

TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM CURRENT AFFAIRS JANUARY 2023

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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Vigilance Commissioner Praveen Kumar Srivastava has been appointed as the acting Central Vigilance Commissioner.
- ❖ Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the Indian Library Congress in Kannur.
- ❖ President Murmu Laid Foundation Stone for PRASHAD Project for Two Temples in Telangana.
- ❖ Union Home Minister laid the foundation stone of the Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI) at Devanahalli in Karnataka.
- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated the Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation (SPM-NIWAS) at Joka in Kolkata.
- ❖ The first edition of the 10-day-long Bekal International Beach Festival held at Kasaragod in Kerala.
- ❖ A world-class Kayaking-Canoeing Academy is to be set up at Tehri in Uttarakhand.
 - In this academy, the youth of Uttarakhand will be prepared to play at the national and international level by providing all the facilities along with free training.
- ❖ Tesla and Twitter CEO Elon Musk has become the first person ever to lose \$200 billion from his net worth.
- ❖ Former world rapid champion Koneru Humpy has won India's first-ever silver medal in the FIDE World Blitz Chess Championships in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh defeated Odisha to clinch Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Men's Under-18 Hockey Qualifiers title in Bhubaneswar.
- ❖ The newly-inaugurated Mopa International Airport in Goa has been named after former Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar.
- ❖ Varanasi Cantt railway station awarded 'Eat Right Station' with a 5-star rating certification by FSSAI.
 - This certification is granted by FSSAI to railway stations adhering to standard food storage and hygiene practices.
- ❖ Captain Shiva Chauhan has been posted at a frontline post in Siachen Glacier.
 - It was marking the first time a woman army officer operationally deployed at the world's highest battlefield.
- ❖ ONGC, Indian Oil Corp, Power Grid, NTPC and SAIL emerged as the top five Profit-Making Public-Sector Enterprises in 2021-22.



- ❖ Prabhu Chandra Mishra has been awarded Atal Samman Award for his excellence in field of science & research.
- ❖ The Union Jal Shakti Ministry is organizing a national level conference on water on the theme of 'Water Vision@2047' in Bhopal.
- ❖ Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the 'Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium' in Rourkela ahead of the Men's Hockey World Cup 2023.
- ❖ The first G-20 meeting will be held in Puducherry on January 31.
- ❖ Parliamentarian and author, Shashi Tharoor's latest book 'Ambedkar: A Life' was recently launched at the Kitaab Kolkata event.
- ❖ The first-ever ABB FIA Formula E World Championship race in India is to be held in Hyderabad.
- ❖ The World Boxing Council (WBC), one of the four leading governing bodies for the sport, plans to introduce a transgender category starting this year.
- ❖ The fifth volume of the Reserve Bank of India's history is released recently.
 - This volume encompasses the 11-year period from 1997 to 2008.
- ❖ Kerala declared as the first state in the country to go fully digital in its banking service.
- ❖ CJI DY Chandrachud to be conferred with 2022 CLP Award for Global Leadership by Harvard Law School.
- ❖ Haryana's women Hockey team won the Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Women's Under 18 Qualifiers after defeating Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Koustav Chatterjee became India's 78th Grandmaster in MPL 59th National Senior Chess Championship in New Delhi.
- ❖ Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the two-day 83rd All India Presiding Officers Conference in Jaipur.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu chess player M Pranesh won Rilton Cup 2022-23 and become India's 79th Grandmaster.
- ❖ India's squash player Anahat Singh won the girls' under-15 title at the British Junior Open.
- ❖ Union Ministry of State Science & Technology released the theme for the "National Science Day 2023", as "Global Science for Global Wellbeing".
- ❖ Naatu Naatu from SS Rajamouli's RRR movie, won the Golden Globe Award 2023 in Best Original Song category.
- ❖ ReNew Power has installed India's first 3x platform wind turbine generators in Gadag, Karnataka.



- ❖ UK Prince Harry's biography 'Spare' has become the 'fastest-selling' non-fiction book ever after it was released on January 10.
- ❖ Cognizant has appointed former Infosys president Ravi Kumar S as its new Chief Executive Officer.
- ❖ US space agency NASA has appointed Indian-American aerospace expert AC Charania as its new Chief Technologist.
- ❖ Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL) will set up India's first group captive solar plant for a residential society in Mumbai.
- ❖ Hockey world cup 2023, Men's Hockey World Cup, will be played from January 13 to 29, 2023 in Odisha.
- ❖ The 21st Edition of the Bilateral Naval Exercise between India and France – Exercise Varuna commenced recently in India.
 - The bilateral exercise between the two navies were initiated in 1993.
- ❖ Vidisha, an aspirational district of Madhya Pradesh became the first ever district in India for on ground deployment of innovative 5G use cases offered by startups.
- ❖ Former India cricket team captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni and drone market Garuda Aerospace have launched a surveillance drone named 'Droni'.
- ❖ An Italian man has created Guinness World Records for typing copies of 81 books backwards.
 - This technique is called 'mirror writing'.
- ❖ India's first Centre of Excellence (CoE) of online gaming will be set up in Shillong, Meghalaya by March 2023.
- ❖ Falak Mumtaz, a 11-year-old, from South Kashmir bagged a gold medal in National Sqay Championship, held in Jammu.
- ❖ As part of India's G-20 presidency, a Business-20 (B-20) inception meeting will be organised at Gandhinagar in Gujarat between the 22nd to 24th of January.
- ❖ Chief Economic Adviser to the Treasury of UK, Clare Lombardelli, has been appointed as the new OECD Chief Economist.
 - She is the first British person has held this role in thirty years.
- ❖ Sultan al-Jaber, the head of the United Arab Emirates' national oil company was named as president of this year's COP28 climate talks.
- ❖ The National Payment Corporation of India has now allowed to use of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) by non-resident Indians using their international mobile numbers.



- ❖ NCERT has notified India's first national assessment regulator, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development), which aims to set up assessment guidelines for all boards.
- ❖ Pankaj Kumar Singh, a former Director General of the Border Security Force, has been appointed as India's Deputy National Security Advisor.
- ❖ The three-day meeting of the first Health Working Group under India's G20 presidency held in Thiruvananthapuram.
- ❖ The World Economic Forum (WEF) has chosen Hyderabad for establishing its Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution focused on healthcare and life sciences.
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir becomes the first Indian Union Territory to completely shift to e-governance mode.
 - Jammu and Kashmir has become the first Union Territory of India to go completely digital.
- ❖ The Jammu and Kashmir government has declared the whole Union Territory as "Free Area" for purposes of Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009.
- ❖ ICMR-NARFBR (National Animal Resource Facility for Biomedical Research) facility was inaugurated at Genome Valley, Hyderabad.
- ❖ ESAF Small Finance Bank has bagged the prestigious Inclusive Finance India Awards 2022 for its contributions in advancing the goal of financial inclusion and supporting inclusive growth.
- ❖ The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has decided to dedicate the International Day of Education 2023 to Afghan girls and women.
- ❖ Himalayan Cataract Project Co-Founder Dr Sanduk Ruit has won the ISA Award for Service to Humanity, a top civilian award of Bahrain.
- ❖ Renowned author K Venu was awarded the Federal Bank Literary Award 2022 for his autobiography 'Oarnavashanthinte Katha'.
- ❖ Goa Manohar International Airport (MIA) has been awarded the prestigious "Best Sustainable Greenfield Airport" award under Aviation Sustainability and Environment at the ASSOCHAM 14th International Conference.
- ❖ India assumed the presidency of the 13th assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency.
- ❖ The 16th edition Jaipur Literature Festival 2023 concluded recently in Rajasthan.



- ❖ Aruna Miller has made a history by becoming the first Indian-American politician to be sworn in as the Lieutenant Governor in the state of Maryland, USA.
- ❖ Higher Education Minister in Kerala R Bindu announced that girl students above the age of 18 years would get menstrual leave of 60 days.
- ❖ The Ruling party in New Zealand chooses the education minister to replace Jacinda Ardern as its new leader and become New Zealand's next prime minister.
- ❖ Indian Navy's fifth stealth Scorpene class Submarine, INS Vagir, was commissioned into the Indian Navy.
- ❖ National AIDS Control Organisation forms Largest Human Red Ribbon Chain in Kalinga Stadium of Bhubaneswar, Odisha to create awareness on AIDS.
- ❖ The International Cricket Council's (ICC) 92.2 million followers across Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, TikTok and YouTube makes it the most followed international sports federation on social media.
- ❖ Hindustani vocalist Padma Vibhushan Dr. Prabha Aatre was conferred with the Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia Lifetime Achievement Award.
- ❖ Tata Trusts has appointed Siddharth Sharma as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Trusts and Aparna Uppaluri as the Chief Operating Officer (COO).
- ❖ Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB's) Laxman Rawat emerged winner at the NSCI All India Snooker Open, by defeating fellow PSPB challenger Aditya Mehta.
- ❖ The eighth India International Science Festival is to be held in Bhopal under the Theme 'Marching Towards AMRIT KAAL with Science and Technology'.
- ❖ Visakhapatnam railway station has received the prestigious 'Green Railway Station Certification' with the highest Platinum rating.
 - The certificate has been awarded by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for adopting green concepts.
- ❖ The first India Stack Developer Conference held in New Delhi.
 - The conference will dwell on ways and means to ensure wider adoption of India's digital goods all over the world.
- ❖ India won against England to triumph in the first-ever ICC U19 Women's T20 Cricket World Cup 2023.
 - It was the first edition of the ICC Women's Under-19 Cricket World Cup, hosted by South Africa in 2023.
- ❖ Germany beat Belgium 5-4 in the penalty shootout to win the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

TAMIL NADU

81st session of the Indian History Congress (IHC)

- ❖ The 81st session of the Indian History Congress concluded at the Madras Christian College in Tambaram.
- ❖ This is held after a gap of 25 years in Tamilnadu.
- ❖ The last time, an IHC session was held in Tamil Nadu, was in 1996 organised by the University of Madras.
- ❖ The IHC was founded in 1935, and is the largest association of professional historians in South Asia.

Botanical garden in Chengalpattu

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government is planning to set up a botanical garden at Kadambur Village in the state's Chengalpattu district.
- ❖ This project, to be set up in partnership with the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, London, will come up across 138 hectares.
- ❖ The botanical garden will be set up with the objective to conserve and propagate the native plant species of Tamil Nadu, including rare, threatened and endangered plant species.

Cost ₹300 crore	ABOUT THE INITIATIVE
Area 137 hectares	
Location Kadambur, Chengalpet	Stage Detailed project report being prepared
Speciality The facility will have several types of plants including climate-resilient species and gardens	In pipeline MoU with Kew Gardens, a UK based non-departmental organisation and a botanical garden society
> Will have infra like glass house and greenhouse to support plants	> Will be the third in/near city after Semmozhi Poonga and Madhavaram botanical

Ban on Mobile in Temples

- ❖ In order to maintain the “sanctity and purity” of places of worship, the Madurai bench of the Madras High Court directed the Tamil Nadu government to ban the use of mobile phones in temples across the state.

- ❖ The judges observed that there cannot be any dispute that under Article 25 of the Constitution, all persons are entitled to freely profess, practice and propagate religion.
- ❖ According to the rules of the Tamil Nadu Temple Entry Authorization Act, 1947, trustees or any authority in-charge of the temple can make regulations for the maintenance of order and decorum on the premises.
- ❖ In its order, the court cited the ban on mobile phones in the Sri Krishna temple in Guruvayur, Meenakshi Sundareswarar temple in Madurai, and Sri Venkateswara temple in Tirupati.
- ❖ There are separate security counters in each of these temples to deposit mobile phones before entering the premises.



Whole-day annadhanam scheme

- ❖ TN Chief Minister launched whole-day Annadhanam in three more temples in the state.
- ❖ The 3 temples are Ramanathaswamy temple in Rameswaram, Arunachaleswarar temple in Tiruvannamalai and Meenakshi Sundareswarar temple in Madurai.
- ❖ With this, the scheme to provide annadhanam from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. now covers eight temples.

Borrowing of ₹51,000 crore

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is planning to raise ₹51,000 crore in the fourth quarter (January-March) of fiscal 2022-2023.
- ❖ This will be done by auctioning off bonds called State Development Loans.
- ❖ This is 45.7% higher than the ₹35,000 crore it borrowed in the fourth quarter (Q4) of fiscal 2022.
- ❖ From April-December 2022, the State borrowed ₹49,000 crore, which is lower than the ₹52,000 crore it borrowed during the same period in 2021.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's total revenue receipts is ₹1,29,600.46 crore so far in fiscal 2022-23 (till October).
- ❖ This is a 28.3% increase from ₹1,01,047.40 crore in the same period last year.
- ❖ The State's fiscal deficit stood at ₹25,931.10 crore as of October-end, 2022.
- ❖ This was ₹28,108.69 crore at the end of October 2021.
- ❖ In fiscal 2021-22, the State's gross borrowings was ₹87,000 crore.

Octave 2023

- ❖ Octave 2023 is a festival that celebrating the culture of North-eastern India.
- ❖ It is organised by the South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur, in Chennai.
- ❖ This festival will enable the residents of Chennai to appreciate the Northeast's culture, diversity and richness.
- ❖ The North-eastern eight States makes up for 4% of our population and 8% of geography of India.

Best city for women's employment

MOST WOMEN-INCLUSIVE CITIES			
With over 1 mn population		With <1 mn population	
Rank	Score	Rank	Score
1 Chennai	78.41	1 Tiruchirappalli	71.61
2 Pune	69.44	2 Vellore	70.30
3 Bengaluru	64.48	3 Erode	66.50
4 Hyderabad	62.47	4 Salem	65.86
5 Mumbai	61.11	5 Tiruppur	64.21
6 Ahmedabad	58.62	6 Puducherry	63.62
7 Visakhapatnam	56.14	7 Shimla	58.05
8 Kolkata	54.80	8 Mangaluru	58.02
9 Coimbatore	51.16	9 Thiruvananthapuram	57.19
10 Madurai	49.35	10 Belagavi	55.51

Source: Avtar study

- ❖ Chennai is India's best city for women's employment.
- ❖ It is followed by Pune, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Mumbai.
- ❖ This report was published by Avtar, a firm specialising in workplace inclusion.
- ❖ The report ranks 111 cities on parameters nurturing a conducive ecosystem for women's employment.

- ❖ Tiruchirappalli, Vellore, Erode are the top cities in another category of cities with a population of less than one million.
- ❖ Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, and Karnataka got top five state averages in the country.

Global Tamil Angels platform

- ❖ The Chief Minister of Tamilnadu launched the Global Tamil Angels platform (www.tamilangels.fund) of Start-upTN.
- ❖ It will enable investors from the Global Tamil Diaspora to make investments in Tamil Nadu-based start-ups.
- ❖ This platform was launched at the “Global Startup Investors Summit”.

‘Saarang 2023’

- ❖ Country’s largest student-run festival Saarang 2023 was held at Chennai.
- ❖ This year was the 28th Edition of the Saarang.
- ❖ The theme for Saarang 2023 is ‘Mystic Hues’
- ❖ This is held in physical mode after a gap of three years due to Covid.
- ❖ Students from more than 500 colleges from all over the Country participated in the event



Sethusamudram canal project

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Assembly passed a resolution urging the Union government to take up the shelved Sethusamudram project.
- ❖ The aim is to create a sea link between the western and eastern coasts of India so that ships can avoid going around Sri Lanka.
- ❖ This is seen to help maritime trade, akin to Panama and Suze canals.

- ❖ First it was conceived in 1860 by the British.
- ❖ Prime Minister Manmohan Singh launched the project on July 2, 2005.
- ❖ Religious groups and environmentalists have vehemently opposed the project.
- ❖ The project has been stalled since 2007 following a legal dispute involving the Government and the opposition party.
- ❖ Ram Sethu is a chain of limestone shoals between Rameshwaram island off India's southeast and Mannar island off Sri Lanka's northwest.
- ❖ According to Hindu mythology, this bridge was constructed by Hanuman and his army to help Lord Shriram.
- ❖ Construction of the canal will cause considerable damage to the marine ecosystem of Pak Bay and Gulf of Mannar.
- ❖ Meteorological researchers view the region as highly vulnerable due to unpredictable cyclones.



Jallikattu celebrations

- ❖ 'Jallikattu' also known as 'Eru Thazhuvuthal' and 'Manjuvirattu' held in Palamedu of Madurai district.
- ❖ Jallikattu was practiced in Tamil Nadu as a part of Pongal celebrations on the day of Mattu Pongal.
- ❖ The sport is held in various locations across the state, including Avaniyapuram, Palamedu, and Alanganallur.
- ❖ The sport is a traditional way of preserving pure breed native bulls for the peasant community.
- ❖ Except in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, the sport is banned in other states such as Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- ❖ In Karnataka Jallikattu is called Kambala.



First International Book Fair

- ❖ The first edition of the Chennai International Book Fair kicked off at the YMCA Grounds in Nandanam.
- ❖ The three-day international fair has been organised by the Directorate of Public Libraries, Tamil Nadu Text Book and Educational Services Corporation and Booksellers and Publishers Association of South India.
- ❖ Now Chennai joins cities such as Frankfurt, Poland, London and Beijing, known for their book festivals.

MEGA EVENT	
<p>➤ The first edition of Chennai International Book Fair will be a three-day event</p>	<p>➤ International pavilion, a publishing conference, rights hub to be part of the fair</p>
<p>➤ Authors from 30 to 40 countries are expected to attend</p>	<p>➤ TN to unveil its global translation grant programme at the event</p>



Wealthiest STEM innovation and learning center

- ❖ The American India Foundation (AIF) inaugurated India's first STEM Innovation and Learning Center (SILC) under the scheme of Vanavil Mandram in Chennai.
- ❖ This centre is to be a one-stop solution for STEM among students and teachers, according to a press release.
- ❖ The centre will introduce students to a transdisciplinary learning approach through robotics, AI, Space technology, and the STEM incubation workstation.

Padma awardees in Tamilnadu

- ❖ Six persons from Tamil Nadu and one from Puducherry have been chosen for the Padma Awards this year for their contribution in their respective fields, including medicine, art and social work.
- ❖ Expert snake catchers from the Irula community, Vadivel Gopal and Masi Sadaiyan, were selected for the Padma Shree award.
- ❖ While renowned singer Vani Jairam has been selected for the Padma Bhushan award, Palam Kalyana Sundaram (Social Work), Dr. Gopalsamy Veluchamy (Medicine), K Kalyanasundaram Pillai (Art) from Tamil Nadu have been chosen for Padma Shree.
- ❖ Dr. Nalini Parthasarathi (Medicine) of Puducherry has also been selected for Padma Shree.
- ❖ Dr Veluchamy was among the first to suggest 'kabasura kudineer' as a potential drug for Covid-19 management.
- ❖ Vani Jairam is the only person from Tamil Nadu to get the prestigious Padma Bhushan.



CM on Field Visit

- ❖ Chief Minister MK Stalin will be launching a new initiative - Kala Aaivil Mudhalvar (Chief Minister on Field Visit) on February 1 and 2 from Vellore district.
- ❖ It aims to review the progress of the welfare and developmental schemes in four districts - Vellore, Ranipet, Thirupathur and Thiruvannamalai.
- ❖ He will visit the entire state zone-wise in the coming months.
- ❖ For this purpose, all districts are likely to be divided into 10 zones, with each zone having four or five districts.



PURPOSE

Providing an opportunity for the general public to air their grievances unchecked by the local district officials

ON CALL

Top brass from Revenue, Police, Local Administration, Health, Agriculture, Education and Public Works departments

FOCUS ON

Local public, trade unions, SHGs, activists, farmers and traders can meet the CM and air their grievances

NATIONAL

Financial Literacy and Inclusion survey

- ❖ The Pan-India "Financial Literacy and Inclusion survey" was conducted by the Reserve Bank of India.
- ❖ Digital banking awareness and knowledge among rural and urban population across the country is at par with each other.
- ❖ Understanding and being proficient in the use of different financial skills, such as investing, budgeting, and personal financial management, is known as financial literacy.

Prahari App

- ❖ Recently Union Home Minister launched 'Prahari' app for Border Security Force (BSF) Jawans.
- ❖ The Prahari App can be used by the jawans of the Border Security Force (BSF) to get information about the accommodation facilities, Ayushman-CAPF and leaves.

- ❖ This application also provides information about bio-data, grievance redressal on the “Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CP-GRAMS).
- ❖ It provides information related to various welfare schemes for the BSF.
- ❖ It will connect the user to the Home Ministry’s portal.



3-D printed dwelling unit

- ❖ The Indian Army launched its first-ever 3-D Printed House Dwelling Unit at Ahmedabad.
- ❖ Military Engineering Services (MES), in collaboration with MiCoB Pvt Ltd, has made the dwelling unit with the latest 3D Rapid Construction Technology.
- ❖ It complies with Zone-3 earthquake specifications and green building regulations.



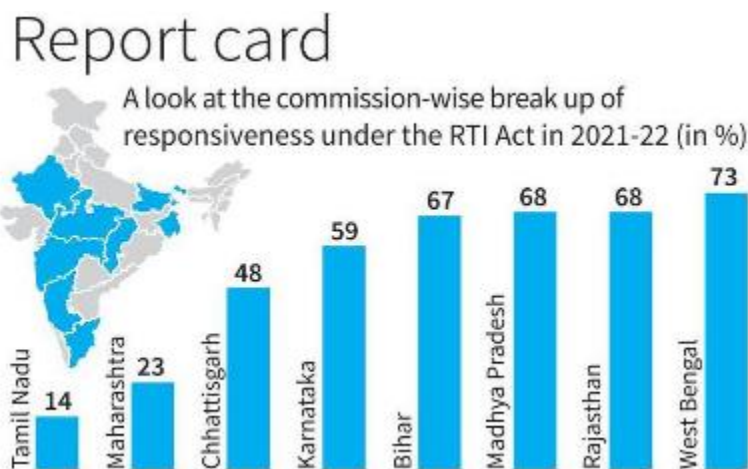
Thomas M Devasia committee

- ❖ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set up a 24-member committee.
- ❖ It is mandated to develop and suggest an affordable and comprehensive cover for the rural population.
- ❖ The panel will be headed by Thomas M Devasia who is a member of the IRDAI.
- ❖ The committee will recommend a regulatory framework for proposed cover which will be a benefit based parametric structure, called Bima Vistaar.



Performance of Information Commission (ICs)

- ❖ The State Information Commission of Tamil Nadu has the lowest performance of responsiveness under the RTI Act.
- ❖ It was with only up to 14% of the information sought out of 29 information commissions across the country.
- ❖ Maharashtra was second lowest with sharing only 23% of the information asked for.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh returned around 40% of the appeals or complaints received by them.



Remote Electronic Voting Machine (RVM)

- ❖ The election Commission of India (ECI) has developed a prototype for the Remote Electronic Voting Machine (RVM) aimed to facilitate voting for domestic migrants across India.

- ❖ The RVM will be a stand-alone system, not connected to the internet, and based on existing electronic voting machines.
- ❖ The goal of the RVM is to increase voter participation and make it easier for domestic migrants to participate in elections.
- ❖ The RVM is a multi-constituency electronic voting machine that can handle up to 72 constituencies from a single remote polling booth.
- ❖ It is based on the time-tested M3 (Mark 3) EVMs and will be used to enable voting at remote polling stations for domestic migrants.
- ❖ The Representation of the People Act, 1950 and 1951, The Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, and The Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 will need to be amended to introduce remote voting.

What is an RVM?

The machine allows migrant voters living outside their home constituencies to vote from their current residence

- The remote voter must register online/offline within a pre-notified time before the elections with their home constituency Returning Officer

- After successful verification at their home constituency, the voter will be approved for the remote voting facility

- Booths will be set up near their current homes



EVMs being sealed after an election

- In an RVM, a single ballot unit can cater to many constituencies at a single polling station by using dynamic ballot display instead of the usual printed paper ballot sheet

Triple Test Survey on Reservation

- ❖ The Allahabad High Court had ordered the Uttar Pradesh Government to conduct urban local body elections without the OBC reservations.
- ❖ Because the “triple test” requirement for the quota has not been fulfilled.
- ❖ The Supreme Court put forth the triple test in the case *Vikas Kishanrao Gawali vs. State of Maharashtra* and others in 2021.
- ❖ It involves the government implementing three tasks to finalize the reservation to the OBCs in the local bodies.
- ❖ These tasks are
 - To constitute a dedicated commission to conduct a rigorous empirical study into the nature and implications of the backwardness in local bodies

- To specify the proportion of reservation required in local bodies based on the commission's recommendations
- To ensure that the reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs together do not surpass the aggregate of 50 percent of the total seats.

**Reservation
of Other
Backward
Classes
(OBCs) in
the Uttar
Pradesh
urban local
body
elections**

The UP government drafted notification for the reservation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the urban local body elections based on the rapid survey it conducted.

The Allahabad High Court ordered the UP government to hold urban local body elections without reservation for OBCs as the 'triple test' requirement for it had not been met.

After the Allahabad High Court quashed draft poll notification, the UP Government appointed a 5 member commission to conduct triple test.

Proposal to Shift from “Minimum” to “Living” Wages

- ❖ The Union Labour Ministry is currently mulling to shift from the “minimum wages” to “living wages” in a bid to bring more people from poverty in the country.
- ❖ The term “living wage” is the theoretical income level that enables an individual or a family to afford adequate shelter, food, healthcare and other basic necessities.
- ❖ It is the minimum income of that helps support a satisfactory standard of living and prevents individuals from falling into poverty.
- ❖ A living wage is defined as the minimum income necessary for workers to meet their basic necessities.
- ❖ It is different from the minimum wage, which is based on labor productivity and skill sets.
- ❖ Minimum wage is the lowest amount of money a labourer can earn as mandated by the law.
- ❖ It does not change based on inflation. It can increase only with the government intervention.
- ❖ This is not true for the living wage.
- ❖ The living wage is determined by the average cost to live comfortably, while the minimum wage is the fixed amount set by the government.

Official Government of India Calendar for 2023

- ❖ The Union Minister Anurag Thakur has released the Official Government of India Calendar for the year 2023.
- ❖ It includes 12 themes for 12 months to showcase the various efforts taken by the Indian Government to ensure the welfare of the public.
- ❖ Overall, this calendar reflects the Indian Government's vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas.
- ❖ It is created based on the theme 'Naya Varsh, Naye Sankalp'.
- ❖ This calendar is available in 13 languages, including English and Hindi.



Early Warning System

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Power and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to set up early warning systems for vulnerable hydro projects or power stations in the hilly regions.
- ❖ Currently, the majority of hydropower projects and dams in hilly regions do not have early warning systems.
- ❖ An early warning system (EWS) is an integrated system of
 - Hazard monitoring, forecasting and prediction
 - Disaster risk assessment
 - Communication and preparedness activities system
 - Processes that enable individuals, communities, governments, and businesses to take timely action to minimize disaster risks.

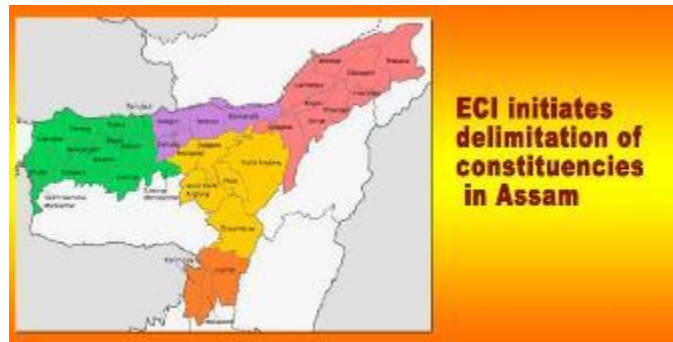
Delimitation of Constituencies in Assam

- ❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) recently commenced the process of delimitation of state assembly and parliamentary constituencies of Assam.



- ❖ The last delimitation in Assam happened in 1976.
- ❖ The current delimitation exercise is being conducted based on the 1971 Census.
- ❖ Delimitation is the process of redrawing boundaries of state assembly seats and the Lok Sabha seats to represent the changing population numbers.
- ❖ The main purpose of the delimitation exercise is to ensure equal representation to equal segments of a population.
- ❖ Since the population does not increase uniformly, delimitation reflects the changes in the distribution of the population over a period of time.
- ❖ The Delimitation Commission is an independent commission responsible for conducting delimitation exercises.
- ❖ It is set up by the Central Government under the Delimitation Commission Act.
- ❖ This commission jointly works with the Election Commission of India (ECI) to conduct the delimitation.
- ❖ It includes a retired Supreme Court Judge, the Chief Election Commissioner and the respective state's State Election Commissioners.
- ❖ Article 82 of the Constitution requires the Indian Parliament to enact a Delimitation Act after every Census.
- ❖ Once this Act is in force, the Central Government must set up a Delimitation Commission.
- ❖ A total of 4 Delimitation Commissions have been set up in the past (1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002).
- ❖ The 2002 Act did not make any changes in the total number of Lok Sabha seats or their apportionment between various states.
- ❖ It left out Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur from the delimitation exercise due to security concerns.
- ❖ The Indian Government reconstituted the Delimitation Commission for these 4 states and the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir in 2020.
- ❖ The last delimitation exercise that changed the state-wise composition of the Lok Sabha happened in 1976.
- ❖ It was conducted based on the 1971 census.
- ❖ The delimitation exercises were not conducted frequently in the recent past.
- ❖ This is because the Indian Constitution mandates that the number of Lok Sabha seats allocated to a state should be (as far as it is achievable) same for all states.
- ❖ To address this issue, the Indian Constitution was amended in 1976 to suspend the delimitation until 2001.

- ❖ Another amendment was enacted to delay the delimitation exercise further until 2026.



G20 Science Working Group's Secretariat

- ❖ The Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has been chosen as the secretariat for science 20 (S20).
- ❖ It will work towards resolving common global-level challenges like poverty.
- ❖ It will be discussed at the events that will be held in Agartala, Lakshadweep, and Bhopal throughout the year of 2023.
- ❖ The S20 summit, which will be held in Coimbatore, will bring together all the science ministers from the G20 countries.
- ❖ The theme of the Science 20 (S20) 2023 is 'Disruptive Science for Innovative and Sustainable Development'.




Women workers in MGNREGS

- ❖ The proportion of women workers participating in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has touched a ten-year high in the ongoing financial year.
- ❖ As per the Union Ministry of Rural Development report, 57.8% of the workers who used the scheme this year were women.

- ❖ This is their highest level of participation since 2012-13.
- ❖ Out of the reviewed 15 States, 14 States reported an upward trend in women's participation.
- ❖ The Kerala witnessed the minute drop.
- ❖ For the last five years, in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, women's share in the MGNREGA workforce has been hovering between 85-90%.
- ❖ The growth spike was higher in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The proportion of women workers in Bihar grew 3.7 percentage points this year, while UP saw a 3.3 percentage point hike.
- ❖ But even after this year's spike, UP is still skimming just above the mandatory women's participation level of 33% under MGNREGA.
- ❖ This year, 37.6% person days were used by women as opposed to last year's figure of 34.28%.
- ❖ Women make up less than 50% of the MGNREGA workforce in seven States: Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Assam, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Kickstarting **rural demand**

The government aims to revise wages of MGNREGA workers to address the slowdown in the rural economy



- MGNREGA wages will be linked to an updated inflation index
- Higher wages will increase MGNREGA expenditure by 10%
- They may also increase purchasing power and revive rural demand
- MGNREGA budgetary allocation for FY20: **₹60,000 crore**
- Funds released till Sept. 17: **₹46,486 cr.**
- Additional funds requested: **₹15,000-20,000 crore**

New integrated Food Security Scheme

- ❖ The Central Government of India recently announced the launch of a new integrated food security scheme.
- ❖ It will provide free food grains to 81.35 crore beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) for the year 2023.

- ❖ The Cabinet has decided to implement this central sector scheme in order to fulfil the vision of “One Nation-One Price-One Ration”.
- ❖ This is intended to benefit the most vulnerable 67% of the population, which is 81.35 crore persons covered under the NFSA.



108th Indian Science Congress (ISC)

- ❖ The 108th annual session of ISC held at Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, Nagpur.
- ❖ The focal theme of this year's ISC is “Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment”.
- ❖ Tribal Science Congress will also be held along with this event.
- ❖ The first session of the Congress was held in 1914.

Verdict on Demonetization Case

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India has upheld the 2016 decision of the government to demonetize currency notes of INR 500 and INR 1,000 denominations.
- ❖ On November 8, 2016, the Indian Prime Minister announced the demonetization of INR 500 and INR 1,000 banknotes.
- ❖ The decision to demonetize the high-value currency notes was challenged in the Supreme Court.
- ❖ The Supreme Court constituted a Constitution Bench in September 2022 to consider the validity of the demonetization decision.
- ❖ Now this decision, was taken by a 4:1 majority of the Constitution Bench.

'NOT RELEVANT WHETHER OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED OR NOT'	
<p>MAJORITY VERDICT OF JUSTICES SA NAZEER, BR GAVAI, AS BOPANNA & V RAMASUBRAMANIAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Majority verdict says demonetisation had a "reasonable nexus with its objectives" such as eradicating black money and terror funding and it is not relevant whether those objectives were achieved or not > Says government was in consultation with RBI for six months and it is empowered to take such a decision > No fresh window to exchange notes, 52 days' time given earlier not unreasonable <p>“There has to be great restraint in matters of economic policy. Court cannot supplant the wisdom of executive with its wisdom...”</p>	<p>MINORITY VERDICT OF JUSTICE BV NAGARATHNA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Demonetisation move 'exercise of power' by Union government, contrary to law and vitiated under the RBI Act > Carried out in 24 hours, so central bank had no time to consider it > Parliament, which is "at the centre of our democracy, cannot be left aloof in a matter of such importance" > Around 98% of value of banned currency reported to have been exchanged, so measure may not have been as effective as it was hoped to be <p>“This (use of phrases such as 'as desired' by the Centre in communication to RBI governor) demonstrates that there was no independent application of mind by the Bank</p>

SMART Program for Ayurveda

- ❖ The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) and the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) have launched 'SMART' program.
- ❖ SMART stands for Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research in Teaching Professionals program.
- ❖ It aims to boost scientific research through Ayurveda colleges and hospitals.

Lists of nuclear assets and inmates

- ❖ Pakistan and India exchanged lists of their nuclear facilities as part of a 1988 pact.
- ❖ This pact bars them from attacking each other's nuclear installations, according to official statements from both sides.
- ❖ The lists were simultaneously handed over through their respective diplomats in Islamabad and New Delhi.
- ❖ India and Pakistan also exchanged lists of prisoners in each other's custody as part of an agreement dating back to 2008.
- ❖ Pakistan shared a list of 705 detained Indians, 51 civilians and 654 fishermen.
- ❖ India shared a list of 434 Pakistanis in its custody, 339 civilians and 95 fishermen.
- ❖ The 2008 agreement gives each side consular access to prisoners.
- ❖ Also, it requires them to exchange lists of prisoners in each other's custody each January and July.



Prajjwala Challenge

- ❖ Ministry of Rural Development launches Prajjwala Challenge.
- ❖ It was inviting ideas, solutions and actions to transform rural economy.
- ❖ The Mission is looking for ideas and solutions around Innovative Technology Solution, Inclusive Growth, Value Chain Interventions, Enhanced Women Entrepreneurship, Cost effective Solutions, Sustainability, place-based employment, localised models etc.

India's first underwater tunnel

- ❖ As part of Kolkata's East-West Metro Corridor, India's first underwater tunnel is being built under the Hooghly River in West Bengal.
- ❖ The metro trains that will use the structure will take just 45 seconds to cross the 520-metre underwater tunnel.
- ❖ The Kolkata metro tunnel in Kolkata is 13 metres below the riverbed and 33 metres below the ground.



World Bank's flagship Gender Toolkit

- ❖ A Gender Toolkit based on "Enabling gender responsive urban mobility and public spaces" was launched recently.

- ❖ It aims at bringing under spotlight the gender issues surrounding mobility and city design.
- ❖ The toolkit is a two-volume guide brought out by the World Bank.
- ❖ It has a details of four-pillar implementation framework for urban bodies to design a gender responsive urban mobility and public spaces programme.



India's First Green Hydrogen Blending Project

- ❖ NTPC Limited and Gujarat Gas Limited have commissioned India's first green hydrogen blending project in Surat.
- ❖ Green hydrogen is produced through the electrolysis of water, using electricity generated from renewable sources such as solar or wind power.
- ❖ Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board given permission for a 5% vol./vol. blending of green hydrogen with Piped Natural Gas (PNG) initially.
- ❖ The blending level is to be gradually increased to reach 20%.



18th National Scout and Guide Jamboree

- ❖ Rajasthan hosted the 18th National Scout and Guide Jamboree after a 66-year gap.
- ❖ The Jamboree provide a platform for young scouts to share their customs, food habits, handicrafts, and religious practices with each other.
- ❖ A variety of competitions was also to be organized during the Jamboree.

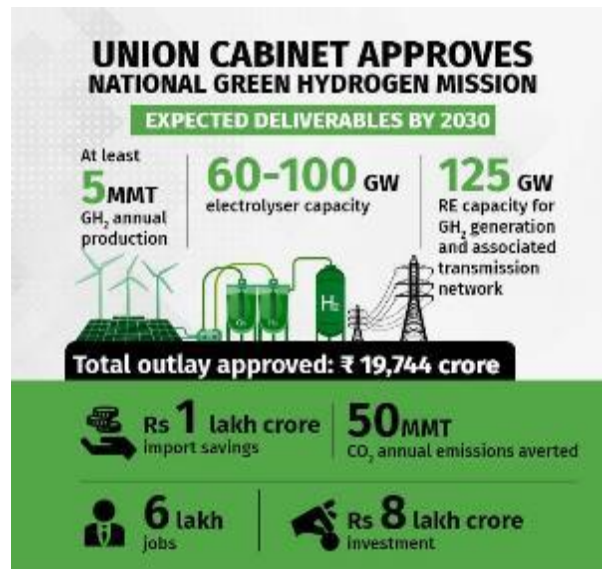
BIND scheme

- ❖ The Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) scheme was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.
- ❖ It will focus on expanding and upgrading the infrastructure of Prasar Bharati, as well as improving the digital content and distribution network.
- ❖ As part of the project, Prasar Bharati will also purchase OB vans and digitally upgrade DD and AIR studios to make them HD ready.
- ❖ Currently, DD operates 36 TV channels, including 28 regional channels, while AIR operates over 500 broadcasting centers.
- ❖ The BIND scheme will increase the coverage of AIR FM transmitters in the country to 66% by geographical area and 80% by population, up from 59% and 68%, respectively.



National Green Hydrogen Mission

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- ❖ This Mission aims to make India a Global Hub for production, utilization and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.
- ❖ The Mission will facilitate demand creation, production, utilization and export of Green Hydrogen.
- ❖ It will help in India becoming energy independent and in Decarbonisation of major sectors of the economy.



National Campaign on RISE

- ❖ The National Campaign on 'RISE - Rising India Through Spiritual Empowerment', was organized by Brahma Kumaris at Mount Abu, Rajasthan.
- ❖ It is aimed at spiritually empowering Indian nationals in order to fulfill the dream of a "Golden India."
- ❖ Brahma Kumaris believes that self-transformation leads to world transformation.

e-SCR project

- ❖ The CJI, D Y Chandrachud, has announced the launch of the electronic Supreme Court Reports (e-SCR) project.
- ❖ It aims to provide free access to around 34,000 judgments of the apex court to lawyers, law students, and the general public.
- ❖ These judgments will be available on the Supreme Court's website, mobile app, and on the National Judicial Data Grid's judgment portal.
- ❖ The CJI also announced that neutral citations will be introduced in the Supreme Court.
- ❖ The Neutral citations are standardized legal citations that do not identify the publisher of a legal document.
- ❖ It was allowing for impartial and objective referencing.
- ❖ Delhi and Kerala High Courts already use neutral citations.



World's longest river cruise

- ❖ The world's longest river cruise - 'Ganga Vilas' - all set to flag off from Varanasi to Dibrugarh via Bangladesh.
- ❖ It was covering a journey of 3200 km in 50 days and passing through 27 river systems in India and Bangladesh.
- ❖ The cruise ship will give tourists a chance to visit over 50 architecturally important places, including world heritage sites.
- ❖ This will also pass-through national parks and sanctuaries, including the Sundarbans Delta and the Kaziranga National Park.



Decennial census

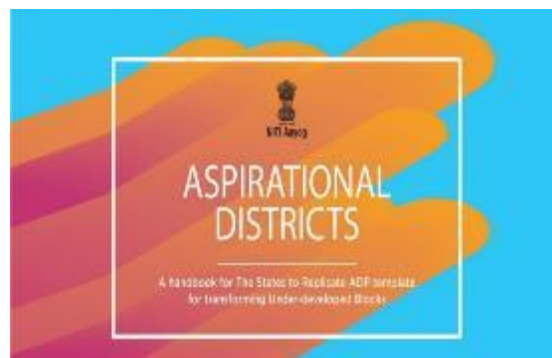
- ❖ The decennial census exercise has been postponed till September.
- ❖ The Government informed the States that the date of freezing of administrative boundaries has been extended till June 30.
- ❖ As per norms, census can be conducted only three months after freezing of boundary limits of administrative units such as districts, sub-districts, tehsils, talukas and police stations.
- ❖ The last census was held in 2011.

- ❖ The first phase of Census 2021 - the House listing and Housing Census along with updating the National Population Register (NPR) were scheduled to be held from April-September 2020.
- ❖ But they were postponed indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ The upcoming census is to be held for the first time both in digital mode and through paper schedules (questionnaire/forms).



Aspirational Blocks Programme

- ❖ The Centre is set to launch the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP).
- ❖ It is a new initiative on the lines of the Aspirational District Programme.
- ❖ It is aimed at improving performance of districts lagging on various development parameters.
- ❖ Under the ABP, 500 blocks across states have been identified.
- ❖ These 500 blocks have been identified on the basis of the recommendations of a four-member committee constituted by the government last year.



Largest Single Unit of UN Women Peacekeepers

- ❖ India will deploy a platoon of women peacekeepers to UN Mission in Sudan.
- ❖ This will be India's largest single unit of women Peacekeepers in a UN Mission.

- ❖ India deployed the first-ever all-women contingent in Liberia in 2007.
- ❖ The U.N. Peacekeeping mission is a joint effort between the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support.
- ❖ It aims to assist host countries to transition from situations of conflict to peace.
- ❖ India is the second largest contributor to UN peacekeeping missions deployed across 12 missions after Bangladesh.



iFANS-2023

- ❖ 'International Conference on Food and Nutritional Security-2023 (iFANS-2023)' was inaugurated at Mohali.
- ❖ iFANS-2023 conference envisages bringing together international experts and young researchers in the areas of agriculture, food, and nutrition biotechnology, and genome editing.



National Genome Editing and Training Centre (NGETC)

- ❖ NGETC is a one-roof state-of-the-art facility.
- ❖ It will serve as a national platform to cater to the regional needs to adapt different genome editing methods, including CRISPR-Cas mediated genome modification.

- ❖ Genome editing could be a promising technology that Indian research could adapt to offer the desired tailor-made traits in crops.
- ❖ National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute has shown ability and can expand the genome editing tools to vast arrays of crops, including Banana, Rice, Wheat, Tomato, Maize and Millets.

India's longest rail track with automatic signaling system

- ❖ The Indian Railways has rolled out the 'Automatic Block Signalling' on a mission mode.
- ❖ The ABS is a cost-effective solution.
- ❖ Indian Railways' Ghaziabad-Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay section has become the nation's longest fully Automatic Block Signalling section.
- ❖ The 762 km long route has been fully automated.
- ❖ ABS helps to control the movement of the trains by the automatic stop signals.



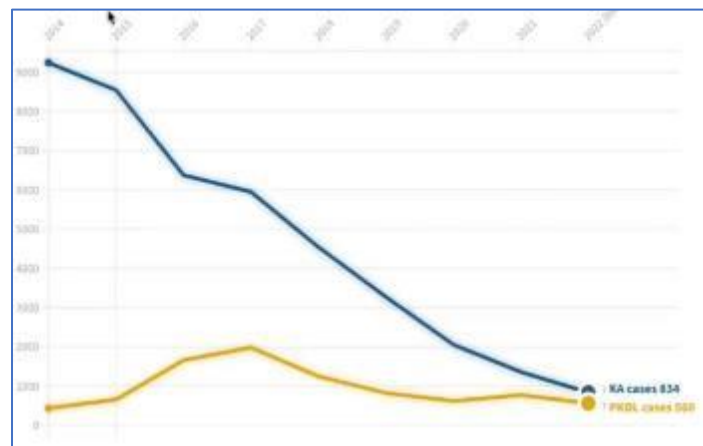
Voluntary Vehicle-Fleet Modernization Program

- ❖ 11 states and UTs have joined the National Single window system for the Voluntary Vehicle-Fleet Modernization Program (V-VMP).
- ❖ It will encourage private investment in the ecosystem for car recycling.
- ❖ The Vehicle Scrappage Policy is a government-funded programme to scrap old and unfit vehicles and replace them with modern and new vehicles on Indian roads.
- ❖ The primary goal of the policy is to create an ecosystem for phasing out unfit and polluting vehicles to achieve a lower carbon footprint in the country.



Kala-azar cases

- ❖ There has been a 98.7 per cent decline in cases of Kala-azar from 44,533 in 2007 to 834 in 2022 in India.
- ❖ India is committed to eliminating Kala-Azar from the country by 2023.
- ❖ Elimination is defined as reducing the annual incidence of Kala Azar to less than 1 case per 10,000 people at the sub-district level.
- ❖ Kala-azar is the considered the second deadliest parasitic killer in the world after Malaria.



Draft Online Gaming Policy

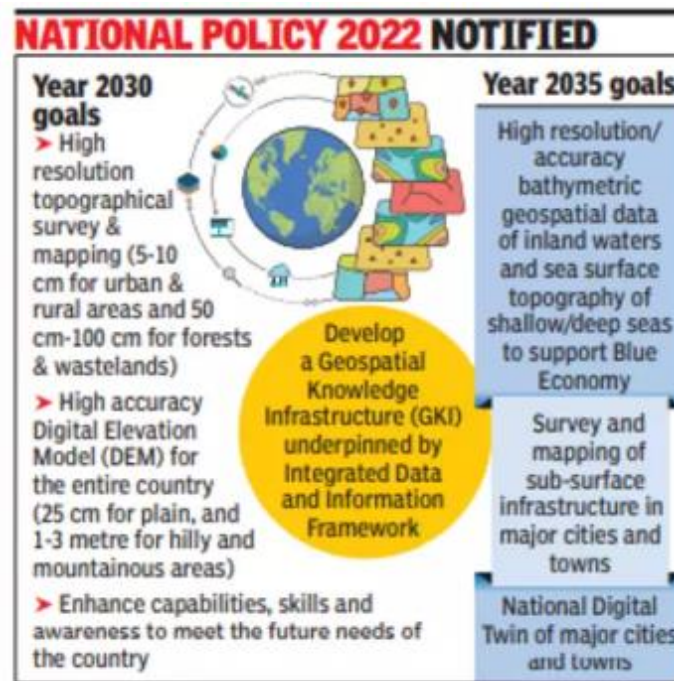
- ❖ Recently, the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has released the Draft Rules for Online Gaming.
- ❖ The proposed rules have been introduced as an amendment to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.
- ❖ Online games will have to register with a self-regulatory body.
- ❖ Online gaming firms will be required to undertake additional due diligence, including KYC of users, transparent withdrawal and refund of money.
- ❖ Gaming companies will also have to secure a Random Number Generation Certificate.
- ❖ Online gaming companies will not be allowed to engage in betting on the outcome of games.
- ❖ Similar to social media and e-commerce companies, online gaming platforms will also have to appoint a compliance officer who will ensure that the platform is following norms.



National Geospatial Policy 2022

- ❖ The National Geospatial Policy 2022 was notified by the Ministry of Science and Technology recently.
- ❖ It is a citizen-centric policy that seeks to strengthen the Geospatial sector to support national development, economic prosperity and a thriving information economy.

- ❖ The policy is aimed to set up high resolution topographical survey and mapping, with a high-accuracy Digital Elevation Model (DEM) by 2030.
- ❖ India's geospatial economy is expected to cross Rs 63,000 crore by 2025 at a growth rate of 12.8% and to provide employment to more than 10 lakh people.



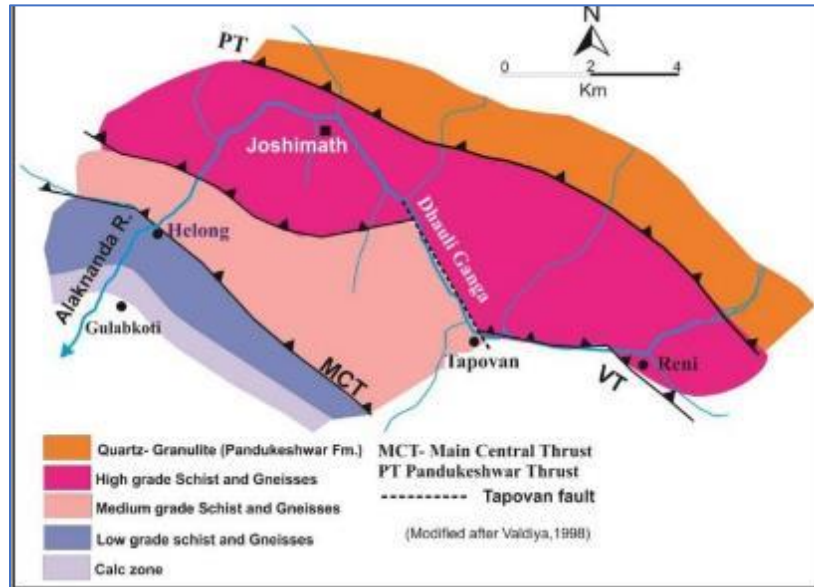
SPRINT initiative

- ❖ The Indian Navy has recently inked an agreement with Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt. Ltd for acquiring armed autonomous boat swarms under the 'SPRINT' initiative.
- ❖ 'SPRINT' Scheme is an initiative to promote development of niche defence technologies by domestic companies.
- ❖ SPRINT stands for "Supporting Pole-Vaulting In Research and Development through Innovations for Defence Excellence.
- ❖ It was launched in July, 2022.

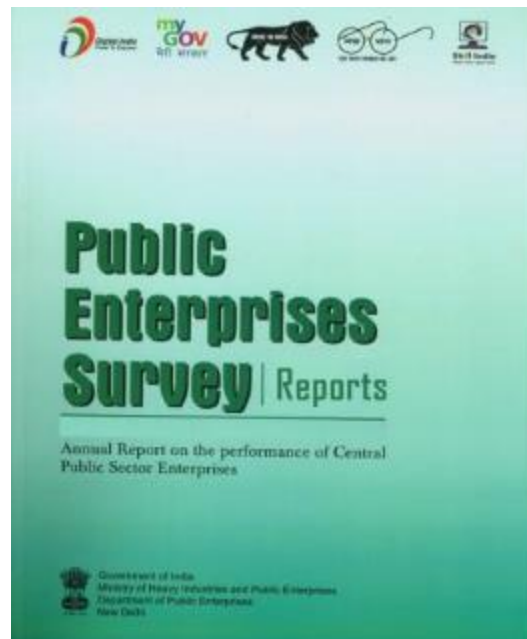
Landslide-subsidence zone

- ❖ The tiny town of Joshimath in Uttarakhand is on edge with 610 of a total of 4,500 buildings developing cracks.
- ❖ Authorities have declared it a landslide-subsidence zone.
- ❖ It is a gradual settling or sudden sinking of the Earth's surface due to removal or displacement of subsurface earth materials.

- ❖ Subsidence is most often caused by the removal of water, oil, natural gas, or mineral resources out of the ground by pumping, fracking, or mining activities.
- ❖ As per the 1976 Mishra committee report, Joshimath is built on a fault plane.
- ❖ Joshimath is built on a landslide material that means thousands of years ago.
- ❖ Joshimath falls on the route to Badrinath and Hemkund Sahib.
- ❖ It is on a high-risk seismic 'Zone-V'.



Public Enterprises Survey 2021-22



- ❖ Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) was placed first in the services sector.
- ❖ It was also ranked third among the Top 10 profit-making Closes.
- ❖ The results were published by the Department of Public Enterprises.
- ❖ POWERGRID is engaged in the transmission of bulk power across different states of India.
- ❖ In India, the power grid transmits around 50% of all the power.
- ❖ The original name of POWERGRID was “National Power Transmission Corporation Limited”.

Low smoke superior kerosene oil

- ❖ Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), launched the Low Smoke Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO) for the Indian Army in Jammu.
- ❖ SKO supply to the Army is vital as it is consumed as fuel in the room heaters at the high-altitude camps.
- ❖ Normal kerosene emits substantial smoke, which poses a health hazard to the Army personnel who use it at higher altitudes, where oxygen level is very low.



G-20 Meeting on Education

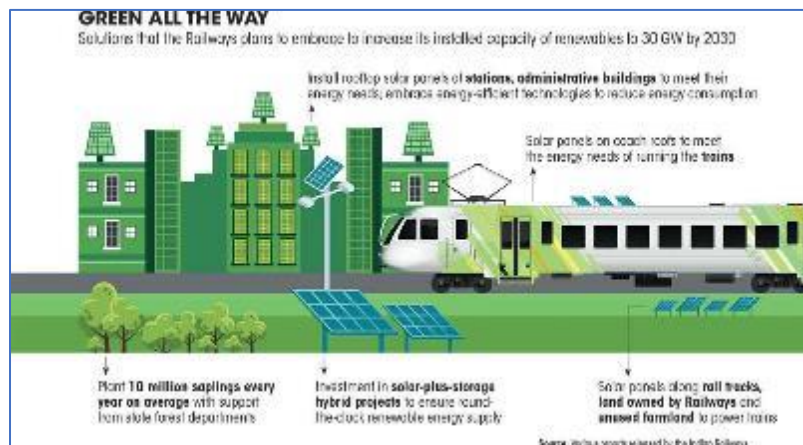
- ❖ India assumes the G20 presidency and prepares to host the G20 Leaders' Summit for the first time in 2023.
- ❖ The education ministry has launched a unique outreach campaign called the University Connect.
- ❖ It aims to involve young people in India's G20 presidency.
- ❖ Various activities and events in different parts of the country as part of India's G20 presidency.

- ❖ Four education working group meetings are scheduled to take place in Chennai, Amritsar, Bhubaneswar, and Pune.



Railways' Energy efficiency plan

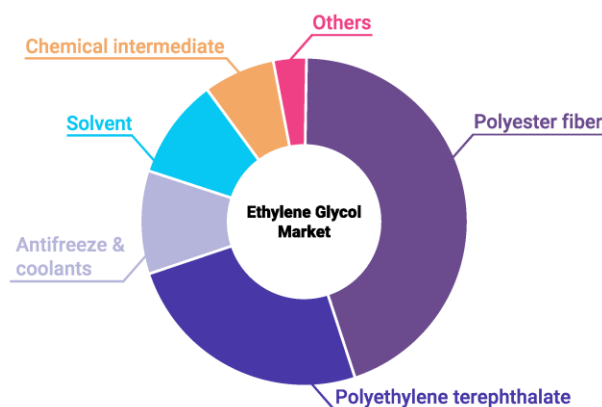
- ❖ The Indian Railway Ministry has outlined a five-pronged plan to become carbon-neutral by 2030.
- ❖ The plan aims to reduce energy consumption through efficient operations and increase the use of renewable energy.
- ❖ One key component of the plan is the installation of rooftop solar panels on all railway establishment.



Ethylene Glycol (Quality Control) Order, 2022

- ❖ The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals with the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers issued a gazette notification titled Ethylene Glycol (Quality Control) Order, 2022.
- ❖ This comes a day after Uzbekistan alleged 18 child deaths in Samarkand from consumption of a medicinal syrup manufactured by an Indian drugmaker.
- ❖ Marion Biotech, the drug company in question, is based in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The syrup it manufactured contained ethylene glycol.

- ❖ Ethylene glycol is a colourless and odourless alcoholic compound that can be fatal if consumed.
- ❖ It is mostly used as an automotive antifreeze and as a raw material for manufacturing polyester fibres.
- ❖ Diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol are adulterants that are sometimes illegally used as solvents in liquid drugs.
- ❖ Diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol may be used by pharma companies as an alternative to non-toxic solvents such as glycerine or propylene glycol to cut costs.



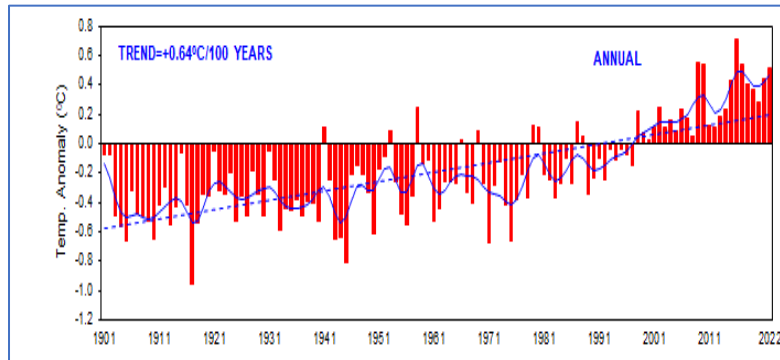
26th National Youth Festival

- ❖ The 26th National Youth Festival was scheduled from January 12th to 16th in Hubballi-Dharwad, Karnataka.
- ❖ The theme of this year's festival is "Viksit Yuva Viksit Bharat".
- ❖ It aims to empower the youth of India and promote their active participation in shaping the country's future.

Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion

- ❖ The three-day G20 meeting on 'Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion' concluded in Kolkata.
- ❖ It had a discussion on several issues, including digital financial inclusion, remittances and availability of finance for small and medium-sized enterprises.
- ❖ G-20 leaders focused on the high remittance cost for workers outside India.
- ❖ Efforts are underway to bring the rate down to an average of 3 per cent by 2027.
- ❖ At present, the remittance cost, on average, stands at around 6 per cent of each transaction.

Statement on climate of India during 2022



- ❖ In 2022, the annual mean land surface air temperature in India was 0.510C above the long-term average (1981-2010 period).
- ❖ This made the year the fifth warmest on record since nationwide records began in 1901.
- ❖ Global mean temperature in 2022 is currently estimated to be 1.15 ± 0.13 °C above the preindustrial (1850-1900) average.
- ❖ The rainfall over India in 2022 was 108% of its Long Period Average value based on the period 1971-2020.
- ❖ During the winter season, the rainfall was 147% of its Long Period Average.
- ❖ Pre-monsoon season rainfall was 99% of its Long Period Average.
- ❖ The southwest monsoon season had rainfall 106 % of its Long Period Average.
- ❖ The post-monsoon season had rainfall 119% of its Long Period Average.

Most Polluted City in India

- ❖ Delhi was the most polluted city in India in 2022.
- ❖ It had PM2.5 levels more than double the safe limit and the third highest average PM10 concentration.
- ❖ PM2.5 pollution has reduced by over 7 per cent in four years, from 108 micrograms per cubic metre in 2019 to 99.71 micrograms per cubic metre in 2022.
- ❖ Haryana's Faridabad and Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad ranked second and third respectively.
- ❖ The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) targets to reduce pollution by 20 per cent to 30 per cent by 2024.
- ❖ The Centre launched NCAP to reduce PM2.5 and PM10 levels in 102 cities by 20 per cent to 30 per cent by 2024

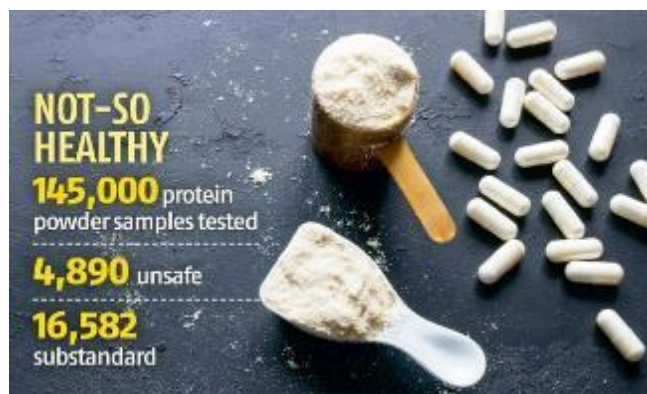
- ❖ 2017 was being the base year for NCAP.

THE WORST 10		
Rank 2022 (2019)	City	Annual PM2.5 2022
1(3)	Delhi	99.7
2 (-)	Faridabad	95.6
3 (1)	Ghaziabad	91.3
4 (-)	Patna	90.9
5 (-)	Muzaffarpur	86.9
6 (2)	Noida	80.4
7 (-)	Meerut	77.7
8 (8)	Gobindgarh	72.4
9 (-)	Gaya	70.8
10 (6)	Jodhpur	69.3

*Figures in brackets represent 2019 ranks.
(-) signifies no data available for 2019

FSSAI Survey on Dietary Supplements

- ❖ Food Safety Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) has released a survey report on dietary supplements 2021-22.
- ❖ It found that 15% of food items including protein powders and dietary supplements used by athletes and bodybuilders in India are unsafe for consumption or substandard.
- ❖ FSSAI has notified specific rules to regulate the production and sale of protein powders and other dietary supplements in India.



National Centre for Drinking Water, Sanitation and Quality

- ❖ Union Cabinet has given approval for renaming the National Centre for Drinking Water, Sanitation and Quality to the “Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation” (SPM-NIWAS).
- ❖ The Institute has been set up at Joka, Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ❖ This institute was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December 2022.
- ❖ Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee front-runner in national integration, inspiration for industrialization.
- ❖ He was also an eminent scholar and academician and the youngest Vice Chancellor of the University of Calcutta.



Discretionary Haj Quota for Pilgrims

- ❖ The Indian government has done away with the discretionary Haj quota for pilgrims.
- ❖ The Haj pilgrimage is an annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia allots country-wise quotas which determine the total number of pilgrims who can make a journey from a particular country.
- ❖ The “Government discretionary quota” is further divided in two.
- ❖ 200 seats are with the Haj Committee itself and 300 are with people holding important offices at the Centre.

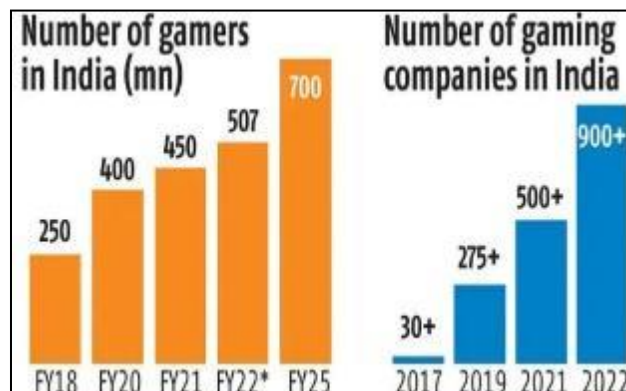
- ❖ These include, 100 with the President, 75 with the Prime Minister, 75 with the Vice President, 50 with the Minister of Minority Affairs.
- ❖ This quota has now been abolished with these seats being added back to the general pool.
- ❖ India signed the Haj 2023 bilateral agreement with Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ According to the agreement, a total of 1,75,025 Indian Haj pilgrims will be able to perform Haj.
- ❖ It is reportedly the highest in history.



School of Logistics, Waterways, and Communication

- ❖ India's first School of Logistics, Waterways, and Communication was launched in Agartala.
- ❖ The school aims to enable the rich pool of talent in the region to become world-class experts in the transportation and logistics sector.
- ❖ The school will be enabling the innate capacity of human resources along the opulent waterways of the region.

Mobile Gaming Report 2022



- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the top destination for mobile gamers.
- ❖ UP is followed by Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Bihar and West Bengal.
- ❖ Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Himachal Pradesh have seen the highest increase in mobile gamers in 2022 compared to 2021.
- ❖ Last year, India became the largest consumer of mobile games in the world, recording over 15 billion downloads.

FSSAI regulatory standards for Basmati Rice

- ❖ For the first time in India, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has specified the identity standards for Basmati Rice.
- ❖ It will be enforced with effect from 01st August 2023.
- ❖ They are aimed at establishing fair practices in the trade of Basmati rice and protecting consumer interest, both domestically and globally.
- ❖ Basmati rice shall possess the natural fragrance characteristic of basmati rice
- ❖ It has a unique fragrance and flavour due to the presence of a chemical called 2-acetyl-1-pyrroline.
- ❖ It should be free from artificial colouring, polishing agents and artificial fragrances.



Multi-state cooperative societies at the national level

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of three national-level multi-State cooperative societies.

- ❖ They will act as an apex body for procurement, processing, marketing and distribution of seeds.
- ❖ The societies to be formed under the multi-State cooperative societies (MSCS) Act, 2002.

BOOST TO FARMING

Cabinet approves national multi-state cooperative society to help local farmers go global, and set a benchmark for Indian organic farm produce

The body will be set up under the Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002



The move will help primary societies, district, state and national level federations, multi state cooperative societies	This society will also help cooperatives and ultimately their farmer members in getting benefits of the high price of organic	The society will manage the entire supply chain of organic products produced by cooperatives and related entities through member cooperatives
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Aarogya Maitri project

- ❖ Under this project, India will provide essential medical supplies to any developing country affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crisis.
- ❖ India will also establish a 'Global-South Center of Excellence'.
- ❖ It will undertake research on development solutions or best-practices of any developing nation,
- ❖ India will also institute 'Global-South Scholarships' for students from developing countries to pursue higher education in India.

I would now like to announce a new '**Aarogya Maitri**' project. Under this project, India will provide essential medical supplies to any developing country affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crisis.

PM Modi's opening remarks on day 2 of Voice of Global South Summit, 13 January 2023

Vande Bharat Express

- ❖ The new Vande Bharat Express train connecting Secunderabad with Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ The train is the eighth Vande Bharat Express introduced by Indian Railways.
- ❖ This is the first train which connecting the two Telugu-speaking States.



‘Soul of Steel’ expedition

- ❖ A ‘Soul of Steel’ challenge will be launched in India in order to test one’s high-altitude endurance.
- ❖ This effort would be undertaken in Uttarakhand.
- ❖ It is spearheaded by a venture, CLAW Global, run by veterans and is being supported by the Indian Army.
- ❖ The feat is on the lines of the ‘Ironman triathlon’ long-distance triathlon challenge in Europe, which tests an individual’s grit and endurance.

20 percent ethanol blended Petrol



- ❖ The phased roll-out of E20 (20 per cent ethanol blending in gasoline) will begin on April 1.
- ❖ India achieved the target of supplying petrol mixed with 10 per cent ethanol (10 per cent ethanol, 90 per cent petrol) ahead of schedule in June 2022.
- ❖ Also, it has advanced the target of making petrol with 20 per cent ethanol by five years to 2025 from 2030.
- ❖ For a 20 per cent blend, 1,000 crore litres of ethanol will be required.

Bharat Pravah

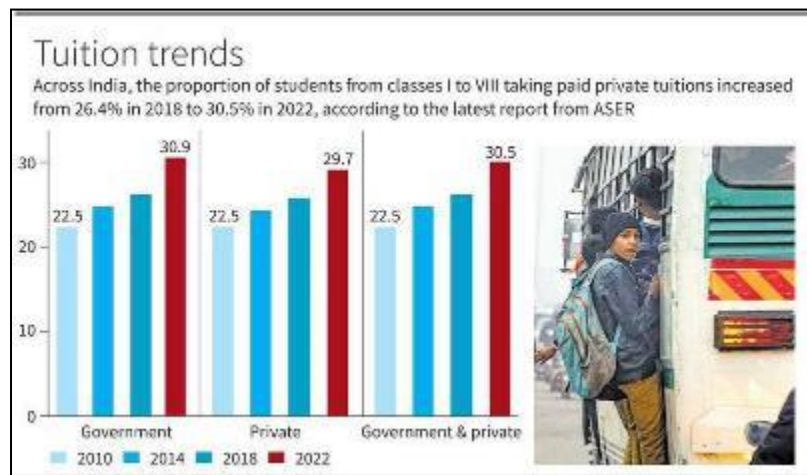


- ❖ Bharat Pravah-India along its shores is an initiative to highlight the significance and imagery of rivers, ports, and shipping through a series of nationwide events.
- ❖ Bharat Pravah will serve as a common platform to bring together stakeholders from different walks for the purpose of creating a larger vision of shipping, rivers, seas & people.
- ❖ It will highlight the challenges, policy issues and future goals relating to the maritime sector.

Annual Status of Education Report 2022

- ❖ The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2022, was released by the NGO Pratham.
- ❖ Overall enrolment figures for the 6 to 14 years age group increased from 97.2% in 2018 to 98.4% in 2022.
- ❖ Government schools have seen a sharp increase in children enrolled from 65.6% in 2018 to 72.9% in 2022.
- ❖ The percentage of children in Class 3 in government or private schools who were able to read at the level of Class 2 dropped from 27.3% in 2018 to 20.5% in 2022.
- ❖ The percentage of children enrolled in Class 5 in government or private schools who can at least read a Class 2-level text fell from 50.5% in 2018 to 42.8% in 2022.

- ❖ Nationally, the proportion of children who can do division has increased slightly, from 44.1% in 2018 to 44.7% in 2022.
- ❖ The state with highest percentage of students going for tuitions is Bihar (71.7%), followed by Manipur (53.4%) and Jharkhand (45.3%).
- ❖ The exceptions are Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Tripura.
- ❖ UP, MP, Bihar, Tripura are among states with lowest attendance rate.
- ❖ Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have over 86% enrolled students attending schools.



Bhopal Declaration

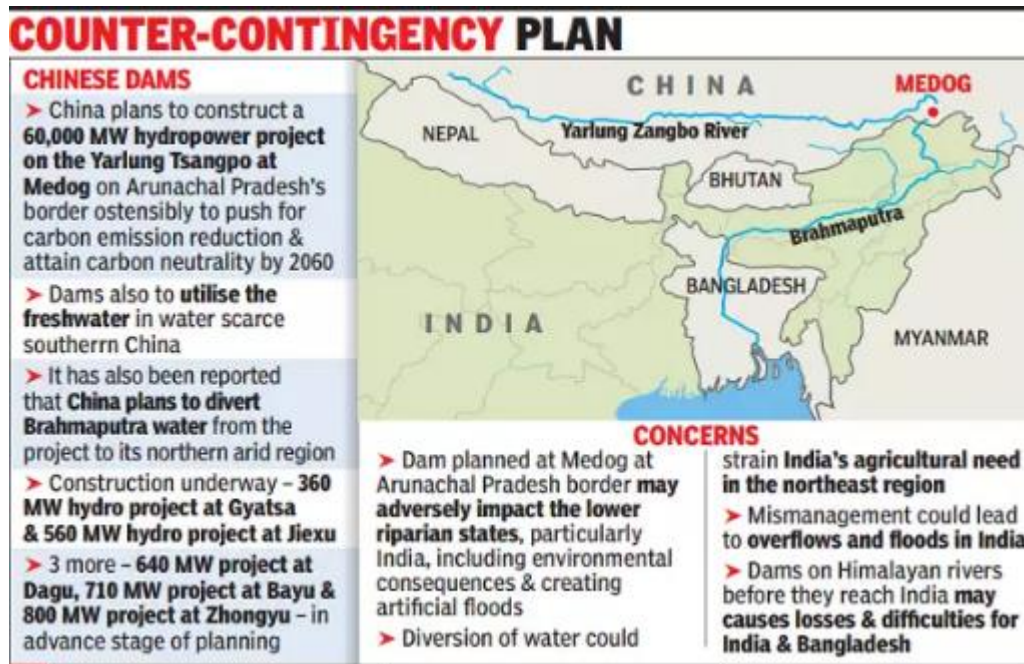
- ❖ Bhopal Declaration was released after discussion in the two-day meeting of Think-20 under G20 in Bhopal.
- ❖ It was released after the Think20 (T20) meeting of G20 countries' think tanks and research centres.

Highlights

- ❖ Emphasis on promoting traditional medicine systems like AYUSH
- ❖ Encouragement of value-oriented development in infrastructure
- ❖ Appeal for more inclusive development and care for all sections of society
- ❖ Special attention to children and development led by women
- ❖ Focus on bridging the gap between North and South
- ❖ Importance of localization in achieving G-20 sustainable development goals
- ❖ Necessity of triangular cooperation between government, society, and private organizations

Upper Siang hydroelectric project

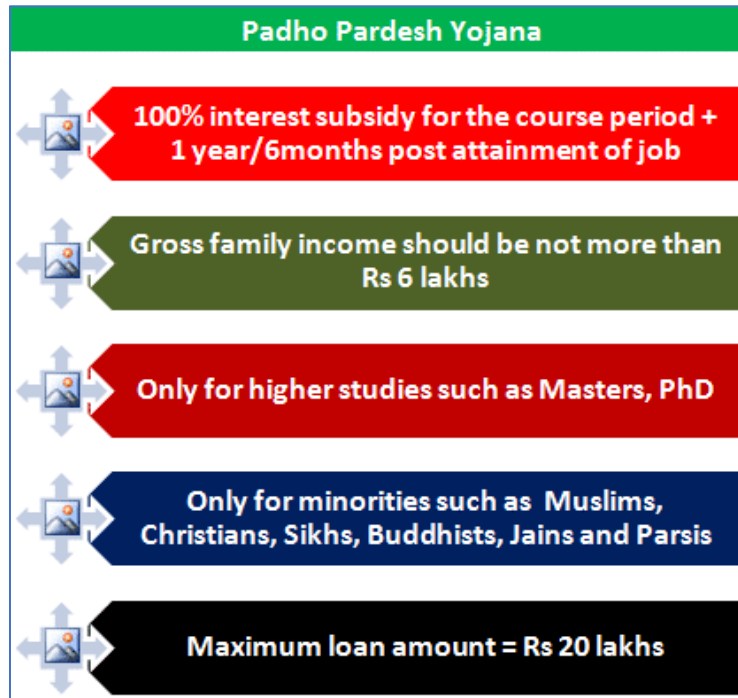
- ❖ National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) has submitted a pre-feasibility report to the Central Electricity Authority of India for the 'Upper Siang Multipurpose Storage'.
- ❖ It will be the India's largest hydel power project to date to come up in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Upper Siang project will act as a reservoir.
- ❖ The production of hydel power from the project is "simply a by-product".
- ❖ The concern is that China's proposed 60,000 MW dam in Medog could reduce the natural flow of water from the Brahmaputra
- ❖ In the event of a diversion of water by China, the massive reservoir will be able to feed Arunachal Pradesh and its irrigation requirements.
- ❖ For India, Brahmaputra accounts for 30 per cent of freshwater resources and 40 per cent of the total hydroelectric power potential of the country.



Padho Pardesh scheme discontinued

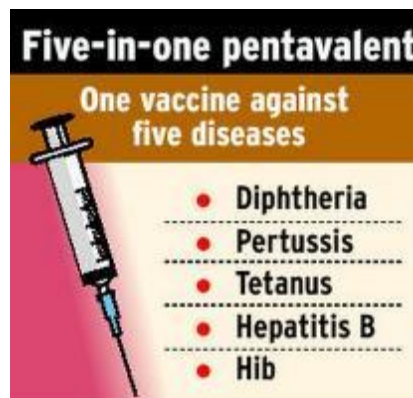
- ❖ The union Government announced that the Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF Scheme) will not be available for Minority students this year.
- ❖ After the official decision, the Ministry of Minority Affairs discontinued the "Padho Pardesh Scheme" for all students belonging to minority sections in society.
- ❖ It was launched under the Prime Minister's 15-point programme in June 2006.

- ❖ It was part of implementing the Sachar Committee recommendations.
- ❖ It aims to grant interest subsidies to deserving students belonging to economically weaker sections of minority communities so as to provide them with better opportunities for higher education abroad as well as enhance their employability rate.
- ❖ The Padho Pardesh scheme was being implemented through Canara Bank which is the appointed nodal bank for the scheme.



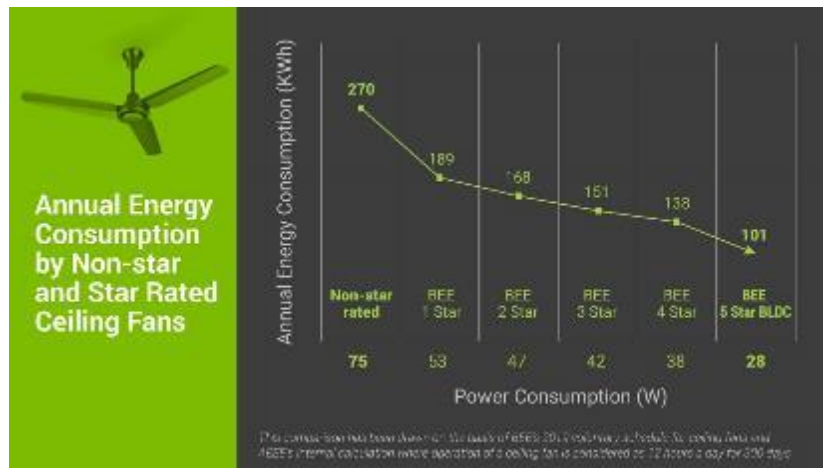
Pentavalent vaccines to Cuba

- ❖ India has announced a donation of 12,500 doses of pentavalent vaccines to Cuba.
- ❖ Pentavalent vaccine provides protection to a child from 5 life-threatening diseases –Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hepatitis B and Hib.



BEE norms for Ceiling fans

- ❖ Ceiling fans category has come under the ambit of mandatory star labelling from January 1, as per the revised Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) norms.
- ❖ Star labelling denotes energy savings of minimum 30% for one-star rated fans to over 50% for five-star rated fans.
- ❖ Under the new mandate, manufacturers would have to display the star ratings on their fans.
- ❖ The star rating is dependent on service value (air delivery in cubic metres per minute divided by energy consumption in wattage).



India's strongest brand - Jio

- ❖ Jio is strongest brand in India and ranked ninth among the world's strongest brands.
- ❖ This is according to a 'Global 500 – 2023' report published by Brand Finance.
- ❖ 'Jio' was placed ninth among the world's strongest brands ahead of brands like EY, Coca Cola and Accenture.



Covovax as booster dose

- ❖ The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved the use of Serum Institute of India's (SII) Covovax as a heterologous booster dose.
- ❖ This can be used for those who have previously taken two doses of Covaxin or Covishield.
- ❖ A heterologous booster is when the third dose is different from the earlier doses.
- ❖ Covovax is manufactured through technology transfer from Novavax.



India's deepest Metro station



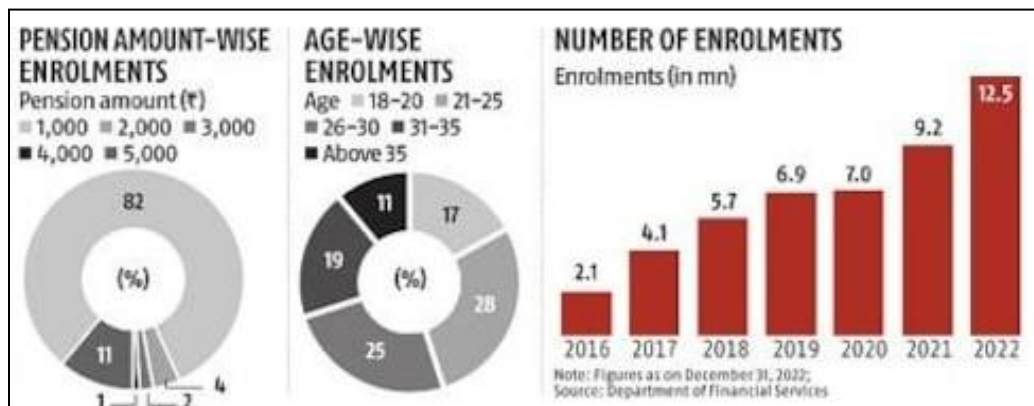
- ❖ India's deepest underground station is to come up at Pune's civil court.
- ❖ It has been constructed at a depth of 33.1 metres.

Second Phase of Sansad Khel Mahakumbh 2022-23

- ❖ The second phase of Sansad Khel Mahakumbh 2022-23 inaugurated in Basti district of Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The first phase of the Khel Mahakumbh was held from December 10 to 16, 2022.
- ❖ More than one thousand Khelo India District Centers are being set up across the country, out of which more than 750 centers have been completed.

10 million enrolments in a year

- ❖ The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) is targeted towards unorganised sector workers.
- ❖ It saw the highest-ever takers in 2022 with enrolments rising 36 per cent.
- ❖ The figure crossed 10 million for the first time in a calendar year.
- ❖ The number of enrolments in 2022 rose to 12.5 million from 9.2 million in 2021.



U-WIN portal

- ❖ After the success of the Co-WIN platform, the government has now replicated it to set up an electronic registry for routine vaccinations Named U-WIN.
- ❖ This programme digitises India's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP).
- ❖ It has been launched in a pilot mode in two districts of each state and Union Territory.
- ❖ The U-WIN is going to be the single source of information for immunisation services, updating vaccination status, delivery outcome, planning of RI sessions and reports like antigen-wise coverage, etc.



Expanding organic farming in 2020

- ❖ India has emerged as one of the top three countries in the world where the area under organic agriculture expanded the maximum in 2020.
- ❖ A total of 3 million hectares (mh) were added to organic farming worldwide in 2020.
- ❖ Argentina topped in the list.
- ❖ It followed by Uruguay and India.
- ❖ Australia has the biggest amount of organic farming in the world at 35.7 mh, whereas India has 2.8 mh.
- ❖ Out of total 34 lakh organic producers in the world, 16 lakh farmers in India are into certified organic farming.



Exercise Pralay

- ❖ The Indian Airforce is to conduct a massive military exercise near the Line of Actual Control.
- ❖ The Government of India conducts such military exercises on the border to control the infiltrations.

- ❖ Infiltrations are common in the Line of Control, India - Pakistan border, and Line of Actual Control, India - China border.
- ❖ It will see the participation of India's leading fighter jets such as the Rafale and Su-30.
- ❖ India recently deployed S – 400 missiles in the region.
- ❖ Indian Air Force has moved its drone squadron to the Siliguri corridor to participate in the exercise.

Merger of CGHS with Ayushman Bharat

- ❖ Ayushman Bharat and Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), are two separate health insurance schemes run by the government.
- ❖ Central government plans to merge all existing state and central government-run health insurance schemes under the Ayushman Bharat umbrella.
- ❖ Ayushman Bharat was launched in September 2018.
- ❖ The scheme provides an annual health cover of Rs 5 lakh per family to more than 10.74 crore poor families — about 50 crore people.
- ❖ It covers secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.
- ❖ Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) is providing comprehensive medical care to the Central Government employees and pensioners enrolled under the scheme.



Republic Day 2023 - First time events

- ❖ Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi was the Chief Guest at the parade.
- ❖ For the first time, 12 women riders will be part of the Camel Contingent of the Border Security Force (BSF) and among the 16 marching contingents.
- ❖ This year, only Made-in-India weapon systems will be showcased at the Republic Day parade, keeping with the theme of “Atmanirbhar Bharat”.
- ❖ The newly-recruited Agniveers will also be a part of the parade for the first time.

- ❖ The Narcotics Control Bureau will also showcase a tableau for the first time.
- ❖ For the first time in India's independent history, the iconic 21-Guns Salute to the President during the parade will use 105 mm Indian Field Guns replacing the British-made 25-Pounder guns.
- ❖ For the first time, a 3-D anamorphic projection will be organised during the Beating the Retreat Ceremony on the facade of the North and South Block.

Millet Procurement in India

- ❖ The Government of India is expecting the millet production to increase to forty to fifty lakh tonnes.
- ❖ In 2023, the millet production in the country is around six to seven lakh tonnes.
- ❖ The increase in millet production is mainly because of nine states.
- ❖ They are MP, UP, Haryana, TN, Gujarat, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, and Maharashtra.
- ❖ 41% of the world's millet grows in India.
- ❖ India is one of the largest millet producers in the world.



SC verdicts in 13 languages

- ❖ Over 1,200 Supreme Court verdicts have been translated into Assamese, Garo, Hindi, Kannada, Khasi, Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu from Republic Day on January 26.



- ❖ The apex court will operationalise the electronic-Supreme Court Reports (e-SCR) project for making available verdicts
- ❖ It aims to provide free access to its about 34,000 judgments to lawyers, law students and the common public in free of cost.
- ❖ This is a major step by the Supreme Court towards digitalisation.

First Green Energy state

- ❖ Himachal Pradesh targets to be first 'green energy state' by 2025.
- ❖ It had set a target to harness hydropower, hydrogen, and solar energy to preserve environment.

Best Police station in India



- ❖ Aska police station in Ganjam district of Odisha was awarded as the best police station in the country by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- ❖ Ranking of police stations is an annual exercise conducted by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ❖ The stations are judged on the basis of 165 different parameters like crime rate, investigation and disposal of cases, infrastructure and delivery of public service.

India's Civil 20 Engagement Group (C20)

- ❖ It is the official engagement group of the country's G20 leadership representing the voices of non-profit, voluntary citizens' groups in service to society.
- ❖ It has been inaugurated at Amritapuri in Kerala's Kollam district.
- ❖ Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi (Amma) is the Chair of C20.
- ❖ There are nine engagement groups on the non-government side of the G20.
- ❖ These groups make policy recommendations to G20 leaders and help shape them.

- ❖ Business 20, Civil 20, Labour 20, Parliament 20, Science 20, SAI 20, Startup 20, Think 20, Urban 20, Women 20, and Youth 20 are the nine groups.



Business 20 inception

- ❖ The Business 20 (B20) inception meeting began in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ It is being held as part of the G20.
- ❖ The meeting was headed by Mr Chandrasekaran, Head of TATA sons.
- ❖ The B20 India 2023 dialogue is taking place under the theme of 'RAISE'.
- ❖ It is an acronym for Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable and Equitable Businesses.



- ❖ The meeting was attended by G20 Sherpa, business delegates, CEO, railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal, etc.
- ❖ For the first time, there will be a special task force for Africa in the meet.
- ❖ India's G20 Sherpa is Amitabh Kant, chief executive officer of NITI Aayog.

- ❖ India is among the top five best performing nations in achieving climate targets, and is the only G20 country to get this place.

Strategic Partnership – India and Egypt



- ❖ India and Egypt agreed to elevate their bilateral ties to “Strategic Partnership”.
- ❖ It is covering political, security, defence, energy and economic aspects.
- ❖ The trade between the countries is touching 12 billion USD in the last five years.
- ❖ With Egypt, India has signed the agreement on terrorism.
- ❖ Also, the agreement will focus in areas such as cyber security, Information Technology, youth, culture, and broadcasting.
- ❖ India sees Egypt as a Gateway to the European and African countries.
- ❖ India has also invited Egypt as a special guest for the G-20 summit.
- ❖ India and Egypt are founding partners of the non-aligned movement in world affairs.

Renaming of Andaman Islands

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi named 21 Islands in Andaman and Nicobar after recipients of India’s highest military decoration, the Param Vir Chakra.
- ❖ The naming was done on the occasion of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose’s 126th birth anniversary
- ❖ Modi also unveiled the model of a proposed memorial dedicated to Bose, to be set up in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ The memorial to Netaji will be located on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep, which was called Ross Island before 2018.
- ❖ The largest unnamed island was named after the first Param Vir Chakra awardee.



- ❖ The second largest unnamed island after the second Param Vir Chakra awardee.
- ❖ The first recipient of the award was Major Somnath Sharma.
- ❖ He lost his life while fighting against Pakistani infiltrators near Srinagar airport on November 3, 1947.

Below are all the 21 islands that were named

1. Dhan Singh Island after Lieutenant Colonel (then Major) Dhan Singh Thapa
2. Tarapore Island after Lt Col Ardeshir Burzorji Tarapore
3. Karam Singh Island after Lance Naik (Hony. Captain) Karam Singh
4. Bana Island after Naib Subedar Bana Singh
5. Ekka Island after Lance Naik Albert Ekka
6. Khetrapal Island after 2nd Lt Arun Khetrapal
7. Pandey Island after Lt Manoj Kumar Pandey
8. Hoshiar Island after Major Hoshiar Singh
9. Shaitan Island after Major Shaitan Singh
10. Jadunath Island after Nayak Jadunath Singh
11. Yogender Island after Subedar Major (Hony. Captain) Yogendra Singh Yadav
12. Hamid Island after Company Quartermaster Havildar (CQMH) Abdul Hamid
13. Rane Island after 2nd Lt Rama Raghoba Rane
14. Ramaswamy Island after Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran
15. Batra Island after Captain Vikram Batra
16. Joginder Island after Subedar Joginder Singh
17. Salaria Island after Captain G S Salaria (then Major)
18. Piru Island after Company Havildar Major Piru Singh
19. Somnath Island after Major Somnath Sharma
20. Sekhon Island after Flying Officer Nirmaljit Singh Sekhon
21. Sanjay Island after Subedar Major (then Rifleman) Sanjay Kumar

Republic Day Parade 2023

- ❖ 'Nari Shakti' dominates Tableaux of Several States at Republic Day Parade of 2023.
- ❖ Kerala's tableau portrayed Karthyayani Amma, the winner of Nari Shakti Puraskar in 2020 who topped the literacy examination at the age of 96.
- ❖ Kerala has the highest women's literacy rate in the country and has the world's largest women's self-help network, Kudumbashree.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's tableau was based on women empowerment and culture of the state.
- ❖ The front portion of the tableau showcased a statue of poet Avvaiyar, an icon for intellectual women.
- ❖ On either side of the front portion, the statue of Veeramangal Velu Naachiar riding on a horse is placed.

- ❖ She was the queen of Sivaganga (1780-90).
- ❖ The middle portion of the tableau showcased statues of eminent women personalities namely
- ❖ Carnatic singer M S Subbulakshmi, the great Bharatanatyam exponent Tanjore Balasaraswati,
- ❖ Social reformer and doctor Muthulakhmi Reddy,
- ❖ Author and political activist of the Dravidian Movement Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar and
- ❖ Pappammal, a popular organic farmer still active at the age of 105 in her agriculture field.



Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2023

- ❖ It is formerly called the National Child Award for Exceptional Achievement.
- ❖ It is India's highest civilian honour for children.
- ❖ It was awarded annually by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- ❖ The award has two categories.
- ❖ Bal Shakti Puraskar is awarded to Indian citizens under the age of 18 for outstanding achievement in innovation, scholastic achievements, social service, arts and culture, bravery, or sports.
- ❖ Bal Kalyan Puraskar is given to individuals or organisations that have made outstanding contributions in child development, child protection, or child welfare.
- ❖ In 2023, this award was given to 11 children (six boys and five girls) from 11 different states and union territories.



Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2023

- ❖ It is to recognize and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organizations in India in the field of disaster management.
- ❖ For the year 2023, Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) and Lunglei Fire Station (LFS), Mizoram, both in the Institutional category, have been selected for the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2023 for their excellent work in Disaster Management.



Padma Awards

- ❖ Padma Awards is presented to honor people from different fields such as social work, education, literature, public affairs, education, etc.
- ❖ Mulayam Singh Yadav, Zakir Hussain, KM Birla and Sudha Murty are among 106 Padma Award recipients this year.
- ❖ It is one of the highest civilian awards presented in the country.
- ❖ The award is presented in three categories namely Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan, and Padma Shri.

- ❖ Padma Awards are presented by the President of India.
- ❖ Ms. Vani Jairam, K Kalyanasundaram, Palam Kalyana Sundaram, Vadivel Gopal & Masi sadaiyan and Dr. Gopalsamy Veluchamy are the awardee from Tamil Nadu.



412 gallantry awards

- ❖ President of India has approved 412 gallantry awards and other defence decorations to armed forces personnel and others.
- ❖ Major Shubhang and Naik Jitendra Singh will receive the Kirti Chakra award.
- ❖ Cdr Nishant Singh from the Navy, who lost his life in a MiG-29K fighter crash, will be remembered with the Nao Sena Medal.
- ❖ The awards include:
 - six Kirti Chakras (four - posthumous),
 - 15 Shaurya Chakras (two - posthumous),
 - 93 Sena Medals (Gallantry) (four - posthumous),
 - One Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry) posthumous,
 - seven Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry),
 - 29 Param Vishisht Seva Medals (PVSM),
 - three Uttam Yudh Seva Medals (UYSM),
 - 53 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals (AVSM),
 - 10 Yudh Seva Medals (YSM),
 - 40 Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty),
 - 13 Nao Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty) (five of them - posthumous),
 - 14 Vayu Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty) and
 - 128 Vishisht Seva Medals (VSM).



River names for Indian Agri products

- ❖ Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) proposes to use river names as tag line and branding for Indian Agri products.
- ❖ It will use the names of rivers such as Ganga, Brahmaputra, Cauvery, Godavari, etc. to name its agricultural products.
- ❖ This will increase the reach of the products.
- ❖ The active role of APEDA increased agricultural exports to 25.6 billion USD in 2021-22.
- ❖ This is 51% of the total agricultural exports of the country.



Amrit Udyan

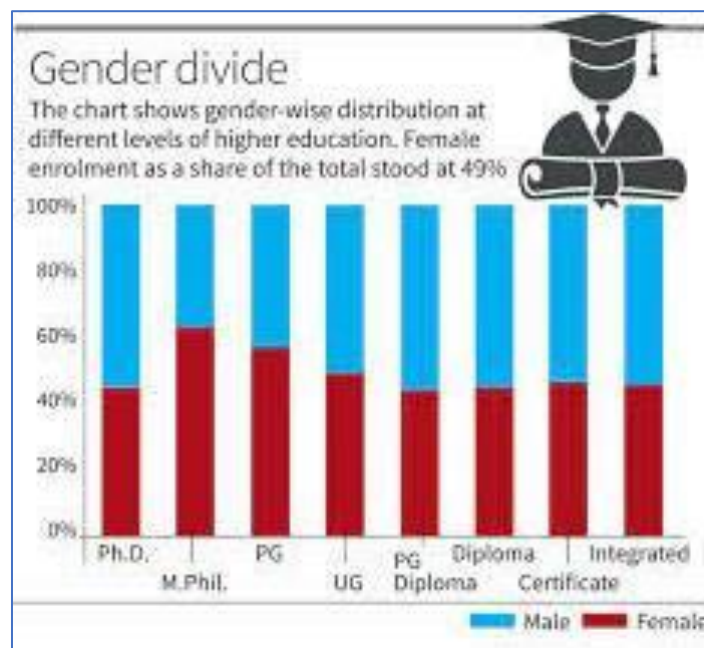


- ❖ The Rashtrapati Bhavan gardens — popularly known as the Mughal Gardens was renamed as Amrit Udyan.

- ❖ Designed by Edwin Lutyens — the iconic garden is spread across 15-acres and it incorporates both Mughal and English landscaping styles.
- ❖ The main garden has two channels intersecting at right angles dividing the garden into grid of squares - a Charbagh (a four cornered garden) - a typical characteristic of the Mughal landscaping.

All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2020-2021

- ❖ The number of students pursuing higher education increased by 7.5% as compared to 2019-20 and increased by 21% as compared to 2014-15.
- ❖ The numbers were more than 4.14 crores.
- ❖ This is the first time; the figures crossed the 4-crore mark.
- ❖ Female enrolment reaches 2 crore mark, increase of 13 Lakh from 2019-20.
- ❖ Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) has improved from previous year for all social groups.
- ❖ Enrolment in Distance Education has increased by 7% in 2020-21 from 2019-20.



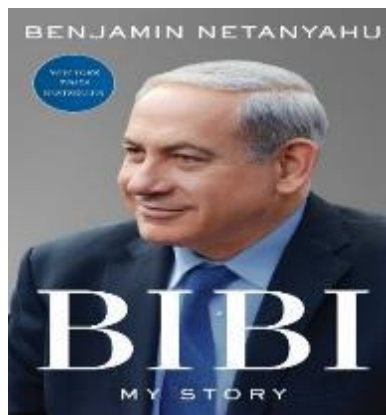
- ❖ Gender Parity Index (GPI) has increased from 1 in 2017-18 to 1.05 in 2020-21.
- ❖ The female enrolment in North East States is 6.14 lakh in 2020-21, higher than the male enrolment (5.92 lakh).
- ❖ UP, TN, Maharashtra, MP, Rajasthan, and Karnataka are the top 6 States in terms of number of enrolments.

- ❖ Highest number of universities is in Rajasthan (92), Uttar Pradesh (84) and Gujarat (83).
- ❖ States with Highest college density: Karnataka (62), Telangana (53), Kerala (50), Himachal Pradesh (50), Andhra Pradesh (49), Uttarakhand (40), Rajasthan (40), Tamilnadu (40).
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat are top 8 States in terms of number of colleges.
- ❖ Total number of faculty/teachers increases by 47,914 from 2019-20.

INTERNATIONAL

Israel's new Prime Minister

- ❖ Benjamin Netanyahu was sworn-in as Israel's prime minister for a sixth time.
- ❖ He is already Israel's longest-serving Prime Minister.
- ❖ The Knesset elected Amir Ohana as its the new Speaker.
- ❖ Ohana is the Knesset's first openly gay speaker.



Stay Safe Online Campaign

- ❖ It was launched recently as part of India's G20 presidency.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the importance of staying safe in the online world amid the increasing dependence on the internet.
- ❖ The Stay Safe Online Campaign seeks to make citizens aware about the various cyber risks and ways to address them.

G20 Digital Innovation Alliance (G20-DIA)

- ❖ It aims to identify, recognize and promote the adoption of innovative and impactful digital technologies developed by the start-ups from the G20 countries and the non-member states.
- ❖ These technologies must be capable of addressing the needs of humanity in 6 broad themes – agriculture, health, education, finance, secured digital infrastructure and circular economy.
- ❖ The technologies developed based on these themes will be enabled via the Digital Public Goods Infrastructure.
- ❖ At the side-lines of the Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG) meeting in Bengaluru, the G20 Digital Innovation Alliance (G20-DIA) summit will be organized.



Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project



- ❖ It was recently handed over to the Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) in Bhutan.
- ❖ It was implemented with the assistance from India.
- ❖ With this, the two countries have successfully completed four mega hydroelectric power projects.

- ❖ The hydropower sector is expected to contribute to Bhutan's economic growth and development based on the philosophy of Gross National Happiness.

Japan's new Policy

- ❖ Japan has adopted a new policy promoting greater use of nuclear energy to secure a stable power supply and reduce carbon emissions.
- ❖ It was reversing its previous plan to phase out nuclear energy by 2030.
- ❖ The new policy calls for the maximum use of existing nuclear reactors by restarting as many as possible and extending the operating life of old reactors beyond their 60-year limit
- ❖ Anti-nuclear sentiment and safety concerns rose significantly in Japan after the 2011 Fukushima disaster.

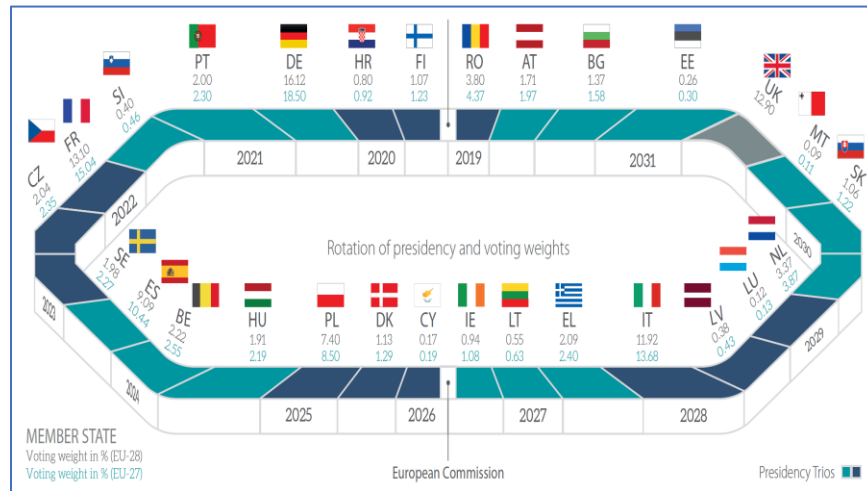
International Year of Millets 2023

- ❖ The United Nations has declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets (IYM).
- ❖ IYM is a proposal sponsored by the Government of India to promote these "nutri-cereals."
- ❖ It is to make IYM 2023 a 'People's Movement' alongside positioning India as the 'Global Hub for Millets'.
- ❖ In April 2018, Millets were rebranded as "Nutri Cereals".
- ❖ The year 2018 was being declared as the National Year of Millets.
- ❖ India accounts for a fifth of the world's millets production.
- ❖ The main millet-growing states in India are Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.



EU Council presidency

- ❖ Sweden took over from the Czech Republic at the helm of the six-month rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU).
- ❖ Sweden will hold the presidency for six months until June 30, 2023.
- ❖ Sweden joined the EU on Jan. 1, 1995.
- ❖ The country held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union twice before, respectively in 2001 and 2009.



British Indian Army Memorial

- ❖ A new British Indian Army Memorial is to be built in the Scottish city of Glasgow after the local council approved the plans.
- ❖ It is commemorating the sacrifice of millions of Indian soldiers who fought alongside the British during the two World Wars.



MMPA with Austria

- ❖ India signed a 'Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement' (MMPA) with Austria.
- ❖ It aims to assist migration and mobility of Indian students and professionals.
- ❖ Similar agreements have been recently concluded by India with Germany, France, Portugal, the UK and Denmark, amongst others.



Asian Pacific Postal Union

- ❖ India took over leadership of the Asian Pacific Postal Union from January 2023.
- ❖ Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh will assume the charge of Secretary General of the Union during India's four-year tenure there.
- ❖ It is an intergovernmental organisation comprising 32 member countries in the Asia-Pacific region.
- ❖ It is headquartered in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ❖ It aims to extend, facilitate and improve postal relations between the member countries and promote cooperation in the field of postal services.



Lithium and copper mine in Argentina

- ❖ India has identified two lithium mines and one copper mine in Argentina for a possible acquisition or long-term lease.

- ❖ KABIL, a joint venture formed through the participation of National Aluminium Company (Nalco), Hindustan Copper (HCL) and MECL.
- ❖ It aims to ensure consistent supply of critical and strategic minerals in the domestic market.
- ❖ Argentina is currently the 4th largest producer of Lithium across the globe.
- ❖ Together with Chile and Bolivia, the north-west of the country forms the so-called “Lithium Triangle”.
- ❖ Australia is the top lithium producer globally.
- ❖ Lithium is found in cedemine rock formation and in brine form, which is called salar in Latin America.
- ❖ The other alternative is its liquid form.



New Members of UNSC

- ❖ Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique and Switzerland joined as a new member of UN Security Council.
- ❖ The five latest members are replacing India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico and Norway.
- ❖ The other current two-year members are Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and United Arab Emirates.
- ❖ China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States are permanent, veto-wielding members of the group.
- ❖ Its 10 other members are elected by the 193-nation General Assembly for staggered, two-year terms.

Sixth-generation fighter jet

- ❖ Japan jointly develops its next-generation fighter jet with the U.K. and Italy.
- ❖ The new jet is seen as a replacement for Britain's Typhoon fighters and Japan's F-2s.
- ❖ All three countries are part of the US fifth-generation F-35 stealth fighter program.
- ❖ Meanwhile, China and Russia are also thought to be pursuing sixth-generation aircraft.
- ❖ China and Russia now fly fifth-generation fighters – Beijing's J-20 and J-31 jets and Moscow's Su-57.



Summit of 120 countries



- ❖ India will host a two-day virtual meeting of more than 120 nations next week titled "Voice of Global South Summit".
- ❖ It was held under the theme 'Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose'.
- ❖ It will provide important insights for the deliberations of the G20 summit.

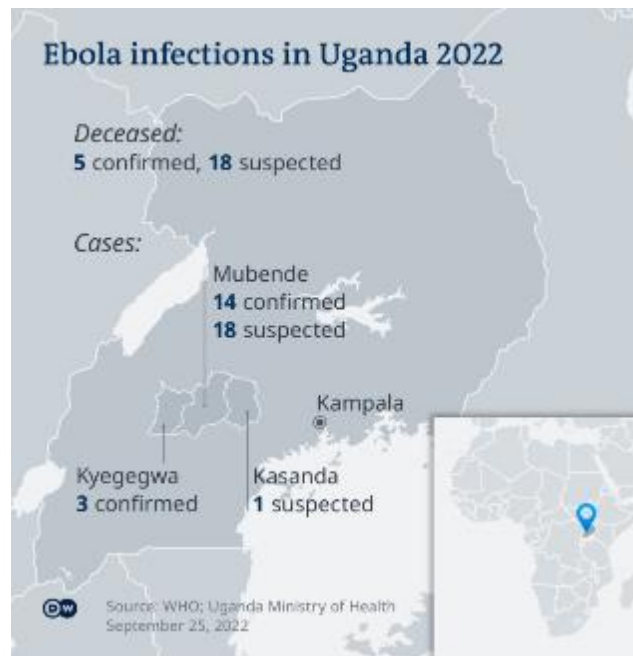
- ❖ The Global South largely refers to developing countries in Asia, Africa and South America.

Veer Guardian 2023 exercise



- ❖ A joint exercise between the Air Force of India and Japan - 'Veer Guardian 2023' is going to be held.
- ❖ This is the first time that the Indian Air Force and Japan Air Self-Defense Force are conducting this joint exercise between the two countries.
- ❖ This exercise will deepen relations between the two countries and prove to be an important step in defence cooperation.

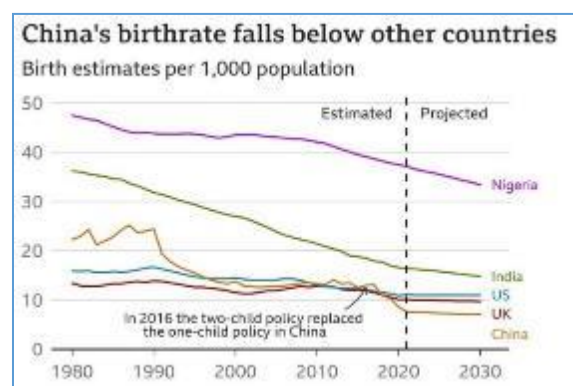
Ending Ebola Virus Outbreak



- ❖ WHO announced that Uganda had successfully declared the end of the Ebola disease outbreak caused by Sudan ebolavirus.
- ❖ The first case was confirmed in central Mubende district on September 20, 2022.
- ❖ This was Uganda's first Sudan Ebola Virus outbreak in a decade and its fifth overall.
- ❖ Ebola virus disease is a rare and deadly disease caused by infection with one of the Ebola viruses' strains.
- ❖ The virus was first identified in 1976 near the Ebola River.
- ❖ Uganda's outbreak was caused by the Sudan Ebola virus.
- ❖ It is one of six species of the Ebola virus and for which there is currently no confirmed vaccine.

China's population falls

- ❖ The Chinese government said that 9.56 million people were born in China in 2022, while 10.41 million people died.
- ❖ It was the first-time deaths had outnumbered births in China since the early 1960s.
- ❖ Births were down from 10.6 million in 2021, the sixth consecutive year that the number had fallen.
- ❖ The population in 2022 - 1.4118 billion - fell by 850,000 from 2021.
- ❖ The birth rate in 2022 was also down from 7.52 in 2021.
- ❖ By 2035, 400 million people in China are expected to be older than 60, accounting for nearly one-third of its population.
- ❖ In comparison, in 2021, the United States recorded 11.06 births per 1,000 people, and the United Kingdom, 10.08 births.
- ❖ The birth rate for the same year in India was 16.42.



World's Strictest Anti-Smoking Laws

- ❖ Mexico has recently imposed one of the world's strictest anti-tobacco laws.
- ❖ It enforces a total ban on smoking in public places, including hotels, beaches, and parks.
- ❖ It will also include the total ban on the promotion, advertising, and sponsorship of tobacco products.
- ❖ The sale and use of e-cigarettes and vapes are also due to face new restrictions.
- ❖ With this, Mexico joins nations such as Ireland, Greece, Hungary, and Malta as those with the most stringent smoke-free environments.



European Green Deal



- ❖ The Green Deal Industrial Plan was announced by European Commission.
- ❖ This plan is a response to both the Russian invasion of Ukraine and other global renewable energy legislative commitments like the US' Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).
- ❖ The first pillar will see the introduction of the Net-Zero Industry Act

- ❖ The second pillar of the plan as outlined by the speech will boost investment and financing for clean tech production and manufacturing.
- ❖ The Green Deal Industrial Plan is a significant moment for European solar manufacturers.

MAREX-2023

- ❖ Sri Lanka and the United States are to conduct week-long joint military exercises.
- ❖ The 2023 edition of CARAT/MAREX Sri Lanka is the fifth such bilateral exercise.
- ❖ It aims to prepare for disaster relief and maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific, amid China's increasing military manoeuvres in the strategic region.
- ❖ The exercise is named Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) / Marine Exercise (MAREX) Sri Lanka 2023.
- ❖ It will involve participants from the Sri Lanka Navy, Sri Lanka Air Force, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and Maldives National Defence Force.



South Asia's Weakest Economy

- ❖ As per the World Bank data, Pakistan is South Asia's weakest economy.
- ❖ The country's economic growth will slow further to 2 per cent during the ongoing year.
- ❖ This will mark a drop of two percentage points from its June 2022 estimate.
- ❖ Floods in Pakistan in July last year was cited as the main reason for the uncertain economic situation in the country.
- ❖ Pakistan's forex reserves have hit a new low of USD 4.6 billion that would be barely adequate to pay for foreign bills for three weeks.
- ❖ Wheat prices have surged over 57 per cent, while the cost of wheat flour also saw an increase of 41 per cent.
- ❖ A 15kg flour bag is being sold for Rs 2,050 in Pakistan.



World Population Review

- ❖ The United States Census Bureau World Population Clock recently released its “World Population Review” report.
- ❖ According to the report, the world’s population as of September 2022 was 7.9 billion.
- ❖ It is to reach 8 billion by November 2022.
- ❖ In 2015, the world population was 7.2 billion.
- ❖ India and China were the only countries with more than 1 billion people.
- ❖ China is the most populous nation in the world with 1.42 billion people.
- ❖ The population of India is 1.41 billion.
- ❖ India is to overtake China and become the most populous nation in the world by 2030.
- ❖ The population growth rate of the world is decreasing.
- ❖ It will reach zero by 2080-2100. After 2100, the growth rate will be negative.
- ❖ By 2100 the world population is to reach 10.4 billion people.
- ❖ Vatican City is the least populated country in the world with a population count of 500 people.
- ❖ The world's population continues to increase by roughly 140 people per minute.
- ❖ The growth rate fell below 1% in 2020.
- ❖ This occurrence is the first since 1950.
- ❖ Global life expectancy has increased as 72.8 years in 2019.
- ❖ This is nine years longer than the expectancy in 1990.
- ❖ The global expectancy is expected to increase and reach 77.2 years by 2050.

Countries with more than 100 million people			
Country	Population	Country	Population
United States	338,653,036	Russia	144,704,502
Indonesia	275,908,026	Mexico	127,724,673
Pakistan	236,882,454	Japan	123,801,638
Nigeria	219,741,895	Ethiopia	124,095,535
Brazil	215,538,160	Philippines	115,969,226
Bangladesh	171,594,827	Egypt	111,384,124

First Movers Coalition Leadership Meeting

- ❖ The World Economic Forum recently conducted the First Movers Coalition (FMC) Leadership Meeting.
- ❖ It is deliberating the need for clean energy technologies.
- ❖ The FMC was launched by US President Joe Biden in 2021.
- ❖ The aim of the coalition is to create a robust market for clean energy technologies.
- ❖ India, Japan, Norway, Italy, and Sweden, UK, USA, Singapore, Germany, Denmark, Canada are some of the members of this Coalition.
- ❖ Apart from these countries, 60 other multinational companies are also part of FMC.

Exercise Cyclone - I

- ❖ The Indian and the Egyptian Armies are to conduct the first-ever joint exercise Cyclone-I.
- ❖ The exercise is the first of its kind as it brings the special forces of the countries to a common platform.
- ❖ Desert Warrior is the other Exercise held between the Air Forces of the countries.





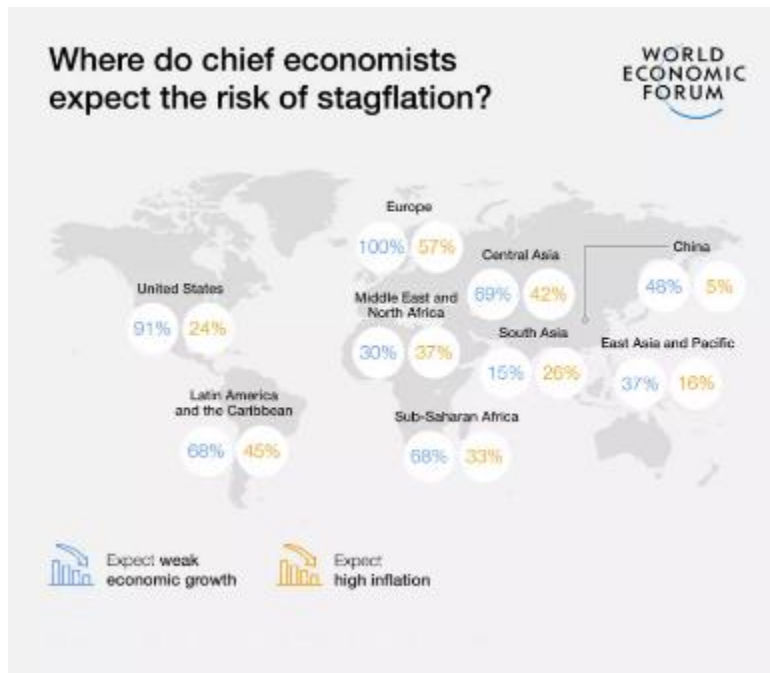
Resolution on 'Education for Democracy'

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution titled 'Education for Democracy' that reaffirms the right of everyone to education.
- ❖ The resolution was co-sponsored by India.
- ❖ It recognises that "education for all" contributes to the strengthening of democracy.
- ❖ The resolution encourages member states to integrate education for democracy into their education standards.

Davos Summit 2023

- ❖ The 53rd edition of the annual World Economic Forum summit was held in Davos, Switzerland.
- ❖ The Theme was 'Cooperation in a Fragmented World'.
- ❖ The Chief Economist's Outlook was launched.
- ❖ A new Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate was launched.
- ❖ It was bringing together over 50 countries to boost international cooperation on climate, trade and sustainable development.
- ❖ A new initiative Giving to Amplify Earth Action (GAEA) was launched to leverage philanthropic capital to unlock funding for the climate crisis.
- ❖ It is a ground-breaking initiative supported by more than 45 major philanthropic, public and private sector partners.
- ❖ It has announced the rollout of its own metaverse platform, dubbed the Global Collaboration Village.
- ❖ Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovations (CEPI) set a new 100-day goal for pandemic response.
- ❖ CEPI was launched in 2017 by the governments of Norway and India, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Economic Forum to accelerate the development of vaccines and other biologic countermeasures against pandemic.
- ❖ This year marks 36 years of the Forum's collaboration with India.
- ❖ The report, 'India@100: Realising the potential of a USD 26 trillion economy', was launched by India, on the side-lines of the summit.
- ❖ As per this report, India's economy will reach USD 26 trillion by 2047, the 100th year of the country's independence.
- ❖ The Maharashtra State Government signed an agreement with World Economic Forum to get technical advice and strategies for Urban transformation.

- ❖ Telangana Government signed an agreement to get a life science centre and a health care centre.



Other initiatives

- ❖ FireAld initiative - It aims to manage wildfires using Artificial Intelligence.
- ❖ Cyber Resilience in Oil and Gas Initiative - This initiative will work to find cyber solutions to protect oil and gas pipelines.

FAO vice chair

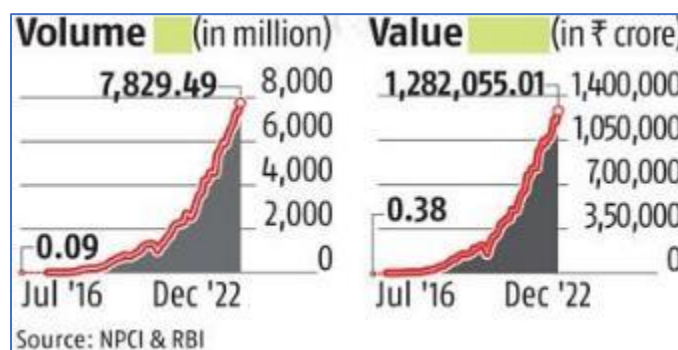
- ❖ The Inter-Governmental Technical Working Group reviews the technical issues at the Food and Agriculture Organization and also advises the organizations on key decisions.
- ❖ India will hold the position of Vice Chairperson at the 12th session of the group.
- ❖ The ITWG is to meet at Rome in January 2023 and discuss animal genetic resources.
- ❖ USA is the Chair of the session.
- ❖ Along with India, other countries will also hold the Vice Chair position.
- ❖ They are Spain, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Tonga, and Brazil.
- ❖ India will also hold the position of Rapporteur along with the Vice Chair post.
- ❖ Rapporteur means the reporting officer.



ECONOMY

UPI Payments Record High

- ❖ India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) processed a record 7.82 billion transactions in December
- ❖ This has a worth of INR 12.82tn (\$174.6bn).
- ❖ This represents an increase of 7.12% in volume and 7.73% in value compared to November.
- ❖ On a year-on-year basis, volume and value increased by 71% and 55% respectively.

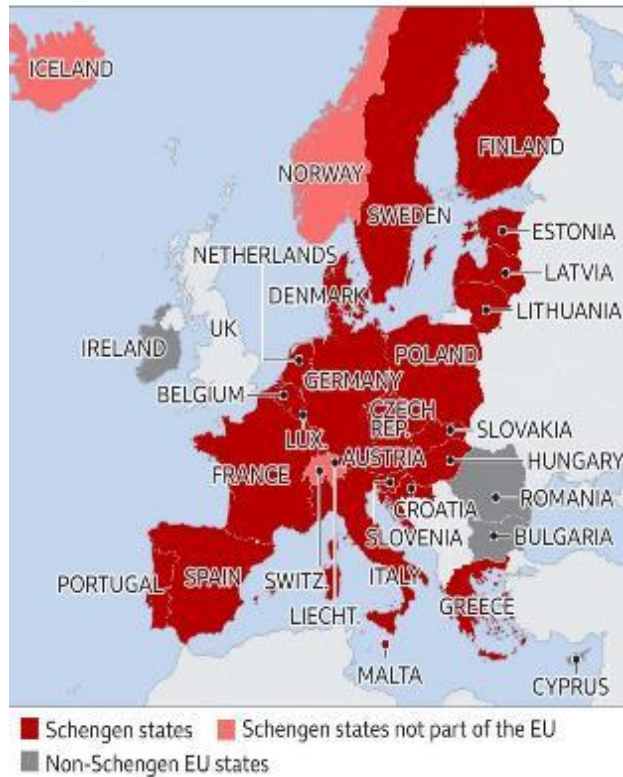


Croatia adopting Euro

- ❖ Croatia has adopted the euro and joining the Schengen zone.
- ❖ The country officially became the 20th member of the eurozone on January 1st.

- ❖ The removal of land border controls with neighbouring Slovenia and Hungary marks its inclusion in the Schengen zone.
- ❖ The inclusion of Croatia in the Schengen zone, which allows for passport-free travel between 26 European countries.

Countries in the Schengen Agreement



Coffee Export

KNOW YOUR JOE

Coffee is produced in more than 50 countries, each region growing local variants



➤ Robusta and Arabica are the two primary varieties of coffee

➤ India majorly exports Robusta beans which has low acidity, high bitterness compared to Arabica

➤ Due to higher caffeine content and cheaper price, Robusta is found in instant coffee, espresso and filler in blended coffees

➤ India is the eighth-largest producer and exporter of coffee by volume



- ❖ According to the Coffee Board, Coffee shipments from India, rose 1.66% to 4 lakh tonne in 2022.
- ❖ India is the Asia's third-largest producer and exporter.
- ❖ Exports stood at 3.93 lakh tonne in 2021.
- ❖ India ships both Robusta and Arabica varieties, besides instant coffee.
- ❖ Italy, Germany and Russia are the major export destinations for the Indian coffee.

RBI's Systemic Risk Survey

- ❖ The 23rd round of the RBI's Systemic Risk Survey (SRS) was conducted in November 2022.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India released its report recently.
- ❖ It showed that global spillovers, financial market and general risks have increased, while macroeconomic risks have moderated.
- ❖ According to the survey, confidence in the stability of the global financial system marginally declined during the last six months.
- ❖ In contrast, confidence in the Indian financial system further improved with 93.6 per cent of the respondents

Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2021-22

- ❖ This report is statutory compliance in accordance with the Banking Regulation Act 1949.
- ❖ It presents the performance of banking sectors (including cooperative banks and NBFCs).
- ❖ The consolidated balance sheets of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) in India registered double-digit growth in 2021-22 after a gap of seven years.
- ❖ The gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio of SCBs has been declining sequentially from its peak in 2017-18 to reach 5.8% at the end of March 2022.

3rd Largest auto market

- ❖ India surpasses Japan to become 3rd largest auto market globally.
- ❖ India's sales of new vehicles totalled at least 4.25 million units.
- ❖ 4.2 million new vehicles sold in Japan.
- ❖ In 2021, China continued to lead the global auto market, with 26.27 million vehicles sold.

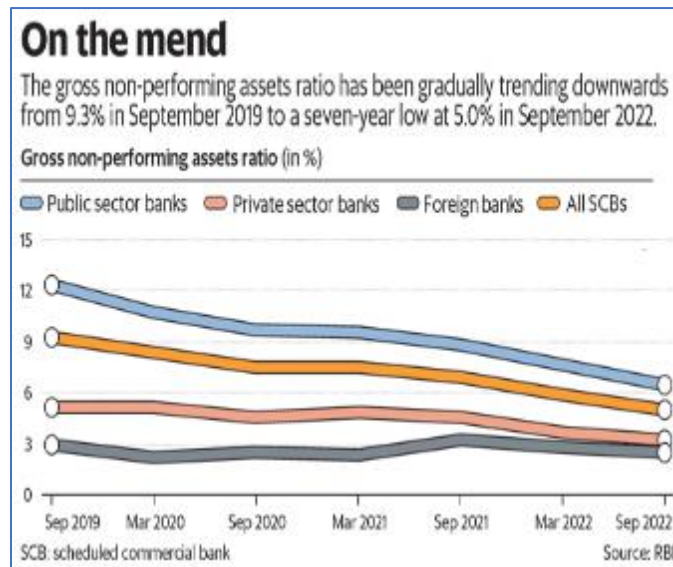
- ❖ The U.S. remained second at 15.4 million vehicles.

INDIA BECOMES THE WORLD'S THIRD-LARGEST AUTO MARKET			
Top 5	Country/Territory	CY2022	% growth
1	Mainland China	24.8	3.60%
2	United States	13.8	-8.30%
3	India	4.4	23.40%
4	Japan	4.2	-4.40%
5	Germany	2.8	-2.90%

Above table is based on Light Vehicle Sales (0-6 ton) in million units

Financial Stability Report

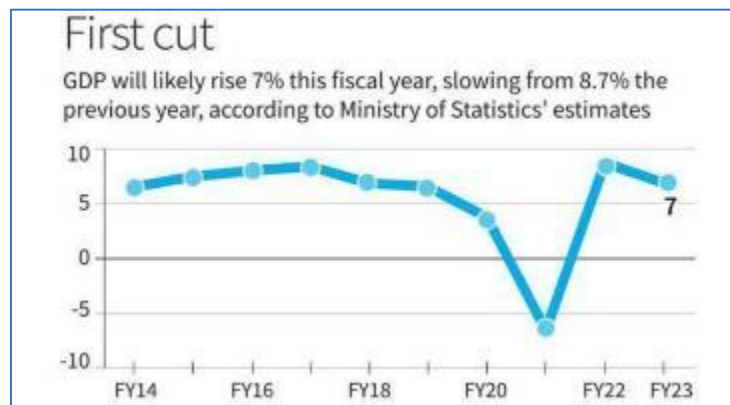
- ❖ The Reserve Bank released the 26th issue of the Financial Stability Report.
- ❖ The profit after tax of scheduled commercial banks has also witnessed a growth of 40.7% in the first half of FY 2022-23.
- ❖ The gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio of scheduled commercial banks has steadily reduced to a seven-year low of 5.0% in September 2022.
- ❖ Further, the net non-performing assets (NNPA) have also reduced to a 10-year low of 1.3% of total assets.



First Advance Estimates of National Income

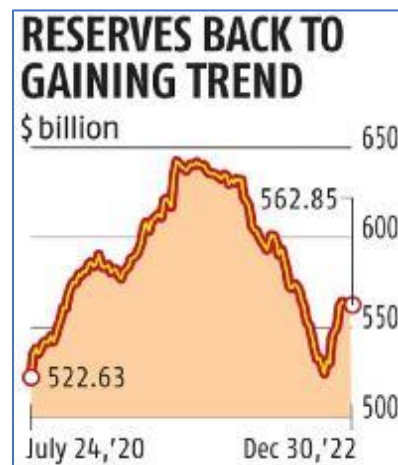
- ❖ The National Statistical Office (NSO) released a First Advance Estimates of National Income for the financial year 2022-23.
- ❖ India's growth in real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during 2022-23 is estimated at 7 percent compared to 8.7 percent in 2021-22.

- ❖ The growth in nominal GDP during 2022-23 is estimated at 15.4 per cent as compared to 19.5 per cent in 2021-22.
- ❖ Real GDP or GDP at Constant (2011-12) prices in the year 2022-23 is estimated at 157.60 lakh crore rupees.
- ❖ The Provisional Estimate of GDP for the year 2021-22 of 147.36 lakh crore rupees.



Forex Reserves

- ❖ India's foreign exchange reserves fell by \$70.1 billion in 2022.
- ❖ The forex reserves stood at \$562.9 billion in the week ended December 30.
- ❖ The rupee depreciated 10.2% against the US dollar in calendar year 2022.
- ❖ In 2022, foreign investors pulled out Rs 1.2 lakh crore from the domestic equity market.
- ❖ FIIs sell their equity investment in the rupee, convert it into the dollar and take the money out.
- ❖ The reserves reached an all-time high of \$642.5 billion in September 2021



Domestic Systemically Important Banks

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued its list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) for 2023.
- ❖ SBI, ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank are still categorized as Domestic Systemically Important Banks.
- ❖ SBI and ICICI Bank were designated as D-SIBs by the Reserve Bank in 2015 and 2016.



Utkarsh 2.0

- ❖ RBI has launched Utkarsh 2.0, the second phase of its medium-term strategy for strengthening regulatory and supervisory mechanisms.
- ❖ It will guide the RBI over the period from 2023 to 2025.
- ❖ It includes six vision statements that are designed to improve the performance of the RBI's statutory and other functions.



Startup Funding in India

- ❖ Bengaluru topped the start-up funding chart in India with \$10.8 billion in 2022.
- ❖ It was followed by Mumbai at \$3.9 billion, and Gurugram at a distant \$2.6 billion.
- ❖ Startups based in Delhi and Chennai registered \$1.2 billion each in funding, followed by Pune at \$1 billion.
- ❖ These data provided by Tracxn, a leading global market intelligence platform.
- ❖ There were 22 unicorns in 2022, compared to 46 in 2021.

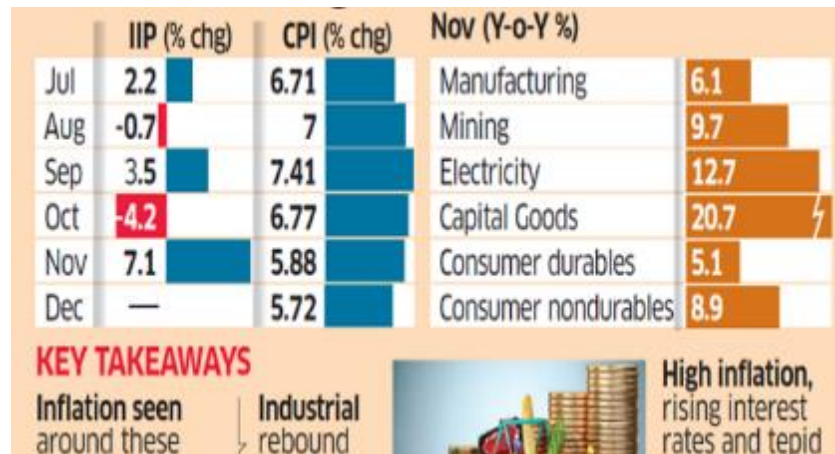
Top five ECM markets

Fishing in troubled seas	Fund raising landscape remained challenging last year	
-	Funds raised (\$ bn)	YoY Change (%)
China	164.6	-38
United States	73.4	-85
Germany	20.9	-28
Canada	19.4	-56
India	16.4	-43
United Kingdom	13.9	-78
Australia	11.3	-63

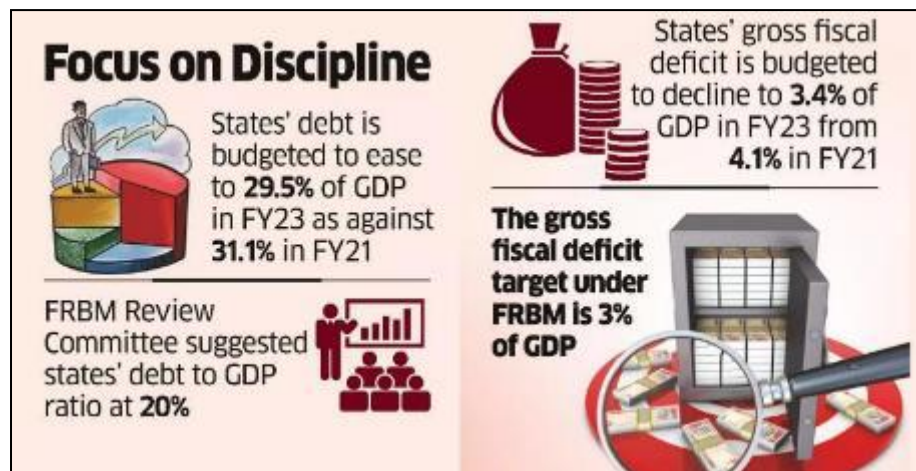
- ❖ India was among the top five markets, globally, in terms of equity fundraising.
- ❖ \$16.4 billion were transacted via equity capital market (ECM) activity in India in 2022.
- ❖ Traditionally, India has rarely featured in the top 10 in terms of ECM activity.

Inflation rates down

- ❖ In December 2022, retail inflation declined to a one-year low of 5.72 percent.
- ❖ It was also comfortably inside the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) comfort range of 2 percent to 6 percent for a second month.
- ❖ The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation rate eased to 5.72 per cent in December.
- ❖ It was 5.88 per cent in November, and 6.77 per cent in October 2022.
- ❖ Factory output grew sharply to a five-month high of 7.1% against a contraction of 4.2% in October.



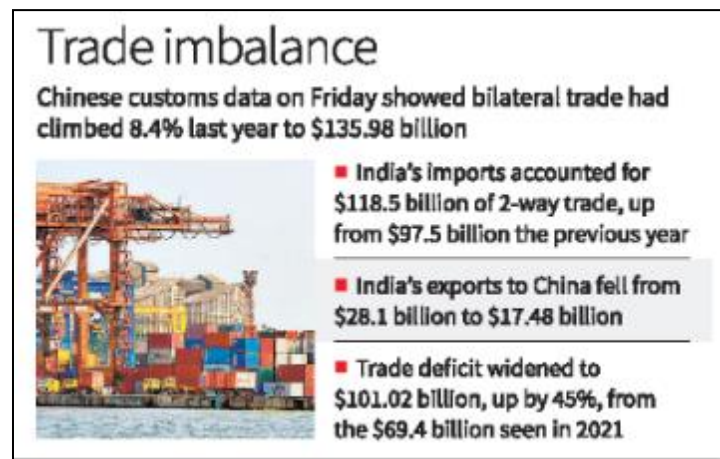
Gross fiscal deficit of states



- ❖ The Gross fiscal deficit (GFD) of states is budgeted to narrow to 3.4 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2022-23 from 4.1 per cent in 2020-21
- ❖ While states' debt is budgeted to ease to 29.5 per cent of GDP in 2022-23 as against 31.1 per cent in 2020-21.
- ❖ But it is still higher than the 20 per cent recommended by the FRBM Review Committee, 2018.

Trade deficit with China

- ❖ India's bilateral trade with China reached a record \$135.98 billion in 2022.
- ❖ India's exports to China fell from \$28.1 billion to \$17.48 billion.
- ❖ The trade deficit reached \$101.02 billion, up by 45%, from \$69.4 billion in 2021.
- ❖ From 2015 to 2021, India-China bilateral trade grew by 75%, an average yearly growth of 13%.



\$26 trillion economy by 2047

- ❖ India is expected to become a US\$ 26 trillion GDP economy by 2047 with her per capita income reaching US\$ 15,000.
- ❖ This is reported by the Global Consulting Firm, Ernst & Young's report.
- ❖ RBI and International Monetary Fund (IMF) have forecast 6.8% growth in FY23 while World Bank has pegged it at 6.9%.
- ❖ London-based IHS Markit has projected India's GDP in 2030 to reach \$8.4 trillion.
- ❖ India is likely to overtake Japan as Asia's second-largest economy by 2030.
- ❖ GDP is also projected to surpass that of Germany and the UK to rank as the world's No.3.
- ❖ Currently, India is the sixth-largest economy, behind the US, China, Japan, Germany, and the UK.



T+1 settlement cycle

- ❖ India transitioned to a market-wide Transaction+1 (T+1) settlement system for equities from the previous T+2 cycle.
- ❖ The new system was first introduced by market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), in 2021.
- ❖ It has been implemented phase wise starting from smallest companies by market capitalisation to larger ones.
- ❖ It has become the second largest market after China to have made the transition ahead of the U.S., Europe and Japan which adhere to the T+2 settlement cycle.
- ❖ A trade involves three important functions, execution of trade, clearing and settlement, carried out by separate entities.
- ❖ It is represented using 'T', that is, trade executed on a particular day.
- ❖ Since clearing used to take place the next day followed by another day for settlement, the previous mechanism was defined as 'T+2'.
- ❖ From now onwards, the settlement will be done the next day itself, thus, T+1.

ROAD MAP FOR INVESTORS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Under the T+2 system, a buyer gets the shares that he bought in his demat account, and the seller his money, on the 3rd working day (including day of trade) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> month, the next bottom 500 stocks will be added to T+1 list
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The T+1 system will ensure stocks & money will be credited by next evening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Newly listed stocks will have a 30-day cooling period before being added to the list
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > This is expected to boost trade volumes as both funds & shares will be available faster 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > But payment & settlement systems need to be efficient
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Bourses will rank all listed stocks according to mcap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Trade settlement for foreign funds requires greater coordination between various market infrastructure institutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The last 100 will move to T+1 cycle first on Feb 25 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Retail and domestic institutions may be at an advantage over FPIs, and could quickly adopt T+1 system
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Every last Friday of the 	

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

BrahMos Missile - 400 km Range

- ❖ The Indian Air Force today successfully tested the extended range version of the BrahMos Air Launched missile.
- ❖ It was launched against a ship target from Su-30 MKI fighter jet.
- ❖ The extended range of the BrahMos missile is believed to have the ability to take out targets in sea 400 km away
- ❖ The BrahMos supersonic cruise missile has a two-stage solid propellant booster engine as its first stage which takes it to supersonic speed.
- ❖ The second stage is the liquid ramjet engine.
- ❖ It takes it closer to Mach 3 (3 times the speed of sound) speed in the cruise phase.



Confuciusornis shifan

- ❖ The fossil remains of a 119-million-year-old beaked bird was recently discovered in China.
- ❖ It lived during the Early Cretaceous Period, around 119 million years ago in present-day China.



- ❖ It was belonged to the Confuciusornithidae family of the genus Confuciusornis, a group of crow-sized beaked birds.
- ❖ It is a group of Early Cretaceous pygostylian birds that were found in the Jehol Biota of East Asia.
- ❖ This group represents the earliest known toothless, beaked birds.

Garrarnawun Bush Tomato

- ❖ A new species of bush tomato was discovered in Australia recently.
- ❖ It is currently found only in one site in world.
- ❖ Genus Solanum has around 1,400 accepted species that are distributed across the world.
- ❖ The species belonging to this genus are found in all continents except Antarctica.
- ❖ It is the most species-rich genus in the Solanaceae family.
- ❖ It is among the largest in the angiosperms (flowering plants).
- ❖ The genus includes 3 food crops having high economic value.
- ❖ These are the potato, tomato and eggplant (brinjal).
- ❖ Much of the species belonging to the Solanum are concentrated in circum-Amazonian tropical South America.
- ❖ However, its hotspots are also found in Africa and Australia.



‘GNB1 Encephalopathy’ Disease

- ❖ Researchers in India, the US and Israel and currently trying to develop a drug to treat a rare genetic disease called GNB1 Encephalopathy.
- ❖ GNB1 Encephalopathy is a rare genetic brain disease caused due to mutations in the GNB1 gene.

- ❖ Less than 100 cases of GNB1 Encephalopathy have been recorded worldwide.

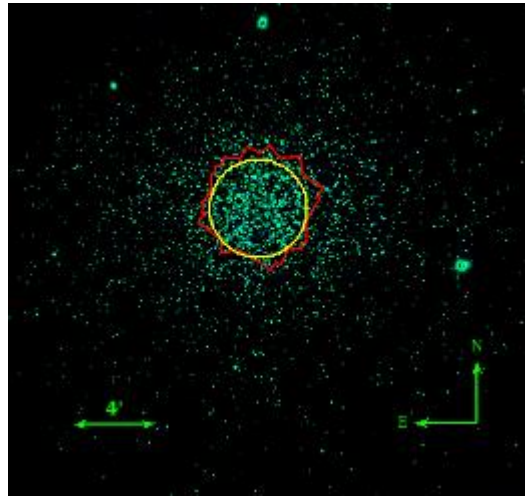
	Gβ1 WT vs mutants		
	Gβ1 WT	Gβ1 K78R	Gβ1 I80N & I80T
Gβ1 protein levels	RNA ↓ Gβ1 protein	Gain of Expression	Partial Loss of Expression
GIRK single channel activity	K ⁺	GIRK1/2 Partial Loss of Function	GIRK2 Loss of Function
Whole-cell GIRK currents		Gain of Function	Loss of Function
Rescue		GIRK inhibitors	GIRK activators

54 Starlink v2.0 satellites

- ❖ The first 54 v2.0 or Gen2 Starlink Satellites were launched into low Earth orbit by the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.
- ❖ Since the start of 2022, 60 SpaceX missions have been completed successfully.
- ❖ SpaceX currently has 3,604 operational Starlink Satellites in orbit.
- ❖ The anticipated total number of satellites is 12,000, with a potential increase to 42,000.

Discovery of hot stars and white dwarfs

- ❖ The Astronomers and scientists at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have found that hot stars and white dwarfs emitted less ultraviolet radiation than expected.
- ❖ It is discovered while studying the Omega Centauri, which is the most massive globular cluster system in our galaxy.
- ❖ The enhancement in helium could be one of the reasons for the lesser far-ultraviolet radiation emitted by these stars.
- ❖ The team detected strange hot stars in the cluster using the Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (UVIT) images on AstroSat.
- ❖ AstroSat is India's first dedicated space observatory, which has been operating since 2015.



Gelbots



- ❖ John Hopkins University scientists of USA have built a soft robot named Gelbots.
- ❖ Gelbots are made out of gelatin.
- ❖ They are created by 3D printing.
- ❖ They are capable of moving without requiring an extra power source because of the way their shape, dimensions and patterning of gel are designed.
- ❖ This is because the gels swell or shrink in response to temperature.
- ❖ They can be used to create smart structures.
- ❖ Even they can be used for moving on surfaces through the human body to deliver targeted medicines.
- ❖ They could also be deployed as marine robots, patrolling and monitoring the ocean's surface.
- ❖ Gelbots can be trained to crawl in response to variations in human biomarkers and biochemical.

First semi high-speed hydrogen train


- ❖ China has launched Asia's first hydrogen powered trains for the Urban Railways.
- ❖ The hydrogen train gets a top speed of 160 km/h.
- ❖ The operational range without refuelling is 600 km.
- ❖ Fuel cells have been installed in this train, which generate energy by mixing hydrogen with oxygen and in return only water and steam are emitted.
- ❖ Germany was the first country to introduce hydrogen powered trains in September 2022.



Lumpi-ProVacind Vaccine

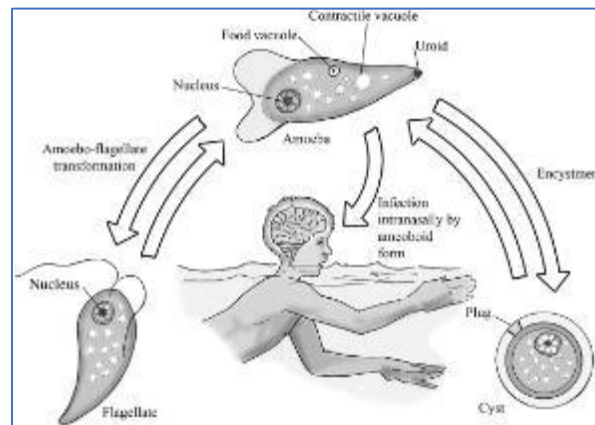
- ❖ Institute of Veterinary Biological Products (IVBP), Pune got “Non-Exclusive Rights” for Commercial production of “Lumpi-ProVac”.
- ❖ Lumpi-ProVac is safe in animals and induces LSDV-specific antibodies and cell-mediated immune response.

LSD: CAUSE AND EFFECT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Lumpy skin disease is a viral disease that affects cattle > It is transmitted by blood-feeding insects like certain species of mosquitoes and flies, or ticks > It can spread through saliva and contaminated feed and fodder > It can spread rapidly in warm and moist conditions > It causes fever, nodules on the skin, enlargement of lymph 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> nodes, depression and can also lead to death > Causes reduced milk yield, abortion in pregnant animals and sterility in bulls > Control options include vaccination and culling of infected animals



- ❖ The vaccine is used for the prophylactic immunization of animals against Lumpy Skin Disease, which illicit protection for about one year.
- ❖ Lumpy skin disease (LSD) is a contagious viral disease of cattle and buffalo that causes relatively low mortality.
- ❖ The lumpy skin disease virus is a virus of the capri pox virus genus in the poxviridae family.
- ❖ It is transmitted by insects that feed on blood, like mosquitoes, ticks, and certain species of flies.
- ❖ It does not affect humans.

Brain-eating amoeba

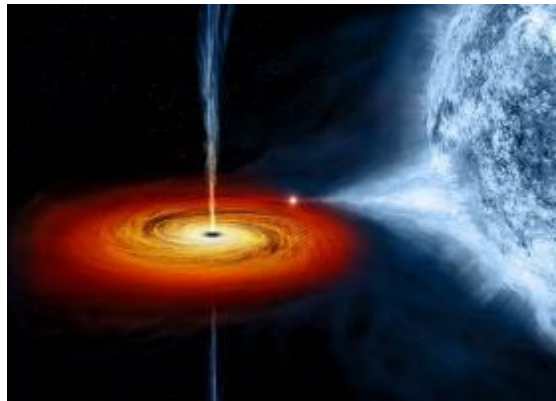


- ❖ South Korea reported its first case of infection from *Naegleria fowleri* or “brain-eating amoeba”.
- ❖ *Naegleria* is an amoeba, a single-celled organism, and only one of its species.
- ❖ It was first discovered in Australia in 1965.
- ❖ It is commonly found in warm freshwater bodies, such as hot springs, rivers and lakes.
- ❖ The amoeba enters the human body through the nose and then travels up to the brain.
- ❖ Once *Naegleria fowleri* goes to the brain, it destroys brain tissues and causes a dangerous infection known as primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM).

Tidal disruption event

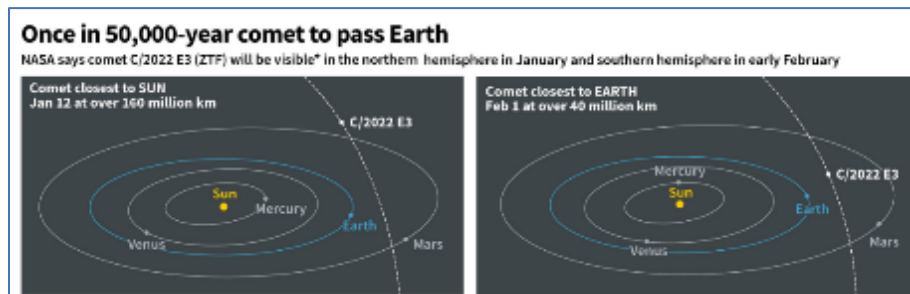
- ❖ Telescopes operated by NASA recently observed a massive black hole devouring a star.
- ❖ The incident was the fifth-closest example of a black hole destroying a star.

- ❖ It occurred 250 million light-years from the earth, in the centre of another galaxy.
- ❖ The astronomical phenomenon of the destruction of a star by a black hole is formally called a tidal disruption event (TDE).
- ❖ A tidal force is the difference in the strength of gravity between two points.
- ❖ If the tidal force exerted on a body is greater than the intermolecular force that keeps it together, the body will get disrupted.
- ❖ The event is formally called AT2021ehb.
- ❖ It took place in a galaxy with a central black hole about 10 million times the mass of our sun.



Comet C/2022 E3 (ZTF)

- ❖ A newly discovered comet could be visible to the naked eye as it shoots past Earth and the Sun.
- ❖ This is the first time in 50,000 years.
- ❖ After travelling from the icy reaches of our Solar System it will come closest to the Sun and pass nearest to Earth.
- ❖ The comet is estimated to have a diameter of around a kilometre
- ❖ The comet has spent most of its life "at least 2,500 times more distant than the Earth is from the Sun.
- ❖ The last time the comet passed Earth was during the Upper Palaeolithic period, when Neanderthals still roamed Earth.
- ❖ This comet's next visit to the inner Solar System was expected in another 50,000 years.
- ❖ This will smaller than NEOWISE, the last comet visible with an unaided eye, which passed Earth in March 2020.
- ❖ Earlier in 1997, the Hale-Bopp comet swept by with a potentially life-ending diameter of around 60 kilometres.



Merger of galaxies

- ❖ Astronomers observed two merging galaxies about 500 million light-years from Earth.
- ❖ The two black holes were growing in cycle near the centre of the merging galaxy resulting from the merger.
- ❖ They met when their host galaxies, known as UGC 4211, collided.
- ❖ One is 200 million times the mass of our sun, while the other is 125 million times the mass of our sun.
- ❖ The black holes are located the closest together scientists have ever seen, only about 750 light-years apart.



Missile Prithvi-II

- ❖ India successfully carried out a test launch of tactical ballistic missile Prithvi-II.
- ❖ It is a surface-to-surface nuclear-capable short-range ballistic missile.
- ❖ It is a single-stage liquid-fuelled missile.
- ❖ The Prithvi-II missile has a range of around 350 kilometres.
- ❖ It has a range of around 250 km-350km and can carry a one tonne payload.
- ❖ It is Developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under its Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).



DRDO's UAV



- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed an untethered multi-copter payload, an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV).
- ❖ It is capable of flying with a 5 kg payload and even dropping bombs in enemy territories.
- ❖ The multi-copter can carry out autonomous missions with waypoint navigation up to a 5 km radius.
- ❖ The multi-copter was displayed by the DRDO at the 108th Indian Science Congress in Maharashtra's Nagpur.

Hypersonic Vehicle Test Run

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted a joint hypersonic vehicle trial.
- ❖ The hypersonic vehicle, based on state-of-the-art technology, is capable of delivering military response over long distances by rapidly reaching space.

- ❖ A hypersonic vehicle can be an airplane, missile, or spacecraft that has the ability to travel five times faster than the speed of sound, or greater than Mach 5.
- ❖ It has been developing hypersonic missiles in collaboration with Russia.



Virgin Orbit rocket

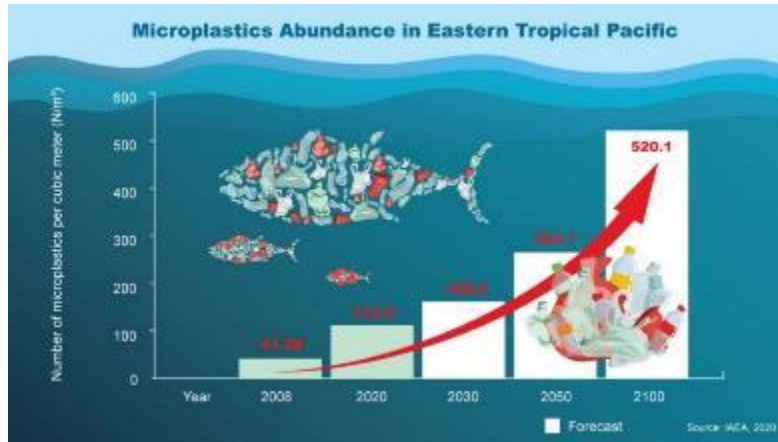
- ❖ The first-ever orbital mission to lift off from the United Kingdom did not go as planned.
- ❖ The "horizontal launch" mission had left from the coastal town of Newquay.
- ❖ The Rocket carried under the wing of a modified Boeing 747 called "Cosmic Girl", and later released over the Atlantic Ocean.
- ❖ It had planned to deploy nine small satellites into lower Earth orbit (LEO) in its first mission outside its United States base.
- ❖ A mission failure would be the second in Virgin Orbit's history since its first launch in 2020.



Filter Micro-plastics from Water

- ❖ South Korea have developed a new water purification system that can effectively remove microplastics from water in just 10 seconds.
- ❖ The system uses a polymer that is relatively inexpensive and has excellent adsorption performance and good photothermal properties.
- ❖ Microplastics, tiny plastic particles that are less than 5mm in size, have become a global problem.

- ❖ They have been found in water bodies, soil, and air, and have even made their way into the human food chain.
- ❖ The presence of microplastics in water can have negative impacts on aquatic life and potentially on human health.



Lecanemab drug for Alzheimer

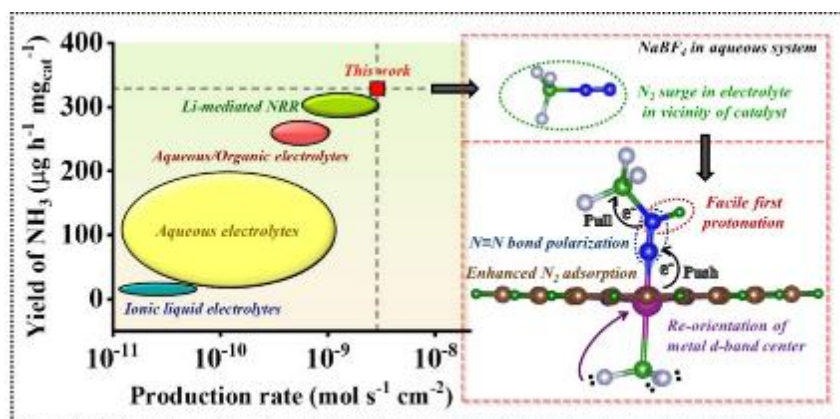
- ❖ The US Food and Drug Administration has approved lecanemab (Leqembi) for treatment of Alzheimer's disease.
- ❖ Lecanemab, which will be sold under the brand name Leqembi, is the first Alzheimer's treatment of its kind.



New electrolyte to Ammonia synthesis

- ❖ The scientists at INST (Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST)) have developed a new electrolyte called sodium tetrafluoroborate (NaBF₄).

- ❖ It acts as an N_2 carrier in the medium, and functions as a “co-catalyst” with MnN_4 to produce high yields of NH_3 under ambient conditions.
- ❖ Ammonia synthesis is an important process for industries producing green energy or hydrogen.
- ❖ The electrochemical reduction of N_2 , also known as the Nitrogen Reduction Reaction (NRR).
- ❖ One major obstacle is the poor solubility of N_2 in water, which limits the efficiency of the NRR.



Global award for Bio-insecticide

- ❖ A research intern from ICRISAT, Sarvesh Prabhu, from Hyderabad, won third prize at the International Science and Engineering Fair in Atlanta, US.
- ❖ He was awarded in the biochemistry category for developing cost-effective bio-insecticide.
- ❖ This insecticide is made from leaves of Ramphal or ‘Bullock’s Heart’.
- ❖ Traditionally, extracts of this plant have been used to treat dysentery.
- ❖ Bio-insecticide on the other hand cost between Rs.750 to 1,000 and are eco-friendly.



Commercial Hyperloop tech

- ❖ Tata Steel and TuTr Hyperloop have signed a memorandum of agreement at IIT Madras, to jointly work on the development and deployment of hyperloop technology at scale.
- ❖ The main research areas will focus on key challenges of design and materials selection.
- ❖ Globally, hyperloop holds huge potential for high-speed sustainable transportation of future.
- ❖ The hyperloop is a future option for high-speed, low cost, sustainable transport system for both passengers and cargo.



India's first 5G-enabled drone



- ❖ India's first 5G-enabled drone, Skyhawk, has been developed by Noida-based IG Drones.
- ❖ It is capable of vertical take-off and landing.

- ❖ Skyhawk can carry a 10-kilogramme payload.
- ❖ It can be used in defence and medical applications, among other sectors.
- ❖ It has an endurance of around five hours and can operate through satellites in case an internet link is unavailable.

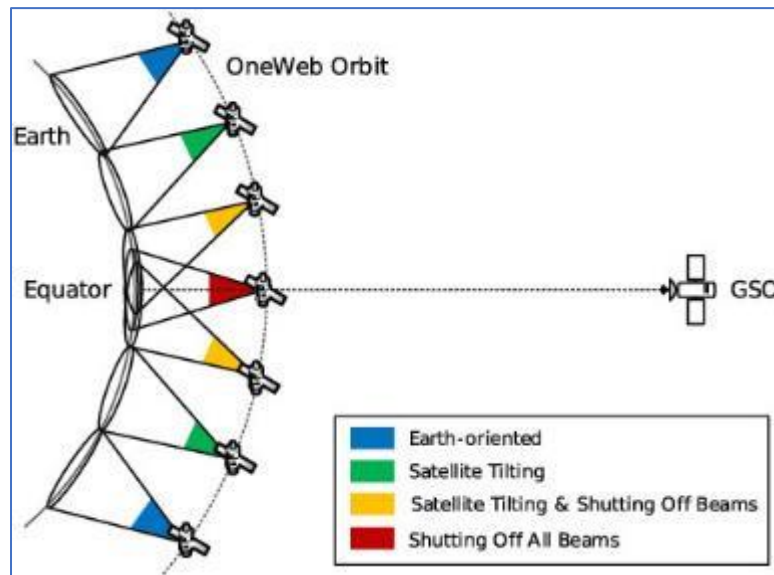
New material removes pollutants from water

- ❖ IISER, Pune have developed a unique molecular sponge-like material that can effectively clean polluted water.
- ❖ The material is called a macro/microporous ionic organic framework.
- ❖ It is able to absorb and remove a wide range of toxic contaminants, including organic dyes, antibiotics, pesticides, iodides, and oxo-pollutants such as perrhenate.
- ❖ These contaminants can pose a direct threat to human health and the environment, and are commonly found in freshwater sources.



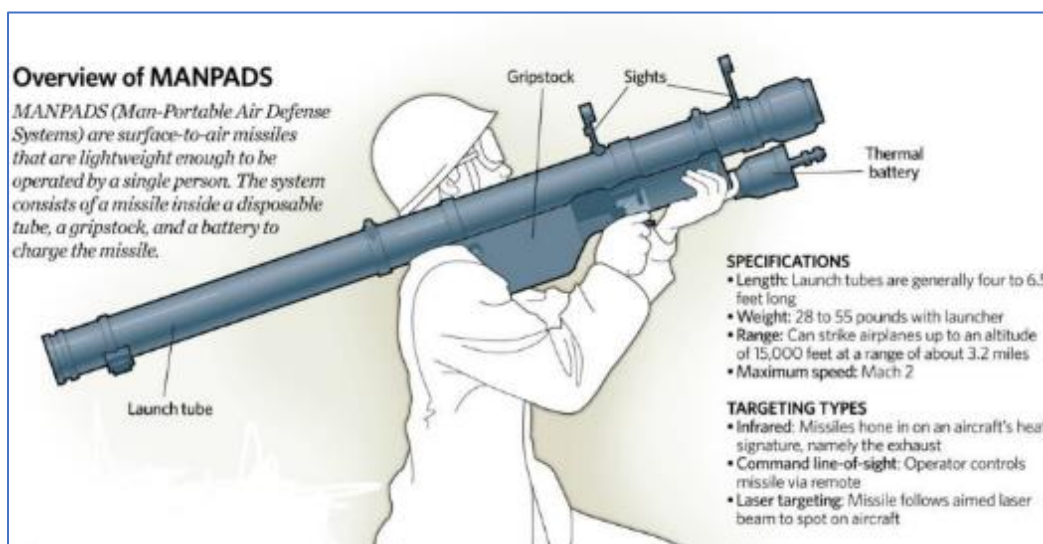
OneWeb's 40 satellites

- ❖ Bharti-backed OneWeb successfully deployed 40 satellites launched by SpaceX, US.
- ❖ This marks OneWeb's 16th launch so far.
- ❖ The company only needs two more launches to complete its first-generation constellation.
- ❖ With the launch, OneWeb has a total of 542 operation satellites in orbit.
- ❖ It is more than 83 per cent of the total 648 satellites planned by the company.
- ❖ Once its satellite network is fully deployed, OneWeb plans to provide low-latency high-speed satellite internet services using constellations of low-Earth satellites, exactly like Starlink.



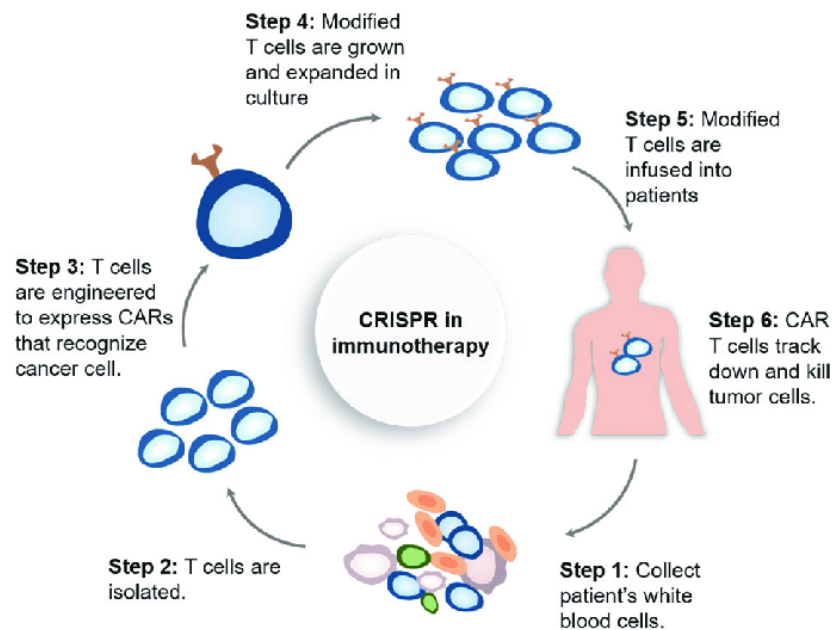
VSHORAD Missile System

- ❖ The Defence Acquisition Council accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) to procure the Very Short-Range Air Defence System or VSHORAD missile system.
- ❖ It is designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.
- ❖ VSHORADS is a man portable Air Defence System (MANPAD).
- ❖ The missile, meant for neutralizing low-altitude aerial threats at short ranges is propelled by a dual-thrust solid motor.
- ❖ The AoN is the first step in the long capital procurement process in defence.



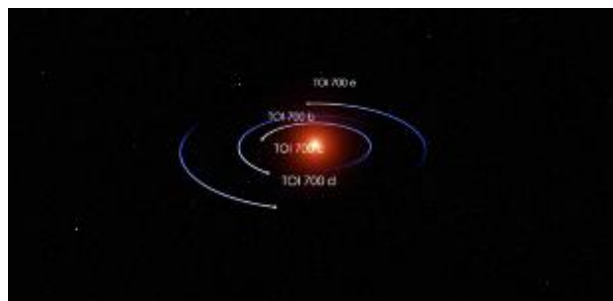
Base editing technology used in CAR-T therapy

- ❖ University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center have successfully used base editing technology to repair damaged heart tissue.
- ❖ They used a CRISPR-Cas9 nucleotide base editing system to modify an enzyme called the calcium calmodulin-dependent protein kinase II δ .
- ❖ This protein involved in signalling pathways across various body functions.

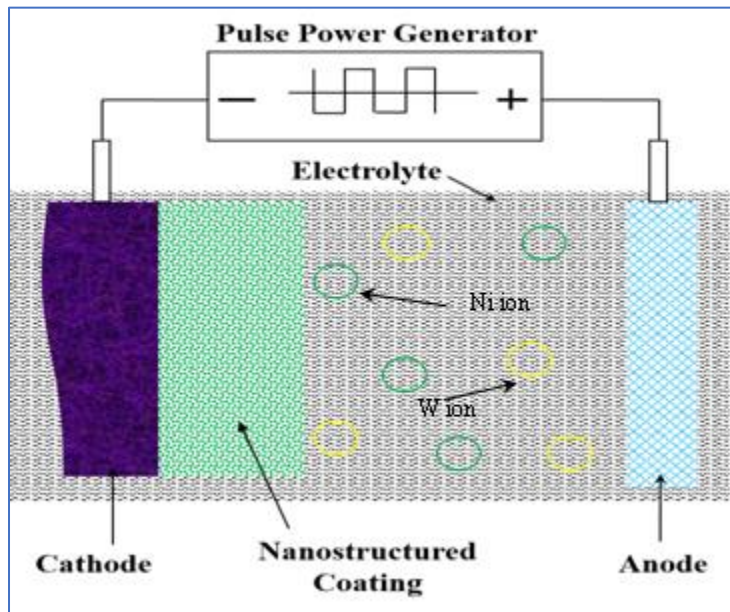


Earth-sized rocky Planet

- ❖ NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) mission has discovered a second Earth-sized, rocky planet within the habitable zone of its star.
- ❖ The range of distances where liquid water could occur on a planet's surface.
- ❖ The planet is named TOI 700 e.
- ❖ The world is 95% Earth's size and likely rocky.
- ❖ Astronomers previously discovered three planets in this system, called TOI 700 b, c, and d.



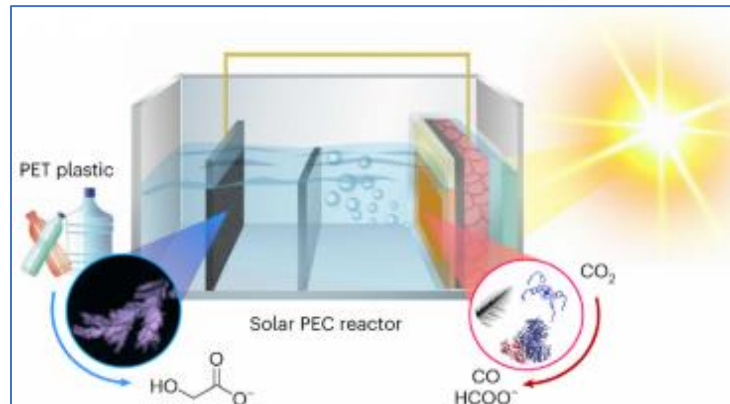
Corrosion-resistant nickel alloy coating



- ❖ A new method of deposition of Nickel alloy coatings was setup on high-performance materials in engineering applications.
- ❖ It can replace environmentally toxic chrome coatings.
- ❖ The coatings obtained are also highly corrosion-resistant and useful for the plastic ware industry.
- ❖ The process consists of environment-friendly electrolyte consisting of nickel and tungsten ions that is the source of strengthening elemental tungsten (W) and nickel (Ni).

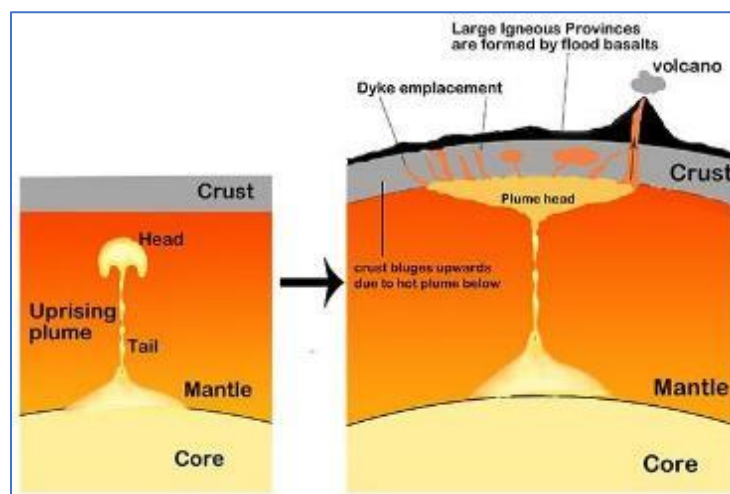
New Reactor powered by Sun

- ❖ University of Cambridge, UK have developed a system that can transform plastic waste and greenhouse gases into sustainable fuels and other valuable products.
- ❖ This is using energy from the sun.
- ❖ This integrated reactor has two separate compartments.
- ❖ One is for plastic and another one is for greenhouse gases.
- ❖ The reactor uses a light absorber based on perovskite.
- ❖ Perovskite is a promising alternative to silicon for next-generation solar cells.
- ❖ This reactor converts polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic bottles and CO₂ into different carbon-based fuels such as CO, syngas or formate, in addition to glycolic acid.



Mantle plume found on Mars

- ❖ Researchers have discovered an enormous mantle plume pushing the surface of Mars upward and driving intense volcanic and seismic activity.
- ❖ The mantle plume is situated underneath a low-lying area called Elysium Planitia that lies north to the equator.
- ❖ We have strong evidence for mantle plumes being active on Earth and Venus.
- ❖ Mantle plumes are large blobs of molten rock that rise towards the surface from the interiors of a planet.
- ❖ They push through the intermediate or mantle layers and accumulate at the base of the crust.
- ❖ This geological phenomenon can be witnessed on Earth in Hawaii where the warm materials from the plume ooze out of fissures to create great volcanic plains.



Solitary waves around Mars

- ❖ A team of astronomers from the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG) have found the first evidence of the presence of solitary waves or distinct electric field fluctuations on Mars.
- ❖ The study of these waves is crucial as they directly control particle energization, plasma loss, transport etc through wave particle interactions".
- ❖ Earth has a magnetosphere around it which is basically a shield around a planet made of magnetic field.
- ❖ Mars only has a weak magnetic field from its crustal magnetic sources.
- ❖ This allows the solar winds to interact with the Martian atmosphere and create solitary flows.
- ❖ Solitary waves are distinct electric field fluctuations (bipolar or monopolar) that follow constant amplitude-phase relations.



Hemo-halt bandage



- ❖ The scientists have prepared a biopolymer-based gel formulation and dressing in the form of 'Hemohalt'.
- ❖ It is as an effective and safe dressing for hemorrhage control is crucial.

- ❖ Heavy bleeding can be stopped in a matter of three minutes when wrap up the wounds with 'Hemohalt'.
- ❖ It can reduce blood loss before treatment, save lives, and reduce disabilities on the battlefield.
- ❖ This bandage is developed by MACS-Agharkar Research Institute, an autonomous institute under DST.

First mainland satellite launch port

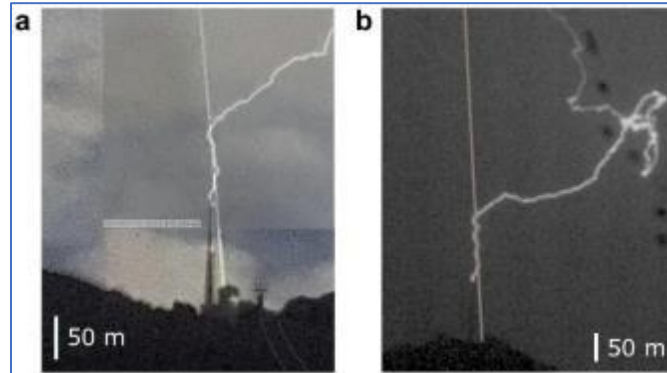
- ❖ Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf inaugurated the EU's first mainland orbital launch.
- ❖ The new facility at Esrange Space Center should complement the EU's current launching capabilities in French Guiana.
- ❖ The first satellite launch is expected next year.



Laser beam to guide lightning

- ❖ Scientists have used a laser beam to guide lightning for the first time.
- ❖ The technique will help protect against deadly bolts-and one day maybe even trigger them.
- ❖ Lightning strikes between 40-120 times a second worldwide.
- ❖ It is killing more than 4,000 people and causing billions of dollars' worth of damage every year.
- ❖ Lightning is a discharge of static electricity that has built up in storm clouds, or between clouds and the ground.
- ❖ The laser beam creates plasma, in which charged ions and electrons heat the air.

- ❖ The air becomes "partially conductive, and therefore a path preferred by the lightning,"
- ❖ This means that, in theory, this technique could be used not just to drive lightning away, but also to help steer the strike.



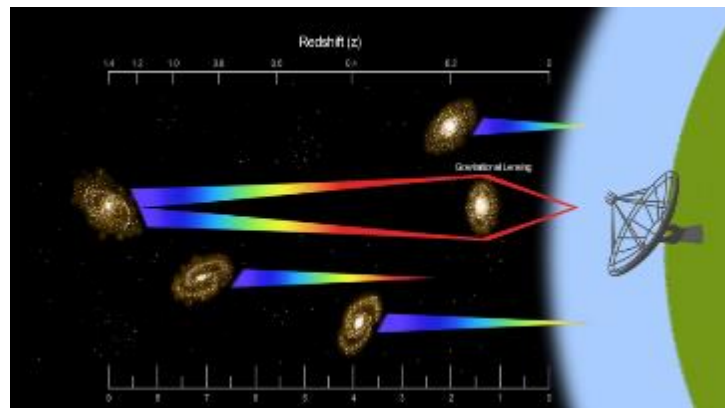
NASA's Geotail Mission

- ❖ After 30 years in orbit, mission operations for the joint NASA-JAXA Geotail spacecraft have ended.
- ❖ It was launched on July 24, 1992.
- ❖ The mission was part of the International Solar-Terrestrial Physics (ISTP) project.
- ❖ It had gathered an immense dataset on the structure and dynamics of the magnetosphere, Earth's protective magnetic bubble.
- ❖ Geotail was originally slated for a four-year run, but the mission was extended several times due to its high-quality data return.
- ❖ While one of Geotail's two data recorders failed in 2012, the second continued to work until experiencing an anomaly on June 28, 2022.



Radio signal originating from atomic hydrogen

- ❖ Recently, a radio signal originating from atomic hydrogen in an extremely distant galaxy was detected by the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT).
- ❖ Atomic hydrogen is the basic fuel required for star formation in a galaxy.
- ❖ Atomic hydrogen emits radio waves of 21 cm wavelength.
- ❖ The wavelength is a direct tracer of the atomic gas content in nearby and distant galaxies.
- ❖ The signal detected by the team was emitted from this galaxy when the universe was only 4.9 billion years old.
- ❖ Redshift represents the signal's wavelength change depending on the object's location and movement; a greater value of z indicates a farther object.



BharOS



- ❖ BharOS' is an indigenous operating system for smartphones developed by the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT).
- ❖ It was developed by JandK Operations Private Limited (JandKops), which has been incubated by IIT Madras.

- ❖ It aspires to put India on par with those few countries that currently possess such capabilities.
- ❖ It aims to develop a free and open-source operating system (OS) for use in government and public systems.
- ❖ BharOS comes with No Default Apps (NDA).

Pantranscriptome

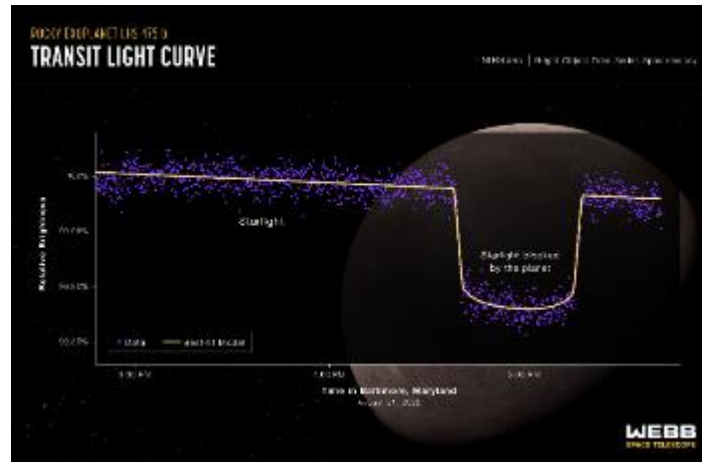
- ❖ Pantranscriptome is a combination of transcriptome and a pangenome.
- ❖ It contains genetic material from a cohort of diverse individuals, rather than just a single linear strand.
- ❖ RNA's most commonly recognized function is to translate DNA into proteins.
- ❖ But scientists now understand that the vast majority of RNA does not make proteins, but instead can play roles such as influencing cell structure or regulating genes.
- ❖ The entire RNA landscape is known collectively as the transcriptome.
- ❖ The pantranscriptome-concept builds on the emerging concept of "pangenomics" in the genomics field.
- ❖ Using a pangenome allows researchers to compare an individual's genome to that of a genetically diverse cohort of reference sequences all at once, sourced from individuals representing a diversity of biogeographic ancestry.



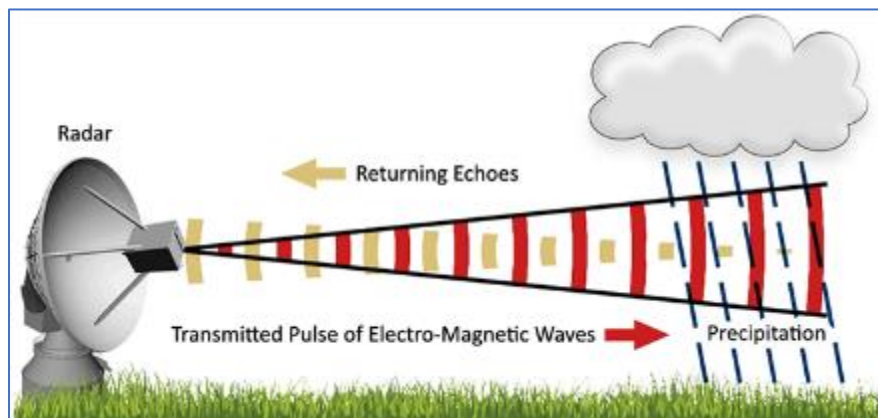
Exoplanet LHS 475 b

- ❖ NASA's the James Webb Space Telescope has discovered its first new exoplanet.
- ❖ Researchers have labelled the planet as LHS 475 b.
- ❖ It is roughly the same size as Earth.
- ❖ It is located just 41 light-years away.

- ❖ The planet orbits very close to a red dwarf star and completes a full orbit in just two days.
- ❖ Exoplanets are planets that orbit other stars and are beyond our solar system.
- ❖ According to NASA, to date, more than 5,000 exoplanets have been discovered.



Doppler weather radar network

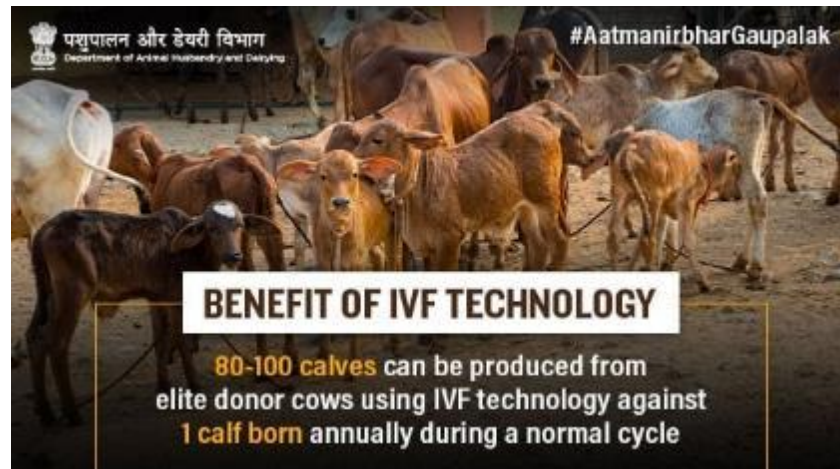


- ❖ Four Doppler weather radar systems were inaugurated in Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The Doppler weather radar network will cover the entire country by 2025 for more accurate forecasts related to extreme weather events.
- ❖ The government plans to establish 660 district agro-meteorological units by 2025.
- ❖ Doppler radars help in observing extent and intensity of rainfall and cloud formations, and monitoring thunderstorms and lightning in real-time.

ENVIRONMENT

1st IVF mobile unit for animals

- ❖ India got its first In vitro fertilization (IVF) mobile unit for animals in Gujarat's Amreli.
- ❖ The IVF mobile van was "dedicated in a joint venture of the Government of India and Amar Dairy."
- ❖ The IVF is a complex series of procedures used to help with fertility and assist with the conception of a child.
- ❖ In animals, it is an advanced reproductive technology for the multiplication of superior female germplasm at a higher rate.



Invasive species of Mussel

- ❖ The spread of an invasive species of mussel is a threat to the prawns of river and seabed.
- ❖ It is a South American mussel species.
- ❖ That is spreading due to the discharge of ballast waters from ships visiting the ports of Kattupalli, Chennai.



- ❖ This is the first time this invasive species has been found in the Eastern coast.
- ❖ The mussels were first spotted some two decades ago in the Ennore wetlands by local fishers.

Silent Valley Bird Survey



- ❖ A bird survey conducted at the Silent Valley National Park in the last week of December.
- ❖ The survey marked the 30th anniversary of the first bird survey in Silent Valley.
- ❖ This survey identified 141 species, of which 17 were new.
- ❖ So far, 175 species of birds have been spotted in Silent Valley.
- ❖ As many as 139 birds had been identified in a survey held in 2006.
- ❖ The number species went up to 142 in the last survey held in 2014.
- ❖ The first survey was held in the last week of December 1990.
- ❖ Silent Valley National Park was first explored by botanist Robert Wight in 1847.
- ❖ The park is located in the vicinity of the Mukurthi peak, the fifth-highest peak in South India.
- ❖

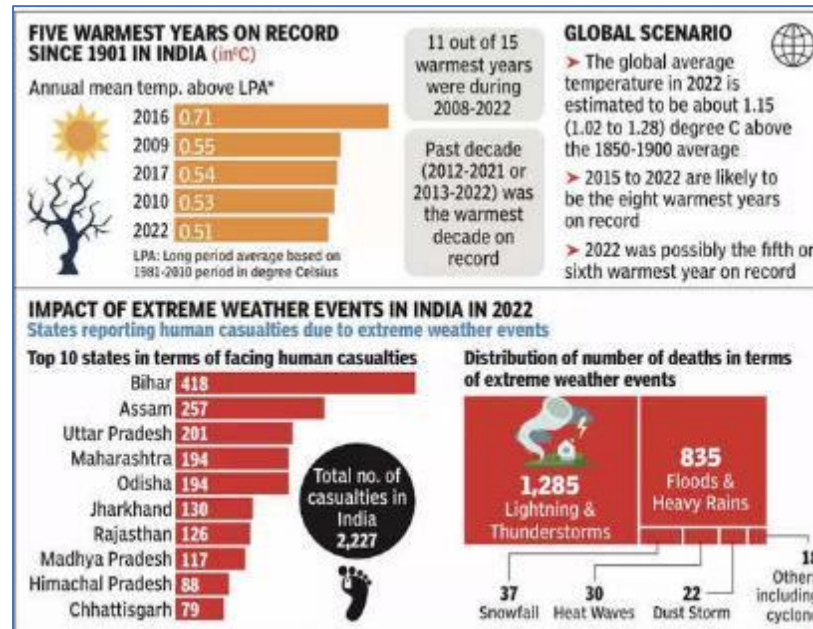
Urban Forestry and Urban Greening in Drylands

- ❖ The food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has released this report, under the framework of FAO's Green Urban Oases Programme.
- ❖ 35% of the world's largest cities (including New Delhi, Mexico City etc.) are built on the world's dryland.
- ❖ In all, they are home to more than 2 billion people, 90 percent of them in developing countries.
- ❖ Urban policies have yet to incorporate forestry and greening strategies in the majority of dryland cities.

- ❖ Currently, more than half of the global population lives in cities and 95 percent of urban growth between now and 2050 is expected to take place in the global South.
- ❖ Drylands are lands with an aridity index of less than 0.65.
- ❖ Aridity index is the ratio between average annual precipitation and potential evapotranspiration.



2022 - 5th warmest year



- ❖ The India Meteorological Department said that the year 2022 was the fifth warmest for India since 1901.
- ❖ The annual mean land surface air temperature was 0.51 degrees Celsius above the long-term average.

- ❖ Long-term average is the mean temperature for the 1981-2010 period.
- ❖ This was lower than the highest warming observed in India in 2016.
- ❖ In 2016, the average temperature was 0.71 degrees Celsius.
- ❖ Rainfall over the country in 2022 as a whole was 108 per cent of its Long Period Average value based on the period 1971-2020.

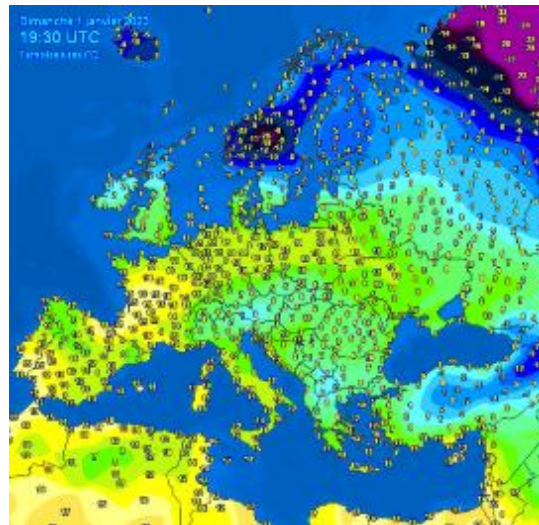
First vaccine for honey bees



- ❖ The US has approved use of the world's first vaccine for honey bees.
- ❖ It was engineered to prevent fatalities from American foulbrood disease.
- ❖ It is a bacterial condition known to weaken colonies by attacking bee larvae.
- ❖ It works by introducing an inactive version of the bacteria into the royal jelly that is fed to the queen bee.
- ❖ The US has seen annual reductions in honey bee colonies since 2006.

Europe Winter Heat wave

- ❖ Several parts of Europe witnessed an unprecedented winter heat wave over New Year's weekend.
- ❖ The temperatures increased 10 to 20 degrees Celsius above normal.
- ❖ Impacts of Europe's extreme winter heat wave visible from space.
- ❖ At least seven countries recorded their hottest January weather ever.
- ❖ These included Poland, Denmark, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Belarus, Lithuania and Latvia.

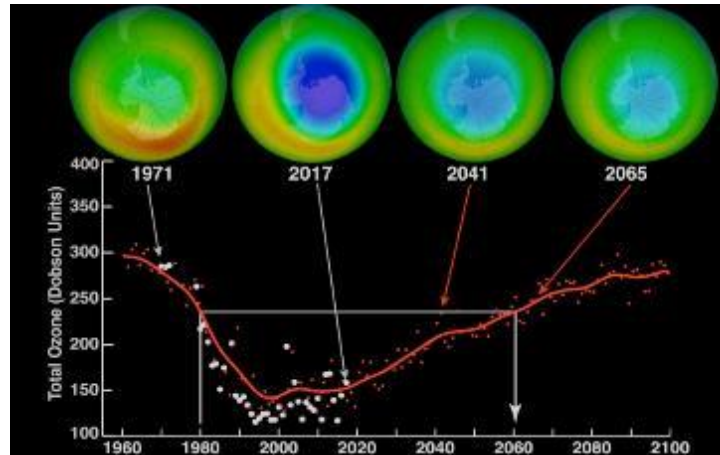


Living Root Bridges



- ❖ A farmer takes forward the State's traditional practice of building root bridges and connects two areas across Umkar river in Cherrapunjee.
- ❖ His creation over Umkar river in Siej village near Cherrapunjee, also known as Sohra, in the undulating East Khasi Hills of Meghalaya has grown into a living marvel.
- ❖ As is the traditional practice, he used the roots of the rubber fig (*Ficus elastica*).
- ❖ The living root bridge across the Umkar has grown to two decks, stretching to 20 metres and 15 metres, respectively.
- ❖ Meghalaya is known for its living root bridges, locally known as jingkieng jri.
- ❖ They are on the tentative list of UNESCO's World Heritage sites.
- ❖ Many bridges across the State are over a century old.

Earth's Ozone Layer Recovery



- ❖ The Montreal Protocol report confirmed the phase-out of nearly 99 per cent of banned ozone-depleting substances.
- ❖ According to the report, if current policies remain in place, the Ozone layer is expected to recover to 1980 values by 2040.
- ❖ The discovery of a hole in the Ozone Layer was first announced by scientists in May 1985.
- ❖ Over the Antarctic, this recovery is expected by around 2066, and by 2045 over the Arctic.
- ❖ Nevertheless, the Antarctic ozone breach has been slowly improving in area and depth, since the year 2000.

Neelakurinji under Protected Species

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF) has listed Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*) under Schedule III of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, including it on the list of protected plants.
- ❖ Those who uproot or destroy the plant will invite a fine of ₹25,000 and three-years' imprisonment.
- ❖ The cultivation of Neelakurinji and its possession is not allowed, according to the order.
- ❖ In the Western Ghats region, nearly 70 varieties of Neelakurinji plants have been identified.
- ❖ The most popular Neelakurinji is *Strobilanthes kunthiana* which blooms once in 12 years.
- ❖ However, some other rare varieties of Neelakurnji are also found in the Western Ghats region.



Saltie census 2023



- ❖ The population of saltwater crocodiles in the water bodies of Bhitarkanika National Park and its nearby areas in Odisha's Kendrapara district has marginally increased in 2023.
- ❖ This year, forest officials counted 1,793 crocodiles.
- ❖ These included 20 whitish individuals.
- ❖ Last year, officials had sighted 1,784 reptiles.

Rare species of duck

- ❖ A rare species of duck, Greater Scaup was recently sighted in Loktak lake in Manipur's Bishnupur district after a gap of over 90 years.
- ❖ It is locally known as Sadangman.
- ❖ The Greater Scaup is a medium-sized diving duck species that belongs to the family of Anatidae.

- ❖ There are records of Captain L Gamble of Gurkha Rifles and Indian Civil Service officer JP Mills gunning down the ducks on January 25, 1925, and in December 1927, respectively.



Spot Bellied Eagle Owl

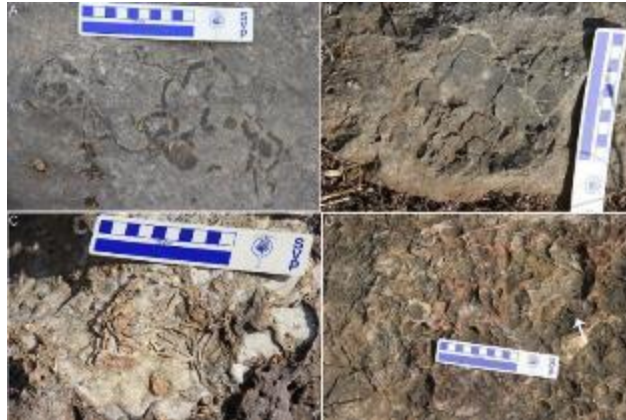
- ❖ Spot Bellied Eagle Owl spotted in Seshachalam forest of Andhra Pradesh for the first time.
- ❖ The bird's habitat, found on large trees in thick forests, is spread across the Indian sub-continent.
- ❖ But it was sighted only twice in the State earlier, and both the times it was at Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ The bird makes a strange scream similar to humans and it is hence called the 'Ghost of the Forest' in India and 'Devil Bird' in Sri Lanka".
- ❖ These eagle-owl species are distributed in India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, China, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.



Rare dinosaur eggs

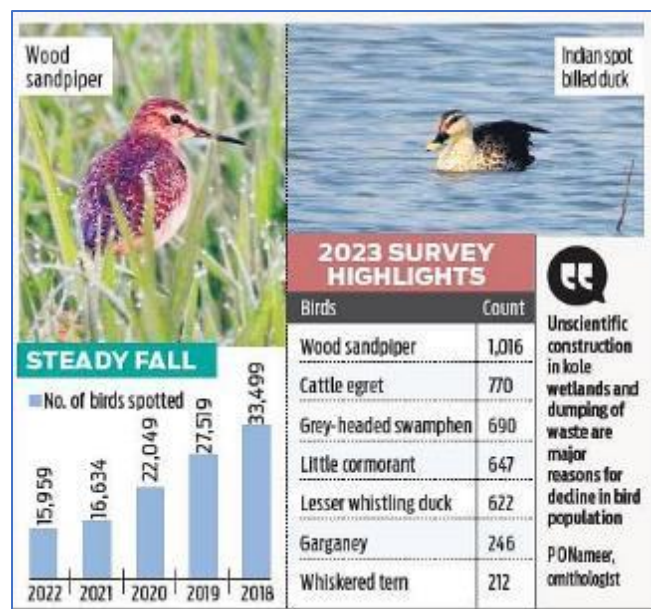
- ❖ Recent work in the Lameta Formation, located in the Narmada valley of Central India, uncovered 92 nesting sites belonging to titanosaurs.
- ❖ They were among the largest dinosaurs to have ever lived.

- ❖ They discovered more than 250 fossilised eggs that reveal crucial details about the lives of titanosaurs in the Indian subcontinent.
- ❖ The fossils were from the Late Cretaceous period.
- ❖ And the researchers have identified six different “oospecies,” or egg species.



Kole Wetlands birds count

- ❖ Drop Kole wetlands are spread over an area of 13,632 hectares straddling Thrissur and Malappuram districts.
- ❖ It has been visited by hundreds of migratory birds every year.
- ❖ A survey was conducted in the Thrissur-Ponnani kole fields, a Ramsar site known for the number and diversity of birds.
- ❖ The first day of 2023 Census recorded the lowest count of waterbirds in three decades.



- ❖ A total of 9,904 birds belonging to 90 different species were counted this year.
- ❖ The counts were 16,634 & 15,956 in 2021 and 2022 respectively.
- ❖ There has been a marked decline in the number since 2018, when the count was 33,499.

Four dinosaur species

- ❖ Scientists have found the remains of four species of dinosaurs, including a megaraptor.
- ❖ The fossils were found in Cerro Guido, in southern Chile's Las Chinas valley near the border with Argentina.
- ❖ They belong to dinosaurs that have not previously been identified in the area.
- ❖ Megaraptor was a large theropod of the Cretaceous Period.
- ❖ These carnivorous dinosaurs had raptor claws, small teeth for tearing, and large upper limbs.
- ❖ They inhabited between 66 and 75 million years ago, at the end of the Cretaceous period.
- ❖ The Cretaceous Period, in geologic time, is the last of the three periods of the Mesozoic Era.
- ❖ The Cretaceous began 145.0 million years ago and ended 66 million years ago.
- ❖ Theropod group includes all the known carnivorous dinosaurs as well as the birds.



Europe's Largest Deposit of Rare Earths

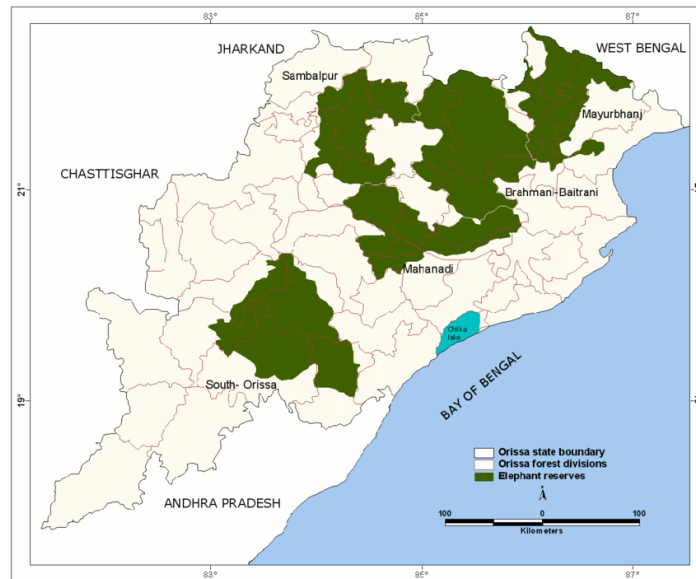
- ❖ Swedish government reported the largest deposit of rare earth metals ever discovered in Europe, more than a million tonnes of rare earth oxides.
- ❖ There is currently zero rare earth mining in Europe.

- ❖ China has produces some 61% of the world's rare earth supply.
- ❖ The world's largest known rare earths deposit is the Bayan Obo deposit in Inner Mongolia, northern China.
- ❖ It has been in production since 1957 and contains some 40 million tonnes of reserves.
- ❖ There are 17 rare earth elements, prized for their outstanding magnetic and conductive qualities.
- ❖ The most important at the moment is neodymium, which is alloyed with boron and iron to form the world's strongest permanent magnets.
- ❖ They can be found in mobiles, hard drives, and trains.



Man-Elephant conflict

- ❖ The Odisha government has come up with a 'comprehensive action plan for conservation of elephants and mitigation of human-elephant conflict.
- ❖ The State has been divided into four zones.
- ❖ The Zone I will be 'Elephant Conservation Zone', which is three elephant reserves.
- ❖ The Zone II will be treated as a co-existence zone, intending to increase habitat quality and viability and reduce conflict through long- term strategies.
- ❖ Zone III will be a Conflict Mitigation Zone where steps will be taken to reduce conflict through short-term strategies.
- ❖ The Zone IV will be a no-go area for elephants.
- ❖ The jumbos straying in this zone to be captured and translocated forthwith to identified locations.
- ❖ In the past nine years, Odisha has lost close to 700 elephants, while the human deaths in human-elephant encounters have reached 860.



Orange color bat

- ❖ A rare orange-coloured bat, which is a "near threatened" species, has been spotted in Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ The animal, also known as the 'painted bat', is characterised by bright orange and black wings.
- ❖ The bright orange-coloured bat was seen for the third time in the last few years in the Kanger Valley National Park located in the Bastar district.
- ❖ The national park is famous for its limestone caves which also provide a suitable habitat for bats.
- ❖ The painted bat, whose scientific name is 'Kerivoula picta', is a "near threatened" species.
- ❖ They commonly seen in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.



Nature Risk profile

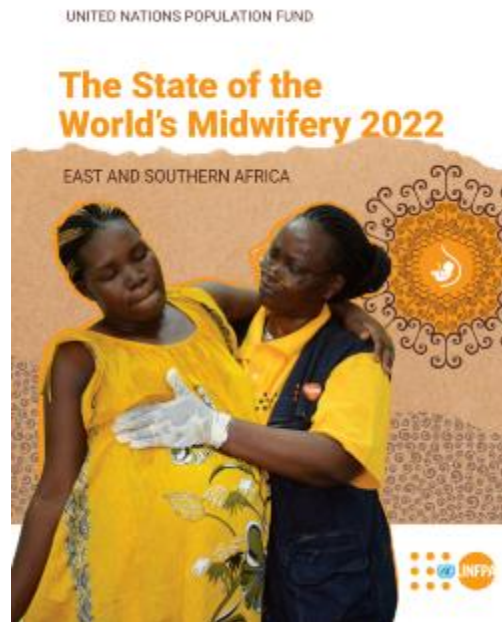
- ❖ The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and S&P Global launched the Nature Risk Profile.
- ❖ It is a new methodology for analyzing companies' impacts and dependencies on nature.
- ❖ It is aimed at enabling the financial sector to measure and address nature-related risk by providing scientifically robust and actionable analytics on nature impacts and dependencies.



REPORTS AND INDICES

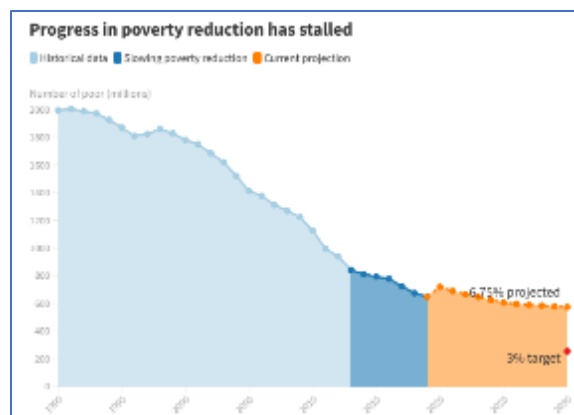
The State of the World's Midwifery 2022: East and Southern Africa

- ❖ The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and World Health Organization (WHO) released this report.
- ❖ Around 1.2 million lives can be saved each year in East and Southern Africa by 2035 if there is universal coverage of midwife-delivered interventions.
- ❖ A strong midwifery workforce is vital for successfully achieving UNFPA strategies for improving sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, and adolescent health (SRMNAH).



2022 in Nine Charts

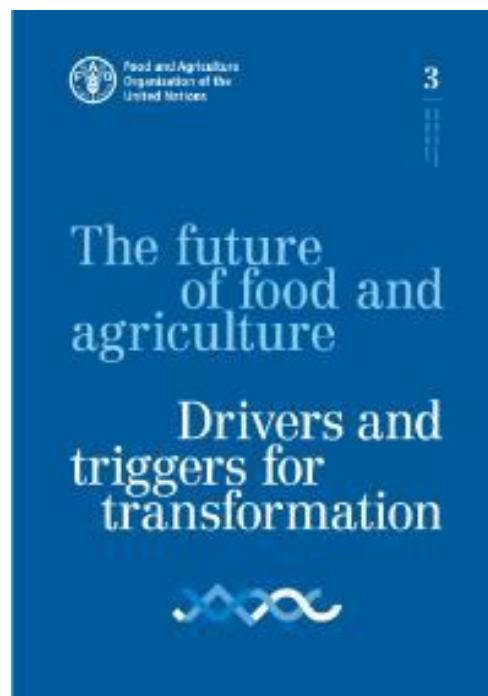
- ❖ This report was released recently by the World Bank.
- ❖ At the end of 2022, the world is experiencing the “steepest slowdown” in the Global poverty since 1970.
- ❖ Currently, 685 million people are living in extreme poverty.
- ❖ This makes 2022 the second-worst year for poverty reduction in the past 20 years after the year 2020.



The Future of Food and Agriculture-Drivers and Triggers for Transformation

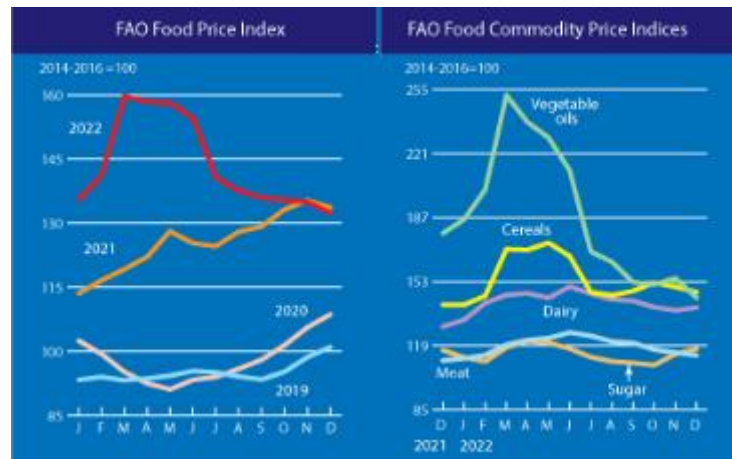
- ❖ This report was released by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

- ❖ This report analysed the current and emerging drivers of agrifood systems and their possible future trends.
- ❖ As per the report, it is unlikely to meet the 2030 sustainable development goals, including agrifood targets.
- ❖ The world is expected to witness persistent food insecurity, degradation of resources, and unsustainable economic growth in the future.
- ❖ The report hypothesised following four future scenarios for agrifood systems that would bring diverse outcomes in terms of food security, nutritional security and overall sustainability.
 - More of the same
 - Adjusted future
 - Race to the bottom
 - Trading off for sustainability



Food price index

- ❖ The FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) is a measure of the monthly change in international prices of a basket of food commodities.
- ❖ As per the report, world food prices reached a record high in 2022.
- ❖ This is marking 14.3% increase from 2021 and the highest level since records began in 1990.



Best performing global airports of 2022

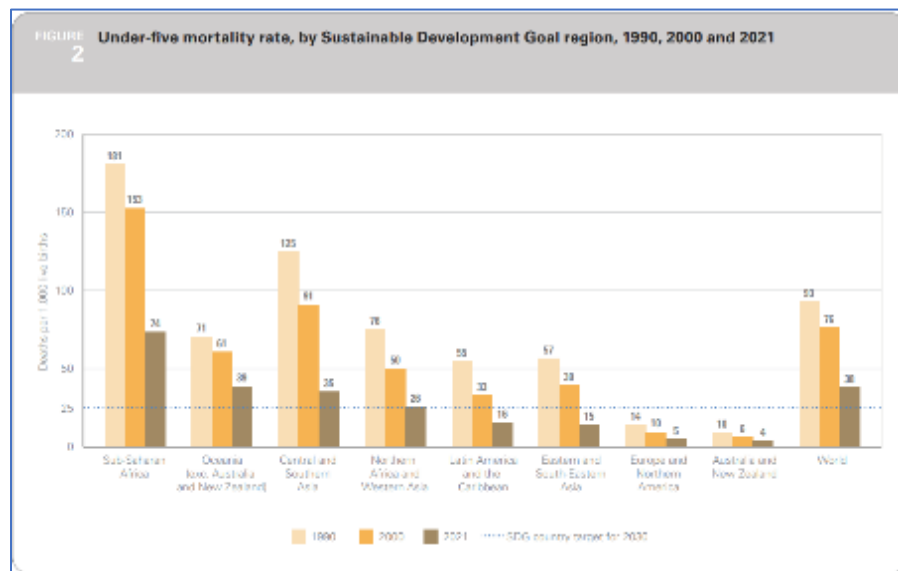
- ❖ Bangalore's Kempe Gowda International Airport and Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport found a place on second and seventh spots, respectively.
- ❖ Haneda Airport, Tokyo topped in the list.
- ❖ Azul Airlines is emerging as "the global leader" in the list of most punctual airlines worldwide.



Child Mortality 2022

- ❖ In 2021, 5 million children died before turning 5 years old.
- ❖ An estimated 2.1 million children, adolescents and youth aged 5–24 years died that same year.
- ❖ Globally, the under-five mortality rate was 38 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2021.
- ❖ But in sub-Saharan Africa, the rate was 74 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- ❖ In low-income countries, the 2021 under-five mortality rate was 67 deaths per 1,000 live births.

- ❖ Just 5 deaths occurred per 1,000 live births in high-income countries.
- ❖ More children and youth died in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia than all other regions in 2021.
- ❖ More than 80 per cent of under-five deaths and about 70 per cent of all deaths among 5–24-year-olds occurred in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia.
- ❖ The first 28 days of life remain the most vulnerable period for child survival.
- ❖ In 2021, approximately 2.3 million children died during the first month of life or 6,400 babies/day.



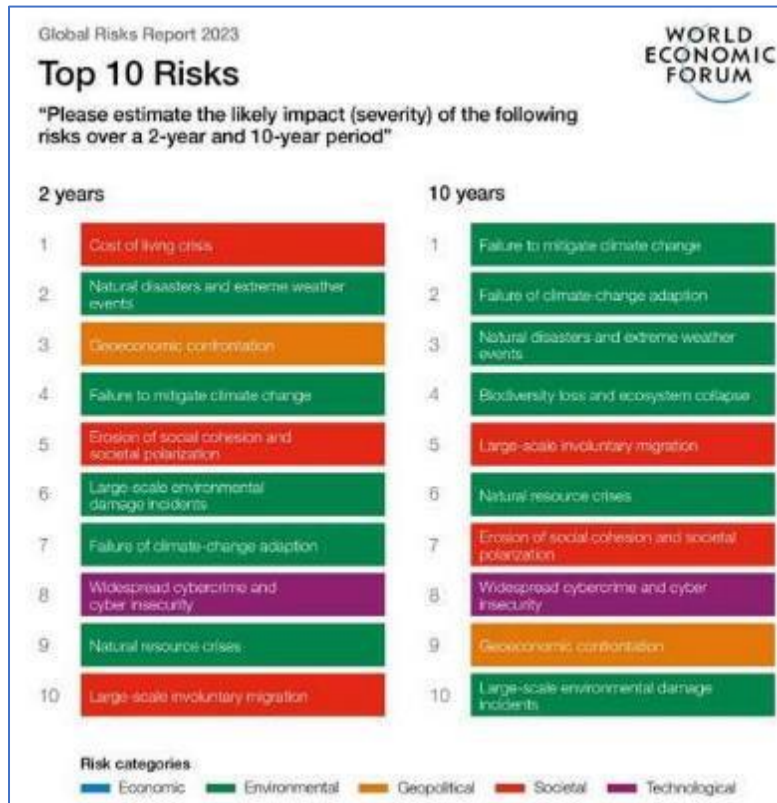
Henley Passport Index 2023

- ❖ London based company Henley & Partners has released a list in which it has ranked passports across the world.
- ❖ The index includes 199 different passports and 227 different travel destinations.
- ❖ Japan has topped the list with a visa free access score of 193.

COUNTRY	RANK	ACCESS
Japan	1	193
Singapore, South Korea	2	192
Germany, Spain	3	190
Finland, Italy, Luxembourg	4	189
Austria, Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden	5	188
France, Ireland, Portugal, United Kingdom	6	187
Belgium, Czech Republic, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, United States	7	186
Australia, Canada, Greece, Malta	8	185
Hungary, Poland	9	184
Lithuania, Slovakia	10	183

- ❖ This is the fifth time in a row a Japanese passport has been crowned the world's most powerful passport.
- ❖ India was ranked 85th in the index and had visa-free access to 59 countries.
- ❖ Pakistan (32), Syria (30), Iraq (29), Afghanistan (27) are the bottom 4 countries in the index.

Global Risks Report 2023



- ❖ World Economic Forum released the 18th edition of the Global Risk Report 2023 based on the 2022-2023 Global Risks Perception Survey
- ❖ The cost-of-living crisis, food supply crisis, energy supply crisis, rising inflation and cyberattacks on critical infrastructure are the major risks, the world is witnessing currently.
- ❖ 2025 will be dominated by a social and environmental risk which is driven by underlying geopolitical and economic trends
- ❖ The Report ranked the 'cost of living crisis' in first place among all the global risks.
- ❖ The report also mentioned that due to the increase in fuel prices, protests broke out in nearly 92 countries.

Global Economic Prospects

- ❖ The World Bank released its latest Global Economic Prospects report.
- ❖ The global economy is projected to grow by 1.7% in 2023 and 2.7% in 2024.
- ❖ Over the next two years, per-capita income growth in emerging market and developing economies is projected to average 2.8%.
- ❖ In Sub-Saharan Africa growth in per capita income over 2023-24 is expected to average just 1.2%.
- ❖ Growth in advanced economies is projected to slow from 2.5% in 2022 to 0.5% in 2023.
- ❖ By the end of 2024, GDP levels in emerging and developing economies will be roughly 6% below levels expected before the pandemic.

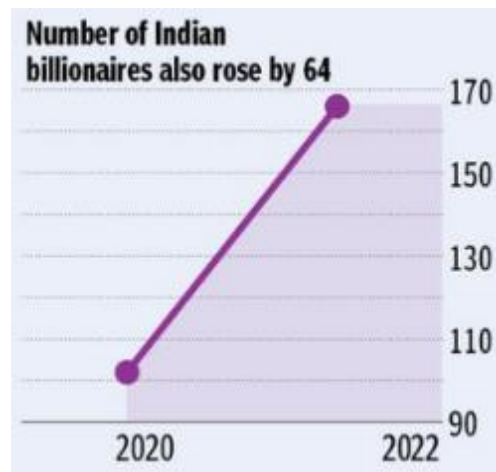
South Asia Country Forecasts (Annual percent change unless indicated otherwise)					
	2020	2021	2022e	2023f	2024f
GDP at market prices (average 2010-19 US\$)					
Calendar Year Basis ^a					
Afghanistan ^b	-2.4	-20.7
Maldives	-33.5	41.7	12.4	8.2	8.1
Sri Lanka	-3.5	3.3	-9.2	-4.2	1.0
	2019/2	2020/2	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Fiscal Year Basis ^a					
Bangladesh	0	1	e	f	f
Bhutan	3.4	6.9	7.2	5.2	6.2
India	-2.3	-3.3	4.6	4.1	3.7
Nepal	3.7	-6.6	8.7	6.9	6.6
Pakistan (factor cost)	-2.4	4.2	5.8	5.1	4.9
	-0.9	5.7	6.0	2.0	3.2

Global Punctuality League 2023

- ❖ Japanese airports nabbed the top three spots and nine of the top 12 in the world.
- ❖ Osaka International Airport topped in the on-time performance (OTP) rating.
- ❖ It is followed by Matsuyama, Miyazaki and Nagoya Chubu Centrair airports.
- ❖ The Coimbatore (CJB) airport in the southern state of Tamil Nadu in India ranked 13th spot.
- ❖ None of the other airports from India got ranked in top 20.

Rank	Coverage	Airport Name	Country	Code	OTP 2022	Cancellation Rate % 2022	OTP 2019
1	94.6%	Osaka Intl (Itami)	Japan	ITM	91.45%	1.04%	88.03%
2	92.7%	Matsuyama	Japan	MYJ	91.44%	0.72%	-
3	90.3%	Miyazaki	Japan	KMI	91.34%	2.45%	-
4	97.2%	Nagoya Chubu Centrair International Apt	Japan	NGO	90.78%	1.04%	-
5	81.5%	Durban King Shaka International Apt	South Africa	DUR	89.73%	1.37%	83.59%
6	94.2%	Kagoshima	Japan	KOJ	89.05%	2.14%	83.34%
7	88.9%	Kumamoto	Japan	KMJ	88.87%	1.95%	-
8	82.0%	Pinto Martins – Fortaleza Intl Apt	Brazil	FOR	88.81%	1.06%	83.34%
9	97.3%	Panama City Tocumen International	Panama	PTY	88.65%	0.47%	92.21%
10	93.7%	Fukuoka	Japan	FUK	88.26%	3.02%	-
11	86.8%	Sapporo New Chitose Apt	Japan	CTS	88.06%	2.25%	84.06%
12	90.6%	Tokyo Intl (Haneda)	Japan	HND	88.06%	2.10%	86.60%
13	88.1%	Coimbatore	India	CJB	88.01%	0.54%	-
14	98.9%	Belo Horizonte Tancredo Neves Int Apt	Brazil	CNF	87.26%	1.66%	81.55%
15	86.6%	Alejandro Velasco Astete Intl Apt	Peru	CUZ	87.08%	3.42%	-

“Survival of the Richest” Report

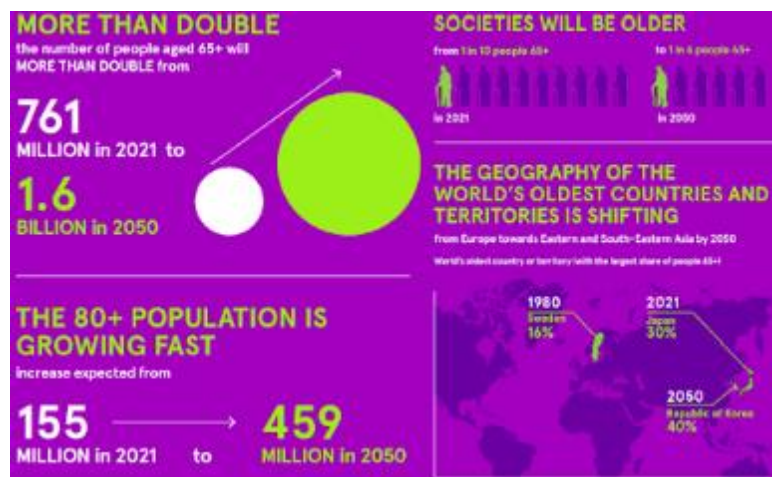


- ❖ The study titled “Survival of the Richest,” was released by Oxfam International.
- ❖ As per the report, the richest 1% in India now own more than 40% of the country’s total wealth.
- ❖ While the bottom half of the population together share just 3% of wealth between 2012 and 2021.
- ❖ The report states that taxing India's ten-richest individuals at 5% could generate enough money to bring children back to school.
- ❖ Female workers earned only 63 paise for every 1 rupee earned by male workers.

- ❖ The Scheduled Castes and rural workers, earned 55% and half of what the advantaged social groups earned respectively, between 2018 and 2019.

World Social Report 2023

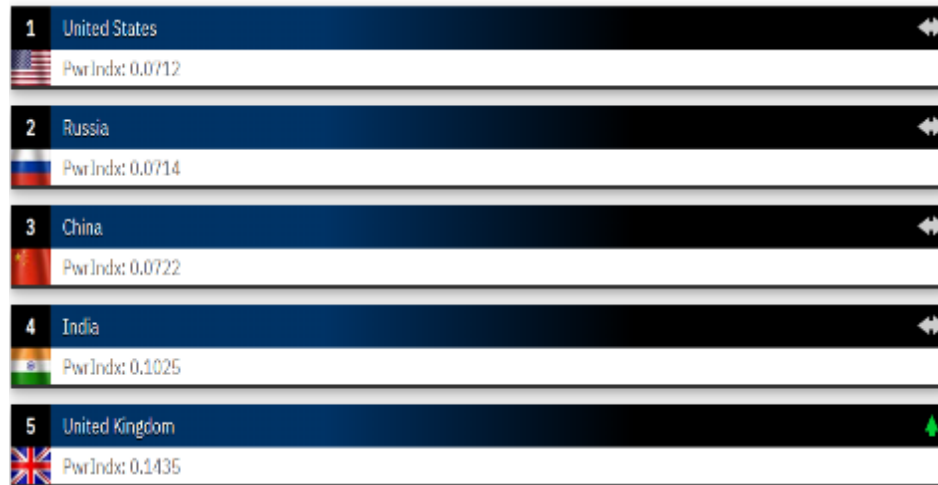
- ❖ The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) published the World Social Report 2023.
- ❖ Theme of this report is “Leaving No One Behind in an Aging World”.
- ❖ As per the report, number of persons aged 65 years or older worldwide is expected to double over the next three decades.
- ❖ The elderly population will reach 1.6 billion in 2050, accounting for more than 16% of the global population.
- ❖ North Africa, West Asia and sub-Saharan Africa are expected to experience the fastest growth.
- ❖ Also, Europe and North America combined now have the highest share of older persons.
- ❖ In India, by the year 2050, it is expected that the number of elderlies in the country would reach 324 million.



Global Fire Power Index 2022

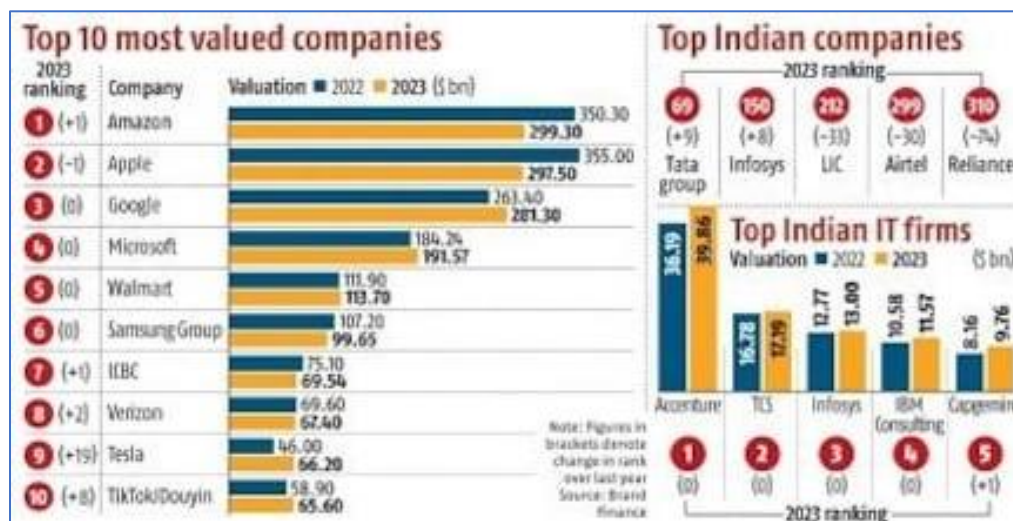
- ❖ The Global Firepower Index, 2022, puts the US at the top.
- ❖ US followed by Russia at the second spot, China at 3rd, and India at 4th.
- ❖ The Global Firepower Index ranks the countries based on their potential military strength.
- ❖ The countries were evaluated based on prolonged offensive and defensive military campaigns.

- ❖ Pakistan is placed in 7th rank.
- ❖ India was placed 6th in Combat Tank Fleet Strength and 8th in Navy Fleet Strength.
- ❖ This index does not take into account nuclear capabilities.




























World's most valued brand

- ❖ According to brand valuation consultancy Brand Finance's report, Amazon has reclaimed the top spot as the world's most valuable brand.
- ❖ The report is named as "Global 500 2023".
- ❖ Apple is ranked the world's second most valuable brand and followed by Google.
- ❖ India's Tata Group's brand value ranking went up to 69 from 78 last year.
- ❖ Among Indian IT services players, Infosys jumped to the 150th slot from 158 last year.



Brand Guardianship Index 2023

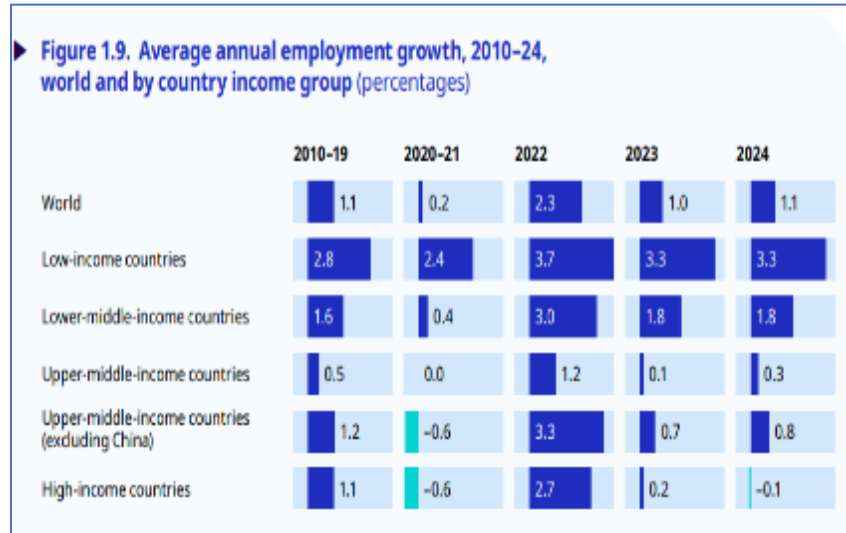
- ❖ Mukesh Ambani has been ranked No. 2 globally and No. 1 among Indians in Brand Guardianship Index 2023.
- ❖ Nvidia CEO, Jensen Huang, has become the highest ranked CEO globally.
- ❖ Microsoft's Satya Nadella ranked 3rd place.
- ❖ He is followed by Adobe's Shantanu Narayen and Google's Sundar Pichai.
- ❖ This index is compiled by Brand Finance.
- ❖ This Index celebrates the CEOs who balance the needs of commercial success, long-term brand building and personal reputation management.

#1 Jensen Huang  NVIDIA	#2 Mukesh Ambani  Reliance	#3 Satya Nadella  Microsoft	#4 Shantanu Narayen  Adobe	#5 Sundar Pichai  Google
#6 Pankaj Ronjee  Deloitte.	#7 Fabrizio Freda  ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES	#8 Natarajan Chandrababhan  TATA	#9 Piyush Gupta  DBS	#10 Hualong Ma  Tencent 腾讯
#11 Lauree Maier  CHANEL	#12 Akio Toyoda  TOYOTA	#13 Minpeng Lu  蒙牛	#14 Lei Ding  NetEase	#15 Julie Sweet  accenture
#16 Henry Fernandez  MSCI	#17 Reed Hastings  NETFLIX	#18 Lai Jun  In	#19 Wai Weng  SF EXPRESS 顺丰速运	#20 Dr. Sultan Ahmad Al Jabbar  AL JABBAR
#21 Bob Moritz  pwc	#22 Hatem Dowidar  e	#23 Anand Mahindra  Mahindra	#24 Congqin Zeng  WULIANYUE	#25 Miao Liu  LIAONING

World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2023

- ❖ The World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2023 (WESO Trends), was released by the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- ❖ The report projected that global employment growth will be only 1% in 2023, less than half the level in 2022.
- ❖ The global unemployment is slated to rise slightly in 2023, by around three million, to 208 million.
- ❖ The year 2022 was the witness to about 214 million workers living in extreme poverty, that is, about 6.4 per cent of the world's employed population.
- ❖ Globally, the labour force participation rate of women stood at 47.4 % in 2022, compared with 72.3% for men.

- ❖ Young people (aged 15–24) face severe difficulties in finding and keeping decent employment.
- ❖ Their unemployment rate is three times that of adults.
- ❖ More than one-in-five – 23.5%– of young people are not in employment, education or training.
- ❖ These have created the conditions for stagflation – simultaneously high inflation and low growth – for the first time since the 1970s.



STATES

Lokayukta Bill – Maharashtra

- ❖ Maharashtra became the first state to pass a Lokayukta Bill.
- ❖ It aims to bring the Chief Minister of the state and the council of ministers under the ambit of the anti-corruption watchdog.
- ❖ Maharashtra Lokayukta and Upa-Lokayukta Act of 1971, is currently in force in the state.
- ❖ Under the existing law, the anti-corruption ombudsman could only recommend action against government officials.
- ❖ However, the new Act empowers the Lokayukta and Upa-Lokayukta to direct the state agencies to investigate a corruption case.



Name Change - Uttar Pradesh

- ❖ Union Home Ministry has given its consent to change the names of two places in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The 2 places are
 - Municipal council 'Mundera Baazar' in Gorakhpur district to 'Chauri-Chaura'
 - 'Telia Afghan' village in Deoria district to 'Telia Shukla'
- ❖ For changing the name of a village, town or a city, an executive order is needed.
- ❖ Renaming of a state requires an amendment of the Constitution with a simple majority in Parliament.

Peace pact with Zeliangrong United Front



- ❖ The Centre signed a peace agreement with a Manipur insurgent group, which agreed to give up violence and join the peaceful democratic process.
- ❖ The tripartite agreement was signed by the central and Manipur governments and the Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF) rebel group.
- ❖ The agreement provides for rehabilitation and re-settlement of the armed cadres.
- ❖ A joint monitoring group will be constituted to oversee enforcement of the agreed ground rules.

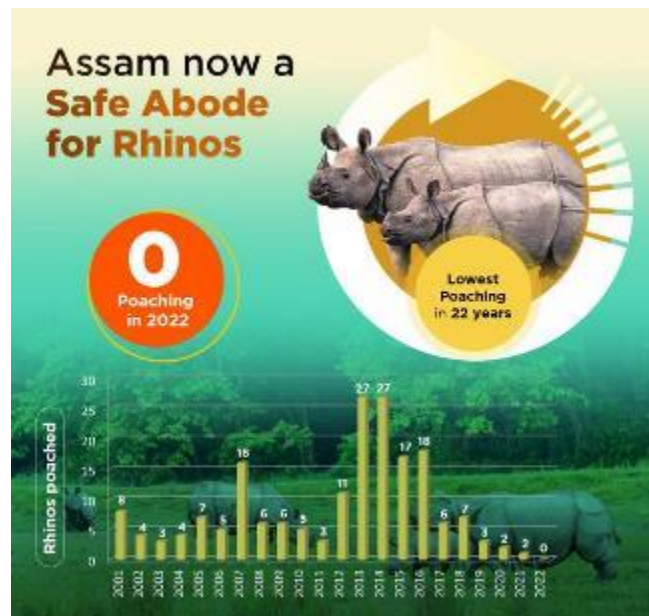
- ❖ The ZUF represents Zeliangrong people of the Naga tribes.
- ❖ The ZUF is listed as one of the 13 active insurgent group in Manipur by the South Asia Terrorism Portal

Mission - 929

- ❖ The Election Commission is focusing on 929 polling booths across Tripura, setting a target of 92 per cent voter turnout in the upcoming assembly elections.
- ❖ These booths recorded a voter turnout of less than 89 per cent.
- ❖ To turnaround the relatively low voting percentage in these booths, the EC has launched 'Mission-929'.

Zero poaching

- ❖ Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced on January 1 that no rhinos were poached in the state in 2022.
- ❖ This was the first since at least 2000 in which there were no incidents of rhino poaching in Assam.
- ❖ Last poaching was on Dec 28th 2021 at Hilakunda, Kohora in Golaghat district.
- ❖ The Indian rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) is found only in the Brahmaputra valley, parts of North Bengal, and parts of southern Nepal.
- ❖ The Indian rhino is listed as vulnerable in the IUCN Red List.



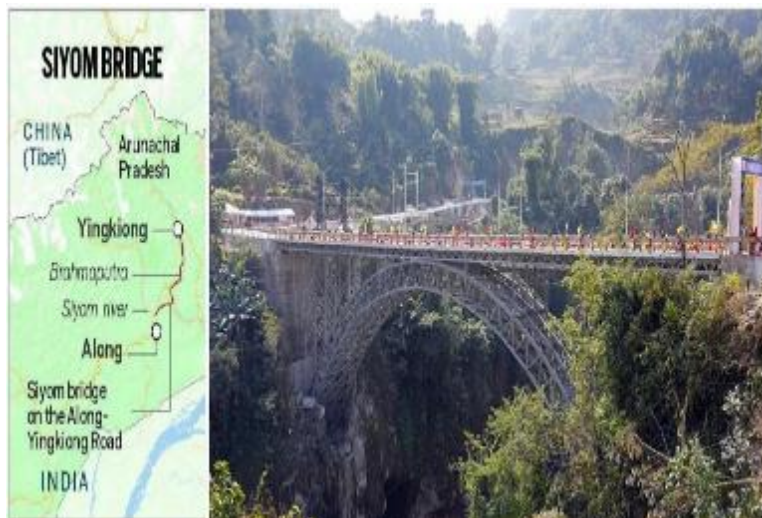
2nd longest cable-stayed Bridge

- ❖ Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the first phase of the New Zuari Bridge across River Zuari.
- ❖ It is connecting Bambolim in North Goa to Verna junction in South Goa.
- ❖ This is Located on NH-17/NH-66 on Panjim-Mangalore section in the state of Goa.
- ❖ The bridge will reduce the travel time between North and South Goa.



Siyom Bridge - Arunachal Pradesh

- ❖ Recently, the Siyom bridge was inaugurated in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ This infrastructure project was completed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).
- ❖ It is located on the Along-Yinkiong Road.
- ❖ The Siyom bridge will greatly enhance the speed of troop deployment, as well as the transportation of heavy equipment and mechanized vehicles.



Free Rice Scheme – Telangana



- ❖ The Telangana government has decided to join the free rice scheme of the Centre under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).
- ❖ The Central scheme envisaged supply of five kgs of rice per head per month in a family to NFSA cardholders in the State.
- ❖ But the State government will extend the scheme to an additional 35.52 lakh cardholders at its own cost.
- ❖ The two types of cardholders had been getting the benefit of free rice under the Prime Minister's Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana under the Public Distribution System (PDS) till December 31.

Manipur Gaan Ngai festival

- ❖ The Gaan Ngai festival is a major event in the state of Manipur, celebrated by the Zeliarong community.
- ❖ The festival is a celebration of culture, music, dance, and spiritual rituals that brings the community together in unity and joy.
- ❖ The Zeliarong community, made up of the Rongmei, Liangmei, and Zeme tribes, is one of the most prominent tribal communities in the state.



Imoinu Eratpa Festival

- ❖ Imoinu Iratpa or Emoinu Iratpa is a festival celebrated majorly by the Meitei community in Manipur.
- ❖ It is dedicated to the Goddess 'Imoinu Ahongbi'.
- ❖ 'Imoinu' or 'Emoinu' is the goddess to whom this festival is dedicated.
- ❖ In Meitei mythology, she is associated with household, hearth, kitchen, wealth, peace, and prosperity.
- ❖ She is also associated as one of the incarnations of the goddess Leimarel Sidabi.

World's first Palm-leaf Manuscript Museum

- ❖ Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan has inaugurated the Palm leaf Manuscript Museum with modern audio-visual technology.
- ❖ The Museum, promoted as "World's First Palm-Leaf Manuscript Museum" was set up by the Archives Department in association with the Kerala Museum of History and Heritage.
- ❖ The museum is a repository of curious nuggets of administrative, socio-cultural and economic facets of the Travancore kingdom which lasted for 650 years till the end of the 19th century.
- ❖ It had been the Central Vernacular Records Office since 1887 before becoming a museum.



Purple Fest 2023

- ❖ India's first-of-its-kind inclusive festival – 'Purple Fest: Celebrating Diversity' was inaugurated in Goa.
- ❖ The three-day festival aims to showcase "how we can come together to create a welcoming and inclusive world for everyone".

- ❖ The Purple Fest will be hosted by the Goa State Commission for Persons with Disabilities in association with the Directorate of Social Welfare and Entertainment Society of Goa.



Caste-Based Survey

- ❖ Terming the caste-based head count began in Bihar on January 7, 2023.
- ❖ It will provide scientific data for carrying out welfare schemes for weaker sections of the society.
- ❖ The caste-based census will be completed by May 2023.



International Kite Festival 2023

- ❖ The International Kite Festival 2023 was inaugurated in Ahmedabad.
- ❖ This year, The International Kite Festival will be held with the theme of G20 - 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'.
- ❖ The event is organized after a gap of two years due to the covid 19 pandemic.
- ❖ The International Kite Festival has been held in Ahmedabad as part of the official celebration of Uttarayan since 1989.



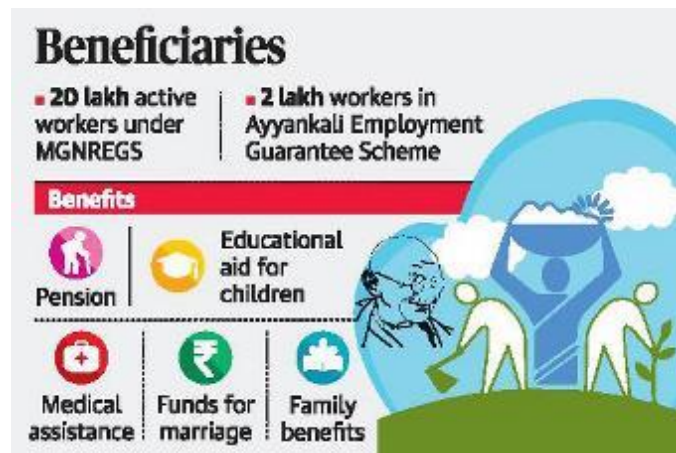
Khelo India Youth Games 5.0

- ❖ The mascot, torch, and anthem of Khelo India Youth Games-2022 was unveiled in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh is hosting the fifth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games.
- ❖ For the first time, water sports, canoeing and fencing competitions will be part of this edition of Khelo India Games.

Pension to MGNREGS Workers

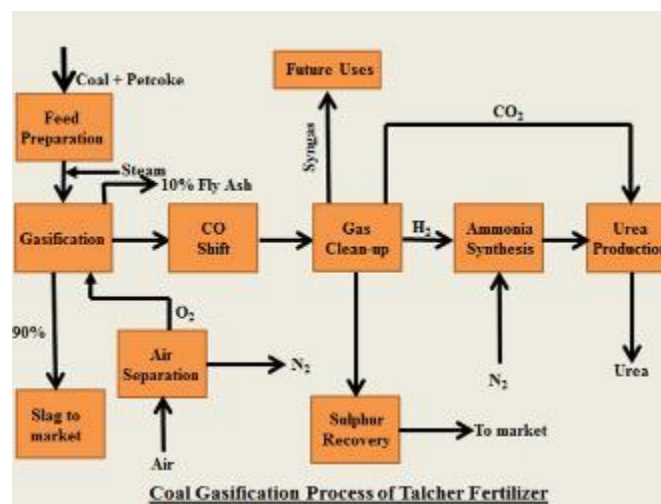
- ❖ For the first time in the country, Kerala government has launched a welfare fund board for the workers registered for the MGNREGS and the state's urban job guarantee scheme — Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme.
- ❖ The welfare fund board will have a chief executive officer, five official members and eight unofficial members as directors of the fund board.
- ❖ This will facilitate the workers to get a monthly pension from the board on they turn 60.
- ❖ This is the first time that a state government has formed a welfare fund board for MGNREGS workers.

- ❖ In 2021, the state Assembly had passed a Bill pertaining to the formation of the board.
- ❖ Any worker between the age of 18 and 55 can take the membership in the fund board.
- ❖ They have to pay an amount as premium (Rs 50 tentatively fixed) every month until the age of 55.
- ❖ Member who has paid the contribution for at least 10 years will be eligible for pension.



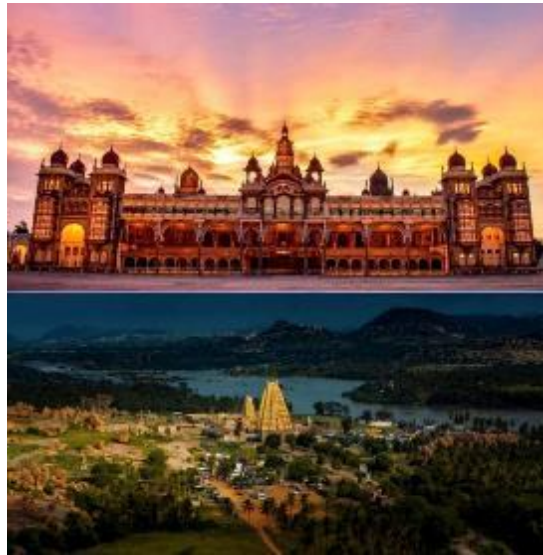
Talcher Fertilizers Project

- ❖ Country's first-ever coal gasification based Talcher Fertiliser plant in Odisha will open in 2024.
- ❖ This plant at Talcher will use Coal Gasification Technology to produce urea.
- ❖ The plant will help to reduce dependency on urea import.



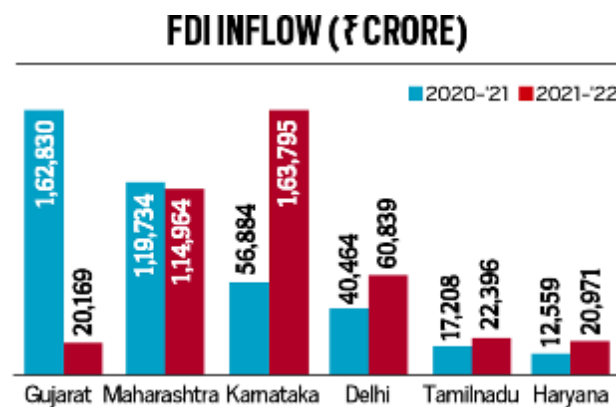
Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme

- ❖ Karnataka's two erstwhile royal cities will soon be developed under the centre's Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme.
- ❖ Mysuru and Hampi are among the 19 destinations that have been chosen for development under the scheme.
- ❖ 19 places identified across eight states and UTs for this scheme.



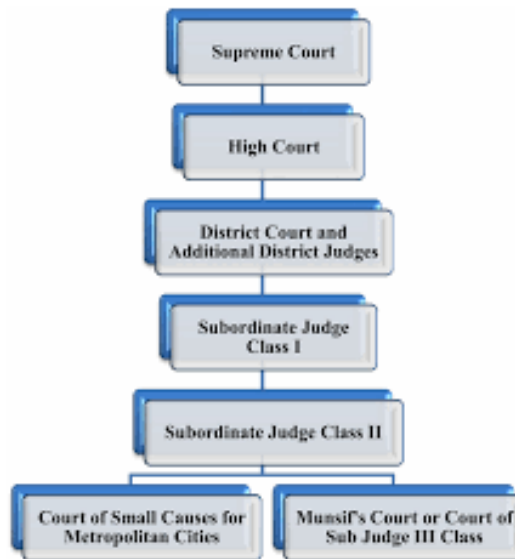
Top Investment Destinations in India

- ❖ Gujarat has surpassed all other Indian states in attracting new investments from both domestic and foreign corporations.
- ❖ The data released the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).
- ❖ Rajasthan emerged as the second most attractive destination for investments in India in FY 2022.
- ❖ The state witnessed the highest rate of growth during the period, increasing by almost 535 percent.



e-system of functioning in court

- ❖ The Osmanabad District Court has become the first court in Maharashtra to introduce e-system of functioning.
- ❖ Under this system, all the court-related work including filing, payment and other court services, etc. can be done through mobile app or online modes.
- ❖ Besides, library of the court has also been converted into digital mode.



Kerala's 'Year of Enterprises' Project

- ❖ The Kerala government's 'Year of Enterprises' project has been selected as a best practices model.
- ❖ The project, which began in the current fiscal, aimed at creating one lakh enterprises in one year.
- ❖ However, the state government achieved this goal in just eight months.
- ❖ Thus, Kerala setting a new benchmark for promoting small and medium-sized enterprises in India.



Cherchera Festival

- ❖ Chhattisgarh celebrated the Cherchera festival at the Dudhadhari Math in Raipur.
- ❖ It is a celebration of the happiness and joy brought about by the cultivation and harvesting of crops.
- ❖ The festival is celebrated to mark the end of the crop cultivation season and the beginning of the harvest.

Lohri Harvest Festival

- ❖ Lohri is a popular Indian festival that is celebrated to mark the beginning of the harvest season for winter crops.
- ❖ The festival is also popular in other parts of the country such as Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Jammu.
- ❖ Lohri festival is traditionally associated with the harvest of rabi crops.
- ❖ The origin of the festival can be traced back from the tale of Dulla Bhatti.
- ❖ He was a famous legendary hero of Punjab and led a rebellion against Mughal emperor Akbar.

First Constitution Literate District

- ❖ The Indian district of Kollam has become the country's first constitution literate district.
- ❖ The district's success is the result of a seven-month campaign launched by the Kollam district panchayat, District Planning Committee, and the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA).
- ❖ The campaign is aimed to provide constitutional literacy to 23 lakh citizens belonging to 7 lakh families in the district.
- ❖ To achieve this goal, awareness classes were organized for around 90% of the people in Kollam.



Mongeet Festival of Music, Culture, and Food

- ❖ Mongeet, the Soul Songs festival will be held at Dekasang in Majuli and Sadiya in Assam.
- ❖ The festival provides a platform for young talents in the state to showcase their original music.
- ❖ They will guide and mentored by famous musicians.
- ❖ Having begun in 2020 as a movement of arts and music, Mongeet aims to nurture upcoming musical talents of Assam.



States Foundation Day



- ❖ The Statehood Day of Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura is celebrated on January 21.
- ❖ This year marks the 51st foundation year for the three states.
- ❖ Manipur and Tripura were princely states which were absorbed into India in October 1949.
- ❖ Meghalaya was part of Assam after Independence.

- ❖ The states came into being in 1972 after the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, of 1971, was enacted.

Basic documents to all tribal

- ❖ Wayanad in Kerala becomes the first district in the country to provide basic documents and facilities to all tribal.
- ❖ This includes Aadhaar cards, ration cards, birth/death certificates, election ID cards, bank accounts and health insurance to all tribespeople.
- ❖ The Wayanad district administration has attained the meritorious achievement by the Akshaya Big Campaign for Document Digitisation (ABCD) campaign.

Assam's Charaideo Moidams

- ❖ The Centre has decided to nominate the Charaideo Maidams in Assam for the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.
- ❖ If selected, Assam will have three world heritage sites, the other two being Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park.
- ❖ But there is currently no World Heritage Site in the category of cultural heritage in Northeast India.
- ❖ The Charaideo Maidams, represents the late medieval mound burial tradition of the Tai Ahom community in Assam.
- ❖ Out of 386 Maidams or Moidams explored so far, 90 royal burials at Charaideo are the best preserved.
- ❖ As of now, only 30 of those royal burial mounds are under the protection of the Archaeological Survey of India.



Largest floating solar power project

- ❖ North India's largest floating solar power plant of 2000kWp was inaugurated at Chandigarh.
- ❖ The floating solar power plant was situated at Water Works, Sector 39, Chandigarh.
- ❖ It will generate 28,00,000 units of electricity annually.
- ❖ The plant is expected to offset 80,000 tonnes.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Brazil - Pele

- ❖ Brazil football legend Pele passed away at the age of 82.
- ❖ He is credited with scoring a world record 1,281 goals in 1,363 appearances during a 21-year career.
- ❖ He is the only player to win the World Cup three times.
- ❖ He lifted the trophy in 1958, 1962 and 1970.
- ❖ Pele was named FIFA's Player of the Century in 2000.



Australia's Men's Test Player of the Year award

- ❖ Australia's men's Test Player of the Year award has been renamed to honour legendary spinner Shane Warne.
- ❖ The Shane Warne Men's Test Player of the Year award will be presented annually at the Australian Cricket Awards.
- ❖ Warne himself won the award once in 2006 for his record 40 wickets in 2005.



Chairmanship of Wassenaar Arrangement (WA)

- ❖ Ireland's ambassador Eoin O'Leary hand over the chairmanship to India's ambassador Jaideep Mazumdar.
- ❖ The Wassenaar Arrangement is a voluntary export control regime that monitors the transfer of conventional weapons and dual-use goods.

- ❖ India joined the WA in December 2017 as its 42nd participating state.

Founded in 1996, the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) is an elite club of countries subscribing to arms export controls, similar to the NSG and the Missile Technology Control Regime

- Headquartered in Vienna, it has 42 members, the latest entrant being India. Barring China, all permanent members of the U.N. Security Council are its signatories

- Its goal is to "promote transparency and greater

responsibility in transfer of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies"

- Since it's not a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, India will look to the WA membership to boost its credentials to enter NSG

Pope Benedict XVI

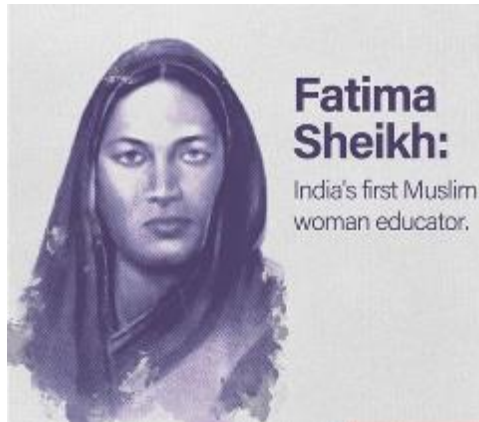
- ❖ Former Pope Benedict of Germany passed away recently.
- ❖ He was elected Pope in 2005 after the death of former Pope John Paul II.
- ❖ He was the first pontiff to resign in six centuries.
- ❖ In 2013, he decided to resign from the papacy citing health reasons.
- ❖ Notably, Benedict XVI is the first Pope to resign in 600 years.



India's first woman Muslim teacher

- ❖ Fatima Sheikh, India's first woman Muslim teacher is now being recognized by the Andhra Pradesh Government.
- ❖ Government introduced a lesson on her contributions in the school textbooks of class eight.
- ❖ Earlier Maharashtra government had also introduced a brief lesson on Fatima Sheikh's contributions to its school curriculum.
- ❖ Fatima Sheikh is known to have given shelter to Jyotirao Phule and Savitribai Phule in 1848 at her residence in Poona.

- ❖ Sheikh did her teacher's training programme along with Savitribai Phule at an institute run by Cynthia Farrar.
- ❖ After that along with the Phule couple, she started the first all-girls school at her house.
- ❖ Fatima Sheikh taught at all the five schools which were run by Phule and founded two schools of her own in Mumbai in 1851.



Gouri Amma Foundation award

- ❖ Noted Cuban social worker and human rights advocate Aleida Guevara has been selected for the first award instituted by the K.R. Gouri Amma Foundation.
- ❖ This is awarded for her efforts to rehabilitate differently-abled children and provide debt relief to developing countries.
- ❖ Dr. Aleida is also an active member of the Cuban Medical Mission that works to improve the health profile of children in Latin America.



Astronaut Walter Cunningham

- ❖ Astronaut Walter Cunningham passed away recently.
- ❖ He was the last surviving astronaut from the first successful crewed space mission in NASA's Apollo program.

- ❖ He was one of the three astronauts aboard the 1968 Apollo 7 mission.
- ❖ It was NASA's first crewed space mission after unsuccessful Apollo 1 mission.



Wharton-QS Reimagine Education Awards 2022



- ❖ IIT Madras has won the Wharton-QS Reimagine Education Awards at the Wharton Campus, Philadelphia, USA.
- ❖ The institute has been awarded and its BS in Data Science and Applications is awarded the silver in the best online program category.
- ❖ The National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) run by IIT Madras, won the gold in the lifelong learning category.
- ❖ This Awards recognize outstanding achievements of educators, institutions, and organizations that drive innovation and excellence in education.

IACP 2022 Award

- ❖ International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), has selected the anti-drug & illicit liquor campaign 'Nijaat' of Chhattisgarh police for 'Leadership in Crime Prevention' in the institutional category.
- ❖ Early this year, the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) included the Nijaat campaign among the thirty best smart-policing campaigns in the country.
- ❖ The meaning for Nijaat is Riddance or Liberation.
- ❖ The campaign was launched by the Chhattisgarh police under the leadership of the IPS officer Santosh Kumar Singh.
- ❖ IACP is the US-based international organisation.



World Habitat Award 2023

- ❖ Odisha won the UN-Habitat's World Habitat Awards 2023 for Jaga Mission.
- ❖ This mission is the land titling and slum upgrading program that aims at empowering the lives of slum dwellers.
- ❖ Earlier in 2019, this mission had received World Habitat Awards for its success in providing land tenure security to the slum dwellers.



17th Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award

- ❖ The 17th edition of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention will be held at Indore in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ An educationist in Bhutan, a doctor in Brunei and civil society activists in Ethiopia, Israel and Poland were among the 27 people chosen for the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award 2023.
- ❖ The PBSA is conferred by the President as part of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention on non-resident Indians.
- ❖ This is the highest honour for overseas Indians.

Y20 Summit



- ❖ The first ever Y20 (Youth 20) Summit is to be held in India on the sidelines of the G20 Summit.
- ❖ It will focus on themes of future of work; climate change and disaster risk reduction; peacebuilding and reconciliation; and youth in democracy.
- ❖ Themes, logo and website of the Y20 summit was unveiled in New Delhi.

Manpreet Monica Singh

- ❖ Indian-origin Manpreet Monica Singh has been sworn in as a Harris County judge.



- ❖ Thus, she is becoming the first female Sikh judge in the US.
- ❖ Her father immigrated to the US in the early 1970s.

Father of laparoscopic surgery in India



- ❖ The father of laparoscopic surgery in India, Dr Tehemton E Udwadia passed away.
- ❖ He is credited with introducing laparoscopic surgery to India in the early 1980s.
- ❖ In 2002, he was awarded the Padma Shri, for his contributions to the field of medicine.
- ❖ He was awarded the Padma Bhushan, the country's third highest civilian award, in 2017.

7th Digital India awards 2022

- ❖ The President of India, presented the seventh edition of the Digital India Awards 2022.
- ❖ The 7th edition of Digital India Awards was presented under the following seven categories.
 - Digital Empowerment of Citizens
 - Digital Initiatives at Grassroots Level
 - Digital Initiatives for Ease of Doing Business
 - Data Sharing and Use for Socio Economic Development
 - Public Digital Platforms - Central Ministries, Departments and States
 - Digital Initiatives in Collaboration with Startups
 - Best Web & Mobile Initiatives Complying with GIGW & Accessibility Guidelines.

Patangrao Kadam award

- ❖ CEO of the vaccine manufacturer Serum Institute of India Adar Poonawalla has been conferred with the Patangrao Kadam award.
- ❖ Adar Poonawalla was carrying forward the legacy of his father Dr Cyrus Poonawalla as SII has manufactured 160 vaccines.
- ❖ Dr. Patangrao Kadam was a leader who created 190 institutes to provide quality education and created quality human resource.

India's first woman pilot in Japan

- ❖ Squadron leader Avani Chaturvedi will participate in the inaugural air exercise Veer Guardian 2023.
- ❖ She is the first female fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force.
- ❖ This would mark the first occasion that women officers would be representing the nation abroad.
- ❖ The exercise is intended to strengthen bilateral air defence cooperation between India-Japan.
- ❖ Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth, Mohana Singh Jitarwal and Avani Chaturvedi are the first three female fighter pilots and a flier of Su-30MKI fighter jets.
- ❖ The Su-30MKi is a versatile multirole combat aircraft which can carry out both air-to-ground and air-to-air missions simultaneously.



UN medal for exemplary service

- ❖ The Indian peacekeepers serving with the UN Mission in South Sudan have been honoured with the prestigious UN medals.
- ❖ 1,171 peacekeepers from India deployed with the UN mission in South Sudan.

- ❖ As of June 2022, 2370 Indian military personnel are deployed with UNMISS, the second highest after Rwanda (2637).



Hyderabad's Last Nizam

- ❖ The last Nizam of Hyderabad Mukarram Jah Bahadur passed away in Turkey.
- ❖ While the Nizam's Dominion of Hyderabad ceased to exist after it acceded to the Indian union in 1948.
- ❖ The seventh Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan served as the Raj Pramukh of the state from January 26, 1950, when it accepted the Indian Constitution, till October 31, 1956.
- ❖ When parts of the Hyderabad state were merged with neighbouring regions to form Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.



- ❖ In June 1954, Osman Ali Khan wrote to the Union Government to recognise Mukarram Jah as his successor and the request from the former monarch was accepted by the Centre in 1964.
- ❖ Following the passing of Osman Ali Khan in 1966, Jah continued to hold the title of the Nizam of Hyderabad till November 1971.

- ❖ In 1971, the Indian government abolished the privy purse and royal titles.
- ❖ Now, the Mukarram Jah's demise brings down the curtains on the Asaf Jahi dynasty founded in 1724.

1st woman officer of BRO

- ❖ Captain Surbhi Jakhmola of the Indian Army's will be the first woman officer to be posted on a foreign assignment at the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).
- ❖ The officer will be sent to Bhutan as part of Project Dantak.
- ❖ The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is an executive road construction force in India that supports the Indian armed forces.
- ❖ BRO builds and maintains road networks along India's borders and in friendly neighbouring countries.



Critics' Choice Awards

- ❖ The 28th Critics Choice Awards were recently held in Los Angeles.
- ❖ SS Rajamouli's RRR bagging following two titles:
 - Best Foreign Language Film: "RRR"
 - Best Song: "Naatu Naatu": "RRR"



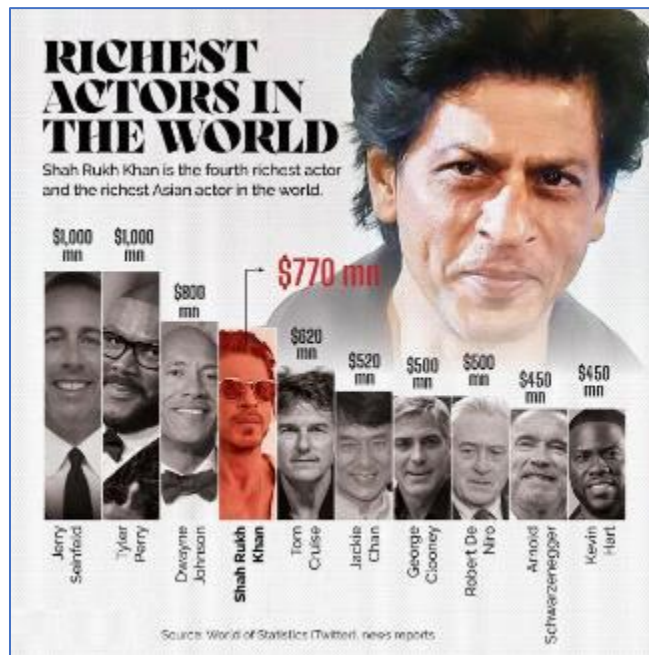
Miss Universe 2023

- ❖ Miss USA, R'Bonney Gabriel, took the 71st Miss Universe crown home.
- ❖ Miss Venezuela, Amanda Dudamel, and Miss Dominican Republic, Andreina Martinez, finished as the first runner-up and the second runner-up, respectively.
- ❖ While India's Divita Rai couldn't make it to the top.



Third richest actor

- ❖ As per a recent list released by the World of Statistics, Shah Rukh Khan is the third richest actor in the world.
- ❖ The list is led by Jerry Seinfeld and Tyler Perry with \$1 billion.
- ❖ They are followed by Dwayne Johnson, with \$800 million.
- ❖ Shah Rukh Khan is the only Indian on the list.
- ❖ Tom Cruise follows Shah Rukh on the list with \$620 million.
- ❖ Jackie Chan ranked 5th with \$520 million.



Best small Bank Award

- ❖ Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank (TMB) has bagged 'Best Small Bank Award' in the 'Best Banks Survey for the year 2022'.
- ❖ The bank has won this award under the category of banks with the book size of less than ₹1 lakh crore.
- ❖ The 101-year-old TMB is one of the renowned old private sector banks having its headquarters in Thoothukudi.

MLK Grande Parade Special Award



- ❖ Indian-American Krishna Vavilala has been honoured with MLK Grande Parade Special Award.

- ❖ This is awarded for contributions towards connecting the Indian community with mainstream America as the US celebrated the legacy of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.
- ❖ Vavilala is a long-time Houstonian and the founder and chairman of the Foundation of India Studies (FIS).

New Zealand's PM resignation

- ❖ New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, announcing her resignation from office.
- ❖ Ardern became prime minister in 2017 at the age of 37.
- ❖ She was New Zealand's third female leader and one of the youngest leaders in the world.
- ❖ Ardern was the second prime minister in the world to give birth while in office, after Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto in 1990.
- ❖ New Zealand will choose its next prime minister in a general election held on October 14.



Assamese poet Nilamani Phukan



- ❖ Renowned Assamese poet Nilamani Phookan passed away.
- ❖ Phookan won the 56th Jnanpith Award, India's highest literary award for the year 2020.

- ❖ He was also awarded the 1981 Sahitya Akademi Award in Assamese for his poetry collection, Kavita (Kabita).
- ❖ He was awarded the Padma Shri by the government of India in 1990 and received the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship.

World's oldest living person

- ❖ A Spanish woman, who was born in the United States, has become the world's oldest living person at the age of 115.
- ❖ She gained this position after the death of 118-year-old Lucile Randon of France, according to Guinness World Records (GWR).
- ❖ As of January 20, 2023, Maria Branyas Morera is 115 years 322 days old.



FITUR International Travel Exhibition

- ❖ The International Tourism Fair or the FITUR travel exhibition is being held in Madrid, Spain.
- ❖ FITUR means Feria International del Turismo.
- ❖ The tourism fair is one of the most important and largest tourism exhibitions in the world.
- ❖ Along with India, there are 30 other countries participating in the exhibition.
- ❖ It was first held in 1981.

Balkrishna Vitthal Das Doshi (1927-2023)

- ❖ Indian architect BV Doshi has passed away, at the age of 95, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- ❖ Trained under Le Corbusier, he was the only Indian to have been awarded the Pritzker Architecture Prize.

- ❖ He was a Pioneer of Indian modernist architecture.
- ❖ He won the gold medal awarded by the Royal Institute of British Architects in 2022.
- ❖ Doshi was known for designing the buildings of the Ahmedabad-based Centre for Environment and Planning Technology (CEPT) and Mahatma Gandhi Labour Institute.



Iron Man of India

- ❖ Sabir Ali, known as the “Ironman of India,” passed away recently.
- ❖ He won the decathlon gold medal at the Asian Athletics Championships in Tokyo in 1981.
- ❖ He also won two silver medals at the South Asian Federation Games held in Kathmandu and Dhaka.
- ❖ Ali won eight consecutive Open National titles in the gruelling event between 1979 and 1985.
- ❖ Ali won a bronze and silver at the World Railway meets in 1981 and 1985.
- ❖ He was honoured with the Arjuna Award in 1981.
- ❖ During those days, Daley Thompson was known as the ‘Ironman of Olympics’, Sabir was known as the ‘Ironman of India’.



Most distinguished scientist of the year award 2022

- ❖ R Vishnu Prasad was awarded “The most distinguished scientist of the year 2022”.
- ❖ He is a scientist with 69 patents.
- ❖ The award, which recognizes individuals for their outstanding contributions in various fields, including culture, science, sports, and innovation.
- ❖ Dr. Prasad has published over 300 research papers in international journals, and has been awarded several patents for his inventions.
- ❖ He has also received several prestigious awards, including the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize, India’s highest award for contributions to science and technology.



SPORTS

Yo-Yo fitness test

- ❖ The Yo-Yo fitness test was reintroduced in the eligibility criteria for selection in the Indian cricket team.
- ❖ Besides Yo-Yo test, DEXA (bone scan test) has also been made part of the selection criteria.
- ❖ The Yo-Yo test is an aerobic endurance fitness test.
- ❖ That involves running between markers placed 20 metres apart at increasing speeds.



Figure 1. The setup for the Yo-Yo Intermittent Recovery Test.

BCCI best players in 2022



- ❖ The Board of Control for Cricket has released the names of the players who have been Team India's best performers in all three formats of the game.
- ❖ In Tests, BCCI acknowledged Rishabh Pant as top batter and Jasprit Bumrah as top bowler.
- ❖ In the One Day International format, Shreyas Iyer was adjudged the best batter while Mohammed Siraj was the best bowler.
- ❖ Suryakumar Yadav was adjudged the best batter in T20 format and Bhuvneshwar Kumar was the best bowler.

Hat-trick in Ranji Trophy

- ❖ Saurashtra captain Jaydev Unadkat's grabbed a hat-trick in the opening over of the match in their Ranji Trophy.
- ❖ He made a history by becoming the first bowler in the history of the 88-year-old domestic tournament to take a hat-trick in the first over of the championship.



Sania Mirza retirement

- ❖ Sania Mirza, India's first women's tennis superstar, announced her retirement.
- ❖ The WTA 1000 Dubai Tennis Championships will be the last participation.
- ❖ Mirza is the first Indian to break into the top 30 in the WTA singles ranking.
- ❖ She having won six Grand Slam titles, including three mixed doubles trophies.



4500 penalty kicks in 12 hours

- ❖ Kerala entered into the Guinness Book of World Records by taking 4,500 penalty kicks in 12 hours.
- ❖ There was no break since former Indian player U. Sharafali took the inaugural kick at 7.38 a.m. and netted the ball.
- ❖ Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs V. Abdurahiman of Kerala took the last penalty kick at 7.38 p.m.
- ❖ The Malappuram event obliterated the previous record of 2500 penalty kicks held by Germany.



World Record for biggest win

- ❖ India scripted history by defeating Sri Lanka by the largest ever margin of 317 runs in 50-over international cricket.
- ❖ India made clean sweep ODI series against Sri Lanka by 3-0.
- ❖ Chasing a target of 391 runs Sri Lanka were all out at 73 in 22 overs.
- ❖ Earlier, New Zealand had registered 290-run win over Ireland in Aberdeen in July 2008.



Fifth highest ODI run scorer

- ❖ Virat Kohli became the fifth-highest run-scorer in history of ODI cricket.
- ❖ He was overtaking Sri Lankan Mahela Jayawardene to enter into top-five.
- ❖ Virat had 12,652 runs in 268 ODIs at an average of 57.78, with 45 century and 65 half-centuries.
- ❖ The top four are: Sachin Tendulkar, Kumar Sangakkara, Ricky Ponting and Sanath Jayasuriya.



MOST ODI RUNS

PLAYER	INNS	RUNS
SACHIN TENDULKAR	452	18426
KUMAR SANGAKKARA	380	14234
RICKY PONTING	365	13704
SANATH JAYASURIYA	433	13430
VIRAT KOHLI	259	12754
MAHELA JAYAWARDENE	418	12650

youngest batsman to hit double centuries

Year	Player	Score	Opposition	Venue
2023	Shubman Gill	208	New Zealand	Hyderabad
2022	Ishan Kishan	210	Bangladesh	Chattogram
2018	Fakhar Zaman	210*	Zimbabwe	Bulawayo
2017	Rohit Sharma	208*	Sri Lanka	Mohali
2015	Chris Gayle	215	Zimbabwe	Canberra
2015	Martin Guptill	237*	West Indies	Wellington
2014	Rohit Sharma	264	Sri Lanka	Eden Gardens
2013	Rohit Sharma	209	Australia	Bengaluru
2011	Virender Sehwag	219	West Indies	Indore
2010	Sachin Tendulkar	200*	South Africa	Gwalior

- ❖ Indian cricketer Shubman Gill stormed into the record books by smashing a magnificent double hundred in the first ODI against New Zealand.
- ❖ He also became the youngest player to attain the feat as he surpassed teammate Ishan Kishan (24 years 145 days).
- ❖ Gill is the fifth Indian men's batter overall to score an ODI double hundred.
- ❖ Rohit Sharma has three double hundreds in ODIs.
- ❖ Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, Gayle, Fakhar Zaman and Martin Guptill have hit one double-century each.

ICC annual awards 2022

- ❖ The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced its first individual award winners in the ICC Awards 2022.
- ❖ Winners in the 13 individual categories were based on overall performances and achievements throughout the calendar year.

Category	Winner
Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy	Babar Azam (Pakistan)
Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy	Nat Sciver (England)
Men's Test Cricketer of the Year:	Ben Stokes (England)
Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year:	Babar Azam
Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year:	Nat Sciver
Men's T20 International Cricketer of the Year:	Suryakumar Yadav (India)
Women's T20 International Cricketer of the Year	Tahlia McGrath (Australia)
Men's Emerging Cricketer of the Year:	Marco Jansen (South Africa)
Women's Emerging Cricketer of the Year:	Renuka Singh (India)
Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year:	Gerhard Erasmus (Namibia)
Women's Associate Cricketer of the Year:	Esha Oza (India)
David Shepherd Trophy:	Richard Illingworth (England)
Spirit of Cricket Award:	Aasif Sheikh (Nepal).

Australian Tennis Open 2023

- ❖ Novak Djokovic of Serbia beats Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece to win his 10th Australian Open title in Australian Open 2023.
- ❖ Djokovic's 22 Grand Slams once again has ignited the argument for his greatness over Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer who have 22 and 20 titles respectively.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Global Family Day – January 01

- ❖ It is celebrated to discourage unwarranted negative attitudes towards other cultures, nations.
- ❖ It was growing out of the United Nations Millennium celebration, "One Day in Peace".

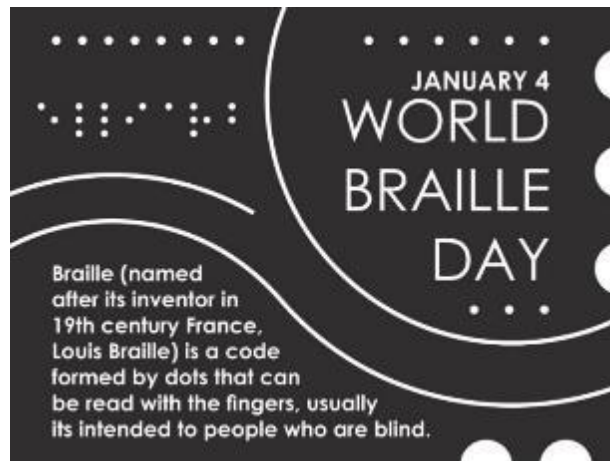
DRDO Foundation Day - January 01

- ❖ “Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)” was celebrated its 64th foundation day,
- ❖ DRDO was established on January 1, 1958.
- ❖ It was created after merging Directorate of Technical Development & Production of Indian Ordnance Factories and Technical Development Establishment, with Defence Science Organisation.
- ❖ DRDO has a network of 52 laboratories.



World Braille Day - January 04

- ❖ The day is celebrated to create awareness of the importance of Braille as a means of communication in the realization of human rights for the blind.
- ❖ January 4 is birthday of Louis Braille, the inventor of the Braille system.
- ❖ Braille was born in France on January 4, 1809.
- ❖ He developed the system that has allowed blind individuals to read and write, increasing their independence and access to education and employment opportunities.
- ❖ Braille is a system of representing alphabetic and numerical symbols using six raised dots.



World Day of War Orphans - January 06

- ❖ This day aims to raise awareness about children orphaned in wars, spread information about their plight and emphasise the psychological, social, and physical obstacles that children experience as they grow up.
- ❖ The World Day of War Orphans was founded by the French organisation SOS Enfants en Detresses.
- ❖ The day offers communities an opportunity to address the plight of war orphans.
- ❖ Since 2001, the estimated number of war orphans has declined consistently but at a rate of only 0.7 percent per year.

Startup India Innovation Week - January 10 to 16

- ❖ Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is organizing Startup India Innovation Week.
- ❖ It will include Knowledge Sharing Sessions for entrepreneurs, aspiring entrepreneurs, and other enablers, involving relevant stakeholders from the start-up ecosystem such as Government officials, incubators, corporates and investors.
- ❖ National Start-up Day will be observed on 16th January 2023.

Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas - January 09

- ❖ It is also known as Non-Resident Indian Day.
- ❖ It is an annual event celebrated on January 9th to mark the contribution and achievements of the overseas Indian community to the development of India.
- ❖ The day also commemorates the return of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi from South Africa to India in 1915.

- ❖ This day was first celebrated in 2003.
- ❖ The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards were bestowed on this day.
- ❖ They are classified into three categories – Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Gold, and Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Life Time Achievement.



National Youth Day - January 12

- ❖ The day is observed to commemorate the birthday of Swami Vivekananda, one of India's most influential leaders.
- ❖ He always inspired the country's youth and advocated for the proper use of youth in the country's development.
- ❖ He was a philosopher, social reformer, and thinker.
- ❖ The main goal of the celebration is to spread Swami Vivekananda's philosophy and ideals, for which he lived and worked.
- ❖ The Indian government announced National Youth Day in 1984.

Road Safety Week 2023 – January 11/17

- ❖ The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, is observing the Road Safety Week from 11th to 17th January 2023.
- ❖ It aims to propagate the cause of safer roads for all.
- ❖ The National Road Safety Week was celebrated for the first time in 1989.
- ❖ In 2010 the Centre sanctioned the National Road Safety policy, recommended by the Sunder Committee.

7th Armed Forces Veterans Day - January 14

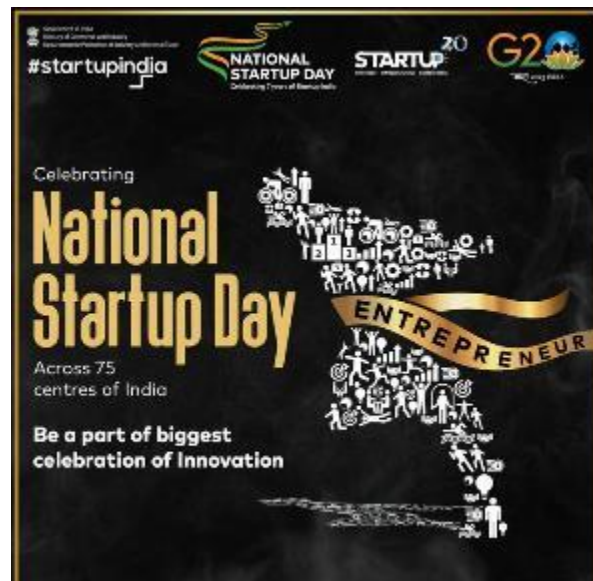
- ❖ This day is dedicated to honouring the sacrifices and service of veterans who have served in the country's armed forces.

- ❖ The celebration of this day began in 2017.
- ❖ The origins of this day can be traced back to Armistice Day, which is celebrated on November 11 all over the world.
- ❖ The first Armistice Day was held on November 11, 1919.
- ❖ It aims to commemorate the end of World War I and to honour the brave soldiers who fought in the war.
- ❖ In India, the day was first marked through a resolution passed by the Congress in 1926.
- ❖ In 2017, Armistice Day was renamed Armed Forces Veterans Day in India.

75th Indian Army Day - January 15

- ❖ It aims to commemorate the achievements of the first Indian Commander in Chief of the Indian Army General (Field Marshal) K.M. Cariappa.
- ❖ On this day, Cariappa, took over the command of the Indian Army from General Sir FRR Bucher, the last British Commander-in-Chief in 1949.
- ❖ He became the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of Independent India.
- ❖ The Army Day is celebrated every year to honour Cariappa and the defence forces.

National Startup Day - January 16



- ❖ Prime Minister declared January 16 as National Startup Day in the year 2021.
- ❖ Various programs and events are organized by government and non-government organizations to applaud and promote the Indian start-up ecosystem.

- ❖ Startup India has launched on 16th January, 2016.
- ❖ It is an initiative of the Department for Industrial Policy and Promotion.
- ❖ Startup India Innovation Week was observed from 10th – 16th January 2023.

National Disaster Response Force Day - January 19

- ❖ This Day has been celebrated on this day since 2006 when the rescue force was officially formed.
- ❖ The specialised, multi-skilled rescue force is made up of battalions from the Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and the Assam Rifles.
- ❖ The NDRF is the primary agency responsible for conducting rescue operations during disasters like drowning, building collapses, landslides, devastating floods, earthquakes and cyclones.
- ❖ The Disaster Management Act was enacted in 2005.

Parakram Diwas/ Netaji Jayanti - January 23

- ❖ India celebrated 126th Birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
- ❖ His birth anniversary is also marked as “Parakram Diwas or Courage Day”.
- ❖ This day was announced in 2021.
- ❖ He is remembered for his fierce resistance against colonial rule.
- ❖ The day seeks to inspire people of India, especially the youth, to act with fortitude in the face of adversity.
- ❖ It further aims to infuse a spirit of patriotic favour in youth.



National Girl Child Day - January 24

- ❖ This day was established in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- ❖ The goal of National Female Child Day is to highlight the prejudice and injustice that girl children face.
- ❖ This day also encourages awareness of women's rights in our country.
- ❖ The main aim of the day is to raise awareness of the disparities that girls face in a variety of areas, including education, employment, clothing, and others.
- ❖ International Girl Child Day is celebrated on October 11.



International Day of Education - January 24

- ❖ This day is observed to remind people of the importance of education.
- ❖ On December 3, 2018, the General Assembly of the United Nations voted to declare this day.
- ❖ This resolution was co-authored by Nigeria and the other 58 member nations.
- ❖ "To invest in people, prioritise education" is the theme of the 2023.

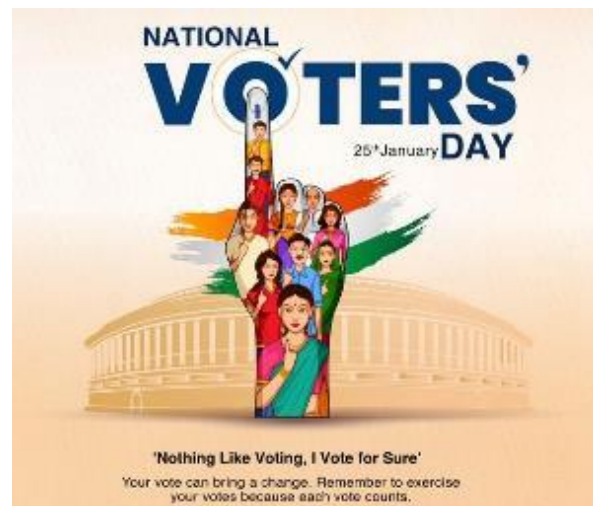
Foundation day of Uttar Pradesh - January 24

- ❖ The state of Uttar Pradesh is celebrating its foundation day or Uttar Pradesh Day on January 24.
- ❖ Since 2018, the celebration goes on for a period of three days.
- ❖ The main theme of Uttar Pradesh Day 2023 is 'Investment and Employment'.
- ❖ After Independence, the regions under United Provinces were brought together to form Uttar Pradesh on January 24, 1950.



National Voter awareness Day - January 25

- ❖ The main objective behind the celebration is to encourage, facilitate, and maximise enrolment, especially for new voters.
- ❖ The day has been celebrated since 2011 across the country.
- ❖ This day marks the foundation of the Election Commission of India in 1950.
- ❖ Theme for this year is 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure'.



National Tourism Day - January 25

- ❖ It was first celebrated by the Indian government in 1948.
- ❖ It was intended to protect national heritage and create popular tourist attractions throughout the country.
- ❖ On this day, a national-level program was held at Telangana's Pochampally.
- ❖ It is a village situated on the outskirts of Hyderabad and is known for its famous hand-woven Ikat saris.



Himachal Pradesh Statehood Day – January 25

- ❖ It was on this day in 1971 that Himachal Pradesh became the 18th state of India.
- ❖ It is generally known as Dev Bhoomi or Land of God and Veer Bhoomi which means Land of Braves in India.
- ❖ It is one of the three mountain states in India featuring extreme landscapes, several peaks, and river systems.

International Customs Day - January 26

- ❖ It honours all the customs agents and organizations who work tirelessly to ensure efficient global trade management.
- ❖ This year's theme is 'Nurturing the next generation: Promoting a culture of knowledge-sharing and professional pride in Customs.'
- ❖ It commemorates the WCO's (World Customs Organization) maiden session held in 1953.
- ❖ The WCO, previously known as the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC), was formed in 1952 in Brussels, Belgium.
- ❖ The W.C.O. has its headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

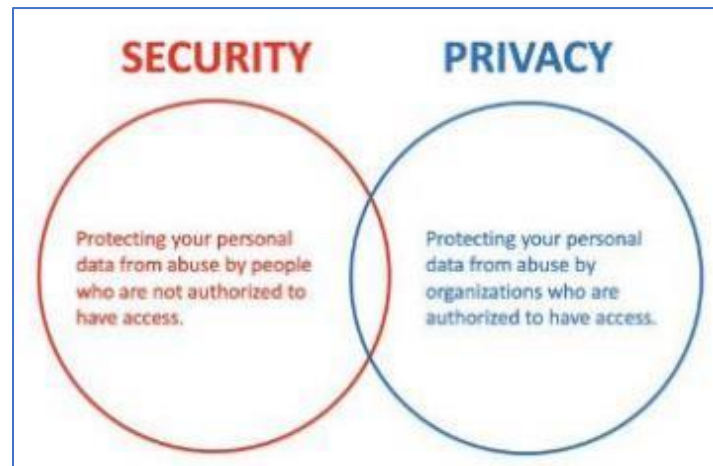
International Holocaust Remembrance Day – January 27

- ❖ It is also known as the International Day in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.
- ❖ The day remembers the killing of six million Jews, two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population, and millions of others by the Nazi regime in Germany.
- ❖ 27 January was chosen to commemorate the date when the Auschwitz concentration camp was liberated by the Red Army in 1945.
- ❖ The theme "Home and Belonging" guides United Nations Holocaust remembrance and education in 2023.

Data privacy day – January 28

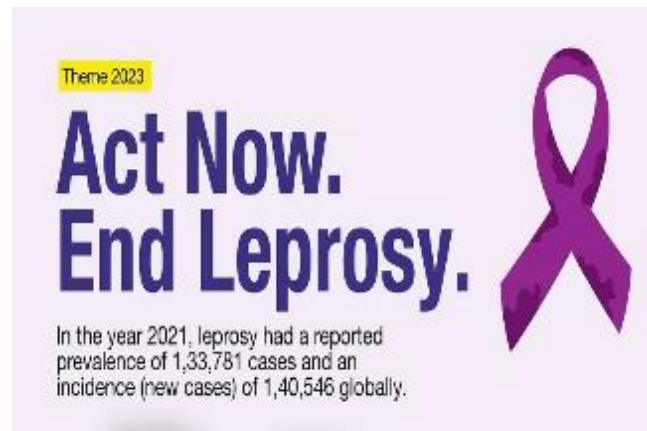
- ❖ It aims to create more awareness about the right to data protection and the various ways in which people can keep their data more secure.
- ❖ The day is now celebrated globally to raise one of the most important issues of a digitally advancing world.
- ❖ The main goal of this day is to educate people about the challenges and let them know about their rights to privacy.

- ❖ The theme of the day in 2023 is 'Think Privacy First'.



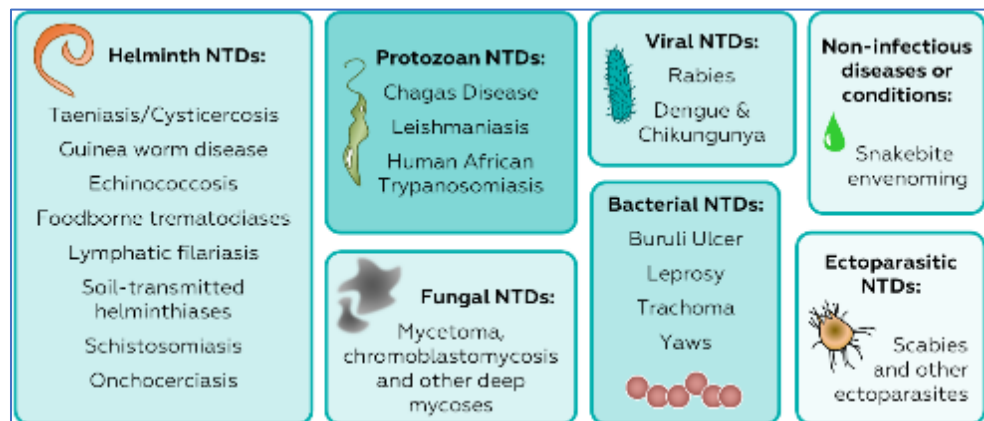
World Leprosy Day - January 29

- ❖ It is celebrated on the last Sunday of January to spread awareness about leprosy disease.
- ❖ This day call for an end to leprosy-related stigma and discrimination.
- ❖ Leprosy is also known as Hansen's disease.
- ❖ Gerhard Henrik Armauer Hansen was discovered the slow-growing bacterium - Mycobacterium leprae in 1873 as the main cause of illness.
- ❖ The theme of World Leprosy Day 2023 is "Act Now, End Leprosy".
- ❖ It was established in 1954 by French philanthropist Raoul Follereau.
- ❖ Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease and is caused by a bacillus, Mycobacterium leprae.
- ❖ It multiplies slowly and the incubation period of the disease is 5 years on average.
- ❖ In India, it is observed on 30th January every year, coinciding with the death anniversary of Gandhi.
- ❖ Over half of these global leprosy cases are detected in India.
- ❖ In the year 2021, leprosy had a reported prevalence of 1,33,781 cases and an incidence (new cases) of 1,40,546 globally.
- ❖ In India, the prevalence of leprosy is 0.4 per 10,000 population.



World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day - January 30

- ❖ On 31 May 2021, the World Health Assembly recognized 30 January as World Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) Day.
- ❖ It aims to create better awareness of the devastating impact of NTDs on the poorest populations around the world.
- ❖ The day is also an opportunity to call on everyone to support the growing momentum for the control, elimination and eradication of these diseases.
- ❖ NTDs are a diverse group of 20 conditions that are mainly prevalent in tropical areas.
- ❖ WHO South-East Asia Region accounts for the second highest NTD burden globally.
- ❖ NTDs are a group of infections that are most common among marginalised communities in the developing regions of Africa, Asia and the Americas.
- ❖ They are caused by a variety of pathogens such as viruses, bacteria, protozoa and parasitic worms.



MISCELLANEOUS

Indigenous livestock breeds

- ❖ In the last one year, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has registered 10 new breeds of livestock species.
- ❖ It includes cattle, buffalo, goat and pig.
- ❖ This has taken the total number of indigenous breeds to 212 as of January 4, 2023.
- ❖ The registration was done by ICAR-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR).
- ❖ The 10 new breeds include
 - Three new cattle breeds - Kathani, Sanchori, Masilum.
 - One buffalo breed - Purnathadi,
 - Three goat breeds - Sojat, Karauli, Gujari and
 - Three pig breeds - Banda, Manipuri Black, Wak Chambil.



Hockey India enters the world of Metaverse



- ❖ Hockey India launched the 'Hockeyverse' on their social media platforms.
- ❖ It becomes the first National Sports Federation to enter the world of metaverse.
- ❖ 'Hockeyverse' will provide a new virtual experience where global hockey fans can visit and experience their favourite sport from the comfort of their home.

ICG ship 'Kamla Devi'

- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ship 'Kamla Devi', the Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) was commissioned recently.
- ❖ ICGS Kamla Devi is officially the fifth and last vessel of the series of FPVs.
- ❖ It will patrol the seas and carry out anti-smuggling, anti-poaching and search and rescue operations as and when required.



Death rituals in 5,000 years ago



- ❖ Excavations at one of the biggest necropolises at Juna Khatiya village (Kutch, Gujarat) show rows of graves with valuable items such as Ceramic pots, beaded jewellery, animal bones etc.

- ❖ These are demonstrated that, ancient humans buried the dead with afterlife items like personal artefacts, sacred animals, and pots of food and water.
- ❖ These are dated back from 3,200 BCE to 2,600 BCE.
- ❖ The site demonstrates the transition from earth-mound burials to stone graves.

1200-year-old miniature stupas

- ❖ Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has discovered two 1200-year-old miniature votive stupas near Sarai Tila mound within the premises of 'Nalanda Mahavihara'.
- ❖ These, carved from stone depicting Buddha figures, must be around 1200-year-old.
- ❖ Beginning in the 7th century CE in India, small miniature terracotta stupas became popular as votive offerings.
- ❖ The Nalanda Mahavihara site comprises the archaeological remains of a monastic and scholastic institution dating from the 3rd century BCE to the 13th century CE.
- ❖ It includes stupas, shrines, viharas (residential and educational buildings) and important art works in stucco, stone and metal.



World Oldest Runestone

- ❖ Archaeologists in Norway have found what they claim is the world's oldest runestone.
- ❖ The inscriptions are up to 2,000 years old and date back to the earliest days of the enigmatic history of runic writing.
- ❖ It was "among the oldest runic inscriptions ever found" and "the oldest datable runestone in the world".
- ❖ Older runes have been found on other items, but not on stone.

- ❖ The earliest runic find is on a bone comb found in Denmark.



Hindenburg Research Report on Adani Group

- ❖ Adani Group Shares have fallen heavily after the Hindenburg Report, an American investment consultancy and research institute.
- ❖ Hindenburg has accused the Adani Group of fraud and irregularities.
- ❖ Adani has fallen to the 11th position in the list of the world's richest people.
- ❖ Hindenburg Research Company uncovers scandals in many large companies.
- ❖ The report of these scams is published by this company.
- ❖ It is a forensic financial research firm that analyses equity, credit and derivatives.



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