youngest Prime Minister to date.
- ❖ The Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award recognises people who have dedicated their lives to promoting social harmony.

Indian Akshay Urja Day 2023 - August 20

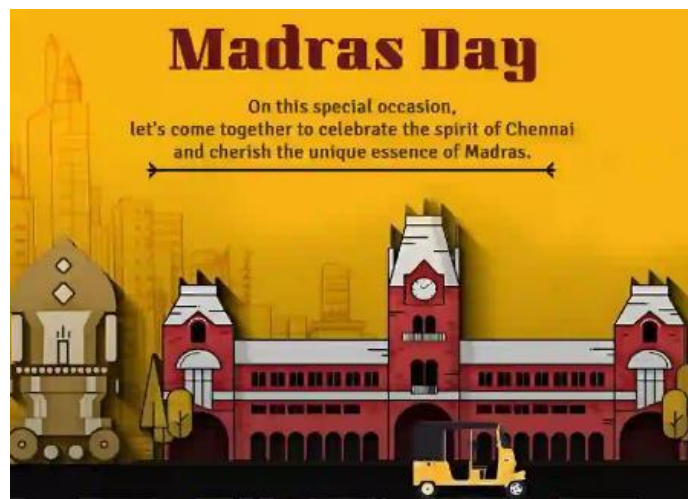
- ❖ The day also coincides with the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary.
- ❖ The main goal of celebrating the day is to create awareness about the green energy generated by using the natural resources.
- ❖ This day was initially established by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in 2004.



International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition 2023 - August 20

- ❖ The day, designated by UNESCO, was first observed on August 23, 1998.
- ❖ It marks the start of the uprising in Haiti that eventually led to the abolition of transatlantic slave trade in the European colonies.
- ❖ International slave trade was abolished on March 25, 1807.

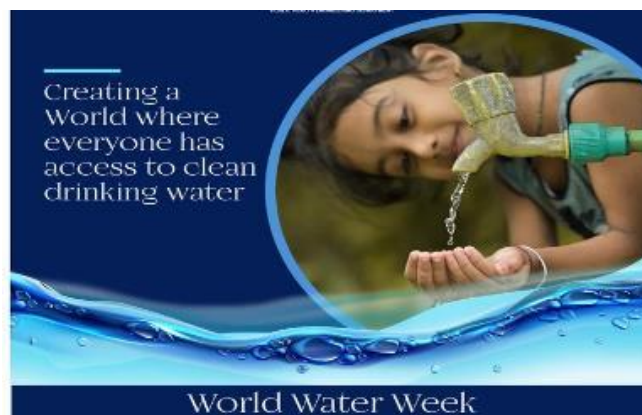
Madras Day 2023 - August 22



- ❖ The Madras Day, the founding day of city of Madras, now called Chennai, is observed on 22 August every year.
- ❖ Madras was founded on August 22, 1639.
- ❖ On this day, a piece of land known as Chennapatnam was acquired by the British East India Company from the local Nayak rulers.
- ❖ The first Madras Day celebration was held on August 22, 2004.

World Water Week 2023 - August 20 to 24

- ❖ This is organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute every year since 1991.
- ❖ In 1969, India launched the National Rural Drinking Water Supply Programme.
- ❖ In 1972-73, the country rolled out the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Scheme (ARWS).
- ❖ In 1991, it was renamed to Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission.
- ❖ Theme for this year is - Seeds of Change: Innovative Solutions for a Water-Wise World.
- ❖ The Bharat Nirman Programme, launched in 2005, had a rural drinking water supply component.
- ❖ In 2017, the Centre launched the Har Ghar Jal programme with the objective of ensuring safe drinking water to all households, with piped supply.



European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism - August 23

- ❖ The purpose of the Day of Remembrance is to preserve the memory of the victims of mass deportations and exterminations, while promoting democratic values to reinforce peace and stability in Europe.

- ❖ This day was created by the European Parliament in 2008.
- ❖ It is also the day on which in 1939 the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact was signed.
- ❖ This Pact allowed Germany under Hitler and Soviet Union under Stalin to divide much of Europe.

US Women's Equality Day 2023 - August 26

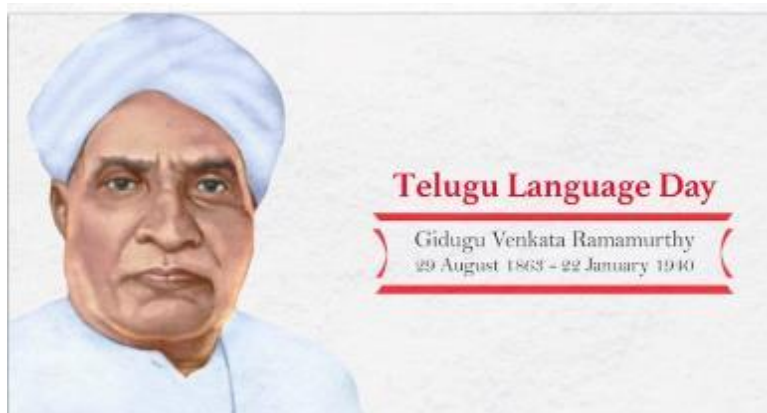


- ❖ This day marks the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment.
- ❖ It is also known as Amendment XIX to the United States Constitution in 1920.
- ❖ This amendment forbids the states and the federal government from denying citizens of the United States the right to vote on the basis of gender.

National Sports Day 2023 - August 29

- ❖ This day commemorates the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand - the legendary hockey champion.
- ❖ During his entire career from 1926 to 1948, Dhyan Chand has represented India in 185 matches, and scored more than 400 goals.
- ❖ India celebrated its first ever National Sports Day on 29 August 2012.

Telugu Language Day 2023 - August 29





- ❖ This day coincide with the birthday of Telugu poet, writer and social visionary Gidugu Venkata Ramamurthy.
- ❖ The Telugu language is the largest member of the Dravidian language family.
- ❖ In the early 21st century Telugu had more than 75 million speakers.
- ❖ The language is known as the “The Italian of the EAST”.

International Day against Nuclear Tests 2023 - August 29

- ❖ It seeks to commemorate closure of Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test site on 29 August 1991.
- ❖ It was observed for first time in 2010.
- ❖ Since then observed annually to galvanize necessity of banning nuclear weapon tests.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions.

International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances 2023 - August 30

- ❖ This day is dedicated to raising awareness about the global crime of enforced disappearance.
- ❖ Enforced disappearance is the arrest, detention, abduction or other deprivation of liberty by agents of the State.
- ❖ Enforced disappearance is a serious violation of human rights.
- ❖ This day was chosen to commemorate the enforced disappearance of Filipino human rights activist Jonas Burgos.

International Whale Shark Day 2023 - August 30

- ❖ This day aims to raise awareness about the plight of whale sharks, the largest fish in the world.
- ❖ The whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) is the largest fish on Earth and a keystone species in marine ecosystems.
- ❖ It can grow to a length of approximately 18 metres and weigh as much as 21 tonnes.
- ❖ They are ovoviviparous – they give birth to live young rather than lay eggs.
- ❖ It is listed as Endangered in International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

International Day for People of African Descent 2023 - August 31

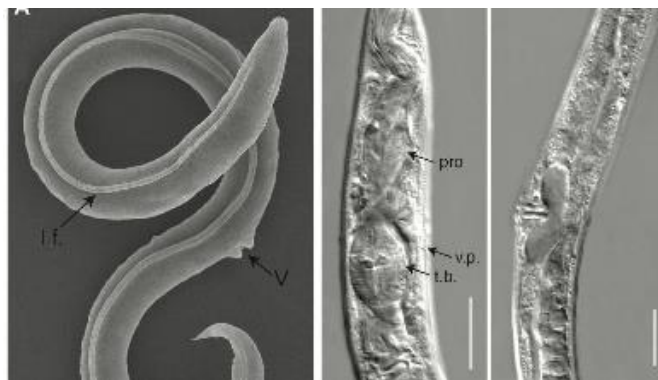
- ❖ This day aims to celebrate the enormous contribution of the African diaspora in the field of human endeavour.
- ❖ 2015-2024 period was declared as the International Decade for People of African Descent.
- ❖ The initiative is steamed out of the United Nation’s commitment to combat racism and discrimination in 2021.

MISCELLANEOUS

UNESCO heritage danger list

- ❖ Venice is one of the most romantic and beautiful Italian cities, might soon be under UNESCO’s danger list.
- ❖ UNESCO’s this recommendation calling on the Italian government to “ensure the utmost dedication”.
- ❖ In November 2019, Venice was struggling with a severe flood situation.
- ❖ In February 2023, the city suffered a major drought situation.
- ❖ Meanwhile, the city is already battling over tourism.

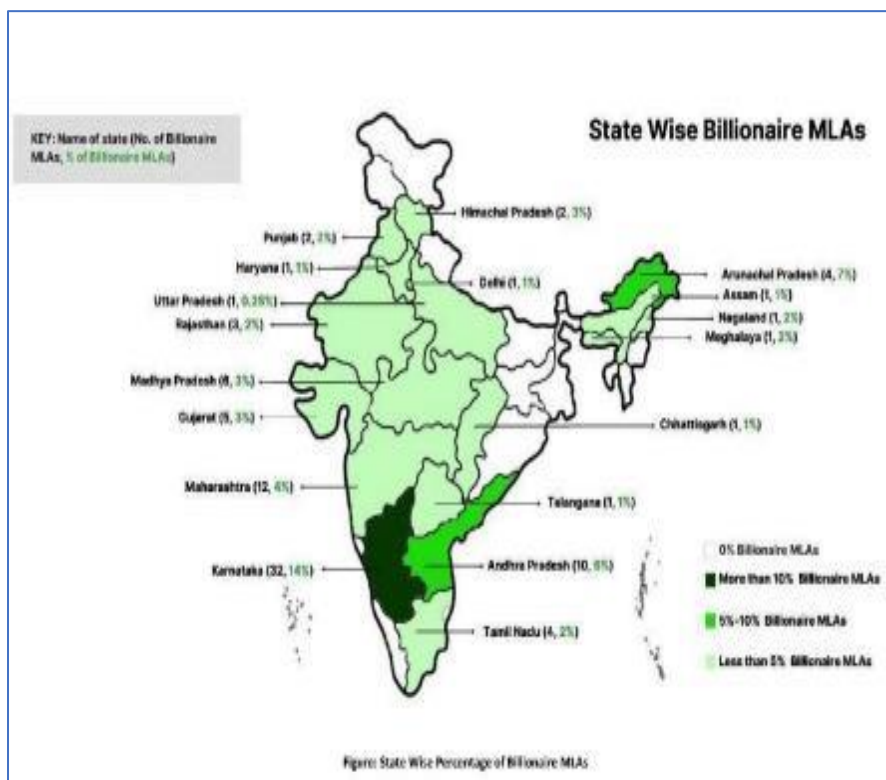
46,000-year-old worms



- ❖ Scientists discovered and reanimated two kinds of frozen microscopic nematodes or roundworms in Siberia five years ago.
- ❖ They were brought back to life from Siberian permafrost

- ❖ These worms were frozen since the late Pleistocene era between 45,839 and 47,769 years ago.
- ❖ One of them is an entirely new species that has never before been discovered.
- ❖ Many animals like nematodes, and more famously, tardigrades, can survive extreme conditions by entering a dormant state called “cryptobiosis”.

Most Billionaire MLAs



- ❖ Karnataka has the highest percentage of billionaire MLAs.
- ❖ It also emerged as the state with the highest average assets per MLA (223 MLAs).
- ❖ It is followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The MLAs in the state have average assets of Rs 64.39 crore.
- ❖ This is followed by Andhra Pradesh (174 MLAs) with average assets of Rs 28.24 crore and Maharashtra (284 MLAs) with average assets of Rs 23.51 crore.
- ❖ Tripura has the lowest average assets per MLA, with 59 MLAs having an average of Rs 1.54 crores.
- ❖ DK Shivakumar (INC) from Kanakapura, Karnataka 2023 topped in the list with total assets worth Rs1,413 crore.

- ❖ Nirmal Kumar Dhara (BJP) from Indus (SC), West Bengal 2021 is bottom in the list with total assets worth Rs 1,700.
- ❖ Congress has the most of billionaire MLAs (33 of 719 analysed MLAs, 5 percent).
- ❖ BJP followed with 24 of 1,356 MLAs (2 percent) have assets worth over Rs 100 crore.
- ❖ The average assets of an MLA from state assemblies in India are worth Rs 13.63 crore.
- ❖ Of 4,001 MLAs analysed, 1,777 legislators have been charged with various criminal cases.
- ❖ A total of 37 MLAs, out of a total of 70 (around 53%), in the Delhi have serious criminal cases against them.

Perucetus colossus

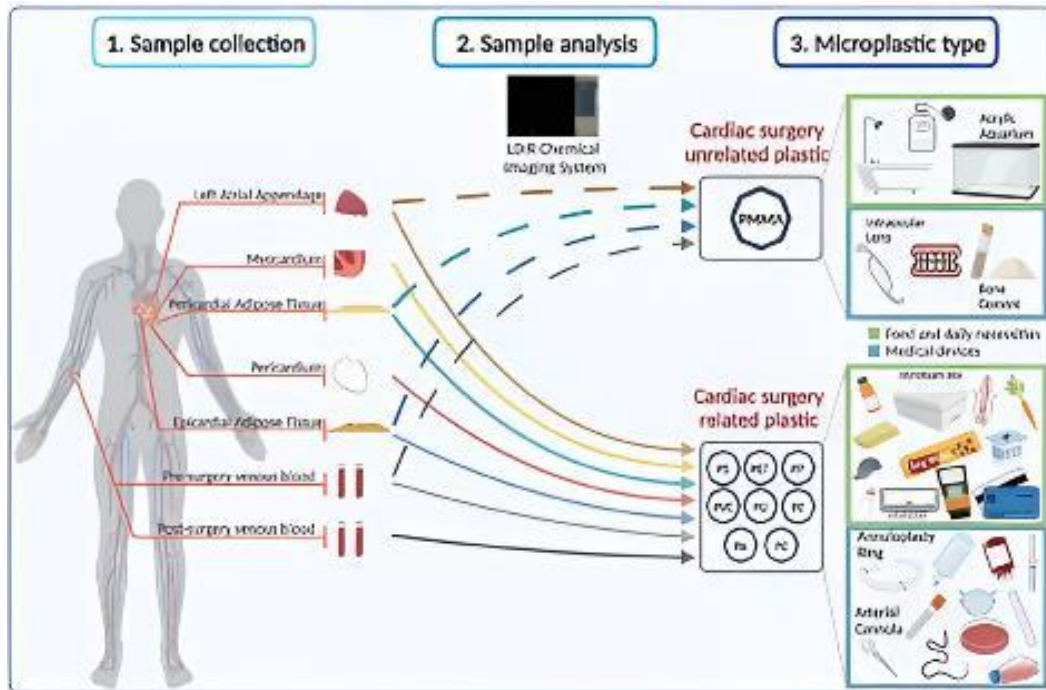
- ❖ A partial skeleton of Perucetus colossus was found in Peru.
- ❖ This whale lived nearly 40 million years ago could be the heaviest animal to have ever lived.
- ❖ The animal reached about 20 meters (65 feet) in length.
- ❖ The modern blue whale has long been considered the largest and heaviest animal ever.
- ❖ The biggest blue whale ever recorded weighed 190 tonnes, according to Guinness World Records.
- ❖ But the researchers estimated the ancient whale's weight range was between 85 and 340 tonnes.



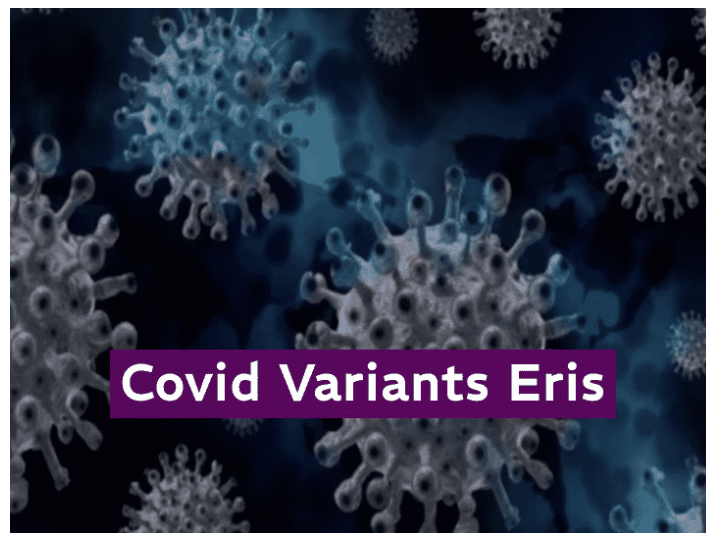
'Microplastics' in human heart

- ❖ China have found microplastics in the human heart for the first time.
- ❖ They analysed the heart tissue of 15 patients who underwent cardiovascular surgery.

- ❖ Scientists also found P
 - Polyethylene terephthalate - used in clothing and food containers, and
 - Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) – widespread use in window frames, drainage pipes, paint and more.
- ❖ Microplastics can be lesser than 5 mm wide and can enter the human body through the mouth, nose and other cavities in the body.

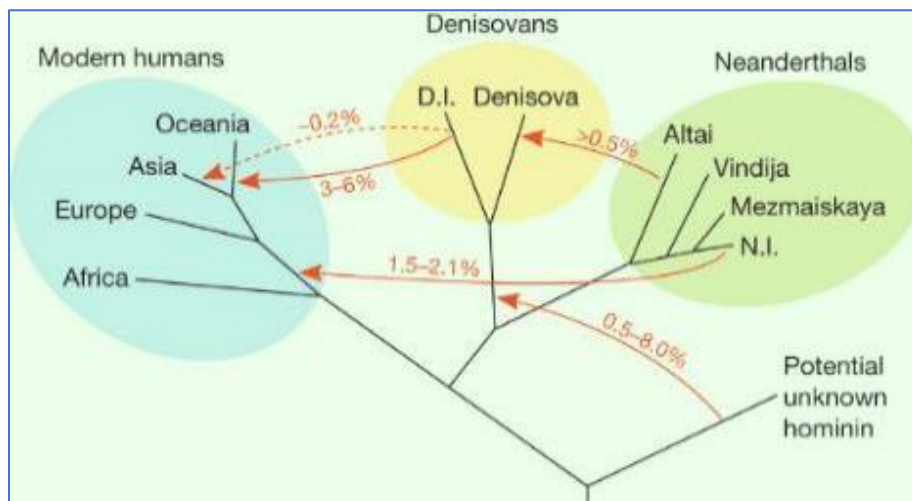


Eris Variant of COVID-19



- ❖ The World Health Organization is monitoring a new strain of Covid-19 called EG.5, or “Eris”.
- ❖ New Covid variant Eris or EG.5’s symptoms resemble those of previous strains, are less severe and do not place individuals at a high risk.
- ❖ Its symptoms resemble those of previous strains, are less severe and do not place individuals at a high risk.
- ❖ It has been identified in many countries be it China, US, Japan, South Korea, Canada and also Australia, Singapore, UK, France, Portugal and Spain.

HLD 6



- ❖ International team of scientists has described an ancient human fossil in China unlike any other hominin found before.
- ❖ It resembles neither the lineage that split to form Neanderthals, nor Denisovans, nor us.
- ❖ It is suggesting our current version of the human family tree needs another branch.
- ❖ The jaw, skull, and leg bones belonging to this yet-to-be classified hominin, labelled HLD 6.
- ❖ These HLD 6 does not resemble the Homo erectus species, which survived in Indonesia until about 100,000 years ago.

Megalithic hat stones

- ❖ A large number of megalithic hat stones were found from a single site during a recent archaeological salvage excavation at Nagaparamba in Kuttippuram village of Kerala.

- ❖ Hat stones are popularly called Thoppikkallu in Malayalam.
- ❖ They are hemispherical laterite stones used as lid on burial urns during the megalithic period.
- ❖ It could ostensibly throw light on the life and culture of people who lived in those parts more than 2,000 years ago.



Ancient Mailara cult



- ❖ Two sculptures discovered which resembles one belonging to 15th century A.D. and 17th century A.D., at Basrur, near Kundapura, in Udupi district of Karnataka.
- ❖ The find sheds light on the historical significance of the Mylareshwar cult that once thrived in the Deccan and Coastal Karnataka regions.
- ❖ Recently, a mutilated but unique sculpture was found in a well at Basrur.
- ❖ The Mailara cult is a religious tradition centred around the worship of a folk deity named Mailara.
- ❖ Mailara is believed to be a manifestation of Lord Shiva.

- ❖ This cult is prevalent in parts of southern India, particularly in the Deccan region, including Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.

Plant-eating dinosaur species

- ❖ Scientists have discovered the oldest fossil remains of a long-necked, plant-eating dicraeosaurid dinosaur in Jaisalmer.
- ❖ It is suggesting that India was a major centre of dinosaur evolution.
- ❖ The remains are 167 million years old and belong to a new species, unknown to scientists thus far.
- ❖ It has been named 'Tharosaurus indicus'.
- ❖ The first name is referring to the 'Thar desert' where the fossils were found, and the second is after its country of origin.
- ❖ Theories so far had suggested that the oldest dicraeosaurid was from China (about 166-164 million years old).



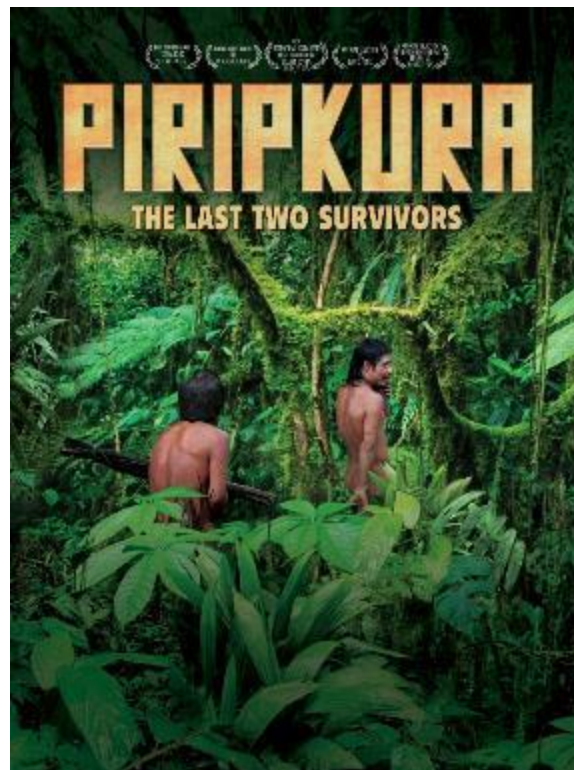
Tutcetus rayanensis

- ❖ Paleontologists in Egypt unearthed fossilized remains of a miniature whale species that lived 41 million years ago.
- ❖ This extinct family, the basilosaurids, represents one of the earliest whale species to become fully aquatic.
- ❖ The newfound whale was only 8.2 feet long—12 times smaller than today's blue whale.



Piripkura Tribe

- ❖ Tamandua and Baita are two of the last three remaining members of the Piripkura Indigenous people in northwest Brazil.
- ❖ The protected status of the Piripkura Indigenous Territory spans 243,000 hectares (600,000 acres).
- ❖ It is maintained by a periodically renewed use restriction ordinance issued by Funai, the federal agency for Indigenous affairs.
- ❖ Today, 18 percent of the Amazon has disappeared.
- ❖ There are traces or reports of 39 uncontacted tribes.



New Genetic Insights from Ötzi

- ❖ In 1991, hikers in an Italian valley near the border with Austria stumbled on a frozen corpse.
- ❖ It is Nicknamed Ötzi, after the valley where he was found.
- ❖ The remains belonged to a man who had died around 5,300 years earlier, after being shot by an arrow.
- ❖ The recent research revealed that Ötzi had dark skin, dark eyes, and a receding hairline, which differed from previous depictions.
- ❖ He was also genetically predisposed to baldness.
- ❖ Earlier research suggested a genetic affinity between Ötzi and modern Sardinians.
- ❖ However, the new study demonstrates that the majority of his genetic makeup can be traced back to early Anatolian farmers.

