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போட்டித்தேர்விற்கான மாத இதழ்

Issue : 1



Focus

- 5G Spectrum
- President Election
- Illam Thedi Kalvi
- TamilNadu Breakfast Program
- Monkey Pox



HAPPY
INDEPENDENCE
DAY





TNPSC தேர்வுகளில் வெற்றி பெறுவதற்கான

முக்கிய ஆலோசனைகள்...

1. தேர்வுகளில் வெற்றி பெறுவதற்காக சாத்தியமாகக் கூடிய கால அட்டவணையை முதலில் தயாரித்து, அதை உறுதியாகப் பின்பற்ற வேண்டும்.
2. TNPSC தேர்வுக்கான பாடத்திட்டம் என்ன என்பதை முழுமையாக அறிந்துகொண்டு, அதில் எந்தப் பகுதியையும் விடாமல் படிக்க வேண்டும்.
3. முதன்மை ஆதாரங்கள் அல்லது நூல்களில் இருந்து **தரமான குறிப்புகளைத் தயாரித்து** வைத்துக்கொள்ள வேண்டும்.
4. TNPSC தேர்வு எழுதுவதற்கான அறிவுத் திறனை அடுத்த நிலைக்கு மேம்படுத்த எஸ்.சி.இ.ஆர்.டி (SCERT) எனப்படும் மாநிலக் கல்வியல் ஆராய்ச்சி மற்றும் பயிற்சி நிறுவனக்குழு தயாரிக்கும் பாட நூல்களில் இருந்து அவற்றின் அடிப்படைத் தத்துவத்தை புரிந்துகொள்ள வேண்டியது மிகவும் முக்கியமாகும்.
5. பாடங்களில் இருந்து எவ்வாறு வினாக்கள் எழுப்பப்படும் என்பதை அறிந்து கொள்வதற்காக அவற்றின் தத்துவங்கள், உண்மைகள் போன்றவற்றை தேர்வுக்கானக் கோணத்தில் இருந்து புரிந்துகொள்ள வேண்டும்.
6. முந்தைய ஆண்டின் வினாக்களை நன்றாகப் படித்து, அவற்றை ஆய்வு செய்ய வேண்டும்.
7. அத்தியாயங்கள் வாரியாகவும், பாடங்கள் வாரியாகவும் பயிற்சித் தேர்வுகளை எழுதிப் பார்க்க வேண்டும். அவ்வாறு செய்வதன் மூலம் உண்மையான தேர்வு எவ்வாறு இருக்கும் என்பது குறித்த அனுபவம் நமக்குக் கிடைப்பதுடன், **தவறுகளைத் திருத்திக் கொண்டு** மேம்படுத்திக் கொள்ளவும் முடியும்.
8. கடந்த ஆண்டுக்கான பொது அறிவு வினாத்தாள்களுக்கு விடை அளிக்க முயற்சி செய்ய வேண்டும். **உங்களின் பலவீனம் என்ன என்பதை தெரிந்து கொள்ள** அது உதவும். நீங்கள் எந்த அளவிற்குத் தேர்வுக்கு தயாராக இருக்கிறீர்கள்? உங்களின் அறிவுத் திறன், விடை அளிக்கும் வேகம், துல்லியம் ஆகியவற்றை அளவிடுவதற்கும் இது உதவும்.
9. பாடங்களை ஒருமுறையாவது திருப்புதல் **செய்து பார்ப்பது கட்டாயம் ஆகும்.**
10. அனைத்துப் பாடங்களையும் ஒருமுறை திருப்புதல் செய்து பார்ப்பதும், தயார் செய்து வைக்கப்பட்டுள்ள குறிப்புகளை மூன்றாவது முறையில் படித்துப் பார்ப்பதும் சிறப்பாகும்.
11. தேர்வுக்கு முந்தைய **ஒரு மாதத்தில் புதிய பாடங்களைப் படித்து ஆராய ஒருபோதும் முயற்சி செய்ய வேண்டாம்.** அந்த ஒரு மாதமும் ஏற்கனவே படித்த பாடங்களைத் திருப்புதல் செய்து பார்ப்பதற்கு மட்டுமே ஒதுக்கப்பட வேண்டும். அந்த ஒரு மாதம் முழுவதும் திருப்புதல், திருப்புதல், திருப்புதல் என்பதே மந்திரமாக இருக்க வேண்டும்.
12. **செய்திகளையும், நாட்டு நடப்புகளையும் தொடர்ச்சியாகப் படித்து வரவேண்டும்.** பாடங்களையும், தேசிய மற்றும் சர்வதேச நிகழ்வுகளையும் நன்கு அறிந்துகொள்ள வேண்டும்.
13. **அடுத்த நாள் தேர்வு நடக்க இருப்பதாகக் கருதிக் கொண்டு** அதற்கேற்ற வகையில் தேர்வுக்குத் தயாராகுவதற்கான உத்தி வகுக்கப்பட வேண்டும். அந்த அளவுக்கான தயாரிப்பு அவசியமாகும்.
14. ஒவ்வொரு நாளும் **உறங்கச் செல்வதற்கு முன் அந்த நாள் முழுவதும் படித்த பாடங்களை ஒருமுறை நினைவுபடுத்திக் கொள்ள வேண்டும்.** அது உங்களின் நினைவுத் திறனை வலுப்படுத்தும்.
15. முதல்நிலைத் தேர்வுக்கான பொது அறிவு முதல் தாளுக்கான தயாரிப்பு முதன்மைத் தேர்வையும் மனதில் கொண்டு தொடரப்பட வேண்டும்.

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I. Profile of State

Manipur

- Manipur literally meaning "a jeweled land" nestle deep within a lush green corner of Northeast India.
- Manipur is one of the seven sister states of Northeast.

Historical background

- The beginning of manipur's more recent history dates from 1762, when the Raja jai singh concluded a treaty with the British to repel an invasion of Burmans from myanmar.
- Manipur became part of India in Oct 1949.
- First it became a Union territory in 1956 and then became a full fledged state in 1972.
- Thalon cave is one of the historical sites of manipur under Tamenglong district.

Geographical fact

- Imphal is the capital city of the state.
- State animal is sangai and state bird is Nongyeen.
- The mountain ranges create a moderate climate preventing the cold winds from the north from reaching the valley and barring cyclonic storms.



- The Barak river which originates from manipuri hill is the largest river of the states.
- Khuga dam and Tipaimukh dam are the major dams of the state.
- Keibul Lamjao is the only floating national park of the world.
- Loktak lake is the biggest fresh water Lake of Northeast India.
- Hinduism is the major religion in the state closely followed by christianity.
- Meetai is the maintribal Group of manipur which constitutes 27 % of its population.
- Khangkhui cave is the natural limestone cave.
- Mt. Tempu is the highest peak of the state.
- Loktak lake is the pamsar sites of manipur.

Sports

- State is also origin place of European Polo game.
- Mukna is a popular form of wrestling.

Culture

Classical dance

- Manipuri, is one of the six classical dance styles of India. Manipuri dance also referred to as the manipuri Raasleela.



- The dance form is imbired with devotional themes of madhura Raas of Radha - Krishna and characterised by gentle eyes and soft peaceful body movements.

Other dances

- Nigol Chakouba, Khamba Thoi-bi dance, Dhol cholam, manipuri Ras leela.

Major festivals

- Dol Jatra, Lai Haraoba, Cheiraoba, Gaan Nagai, Yao shang(Holi), Gang Nagai festival, Kang, Kut festival, Heikru Hidongba.

Industry

- It is the first state to introduce oak Tussar industry.
- Manipur has the highest number of handicrafts.

- Handloom Industry is the largest cottage Industry in the states.

Flora and Fauna

- 67% of the geographical area of manipur is hill tract covered forests.
- Depending on the altitude of hill ranges the ultimate condition varies from tropical to sub-alpine.

- The wet forests and the Pine forests occur between 900 - 2700m above mean sea line and they together sustain a host of rare and endemic plant and animal life.
- There are 500 varieties of orchids which grow in Manipur of which 472 have been identified.

Noted points

- Manipur act as India's Gateway

to the east through moreh and Tamutowns, the land route for trade between India and Burma and other countries in South-east Asia, East Asia, Siberia, Micronesia,

- Polynesia. From c sharmina belongs to manipur is a Political activist & was an fast (Hunger Strike) since 2000, which ended in 2016 over AFSPA 1958.

II. National Symbol

National flag



Design

- The design of the India tricolour is largely attributed to pingali Venkaya an India freedom fighter.

Pingali Venkayya design

- He proposed a basic design of the flag consisting of two red and green bands to symbolise the two major communities, Hindus and muslims.
- He passed away in 1963 and was posthumously honoured with a postage stamp in 2009 for his contribution towards Indian freedom struggle.

- In 2014, his name was also proposed for the Bharat Ratna.

Mahatma Gandhi suggestion

- Mahatma Gandhi arguably suggested adding a white band to represent peace and the rest of the communities living in India, and a spinning wheel to symbolise the progress of the country.

Historical fact

- 1906 - First national flag of India hoisted on 7th August 1906 in Kolkata, at the parsee Bagan Square (Green park)
- 1907 - Madam Cama and her group of exiled revolutionaries hoisted an Indian flag in Germany First Indian flag to be hoisted in a foreign land.
- 1917 - Dr. Annie Besant and lokmanya Tilak adopted a new flag as part of the Home rule movement.
- 1931 - The congress committee met in Karachi and adopted the

tricolour (that of Pingali Venkayya) as India's national flag.

Constitutional and legal Aspect

- The constituent Assembly adopted the motion of national flag on 22nd July 1947.
- The motion proposed that the National flag of India shall be horizontal tricolour of deep saffron(Kesari), White and dark green in equal proportion.
- The white band was to have a wheel in navy blue (The charkha being replaced by the chakra), which appears on the abacus of the Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka.
- One of the minor committees of the constituent Assembly, the Ad-hoc committee on the National flag was headed by Dr. Rajendra prasad.
- Part IV - A of the constitution (Which consists of only one Article 51-A) Specifies the eleven fundamental duties.

- According to Articles 51A (a), it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to abide by the constitution and respect its ideals and Institutions, the National flag and the National Anthem.

Legal Aspect

- A person who is convicted for the offence under the prevention of insults to National honour Act of 1971 is disqualified to contest in the elections to the Parliament and state legislature for 6 years.

Facts

1. The National flag of India was designed by Pingali Venkayya. He was an Indian freedom fighter from Andhra Pradesh.
2. According to the law, the National flag of India is to be made by Khadi which is hand - spun Wool / Cotton / Silk Khadi cloth.
3. Karnataka Khadi Gramodyoga samyukta sangha is the only unit in India that is accredited to supply and manufacture the flag of India.
4. The Khadi development and village industries commission have the manufacturing right to make the National flag of India.

5. The national flag is known as Tiranga in hindi and it consists of three colors and Asoka chakra in its middle.

- (i) The saffron colors - courage and sacrifice
- (ii) White - Truth, Peace and purity.
- (iii) The green colour - Prosperity.

(iv) Asoka chakra represents the laws of Dharma.

(v) The size of the Asoka Chakra was not defined in the flag code.

6. The width to length ratio of the National flag of India is 2 : 3. The three strips of the flag should be equivalent in width and length.

Do You Know

- On may 29, 1953, Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay conquered the mount everest and raised the Indian flag on mount Everest, along with the national flag of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Nepalese National flag.
- The largest Indian flag was hoisted in Indo - Pak Attari Border. Nation's largest flag measures 110 meters in length, 24 meters in width and 55 tons in weight.
- During the Indo - Soviet joint space flight in April 1984, the National flag of India flew into space as an emblem on the spacesuit worn by cosmonaut wing commander Rakesh Sharma.

“உலகம் உன்னை அறிவதை விட உன்னை உலகிற்கு அறிமுகம் செய்து கொள்”
- அப்துல் கலாம்



வெற்றியின் முகவரி since 2006

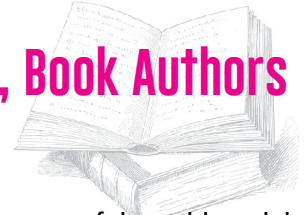
SURESH'
IAS ACADEMY

TUTICORIN - 99445 11344 | TIRUNELVELI - 98942 41422
RAMANATHAPURAM - 75503 52916 | MADURAI - 98431 10566



III. Eminent Person's and Places, Sports, Book Authors

1. Eminent Persons



Vijay Amritraj

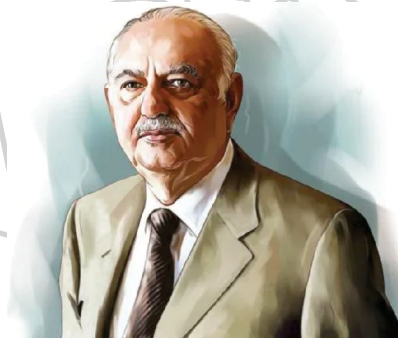


- Indian tennis great, Vijay Amritraj has been named the 2021 recipient of the Golden Achievement Award in London.
- It is given by the International Tennis Hall of Fame and International Tennis Federation. He is first recipient from India to receive this award.
- In recognition of his outstanding impact on the sport of tennis as a player, promoter, and humanitarian.
- During his extensive career as a Top 20 player in the 1970's and 1980's, he broke barriers and popularized tennis across more than half the world's population throughout the Asian continent.
- He joins including Brian Tobin of Australia, Eiichi Kawatei of Japan, and Peachy Kellmeyer of the United States.

Pallonji Mistry

- Pallonji Shapoorji Mistry was an Indian-born Irish billionaire construction tycoon.

- Pallonji Mistry, Shapoorji Pallonji Group Chairman, passes away at 93 in Mumbai.
- Mistry's family controls the Shapoorji Pallonji Group, an Indian construction and real estate empire.
- It was established more than 150 years ago. And it employs more than 50,000 people in over 50 countries today.
- Some of the company's landmark projects include the Reserve Bank of India and the blue-and-gold Al Alam palace for the Sultan of Oman.



- Pallonji Mistry's son Cyrus Mistry was ousted as Tata Sons Chairman in 2016.
- Indian prime minister said Mistry "made monumental contributions to the world of commerce and industry"

Varinder Singh

- Indian hockey stalwart and member of the gold medal winning 1975 World Cup team, Varinder Singh passed away.

- He was part of the gold medal-winning Indian team at the 1975 men's Hockey World Cup in Kuala Lumpur.
- It was India's only World Cup crown. In 2007, Varinder was conferred with the prestigious Dhyani Chand Lifetime Achievement Award.

1st Black woman judge in US Supreme Court

- Ketanji Brown Jackson became the first Black woman judge of the Supreme Court of America.
- She is also its first former public defender.
- This is the first time in the history of United States that a black woman has become a judge of the country's highest court.

President of FATF

- T. Raja Kumar from Singapore has been appointed as the president of Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
- FATF the anti-money laundering watchdog.
- The FATF is an inter-governmental body that sets international standards seeking to prevent international financial crimes that aid terrorism.
- The FATF was established in July 1989 by a G-7 summit in Paris.

- He has replaced Marcus Pleyer, and will discharge his service for next two years.

Youngest Speaker in the country

- Mumbai lawyer and first-time legislator, Rahul Narwekar has been elected as the youngest Speaker of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.
- He belongs to the BJP.
- Thus, he becomes the youngest ever in India to hold this Constitutional post.
- He creates a history to become the youngest legislator to be elected as the 16th Speaker (since 1960).

Force Commander of UNMISS

- India's Lieutenant General Mohan Subramanian has been appointed the Force Commander in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).
- Almost 20,000 peacekeepers serve with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan.
- They work to protect civilians and build durable peace in the conflict-affected country.
- A total of 1,160 peacekeepers from India are currently serving in South Sudan.
- UN peacekeeping is a unique global partnership.
- It brings together the general assembly, the security council, the secretariat, troop and police contributors and the host gov-

ernments in a combined effort to maintain international peace and security.

P GopinathNair - Freedom fighter

- P. Gopinathan Nair has passed away at the age of 100.
- He was known for following Gandhian ideology in his life and was honoured with the Padma award.
- He had participated in the freedom struggle.
- He had taken part in the Quit India Movement of 1942.
- He had worked along side Vinoba Bhave to promote Bhoodan and Gramdan movements.

- The Government of India awarded him the fourth highest civilian honour of Padma Shri in 2016 for his contributions to society.

Japan's PM

- Japan's former prime minister Shinzo Abe was passed away recently.
- He was reported shot at while delivering a campaign speech.
- Shinzo Abe was the longest-serving Prime Minister in Japanese history.
- He was initially serving from 2006-2007 and then again from 2012 to 2020.

Major contributions of shinzo Abe

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Economics | Also known as abenomics, it was started in 2013 to overcome the over two decades of deflation |
| Foreign policy | Under his arc of freedom and prosperity, the indo-pacific region has emerged as a contemporary political, strategic and economic reality |
| Social | Womenomics which pushed companies to increase their hiring of women with the help of specially tailored government policies such as preferential government contracting to reward companies that hired women and government funded day care centres |

His contributions to India-Japan relationship

- Special strategic and global partnership between india-japan for peace and security in the region,
- Under Abe, japan made for a tenth of india's FDI with support for major projects including the Mumbai-Ahmedabad

high-speed rail corridor.

- He supported india's entry into four international export control regimes with increased cooperation in defence equipment and technology.
- For his contributions, Indian government gave the prestigious padmavibhushanto him in 2021.

United Kingdom Prime Minister

- United Kingdom Prime Minister, Boris Johnson has announced his resignation as Conservative Party.
- Johnson will remain in charge until the process of electing a new leader is completed
- The British system is based on the doctrine of the sovereignty of parliament.
- In Britain, the prime minister should be a member of the lower house of the parliament, but in India prime minister can be both houses.

Father of Indian Internet

- Brijendra K Syngal, the former Chairman of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd (VSNL), passed away.
- He has been acknowledged as the father of the Indian Internet.
- He was known for his strong views and fearlessness in taking on the establishment.
- One of Mr. Syngal's earliest major accomplishments included assisting ISRO and Department of Space with the launch of their satellite in 1992.
- He was also credited with bringing the internet to India



in 1995, ahead of any Asian country, with the exception of Japan.

Gautam Adani - Fourth Richest Person

- Gautam Adani became the world's fourth richest person, by replacing Microsoft founder Bill Gates.
- Mukesh Ambani ranks 10th in the Forbes' Real-Time Billionaires List.
- Tesla and SpaceX founder Elon Musk tops the list.
- He is a first-generation entrepreneur and is driven by the core philosophy of infusing "growth with goodness" via his vision of nation building.

Golden Visa to Kamal Hasan

- Tamil actor Kamal Haasan has been given the prestigious Golden Visa by the United Arab Emirates.



- The UAE Golden Visa is an extended resident visa programme which lasts between five and ten years.
- The visa is perpetually extended.

- It is given to high performers in a variety of industries, as well as to professionals, investors, and those with potential skills.

Highest taxpayers

- Rajinikanth and Akshay Kumar were honoured by the Income Tax Department in recognition of their contribution towards nation-building.
- Rajinikanth was felicitated for paying his taxes regularly.
- The highest taxpayer in India, Akshay Kumar, was honoured with 'sammanpatra'.

Pakistan first women DSP

- Manisha Ropeta has made history since she became the first woman from the minority Hindu community in Pakistan to become a DSP.



- Ropeta cleared the Sindh public service commission examination last year and ranked 16th on a merit list of 152 successful candidates.
- She is undergoing training and will be posted as the DSP in the crime-infested area of Iyari.
- Ropeta wants to lead a feminism drive in Pakistan.

2. SPORTS

Qosanov Memorial Athletics

- Dhanalakshmi becomes 3rd fastest Indian woman in 200 meters.
- She ran her personal best time to win 200m gold at the Qosanov Memorial Athletics in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- She is only the third Indian woman to run in 23 second after national record holder Saraswati Saha (22.82s) and Hima Das (22.88s).
- Dhanalakshmi Sekar is an Indian athlete from Tamil Nadu.
- Indian women's discus thrower, Navjeet Dhillon from Punjab won the gold medal.

Eoin Morgan Retirement

- The England's cricket team captain Eoin Morgan announced his retirement from the International Cricket.
- Under his captaincy, England lifted their first-ever ODI World Cup in 2019.
- He is also the most successful T20I captain, with his team winning 42 out of the total 72 matches.

Adani Sportsline

- It is the sports arm of the Adani Group
- It has inked a long-term principal sponsorship deal with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)

pal sponsorship deal with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)

- It will be the official partner of the Indian contingent during the upcoming Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022, the Hangzhou Asian Games 2022, and the Paris Olympic Games 2024.
- It had earlier been associated with the Indian contingent during the Tokyo Olympics in 2021.
- Adani sports line has supported over 28 athletes through its athlete support initiative, #GarvHai, across a variety of sports.
- Six of these athletes represented India at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, and among them was wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya, who brought home a silver medal.
- Adani Sportsline also owns teams on Indian and global platforms.

National record of Neeraj Chopra



- Neeraj Chopra created a new national record for the second time in a month with a throw of 89.94 metres at the Stockholm Diamond League, Sweden.
- Chopra finished second after Anderson Peters of Grenada, who threw 90.31 metres on his third attempt.
- Recently, Chopra broke his previous record by throwing at 89.30 metres.

Jasprit Bumrah world record

- Indian captain Jasprit Bumrah got 35 runs to create a world record for maximum runs off a single over in Test cricket.
- He hit 29 runs and 6 runs added as extras in the over of Stuart Broad of England.
- Thus, he breaks the West Indies Brian Lara's feat by one run.
- Lara hit South African Robin Peterson for 28 runs in a Test match in 2003-04.
- Former Australian player George Bailey had also scored 28.
- Jasprit Bumrah has set a new record for the most wickets (21) taken by an Indian bowler during a test series in England.
- The new record set by Jasprit Bumrah has surpassed Bhuvneshwar Kumar's record of 19 wickets during a five-match series in 2014.

U-15 Asian Wrestling Championship

- India has won the title of Asian Wrestling Championship Indian male wrestlers won seven medals.
- Including 4 gold in the Under-15 Asian Wrestling Championship being held in Bahrain.
- These include four gold medals, two silver and one bronze.
- Earlier, Indian women wrestlers had won 6 gold and three silver.
- Iran clinched Asia title with 205 points while Kazakhstan was runner-up with 192 points and India secured 3rd place as they gained 172 points.

Test wickets in SENA Countries

- Jasprit Bumrah has been proving his worth on outstanding pacer in SENA countries and has completed 100 test wickets playing against them on their soil.



- Jasprit Bumrah became the 6th Indian bowler and 5th pacer to take 100 wickets in SENA countries.
- Thus, he joining the league of legends like Kapil Dev, Zaheer

Khan, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, and Anil Kumble.

- The SENA Countries include South Africa, England, New Zealand and Australia.

Commonwealth Games 2022

- The 2022 commonwealth games are officially known as XXII commonwealth Games and are generally known as Birmingham 2022.
- Women's cricket will be making its debut in the Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022.
- This would be the second-ever time that cricket will be played in the Commonwealth Games.
- It has only been played once before in Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games 1998 when men's ODI cricket was included in the schedule.
- Birmingham 2022 will see T20 Cricket make its debut in Commonwealth Games.
- This will also mark the first appearance of the women's cricket in the event.
- Harmanpreet Kaur is all set to lead Team India in the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England.
- This will be the first time that Women's T20 International will be featured in this multi-sport event.
- India is in Group A with Australia, Barbados, and Pakistan

World Masters Athletics Championships

- This championships is organized by World masters Athletics is organized by world masters athletics in coordination with a local organizing committee.
- The 94-year-old Bhagwani Devi Dagar from Haryana won a gold and 2 bronze for India at the World Masters Athletics championships 2022.
- She got a gold medal in 100m sprint event held at the World Masters Athletics Championship 2022, Tampere of Finland.
- Bhagwani Devi had won three gold medals earlier as well as in 100m race, shot put and javelin throw at the delhi state Athletics Championship.
- She won a bronze medal in shot put as well.

Wimbledon men's title

- Serbia Novak Djokovic won a seventh Wimbledon men's title and 21st Grand Slam.



- The Wimbledon Championships 2022 is a Grand Slam tennis

tournament that takes place at London.

- Djokovic became the fifth man in the open era to record a streak of at least four consecutive titles at one major.

Asian U-20 Wrestling Championships

- The Indian team won as many as 22 medals in Asian U-20 Wrestling Championships, held at Manama, Bahrain.
- It won 4 gold medals, 9 silver and 9 bronze medals.
- It includes both the men's and women's wrestling.
- The Indian team finished in the second-Ranking spot while they finished fifth in the men's Greco-Roman event.

ISSF WORLD CUP

- The 2022 ISSF world cup is the annual edition of the ISSF World cup in the Olympic shoot-



ing events, governed by the International shooting sport federation.

- Veteran Indian shooter Mairaj Ahmed Khan made history by becoming the first person to ever win a men's skeet gold medal at an ISSF World Cup held at Baku, Azerbaijan.

- Minsu Kim from Korea got second place, and Ben Llewellyn from Britain got third place.

Singapore Open title

- P V Sindhu clinched the women's singles title at the Singapore Open 2022 BWF Super 500 tournament.
- This is Sindhu's first 500 title, since she won the world championship in 2019.
- In 2022, she has won two titles of Super 300.
- Anthony sinisuka Ginting won the men's singles title at badminton's Singapore open 2022.
- The last time an Indian won the Singapore open was in 2017 when B sai praneeth clinched the men's singles title.
- Saina nehwal won the women's singles title in 2010.
- Singapore Open badminton event has been held every year from 1929.



36th National Games logo

- The 36th National game 2022 will be held in Gujarat.
- It will be held across 6 cities of Gujarat, in which all the 28 states and 8 union territories will participate.



- In all, 36 sports will be hosted, in line with the tagline "sports for unity".

- This year, yogasana and mal-lakhamba have been added to the list of games. Thus, it will promote indigenous sports in India.

- The logo depicts Gujarat's two enduring and proud symbols viz., statue of unity of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Gir Asiatic lion.

World Athletics Championships – 2022

- The 2022 world Athletics championships was the eighteenth edition of the world athletics championship.
- After the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, world Athletics banned all Russian Belarusian athletes and officials from participating at the championships.
- The World Athletics Championships were held in America for the first time.
- In terms of medals, Team USA made the most of their time over the last 10 days.
- India came up at number 33 overall and fourth in Asia, just behind China, Japan, and Kazakhstan.
- Algeria, Burkina Faso, Croatia, Greece, and South Korea have tied with India in 33rd position on the medal tally with 1 silver medal each.

Chess Olympiad

- Recently, the prime minister declared the 44th chess Olympiad at JLN stadium, Chennai.
- This is the first time the chess Olympiad is being held in the place of origin of chess, india.
- It is coming to asia for the first time in 3 decades.
- It has the highest ever number of countries participating.
- It has the highest ever number of teams participating.
- It has the highest number of entries in the women's section.
- Three teams will participate from india in the open and women's section.



- The first ever Torch relay of chess Olympiad started this time.
- Viswanathan anand will mentor the players.
- The event is organized by the federation des echecs(FIDE)
- Tamil nadu has a strong connection with chess
- This is why it is a chess powerhouse for india.

- It has produced many of india's chess grandmasters.
- It is home to the finest minds, vibrant culture and the oldest language in the world, Tamil.

Transgender Athletes

- The International Swimming Federation (FINA) has approved new gender inclusion policy to restrict transgender athletes from competing in elite women's aquatics competitions.
- Under new policy, male-to-female transgender athletes will be eligible to compete in women's at FINA competition if
- They transition before the age of 12 or before they reach stage two on the puberty tanner scale.
- Tanner scale, also known as tanner stages or sexual maturity rating, is a scale describing the onset and progression of pubertal changes.
- It was first given by James Tanner
- Ethical dilemma: to ensure competitive fairness or promote inclusiveness



National Anti-Doping Bill passed in Lok Sabha

- Recently, the Lok Sabha passed

the National Anti-Doping Bill 2021 Bill that seeks to create a statutory framework for the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).

- Piloted by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, it was first introduced in Lok Sabha in December 2021.
- The bill will protect the interest of sportspersons as it will provide ample space for them to put forth their versions especially when they face anti-doping charges.

National Board for Anti-Doping in Sports

- The Bill establishes a National Board for Anti-Doping in Sports to make recommendations to the government on anti-doping



regulation and compliance with international commitments on anti-doping.

- The Board will oversee the activities of the Agency and issue directions to it.

3. EVENTS/AWARDS

Oscar Academy Members 2022

- Bollywood actor Kajol and Tamil actor Suriya have been invited to join the Class of 2022 of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.



- It hosts the Oscars every year.
- The two Indian actors are among the 397 distinguished artists and executives from around the globe to be invited to join the organisation in 2022.
- The membership selection is based on professional qualifications along with an ongoing commitment to representation, inclusion and equity.

Saraswati Samman 2021

- Prof Ramdarash Mishra will be awarded the prestigious Saraswati Samman, 2021.
- Prof Ramdarash Mishra was born in Dumri village in Uttar Pradesh, Mishra has excelled in different branches of Hindi literature
- This is awarded for his collection of poems 'Mein to Yahan Hun'.

- Saraswati Samman award was instituted in 1991 by KK Birla Foundation.
- It is one of the most prestigious literary awards in the country.
- It carries a citation, a plaque, and a cash prize of RS15lacs.
- It is given every year to an outstanding literary work written in any Indian language by an Indian citizen and published within the last 10 years.

21st TIFF Edition Trophy

- The 21st edition of the Transylvania International Film Festival was held at Unirii Square in Cluj-Napoca, Romania.
- Utama, the debut film director Alejandro Loayaza Grisi, was the winner & awarded the 10,000-euro Transylvania Trophy.
- Best Director Award – Filmmaker Guomundur Arnar Guomundsson.
- Best Performance Award – Laura Muller & Schemci Lauth.
- The Bolivian production also won over the TIFF audience, and was also awarded the Audience Award of 2000 euro by master card, as voted by the filmgoers at the festival.



Microsoft Partner of the Year Awards 2022

- HCL Technologies was recognised at Microsoft Partner of the Year Awards 2022, for innovation and implementing customer solutions based on Microsoft technology.
- HCL Tech bagged Microsoft Partner of the Year Award for Healthcare and Life Sciences (global winner) and the 2022 UK Microsoft Partner of the Year Award (country winner).
- The IT company was also named a finalist in the 2022 Microsoft Partner of the Year Award for Internet of Things (domain finalist)

Fields Medal 2022

- Four mathematicians have been awarded the prestigious Fields Medals.
- It is dubbed as the Nobel prize in maths. The field Medal is awarded every four years.
- It is awarded by the International Mathematical Union (IMU).
- IMU is an international non-governmental and non-profit scientific organisation.
- It is awarded to mathematicians under 40.

- The four awardees of the prize include
- France's Hugo Duminil-Copin - Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques
- US-based June Huh – Princeton University
- Britain's James Maynard – University of Oxford
- Ukraine's Maryna Viazovska – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology.
- Ukraine's Maryna is only the second woman to receive the award.
- The other female laureate was Iran's Maryam Mirzakhani in 2014.

Shiromani Award

- Bharat shiromani Awards are instituted to honour individuals for their outstanding achievements in their area of expertise; contribution to socio-economic development and nation building.
- Michelle Poonawalla has received the Shiromani Award at NRI World Summit 2022, held at United Kingdom.
- The Shiromani Award was also awarded to Shri Sadhu Bhramvihari, Lord Rami Ranger, Rita Hinduja Chhabria.

Wall of Former Chief Economists

- India-born Gita Gopinath features on the 'wall of former chief economists' of the IMF.

- She became the first woman and second Indian to get this honour.
- The first Indian to achieve the honour was Raghuram Rajan.
- He was Chief Economist and Director of Research of IMF between 2003 and 2006.
- Gopinath was appointed as IMF Chief Economist in October 2018.
- Later promoted as the IMF's First Deputy Managing Director in December last year.

Mrs Universe

- India's Pallavi Singh has won the Mrs Universe Divine Title at the finals held at Yeosu City, South Korea.
- She won the title of Mrs India held in Jaipur in 2020.
- She then won the title of Mrs Indo-Asia Universe in the Asia-level competition held in Delhi in 2021.

Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum

- Japan decided to honour its former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe with Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum, posthumously.
- This is the highest order in Japan.
- Emperor Meiji of Japan had established the Grand Cordon of the Order in 1876.
- He is the fourth former prime minister to get the Japan's highest order.

- This order can also be conferred posthumously, unlike European orders.

London Indian Film Festival

- Filmmakers Aparna Sen and Nandita Das have been awarded the Icon Award at this year's London Indian Film Festival.
- This is for their contribution to Indian and global cinema.
- Director Pan Nalin's poignant ode to cinema 'Chhello Show' (Last Film Show) was the winner of this year's audience-voted Best Film Award.
- In the annual Satyajit Ray short film category 'Jaagran', won the LIFF Jury Prize.

68th National Film Awards 2022

- This year's awards ceremony honoured films from 2020 as well due to COVID19-related delays.



- Soorai Pottru won three of the four biggest awards.
- 'Tanhaji The Unsung Warrior' also got major trophies.

- The National Film Awards is the most prominent film award ceremony in India from 1954.
- Some Important awards :
 - **Best Feature Film** : Soorai Potru
 - **Best Director** : Sachidanandan KR for Ayyappanum Koshiyum
 - **Best Actor** : Suriya for Soorai Potru and Ajay Devgn for Tanhaji
 - **Best Actress** : Aparna Balamurali for Soorai Potru
 - **Best Background Score** : Soorai Potru (Tamil) - GV Prakash Kumar.
 - **Best Supporting Actress** : Lakshmi Priya Chandramouli for Sivaranjaniyum Innam Sila Pengalum.
 - **Best Editing** : Sreekar Prasad for Sivaranjaniyum Innam Sila Pengalum.
 - **Best Screenplay** : Soorai Potru (Sudha Kongara), and Mandela (Madonne Ashwin)
 - **Best Feature Film in Tamil**: Sivaranjaniyum Innam Sila Pengalum.
 - **Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director**: Mandela (Tamil) - Madonne Ashwin.
 - **Most Film Friendly State**: Madhya Pradesh



Winston Churchill Leadership Award

- Winston Churchill Leadership Award was presented to President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky.
- This is awarded for his standing against Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022 and fighting back.
- The situation was similar to what Churchill had faced in 1940.
- The Winston Churchill Leadership award was first given in 2006.
- Winston Churchill served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom during Second World War, and from 1951-1955.

G7 summit

- Recently, at the 48th G7 Summit, Indian Prime Minister invited the G7 Nations to tap into the huge market for clean energy technologies emerging in the country.
- Germany holds the presidency of the G7 in 2022.
- The German Presidency has invited Argentina, India, Indonesia, Senegal and South Africa to the G7 Summit.

LiFE Campaign

- Indian Prime Minister highlighted Global Initiative for LiFE (Lifestyle For Environment) campaign.
- The goal of this campaign is to encourage an eco-friendly lifestyle.

G7

- It is an intergovernmental organisation that was formed in 1975.
- The bloc meets annually to discuss issues of common interest like global economic governance, international security and energy policy.
- The G7 countries are the UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the US.
- All the G7 countries and India are a part of G20.

Agreement between Russia and Ukraine

- Russian and Ukrainian officials have signed deals to end a standoff over grain exports brought on by the war in Ukraine.
- Ending a wartime standoff, Russia and Ukraine has signed separate identical agreements with the U.N. and Turkey to export Ukrainian grain as well as Russian grains and fertilizer.
- The war was endangering food supplies for many developing nations and could worsen hunger for up to 181 million people.
- Russian and Ukrainian officials have blamed each other for the blocked grain shipments.
- Now the deal is seen as a beacon of hope for a world that is in a desperate need of Ukrainian and Russian exports to address the global food security challenges.

- U.S. welcomes the agreement in principle and wants Russia to be held accountable for implementing this agreement.

UN Oceans Conference 2022

- The UN Ocean Conference 2022 kicked off in Lisbon, Portugal.
- It is being co-hosted by Portugal and Kenya.
- The Minister of State Jitendra Singh attends this conference.
- It is aligned to SDG 14 'life below water'.
- India will address on the topic of Scaling up Ocean Action based on Science and Innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: Stock taking, Partnerships and Solutions.
- India is on track for advancing the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, 2021–2030.
- At the conclusion of the Conference, the leaders will also reiterate the statement titled Our ocean, our future: call for action.
- The popular actor and ocean activist Jason Momoa of USA has been named UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) Advocate for Life Below Water.



NATIONS UNIES
CONFÉRENCE SUR LES
Océans

Inclusion of india's first UNESCO world Heritage City "World's 50 great places of 2022"

- The TIME magazine recently unveiled its list of the 'World's Greatest Places' of 2022 that featured 50 extraordinary destinations to explore which includes the names of Ahmedabad and Kerala .
- Besides Ahmedabad and Kerala, other cities in the world which made to the list of top 50 include Seoul, Buahan in Bali, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, among others.

Ahmedabad

- Ahmedabad boasts both ancient landmark and contemporary innovations that make it a mecca for cultural tourism, from the serene Gandhi Ashram that sits on 36 acres on the banks of the Sabarmati River to Navratri, a vibrant nine-day celebration (this year from Sept. 26 to Oct. 5) billed as the longest dance festival in the world.

Kerela

- On the southwest coast of India, Kerala is one of India's most beautiful states.
- With spectacular beaches and

lush backwaters, temples, and palaces, it's known as "God's own country" for good reason.

Rashtriya Puruskar Portal

- A common Rashtriya Puruskar Portal (<https://awards.gov.in>) has been developed by the Government .



- To bring together all Awards of various Ministries/Departments/Agencies of the Government of India under one platform to ensure transparency and public partnership (Jan Bhagidari).
- This Portal facilitates every citizen or organisation to nominate individuals/organisations for various Awards instituted by the Government of India.

4. BOOKS

"Mind Master: Winning Lessons from a Champion's Life"

- Hachette India has announced the expanded paperback edition of this book.
- It is about five-time world chess champion Viswanathan Anand.
- It is written by Anand with author-journalist Susan Ninan.

5. Historic Person's

Alluri Sitarama Raju

- Prime Minister has unveiled a bronze statue of Alluri Sitharama Raju in Andhra Pradesh to celebrate 125th birth anniversary on 4th July 2022.
- As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Government is giving due recognition to the contribution of freedom fighters and making people across the country aware of them.

About

- He was an Indian revolutionary involved in the Indian independence movement.
- He was born in present-day Andhra Pradesh in 1897 or 1898.
- He became a sanyasi at the age of 18, and gained a mystical aura among the hill and tribal peoples with his austerity, knowledge of astrology and medicine, and his ability to tame wild animals.

Freedom Movement:

- At a very young age, Raju channelled the discontent of the hill people in Ganjam, Visakhapatnam, and Godavari into a highly effective guerrilla resistance against the British.
- Guerrilla warfare is a form of irregular warfare in which small groups of combatants use military tactics including am-

bushes, sabotage, raids, petty warfare, hit-and-run tactics, and mobility, to fight a larger and less-mobile traditional military.

- Colonial rule threatened the tribals' traditional podu (shifting) cultivation, as the government sought to secure forest lands.
- He became involved in anti-British activities in response to the 1882 Madras Forest Act, which effectively restricted the free movement of Adivasis (tribal communities) in their forest habitats and prevented them from practicing a traditional form of agriculture known as podu (shifting cultivation).
- Rising discontent towards the British led to the Rampa Rebellion/Manyam Rebellion of 1922, in which he played a major part as a leader.
- The Rampa Rebellion coincided with Mahatma Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Movement. He persuaded people to wear khadi and give up drinking.
- But at the same time, he asserted that India could be liberated only by the use of force, not non-violence.
- He was nicknamed "Manyam Veerudu" (Hero of the Jungle) by local villagers for his heroic exploits.

- In 1924, Raju was taken into police custody, tied to a tree, and shot by a public execution, effectively ending the armed rebellion.

The Dalai Lama

- The Dalai Lama, the spiritual head of Tibetans, marked his 87th birthday by inaugurating a library and museum in his hillside Indian headquarters.



14th Dalai Lama

- His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, describes himself as a simple Buddhist monk.
- He is the spiritual leader of Tibet.
- He was born on 6 July 1935, to a farming family, in a small hamlet located in Taktser, Amdo, northeastern Tibet.
- At the age of two, the child, then named Lhamo Dhondup, was recognized as the reincarnation of the previous 13th Dalai Lama, Thubten Gyatso.

Peace Initiatives

- His Holiness proposed a Five-Point Peace Plan for Tibet as a first step towards a peaceful

solution of the worsening situation in Tibet.

Universal Recognition

- His Holiness the Dalai Lama is a man of peace.
- In 1989 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his non-violent struggle for the liberation of Tibet.
- He has consistently advocated policies of non-violence, even in the face of extreme aggression.
- He also became the first Nobel Laureate to be recognized for his concern for global environmental problems.

Swami Atmasthananda

- PM addressed the birth centenary celebration of Swami Atmasthananda.

About

- Swami Atmasthananda was the 15th President of the Ramakrishna Math and the Ramakrishna Mission.
- Swami Atmasthananda was born on the holy Buddha Purnima—the thrice-blessed day on which Buddha was born, attained enlightenment, and entered nirvana.
- He hailed from Kshetripara of Dinajpur, now in Bangladesh.
- He was born in 1919.
- His pre-monastic name was Satyakrishna.
- At the age of 22 years, Satyakrishna joined the Ramakrishna Order at Belur Math.

- He was elected a trustee of the Ramakrishna Math and a member of the Governing Body of the Ramakrishna Mission in 1973.
- In 1975, he was appointed as an Assistant Secretary of the twin organisations. He also became the Secretary of relief operations of the Math and Mission.
- Under the stewardship of Swami Atmasthananda, the Math and Mission conducted massive relief and rehabilitation services in various parts of India, Nepal, and Bangladesh.
- He became the General Secretary of the Ramakrishna Math and the Ramakrishna Mission in 1992 and continued to be in that post for five years till 1997 when he became a Vice-President of the Order.

- In 2007, Swami Atmasthananda was elected the President of the Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission.
- He was the 15th President of the Order.

Gopal Ganesh Agarkar

- Recently, India celebrated the birth anniversary of Gopal Ganesh Agarkar, a modern Indian Social Reformer, Educationist, and Thinker.

About

- Gopal Ganesh Agarkar was born on 14 July 1856 in Tembhu in Satara district of Maharashtra.

Beliefs

- Gopal Ganesh Agarkar was a proponent of rationalism, individualism, equality, and humanism.
 - Gopal Ganesh Agarkar believed that education and the press could play a critical role in spreading these ideas.

Social Reformer

- Social reform agendas of Agarkar included-
 - Women liberation,
 - Opposition to superstitious rituals,
 - Removal of caste discrimination,
 - Spread of scientific temperament &
 - Promotion of education for both men and women
- Gopal Ganesh Agarkar was inspired from the Age of Enlightenment in Europe and the writings of Mill, Spencer, Voltaire and Rousseau which made him a proponent of scientific rationalism.

Against Caste System:

- Gopal Ganesh Agarkar was against various ill practices prevalent in the contemporary society.
- He started his periodical, Sudhakar in 1887 in which he campaigned against the injustices of untouchability and the caste system.

• **Promotion of women empowerment :**

- Agarkar's concern about women's rights came from his childhood—he saw the suffering of his two widowed aunts.
- Mill's Subjection of Women, which states that the standard of a given society is indicated by the position of women, was central to his advocacy for social reform.
- He also supported Widow Remarriage & fought for it.
- He lent support to Age of Consent Bill and Pandita Ramabai's Widows' Home in Puna.

• **Promotion of Education:**

- Gopal Ganesh Agarkar believed in the role of Education in empowerment of both women and men.
- Towards this objective, he along with Bal Gangadhar Tilak, established multiple educational institutions like the New English School, the Deccan Education Society, and Fergusson Collage.

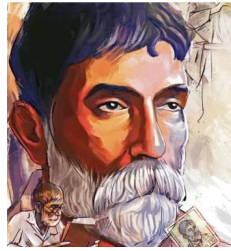
• **A Rationalist :**

- G o p a l G a n e s h Agarkar believed in the power of reason in inducing people to overcome blind superstitious faiths.
- He believed in leading a life based on rationality & equality.

- G o p a l G a n e s h Agarkar saw morality as distinct from religion.

Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray

- Recently, Ministry of Culture organised a curtain raiser for two days International Conference on the "Contributions of Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray as a Chemist and Freedom Fighter" at the Department of Chemistry, Delhi.



About

- He is Known as "Father of Indian Chemistry", Prafulla Chandra Ray (1861-1944) was a well-known Indian scientist and teacher and one of the first "modern" Indian chemical researchers.
- Originally trained at the University of Edinburgh, he worked for many years at Presidency College in Calcutta and then at Calcutta University.
- He discovered the stable compound Mercurous Nitrite in 1895.
- The British Government first honored him with the imperial title of CIE (Companion of the Indian Empire), and then with the Knighthood in 1919.
- In 1920, he was elected General President of the Indian Science Congress.

- As a nationalist he also wanted the Bengalis to come up in the world of enterprise.

- He himself set an example by establishing a chemical firm called the Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works (1901).
- He was a true rationalist and was completely against the caste system and other irrational social systems.
- He persistently carried on this work of social reformation till he passed away.
- A postage stamp was issued on him by India Post on 2nd August 1961 to commemorate his Birth Anniversary.

Mangal Pandey

- Prime Minister has paid tributes to freedom fighter, Mangal Pandey on his birth anniversary

About

- He was born on July 19, 1827, in a town near Faizabad, what is now eastern Uttar Pradesh state in northern India, although some give his birth-place as a small village near Lalitpur (in present-day southwestern Uttar Pradesh).
- He was from a high-caste Brahman landowning family that professed strong Hindu beliefs.



- He joined the army of the British East India Company in 1849 and he was made a soldier (sepoy) in the 6th Company of the 34th Bengal Native Infantry, which included a large number of Brahmans.

Rebellion against East India Company

- He revolted against the East India Company for introducing cartridges that were greased with animal fat as it hurt the religious sentiments of the soldiers.
- Eventually, this movement of rebels reached other parts of India and which led to a mass revolt against the government.
- The movement of protest and rebellion came to be known as the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857, also known as the First War of Independence.
- On March 29, 1857, Pandey and his fellow sepoys rose up in rebellion against the British officers and even attempted to shoot them.
- As a result of this, he was executed on April 7, 1857, in Barrackpore.
- On May 6th, the entire 34th Bengal Native Infantry was disbanded 'with disgrace'.
- This was carried out because an investigation 'revealed' that the soldiers had not restrained a mutinying soldier.

Maharaja Serfoji II

- Recently, the exquisite 19th century stolen painting of Maharaja Serfoji II has been traced to a US museum.

About Painting

- The painting has Raja Serfoji and his youthful son
- It was probably painted between 1822 and 1827 kept in the Saraswathi Mahal.

History

- Serfoji was the last of the Bhonsle Rajas of Thanjavur.
- He died in 1832. His only son Shivaji ruled until 1855.
- Thanjavur became a casualty of Lord Dalhousie's infamous 'Doctrine of Lapse'.

Saraswathi Mahal Library

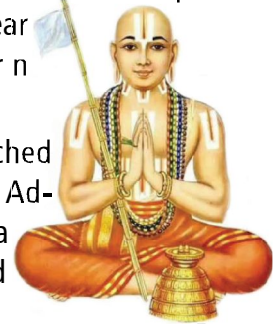
- In 1918, it was opened to the public at Thanjavur.
- The library even today boasts of over 40,000 rare manuscripts and paintings.
- Union Home and Cooperation Minister unveiled the Statue of Peace of Swami Ramanujacharya in Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir through video conferencing.

Swami Ramanujacharya

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister unveiled the Statue of Peace of Swami Ramanujacharya in Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir through video conferencing.

About Ramanuja (1017 – 1137 C)

- Ramanuja, reformer & Vaishnavite saint was born at Sriperumbudur near modern Chennai.
- He preached Vishista Advaitavada (qualified monism).
- His philosophical foundations for devotionalism were influential to the Bhakti movement.
- Ramanuja advocated prabhatimarga or the path of self-surrender to God.
- He invited down trodden people to Vaishnavism and advocated salvation by Bhakti.



Bhakti Movement

- Bhakti movement took place in Tamil Nadu between the seventh and ninth centuries.
- Bhakti saints looked upon religion as love between the worshipped and worshipper.
- Bhakti was reflected in the emotional poems of the Nayanars (devotees of Shiva) and Alvars (devotees of Vishnu).
- A more effective method for spreading the Bhakti ideology was the use of local languages.
- The Bhakti saints composed their verses in local languages.
- They also translated Sanskrit works to make them understandable to a wider audience.
- Examples include Kabir, Surdas, Tulsidas, Shankaradeva, Chaitanya Mirabai.

IV. HISTORY-HISTORICAL EVENTS

Rampa Rebellion

- Hundred years ago, in August 1922 the "Rampa Rebellion" or "Manyam Rebellion" took place in the forests of the Godavari Agency in the Madras Presidency.
- The Rampa Rebellion of 1922, also known as the Manyam Rebellion, was a tribal uprising led by Alluri Sitarama Raju in Godavari Agency.
- It began in August 1922 and lasted until the capture and killing of Raju in May 1924.
- Forced labour, embargoes on collecting minor forest produce and bans on tribal agriculture practices led to severe distress among the Koyas in the area.
- Sitarama Raju did not belong to the tribal community, but understood the restrictions that the British colonial administration placed on the tribal way of life.

Background of the revolt

- The Rampa administrative area comprised around 1,800 square km and had a mostly tribal population of approximately 28,000.
- They had traditionally been able to support their food requirements through the use, in particular, of the podu system,

whereby each year some areas of jungle forest were burned to clear land for cultivation.

- The British Raj authorities had wanted to improve the economic usefulness of lands in Godavari Agency, an area that was noted for the prevalence of malaria and blackwater fever.
- The traditional cultivation methods were greatly hindered when the authorities took control of the forests, mostly for commercial purposes such as produce for building railways and ships.
- This was done regardless of the needs of the tribal people.

Why did people revolt?

- The tribal people of the forested hills, who now faced starvation had long felt that the legal system favoured the muttadar (estate landowners) and merchants.
- This had also resulted in the earlier Rampa Rebellion of 1879.
- Now they objected also to the Raj laws and continued actions that hindered their economic position and meant they had to find alternate livelihood.
- They objected to attempts at that time to use them as forced labour in the construction of a road in the area.

Course of revolt

- Alluri Sitarama Raju, along with 500 tribal people, attacked the police stations of Chintapalli, Krishnadevipeta and Rajavomangi.
- They walked away with 26 police carbine rifles and 2,500 rounds of ammunition.
- Legend has it that Alluri himself would forewarn the British officers of an imminent attack and would challenge them to stop him with the superior resources that they had at hand.
- He was finally captured, tied to a tree and shot dead.

Moreh

- Two Tamil residents of the town of Moreh in Manipur on the India-Myanmar border were found dead in Myanmar's Tamu.

About Tamils of Moreh:

- The Tamils of Moreh are primarily traders.
- The Tamil community became one of the most influential communities in Moreh, the border town, 110 km from the capital city of Imphal.
- The community is represented by a body called the Tamil Sangam, and it dominates a grid of lanes and timber, cement houses in the heart of Moreh.

- Sri Angalaparameshwari temple in Moreh is the second largest temple complex in the North East after Guahati's Balaji temple.
- There is a Tamil Youth Club which organises cultural events every month and girls are trained in Bharatnatyam.
- Timithi, or the fire walking festival, is held every year between March-April.

How Tamils got settled in Manipur?

- As the 19th century saw British colonialism spread like wild fire across the world, South Asian countries became sort of inter-linked colonies.
- In the wake of the growing Raj, thousands of Indians from Tamil Nadu began to leave in search of greener pastures, and migrated to Burma (now Myanmar) attracted by the country's growing labour prospects.
- Contrary to most military or administrative migrations from India during this time, such as to Sri Lanka or China, the Tamils in Burma were predominantly involved in rice cultivation and trade.
- They came to be known as 'Kala Lumyo' in Burmese land.
- As the British Empire declined in 1948, this Tamil community's fortunes began to decline too.

Change in power in Myanmar in 1960s:

- The Burmese Military Junta took over in the 1960s.
- Subsequently, two decisions by the then Burmese government, drastically changed things for the Indian diaspora in the country.
- The Enterprise Nationalization Law, passed by the Revolutionary Council in 1963, nationalized all major industries, including import-export trade, rice, banking, mining, teak and rubber and the Indian government was asked to withdraw its diaspora from their lands.
- In 1965, the then Indian Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri sent the first batch of ships to Rangoon – from Kolkata, Chennai, Vishakapatnam and Kochi.
- A reluctant Indian diaspora, with a considerable Tamilian population, headed to a land they no longer considered home.
- The Tamilians were taken to Chennai and housed in refugee camps there and few others across the state.
- But this new life remained unpalatable to many who then decided to head back to Myanmar.
- Those who travelled by land, walked through Moreh – a route made familiar by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's INA.

- The Indian diaspora became the first settlers of Moreh, along with a handful of Kuki and Meitei families that had lived there since the 1940s.

Jaganath Puri Rath Yatra

- Lakhs of devotees thronged the coastal town of Puri town to witness the annual Rath Yatra with three decorated chariots of sibling deities Lord Balabhadra, Lord Jagannath and Devi



Subhadra towed in front of the 12th century Shree Jagannath Temple.

About Jagannath Rath Yatra

- Ratha Jatra, the Festival of Chariots of Lord Jagannatha is celebrated every year at Puri, the temple town in Orissa, on the east coast of India.
- It involves a public procession with a chariot with deities Jagannath (Vishnu avatar), BalaBhadra (his brother), Subhadra (his sister) and Sudarshana Chakra (his weapon) on a ratha, a wooden deula-shaped chariot.
- The huge, colourfully decorated chariots, are drawn by hundreds and thousands of devotees on the bada danda,

the grand avenue to the Gundicha temple, some two miles away to the North.

- It attracts over a million Hindu pilgrims who join the procession each year.

About Shree Jagannath temple

- The Shree Jagannath Temple of Puri is an important Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Jagannath, a form of Vishnu, in Puri in the state of Odisha on the eastern coast of India.
- The present temple was rebuilt from the 10th century onwards, on the site of an earlier temple, and begun by King Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva, first of the Eastern Ganga dynasty.
- The Puri temple is famous for its Annual Ratha yatra, or chariot festival, in which the three principal deities are pulled on huge and elaborately decorated temple cars. These gave their name to the English term Juggernaut.
- Unlike the stone and metal icons found in most Hindu temples, the image of Jagannath is made of wood and is ceremoniously replaced every twelve or nineteen years by an exact replica.

Konark Sun Temple

- Visitors to the Sun Temple in Konark, Odisha, will soon be able to see the newly carved stones on the northern side of the jagmohan, or the assembly hall of the World Heritage Site.



- The pilot project started in 2019 with a study of the stones at the temple and an analysis of the historic drawings and photos from the 19th century onwards.
- Starting in 1901, the British government had placed plain stones across the site and filled the jagmohan with sand to preserve the structure of the 13th century temple.
- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) carried out conservation works after the site was handed over to it in 1936.
- According to the National Conservation Policy (2014), Restoration may be undertaken on monuments with high architectural value and only in parts of a monument wherein there are missing geometric or floral patterns, or structural members of a monument which have been damaged recently.
- Konark Sun Temple is a 13th-century CE Sun temple at Konark about 35 kilometres (22 mi) northeast from Puri city on the coastline in Puri district, Odisha.

- The temple is attributed to king Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga dynasty about 1250 CE

Mahuli group of temples

Context

- The National Monument Authority (NMA) to submit a report on the comprehensive development of Mahuli group of temples to the Ministry of Culture.

Mahuli group of temples

- This group of temples is also famously known as Dakshin Kashi and are found in Mahuli, Maharashtra.
- It comprise of five temples belonging to 11th and 12th CE
- The temples are built in Hemadpanthi style of architecture
- This style of Architecture is associated with Hemadpant who was minister in YadavaEmpire.
- Mahuli is situated at the confluence of rivers Krishna and Venna.

Celebration of the 100th International Day of Cooperatives

- India celebrated the day under the theme "Building a Self-Reliant India and a Better World through Co-operatives".
- The International Day of Cooperatives was declared by the United Nations General Assembly on 16th December 1992, on the first Saturday of July.

- The purpose of this festival is to promote cooperatives globally and foster an environment that will foster their expansion and profitability.
- The occasion highlights the cooperative movement's contributions to tackling the major issues addressed by the United Nations as well as to enhancing and expanding the alliances between the cooperative movement internationally and other actors.
- It aims to raise awareness of cooperatives and further the values of the movement—
 - International solidarity,
 - Economic efficiency,
 - Equality,
 - Global peace.
- **Theme for 2022:** Cooperatives Build a Better World.

Tamilnadu sends Soil samples for project relating to New Parliament Building

- Soils sample from five ecological regions mentioned in ancient Tamil sangam literature have been sent.
- Sangam is the period roughly between 3rd century B.C. and 3rd century A.D. in south india flourished under patronage of pandya kings.
- Sangam literature includes to Ikappiyam, Ettutogai, Pattupatt, pathinenkilkanaku and epics named-Silappathikaram and Manimekalai.

- Samples from Kurinji, Mullai, Marudham, Paalai, Neithal were collected.

NMA recommends 2 sites connected to Ambedkar to be declared as Monuments of National Importance

- The National Monuments Authority (NMA) has recommended two sites associated with B R Ambedkar in Gujarat and Maharashtra to be declared as monuments of national importance.
- The sites are the Sankalp Bhumi banyan tree campus in Vadodara in Gujarat where Ambedkar had taken a resolve to eradicate untouchability .
- Pratap Rao Bhosle High School in Satara in Maharashtra where he had received his primary education.
- The site in Vadodara is more than hundred years old and a witness to the beginning of social respect revolution heralded by Ambedkar, who is considered as the architect of India's Constitution.
- The school in Satara, now under Zila Parishad, is in a dilapidated condition.

Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple

- Recently, the Supreme Court extended the time for completion of the special audit of 25 years of accounts of Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple and its trusts to August 31, 2022.

About Padmanabhaswamy temple

- The origin of the Temple of Sree Padmanabhaswamy is lost in antiquity.
 - Some Historians say the temple dates back to the 8th century but the present structure was built in the 18th century by the then Travancore Maharaja Marthanda Varma.



- It is the only major temple structure in Kerala that represents an amalgamation of the Dravidian style of architecture and the indigenous features of the architecture of Kerala.
- It is one of the most famous Vaishnava Shrines of South India and is one of the few temples where Lord Vishnu is represented in the reclining form lying on Adishesha and Brahma the creator, seated on a lotus that stems from the navel of Lord Vishnu.
- **Features**
 - The Gopuram or the gateway of this temple is very similar to the temples of Dravidian style mostly found in Tamil Nadu.
 - No other major temple in Kerala has a Gopuram of such an elaborate nature.

Modhera Sun Temple

- The Ahmedabad Railway Station at Kalupur in Ahmedabad City will be developed on the theme of Modhera Sun Temple in the next five years.

About

- Modhera Sun Temple is located in Mehsana, neighbouring Ahmedabad district.
- Built in the 11th century during the Chalukya dynasty in honour of the Sun God, it is one of the major tourist destinations in North Gujarat.
- Situated on the banks of Pushpavati River.



- It is surrounded by a terraformed garden of flowering trees and songs of birds.
- The remains of the Sun Temples at Modhera are relics of times gone by when reverence of the natural elements fire, air, earth, water and sky were at their peak sharing space with myriad manifestations of Vedic gods.

Pryushan Parv

- Jain festival in which Jain Monks and Nuns stay with the community and provide them

instructions and guidance. It is also a festival of "Forgiveness".

- It is usually celebrated in August or September (rainy season)
- During Paryushan, Jains increase their level of spiritual intensity often using fasting and prayer/meditation to help.

- The five main vows are emphasized during this time- Ahimsa (Non-violence), Satya (Truth), Asteya (Non-stealing), Brahmacharya (Chastity), Aparigraha (Non-possession)
- Pratikraman is also performed by many Jains during the festival.
- The word Pratikraman is made from the combination of two words, Pra meaning return and atikraman meaning violation.



The Mangarh hillock

- The Mangarh hillock in Rajasthan should be classified as a monument of national importance in remembrance of the 1500 Bhil tribal independence fighters, according to a report by the National Monuments Authority (NMA).

What is the Background of the Mangarh Hillock?

- The hillock, which is located near the boundary between

Gujarat and Rajasthan, was the scene of a tribal rebellion where more than 1500 Bhil tribal freedom warriors were massacred in 1913.

- There has been a call for the construction of a memorial at the site, also known as the Adivasi Jallianwala.
- Over 1,500 tribal members were killed when British soldiers opened fire on them on November 17, 1913, as they were having a protest assembly there under the direction of a local leader named Govind Guru.

What is the Bhil Tribe?

- Bhils are frequently referred to as the bowmen of Rajasthan. They are the tribal communities that are spread out the greatest in India.
- They are the biggest tribe in South Asia.
- They can be broadly divided into two types:
 - Rajput Bhils and
 - Central Bhils, also known as pure Bhils.
- In addition to the mountainous regions of India's Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Rajasthan, the central Bhils can also be found in Tripura's northwest.
- In the states of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, & Tripura, they are regarded as Schedule Tribes.

V. POLITY-POLITICAL PARTIES AND POLITICAL SYSTEM IN INDIA

President Election

Article Highlights

- As the tenure of President Ram Nath Kovind comes to an end on July 24, 2022, an election to fill the position of the 16th President of India will be held on July 18.
- The polls will witness 4,809 electors, including MPs and MLAs voting to elect President Kovind's successor.
- In the last election in 2017, Ram Nath Kovind became the President after defeating joint opposition candidate Meira Kumar.
- Kovind polled 7,02,000 votes compared with Kumar's 3,67,000, out of a total of 10,69,358 votes.
- But once the President is elected, the excitement subsides and for the next five years not much attention is paid to the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Election Of President Of India - Provisions

- The President of India is elected by indirect election.
- He is elected by an electoral college in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote and secret ballot.

• The electoral college consists of :

- The elected member of both the Houses of Parliament.
- The elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States.
- The elected members of the Legislative assembly of Delhi and Puducherry.
- This provision was added by the **70th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992**.
- The nomination of a candidate for election to the office of President must be subscribed by at least 50 electors as proposers and 50 electors as seconders.
- **Every candidate has to make a security deposit of Rs. 15,000 in the RBI, which is liable to be forfeited in case the candidate fails to secure one-sixth of the votes polled.**

Who Does Not Participate In The Election Of President Of India?

- The nominated members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States.
- The nominated members of the Legislative assembly of Delhi and Puducherry.
- The nominated member of both the Houses of Parliament.

- All the members of state legislative councils.

Election Process

- The value of the vote of an MLA = $\frac{\text{Total Population of the State}}{\text{Total number of elected members in the state legislative assembly}} \times 11000$
- The value of the vote of an MP = $\frac{\text{Total Value of votes of all MLAs of all States}}{\text{Total number of elected members of both Houses of Parliament}}$
- The value of the vote of each MLA varies from state to state. However, the value of the votes of the MPs is the same.
- Tamilnadu MLA vote value is 176.

Requirements to secure a victory in Presidential election

- A nominated candidate does not secure victory based on a simple majority but through a system of bagging a specific quota of votes.
- While counting, the EC totals up all the valid votes cast by the electoral college through paper ballots and to win, the candidate must secure 50% of the total votes cast + 1.

- Unlike general elections, where electors vote for a single party's candidate, the voters of the electoral college write the names of candidates on the ballot paper in the order of preference.
- The President's election is held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting is by secret ballot.

Criticism of President's role

- In Shamsher Singh State of Punjab, the Supreme Court held that, the Governor and President are only the former heads of the state
- When they require satisfaction as required by the Constitution, it is not their personal satisfaction but the satisfaction of the Council of Ministers on whose aid and advice they exercise powers and functions.

Way Forward

- **Can prevent the tyranny of the government** :The principal role of the President is to prevent a parliamentary government from becoming a parliamentary anarchy and it is the Presidential authority that keeps the country and the people bond together.
- **President's who set examples** : There were Presidents such as Rajendra Prasad and Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan who openly differed with the government on certain policy issues and could

exert tremendous influence on the government.

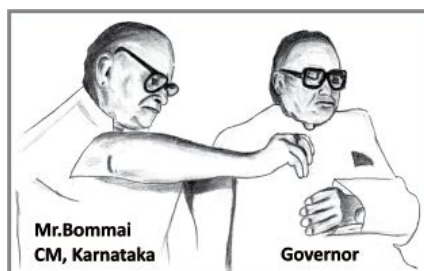
- **Disagreement with the government** : It is possible for a President to disagree with the government or intervene on behalf of the citizenry against the tyranny of the executive and persuade it to give up its ways.
 - The solemn oath the President takes requires him or her to do it.
- **Use of discretionary powers** : Under article 78 the President enjoys the right to seek information from the PM regarding the administration of the affairs of the union.
 - Under the established convention, the President has the right to warn or encourage the Council of Minister (CoM) in the exercise of its power.

S.R. Bommai Case

- This article is based on "Article 356 and an activist judiciary"

Article 356 : Background

- No liberal democratic Constitution in the world has a provision such as an Article 356 that gives the central government the power to dismiss a democratically-elected State



government except the Constitution of Pakistan.

- Both India and Pakistan borrowed this provision from the Government of India Act, 1935.
- The leaders of the Indian freedom struggle were so very opposed to this provision that they forced the British government to suspend it. Section 93 of the Government of India Act, 1935 was never brought into effect.
- However, the provision which we had opposed during our freedom struggle was incorporated in the Constitution for the preservation of democracy, federalism and stability in the post-independent era.

Article 356 And Its Misuse

- Even though B.R. Ambedkar had assured that it would remain a dead letter, Article 356 has been used/misused more than 125 times.
- In almost all cases it was used for political considerations rather than any genuine breakdown of constitutional machinery in the States.
- Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi used Article 356 as many as 27 times, and in most cases to remove majority governments on the ground of political stability, absence of clear mandate or withdrawal of support, etc.
- In retaliation, the Janata government removed nine state Congress governments, when

for the first time they formed the government in 1977.

- Indira Gandhi on her return to power in 1980, removed nine Opposition majority governments at one go.
- Subsequent governments too acted in a similar fashion.

Article 356 And Safeguards

- The 1994 Supreme Court (S.R. Bommai case) majority decision, in essence, overturned a long tradition that the use of Article 356 was not really subject to review by courts, a doctrine articulated in a landmark 1977 case, State of Rajasthan vs Union of India.
 - The Bommai case verdict laid down the conditions under which State governments may be dismissed, and mechanisms for that process.
- In the S.R. Bommai case, a nine-member bench of the Supreme Court construed the scope of Article 356, which also allows the imposition of President's Rule in the States, with stringent conditions.
 - These included ascertaining whether objective conditions exist which render it impossible to carry out governance in the State where the proclamation has been made and the process has to be approved by both Houses of Parliament before consideration for judicial review.

Way Forward

- **Judiciary Restraining Itself:** Judiciary should realise that Judicial activism may be good as a rare exception but an activist judiciary is neither good for the country nor for the judiciary itself.
- **Fine-tuning Role of Governor:** In order for the smooth functioning of democratic government and strengthening the spirit of federalism, it is important that the governor must act judiciously, impartially and efficiently while exercising his discretion and personal judgment.
 - In this context, the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission and Punchhi Commission should be followed in true spirit.
 - For example, the 'procedure for appointment of governors should be clearly laid down' and conditions of appointment must also be laid down and must assure a fixed tenure for the governor.
- **Need for President's Activism:** President under the Indian constitution is bound by the aid and advice of the Indian Constitution. However, the President can use its suspensive veto in case of malicious application of Article 356.
 - For example, former president K.R. Narayanan twice returned the cabinet's rec-

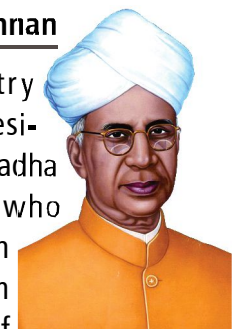
ommendation on October 22, 1997, in respect of the Kalyan Singh government in Uttar Pradesh which had just won the controversial confidence vote and stating that imposition of President's Rule would be constitutional impropriety.

Indian President and TamilNadu Links

- The 15 president the country has seen in over seven decades, six had links with Tamil Nadu in one way or the other.
- Also, two unsuccessful contestants – N. Seshan and Lakshmi Sahgal were the well-known products of institutions of the state.

S. Radhakrishnan

- The country's second president, S. Radha Krishnan, who was born in the Pilgrim town of Tiruttani, In September 1888, spent most of his formative years in the state, initially as a student and later as a teacher.
- He came back to Chennai after spending 15 years in New Delhi as vice-President and President. In April 1975, he died at a nursing home in the state capital.



V.V. Giri

- The next president with close Tamil Nadu links was V.V. Giri,

who was elected to the erstwhile Madras legislative Assembly in 1937 and 1946, when the present Andhra Pradesh was broadly covered by the Assembly.

- Giri served as labour minister in the cabinets of C. Rajagopalachari and T. Prakasam. After laying down the office of president in 1974, he returned to Chennai where he died in June 1980.

Neelam Sanjiva Reddy

- Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, who served as the Andhra Pradesh chief minister in two stints between 1956 and 1964, was earlier elected to the Madras legislative Assembly in 1946.
- He served as minister for prohibition, housing and forests for two years from 1949, when P.S. Kumaraswamy Raja was the chief minister.

R. Venkataraman

- The eighth president R. Venkataraman, also known as RV, being the son of the soil had much closer links with the state than many of his predecessors.
- In parliament, he represented Thanjavur initially and South Chennai.
- His stint as the industries minister during 1957-67 is still remembered for the way he pushed industrialisation of the state.
- After serving as Union finance and defence minister in the Indira Gandhi cabinet during

1980-84, RV became vice president and later, president.

- The second half of his presidential years was turbulent as he had sworn in three prime ministers in less than two years, RV died in New Delhi in January 2009.

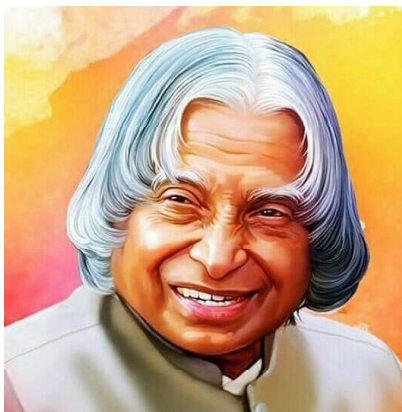
K.R. Narayanan



- R. Narayanan, who hailed from Kerala, had worked as a Journalist for the hindu briefly in Chennai in the mid-1940s.

A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

- Who hailed from Rameswaram, had his education in the state, including undergraduate degree in Physics at St. Joseph's



- college, Trichy, and a degree in aerospace engineering at the madras institute of Technology.
- Served as the Principal scientific

Advisor to the Union Government in the rank of cabinet minister from November 1999 to November 2001.

- He became the 11th president in July 2002.
- His end came at the Institute of management, Shillong, in July 2015 while addressing students.

Lakshmi Sahgal

- Kalam's opponent in the president election in 2002 was Lakshmi Sahgal who was born in Chennai in October 1914.
- After schooling in the city, she studied at Madras Medical College where she took her MBBS in 1938.
- Five years later, she joined the Indian National Army led by Subhas Chandra Bose.
- In the early 1970s, she became a member of the (PICM), she was one of the founding members of the AIDWA, she died in July, 2012.

Seshan

- Seshan, who took on Narayanan during the 1997 presidential election, was also an IAS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre.
- An Alumnus of madras Christian college, Seshan held various positions in the state, including the collector of the undivided Madurai district during 1965-67 when he dealt sternly with participants of the anti-Hindi agitation.

- He went on to become the chief election commissioner and started Reforms to the country's electoral system.
- He died in Chennai in December, 2019.

Vice President Election

Context

- The opposition on Sunday named former Governor and former union minister Margaret Alva as its candidate for Vice President.
- The ruling NDA has announced West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar will be its candidate for the post.
- The term of office of Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice-President of India, is ending on 10 August 2022.
- As per Article 68 of the Constitution of India, an election to fill the vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of office of the outgoing Vice-President is required to be completed before the expiration of the term.



the Council of the States" (Rajya Sabha).

- **Article 65:** It says that "in the event of the occurrence of any vacancy in the office of the President by reason of his death, resignation or removal, or otherwise, the Vice-President shall act as President until the date on which a new President...enters upon his office".
- The Vice- President shall also discharge the functions of the President when the latter is unable to do so "owing to absence, illness or any other cause."

Election of Vice-President

- Article 324 of the Constitution read with the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952 and the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974, vests the superintendence, direction and control of the conduct of election to the office of the Vice-President of India in the Election Commission of India.
- The notification for election shall be issued on or after the sixtieth day before the expiration of term of office of the outgoing Vice-President.

Election of Vice President

↓
The Election shall be held in accordance with the system of Proportional Representation by means of single transferable vote and the voting at such election shall be by secret ballot.

↓
The Elector has to mark preferences against the names of the Candidates.

↓
Preference can be marked in the International form of Indian numerals, in Roman Form, or in the form in any recognised Indian Languages.

↓
Preference has to be marked in figures only and shall not be indicated in words

↓
The elector can mark as many preference as the number of Candidates.

↓
The marking of the first preference is compulsory for the ballot paper to be valid, other preference are optional

↓
The Pen will be given to the electors in the Polling Station by the designated official when the ballot paper is handed over. Electors have to mark the ballot only with this particular pen and not with any other pen

- As per Article 66 of the Constitution of India, the Vice-President is elected by the members of the Electoral College.
- **Electoral College consists of:**
 1. Elected members of Rajya Sabha.
 2. Nominated members of Rajya Sabha.
 3. Elected members of Lok Sabha.
- Since, all the electors are members of both Houses of Parliament, the value of the vote of each Member of Parliament would be the same i.e.1 (one).
- The Election Commission, in consultation with the Central Government, appoints the Secretary General of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, by rotation, as the Returning Officer.
- Accordingly, the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha will be appointed as the Returning Officer for the present election to the Office of the Vice-President of India.
- The Commission has also decided to appoint Assistant Returning Officers in Parliament House (Lok Sabha) to assist Returning Officers.
- As per Rule 8 of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974, polls for the election will be taken in the Parliament House.

Eligibility and term of office:

- **Article 66(3):** It says "No person shall be eligible for election as Vice-President unless he:
 - Is a citizen of India
 - Has completed the age of thirty-five years
 - Is qualified for election as a member of the Council of States".
- **Article 66(4) :** "A person shall not be eligible for election as Vice-President if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State or under any local or other authority subject to the control of any of the said Governments."
- **Article 67 :** It lays down that the "Vice-President shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office".
 - However, the Vice-President "shall, notwithstanding the expiration of his term, continue to hold office until his successor enters upon his office".
- The Vice-President may leave office before the end of his term by resigning to the President, or he "may be removed...by a resolution of the Council of States passed by a majority of all the then members of the Council and agreed to by the House of the People".

What if the election is disputed?

- **Article 71:** It says that "all doubts and disputes arising out of or in connection with the election of a President or Vice-President shall be inquired into and decided by the Supreme Court whose decision shall be final".
- Parliament may by law regulate any matter relating to or connected with the election of a President or Vice-President".

Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports Calls for Reforms in Higher Education

- PSC carried out a review of education standards, accreditation process, research, examination reforms etc.
- With around 55,000 institutions, 3.85 crore students and a Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of 27.1% (2019-20), India has one of the largest higher education systems in the world.

Key Observation

- Only 30% of universities and 20% of colleges are in accreditation system (standardisation procedure to create minimum benchmarks).
- Many deemed universities, in order to make quick money, have started Open Distance

Learning courses undermining qualitative research work.

- Several state universities regularly fail to carry out assessments smoothly, often reporting instances like question paper leaks and rampant cases of copying.

Recommendations

- Offer incentives to bring institutions under accreditation system and define norms for frequency and periodicity of accreditations.
- Institution’s exam management competency be also considered in accreditation process.
- Treat education at par with infrastructure sector and provide long-term loans and fund.
- Adopt Cluster System in higher education through sharing of resources such as libraries, infrastructure etc.
- Enhancing international collaborations (student exchanges, faculty exchanges etc).
- Donations and community contribution towards higher education institutions should be encouraged.

Parliamentary Standing Committee

- Parliamentary standing committees are permanent and regular committees which are constituted from time to time in pursuance of the provisions

of an act of parliament or rules of procedure and conduct of business in Lok Sabha.

- The work of these Committees is of continuous nature.
- Among the Standing Com-

mittees, the three Financial Committees : Committees on Estimates, Public Accounts and Public Undertakings constitute standing committees as they keep an vigil over Government expenditure and performance.

Need of Parliamentary Standing Committees

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. Law making | Due to the large volume of legislature, discussion of all the bills in parliament in detail is not possible. Committees do a detailed discussion and analysis on a proposed law, thus enabling that every law is for the benefit of citizens. |
| 2. Policy challenges | Disruptive changes in technology and the expansion of economy bring new policy challenges that require the assistance of experts in dealing with such situations. |
| 3. Consensus | Committees provide a forum for building consensus across political parties. The proceedings of the House during sessions are televised, and MPs are likely to stick to their party positions on most matters. Committees have closed door meetings, which allows them to freely question and discuss issues and arrive at a consensus. |
| 4. Scrutiny | To ensure that a Bill is scrutinised properly before it is passed, our law making procedure has a provision for Bills to be referred to a standing committee for detailed examination. |

- Although parliamentary and cabinet committees are not a part of the Constitution they ensure healthy democracy and governance through scrutiny and better policies.
- They enable the cabinet and Parliament to make difficult decisions.

Sub-Categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) : Government gives 13th Extension to Rohini Commission

- Recently, the Union Cabinet gave the 13th extension to the Justice Rohini Commission, to examine sub-categorisation of

Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and submit its report by 31st January 2023.

- The initial deadline to submit the commission's report was 12 weeks - by 2nd January, 2018.

About

- The Commission was constituted to examine the issue of Sub-categorization within Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the Central List.
- The extension is for 6 months beyond 31st July 2021 and upto 31st January 2022.

Benefit of this extension

- The proposed extension of tenure and addition in its terms of reference shall enable the "Commission" to submit a comprehensive report on the issue of sub-categorization of OBCs, after consultation with various stakeholders.

What are the Key Highlights?

- **Commission :**
 - The commission was set up on 2nd October, 2017 under Article 340 of the Constitution.
 - It was tasked with sub-categorisation of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and equitable distribution of benefits reserved for them.
 - In 2015, the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) had recommended that OBCs should be

categorised into extremely backward classes, more backward classes and backward classes.

- NCBC has the authority to examine complaints and welfare measures regarding socially and educationally backward classes.

• Commission's Terms of References :

- To examine the uneven distribution of reservation benefits among different castes in the central OBC list.
- To work out the mechanism, criteria, norms and parameters in a scientific approach for sub-categorisation within such OBCs.
- To take up the exercise of

identifying the respective castes/communities/sub-castes/synonyms for comprehensive data coverage.

- To study and recommend correction of any repetitions, ambiguities, inconsistencies and errors of spelling or transcription.

Work Done So Far :

- It has met representatives of state governments, state backward classes commissions, community associations etc.
- Apart from obtaining caste-wise data of OBCs in higher educational institutions and recruits in central departments, public sector banks and financial institutions.

How has the status of OBC reservation evolved over time?

- The Kalelkar Commission, set up in 1953, was the first to identify backward classes other than the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) at the national level.
- The Mandal Commission Report, 1980 estimated the OBC population at 52% and classified 1,257 communities as backward.
 - It recommended increasing the existing quotas, which were only for SC/ST, from 22.5% to 49.5% to include the OBCs.
- The central government reserved 27% of seats in union civil posts and services for OBCs [Article 16(4)].
- The quotas were subsequently enforced in central government educational institutions [Article 15 (4)].
 - In 2008, the Supreme Court directed the central government to exclude the creamy layer (advanced sections) among the OBCs.
- The 102nd Constitution Amendment Act, 2018 provided constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC), which was previously a statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

- In 2021, the commission proposed to divide OBCs into four subcategories numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4 and split the 27% into 2, 6, 9 and 10%, respectively.
- It also recommended complete digitisation of all OBC records and a standardised system of issuing OBC certificates.

Nominated Member of Parliament (MP)

More about the news

- **Nominated members :**
The four new nominated entrants in Rajya Sabha are:
 - Musician Ilaiyaraaja,
 - Track-and-field icon PT Usha,
 - Telugu screenwriter V Vijayendra Prasad, and
 - Philanthropist and spiritual leader Veerendra Heggade.
- These members belong to four southern states, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka.
- The Upper House of Parliament now has nine nominated members — the other five being:
 - Lawyer Mahesh Jethmalani, dancer Sonal Mansingh, politician Ram Shakti, author and columnist Rakesh Sinha, and former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi.
- Three nominated positions are currently vacant.
- **Elections of Rajya Sabha:**
 - The elections to fill the vacant seats of Rajya Sabha

from Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Karnataka & Haryana.

- 16 MPs will be elected in Rajya Sabha through these elections.

Nominated Members in Rajya Sabha

Constitutional backing:

- Article 80 of the Constitution (“Composition of the Council of States”) says

- “The Council of States shall consist of
 - a) twelve members to be nominated by the President in accordance with the provisions of clause (3); and
 - b) not more than two hundred and thirty-eight representatives of the States and of the Union territories.
- Clause 3 of the article lays down the qualifications for the appointment.

Composition of Rajya Sabha

- The maximum strength of the Rajya Sabha is fixed at 250, out of which, 238 are to be the representatives of the states and union territories (elected indirectly) and 12 are nominated by the president.
- At present, the Rajya Sabha has 245 members. Of these,
 - 229 members represent the states,
 - 4 members represent the union territories and
 - 12 members are nominated by the president.

- The Fourth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha to the states and union territories

Representation of States:

- The representatives of states in the Rajya Sabha are elected by the elected members of state legislative assemblies.
- The election is held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.
- The seats are allotted to the

states in the Rajya Sabha on the basis of population.

- Hence, the number of representatives varies from state to state.
 - For instance, there are 31 Rajya Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh and 1 in Goa.

Representation of Union Territories:

- The representatives of each union territory in the Rajya Sabha are indirectly elected by members of an electoral college specially constituted for the purpose.

- This election is also held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.
- Out of the seven union territories, only two (Delhi and Puducherry) have representation in Rajya Sabha.
- The populations of other five union territories are too small to have any representative in the Rajya Sabha.

Nominated Members:

- The president nominates 12 members to the Rajya Sabha from people who have special knowledge or practical experience in art, literature, science and social service.

Duration of Rajya Sabha

- The Rajya Sabha (first constituted in 1952) is a continuing chamber, that is, it is a permanent body and not subject to dissolution.
- To ensure continuity, one-third of its members retire after every second year, under Article 83(1) of the Constitution.
- Their seats are filled up by fresh elections and presidential nominations at the beginning of every third year.
- The Parliament in the Representation of the People Act (1951) provided that the term of office of a member of the Rajya Sabha shall be six years.

Role of nominated members:

• Powers and privileges:

- Nominated members of Rajya Sabha enjoy all the powers and privileges to which the elected MPs are entitled.
- They can take part in the proceedings of the House in a normal manner.

• Election of President and Vice-President:

- Nominated members are not allowed to vote in the election of the President.
- However, they do have the

right to vote in the election of the Vice-President.

• Significance of nomination:

- The rationale behind this principle of nomination is to provide eminent persons a place in the Rajya Sabha without going through the process of election.
- It gives an opportunity to those who might be willing to participate in the debate with an amount of learning and importance which we do not ordinarily associate with the House of the People (Lok Sabha)

• Criticisms:

○ Poor attendance :

There has been criticism that several nominated members have poor attendance and do not appear to show much interest in legislative work.

In this context, cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, actor Rekha, and businesswoman Anu Aga have faced criticism in recent years.

○ Politicisation of the nominated category:

Over time, the high ideal of the nomination came to be eroded.

Ruling dispensations have repeatedly used the nominated category to shore up their numbers in the House, to dispense favours, and to get their preferred individuals into Parliament.

While a nominated member can join a political party within six months of taking his/ her seat in the House, even those who remain technically independent are assumed to be aligned with the ruling regime.

Crisis in Srilanka

- Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa quits amid the island nation's worst economic crisis.

About

- The Prime Minister of the island nation gave his resignation recently as the protests mounted

pressure on him in the wake of the worst economic crisis the island nation has seen since independence.

- Sri Lanka currently is facing an economic crisis where its economy is running low on forex reserves and thus is not able to pay for essential import bills such as fuel, food items and other essential goods.

Why the Crisis?

• Long run historical imbalance:

- In a run up to 2019 elections, Mahendra Rajapaksa announced deep tax cuts in his manifesto which led to a steep fall in revenues.
- This severely impacted Sri Lanka's capacity to service the import bills which ultimately led to plummeting of forex reserves by 70 percent.

• Huge infrastructural debt:

- Sri Lanka tried emulating the China led model of growth and development by rapidly developing the infrastructure for which it took huge long gestation loans without analysing the financial, ecological viability of the projects.
- This has led to a vicious cycle of debt and its interest payments.

• Dwindling tourism sector:

- Sri Lanka primarily is a tourism led economy. The Easter bombing in 2019 led to sharp downfall in tourists'

arrival which got further aggravated due to covid crisis thus leading to huge unemployment and revenue loss.

• Misguided policies of the authoritative regime:

- In 2021, the Sri Lankan government declared that it would be opting for 100 percent organic farming thus wiping out conventional farming, deploying chemical fertilisers and HYV seeds at once.
- This led to sharp decline in grain production which compelled the government to import food items thus further aggravating the debt and balance of payment problem.
- Therefore, the President declared an economic emergency to contain rising food prices, a depreciating cur-

rency, and rapidly depleting forex reserves.

• Impact of covid :

- Covid further exacerbated the already fragile economic condition in Sri Lanka.
- Exports of tea, rubber further took a sharp dip and the tourism sector with various backward and forward linkages came to halt.

• Remittances also dropped significantly

- Government expenditure rose while revenue took a hit.
- This has led to a drop in sovereignty rating which means Sri Lanka will face problems while seeking loans from multilateral institutions and inflow of foreign investment will be hampered in near future.

India's role so far in helping Sri Lanka

- India has been instrumental in providing economic support to Sri Lanka in the wake of a severe economic crisis that, many fear, might lead to a sovereign default, and a severe shortage of essentials in the import-reliant country.
- Relief from India so far has been USD 1.4 billion - a USD 400 currency swap, a USD 500 loan deferment and a USD 500 Line of Credit for essentials
- India has also extended an additional USD 1 billion short-term concessional loan to the island nation to help the country as it faces an unprecedented economic crisis.

Current Political Vacuum:

- Prime Minister Wickremesinghe and President Gotabaya Rajapaksa signalled the willingness to resign making way for an all-

party government to take over.

The Absurdity of the anti-defection law

- In light of the events unfolding

in Maharashtra, with the government facing internal dissent from a block of 22 MLAs, the anti-defection law has again come into the spotlight.

- The events in Puducherry highlight, yet again, the absurdity of the anti-defection law.

Anti-Defection Law

- The Tenth Schedule – popularly known as the Anti-Defection Act – was included in the Constitution via the 52nd Amendment Act, 1985 and sets the provisions for disqualification of elected members on the grounds of defection to another political party.
- It was a response to the toppling of multiple state governments by party-hopping MLAs after the general elections of 1967.
- However, it allows a group of MP/MLAs to join (i.e. merge with) another political party without inviting the penalty for defection. (At least two-thirds of the members of a party have to be in favour of a “merger” for it to have validity in the eyes of the law).
- It does not penalize political parties for encouraging or accepting defecting legislators.
- The decision on questions as to disqualification on the ground of defection is referred to the Chairman or the Speaker of such House, which is subject to ‘Judicial review’.

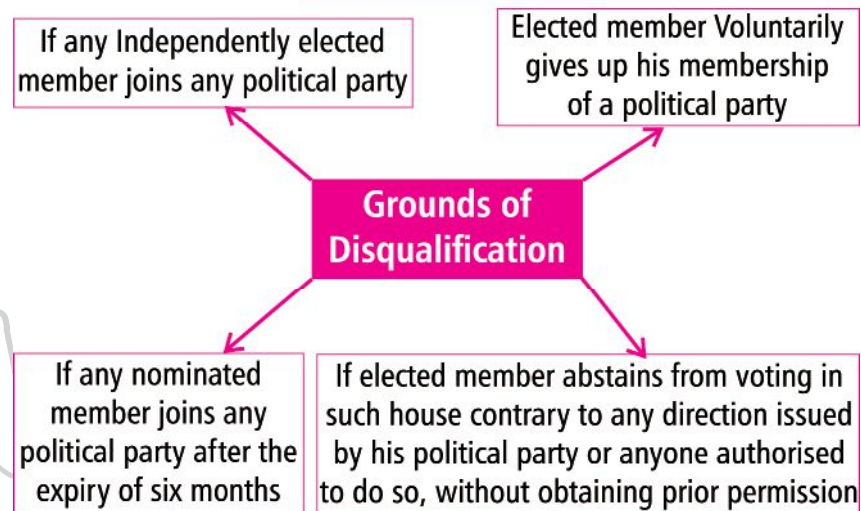
What are Different Suggestions related to the Anti-defection Law?

- The Election Commission has suggested it should be the deciding authority in defection cases.
- Others have argued that the President and Governors should hear defection petitions.
- The Supreme Court has suggested that Parliament should

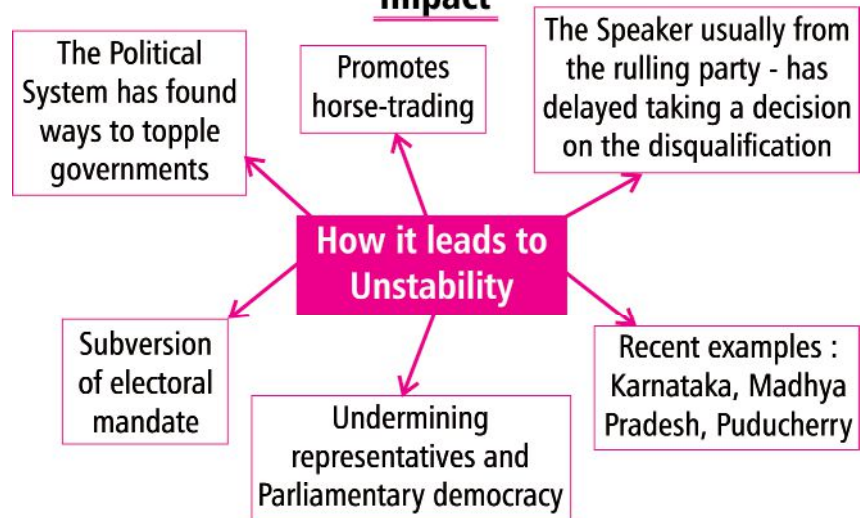
set up an independent tribunal headed by a retired judge of the higher judiciary to decide defection cases swiftly and impartially.

- Some commentators have said the law has failed and recommended its removal. Former Vice President Hamid Ansari has suggested that it applies only to save governments in no-confidence motions.

Anti-Defection Law



Impact



Law panel to examine Simultaneous Election

Why in News?

- The issue of holding simultaneous Parliamentary and Assembly elections has been referred to the Law Commission for a practicable roadmap and a framework can be worked out, Law Minister informed the Lok Sabha.

What purpose would simultaneous polls serve, if held?

- **Cost of election:**
 - Making polls simultaneous would address various concerns, such as reducing the cost of holding elections and limiting all elections to a single season.
- **Model code of conduct:**
 - At present, there is an election in one state or the other at almost any given time, and those who favour simultaneous polls argue that the Model Code of Conduct gets in the way of the government announcing projects or policy plans.
- **Check on Black money:**
 - Many parliamentary and CBI reports along with EC reports have suggested that a huge amount of black money is turned into white money during elections in the country.
 - So, if the elections are conducted frequently through-

out the year, then there is always a possibility that a parallel economy will stem in this country. A one-time election may effectively reduce such a possibility.

- **Unity of the country:**
 - Simultaneous election promotes a national perspective over the regional perspective. This is important for the unity of the country.
- **Efficiency of governance:**
 - It will help elected governments and ruling parties focus on governance, instead of preparing for elections somewhere or the other in the country.
- **Disruption of services:**
 - Frequent elections lead to “disruption” of normal public life and impact the functioning of essential services.
 - Deputing government employees frequently on election duty hinders public services, including school education, as well as maintenance of law and order and national security.
- **Law commission recommendation:**
 - In its draft report, the 21st Law Commission had said it was convinced that “there exists a viable environment, necessitating the holding of simultaneous elections to the House of the People and the State Legislatures.

- Simultaneous elections can be seen as a solution to prevent the country from being in constant election mode.
- According to the Law Commission, simultaneous polls will boost voter turnout.

Arguments against Simultaneous Election:

- **Local issues will fade out:**
 - There are concerns that simultaneous elections will impact the behaviour of voters, as national and local issues may get mixed up and distort priorities, giving an unfair advantage to national parties, at the expense of regional parties.
- **Difficult scheduling:**
 - It may be difficult to find a suitable time slot, given the geographical and administrative diversity relating to weather, agricultural cycle, exam schedule, religious festivals, and public holidays, in a country as vast as India.
- **Logistical challenges:**
 - Holding simultaneous elections once in five years may also face logistical challenges.
 - For the free and fair conduct of the elections, security forces need to be deployed in large numbers. Given the current strength of security personnel, this may be a challenging task.

- **Midterm dissolution cannot be controlled:**

- Even if the terms of the Houses are in sync as a one-time measure, it will still need an adequate legal safeguard in place to avoid mid-term dissolution and protect the simultaneous elections cycle.

- **Need a lot of amendments:**

- Amendments to the Constitution would encompass Articles 83 (Duration of Houses), 85 (Dissolution of the Lok Sabha), 172 (Duration of state legislatures), 174 (Dissolution of state legislatures), 356 (Failure of constitutional machinery), and the Tenth Schedule (to ensure that all disqualification issues arising from defection are decided by the presiding officer within six months).

- **Change in the basic structure of the Constitution:**

- Amending Article 356 – which deals with ‘Provisions in case of failure of constitutional machinery in State’, or President’s rule – will alter the basic structure of the Constitution and will impinge on federalism.

- **International examples not suitable for India:**

- The international examples – like Sweden, Belgium, and South Africa – cannot be compared to a country

like India, whose population and area are many times that of the smaller countries.

- **Promotes Horse trading:**

- Dilution of the Tenth Schedule – the anti-defection law – will lead to horse-trading.

- **Concern over feasibility:**

- If a central government that is made up of a coalition faces a situation where an ally pulls out, and the government falls, elections will have to be conducted in all state governments, too, within six months, even if there is no issue in those states and vice-versa.
- One aspect that could offset the savings would be the doubling of expenses on electronic voting machines (EVMs).

- **Model code of conduct:**

- Argument about MCC paralyzing policy-making is overstated and untrue – it only stops ruling parties from using the government machinery for electoral gains.

- **Some countries where Simultaneous Elections are successfully implemented:**

- SE are successfully held in South Africa (national and provincial), and Sweden (including local election as well on the same day).

Conclusion:

- Meeting of minds may be a good beginning in the pursuit

of the goal of “One Nation, One Election”.

- But to take the idea to fruition will require not only the meeting of minds and a political consensus but also a resolute determination to act, in the larger national interest.
- There is a need for an adequate legal safeguarding place to avoid mid-term dissolution and protect the simultaneous elections cycle.
- The government along with all the stakeholders should work together to come up with effective solutions for the issues over which concerns are being raised.

SC notice to Centre on plea to conduct delimitation exercise in 4 NE states

About

- Supreme Court issued a notice on a plea seeking direction to the Election Commission of India to carry out a delimitation exercise in four North Eastern states — Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland — as per the Representation of People’s Act, 1950
- As per Section 8A of the Representation of People’s Act (RPA) 1950, President can order delimitation exercise to be carried out in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland.
- Delimitation is the act of re-drawing boundaries of Lok Sabha and Assembly seats to represent changes in population.

Issues

- Delimitation exercise has not been carried out for last 51 years in these states.
- Last delimitation exercise (2002-08), kept out these NES due to apprehensions over use of 2001 Census. Also, the Presidential Order of 2020, which allowed for conducting delimitation exercises in these 4 states as well, was restricted to Jammu and Kashmir only.
- Violates fundamental rights guaranteed to citizens of India under Article 14 of Constitution.
- Law and order problems.
- Section 8A of RPA 1950 states that delimitation in four NES when held, would fall within Election Commission's remit.
- It provides equal representation for equal population segments, and fair division of geographical areas, so that no political party has an advantage.
- Delimitation Commission's orders cannot be questioned before any court.

What is Delimitation?

- Delimitation literally means the act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country to represent changes in population.

Why Delimitation?

- To provide equal representation to equal segments of a population.
- Fair division of geographical

areas so that one political party doesn't have an advantage over others in an election.

- To follow the principle of "One Vote One Value".

How delimitation is carried out?

- Under Article 82, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census.
- Under Article 170, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.
- Once the Act is in force, the Union government sets up a Delimitation Commission.
- The first delimitation exercise was carried out by the President (with the help of the Election Commission) in 1950-51.
- The Delimitation Commission Act was enacted in 1952.
- Delimitation Commissions have been set up four times — 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002 under the Acts of 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002.
- There was no delimitation after the 1981 and 1991 Censuses.

Delimitation Commission

- The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.
- Composition:
 - Retired Supreme Court judge
 - Chief Election Commissioner
 - Respective State Election Commissioners

Functions:

- To determine the number and boundaries of constituencies to make population of all constituencies nearly equal.
- To identify seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, wherever their population is relatively large.
- In case of difference of opinion among members of the Commission, the opinion of the majority prevails.
- The Delimitation Commission in India is a high power body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court.

Current Position of Delimitation

- In the 2009 General elections, 499 out of total 543 Parliamentary constituencies were newly delimited constituencies.
- This affected the National Capital Region of Delhi, The Union territory of Puducherry and all other states except J&K, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Manipur and Nagaland.

Problems with Delimitation

- States that take little interest in population control could end up with a greater number of seats in Parliament. The southern states that promoted family planning faced the possibility of having their seats reduced.

- In 2008, Delimitation was done based on the 2001 census, but the total number of seats in the Assemblies and Parliament decided as per the 1971 Census was not changed.
- The constitution has also capped the number of Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha seats to a maximum of 550 & 250 respectively and increasing populations are being represented by a single representative.
- The Supreme Court has suggested setting up a specialised body to examine the problem related to “freebies”.
- Certain kinds of expenditure that are done under populist pressures or with elections in mind may be questionable.
 - But given that in the last 30 years there has been rising inequality, some kind of relief to the population in the form of subsidies may not be unjustified but actually necessary for the economy to continue on its growth path.

Steps to be taken

- A national consensus exercise should be started to sort out issues much before 2026.
- The weightage given by the Finance Commission to population can be reduced to 10%, or even 5%.

Way Forward

- Although the freeze on the number of seats in Lok Sabha and Assemblies should have been lifted after the 2001 Census, another amendment has postponed this until 2026.
- This was justified on the ground that a uniform population growth rate would be achieved throughout the country by 2026.

Freebie Culture

In news

- The Supreme Court of India has said that the Parliament may not take steps to do away with “irrational freebies”, as no political party wants to take away freebies.

Background

- Recently the Supreme Court of India has asked the Union government to find out a way to restrain political parties from promising and distributing “irrational freebies” during election campaigns.
- A Bench led by the Chief Justice of India has raised concern over the issue as “serious” and asked the union government to control the promise of “freebies” to entice votes.
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) stated that “whether such policies are financially viable or its adverse effect on the economic health of the State is a question that has to be considered and decided by the voters of the State”.

What are Freebies?

- Political parties promise to offer free electricity/water supply, monthly allowance to unemployed, daily wage workers, and women as well as gadgets like laptops, smartphones, etc. in order to secure the vote of the people.
 - The states have become habituated to giving freebies, be it in the form of loan waivers or free electricity, cycles, laptops, TV sets, and so on.

Why there is a Need for Freebies?

- **Facilitates Growth:** There are some examples that show that some expenditure outlays do have overall benefits such as the Public Distribution System, employment guarantee schemes, support for education and enhanced outlays for health, particularly during the pandemic.
- **Helps the Lesser Developed States:** With the states that have a comparatively lower level of development with a larger share of the population suffering from poverty, such kinds of freebies become need/demand-based and it becomes essential to offer the people such subsidies for their own upliftment.
- **Essential for Fulfilling Expectations:** In a country like India where the states have (or don't have) a certain level of development, upon the emergence of the elections, there are expect-

tations from the part of people which are met by such promises of freebies.

- **Helps Lesser Developed States:** The states which lack development, freebies become need/demand-based and it becomes essential to offer the people such subsidies for their own upliftment.

What are the Drawbacks of Freebies?

- **Macroeconomically Unstable:** Freebies undercut the basic framework of macroeconomic stability, the politics of freebies distorts expenditure priorities and outlays remain concentrated on subsidies of one kind or the other.
- **Impact on States' Fiscal Situation:** Offering freebies, ultimately, have an impact on the public exchequer and most of the states of India do not have robust financial health and often have very limited resources in terms of revenue.
- **Against Free and Fair Election:** The promise of irrational freebies from public funds before elections unduly influences the voters, disturbs the level playing field, and vitiates the purity of the poll process.
- **A Step Away from the Environment:** When the freebies are about giving free power, it would lead to overuse of natural resources and focus from renewable energy system will also get distracted.

Way Forward

- **Realizing Economic Impacts of Freebies:** It is not about how cheap the freebies are but how expensive they are for the economy, life quality, and social cohesion in the long run.
 - We must strive instead for a race to efficiency through laboratories of democracy and sanguine federalism where states use their authority to harness innovative ideas and solutions to common problems which other states can emulate.
- **Differentiating Subsidies and Freebies:** There is a need to understand the impacts of freebies from the economic sense and connect it with the taxpayer's money.
 - It is also essential to distinguish between subsidies and freebies as subsidies are the justified and specifically targeted benefits that arise out of demands.

Registration of Electors

About

- Election Commission allows 17-year-olds to register in advance for voter's list enrolment
- The electoral roll will be updated every quarter and eligible youngsters can be registered in the next quarter of the year in which they have attained

the qualifying age of 18 years, according to the ECI.

- The Election Commission of India, in pursuance of the legal amendments in the Section 14(b) of the RPA 1950 and consequent modifications in Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, has initiated the process for bringing about necessary changes for preparation/revision of electoral roll of Assembly/Parliamentary Constituency.
- It may be recalled that on the recommendations of ECI, the Ministry of Law & Justice recently amended the RP Act to provide for four qualifying dates i.e., 01st January, 01st April, 01st July and 01st October as eligibility for youngsters to register in electoral rolls as opposed to the earlier single qualifying date of 1st January only.
- The revision activities to begin in November include disposal of claims and objections received after publication of integrated draft electoral roll.
- Under the Special Summary Revision, a one-month period is available to file claims and objections in the draft electoral roll.
- Special camps will be organized by CEOs on weekends for which the date will be publicized by concerned CEOs. The final electoral roll will be published on 5th January 2023.

Supreme Court: Places of worship act can't be enforced within the same religion

Context

- SC has rejected a petition by a sect of the Jain community under Art 32 to enforce the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act 1991 against the alleged conversion of its religious places by another sect of the same religion.

What do the places of worship act, of 1991 say?

- The act prohibits conversion of any place of worship and provides for the maintenance of the religious character of any place of worship as it existed on 15th August 1947.
- The Act states that a place of worship's religious nature must remain the same as it was on August 15, 1947.
- It says no person shall convert any place of worship of any religious denomination into one of a different denomination or section.
- It declares that all litigation, appeals, or other proceedings ongoing before any court or authority on August 15, 1947, involving converting the status of a place of worship, will cease as soon as the law takes effect.
- There will be no more legal action taken.

The following are exempt from these provisions:

- Ancient and historical monuments and archaeological site-sand remains (covered by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958)
- Any case, which has been finally settled or disposed of (the act will not apply to that case)
- Doesn't apply to the place of worship – Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid in Ayodhya.
- **Criticisms:** It has been challenged on the ground that it bars judicial review and imposes an "arbitrary irrational retrospective cutoff date", and also abridges the right to religion of Hindus, Jains, Buddhists and Sikhs.

- **SC observation about the Act:** SC (during the 2019 Ayodhya verdict) said that the law manifests the secular values of the Constitution and prohibits retrogression.
- It protects the secular features of the Indian polity.

Central Vista Project

Central Vista Background

- The Plan of Central Vista Redevelopment extends from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate.
- It includes North Block, South Block, the Parliament building and other central government secretariat buildings and all the plots of land immediately around them along the Rajpath.

Historical Fact of Parliament Building

- In December 1911, King George V made an announcement in Delhi Durbar (a grand assembly) to shift the capital of India from Calcutta to Delhi. Delhi Durbar was hosted to mark the coronation of King George V.
- The task of constructing a new city was given to Edwin Lutyens, known for his strong adherence to European Classicism and Herbert Baker, a prominent architect in South Africa.
- Herbert Baker is also the architect of the Union buildings at Pretoria, South Africa.
- Parliament House building was designed by both Lutyens and Baker.
- Madhya Pradesh's Chausath Yogini Mandir is the temple which inspired the design of Indian Parliament.
- Rashtrapati Bhavan was designed by Edwin Lutyens.
- The Secretariat which includes both north and south block was designed by Herbert Baker.

Central Vista Project – Overview

1. The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs proposed a Central Vista redevelopment project in 2019.
2. The project intends to construct a triangular-shaped Parliament building next to the existing one, construction of Common Central Secretariat, revamp of the 3 kilometres long Rajpath from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate.
3. It also includes the conversion of North and South Blocks into museums and the development of Central Vista Avenue.
4. To accommodate the offices of various ministries, 87 storied buildings will be built for the common Central Secretariat.
5. Nirman Bhavan, Krishi Bhavan, and Vigyan Bhavan will be demolished under this project.

Central Vista Redevelopment – Need of Revamping

1. Inadequate facilities and infrastructure of the Parliament building to meet the current demand.
2. The offices of the Central Government are spread over different locations which affect inter-departmental coordination, and unnecessary travel leading to congestion and pollution.

3. Most of the existing buildings have outlived their structural lives.

Central Vista Project – Aim

1. The Central Vista Redevelopment Plan is proposed to meet the present and future needs of space for the Parliament, Ministries and Departments, as well as to provide better public facilities, amenities, parking facilities, etc. Citing fire safety, acoustics concern, the dilapidated condition of the century-old construction, the redevelopment project is planned.
2. Under this ambitious project, there will be a new Parliament building by July 2022 and a common Central Secretariat by March 2024.
3. Once this project is completed, the strength of the parliament has been expected to increase from 545 seats to 900 seats.
4. The project also envisions to improve the beauty of Central vista to make it a world-class tourist attraction.

Unparliamentary Words

About

- Before the beginning of the Monsoon session, the Lok Sabha secretariat released a booklet of more than 50-pages of words considered unfit for being used in Parliament.

- Many Politicians and activists have criticised the decision by terming it a “gag order” meant to shield the government against “criticism”.

Details

- The list includes words and phrases that are disallowed in the Indian Parliament, in various state assemblies, and also in the parliaments of many countries.
- The list also includes the words that have been deleted from the records in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha during the past years.
- Article 105(2) of the Indian Constitution states that “no Member of Parliament shall be liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said by him in Parliament”, but this is not an absolute right to say whatever they want.
 - It is the responsibility of MPs to maintain the discipline of the house and follow the Rules of Parliament.
- Rule 380 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha states that “If the Speaker is of opinion that words have been used in the debate are defamatory or indecent or unparliamentary or undignified, the Speaker may order to delete such words from the proceedings of the House.

Unparliamentary Words

- There are many phrases and words, both in English and in Indian languages, that are considered “unparliamentary”.
- The Presiding Officers; Speaker of Lok Sabha and Chairperson of Rajya Sabha; are authorised of keeping unparliamentary words out of Parliament’s records.
- The latest list of Unparliamentary words includes ‘Jum-lajeevi’, ‘Baal buddhi’, ‘Covid spreader’, ‘abused’, ‘ashamed’, ‘betrayal’, ‘chamchagiri’, ‘cheated’, ‘Snoopgate’, ‘an-archist’, ‘Shakuni’, ‘corrupt’,

‘corruption’, ‘coward’, ‘criminal’, ‘dictatorial’, ‘taanashah’, ‘tanashahi’, ‘vinash purush’, ‘Khalistani’, ‘dodgy’, ‘drama’, ‘false’, ‘eyewash’, ‘fabrication’, ‘fraud’, ‘gaslighting’, ‘hack’, ‘hooliganism’, ‘hypocrisy’, ‘in-competent’, ‘lie’, ‘lollipops’, ‘mislead’, ‘negligence’, ‘par-tisan’, ‘racist’, ‘poster-boy’, ‘scandal’, ‘ruthless’, ‘traitor’, ‘witch’. etc.

- **Many expressions have been added to the list including:** “You have double standards”; “You have to be fair”; “I curse you” and “Sir, why are you trying to gag my mouth? Don’t try to gag my mouth”.

Way Forward

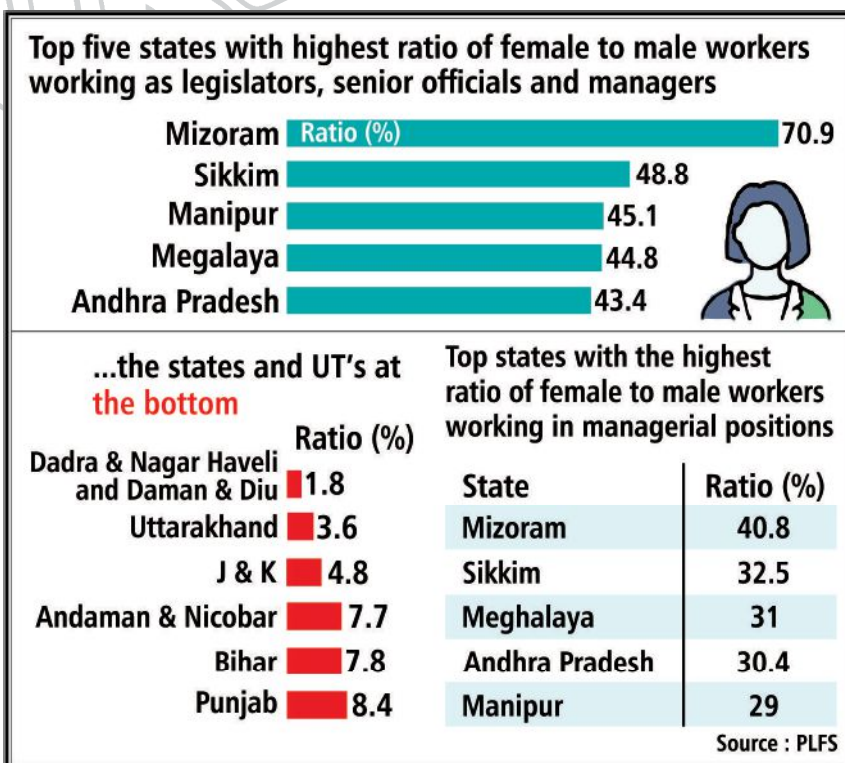
- The Lok Sabha Speaker has clarified that no words or phrases have been banned in Parliament and members have absolute freedom to express their views.
- The decision to release the list was taken after the instruction of the Speaker or the Chairman and the government has no role in it.
- The list is just a set of general guidelines to maintain the dignity of the Parliament.
- This is a regular exercise and such compilations have been brought out in 1986, 1992, 1999, 2004 and 2009.

VI. Public Awareness and General Administration

Mizoram has the highest ratio of Women working as legislators & Managers

About

- As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for July 2020-June 2021:
- 70.9% ratio of female-to-male workers who were working as legislators, senior officials and managers
- Nearly all the northeastern states, barring Nagaland, have strong double-digit representation in senior-level jobs,
- The global average for the share of women parliamentarians stood at nearly 24 %



(India has nearly 14% women parliamentarians in the 17th Lok Sabha)

Separate act for Streamline grant of bail

Why in news?

- The Supreme Court urged the Centre to bring a new law to simplify and streamline the process of bail.

What is the need for a new law?

- The Supreme Court judgment issued clarifications to a 2021 ruling on guidelines for considering bail for offences under the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), 1973.
- The Court observed that arrest is a draconian measure that should be used sparingly.
- It held that bail continues to be the rule and jail an exception, the touchstone of Article 21, and highlighted the presumption of innocence until proven guilty.
- Un warranted arrests are carried out in violation of Section 41 (empowers police to arrest without a warrant) and Section 41A (deals with the procedure for appearance before police) of the CrPC.
- In our criminal justice system, the process is the punishment, Chief Justice Ramana observed.
- Jails in India are flooded with undertrial prisoners.
- Bail is still tough to get, and once got, the conditions im-

posed on the accused, even by the Supreme Court, remain stringent.

What are the provisions of the present law?

- Though there isn't any separate law in the Indian legal system that defines bail, related provisions are mentioned in the CrPC and punishments under the IPC.
- The CrPC categorizes offences as bailable and non-bailable.
- As per Section 436, bail is a right in bailable offences and the police or court, whoever has custody, is bound to release the accused following furnishing of a bail bond, with or without surety.
- For a non-bailable offence, an accused cannot claim bail as a right.
- The discretion lies with the courts.
- In such cases, Section 437 empowers the Magistrate to deal with pleas, except for offences punishable with death or imprisonment for life.
- A provision mandates the court to consider granting bail to an accused below 16 years, someone who is sick, or is a woman.
- The CrPC also lists provisions for the cancellation of bail.

What is the way forward?

- The guidelines provided by the court would certainly take care of not only the unwarranted arrests but also the clogging of

bail applications before various Courts as they may not even be required for the offences up to seven years.

- There is a pressing need to reform bail laws considering the abysmally low conviction rate.
- Such detentions reflect a colonial mindset and create the impression of a police state.
- In a democracy, there can never be an impression that it is a police state, since, both are conceptually opposite to each other.

Nearly 80% Prisoners Are Undertrials, Need to Question Procedures, Says CJ Ramana

Need for:

- As much as 76% of inmates are undertrials, which is the highest in 25 years.
- These are poor people, dalits, poverty stricken people who are unable to furnish bail bonds and continue to rot in jails for years without their cases being taken up.



Reasons for the delay in justice:

- Overburdened judiciary is a major reason for the delay in justice.

- Police and prison officials often fail to fulfill their roles, leading to long delays in trials.
- Most of the undertrials come from disadvantaged social groups.
- Lack of resources constricts their ability to seek out lawyers and hostile police and prison authorities are rarely of help - despite a 1980 Supreme Court ruling that Article 21 of the Constitution entitles prisoners to a fair and speedy trial as part of their fundamental right to life and liberty.
- The understaffed judiciary compounds the problem.
- Section 167 of the Code of Criminal Procedures mandates that judges can extend a detainee's custody for a period of 15 days at a time.
- For that to happen, the detainees have to be produced regularly before the courts.
- This rarely happens; proceedings don't take place in time and the undertrials are shuttled from court to court.

What needs to be done?

- Keeping in view the human rights of the prisoners, it is essential that they are given reasonable space and facilities in jails.
 - **An undertrial review committee**, comprising the District Judge, District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, should be set up

in each district. The onus of constituting such a panel for every district should be put on the National Legal Services Authority, acting in coordination with the State Legal Services Authority.

- **The legal services authorities** in various States must play a principal role in inculcating awareness among prisoners about their rights, especially provisions that entitle them to freedom.
- The real solution, however, does not lie merely in the early release of prisoners on bail, but in **expediting the trial process**.

Observations made by the Supreme Court in May 2021:

- In its judgement, the Supreme Court (SC) of India had ordered the interim release of eligible prisoners in view of the uncontrolled second surge in the raging Covid-19 pandemic.

Key observations:

1. Emphasised the need to adhere to the norms it had laid down in Armesh Kumar vs State of Bihar (2014) case. Under this case, the police were asked not to effect unnecessary arrests, especially in cases that involve jail terms less than seven years.
2. Authorities in all districts in the country to give effect to Section 436A of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.P.C).

Under the Section 436A of the Cr.P.C, the undertrials who have completed half of the maximum prison term prescribed for the offence may be released on personal bond.

3. Suggested the legislature to consider the idea of placing convicts under house arrest to avoid overcrowding of prisons. The occupancy rate in prisons climbed to 118.5% in 2019. Moreover, a very large sum of the budget is used for the maintenance of prisons.

Under-trial Population:

- India's under-trial population remains among the highest in the world and more than half of all undertrials were detained for less than six months in 2016.
- The 2016 NCRB report highlights that at the end of 2016, there were 4,33,033 people in prison, of whom 68% were undertrials.
- This suggests that the high proportion of undertrials in the overall prison population may be the result of unnecessary arrests and ineffective legal aid during remand hearings.

Pre-litigation Mediation Mandatory

About

- The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law and Justice has recommended introducing reforms in the Mediation Bill, to

institutionalize mediation and establishment of the Mediation Council of India.

- The committee has raised concern over making pre-litigation mediation compulsory.
 - One of the committee members has stated that making pre-litigation mediation mandatory may result in the delaying of cases.

Key Recommendations

- The Committee has stated that pre-litigation mediation should be made optional and this provision must be introduced in a phased manner in all civil and commercial disputes.
 - They recommended that the compulsory provision of pre-litigation mediation should be reconsidered and it should be offered only to those who are willing to mediate.
- They examined the non-applicability of the provisions of the Bill in disputes of non-commercial nature involving the Government and its agencies.
- They discussed the qualifications and appointment process of the Chairperson and Members of the proposed Mediation Council.
 - The Committee has suggested that the Chairperson and the full-time Members must have 'capacity' and 'knowledge and experience' in 'mediation.'

- According to present requirements in the Bill, people dealing with problems connecting to 'Alternative Dispute Resolution' can become members and chairman of the council.
 - The committee has recommended that the appointment of the Chairperson and Members of the Mediation Council of India should be selected by a Selection Committee.
- They recommended that the Mediation Council of India should be made the nodal authority for the registration and accreditation of mediators.
 - Each mediator should be given a unique registration number by the Mediation Council.
- Empower the Mediation Council to constantly assess the mediator by holding training sessions periodically.

Mediation

- Mediation is the method of resolving business disputes.
- Mediation usually involves the disputing parties, their legal counsel and a neutral third party who facilitates the discussions.
- Mediation is the step before litigation. Instead of going for expensive courtroom visits, it is better to discuss the problem before an impartial third party and consider the options that are available and agreeable to both parties.

Significance of mediation

- **Preferable Outcome:** The goal of mediation is to come up with options that are beneficial to both parties.
- **Lower Costs:** Mediation involves only discussions between parties and a third party. Costs are much lower since parties do not need to engage legal counsel over a long period.
- **Confidentiality:** Discussions only occur in a private room between the parties and their mediator.
 - It protects trade secrets and other confidential documents that would otherwise be open to the public as a case in litigation.
- **Flexibility:** Parties are allowed to frame the discussions in a way most suitable to them.

நம்பிக்கை
வெற்றியோடு வரும்..
ஆனால் வெற்றி
நம்பிக்கை
உள்ளோரிடம்
மட்டுமே வரும்...!



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National investigation agency to probe into Amravati killing

In news

- Recently, the Union Home Ministry handed over the probe into the barbaric killing of a pharmacist at Amravati in Maharashtra to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

What is the National Investigation Agency (NIA)?

- The NIA is the Central Counter-Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency of India mandated to investigate all the offences affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India. It includes:
 - Friendly relations with foreign states.
 - Against atomic and nuclear facilities.
 - Smuggling of arms, drugs and fake Indian currency and infiltration from across the borders.
 - The offences under the statutory laws enacted to implement international treaties, agreements, conventions and resolutions of the United Nations, its agencies and other international organisations.
- It was constituted under the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, 2008.
- The agency is empowered to deal with the investigation of terror related crimes across states without special permission from the states under written proclamation from the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

Origin:

- In the wake of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack in November 2008, which shocked the entire world, the then United Progressive Alliance government decided to establish the NIA.
 - In December 2008, former Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram introduced the National Investigation Agency Bill.
- The agency came into existence

on 31st December 2008, and started its functioning in 2009. Till date, the NIA has registered 447 cases.

• Jurisdiction:

- The law under which the agency operates extends to the whole of India and also applies to Indian citizens outside the country.
- Persons in the service of the government wherever they are posted.

- Persons on ships and aircraft registered in India wherever they may be.
- Persons who commit a scheduled offence beyond India against the Indian citizen or affecting the interest of India.

What are the Recent Amendments in the NIA Act?

- NIA was amended in 2019 with the objective of speedy investigation and prosecution of certain offences, including those committed outside India.
- The amendment focussed on three main areas:
 - Offences outside India:
 - The original Act allowed NIA to investigate and prosecute offences within India.
 - The Amended Act empowered the agency to investigate offences committed outside India, subject to international treaties & domestic laws of other countries.
 - Widening the scope of Law:
 - The amendment has allowed the NIA to investigate, in addition cases related to:
 - ◆ Human trafficking
 - ◆ Counterfeit currency or banknotes
 - ◆ Manufacture or sale of prohibited arms
 - ◆ Cyber-terrorism
 - ◆ Offences under the Explosive Substances Act, 1908.

What are Scheduled Offences ?

- The schedule to the Act specifies a list of offences which are to be investigated and prosecuted by the NIA.
- The list includes
 - Explosive Substances Act
 - Atomic Energy Act
 - Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act
 - Anti-Hijacking Act
 - Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Safety of Civil Aviation Act
 - SAARC Convention (Suppression of Terrorism) Act
 - Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Maritime Navigation and Fixed Platforms on Continental Shelf Act
 - Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act
 - Any other relevant offences under the Indian Penal Code, Arms Act and the Information Technology Act.
 - Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act

National Human Rights Commission

- **Context :** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Arunachal Pradesh government to submit an action taken report against the racial profiling and relocation of people belonging to the Chakma and Hajong communities.



- They were inhabitants of the Chittagong Hill Tracts of erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) who migrated to India due to:
 - Submergence of their land by the Kaptai dam on the Karnaphuli River in the 1960s.
 - Religious persecution they faced in East Pakistan as they were non-Muslims.
- The Indian government set up relief camps in Arunachal Pradesh and a majority of them continue to live there even after 50 years.

Who are Chakma and Hajong?

- Chakmas are predominantly Buddhists while Hajongs are Hindus.

About (NHRC)

- NHRC was established in 1993.
- It is in conformity with the Paris Principles, adopted at the

first international workshop on national institutions for the protection of human rights held in Paris in 1991.

- **Status:** It is a statutory organization established under the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- **Functions:**
 - To investigate the violation of human rights/ the failures of the states/other to prevent a human rights violation
 - The commissions may also take on research about human rights, create awareness campaigns through various mediums, and encourage the work of NGOs.
- **Composition:**
 - Chairperson, four full-time Members and four deemed Members.
 - A Chairperson, should be retired Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court.
- **Appointment:** The Chairperson and members of the NHRC are appointed by the President of India, on the recommendation of a committee consisting of:
 - The Prime Minister (Chairperson)
 - The Home Minister
 - The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha
 - The Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha

- The Speaker of the Lok Sabha
- The Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha
- They hold office for a term of three years or until they attain the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.
- The President can remove them from the office under specific circumstances.

NARCOS

In News

- Recently, a month-long pan India drive against smuggling of narcotics through rail, was launched under code name Operation "NARCOS".

About Operation "NARCOS"

- **Aim:** It is a month long pan India drive against smuggling of narcotics through rail.
- **Identified black spots:** RPF intensified its checks in trains and identified black spots across the country in coordination with NCB and other LEA's to target drug peddlers involved in this illegal trade.

Issues

- **Damage the economy:** Narcotics not only destroy the health of youth, they also damage the economy and the well being of the nation.
- **Body and mental health:** Drug addiction has far reaching implications as it affects both the body and the mental health of the person.

- **Smuggling:** Indian Railways plays a leading role in transportation of passengers and goods and has the widest network in India that is why long-distance trains are often used by offenders to smuggle the NDPS into different states disguising drug carriers as common passengers.

Significance

- Railway Protection Force as one of the law enforcing agencies has gained prominence in recent times.
- RPF has been empowered to conduct search, seizure and arrest under NDPS Act from 2019 and has been actively participating in the efforts of the Government to restrict this illegal trade.
- Under this operation RPF has performed excellently against the carriers/transporters of Narcotics products through Indian Railways.

STARS Project

Background

- The STARS project was approved by the Union Cabinet under NEP 2020 in October 2020.

About

- STARS project is a centrally sponsored scheme that seeks to strengthen the school education system.
- The agreement has been signed with an aim of improving the

quality and governance of school education in six states of India.

- The 6 Indian states include- Kerala, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Odisha.
- The STARS project will be benefiting approximately 250 million students in the age group of 6 to 17 years coming from the 1.5 million schools.
- Apart from the students, the project will also benefit 10 million teachers across the six states.
- The project was launched with the aim of strengthening the public-school education.
- It also supports India's aim of "Education for All".
- The STARS Project carry forward the vision of the National Education Policy 2020 that envisages the equitable education for all.

Funding to the Project

- The total cost of the STARS project is Rs 5718 crore.
- The world bank has provided financial support worth \$500 million which stands around Rs. 3700 crores.
- This loan has been provided by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) which is the lending arm of the World Bank.
- The world bank has provided the final maturity of 17.5 years

for the \$500 million along with a grace period of 5 years.

Unique components of the project:

Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC):

- The project includes a Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC) under the National Component which would enable it to be more responsive to any natural, man-made and health disasters.
 - It will help the government respond to situations leading to loss of learning such as school closures/ infrastructure damage, inadequate facilities and use technology for facilitating remote learning etc.
 - The CERC component would facilitate the rapid re-categorization of financing and the utilization of streamlined financing request procedures.

PARAKH

- A major component of the project is the establishment of PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) as a National Assessment Centre.
 - Included in the National Education Policy 2020, this autonomous institution under the Union Education Ministry will set norms for student assessment and

evaluation for all school boards across the country, most of which currently follow norms set by State governments.

- It will also guide standardised testing to monitor learning outcomes at the State and national levels, according to the NEP.

District mineral fund

Why in the News ?

- Recently, Centre has tightens norms the criteria for use of district mineral funds to ensure, They are use for the specify purpose, that is redevelopment of areas and people affect by mining activities.

More Details

- It will streamline the usage of funds for specify purpose and to ensure organize development.
- Mining and Minerals Development and Regulation (MMDR) Act, 2015, mandates every state to set up District mineral foundations (DMFs) in each mining-affected area.
- Under MMDR Act, combination and functions of DMF are prescribe by states and Centre has power to give directions regarding utilization of funds.
- Leaseholders are require to contribute to DMFs between 10 and 30% of the royalty, in addition to the royalty paid to state governments

- 60% of the fund needs to be use for high priority works such as drinking water supply, health, education etc.
- Rest 40% can be use in other priority work such as physical infrastructure, irrigation etc in centre tightens norms.

Changes introduced by Centre

- Preparing a five-year perspective plan (based on a baseline survey through universities or renowned organizations) by DMF to ensure systematic development of the area affected by mining-related activities.
- Separate sections on all priority sectors, like drinking water, health, education, welfare of women and children, and other sectors like roads and irrigation.

About District Mineral Fund (DMF)

- It is a trust set up as a non-profit body, in those districts affect by the mining works.
- DMF funds are treats as extra-budgetary resources.
- Using the funds generate, DMFs are expect to implement the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY).

National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment Report

In News

- Recently, the Union Minister of State released the second edition of the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment 2021.

About National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment

- **Organisation:** Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) had constituted the National eGovernance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) in 2019.

- It is part of its mandate to boost the e-government endeavours and drive digital government excellence.

- **Aim:** The biennial study assesses States, Union Territories (UTs), and focuses on Central Ministries on the effectiveness of e-Governance service delivery.

- **NeSDA 2021 covers services across seven sectors:**

- Finance
- Labour & Employment
- Education
- Local Governance & Utility Services
- Social Welfare
- Environment
- Tourism sectors

- **Portal is assessed on four parameters:**

- Accessibility
- Content Availability
- Ease of Use
- Information Security & Privacy.

- **Groupings**

- NeSDA has followed the Good Governance Index 2021 grouping of the States & UTs.
- North-East and Hill States

make up the first group while Union Territories make up the second group.

- The remaining states of In-

dia have been classified into two states as Remaining States Group A and Remaining States Group B.

Major outcomes of the report

- Ranking of State / UT Portals is as follows:

| Rank | North East and Hill States | Remaining States - Group A | Remaining States - Group B | Union Territories |
|------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Nagaland | Kerala | Odisha | Jammu & Kashmir |
| 2 | Meghalaya | TamilNadu | Uttar Pradesh | Andaman & Nicobar Islands |
| 3 | Assam | Punjab | Bihar | Puducherry |
| 4 | Sikkim | Karnataka | Jharkhand | Delhi |
| 5 | Tripura | Telangana | West Bengal | Chandigarh |
| 6 | Himachal Pradesh | Goa | Madhya Pradesh | Ladakh |
| 7 | Uttarakhand | Haryana | Chattisgarh | |
| 8 | Mizoram | Andra Pradesh | | |
| 9 | Arunachal Pradesh | Maharashtra | | |
| 10 | Manipur | Gujarat | | |

- Ranking of State / UT Services Portals is as follows:

| Rank | North East and Hill States | Remaining States - Group A | Remaining States - Group B | Union Territories |
|------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Meghalaya | Punjab | Rajasthan | Jammu & Kashmir |
| 2 | Tripura | TamilNadu | Uttar Pradesh | Andaman & Nicobar Islands |
| 3 | Assam | Haryana | Madhya Pradesh | Delhi |
| 4 | Uttarakhand | Telangana | Odisha | Chandigarh |

| | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| 5 | Himachal Pradesh | Gujarat | West Bengal | Puducherry |
| 6 | Nagaland | Kerala | Jharkhand | Ladakh |
| 7 | Arunachal Pradesh | Karnataka | Bihar | Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu |
| 8 | Mizoram | Goa | Chattisgarh | |
| 9 | Manipur | Andhra Pradesh | | |
| 10 | Sikkim | Maharashtra | | |

Significance of the report

- **E-Governance services:** NeSDA 2021 has shown clear progress for e-Governance services across the country.
- **Creation of integrated portal:** States and UTs have strived to implement the recommendations of NeSDA 2019 for creation of integrated State / UT Portals and enhancing the number of services provided on their services portals.
- **Security measures:** Governance in the times of the pandemic necessitated operationalization of security measures such as VPNs, flexible working policies including work-from-home, and development of several new apps that brought citizens and governments closer through use of technology inter alia providing timely services at the doorstep.
- **Unified access to services:** These portals also provide uni-

fied access to services, improving accessibility and usability.

- **Uniform digital experience:** They also provide a uniform digital experience to users, creating ease of use through intuitive navigation, uniform look and feel, improved content availability, robust information security, and privacy mechanisms.

Way Forward

- The report also provides suggestions for governments to further enhance their e-Governance service delivery systems.
- **Integrated services:** Governments across the country have put a stronger emphasis on integrated service delivery which has led to a greater number of e-Services being offered through integrated / centralised portals.
- **Digital India:** The progress shown by NeSDA embraces the vision of Digital India.

Jagriti' Mascot

In news

- Recently, the Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) has launched "Jagriti", a mascot for empowering consumers and generating awareness of their rights.

About:

- Jagriti will be projected as an empowered consumer who is spreading awareness about consumer rights & addressing solutions to the problems faced by the consumers.

Mandate:

- Jagriti aims to
 1. Strengthen its consumer awareness campaign presence in digital and multimedia.
 2. Reinforce a young empowered and informed consumer as a top-of-mind consumer rights awareness recall brand.

Significance:

- The "Jagriti" mascot will be used to generate consumer awareness about various themes of the Department like-
 - Provisions of Consumer Protection Act 2019,
 - Hallmarking,
 - National Consumer Helpline toll free number 1915,
 - Provisions of weights & measures Act,
 - Decisions of the Central Consumer Protection Authority.

- Testimonials by consumers on grievance redressal.
- The two are new synonymous with young aware consumers and bring sharp focus to consumer rights knowledge and movement.
- Jagriti mascot shall be shown along with tagline "Jago Grahak Jago" in all its media campaigns.

Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)

- **About:** Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has been constituted under Section 10(1) of The Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
 - The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 has come into force from 20th July, 2020. As provided in section 10 of the Act, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has been established w.e.f. 24th
- **About Consumer Protection Act, 2019:** The Act replaced The Consumer Protection Act, 1986, and seeks to widen its scope in addressing consumer concerns.
 - The new Act recognises offences such as providing false information regarding the quality or quantity of a good or service, and misleading advertisements.
 - It also specifies action to be taken if goods and services are found "dangerous, hazardous or unsafe".
- **Mandate:** The CCPA aims to protect the rights of the consumer by cracking down on unfair trade practices, and false and misleading advertisements that are detrimental to the interests of the public and consumers.
 - The objective of the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) is to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers as a class.
- **Powers:** The CCPA will have the powers to inquire or investigate into matters relating to violations of consumer rights or unfair trade practices suo motu, or on a complaint received, or on a direction from the central government.
- **Key functions:** Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) will be empowered to-
 - Conduct investigations into violation of consumer rights and institute complaints / prosecution,
 - Order recall of unsafe goods and services,
 - Order discontinuation of unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements,
 - Impose penalties on manufacturers/endorsers/publishers of misleading advertisements.

Tele-Law service is being made free of cost for citizens from this year- Minister of Law & Justice

Context

- From this year, Tele-Law service is being made free of cost for citizens in the country," Minister of Law and Justice at the 18th All India Legal Services Meet at Jaipur.
- The Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice and National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) exchanged a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Integrated Delivery of Legal Services.
- During last year a total of 21,148 meetings of the Under-Trial Review Committee(UTRCs) were held resulting in the release of 31,605 undertrial inmates.

Key Highlights

- **Legal aid to marginalized:** Tele-Law mainstreams legal aid to the marginalized seeking legal help by connecting them with the Panel Lawyers through the tele/video-conferencing infrastructure available at Common Service Centers (CSCs) across 1 lakh Gram Panchayats.
- **Tele Law application:** For easy and direct access Tele-Law Mobile Application (both Android and iOS) has also been launched in 2021 and it is presently available in 22 scheduled languages.

- **Widening of service to beneficiaries:** Benefitting from this digital revolution, Tele-Law has widened the outreach of legal services to 20 Lakh + beneficiaries in just five years.
- **NALSA to provide lawyers:** Under the provision of the MoU, NALSA would provide the services of 700 lawyers, in each district exclusively for the Tele-Law program.
 - These empanelled lawyers would now also act as referral lawyers and also assist in strengthening the mechanism for dispute avoidance and dispute resolution at the pre-litigation stage.

National Standards for Civil Service Training Institution

About

- On July 18, 2022, Union government unveiled the "National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutions (NSCSTI)", with the aim of raising their quality and capacity.

Key Facts

- NSCSTI was launched at the headquarter of Capacity Building Commission.
- With this, India has become the world's first country to launch a unique model for creating a national level standard for civil service training institutions.
- A web portal and approach paper for national standards

were also unveiled, during the launch event

How will national standards raise capacity and quality?

- Capacity Building Commission develops the national standards to,
 1. Formulate a baseline for central training institutes on their current capacity
 2. To elevate quality and capacity of training delivery and
 3. To harmonise standards for training.
- These standards will also lay down aspirations for training institutions, to endeavour towards excellence.

Capacity Building Commission

- Capacity Building Commission was created as a part of Mission Karmayogi for civil servants.
- The commission comprises of experts in related fields and global professionals.
- It will help in preparing and monitoring annual capacity building plans as well as audit human resources present in the government.

Mission Karmayogi

- Mission Karmayogi is a "National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB)".
- It was launched to build a future-ready civil service with right skill, knowledge and attitude.

- The scheme seeks to prepare civil servants in India for future by making them more constructive, creative, imaginative, innovative, progressive and technology-enabled.

Why was Mission Karmayogi launched?

- Indian bureaucracy is facing several challenges such as political interference, rule orientation, promotional inefficiency and generalist & specialist conflict.
- Thus, this mission was launched to make changes in status quo of civil services.

Who will be covered under the scheme?

- Mission Karmayogi will cover 46 lakh central government employees.
- It has been launched at an outlay of Rs. 510 crores for a period of five-years.

Joint Theatre Commands of Tri-Services

In News

- Recently, the Indian Defence Minister announced the setting up of joint theatre commands of the tri-services to enhance coordination among the armed forces.

Joint Theatre Commands

Idea:

- The idea behind 'Theatre Command System' is to bring synergistic coordination be-

tween the three branches of the armed forces.

- Besides the operational synergies, the theatre command system will also contribute to more streamlined costs and a leaner fighting force.
- **Aim:**
 - Bringing separate commands for the army, navy, air force under a unified command spearheaded by a single commander.
 - The integration process would ultimately lead towards the unified military assets fused into one single command under one operational head who will be responsible for directing and controlling their activities in a given situation.
 - Further, the theatre command system aims to bring greater focus in the allocation of resources and help reduce redundancies.
- **There are two joint services commands in India:**
 - **Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC):** Based on the principle of theatre command system, ANC is considered to be the only one of its kind in the country that amalgamates the army, navy and air force.
 - Set up in 2001, ANC is based in Port Blair and is led by officers of the three services on a rotation basis.

- The command covers India's strategic interests in South-east Asia & the Malacca Strait.
- **Strategic Forces Command**

(SFC): As SFC takes care of the nuclear assets of India and is not related to any specific theatre of war.

Countries that follow Theatre Command System

- Various countries around the globe already have some form of theatre or joint command in place to bring better integration among their military forces.
- Notably, the USA was the first country to enforce a theatre command system with six geographical and four functional commands presently in place.
- Russia also started with the restructuring of its defence forces in 2008 and has four theatre commands.
- China's theatre command system is said to be based on the US model and has "five peacetime geographical commands". Chinese Western Theatre Command covers the region along the Indian border.

Challenges

- The integration of three forces under the Theatre Command System would require an intricate chain of command flow.
- It comprises hurdles related to operational command and control over assets.
- Besides, budgetary allocations, fund distribution and assets between the army, navy and air force need to be clearly worked out to enable the setting up of a seamless theatre command.
- The three basic components of Indian defence forces are the army, navy and air force, each with its unique fighting profile, separate heads and multiple commands that are vertically split in terms of their command structure.

- The Indian Army and Indian Air Force have seven commands each while the Indian Navy has three commands. These commands are scattered across the nation and don't coincide geographically.

The Model Tenancy Act (MTA)

In News

- Over a year since the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry circulated the Model Tenancy Act (MTA), only four States had revised their tenancy laws to be in line with the MTA.

About

- The Model Tenancy Act was introduced with the objective

of making renting property an easier and safe experience for both the owner and tenant.

- But it has received lukewarm responses from states.
- Since land and tenancy are state subjects, and since the Act suggests all states to set up dedicated courts and resolution authorities, the experience in each state could differ vastly.

Need for such an act

- According to an estimate by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, around 11 million houses are lying vacant in urban areas as landlords are unwilling to let these properties due to the lack of protective measures in the current tenancy and rent control laws.
- The Economic Survey 2018 had blamed “unclear property rights, weak contract enforcement and low rental yields” for this structural problem.
- Owners of residential properties are reluctant to rent out their houses because they fear tenants would refuse to vacate their property when the time comes, and may not agree to changes in the rent amount as well.
- Some house owners routinely breach tenants’ right to privacy by visiting the premises unannounced for sundry repair works.
- Whimsical rent raises are another problem for tenants,

many of whom complain of being squeezed as “captive customers”.

Significance of the act

- Balancing interests and rights of the landlord and tenant.
- Creating adequate and affordable rental housing stock.
- Enabling formalisation of the rental housing market.
- Encouraging private participation in the sector.
- Unlocking vacant premises for rental purposes.

Issues with the act

- **Lack of Rental Housing Policy:** The draft National Rental Housing Policy (2015) states that a comprehensive policy must be formulated to guide the role of central and state governments to sustainably grow rental housing and make it inclusive.
- The draft policy has not been adopted yet.
- The Model Tenancy Act, 2021 is only one of the proposed reforms under the draft Policy.
- **Affordability :** About 96% of the urban housing shortage pertains to the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Lower Income Group (LIG) categories.
- However, persons from EWS and LIG have low disposable or irregular income, and thus can often not afford to own homes even after government subsidies and incentives.

- Model Act also goes into minute details of a rental agreement like-the landlord must carry out structural repairs and whitewashing of walls and doors.
- It may not be necessary for a model central legislation to specify these details.
- Providing these details in the law may also restrict changes that contracting parties may want to make in a contract based on their specific situation.
- **Violating Privacy :** Uploading details of tenancy agreements may violate the right to privacy.
- The parties will be provided a unique identification number, and details of the rental agreement (along with other documents) will be uploaded on the Authority’s website.
- Both the tenant and the landlord submit their Aadhaar numbers and attach self-attested copies of the card with the form.
- This may violate the Supreme Court’s 2018 Puttaswamy judgement.
- No time limit specified for resolution of some disputes-Essential Services, Revision of rent, Contraventions by property manager.
- Housing is a part of the State List under the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution, the efficacy of the Model Act depends on its adoption by states.

- So far, only four States have revised their tenancy laws to be in line with the MTA.

Way Forward

- Centre must discuss with states to understand their concerns and gain their confidence to ensure successful implementation of the law.
- Measures to increase affordability, promote shelter facilities, incentivise market-driven rental housing and facilitate investments through financial instruments
- Provision of incentives such as tax exemptions and subsidies to tenants and homeowners.
- Encouraging public-private partnerships and residential rental management companies
- Enhancing access to finance within the EWS and LIG sectors.

Supreme Court of India upheld the constitutional validity of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002

What do we know about the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002?

- It is a criminal law enacted to prevent money laundering and to provide for confiscation of property derived from, or involved in, money-laundering and related matters.
- It forms the core of the legal framework put in place by India to combat Money Laundering.

- The provisions of this act are applicable to all financial institutions, banks (Including RBI), mutual funds, insurance companies, and their financial intermediaries.

PMLA (Amendment) Act, 2012:

- Adds the concept of 'reporting entity' which would include a banking company, financial institution, intermediary etc.
- PMLA, 2002 levied a fine up to Rs 5 lakh, but the amendment act has removed this upper limit.
- It has provided for provisional attachment and confiscation of property of any person involved in such activities.

What has the Supreme Court said in the Ruling?

- Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR):
 - Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) cannot be equated with an FIR.
- Supplying an ECIR in every case to the person concerned is not mandatory and "it is enough if the Enforcement Directorate (ED), at the time of arrest, discloses the grounds of such arrest".
- The ECIR is an internal document of the ED and the fact that FIR in respect of scheduled offence has not been recorded,

does not come in the way of ED authorities to commence inquiry/investigation

• Section 3 of PMLA Act:

- Section 3 of the PMLA Act 2002 has a wider reach and captures that offence of money laundering is an independent offence regarding the process or activity connected with the proceeds of crime which had been derived or obtained as a result of criminal activity relating to or in relation to a scheduled offence.

• The ruling also made it clear that:

- Offence under Section 3 "is dependent on illegal gain of property as a result of criminal activity relating to a scheduled offence".
- The Authorities under the 2002 Act cannot prosecute any person on notional basis or on the assumption that a scheduled offence has been committed, unless it is so registered with the jurisdictional police and pending enquiry including by way of criminal complaint before the competent forum.

• Enforcement Directorate:

- The bench upheld the ED's power under Section 5 of the Act (order provisional attachment of any proceeds of crime).
- The Court stated that Section 5 provides for a balanc-

ing arrangement to secure the interests of the person and also ensures that the proceeds of crime remain available to be dealt with in the manner provided by the 2002 Act.

- It rejected the argument that ED authorities are po-

lice officers and, hence, a statement recorded by them under Section 50 of the Act would be hit by Article 20(3) of the Constitution which says no person accused of an offence shall be compelled to be a witness against himself.

below, short leg, silver lace olive leaf IPS emblem on cap, ribbon on collar.

- Additional DGP's uniform has IPS, Ashoka emblem on the shoulder, crossed sword under it, short leg, silver lace, olive leaf IPS emblem on the cap.
- Police inspectors uniform has TP (Tamil Nadu Police) on the shoulder with rope, 3 stars.
- Assistant inspectors have two stars and head constables have 3 stripes.
- Srivilliputhur Gopuram, Ashoka Symbol, National Flag, etc. are mentioned as 'Tamil Nadu Kaval'.
- This logo will be in addition to the existing logos.
- Tamil Nadu Police should have it on the left arm of all uniforms
- The logo was designed by Sanjay Kumar, Additional DGP, Tamil Nadu Police Modernization.
- 1,305 Law and Order Police Stations, 17 Railway Police Stations, 202 All Women Police Stations, 273 Traffic and Intelligence Police Stations, 27 Outposts, 1 lakh 17 thousand 942 policemen are working in Tamil Nadu Police Department.
- 23,542 of them are women

What do we know about the Enforcement Directorate?

History:

- The Directorate of Enforcement or the ED is a multi-disciplinary organization mandated with investigation of economic crimes and violations of foreign exchange laws.
- The origin of this Directorate goes back to 1st May, 1956, when an 'Enforcement Unit' was formed in the Department of Economic Affairs for handling Exchange Control Laws violations under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947 (FERA '47).
- With the onset of the process of economic liberalization, FERA, 1973, which was a regulatory law, was repealed and in its place, Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) came into operation.
- Recently, with the increase in the number of cases relating to economic offenders taking shelter in foreign countries, the Government has passed the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA) and ED is entrusted with its enforcement.

Orderly

- Policemen working as orderlies in the homes of serving and retired police officers in Tamil Nadu should be withdrawn immediately.
- The orderly system was abolished in 1979 itself.
- But still the orderly method continues.
- The orderly system continues

only in Tamil Nadu

- This reflects the colonial state of mind of the high officials.

New Uniform 'Logo' for Police

- For the first time in Tamil Nadu Police, all uniforms from constable to DGP will have a uniform logo.
- DGP has IPS, Ashoka emblem on shoulder, crossed sword

Justice for All

- 676 District Legal Services Commissions are functioning across the country.
- These commissions are chaired by the respective District Judges.

- The first national level meeting of District Legal Services Commission was held in Delhi yesterday.
- It is necessary to make full use of information technology in the justice sector.
- Virtual Courts are being launched across the country under the Electronic Courts Scheme.
- 24-hour courts have started functioning for offenses like traffic violations.
- Video facility is being expanded in courts for the convenience of people.

Draft Guidelines to Regulate Child Participation in the Entertainment Industry

- The National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has published draft Guidelines to Regulate Child Protection within the Entertainment Industry.
 - The "Guidelines to Regulate Child Participation in the Entertainment Industry" were issued by the Commission in 2011.
 - The new draft increases the scope of the guidelines to cover social media and Over the Top (OTT) platforms for the first time.

What are the Key Highlights of the New Guidelines?

- **Permission of the District Magistrate:**
 - Any producer of any audio-

visual media production or any commercial event involving the participation of a child will now need to obtain the permission of the District Magistrate where the activity is to be performed.

- Producers will also have to run a disclaimer saying measures were taken to ensure there has been no abuse, neglect or exploitation of children during the entire process of the shooting.
- **Stringent Penal Provisions:**
 - The commission has further included stringent penal provisions for violating the guidelines, including imprisonment, and has mandated that child artists and children being used in entertainment need to be registered with District Magistrates.

- **Scope:**

- The scope of the new guidelines will cover TV programmes including but not limited to reality shows, serials, news and informative media, movies, content on OTT platforms, content on social media, performing arts, advertising and any other kind of involvement of children in commercial entertainment activities.

- **Prohibited Roles:**

- The guidelines prohibit children being cast in roles or situations that are inappropriate,
- Consideration has to be given to the child's age, maturity, emotional or psychological development and sensitivity, a child cannot be exposed to ridicule, insult

What are the Constitutional Provisions Related to Children?

- The Constitution guarantees to every child the right to live with dignity (Article 21), the right to personal liberty (Article 21), the right to privacy (Article 21), the right to equality (Article 14) and/or the right against discrimination (Article 15), the right against exploitation (Article 23 & 24).
 - Right to free and compulsory elementary education for all children in the 6–14-year age group (Article 21 A)
- The Directive Principles of State Policy, and in particular Article 39(f), cast an obligation on the State to ensure that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment.

- or discouragement, harsh comments or any behaviour that could affect his/her emotional health.
- Children cannot be shown imbibing alcohol, smoking or using any other substance or shown to be indulging in any sort of antisocial activity and delinquent behaviour.
- No child can be engaged in any situation involving nudity.
- **Presence of Guardian:**
 - At least one parent or legal guardian or a known person has to be present during a shoot, and for infants a registered nurse needs to be present along with the parent or legal guardian.
- **Prohibited Harmful Lighting, Contaminated Cosmetics:**
 - A minor, especially below the age of six years, shall not be exposed to harmful lighting, irritating or contaminated cosmetics.
- **Medical Fitness Certificate:**
 - Every person involved in production who may be in contact with children will have to submit a medical fitness certificate ensuring that they are not carrying obvious contagious disease and police verification of the staff also needs to be carried out.

- **Ensure Child's Education:**
 - The producer also needs to ensure the child's education under the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 to ensure no discontinuity from school or lessons as well as adequate and nutritious food, water for the children during the process of production and medical facilities.
- **One Shift per Day:**
 - A child shall only participate in one shift per day, with a break after every three hours.
- **Income of the Child Deposited in a Fixed Deposit:**
 - At least 20% of the income earned by the child from the production or event shall be directly deposited

in a fixed deposit account in a nationalised bank in the name of the child which may be credited to the child on attaining majority.

- **Content Created by the Child or his Family/Guardian:**
- Content created by the child or his family/guardian shall be treated as children working in a family enterprise as provided under Section 3(2)(a) of the Child Labour and Adolescent Labour Act, 1986.

Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) violence came down

Context:

- Government informed that steadfast implementation of the national policy and action plan to address left-wing extremism has led to a 77% fall in the LWE

Causes of Naxalism in India

| Governance deficit | Development deficit | Social exclusion | Jal-Jangal-Ja-meen/Exploitative Deficit (Environmental) |
|---|---|--|---|
| Incompetent, ill-trained and poorly motivated public personnel Mismanagement and corruption Poor implementation of laws and schemes | Unemployment Poverty Infrastructure deficit Lack of education Poor health facilities Low trade/marketing | Violation of human rights Abuse of dignity of life Disconnect with mainstream society Discontent against government | Evasion of land ceiling laws Encroachment and occupation of Government and community lands Disruption of the age-old tribal-forest relationship |

violence from 2258 incidents in 2009 to 509 incidents in 2021.

- **Other data given by the government:**

- **Fatalities** among civilians and security forces declined by 85% (between 2010 to 2021)
- **Geographical spread** of Maoists' influence was shrinking- the district most affected by LWE came down to 25 (2021) from 30 (2018)
- **Number of districts covered** under the **security reimbursement expenditure scheme** came down to 70 (2021) from 90 (2018)
- Left-wing extremism (LWE) is a form of armed insurgency against the State motivated by leftist ideologies.
- The D Bandopadhyay Committee had in 2006 identified the socio-political, economic and cultural discrimination against the Scheduled castes and tribes and the lack of their empowerment as the reason for the spread of Naxalism.

Government approach to Infrastructure and Good Governance

- **SAMADHAN doctrine:** It is a one-stop solution to fight LWE, encompassing the entire strategy of government from short-term policy to long-term policy formulated at different levels.

- **Aspirational District:** Collaborative, bottom-up convergence-based developmental approach in 35 LWE-affected districts.
- **Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS)** to construct fortified police stations.
- **Road Connectivity Project**-for the construction of 5,412 km of roads.
- **Installation of Mobile Towers**-for endless telecom connectivity.
- **Financial inclusion**-for ensuring the presence of banking facilities within 5 km to all citizens residing in LWE-affected areas.
- Chhattisgarh proposed an action plan to make the Bastar region free of Maoism/Naxalism by giving grants to make cold storage chains for arranging the processing and sale of minor forest produce, forest medicines and several types of horticultural crops in the forest areas, building a steel plant in the area etc.

Government approach to Commerce, Education, Health and Environment

- **Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana** for holistic development of the tribal people by targeting their education, employment, trade of minor forest produce,

healthcare, infrastructure and connectivity.

- **Civic Action Plan:** Each CRPF company is given Rs.3 lakh for holding medical camps, sanitation drives, sports meets, distribution of study material to children, minor repairs of school buildings, roads, and bridges to build confidence among the locals.
- Union Government is organizing extensive training and capacity-building programs for the state service officials for the implementation of the Forest Rights Act and PESA Act.
- **Skill Development**-for construction of 47 ITIs (01 ITI per district) and 68 Skill Development Centers (02 SDCs per district) by 2018-19.
 - **Roshani Scheme**— Skill development program for the Tribal population by the Rural Development ministry.
- **Education Initiatives**-for building new Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) & Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) where they are not present.
 - It is also planned to open more schools under the Eklavya model.
- **Facilities of residential schools for children** – (e.g. Pota Cabins, Choolo Aasman, Nanhe Parinde, Tamannah) as well as focus on sports infrastructure.

VII. Welfare Oriented Schemes and their Utility, Problem in Public Delivery System (Central Government & State Government)

1. Central Government

Ministry of Women & Child Development (WCD) Issues Guidelines on Mission VATSALYA Scheme (MVS)

- Mission Vatsalya is an umbrella scheme (Centrally Sponsored Scheme) for Child Protections services in the country.
 - **Its objectives include :**
 - To secure a Healthy and happy childhood for each and every child in India,
 - Ensure opportunities to enable them to discover their full potential.
 - Assist them in flourishing in all respects, in a sustained manner.
 - **Key guidelines issued :**
 - To access Central funds and benefits under MVS, states will have to retain the official name, as given by Centre. Only a "correct translation to local language is permissible".
 - Funds to states will be approved through the Mission Vatsalya Project Approved Board (PAB).
- At state level, Chief Secretary will head a committee to monitor, review and promote convergence of scheme's implementation.
 - There will also be a district-level committee.
 - MVS will support State Adoption Resource Agencies (SARA), which will support the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) in promoting in-country adoption and regulating inter-country adoption.
 - State governments are required to grade each child care institution (CCI) at fixed intervals.
 - MVS, in partnership with states and districts, will execute a 24 x 7 helpline service for children, as defined under Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.

Background of the scheme

- **Prior to 2009 – 10, three schemes were implemented under Ministry of WCD :** Programme for Juvenile Justice for Children in need of care and protection, and Children in conflict with Law; Integrated Programme for street children; and Scheme for assistance to homes for children (Shishu Greh).
- Since 2009 – 10, all the three schemes were incorporated in a single scheme called the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS).
- ICPS was renamed as Child Protection Services Scheme (CPS) in 2017.
- CPS Scheme was subsumed under Mission Vatsalya from 2021 – 22 onwards.

Costs of delayed justice

- **News:** Recently, The Prime Minister of India spoke at the first all-India legal district services authorities meeting in Delhi.
- PM's Remarks about the issues in the Indian Judicial System.
- He referred to the poor state of affairs of the under-trial prisoners languishing in Indian jails.
- He referred to the inhuman conditions of overcrowded Indian jails, an issue which was also raised by indebted businessman Vijay Mallya in a British court.

Other issues

- Although, the Supreme Court had mandated the release of under-trial prisoners who had been incarcerated for 10 years without being convicted.
- But, most of the states have not made any significant progress in this direction.
- There is a severe shortage of judges in Indian courts.
- The vacancies range between 20 and 40% at the high court and subordinate court levels.
- This happens due to the slow pace of judicial appointments at all levels.
- The shortage of judges has led to delayed justice for millions of Indians.
 - For example, about 47 mn cases are pending across different levels of the system.
- As per the PRS Legislative, if no new cases were filed, at the current disposal rate it would take high courts and subordinate courts three years each to dispose of the cases.
- In addition, the legal aid provided by the state is of poor quality.
- It has distorted Indians' access to justice.
 - For example, most prefer to hire private lawyers to fight cases.
- As per a 2016 study, the litigants attending the lower courts incur the loss of over Rs

1,300 per day in their wages and businesses.

- India's low ranking on the World Bank's Global Ease of Doing Business survey, refers to the failure of the Indian judicial system to enforce contracts.

The Way Forward

- The Prime Minister has said that justice delivery is as critical as access to justice.
- The PM argued for "ease of justice" alongside ease of doing business and ease of living.

National Education Policy

- The New Education Policy leads to a mother tongue education.
- It will promote the development of ancient languages including Sanskrit.
- Very soon India will emerge as the educational hub of the world.
- Indian higher education should be brought up to par with international standards.
- Special offices have been started to admit foreign students in 180 universities across the country.
- A 3-day conference on the implementation of the National Education Policy began in Varanasi on Thursday.
- During their rule, the British introduced an educational system in India to create workers who would do the work for them.
- The National Education Policy has created opportunities for education in Indian languages.

Sustainable Development Goals - Current Status

Objective

- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) of the UN are to eradicate poverty and hunger, improve health and education.
- It has 189 objectives including providing basic services like drinking water.
- In September 2015, 200 countries, including India, pledged to achieve these 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.
- With this, it was decided that the development activities undertaken in the next 15 years would provide meaningful progress for the people and the planet.
- The UN's annual report on the Sustainable Development Goals and the assessment of progress towards those goals.
- It also aims to show what countries need to do to achieve the goals by 2030.
- The report warns that sustainable development goals to be achieved by 2030 are at risk due to the spread of the corona virus, the climate crisis and escalating conflicts including the Russia-Ukraine war.
- The pandemic has cost us four years of progress in eradicating poverty.
- The Ukraine War has caused the biggest refugee crisis of modern times.

Concerned Highlights of the SH Sustainable Development Goals report:

- One in 10 people world wide is hungry.
- Almost one in three do not have enough food.
- Vaccine protection has declined for the first time in 10 years. Deaths due to tuberculosis and malaria are increasing
- Global prevalence of anxiety and depression increased by 25% in 2020.
- Young people and women are the most affected.
- In 2021, 1.7 million metric tonnes of plastic has been dumped into the oceans.
- The amount of this pollution will increase by 2 or 3 times by 2040
- About 2.4 million students from primary school to university will not be able to return to school and college.
- Before the pandemic in 2019, women accounted for 39% of total employment.
- But in 2020, 45% of those who lost their jobs globally were women.
- The war in Ukraine, new waves of epidemics have decreased the global economic growth for the year 2022 0.9%.
- 91% of the world's population has access to electricity.
- In 2010, 120 crore people were without electricity.
- At the same time, only 73 crore

30 lakh people are without electricity in 2020.

- The proportion of the world's population with access to safe drinking water was 70% in 2015.
- It has increased to 74% in 2020.
- During the same period, the population defecating in the open has decreased
- The number of people defecating in the open has decreased by one-third from 74 crore to 49 crore.
- The number of internet users has increased due to the pandemic.
- The number of internet users increased from 410 crore in 2019 to 490 crore in 2021.

Future Estimates

- Based on the current rate of progress, by 2030 people will be affected in the following ways:
 - 1.6 billion people will not have access to safe drinking water.
 - 280 crore people will not have access to safe sanitation
 - 190 crore people will not have access to basic hygiene activities such as hand washing.

CUET Entrance Test

- 98% of the students appearing in the Common Entrance Test for Undergraduate courses in

Central Universities are allotted examination centers in the cities asked for.

- Admission to undergraduate courses in central universities will be based on the CUET entrance exam score and 12th class exam marks will not be taken into account.
- 44 central universities, 12 state universities, 11 virtual universities and 19 private universities have announced that they will participate in the first phase of the CUET entrance exam this year.

Gangaroo Court

- New Media has more capacity to disseminate information.
- But it seems that they do not know what is good and what is evil.
- We see that the media sometimes conducts discussion programs on issues that even experienced judges find difficult to resolve.
- In matters of justice, misinformed, policy-driven debates are detrimental to a healthy democracy.
- Biased information disseminated through the media weakens democracy.
- The media should act with self-regulation and control.
- Electronic and social media should be used responsibly.



Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Program

- A 2019 report by the National Model Survey Unit says that 3.1 million households in urban India live on rent and most of them live in slums.



- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana scheme is to develop affordable rental housing complexes in metropolitan cities.
- Affordable Northern Housing Networks are to be set up in Chennai, Sriperumbudur and Hosur in Tamil Nadu.
- A Technical Committee of the Union Ministry of Housing - Urban Poverty Alleviation has estimated that 187.8 lakh Indian families need such houses.
- Urban local bodies will fix the rent for these houses under the Affordable Housing Scheme.
- The rent can be increased by 8% every two years from the date of signing the rental agreement.
- However, local bodies have been given a condition that they can only increase the rent by a maximum of 20% in five years.
- 2018 National Sample Survey Office Survey says that the

average rent spent by a family living in rented houses is nearly Rs 3,324.

- Housing estates should be created so that people can get basic services like water, sewerage, Anganwadi centers, government schools, health centers etc.

Skill Development of 2 Million Youth by 2026

- To develop a trillion dollar economy by 2030, the target is to achieve skill development of 2 million youth in Tamil Nadu by 2026.
- Following scheme will help to achieve the target of state govt.
- Illam Thedi Kalvi, Ennum Ezhuththum, Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme, Naan Mudhalvan, Kaloori Kanavu, Rs 1,000 per month financial assistance for government school girls in higher education, 7.5% reservation for government school students in vocational courses, Government acceptance of their fees, Rs 3,000 crore in collaboration with Tata for the upgradation of ITI as technical centers
- Renovation of schools in the name of Professor Anbazhaganar, renovation of colleges in the name of Perundhalaiivar Kamarasar.
- TN has moved from 14th place to 3rd place in the same year in the list of best states has to start a business.

- Semi-conductors, electric vehicles, lithium-ion batteries, Sector specific projects like integrated solar photovoltaics, manufacturing, green: hydrogen, data centers etc.
- They are showing great interest in making investments in Tamil Nadu.
- 'Na Muluvaan' have been created to enhance the necessary knowledge for this.
- Our youth should be prepared according to that basis of technological changes and fourth generation entrepreneurship.

Take-Home Ration

Why in News?

- Recently, a report titled-Take Home Ration-Good Practices throughout the State/Union Territories was released by NITI Aayog & the World Food Program.
- **What are the Key Highlights of the Report?**
 - The report presents a set of good and innovative practices adopted in the implementation of the Take Home Ration value chain by the States and UTs.
 - The government adopted innovative models to reach remote areas.
 - It appreciated the production, formulation, delivery, labelling, packaging, supervision, quality control,

and changes in social and behavioural norms adopted by the Government by JAN BHAGIDARI, and sourcing local networks of Anganwadi's, etc.

What is Take Home Ration?

- The government of India provides Take Home Ration under the Supplementary Nutrition component of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) to fill the gap in nutrition among children as well as Pregnant & Lactating Women (PLW).
- It offers fortified rations for use at home, provided in two ways:
 - Take-Home Rations and Hot-Cooked Meals at Anganwadi Centers.
 - It's given as raw ingredients or in packets that have already been cooked.

What are the Challenges?

- Leakages in Delivery Mechanism:
 - Due to faulty practices and corruption in the delivery system, the whole scenario is very complex, and siphoning off rations to the black market is easy.
- Poor Quality:
 - Often the goods are of poor quality due to the negligence of the procuring department.
 - Lack of warehouse and cold storage often led to wastage of food grains.

- Lack of Transparency:

- The whole delivery mechanism lacks transparency as it's almost unable to track the logistics and various other mechanisms involved to keep a check on them.

- Poor Implementation:

- The use of traditional methods to procure, sort, & deliver the product keeps the system inefficient, which leads to very poor implementation in the delivery of food grains.

What are the Other Similar Government Schemes?

- National Health Mission (NHM):

- Launched in 2013, it subsumed the National Rural Health Mission & the National Urban Health Mission.
- It is being implemented by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

- PM-POSHAN:

- In September 2021, the Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman or PM-POSHAN for providing one hot cooked meal in Government and Government-aided schools with the financial outlay of Rs 1.31 trillion.
- The scheme replaced the national programme for mid-day meal in schools or Mid-day Meal Scheme.

- National Nutrition Strategy:

- The Strategy aims to reduce all forms of undernutrition by 2030, with a focus on the most vulnerable and critical age groups.

Way forward

- The THR programme needs to be strengthened more in order to meet the nutritional goals in a timely manner.
- Need to learn the best practices and analyses of novel THR programmes from various States and Union Territories.
- Need for innovation in the field of THR in terms of production, distribution, quality control, monitoring, & use of technology.

PM Inaugurates Digital India Week 2022 in Gandhi Nagar

- PM also launched multiple digital initiatives aimed at enhancing accessibility of technology, streamlining service delivery to ensure ease of living and giving a boost to startups.
- **Theme** : Catalyzing New India's Techade.

Key Initiatives launched.

| Initiative | About |
|---|---|
| Digital India Bhashini | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will enable easy access to internet and digital services in Indian languages, including voice-based access. • It will enable massive citizen engagement to build multilingual datasets through a crowd-sourcing initiative called BhashaDaan. |
| Digital India Genesis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital India GENESIS' (Gen-next Support for Innovative Startups) is a National Deep-tech Startup Platform for startups in Tier-II and Tier-III cities. |
| India stack : Indiastack. global | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Global repository of key projects implemented under India Stack like Aadhaar, UPI, Digilocker etc. • It will help position India as leader in building Digital Transformation projects at a population scale. |
| MyScheme | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a service discovery platform facilitating access to Government Schemes. • It aims to offer a one-stop search and discovery portal where users can find schemes that they are eligible for. |
| Others | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meri Pehchaan-National Single Sign on for One Citizen Login (NSSO), a user authentication service in which a single set of credentials provide access to multiple online applications or services. • First cohort of 30 institutions supported under Chips to Startup (C25) Programme announced. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ C25 Programme aims to train specialized manpower in the area of design of semiconductor chips at Bachelors, Masters and Research levels. |

- PM also stated that India is guiding the world in fourth industrial revolution (IR), Industry 4.0.
 - Fourth IR refers to integration of physical assets and advanced digital technologies – IoT, AI, robots, drones etc – for making more intelligent, data-driven decisions.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Released Draft 'Drug, Medical Devices and Cosmetics Bill – 2022'

- It seeks to replace 'Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940 while laying down strict regulatory guidelines to keep pace with changing needs & technology.
 - India is among top 20 markets for medical devices worldwide.
 - Market is expected to reach US\$ 50 billion in 2025 (\$10 billion in 2020).



Key highlights of the Draft Bill

- New definitions for clinical trial, over-the-counter drugs, manufacturers, medical devices, new drugs, bioavailability study, investigational new drug and imported spurious drugs, among others.
- Medical device testing centres on lines of drug laboratories in states and at central level.
- Regulation for online pharmacies and medical devices.
- Permission of central licensing authority for clinical trials / investigation of drugs and medical devices.
- A separate Drugs Technical

Advisory Board and Medical Devices Technical Advisory Board to give suggestions.

- Allows Centre to waive requirement of conducting clinical investigation for manufacture or import of a new medical device in public interest.
- Penalties such as imprisonment and compensation in case of injury or death during clinical trials for drugs.
- Establishing a scientific research board for supporting development of innovative drugs of Ayurveda, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, Unani and homoeopathy.

Curbing diversion of UREA to industries likely to save Rs. 6,000 cr Subsidy

- Department of Fertilisers has constituted a dedicated officer called te 'Fertilisers Flying Squad' to check and inspect fertilizer for diversion, back marketing, and sub-standard fertilizers to farmers.
- According to the estimate, approx. 10 lt of agriculture -grade urea is getting diverted for industrial use every year.
- The agriculture-grade urea contains neem-coating (it was introduced to prevent leakage) which is removed through some chemical process and then the urea is used for industrial purposes.
- **Reasons for Diversion**
 - Huge price differentiation between fertilizer for farm

and non-farm purposes; consequently, it gets diverted into plywood, resin, ceramics, molding powder, cattle feed, dairy, and industrial mining explosives.

- Mismatch in demand and supply as the industry imports only 200,000 tonnes, against the required level of more than a million tonnes.
- A sizable amount of urea is illegally exported to neighbouring nations such as Nepal and Bangladesh.
- **Urea and it's Subsidy**
 - It is a white crystalline solid nitrogenous fertilizer.
 - It is the only fertilizer with statutorily controlled price & movement by the government.
 - The Centre bears a subsidy of over Rs. 2,700 per bag.

Farm Loan Waiver

Context

- An SBI study found that only 50% farmers benefited from farm loan waivers.

About

- Farm loans are loans taken from the banks by the farmers for agriculture requisites and production.
- When there is a poor monsoon or natural calamity, farmers may be unable to repay loans.
- In a farm loan waiver scheme, the Centre or the state Government repays the loan to the

banks on behalf of the farmers, simply by using public money collected in the form of taxes.

Findings of the recent SBI Report

- The poorest implementation of farm loan waiver schemes in terms of proportion of eligible farmers who had received the announced benefits, were in Telangana (5%), Madhya Pradesh (12%), Jharkhand (13%), Punjab (24%), Karnataka (38%) and Uttar Pradesh (52%).
- By contrast, farm loan waivers implemented by Chhattisgarh in 2018 and Maharashtra in 2020, were received by 100% and 91% of the eligible farmers, respectively.
- The report also flagged concerns about whether they actually help those farmers who are in genuine distress. Most of the accounts (more than 80% in some States) eligible for loan waiver were in standard category.

Possible reasons behind non implementation of waivers

- The report identified certain reasons for the low implementation rate of these loan waivers
 1. Rejection of farmers' claims by State Governments
 2. Limited or low fiscal space to meet promises, and
 3. Change in Governments in subsequent years,

History of Farm loan Waivers

Medieval India

- The first recorded instance of granting loans to peasants in medieval India dates back to the regime of Muhammad-bin-Tughluq (1325-51) when, to ameliorate the distress suffered by villagers, Taccavi loans were advanced.
- However, faced with rebellion and famine, these loans were written off by Firoz Shah Tughluq, the subsequent ruler.

Modern India

- The first nationwide farm-loan waiver in independent India was implemented in 1990 by the VP Singh-led government.
- Since then, there has been a wave of such schemes by different State government

Timeline of major farm loan waivers in India

2008 :

Rs 52,000 crore were released by the Indian government as part of the Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme (ADWDRS), in order to address the financial indebtedness of the farmers right before the 2009 general election.

2014 :

In Andhra Pradesh, a farm loan waiver of Rs 40,000 crore was announced while a Rs 20,000 crore farm loan waiver was announced in Telangana.

2017 :

Uttar Pradesh announced a farm loan waiver of Rs 36,000 crore.

Maharashtra soon followed suit with a Rs 35,000 crore waiver, though the actual amount is expected to be much greater.

Rationale behind Farm Loan Waivers

- **Monsoon Failure :** In India, agriculture is highly dependent on monsoons.
- Farmers take heavy loans for

crop production. If the crop fails due to lack of rains or insufficient market demand, farmers get trapped in debt and it leads to Farmer suicides.

- Thus to overcome this government waives farm loans.

- **Food scarcity:** Many farmers are leaving farming due to better money making alternatives.
- If this situation continues, there will be serious food scarcity.
- To prevent this situation, the government needs to gain the trust of farmers. Thus Farm loan waiver seems the only option.
- **Debt Cycle:** Many farmers borrow money from moneylenders at high-interest rates & get trapped in a never ending cycle of debt.
- Farm loan waivers help to divert these farmers to borrow money from banks instead of money lenders.
- **Ineligible for bank credit:** Many small farmers not eligible for bank credit borrow at exorbitant interest rates from private sources.
- **Relief to Farmers:** Agriculture in India has been facing many issues - fragmented land holding, depleting water table levels, deteriorating soil quality, rising input costs, low productivity.
- Output prices may not be remunerative.
- Farmers are often forced to borrow to manage expenses. Indebtedness is a key reason for the many farmer suicides in the country.
- Loan waivers provides some relief to farmers in such situations.

How effective are farm loan waivers?

Understanding through Example:

- **1990:** A working paper by the Indian Council for Research on

International Economic Relations (ICRIER) – Credit Policy for Agriculture in India – An Evaluation – says that the loan waiver scheme of VP Singh proved a costly affair for the banks and economy.

- The report stated that the years after the waiver “witnessed a decline in the recovery rates by financial institutions, as farmers believed that they could default with impunity.
- It affected rural credit with defaults of such a high magnitude that it took the banks several years to recover from its impact.

Drawbacks of farm loan waiver

- **Discourages Honest farmers:** Loan waiver sends a negative signal to the markets.
 - Honest farmers, some of whom take more loans to repay earlier one, or use their saving to repay loans, feel cheated.
- **Incentivizes willful defaulters:** It disrupts credit discipline.
 - Farmers turn into willful defaulters due to the next loan waiver scheme, which is bad for economy.
- **No curb on informal credit sources:** This ignores the dominant role of moneylenders and informal credit sources in the rural economy.
 - The farmers who take loans from such sources are not benefitted from such schemes.
- **Fiscal deficit:** It increases the fiscal deficit of the state as the gross expenditure of state

government exceeds the gross revenue which in turn causes low credit ranking for the state and so the cost of borrowing increases for the state.

- **Right beneficiaries are not targeted:** Rich farmers take loan even if there is no need, in the hope of the next loan waiver scheme.
 - This impacts the farmers who are genuinely in need of loans.
- **Vicious Cycle:** Loan waiver is a relief only for one season, with the farmers going back to distress in the next season if the monsoon fails.
- **Impact on long term growth:** Loan waivers not only increase the fiscal deficit and interest burden of the states but also limit its ability to undertake productive capital expenditure in the agriculture sector.
 - It affects the long term growth in the sector.
- **Opens the Pandora’s Box:** Providing loan waive in some states encourage farmers from other states to demand loan waiver even if they don’t need them.

Grand Onion Challenge

In News

- Recently, the Department of Consumer Affairs conducted a Video Conference regarding “Grand Onion Challenge”.

About

- Grand Onion Challenge seeks ideas from young professionals, professors, scientists in product designs and prototypes for improving pre-harvesting techniques, primary processing,

storage, and transportation of post harvested onions in the country.

- The challenge also seeks ideas for modernization of technology in dehydration, valorization of onions and onion food processing domain.
- **Objective:** development of low cost and easily replicable technology solutions to reduce post harvested onion losses in the country.
- **Concerned Department:** The Grand Onion Challenge instituted by Department of Consumer Affairs.
- **Time period for Application:** the challenge has been thrown open from 20.7.2022-15.10.2022 seeking ideas in all the above domains from the best brains in the country.
- **Selection process:** The Department will select 40 good ideas in the four verticals wherein improvements and technology innovations are sought.
 - Departments and organizations concerned in the country are urged to submit ideas so that cost effective solutions in saving losses in pre-harvesting, primary processing, storage and transportation of onions can be developed.
 - Atma Nirbhar Bharat programme is also supported in the process.
- **Significance:** It is expected that post the Grand Onion challenge, the losses in onion storage can be reduced by 5-10% due to innovative ideas.

2. State Government Schemes

TamilNadu Smart State

About

- 1.25 lakh crore investment attraction

Smart state

- Businessmen and global companies have started coming towards the Dravidian model, which is based on development for all and all sectors.
- Making Tamil Nadu a trillion dollar economy and an investment-friendly state in South Asia
- The Government of Tamil Nadu is making all efforts to achieve the 4 goals of making products produced in Tamil Nadu reach every corner of the world, making investments widely and smoothly across the state and developing inclusively for all.
- Incentive packages have been provided to 2 companies with MoUs for 11 technical projects
- Green hydrogen factory has been brought in Tuticorin with wind power, solar power, power generation.
- This will make Tuticorin a renewable energy hub.
- A memorandum of understanding has been signed with IGSSV to set up a high-tech park for semiconductor manufacturing in Tamil Nadu at a cost of Rs 26,500 crore.

Illam Thedi Kalvi

About Illam Thedi Kalvi Scheme

- T.N government launched 'Illam Thedi Kalvi' scheme to bridge the pandemic-induced gap in learning among school children.



- The lockdown disempowered children from the marginalized sections as they did not have access to technology-driven pedagogical methods as the privileged did.

Key Objective:

- 'Illam Thedi Kalvi' scheme aims to achieve social justice by providing various incentives like free textbooks, free uniforms, and nutritious mid-day meals which were unavailable to children of vulnerable sections during the lockdown.

Implementation

- It will be implemented by volunteers first in 12 districts. It will be launched in other districts when the results from the 12 districts are positive.
- Some 68,000 of the 86,000 volunteers are women.

- This will help in allaying fears about the safety of female students and encourage them to participate in the program.
- The volunteers will teach an estimated 34.05 lakh children in the 5-13 age group in 93,000 neighborhoods for 60 to 90 minutes between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Volunteers who have completed Class 12 will impart lessons for children of Classes 1-5 and graduates will teach children from Classes 6-8.

Illam Thedi Kalvi (Education at the Doorsteps) Scheme- Key Significance

- It is commendable that experienced teachers and civic and education department officials will be monitoring the progress of the students at the district and block levels.
- By providing a concrete role to school management committees and community development activists, the program is turning learning into a social engagement.
- When young volunteers impart lessons creatively in an unconventional atmosphere, the possibility of better learning outcomes is higher.
- This also gives children an opportunity to develop a critical understanding of their social reality.

- This will enhance their self-respect and help them probe the reasons for oppression and injustice.

Illam Thedi Kalvi' programme & 'Ennum Ezhuththum'

- There is no progress without hope, keeping the learning gap in mind, the Education Department of Tamil Nadu Government is implementing the Illam Thedi Kalvi' programme & 'Ennum Ezhuththum' is being implemented in primary schools as well.
- The success of these programs depends on the extent to which teachers and the community perceive the external impact of learning.
- It has to be seen that in the evening reading is arranged through the 'Illam Thedi Kalvi' programme.
- But if the volunteers working in this program on one side and the teachers on the other hand guide the children in different directions, there emerges.
- Education should try to connect both sides. But education is only strengthened strengthened through through direct student student-teacher teacher interaction interaction.
- This requires continuous engagement and compliance. Government guidelines are necessary to strengthen this Scheme.

Beneficiaries

- 7.26 Lakhs Volunteers registered so far
- 2 Lakhs Teaching Volunteers
- 34 Lakhs Learners
- 3 Lakh hours of teaching per day
- 2.61 crore hours of total teaching hours

TamilNadu Police-President's colour

- Tamil Nadu Police, which is considered to be equal to Scottish Police, has got a special flag.
- Won President's Award.

Back ground

- India's first police department was established in 1856 in Chennai, then known as Madras.
- Chennai is the pioneer of police department.
- Indian Police has commenced Fingerprint Division, Forensic Science Units, Wireless System, Coast Guard and High speed boat patrolling .



TamilNadu

- As requested by Karunanidhi for Special flag for TN Police when he was the Chief Minister, the order was issued in 2009 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Tamil Nadu police department.

ment.

- Such a special, honor was issued to military, paramilitary forces, police departments in states and union territories.
- It was the first in India to be awarded to the Navy in 1951 by the first President Rajendra Prasad.
- So far, 10 states have been given this flag.
- Tamil Nadu is the first state to get this distinction among the southern states
- The award known as the President's Color and the special flag was first designed by Professor D. Udayakumar of IIT Guwahati, who designed the Indian rupee symbol.
- DGP Sailendra babu is doing the work of designing the flag to be given to Tamil Nadu after



taking the advice of Chief Minister M.K.Stalin

- 1,31,491 police officers along with Shailendra Babu working as DGP in Tamil Nadu Police have got a great honor.

- Everyone will now emblazon this unique flag symbol on their wrists.
- This gives them a unique status.

Paper Art

- After the corona period in Tamil Nadu, the "Illam Thedi Kalvi" program which has been brought to reduce the learning gap and learning loss among the students of class 1 to 8 studying in government and government aided schools has been well received by the educationists.
- In continuation of this, in the current academic year, a course called co-curricular activities has been added for the students of class 6 to 10.
- Accordingly, it has been advised to carry out forum activities such as literature forum, environment forum, quiz forum and art activities such as book reading and fine arts in these lessons.
- In this, the youth of the North State have been appointed to teach the paper art which is included in the fine arts lesson.

Breakfast

- In Tamil Nadu, government primary school students from class 1 to 5 will be provided with breakfast in the morning.

Breakfast Program

- In the first phase of, 1.14 lakh students studying from 1st to 5th standard in 1,545 government primary schools have been allocated a fund of Rs.33.56 crore.
- Considering that the feet of the poor and poor community children could not reach the school, the Chennai Municipal Corporation has proposed and implemented the scheme of providing food at school a century ago.
- Nutritious breakfast should be provided in the morning to government primary school students through panchayat unit association and SHGs
- Those who prepare food should be residing within a Km from school with minimum 3 years experience in food preparation.
- Breakfast should be made with rice or small grains and should be served between 8.15 am to 8.45 am.
- Stove, cylinder, utensils will be provided by social welfare department.
- Groceries and vegetables can be bought from the local market
- Rs 8.25 per child per day is temporarily allocated
- Self-help groups who cook breakfast will be paid Rs 2,000 per month

About

- In the first phase of, 1.14 lakh

students studying from 1st to 5th standard in 1,545 government primary schools have been allocated a fund of Rs.33.56 crore.

- Considering that the feet of the poor and poor community children could not reach the school, the Chennai Municipal Corporation has proposed and implemented the scheme of providing food at school a century ago.

Back ground

- In the year 1920, Sir PT Thiagaraya, who was the chairman of the Chennai Municipal Corporation, introduced the mid-day meal program for the first time in the country.
- After that, in 1957, the mid-day meal scheme was introduced by former Chief Minister Kamaraj
- Following the announcement of former Chief Minister MGR, the nutrition program was launched in July 1982.
- 1989 - The then Chief Minister Karunanidhi introduced nutritious eggs.
- Even now, the 5-times egg donation scheme, the nutrition scheme is being implemented well
- Malnutrition is the main reason why 1 in 3 children in India are stunted for their age.

Dishes(table)

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Monday | Rava Upuma, Vegetable Sambar. Semiya Upuma, Vegetable Sambar, Rice Upuma, Wheat Upuma |
| Tuesday | Rava Vegetable Khichdi. Semiya Vegetable Khichdi, Wheat Vegetable Khichdi, Corn Vegetable Khichdi |
| Wednesday | Rava Pongal Vegetable Sambar, Venpongol Vegetable Sambar |
| Thursday | semiya upma, vegetable sambar, rice upma, vegetable sambar, rava upma, vegetable sambar, wheat rava upma, vegetable sambar |
| Friday | Rava kesari, semiya kesari will be served with some kind of kichdi |

- The amount of raw material for breakfast per child per day is 50 grams of rice, or semolina/wheat semolina/samiya, small grains grown locally on respective days, and dal for sambar 15 grams, vegetables
- At least 2 days in a week Breakfast prepared with small grains locally available can be provided.

Integrated Education Program for Disabled Children

- Amarseva Sangam started by Ramakrishnan in 1981, has been implementing various programs for the welfare and development of disabled children for the past 40 years.
- The association also runs a school for differently abled children with free accommodation, food, clothing, medical and vocational training.
- 40th Anniversary of Amarseva Sangam and Amarseva Sangam Integrated Education Program for differently abled children implemented in collaboration with Education for All by Tamil Nadu Government.
- Amarseva Association has started an integrated school education program for differently abled children in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu government to provide health, quality education, sports training and skill development to differently abled children under 18 years of age.
- The Government of Tamil Nadu is working with all its might to identify the differently-abled from childhood, to ensure structural facilities for their development, and to establish social justice in the form of balance and equal opportunities .

Eggs for Children

In news



- A curriculum committee set up to prepare a book in accordance with the new education policy in Karnataka said that children eating fatty foods such as eggs and meat on a daily basis can lead to lifestyle problems including obesity & hormonal problems.
- It has prepared a report and submitted it to the state government and the National Institute of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) that giving them in the mid-day meal scheme should be avoided.
- The UNICEF report warns that more than 3 lakh children in India are suffering from severe malnutrition.
- All of them are underweight for their height.
- Due to this condition caused by lack of protein, children are 11 times more affected by infections like pneumonia, vomiting and diarrhoea.
- One in five child deaths occur this way.
- UNICEF has already warned that the main reason for the death of children is protein deficiency (Protein Energy Malnutrition).
- At the same time, it has suggested that these deaths can

definitely be avoided if proper amount of protein food is given.

Why are eggs offered?

- 3 eggs are provided per week in Tamil Nadu
- Eggs are a complete, affordable, healthy food that is readily available to everyone.
- This is why it is recommended to give eggs in lunch to children.
- The report given to the Karnataka government that 'children will become obese if they eat eggs every day is wrong.
- Eggs are not a fat weapon; It is a protein package, protein is a macronutrient that is needed for muscle growth in children.
- Mainly, the nutrient that ends obesity- not only for children, but also for adults, is starches including white rice & white sugar.
- Eggs are very low in starch.
- There are 16 grams of protein in 100 grams of chicken eggs.
- However, starch is only 1.12 grams.
- Both egg white & egg yolk contain equal amount of protein.
- If you take egg white and yolk together, you will get the total protein in it.
- The highest biological value is any nutritious food that must be digested and the proteins in it converted into amino acids and added to the body.
- Vitamin A in eggs aids eyesight and promotes hair growth.
- Antioxidants like lutein and zeaxanthin boost immunity.

• Next to the sunshine that gives us vitamin are eggs

Are there any problems with eggs?

- The fat in the egg strengthens the body, it contains omega 3 fatty acid.
- It is good for the heart.
- Artificial feed is insufficient to raise poultry in many farms. Antibiotics & medicines are used.
- Due to this, the users face the risk of antibiotic resistance.
- Veterinarians, farm owners and Government have the duty to monitor and correct this.
- In today's practice, the main cause of obesity in children is their excessive consumption of sweet foods, starchy foods and junk foods.

Foreign Direct Investment (Tamil nadu)

- The Government of Tamil Nadu is continuously focusing on attracting foreign direct investment.
- Care is also taken in developing micro, small and medium industries.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K.Stalin has inaugurated new industrial estates in 5 Asian locations such as Chengalpattu, Namakkal, Pudukottai, Salem and Tiruvannamalai.
- Tamil Nadu has advanced from 14th to 3rd position in the list of investment friendly states.
- Chief Minister M.K.Stalin, the first state to do business, aims

to develop Tamil Nadu into a trillion US dollar economy i.e. Rs 78 lakh crore economy by 2030-2031.

- It is third after Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat.
- A memorandum of understanding was signed between Singapore-based IGSS Ventures and Tamil Nadu Government's mentor company for setting up a 300-acre "Semiconductor" high-tech park for the production of computers, cell phones, motor vehicles, etc.

Jayalakshmi

- Jayalakshmi studying +1 at Raniyar Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Pudukottai is included in seventh class Tamil text book in Maharashtra State
- She won the space science competition organized by a private company.
- "I had the opportunity to visit the NASA Space Research Center in the United States.
- A charity called 'Gramalaya' also came forward to help me, and I said, 'I have got the help I need', says Jayalakshmi.
- She continues. "They ask if they need any other help, the women of our village are struggling without toilet facility. I asked if it is possible to build toilets for them. They set up 125 toilets with bathrooms. The people of the town celebrated me because the help that came to me was changed for the sake of my town".



VIII. Geography - Geographical Marks



Sardar Sarovar Dam

- Narmada river water reaches the arid Kutch region of Gujarat through a long canal constructed 750 km from Sardar Sarovar Dam.



- The Sardar Sarovar Dam was built across the Narmada River on a grand scale.
- Medha Bhatt protested that many Adivasi villages would be submerged due to this dam.
- Arundhati Roy and her supporters fought for more than 20 years.
- Opened in 2017.
- The water of Narmada is transported through canals to Saurashtra of Gujarat and parts of Northern Gujarat
- Its final stretch ends at the village of Mat Guba in Mandvi taluka of Kutch district.

Urban Flooding

Context

- Recently many people have lost their lives due to incessant rain in Mumbai, Maharashtra, rein-

forcing the gravity problem of urban flooding in Indian cities.

- **Definition:** Flood is defined as “an overflow of a large body of water over areas not usually inundated”.
 - Thus, flooding in urban areas is caused by intense and/or prolonged rainfall, which overwhelms the capacity of the drainage system.
- Urban flooding is different from rural flooding, both in respect to magnitude and size of the population affected
- This is because-
 - Urbanization increases flood risk by up to 3 times, increased peak flow result in flooding very quickly.
 - It affects a large number of people due to the high population density in urban areas.

Natural factors causing Urban flooding

- **Meteorological Factors:** Heavy rainfall, cyclonic storms, and thunderstorms cause water to flow quickly through paved urban areas and impound in low-lying areas.



- **Hydrological Factors:** Over-bank flow channel networks, the occurrence of high tides impeding the drainage in coastal cities are major hydrological factors responsible for urban flooding.
- **Changes in the rainfall pattern driven by Climate Change:** The rainfall intensity, duration, and frequency are going to increase in the future, suggests the International Panel for Climate Change.
- **Flash floods:** often caused by the incidence of cyclonic circulations and cloud bursts are increasing due to climate change. The recent flash flood in Germany is a case in point.

Anthropogenic factors responsible for Urban Flooding

- **Unplanned urbanization:** it results in excessive and unplanned use of available resources, leading to overstressed city infrastructure, including drainage systems, reduced seepage, and encroachment by builders and contractors.
- **Poor waste management system:** Domestic, commercial, and industrial waste and dumping of construction debris into the drains without proper collection & treatment, contribute significantly to reducing capacities of the drainage system.

- Improper waste management system, clogging of storm-water drains because of silting, accumulation of non-biodegradable wastes, and construction debris are major concerns.
- **Indiscriminate encroachment of waterways and wetlands:** Growing habitations into towns and cities alongside rivers and watercourses, led to their encroachment, causing urban flooding during high rainfall scenarios.
 - **Unauthorized colonies and excess construction:** result in reduced infiltration and decreased ground absorption and increases the speed & amount of surface flow, causing urban floods.
- **Issues with city drainage infrastructure:** there is an issue with the city drainage system at both capacity and management levels.
 - There is a lack of adequate drainage infrastructure in the cities, leading to urban flooding during high-intensity rainfall.
 - Lack of maintenance of existing drainage infrastructure: for example, de-clogging the storm-water drains before monsoon season results in the malfunctioning of the drainage system, leading to urban flooding.
- **Neglect of pre-disaster planning:** in India, the focus is mainly on post-disaster relief efforts rather than pre-planning to counter urban floods.
- **Lack of community participation:** Indian cities lack participation from people, right from planning to implementation stages.
 - This is mainly due to apathy on the part of government officials, members of municipal bodies, and a lack of awareness among the people of the city.
- **Reducing Seepage:** Indian cities are becoming increasingly impervious to water, not just because of increasing built-up but also because of the nature of materials used.
- Three Phases for efficient Management of Urban Floods are:
 - Pre- Monsoon Phase – Preparation for reduction of Urban Flooding.
 - Monsoon Phase –
 1. Early Warning
 2. Response and Management
 3. Relief Planning and Execution
 - Post Monsoon Phase – Restoration and Rehabilitation
- NDMA provides guidelines for effective management of Urban Flood.
- These guidelines provide a plan to the State's Nodal Department and ULB's Urban Flood Cell to act.

NDMA Guidelines on Urban Flooding:

- CWC should maximize the real-time hydro-meteorological network to cover all the urban centers in support of the emerging priorities in dealing with urban flooding.
- It is essential to design and strengthen local hydro-meteorological data networks to cater for the needs of urban flooding holistically.
- State-of-the-art automatic water level recorders must be installed throughout the drainage network of the watershed, which may sometimes extend beyond the administrative boundary of the ULB.
- Efforts shall be made to restore water bodies by de-silting and taking other measures. Efforts shall also be made to revive water bodies that have been put to other uses.
- Local scale emergency medical response systems will be established to deal with medical preparedness, emergency treatment, mortuary facilities and disposal of bodies and carcasses, public health issues including trauma and control of epidemics.
- Encourage local residents to constitute Community Level First Responder Support consisting of ex-servicemen, retired police personnel, paramilitary forces and Resident Welfare Association (RWA).

- Suitable hedging mechanisms, like insurance of life and property, need to be evolved to reduce urban flood vulnerability
- Public awareness will be created about the need to keep safety kits containing medicines, torch, identity cards, ration cards, important documents and non-perishable edibles ready before commencement of monsoon so that they can carry the same with them, in case they have to be evacuated
- Media companies shall be motivated to launch/expand awareness generation programmes as a part of their CSR.

11th Agriculture Census

Context

- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare launched the 11th Agriculture Census in the country.

Agriculture Census

- A census of agriculture is a statistical operation for collecting, processing and disseminating data on the structure of agriculture, covering the whole or a significant part of a country.
- Typical structural data collected in a census of agriculture are

number and size of holdings, land tenure, land use, crop area, irrigation, livestock numbers, gender of holders, number of household members, labour & other agricultural inputs.

Agricultural census in India

- Agriculture Census in India is conducted every 5 years.
- The 1970/1971 Census was considered the first comprehensive census of agriculture to be conducted in the country.
- Quinquennial censuses of agriculture were successively undertaken in 1976/1977, 1980/1981, 1985/1986, 1990/1991, 1995/1996, 2000/2001, 2005/2006, 2010/2011 and 2015/2016.
 - Thus, so far, ten Agriculture Censuses have been conducted.

About

- The fieldwork of the Eleventh Agricultural Census (2021-22) which is being undertaken now after a delay due to corona pandemic will start in August 2022 itself.
- This is the first time that data collection for the agricultural census will be conducted on smartphones and tablets so that data is available in time.

- The new initiatives highlighted in the presentation include use of digital land records like land title records and survey reports, collection of data through app/software using smartphone/tablet, complete enumeration of all villages in states with non-land records during Phase-I as done in states having land records, and real time monitoring of progress and processing.

Significance

- The agricultural census is the main source of information on a variety of parameters, such as the number and area of operational holdings, their size, class-wise distribution, land use, tenancy and cropping pattern, etc.
- Plus, the use of digitised land records and the use of mobile apps for data collection this time will enable the creation of a database of operational holdings in the country.
- There is a need to change their standard of living, organize small farmers in order to empower them, attract them towards remunerative crops and ensure the quality of the produce at par with global standards.
- Agricultural statistics are useful for planning such policies monitoring and evaluation purposes as well as research and development. They promote investment opportunities and increase farmer's income.



Manipur Landslide



Why in News?

- Tupul in Western Manipur recently saw one of the severest disasters in recent times. The death toll rose to 38 with 25 people still stuck inside the debris.
- The landslide hit a camp of the 107 Territorial Army (TA) battalion affiliated with 11 Gurkha Rifles.
- Along with them, civilians consisting of contractual railway workers also perished.

About

- The landslide has caused an accumulation of debris on the banks of the Ijei River.
 - This has caused a rise in the levels of the river.
 - Breach of the dam-like structure will lead to submergence of the surrounding low-lying areas causing further death and destruction in this area.
- Heavy rains have further deteriorated rescue efforts and increased the possibility of landslides in surrounding areas.
- As per National Landslide Susceptibility Mapping Project, the

Tupul area was marked as susceptible to landslides.

- Even then, the railway yard project was given a go-ahead.

Landslides in India

- Approx 15% of India's areas are prone to landslides.
- 2-major regions which are prone to landslides are
 - The Himalayan Region
 - The Western Ghats
- **The Himalayan Region**
 - These are prone to landslides due to seismicity (Tectonically active).
 - Unstable rock structure increases their vulnerability.
- **The Western Ghats**
 - Due to heavy downpours from Monsoon, this area becomes prone to landslides.
 - Further, heavy construction and subsequent change in land use patterns also add to the vulnerability.

Reasons for Landslides

1. Natural Reasons
2. Anthropogenic Reasons

• Natural Reasons

- Earthquake
- Excessive Rainfall - eg. Uttarakhand cloudburst in 2013 caused landslide

• Anthropogenic Reasons

- Unsustainable Infrastructure Development
- Deforestation
- Mining
- Unsustainable Tourism

Actions to check Landslide becoming a disaster

- National Landslide Risk Management Strategy (2019)
 - It covers various aspects of Disaster risk management such as hazard mapping, monitoring, and early warning systems.
- National Landslide Susceptibility Mapping Project
 - It has been conducted by the Geological Survey of India.
 - It was formally launched in 2014.
 - **Aim** - To create a dynamic National Landslide Susceptibility Geodatabase for India.

- National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)
 - It provides disaster management and disaster risk reduction capacity-building support to various national and state-level authorities.
- NDMA Guidelines on Landslide Hazard Management (2009)
 - National Disaster Management Agency has published these guidelines in order to ensure comprehensive disaster mitigation and planning.
- Create Hazard zonation maps to delineate areas susceptible to landslides.
- An autonomous centre for research and study in landslide management should be established.
- Encouraging implementation of successful landslide remediation & mitigation technologies.
- Training of Geoengineers and Geoscientists to develop a research ecosystem for enhanced preparedness against landslides

Successful Technological Intervention

- Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeeth deployed a wireless sensor-based landslide detection system
 - In Kerala in 2009
 - In Sikkim in 2018
- This intervention has delivered many successful warnings.

DSR technique not gaining ground in Punjab

Context:

- Despite the Punjab government's Rs 1,500 per acre incentive to farmers for adopting the DSR method, farmers are returning to the traditional method of puddled transplanting of rice in the majority of the paddy area (87% decline in DSR over last year)

What is DSR?

- DSR is the direct seeding of rice in which seeds are sown in the field rather than by transplanting seedlings from the nursery.
- It aims to sow short-duration and high-yield varieties.
- It is done through DSR machines which are used for planting seeds of rice directly into the fields.

Why does Punjab incentivise DSR?

- **To save groundwater:** Experts say that around 15% to 20% of groundwater can be saved by adopting DSR.

Reasons for the decline in DSR:

- **Lack of power and adequate water:** Officials said that this year there were erratic power cuts.
 - Also, canal water was not available in an adequate amount during the sowing time of DSR.

- **Varied results:** Both experts and farmers said that the results of the DSR depend on the farmer to farmer and soil types. Some farmers are getting more yield from this method, while some are getting less.
- **Light soils are bad and heavy soils are good for DSR.**
- **Lack of technical know-how:** The majority of the farmers in the state are still not much well-versed in the technique and after facing huge losses in wheat yield this year, they prefer the assured traditional method, instead of the experimental DSR.
- **Need for weedicide:** Though DSR does not need labour, it needs several sprays of weedicides to control weeds.
 - In traditional agriculture, flood irrigation acts as a weedicide.
- **Low incentive:** Many farmers complain that the losses due to the adoption of DSR are over 6000 per acre, but the incentive with DSR sowing is just Rs 1,500 per acre.

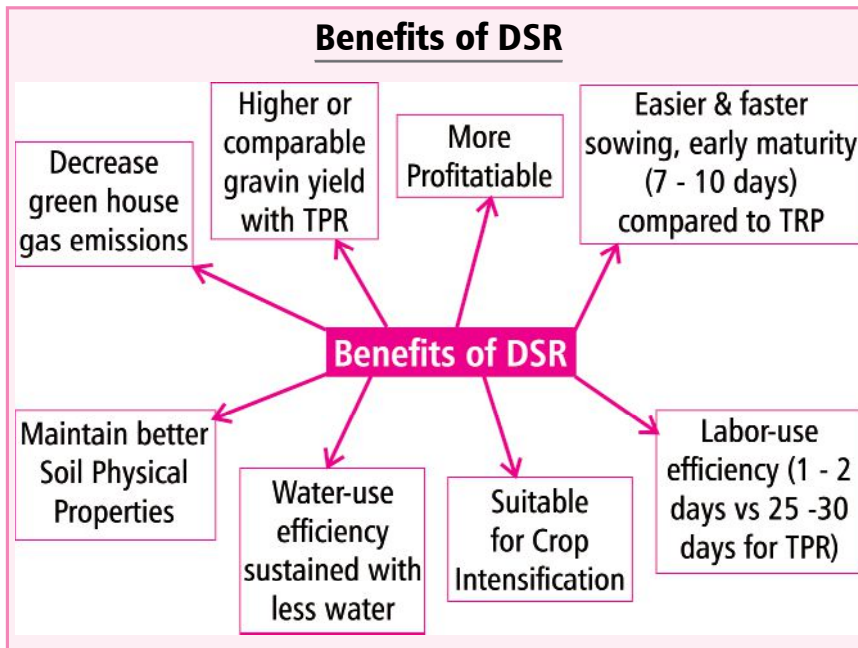
What should be done:

- Experts say DSR won't help much in saving Punjab's water: While traditional methods take around 5,000 litres to grow 1 kg of rice, with 15% to 20% water saving DSR will take around 4,000 to 4,200 litres which is also huge.

- **Haryana Model to save water:** Government should adopt the Haryana government model to save groundwater wherein the Haryana government under its scheme "Mera Pani Meri

Virasat" is offering Rs 7,000 per acre (along with insurance cover) to the farmers who will shun paddy crop and adopt other alternative crops like fruit and vegetables.

- The low maintenance and high profitability of dragon fruits has attracted the farming community throughout India.
- Considering the cost effectiveness and global demand for the fruit due to its nutritional values, its cultivation can be expanded in India.
- This exotic fruit is cultivated in 3,000 hectares in India and the plan is to increase cultivation to 50,000 hectares in five years.
- India is now importing about 15,491 tonnes of dragon fruits but has potential to match the production of China.



About

- The dragon fruit (Hylocereus undatus) is indigenous to the Mexico.
- It is a member of the cacti family.
- It is also known as 'Pitaya', 'Pitahaya', strawberry pear, noblewoman and 'queen of the night' throughout the world.
- It is now produced mainly in Vietnam, helping it to boost its economy.
- Mizoram tops among the States that cultivate this fruit in India.
- The red and pink varieties of the fruit give better yield.
- It costs approximately about 400 per Kg in India.

Other methods of Rice cultivation:

- **Transplantation:** Seeds are first shown in the nursery and seedlings are transplanted to the main field.
- **Drilling Method:** Seeds are put in the soil which has been drilled.
- **System of Rice intensification:** It is a farming methodology aimed at increasing the yield of rice produced in farming.
 - It is a low-water, labour-intensive method that uses younger seedlings singly spaced and typically hand weeded with special tools.

Centre to promote dragon fruit cultivation in 50,000 hectares



Context

- Addressing a National conclave on the fruit, Centre has decided to promote the cultivation of dragon fruit, known as a "super fruit" for its health benefits.

Background

- The dragon fruit was introduced to home gardens in India in the

Climatic Condition

- It is hardy and grows in diverse climatic conditions with varied soils, especially in the semi-arid and arid regions of India.

- It prefers slightly acidic soil and can tolerate some salts in soil too.
- Flowering and fruiting of dragon fruits coincide with the monsoon season in India (June to November).

Government Interventions in India

- The Gujarat Government recently renamed dragon fruit as 'kalam' (lotus) and announced an incentive for farmers who cultivate it.
- The Haryana Government also provides a grant for farmers who are ready to plant this exotic fruit variety.
- The Government of Maharashtra has taken the initiative to promote dragon fruit cultivation in different areas of the state by providing good quality planting material and subsidies for its cultivation through the Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).

PARIMAN Portal

Why in News?

- Geo-Portal for NCR known as 'PARIMAN', launched in August 2021 by the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) and Union Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs has been made open to the public of NCR.

What do we know about PARIMAN?

- Portal for Analytical Regional Information and Mapping of NCR.

- Developed through National Informatics Centre (NIC), initially for use by NCR Participating states and the Office of NCRPB.
- It's a robust system to facilitate better sub-regional and local planning. This contains various layers collected from authentic sources.
- The portal has many Base Maps, Satellite Image services and Night Light Data of different time spans.
 - Terrain map provides the Elevation Profile of a route.
 - Administrative units like State Boundaries to Village Boundaries, various Headquarters to Habitations, Parliamentary and Assembly Constituency Boundaries are integrated in this portal.
 - Layers like Road, Rail and Metro Networks, Points of Interest like Education, Health, Banking, Post Office, Power and Telecom, Industries, Tourism, River and Canal Networks and many more.

- ◆ Area of Interest function facilitates a comprehensive view for any information of a particular State or District or Tehsil.

Significance:

- This Geo-Portal will help to improve decentralized planning and management in the NCR region.

- This Geo-portal is an important platform to know where and what exists in the National Capital Region (NCR) that enables better planning.
- It will help in effective utilization of Remote Sensing and GIS technology.

What do we mean by Geospatial Technology?

- Geospatial technology uses tools like GIS (Geographic Information System), GPS (Global Positioning System) and Remote Sensing for geographic mapping and analysis.
- These tools capture spatial information about objects, events and phenomena (indexed to their geographical location on earth, geotag). The location data may be Static or Dynamic.
 - Static location data include position of a road, an earthquake event or malnutrition among children in a particular region while dynamic location data include data related to a moving vehicle or pedestrian, the spread of an infectious disease etc.
- The technology may be used to create intelligent maps to help identify spatial patterns in large volumes of data.
- The technology facilitates decision making based on the importance and priority of scarce resources.

Jute Mark India (JMI) Logo

About

- The government of India introduced the certification of authenticity for jute products manufactured in India. The Union Textile Secretary unveiled the logo "Jute Mark India". This project is an initiative to protect and promote Indian jute products.



Key points:

- The Jute Mark India (JMI) will be a hallmark of the jute products manufactured in India.
- This certification is expected to increase the domestic market and export of Jute products made in India to other countries.
- The Jute Mark India will contain a unique QR code and when the customers scan the code, they'll get to know about the product.
- The promotion of Jute and Jute products in India is managed by the National Jute Board, which works under the Union Textile Ministry.
- Jute Mark India (JMI) was implemented during an ongoing scheme for the development and promotion of Jute between FY'22 and FY'26.
- The total investment of the central government in this project was Rs. 485.58 crore.
- The export of Jute in the year

2020-2021 was worth Rs. 2740 crore and the diversified products of Jute were worth Rs. 1261 crore.

- This constituted 46 per cent of

the total value of Jute Goods Exports.

- In 2021-2022, the provisional export of Jute Goods was worth Rs. 3785.68 crores.

National Jute Board

- The National Jute Board is governed by the National Jute Board Act 2008, as framed by the Minister of Textile, the Government of India, and enacted by the Parliament on 12 February 2009.
- The board works to research and engage human resource development programs to explore and increase the use of Jute in both organized and decentralized sectors.
- **National Jute Board: Schemes**
 1. Jute- Improved Cultivation and Retting Exercise (ICARE)
 2. Jute Diversification scheme
 3. Market development and promotion

Is there a crisis in rice?

Context:

- India has witnessed a shortfall in rice acreage while the overall crop coverage has risen.



Status:

- **Storage:** Government godowns had over 47.2 million tonnes (mt) of rice (nearly three-and-a-half times the minimum level of stocks, to meet both "operational" (public distribution system) and "strategic reserve" (exigency) requirements for the quarter.

- **Wheat:** Public stocks have plunged from all-time highs to 14-year lows within the space of a year.

Data about Rice:

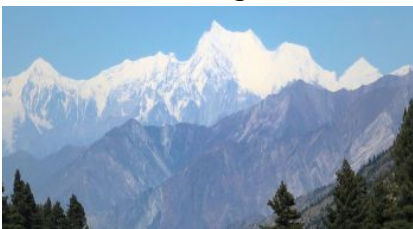
- It is India's largest agricultural crop (accounting for over 40% of the total foodgrain output)
- India is the world's biggest exporter (around 40% of the world's export)
- India is 2nd largest rice producer in the world after China.
- **Process of planting rice:** Farmers first sow paddy seeds in nurseries.
 - These seedlings are then uprooted and replanted 25-35 days later in the main field.
 - Nursery sowing generally happens before the monsoon rains.

- For the first three weeks or so after transplanting, the water depth has to be maintained at 4-5 cm, in order to control weed growth in the early stage of the crop.
- **Why is the acreage less?**
 - **Low rainfall in paddy areas:** Areas such as Uttar Pradesh to West Bengal have had very little rain.
 - **Drying up of nurseries:** Most farmers with limited irrigation facilities have seen even their nurseries drying up”
- Paddy cultivation takes place across a wider geography, unlike wheat which is grown only in a few states north of the Vindhyas.
 - Also, rice is both a Kharif (monsoon) and rabi (winter-spring) season crop.
 - So, the losses in one area or season can potentially be recouped from the other.

Scientists solve the curious case of Himalayan glaciers resisting Global Warming

What is the News?

- Researchers have made great progress in finding out why a few areas of glaciers in the



Karakoram Range are defying the global trend of glaciers losing mass and resisting glacial melt caused by climate change.

Background

- Himalayan glaciers are of utmost importance, particularly for the millions of people who live downstream and depend on these perennial rivers for their daily water demands.
- However, under the effects of global warming, they are rapidly disappearing and in the ensuing decades, suffocating demand on the water supplies is unavoidable.
- On the other hand, the glaciers in central Karakoram have surprisingly remained the same or even slightly risen during the past few decades.
- This behaviour seems to be confined to a very small region with only the Kunlun ranges being another example of showing similar trends in the whole Himalayas.

How have glaciers in the Karakoram range remained the same?

- Researchers have claimed that the recent revival of western disturbance has been instrumental in triggering and sustaining ‘Karakoram Anomaly’.
- The study has found that Western Disturbances are the primary feeder of snowfall for the Karakoram region during winters.

- For instance, WDs constitute about around 65% of the total seasonal snowfall volume and about 53% of the total seasonal precipitation, easily making them the most important source of moisture.
- Moreover, the precipitation intensity of WDs impacting Karakoram has increased by around 10% in the last two decades which only enhances their role in sustaining the regional anomaly.

What is the significance of this study?

- Previous studies have highlighted the role of temperature in establishing and sustaining the anomaly over the years.
- This is for the first time that the impact of precipitation in feeding the anomaly has been highlighted.

GI Tag to White Onion



In News

- Alibag’s white onion gets GI tagged, to benefit farmers as white onion will get premium price.

About

- With its picturesque beaches,

Alibag, in the Raigad district of Maharashtra, is one of the popular tourist spots.

- This historic place will be now recognized for Geographical Indication (GI) tagged white onion.
- The GI for this onion, characterised by its sweetness, has been accepted.
- The GI tag gives a unique identity to the white onion, which has medicinal qualities and is being cultivated in a traditional way for a long time.
- Farmers will directly get benefits as the white onion will get the premium price because of the GI tag.

What is a Geographical Indication (GI)?

- It is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place.
- It is a part of the intellectual property rights that comes under the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property.
- In India, Geographical Indications registration is administered by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act of 1999.
- **Items Covered:** Agricultural products, foodstuffs, wine and spirit drinks, handicrafts, and industrial products.



Geographical Indication Tag

IX. Environment

Air Pollution

- India ranks second in the list of countries with the highest pollution



- Air pollution is increasing in states including Delhi, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
- There will come a time when we have to pay for 'pure air'. Lack of Awareness.
- Air pollution poses a risk to the

- developing fetus to the elderly.
- Average life expectancy of Indians will decrease by 5 years.
- The average life expectancy of people worldwide will decrease by 2.2 years.
- 46 lakh people a year are dying due to respiratory problems
- In 2019, 1,16,000 babies were born and died in a single month in India alone.
- Various diseases including lung damage, heart disease and cancer are likely to occur.
- While air pollution which has been increasing only in cities, now it also increases in villages.

- The main reason for this is lack of awareness about air pollution
- The reason is garbage burnt in villages, crop waste burnt by farmers and forests burn due to climate change.
- An increasing number of factories are emitting from vehicles.
- Smoke is the major cause of air pollution.

Battery Vehicle

- According to the Union Government's Pollution Control Board, 72% of air pollution is caused by exhaust fumes from petrol vehicles.

- To avoid this, people are forced to use battery vehicles more and more.
- If the air pollution continues to increase, the next generation will face severe effects.
- Therefore, the Union Government should come up with a new plan to control air pollution across the country.
- According to the World Health Organization's, Delhi, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh states have the worst air pollution problem
- If the current situation continues, the life expectancy of the people of Delhi will decrease by 10.1 years.
- The life expectancy of the people of Uttar Pradesh will decrease by 8.9 years and the life expectancy of the people of Bihar by 7.9 years.

Pollution

- It has been revealed that India's Ganga plain region is the worst polluted region in the world.
- Among the countries with the highest number, Bangladesh ranks first and India ranks second.

Some ways to escape

- If people use public transport, traffic congestion in the city will be reduced.
- Through this, air pollution can be brought under control.
- This should be implemented in cities with high air pollution.
- Officials should regularly inspect the 'air quality' coming out of factories.
- If there is an increase in air pollution, the cause should be identified immediately and action should be taken.
- It is very important to grow more trees that are companions of pure air.
- Everyone should take more care in growing trees.
- More awareness programs should be conducted in schools and colleges about air pollution.

6 Types of Pollution

- 0-50 - No harm to people
- 51-100 - Moderately harmful for patients
- 101-150 – Harmful for patients
- 151-200 Harmful for healthy people
- 201-300 Very harmful for people
- 301-500 Very very dangerous.

Environment – A Fundamental Right

- G7 Conference held in Germany
- India is giving importance to environmental protection.
- India's commitment to protecting the environment is reflected in action.
- In his speech, the Prime Minister mentioned that India has achieved the target of 40 % share of non-conventional energy in total energy consumption nine years ago.

But what is the reality?

- India is second in the list of most polluted countries.
- Air pollution is increasing in Delhi, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and other states.
- If air pollution increases, the life expectancy of people will decrease. The time may come to buy clean air at a price.
- The life expectancy of Indian people will decrease by an average of five years.
- The average life expectancy of the world's population will decrease to 2.2 years,
- According to Gandhiji, every man should remember that nature can fulfill the needs of people.
- Only then can humans save themselves from destruction.
- According to the Pollution Control Board of the Central Government, 72% of the pollution is caused by the smoke emitted from petrol and diesel vehicles.
- The use of electric vehicles should be made mandatory.
- People should also switch to public transport.
- Bicycles can be used for short distance trips.
- This should be implemented at least in cities where air pollution is high.
- Factories should be regularly inspected by officials.

- If the air pollution suddenly increases, the cause should be identified and action should be taken.
- It is necessary to grow more trees which are responsible for clean air.

Article 21

- Awareness programs should be conducted in schools and colleges about air pollution
- Article 21 of the Constitution of India states that a healthy environment is a fundamental human right to life.
- Based on this, Ecological disturbance, water pollution and air pollution are offenses under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.
- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has decided to amend the three Acts, Environment Protection Act 1986, Air Pollution Prevention-Control Act 1986, Water Pollution Prevention-Control of 1974 to dilute the penalties.
- It is planned to remove the sections that punish first-time violators of environmental laws with imprisonment of up to five years and instead increase the fine from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.5 lakh.
- A person who violates the law will be punished with imprisonment only if he does not pay the fine.

Wind power generation in Tamil Nadu

- Wind power generation accounts for 35% of Tamil Nadu's total power consumption.
- Out of the total 25,000 wind turbines in the country, Tamil Nadu alone has 12,000 wind turbines.
- For the 7 th consecutive day, 100 million units of electricity have been produced daily through wind farms.
- Wind speed is usually high in Tamil Nadu from May to September.
- Maximum wind power has been generated in 6 months.
- Coimbatore, Tirupur, Dindigul, Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli and Tuticorin districts in Tamil Nadu have a large number of wind mills.
- Wind turbines have been set up in Tamil Nadu for a production capacity of 8,518 MW.

Nerium Oleander

About

- Thousands of vehicles fly on the highways.
- Carbon toxins are high in the fumes emitted from these vehicles.
- This toxic gas pollutes the air and causes respiratory problems for road users.
- That is why chevvarali plants are grown in the middle of the road to control this toxic air.

- The leaves and soil in the sevvarali plant remove carbon particles from the air, removing pollutants from the air and turning it into pure air.



- This allows you to breathe clean air while traveling on highways.
- That's why more and more are being grown in the barriers in the middle of the highway.
- Also, they are drought tolerant and resistant to soil erosion.
- These plants also have the power to reduce vehicle noise.
- It is said that these plants have the ability to prevent the headlights of vehicles coming on the opposite roads from affecting the drivers too much.
- The leaves are less dense and the cost of maintaining them is less.
- Animals do not naturally eat the leaves of this plant.
- For the purpose of aesthetics and all these facilities, the Nerium plants are placed on many highways and they can flourish during the rainy season.

- It is necessary to protect it properly.
- It should be developed at the same level.
- If it grows too much, accidents will happen when people cross the road.
- That is why plants are grown and maintained at a low height in the middle of the road.

Electric Vehicle Fire-Government sets up panel to Suggest Certification

- Amid increasing instances of fires in EVs, Centre has formed a panel to formulate procedures on battery certification and quality control.
- Reasons for fire may include manufacturing defects, external damage, faulty charging or faults in the deployment in the battery management system, which could result in these batteries becoming a fire risk.
- With growing concern over climate changes and a larger aim to reduce its crude import bill, government's focus is on pushing passengers vehicle owners to shift to EVs.
- Different types of batteries are available to power EVs such as Li-ion, solid state, Nickel-Metal Hydride etc.
- However, Li-ion batteries are most preferred because of their high power-to-weight ratio, high energy efficiency, low self-discharge etc.

Step Taken for Battery safety

- Bureau of Indian Standard (Bis) formulated performance standards for EV Batteries.
- Constitution of a probe Committee to look into fire incidents reasons.
- Regenerative braking to increase its range by recovering energy.
- Re-use of EV batteries in factories and home energy battery storage systems.

Fire in electric car

- Amid increasing cases of fire in electric vehicles, the Union Government has recently constituted an expert panel to probe the recent series of battery explosions in electric vehicles (EVs).

Battery fires in electric vehicles

- Manufacturers like Okinawa and Pure EV have recalled some batches of electric scooters due to fire incidents in the electric vehicles.
- Recently, an old man died at his home in Telangana after the battery of an electric scooter exploded while being charged.
- A Tata Nexon EV caught fire in Maharashtra last month, which is being seen as the first major instance of a passenger vehicle catching fire in India.
- The committee will suggest ways to ensure the right quality of the product.

- They have to come up with a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for testing and validation of key components and formulate a certification standard for the battery used in EVs.

Reason for opting for electric vehicles

- **Climate change:**
 - The growing concern over climate change has led to global efforts to electrify the transportation sector, so that dependence on fossils could be reduced.
- **Cost of battery:**
 - The cost of Li-ion (Lithium-ion) battery technology has decreased by a staggering order of magnitude in the last decade.
- **Government incentives:**
 - Various governments are providing incentives to user in the transition and private industry ramping up plans for capturing the market.

Reasons for fire in electric vehicles

- The world is racing towards electric vehicles, with vehicle companies, battery manufacturers, and material suppliers competing with each other for market share.
- However, Li-ion batteries are complex devices requiring a level of sophistication that can take years to perfect.

- Hurrying the development of this complex technology without careful safeguards can lead to increasing safety incidents, as evidenced recently on Indian roads.
- The reasons for fire may include manufacturing defects, faulty charging, external damage, or faults in the deployment in the battery management system, which could result in these batteries becoming a fire risk.
- **Issue in battery:**
 - Battery fires, like other fires, occur due to the convergence of three parts of the "fire triangle": heat, oxygen, and fuel.
- If an adverse event such as a short circuit occurs in the battery, the internal temperature can raise as the anode and cathode release their energy through the short.

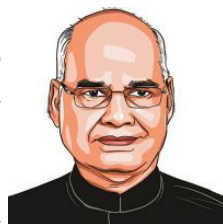
Pallikaranai Pichavaram Swamp in Tamil Nadu

- Swamp lands in TN have been included in Ramsar Lands including Pallikaranai, Pichavaram.
- Mangroves play an important role in protecting the environment.
- Countries committed to take measures to prevent the destruction of wetlands.
- An international agreement was signed in 1971 at Ramsar in Iran to ensure the protection of these wetlands.

- Under the treaty, it was committed to pay more attention to the conservation of wetlands of international importance.
- Importantly, countries committed to take measures to prevent the destruction of wetlands.
- 49 wetlands in India have already been included in the Ramsar list.
- The new additions to the Ramsar list include Pallikaranai, Pichavaram Swamp in Tamil Nadu, the Crocodile Bird Sanctuary, Mizoram's Pala Mangrove and Madhya Pradesh's Sakya Nagar Mangrove.
- The number of wetlands has increased to 54.
- It is noteworthy that February 2, the date of signing of the Ramsar Convention, is celebrated as the International Mangrove Day.

Ram Nath Kovind: The Environment Ambassador

- He has requested that we must take care to protect the environment, land, water and air considering the future of our children.
- Take utmost care in protecting trees, rivers, seas, peaks and all living things in our daily life.
- Ram Nath Kovind has been an ambassador who has continuously created awareness about ecology.



- The 26th UN climate change conference was held in Glasgow, Scotland.
- He also recalled the pledge made at the Climate Change Conference to reduce India's carbon emissions to 1 billion tonnes by 2030.

MOEF & CC Proposes Amendments in environment protection Act, to decriminalize provisions

- Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MOEF&CC) sought feedback on the proposal to decriminalize the existing provisions of the Environment protection Act, (EPA) 1986.
- **Proposed changes**
 - Continue with criminal provisions of Indian penal code, 1860 for serious violations while failure or contravention or non-compliance for smaller issues can be dealt by penalties.
 - Increase in penalty amount to 5 lakh which may extend to 5 crore.
 - For continued violations beyond a period of one year the penalty shall not be less than 50,000 per day; which may extend to 5 lakh
 - Creation of Environment protection Fund under section 17A of EPA, 1986 for payment of penalties imposed by the Adjudicating Officer for environment damages.

- Insertion of Section 15D to allow aggrieved persons to appeal to the National Green Tribunal.
- The EPA, 1986 was enacted under Article 253 of the Indian Constitution to take appropriate steps for the protection and improvement of the human environment based on the UN Conference on the Human Environment at Stockholm, 1972.
- It established the framework for long-term environmental safety and laid down a system of speedy and adequate response to situations threatening the environment.

NITI Aayog Report on Alternative products and technology to Plastics and their application

- The Expert committee was formed to assess the development of research on plastic alternatives or technologies making plastic degradable.
 - Report postulates clear definitions of bioplastics, biodegradable plastics, compostable plastics, and oxo-degradable plastics.

Key findings of report

- India produces approximately 3.47 million tons of plastic waste per annum, out of which only 60% is collected for recycling.
- Need to manage plastic waste, especially microplastics (plastic

particles with size up to 5mm) due to their increasing concentration on land, air and water bodies.

- Informal sector and vulnerable groups significantly contribute to recycling waste.
- Bioplastics need significant technology investment and scale to become a cost effective alternative.
- Emerging technologies are developed to add additives for making plastics biodegradable polyolefins, such as polypropylene and polyethylene.

Recommendations

- Strengthening waste minimization through extended producer responsibility (EPR).
- Proper labelling and collection of compostable and biodegradable plastics.
- Enhanced transparency in disclosing waste generation, collection, recycling or scientific disposal to bring accountability and avoid green washing.
- Greenwashing is the practice of conveying a false impression or providing misleading information about a company's products as environmentally sound.
- Encouraging R&D and incentivizing the manufacturing sector.
- Bio-plastics encompass many materials that are either bio-sourced or biodegradable or both and are made from renewable biomass resources.

- Biodegradable plastics are plastics, other than compostable plastics, which undergo complete degradation by biological processes, has adverse environment impacts.
- Compostable plastics undergo degradation by biological processes during composting to yield CO₂, inorganic compounds and biomass at consistent rate with other known compostable materials, excluding conventional petro-based plastics.
- Oxo-degradable plastics are conventional plastics such as PE, which include an additive to help them break down into smaller fragments, which could lead to microplastic leakage in environment.

Shendurney wildlife sanctuary

- **About shendurney wildlife sanctuary (part of Agsthyamali Biosphere Reserve):**
 - Owes its name to the endemic species, Ghuta Travancorica, locally known as 'Chenkunji'
 - **Location:** Southern Kerala.
 - **Year of formation:** 1984
 - **Topography:** Altitude ranging from 100 to 1550m. Highest peak is Alwarkurichi.
 - **Drainage:** The major rivers are shendurney, kazhuthuruthy and kulathupuzha which join together to form the kallada river.

- **F l o r a :**  Gluta trivancorica, Terminalia paniculate, T.ballerica, Cul-lenia exarillita etc.
- **F a u n a:** Elephant, Gaur, Sambar, Wild bear, M a l a - bar giant  squirrel, Nilgiri langur, Lion-Tailed macaque etc.

Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar campaign

- Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar Campaign by Ministry of Earth Science to Celebrate International Coastal Clean-up Day.
 - It'll be First-of-its-kind and longest running coastal cleanup campaign in world with highest number of people participating in it.
 - It'll aim to clean around 1,500 tonnes of waste material from Indian coasts, relieving not only tourists or locals but also aquatic life and marine animals endangered by littering on the shores.
 - Globally, "International Coastal Clean up Day" is celebrated on third Saturday of September every year.
- Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, Gujarat among top Indian plastic waste producers.
 - Finding are based on Central pollution Control Board (CPCB) data.

Other key findings

- India ranks fifth in generation of plastic waste with an annual discharge of 3.5 million tone in 2020.
- Almost 83% of this comes from just 10 states/Uts.
- On a per capita basis, India's plastic waste generation has almost doubled over FY2016-20; however, remains lower than most of the developed economies.
- Recently, Centre banned manufacturing, imports, distribution and sale of single-use plastics items across the country, effective 1 July.

The Ozone hole over the tropics

- Scientists revealed a large, all-season ozone hole in the lower stratosphere over the tropics comparable in-depth to that of the Antarctic hole, but roughly seven time greater in area.
- All-season ozone hole is defined as an area of ozone loss larger than 25% compared with the undisturbed atmosphere.
- Ozone (O₃) layer is a high ozone concentration region in the stratosphere, protecting life on earth by absorbing harmful ultraviolet radiations from the sun.
- Thinning the ozone layer was confirmed in 1985 through the formation of the ozone hole over the Antarctic during the Southern Hemisphere spring.

- Casues-Rease of certain chemicals e.g., chlorine and bromine, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), halons, and carbon tetrachloride.

Initiatives to protect Ozone Layer

- Vienna Convention on protection of Ozone Layer 1985 for the promotion of research and monitoring of human activities on the Ozone layer.
- In 1987, the Montreal protocol was adopted to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the chemicals which deplete it.
- The Kigali Agreement (adopted in 2016 and entered into force in 2019), provided a path to achieve an 80% reduction in HFCs (not ozone-depleting but have high global warming potential) consumption by 2047.

Impact of ozone layer depletion

- Increase ground-level UV radiation, increasing the risk of skin cancer and cataracts in humans, as well as weakening human immune systems.
- Decrease agricultural productivity and affects terrestrial and aquatic biogeochemical cycles.

IPBES Assessment Report on the sustainable use of wild species

- Intergovernmental science-policy platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service (IPBES) Assessment Report offers insights, analysis and tools to establish more sustainable use

of wild species of plants, animals, fungi and algae around the world.

- Sustainable use is when biodiversity and eco system functioning are maintained while contributing to human well-being.

Key highlights

- Humans depend on 50,000 wild species for food, energy, medicine, material and purposes through fishing, gathering, logging and terrestrial animal harvesting globally.
- Sustainable use of wild species is central to the identity, existence and livelihood of many indigenous peoples and local communities.
- Overexploitation is identified as the main threat to wild species in marine ecosystems and second greatest threat in terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems.
- Drivers like landscape and seascape changes, climate change, pollution and invasive alien species impact abundance and distribution of wild species.
- Fairness, rights and equitable distribution of benefits are essential to ensure the sustainable use of wild species.
- IPBES (Secretariat: Bonn, Germany) is an independent inter-governmental platform established in 2012, committed to strengthening the role of science in public decision-making on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Strategy Paper of establishment of offshore wind energy projects released by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)

- While onshore wind energy technologies have become competitive with fossil fuel based electricity generation, exploitation of offshore wind energy is yet to reach a comparable scale.
- **Strategy paper speaks of three models of offshore development:**
 - First bids for areas where National Institute of wind Energy (NIWE, a body under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy) has carried out studies (like Gulf of Kambhat),
 - Second, blocks where developers would to their own studies.
 - Third, NIWE would auction large offshore blocks that are not covered by first two models.
- Benefits of offshore wind energy: No land constraint issue for projects, winds free from obstructions, more efficient compared go onshore ones, higher operating hours etc.

India's initiatives for offshore wind Energy

- Facilitating offshore wind Energy in India (FOWIND) project to assess offshore wind potential.

- National Offshore wind Energy Policy-2015 for offshore wind power development up to a seaward distance of 200 nautical miles from the baseline, i.e., up to the country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

About India's wind Energy sector

- India has the 4th largest wind power capacity in the world.
- MNRE has set a target of installing 5 GW of offshore capacity by 2022 and 30 GW by 2030.

Heat Island Effect

- Experts believe that urban heat island effect could be a factor for less rain in Delhi.
- An urban heat island occurs when a city experiences much warmer temperatures than nearby rural areas.
- It occurs when cities replace natural land cover with dense concretisation that absorb and retain heat.
- This effect increase energy costs (e.g., for air conditioning), air pollution levels, and heat-related illness and mortality.
- Steps that can be taken: Using more reflective gray coating on buildings, pavements etc, planting gardens on urban rooftops, permeable building materials etc.

Red pandas

- Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological park (West Bengal) has started programme to release 20 red pandas in about five years to the forests.

- Red pandas are shy, solitary and arboreal (Spending life on trees) animals and considered an indicator species for ecological change.
- They feed mainly on bamboo.
 - Almost 50% of red panda's habitat is in the Eastern Himalayas.
 - In India, it is found in Sikkim (State Animal), Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Meghalaya.
- India is home to both (sub) species: Himalayan red panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) and Chinese red panda (*Ailurus styani*)
- IUCN Status-Endangered.



Decriminalisation of India Forest Act, 1927

- Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change is undertaking review of the act to decriminalise minor sections the law.
 - Indian Forest Act, 1927 provides legal frame work for protection and management of forest, transit of forest produce and timber etc.
- Proposed changes include decriminalising kindling a fire or carrying fire in forest areas; felling trees and dragging timber etc.
- Ministry is also seeking to replace the provision of imprisonment for six months and fine, with a fine of 500.

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)

- NMCG laid down 1,300 km of sewage pipes across six states to clean Ganga.
 - Six states are Delhi, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
- NMCG also launched flagship programme 'Arth Ganga' to showcase local products and crafts, promote organic farming in Ganga basin and generate employment.
- NMCG was registered as a society in 2011 under Societies Registration Act, 1860.
 - It acted as implementation arm of National Ganga River Authority (NGRBA) which was constituted under provisions of Environment (Protection) Act (EPA), 1986.

The Commission for AIR Quality Management (CAQM) Released the policy to curb Air Pollution in the Delhi (NCR)

- The policy deals with thermal power plants, clean fuels, electric mobility, public transportation, road traffic management, etc.
- Policy identifies critical areas of transformation aimed at meeting the national ambient air quality standards, including:
 - Widespread access to affordable clean fuels and

technology in the industry, transport, and households.

- Mobility transition including through mass transit, electrification of vehicles, building walking and cycling infrastructure and reducing personal vehicle usage, etc.
- Circular economy for material recovery from waste to prevent its dumping and burning.
- Dust management from construction and demolition roads/Right of Way (RoW) and open areas with appropriate technology, infrastructure, and greening measures.
- Strict time-bound implementation, improved monitoring and compliance.
- It also provides a review of the Graded Response Action plan (GRAP)-a set of anti-air pollution measures.
 - Notified by ministry Environment and Forests in 2017, GRAP is a set of anti-air pollution measures followed in Delhi and its vicinity according to the severity of the situation.

About CAQM

- It was established in 2021 as a statutory body to function as an umbrella organization for better coordination of research, identification, and resolution of problems related to air quality in the NCR and adjoining areas.

- It has replaced the Environment pollution prevention and Control Authority and supersedes the bodies such as the central and state pollution control boards of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, UP, and Rajasthan.

Right to Repair - LiFE Style for the Environment

- In a bid to emphasize on the LiFE (Lifestyle For the Environment) movement through sustainable consumption, DCA set up a committee to develop comprehensive frame work on Right to Repair.
 - Key sectors identified for this frame work include Framing Equipment, Mobile phones/ Tablets, consumer durables and Automobiles & Automobile Equipment.
- Right to repair movement calls for manufacturers to make authentic parts available to consumers so that they can get their device repaired from independent shops as well, if they so desire.
 - Right to Repair has been recognised in many countries including the Us, UK and European Union.

Need of Right to Repair movement

- To boost business for small repair shops
- Due to the culture of 'planned obsolescence' i.e. devices are designed specifically to last

limited amount of time and to be replaced.

- To reduce immense pressure on the environment and wasted natural resources.
- Save money and time of the consumer.

Concern associated with right to repair

- Large tech companies including Apple, Tesla, etc. argued that it'll open up their intellectual property to third party repair services or amateur repairers could jeopardise safety and security of their devices.

About' Lifestyle For the Environment (LiFE) Movement'

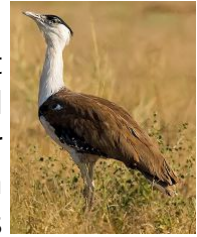
- The idea of Life was introduced by the PM during the 26th UN Climate change Conference of the parties (COP26), 2021 at Glasgow.
- Its Vision is to live a lifestyle that is in tune with our planet and does not harm it. People living such a lifestyle are called "pro-plant people (p3)"
- The Mission seeks to create an ecosystem that will reinforce and enable environmentally friendly behaviours to be self-sustainable.

Critically Endangered Great Indian Bustard (GIB) Count Falls Below 100

- The population of GIB is dwindling due to lack of action to convert the overhead cable to

underground power transmission in Gujarat and Rajasthan.

- In April, 2021, Supreme Court has ordered the power companies in the two states



to make the high-tension power lines underground so that GIB do not caught in the web.

- A three-members high-level committee was also formed to look into the feasibility of the work.
- However, Centre and Rajasthan government objected to this order stating the order was not feasible as it was ridden with potential safety risks, high cost, adverse implications for the power sector, and energy transition away from fossil fuels.
 - Area falling in GIB habitat is crucial for development of the renewable energy sector.
- **Other Threats to GIB:** Hunting, habitat erosion, 'greening' projects that transform arid grasslands to wooded areas, predators preying on the eggs, etc.
- **Steps taken for GIB Conservation:**
 - It is one of the Species for Recovery programme under Integrated Development of wildlife Habitats of the Ministry of Environment and forests.

- Included under National Wildlife Action plan (2002-2016).
- **About the GIB**
 - **Habitat:** Arid and semi-arid grasslands, open country with thorn scrub, tall grass interspersed with cultivation.
 - It avoids irrigated areas.
 - Rajasthan has the highest population and it is endemic to Indian Sub-continent.
 - **IUCN Status:** Critically Endangered
 - **Important sites:** Desert National Park Sanctuary (Rajasthan), Naliya (Gujarat), Warora (Maharashtra) and Bellary (Karnataka)

National Mission on the Use of Biomass in Thermal power plants (SAMARTH)

- Recently, SAMARTH Collaborated with NTPC and organized a one-day workshop on exit utilization of agricultural residue for co-firing in thermal power plants.
- SAMARTH was launched by the Ministry of power in 2021 to promote use of agro-residue to produce zero-carbon electricity.
 - It mandates that all thermal power plants in the country use between 5-10% of biomass alongside coal to produce power.
 - It also promotes research

and development work in designing boilers to handle a greater amount of silica & alkalis in biomass pellets.

Asiatic Black Bears

- They are also called Himalayan bear, Tibetan bear, or moon bear.
- Found from southern Iran to Himalayas in India, southeast Asia, and parts of eastern Asia, including Japan.



- **Habitat:** Steep mountains, deciduous forests, mixed forests, thorn brush forests, moist forests.
- **Scientific name:** Ursus thibetanus
- IUCN Red list – Vulnerable
- Listed under Appendix I in CITES and Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
- **India has four species of bears:** Asiatic Black, Sloth, Sun and Himalayan Brown Bear.
- Threat-Hunting, habitat loss from logging and conversion of forest to agriculture in China.

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2022 (GP2022)

- Recently, the seventh session of the GP2022 was organized by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) in Bali, Indonesia.

- GP2022 is the main global forum to assess and discuss progress on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Key take aways of GP2022 outcomes as summarised in the Bali Agenda for Resilience

- There is a need for a whole-of-society approach to disaster risk reduction (DRR), ensuring no one is left behind.
- DRR must be at the core of development and finance policies, legislation and plans to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- A participatory and human rights-based approach in DRR planning and implementation is crucial as people are affected differently by disasters.
- DRR and climate change adaptation have the common objective of reducing vulnerability and enhancing capacity as well as resilience.

About UNDRR

- It is the United Nations system's focal point for disaster risk reduction and the custodian of the Sendai Framework, supporting countries and societies in its implementation, monitoring and review of progress.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

- It was the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda and provides Member

States with concrete actions to protect development gains from the risk of disaster.

Amendments to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) rules

- Centre has notified amendments to EIA rules
- Exempts highway projects related to defence and strategic importance within 100 km of Line of Control or border from requirement of environmental clearance.
- Increases exemption threshold of biomass-based power plants which use auxiliary fuels such as coal, lignite or petroleum products up to 15% and fish handling capacity of ports and harbours which exclusively handle fish.
- Exempts projects pertaining to expansion of terminal buildings at airports (without an increase in existing area of airport) from seeking green nod.

Why is Kerala protesting supreme court's Ecologically Sensitive Zones (ESZ) Notification

- Recently, Supreme Court (SC) directed all states to have a mandatory 1-km ESZ from the demarcated boundaries of every protected forest land, national park & wildlife sanctuary.
- Following it, Kerala State Assembly passed a resolution urging the Centre to exclude the State's human habitations,

farmlands and public institutions from ESZ's purview.

- If 1-km ESZ is demarcated, around 4 lakh acres of human settlements, including farmlands, would come within that purview, adversely impacting the State's interests besides upsetting lives of millions living near the protected areas.

Eco-Sensitive Zones

- ESZs are created as 'shock absorbers' for the protected areas, to minimize the negative impact on the fragile ecosystems by certain human activities,
- ESZs are the areas meant to act as a transition zone from areas requiring higher protection to those requiring lesser protection.
- ESZs are notified under the Environment Protection Act 1986.
- National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016) mentioned the land within 10km (extent of its application can vary) of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries is to be notified as eco-fragile zones or Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ).

India Inks Pact with Namibia for Cheetah Reintroduction

- India and Namibia have signed a MoU to reintroduce Cheetahs at the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh by August 15, 2022.

- Namibia has the world's largest population of cheetahs.
- Cheetahs will arrive in India for a one-year trial period after lifting off of stay by SC in 2020.

- KNP will receive first tranche of eight cheetahs by August 15 and separately,



India is also expected to get 12 cheetahs from South Africa.

- KNP has an adequate prey base, devoid of human settlements, has capacity to sustain 21 cheetahs etc. Once restored, it can hold about 36 cheetahs.
- It will be the only wildlife sanctuary in the world to host all four major cat species – lion, tiger, cheetah and leopard.
- Cheetah is the only large carnivore that was declared extinct in India in 1952, mainly due to over-hunting and habitat loss.
- **African Cheetahs** (IUCN status: Vulnerable), are being considered for reintroduction as Asiatic Cheetah (IUCN: critically endangered) are low in numbers which is known to occur only in Iran now.

- Cheetah is a keystone species of dry forests, scrub forests, and savannahs.
- It was declared extinct in India in 1952 due to over-hunting and loss of habitat

Bioplastics

- A British firm recently claimed that it has produced the world's first bioplastic vinyl record, which it hopes will reduce the need for highly toxic Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC).
- Bioplastics are derived from sources such as sugars and starches, rather than oil or gas, and do not create any toxic waste in their production.
 - These are 100% degradable, equally resistant and versatile, already used in agriculture, textile industry, medicine, in the container, packaging market etc.

Lok Sabha pass the Indian Antarctic Bill 2022

- Bill seeks to give effect to the Antarctic Treaty and extend application of domestic laws to research stations set up by India in the Antarctic region.
 - The Antarctic Treaty was signed in 1959 by 12 countries, implemented in 1961.
 - Presently, the total number of parties to the treaty is 54 (including India)

Key Highlights of Bill

- Prohibit Indian expedition to Antarctica without permit or

- written authorization of another party to Antarctic Treaty.
- Constitute a fund for welfare of Antarctic research work and protection of the environment of the icy continent.
- Extend jurisdiction of Indian courts to Antarctica and lays out penal provision for crimes on the continent by Indian citizens, foreign citizens who are part of Indian expeditions.
- Establish Committee on Antarctic Governance and Environmental Protection to monitor, implement and ensure compliance with international laws, emissions and standards.
- Prohibits mining, dredging and activities that threaten pristine conditions of Antarctica.

Significance of the bill

- Regulate visits and activities to Antarctica and set ground rules for potential disputes.
- Prevent exploitation of marine living resources and human presence in Antarctica.
- Opens way for Indian researchers to explore no man's land.

India's endeavor in Antarctica

- India signed the Antarctic Treaty in 1983 and soon received consultative status.
- The Madrid Protocol was signed by India which came into force in 1998.
- It designates Antarctica as a "natural reserve, devoted to peace and science".

India is also a member of

- Council of Managers of National Antarctica Programme (COMNAP)
- Scientific Committee of Antarctica Research (SCAR) and
- Commission for Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).
- India's Research Stations: Maitri at Schirmacher Hills, Bharati at Larsemann Hills.
 - Dakshin Gangotri was the first Indian base established in 1984.

Ministry of Earth Science (MoES): 34% of Coastline is under varying degrees of erosion for past 28 Years

- National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), an attached office of MoES is monitoring shoreline erosion since 1990, using remote sensing data and geographic information system (GIS) mapping techniques.
 - Totally, 6907.18 km long coastline of mainland has been analyzed for period from 1990 to 2018.
 - 26% of coastline is of an accreting nature, and 40% is in stable state.
 - West Bengal suffered most erosion followed by Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat.
- Coastal erosion can be defined as the long-term removal of sediment and rocks along the

coastline due to natural processes like wave action, tides, currents, wind-driven water etc.

- According to 'National Assessment of Shoreline Changes along Indian Coast' by NCCR, human activities like construction of coastal structures, beach and mining, offshore dredging etc. have also triggered coastal erosion.

Impacts of coastal erosion

- Destruction of animal and plant habitats and esthetic losses.
- Fishing industries dependent on coastal habitats suffer great economic impacts.
- Loss of fertile land.
- Damage transport infrastructure and loss of tourism.

Measures taken to prevent coastal erosion

- Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has carried out Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI) mapping to assess implications of sea-level rise along Indian coast.
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan (ICZM) to ensure optimum sustainable use of coastal natural resources.
- National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai to research in area of CZM including coastal resources and environment.

Ministry of power asks states to formulate plans for Biomass co-firing in Power Plants

- Objective is to formulate time-bound plans to ensure utilization of biomass for co-firing in Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) ahead of Kharif harvest season to reduce stubble burning and air pollution.
 - Earlier, in October 2021, government had issued policy for use of agro residue-based biomass and mandated use of five to seven per cent of biomass co-fired along with the coal for all thermal power plants.
 - The ministry had also launched SAMARTH (Sustainable Agrarian Mission on use of Agro Residue in TPPs) Mission in 2021 to use Biomass in TPPs.
- About Biomass co-firing – Biomass co-firing stands for burning biomass in coal-fired power plants along with coal.

Types of co-firing

- Direct co-firing (biomass and coal are burned in same furnace)
- Indirect co-firing (Solid biomass is converted to clean fuel gas, using a biomass gasifier)
- Parallel co-firing (A completely separate biomass boiler is installed in addition to conventional boiler)

- **Significance** – Minimise greenhouse gases, additional income for farmers, existing coal power plants can be retrofitted quickly and cost-effectively, works on existing network of coal plants.

Snow Leopard

- According to a study by the Zoological Survey of India, snow leopard regulates the populations of its herbivores prey Species-siberian ibex and blue sheep.



- Hence, a long-term absence of snow leopards could cause depletion of vegetation cover.

About snow leopard

- Schedule –I species of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- IUCN Red list status: Vulnerable

Toll of Human-Animal conflict on Tigers, Elephants and People

- Human-wildlife conflict is when encounters between humans and wildlife lead to negative results, such as loss of property, livelihoods, and even life.



Status of Human-animal conflict

- Between 2018-19 and 2020-21, 22,222 elephants were killed by electrocution.
- 29 tigers were killed by poaching between 2019 and 2021.
- Odisha accounted for highest number of elephants deaths followed by Jharkhand and West Bengal.

Causes of Human Wildlife Conflict

- Growth of population of wild animals.
- Changing cropping patterns that attract wild animals to farmlands.
- Movement of wild animals from forests area to human dominated landscapes for food & fodder.
- Movement of human beings to forests for illegal collection of forest produce.
- Habitat degradation due to growth of invasive alien species.

Steps taken to control conflict

- The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 with measures for peaceful coexistence.
- National Wildlife Action Plan 2017-35
- National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) for promotion of wildlife conservation and development of wildlife and forests.
- Uttarakhand carry out bio-fencing to prevent wild animals from entering residential areas and protect agricultural crops and livestock in areas adjoining to forests.

No new construction in Tiger Reserves' core areas: National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

- The decision was taken during the 21st meeting of the NTCA on the occasion of World Tiger Day (29 July 2022).

Key decisions taken

- Core areas will be for thriving and breeding of tigers and other wildlife alone.
- To provide greater thrust to technology and work harder for inclusive infrastructure growth in sync with wildlife conservation and promoting diversification of tourism.

Significance of Tiger conservation

- Maintain balance between herbivores and vegetation upon which they feed.
- Indicator of well-being of the ecosystem.
- Maintain harmony of the planet's ecosystems.

Steps taken to conserve tiger

- Project Tiger started in 1973 for in-situ conservation.
- Conservation Assured/ Tiger Standards (CA/TS) set criteria which allows tiger sites to check if their management will lead to tiger conservation.
- Global Tiger Forum and World Wildlife Fund India are imple-

menting partners of NTCA for CATS assessment in India.

Challenges of Tiger conservations

- As per Status of Tigers (2018), one in every three tigers in India lives outside reserves, thus increasing the man-animal conflict.
- Loss of habits due to anthropogenic activities.
- Relocation plan for tigers is a complex process involving an ecological change in habitat.
- According to the All-India Tiger Estimation released in 2019, India now has 2,967 tigers.
- Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of tigers followed by Karnataka and Uttarakhand.

Tiger Conservation Status

- IUCN : Endangered
- Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 : Schedule I
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) : Appendix I

Ministry of Power notifies 'Green Energy Open Access' Rules to accelerate ambitious renewable energy programme

What is the News?

- The Ministry of Power has notified Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2022.

What are Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2022?

- **Aim:** To ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and green energy for all.
- **Nodal Agency for Green Energy Open Access:** Ministry of Power has notified Power System Operation Corporation (POSOCO) as Central Nodal Agency to set up and operate a single window green energy open access system for renewable energy.

Key Provisions of the Rules

- Green Open Access is allowed to any consumer and the limit of Open Access Transaction has been reduced from 1 MW

to 100 kW for green energy, to enable small consumers also to purchase renewable power through open access.

- Consumers are entitled to demand-supply of Green Power from Discoms.
- Discoms would be obligated to procure and supply green power to eligible consumers.
- Approval for Green Open Access is to be granted in 15 days or else it will be deemed to have been granted.
- Commercial and Industrial consumers are allowed to purchase green power on a voluntary basis.
- There shall be a uniform Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO), on all obligated entities in the area of a distribution license.

- Green Hydrogen/Green Ammonia has also been included for the fulfilment of its RPO.
- Consumers will be given Green Certificates if they consume green power.

Who will determine the tariff for Green Energy?

- As per the Electricity Act 2003, the tariff for green energy shall be determined by Appropriate Commission.
- The tariff shall comprise of the average pooled power purchase cost of the renewable energy, cross-subsidy charges, if any, and service charges covering the prudent cost of the distribution licensee for providing green energy to the consumers.

X. Economy - Economy, Socio - Economic Issues

1. Economy

PM Launches schemes to strengthen Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)

- PM participated in the 'Udyami Bharat' programme and launched several key initiatives for MSMEs.
- MSME sector contributes around 30% of India's GDP, over 48% exports, 45% of manufacturing output and creates 11.1 crore jobs through 6.34 crore enterprises.

Initiative/Scheme About

- Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme
- To scale up implementation capacity and coverage of MSMEs, with impact enhancement of existing MSME schemes.
- It will complement the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan by fostering innovation, encouraging ideation, incubating new business and entrepreneurship.

Capacity Building of First - Time MSME Exporters (CBFTE) scheme

- To encourage MSMEs to offer products and services of international standards.
- This will enhance participation of Indian MSMEs in the global value chain and help them realise their export potential
- New features of the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)
- Increase in the maximum project cost to Rs.50 lakhs (from

Rs25 lakhs) for manufacturing sector and Rs.20 lakhs (from Rs 10 lakhs) in service sector.

- Inclusion of applicants from Aspirational districts & Trans-genders in Special Category applicants for availing higher subsidies.
- PMEGP (KVIC is the nodal agency) provides employment opportunities to unemployed youth by assisting setting up of micro - enterprises in non - farm sector.

Related News

- Around 140 Tribal youth turned village engineers were conferred skill certificates under Rural Tribal Technical Training or Grameen Udyami (Pilot Project for Skilling Tribal Youth).
- Pilot project, under Sansadiya Sankul Pariyojana, was launched in several states including MP, Chhattisgarh, Odisha etc.

Assessment of states/ UT's based on implementation of Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) for 2020 declared

- Department of promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), since 2014, has been releasing BRAP for steering Ease of Doing Business reforms across the country.
 - BRAP 2020 covers 15 business regulatory areas such as access to information, single- window system,

labour environment and sectoral reforms.

- Sectoral reforms were introduced for the first time in BRAP 2020 wherein 72 reforms were identified across 9 sectors.
- BRAP 2020 categorises states into top achievers, achievers, aspires, and emerging business ecosystems, against the earlier practice of announcing ranks.
 - Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Telangana were adjudged the top achievers.
- **Significance of BRAP**
 - Infuse a culture of learning from each other's best practices.
 - Create an investor - friendly ecosystem by fostering a business friendly climate in each State/UT.

◦ Streamlining the existing regulations and eliminating unnecessary requirement and procedures.

- BPAR exercise is carried out on the lines of annual assessment one by World Bank for its ongoing Business Report (DBR).
 - In 2021, World Bank decided to discontinue DBR after a review of data irregularities found in 2018 and 2020 reports.

Five years of Goods and Services Tax (GST)

- GST, launched on 1st July 2017, is a comprehensive, multi-stage, destination-based tax introduced through 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016 for a One Nation, One Tax, One Market regime.
- It was first discussed in the Kelkar Task Force report on indirect taxes in 2003-04.

| Achievements | Areas of concern |
|---|--|
| Increasing tax base from 63.9 lakh taxpayers in 2017 to 1.38 crore in 2022. | Multiple slabs instead of proposed three - rate GST structure with frequent changes. |
| Increasing monthly average collections to 1.24 lakh crore in 2021-22. | Lack of clarity on GST Compensation to states which ended with completion of 5 years. |
| Promote economic federalism through the GST Council. | Unequal Voting structure in GST Council. |
| Other benefits: Easy compliance, uniformity of tax rates, and structures, removal of cascading tax effect, Reduced logistics cost etc. | Certain items are still out of the GST regime like Petrol and Diesel. Other Challenges: Cumbersome filling structure, fake invoicing etc. |

India's External Debt rises

- India's external debt rose to \$620.7 billion at end-March 2022, recording an increase of \$47.1 billion over the previous year, as per RBI data.
 - U.S. dollar-denominated debt remained the largest component of India's external debt.
- External debt refers to money borrowed from outside the country and has to be paid back into the currency in which it is borrowed.
 - It can be obtained from foreign commercial banks, international financial institutions like IMF, World Bank etc. and from foreign governments.

Pradhan Mantri formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) completes two years

- PMFME is a centrally sponsored scheme launched by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) in 2020 under AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan to empower unorganized Micro Enterprises.

Key Provisions of PMFME

- **Objective:** To provide financial, technical and business support for upgradation of existing micro food processing enterprises.
- **Time Period:** Five years start-

ing from 2020-21 to 2024-25 with an outlay of ₹10,000 crore.

- **Approach:** 'One District One Product' with States to identify food products such as perishable agri-produce, cereal based product or other widely produced food product.
- Also, it is converged with Deendayal Antayodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY - NULM) of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
 - As part of convergence, the State Urban Livelihood Missions under DAY - NULM provides Seed Capital (as grant) to Area Level Federations (ALFs) involved in food processing.

Progress/achievements

- Currently it is implemented in 35 States and Union Territories.
- Over 1 lakh SHG members identified and seed capital amount of Rs.203 Cr. has been released so far.
- The digital GIS ODOP map has been developed.
- 75 Incubation Centers have been approved.

Financial Services Institution Bureau (FSIB) Replaced Banks Board Bureau (BBB)

- As reported, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the resolution for

establishing the FSIB in place of the BBB.

- ACC has asked the Department of Financial Services to carry out necessary modifications in the Nationalized Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Scheme of 1970/1980 with the approval of the Finance Minister, and then notify the government resolution for establishing FSIB.
- The move followed a directive by the Delhi High Court, which held that the BBB cannot select the general managers and directors of state-run general insurers, as it was not a competent body.
 - Subsequently, at least half-a-dozen newly-appointed directors of non-life insurers had to vacate their positions.
 - The BBB was formed in 2016 as an autonomous recommendatory body with the Centre notifying amendment to the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Scheme, 1980, that provided a legal framework for the composition and functions of the BBB.
- FSIB will be single entity for making recommendations for the appointments of
 - Whole-time directors
 - Non-executive chairmen in public sector banks (PSBs)

- State-run non-life insurance companies and other.
- Other financial institutions.

Rupee at record low as it crosses 79 per dollar mark for first time ever

Reasons for recent fall in Rupee

- Rising crude oil prices and of other commodities like edible oils due to the Russia-Ukraine War and other reasons.
 - India imports around 85% of its petroleum product demand.
- Change in monetary policies of central banks across the globe, especially US Federal Reserves to tame high inflation.
- Sustained capital outflows from Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) from India due to high valuations, rising bond yields in the US and risks of recession in the US.
 - Since October 2021, over \$33 billion have been pulled out by FPIs
- Domestic factors such as rise in current account deficit, inflation etc.

Impact of Rupee Depreciation

- Decline in forex reserves because of RBI efforts to arrest rupee fall.
- Rise in trade deficit to further widen the Current Account Deficit and Balance of Payments.
- It also helps boost exports through increased competitiveness.

Measures taken to arrest Rupee slide

- **Government:** Increase of customs duty on gold (from 10.75% to 15%); imposition of cesses and special additional excise duty on crude oil and aviation turbine fuel.
- Rate Hike from RBI to tackle rising inflation.

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment (FCRA) Rules, 2022

- Ministry of Home Affairs amended FCRA rules.
- **New rules**
 - Allowing Indians to receive up to Rs 10 lakh annually from relatives abroad without restrictions. Earlier limit was Rs.1 lakh.
 - If amount exceeds new limit, recipients have 90 days to intimate the government instead of 30 days allowed earlier
- FCRA Act aims at prohibiting acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution or foreign hospitality for any activities detrimental to the national interest.

Results of Ranking of States Exercise 2021 on support to Start - Up Ecosystem declared

- Ranking exercise aims to support states and UTs in developing their start - up ecosystem

and learn from the best practices in each state and UT.

- It was launched in 2018 by Department for promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- 24 States and 7 UTs were ranked based on their performance across 7 broad reform areas including Institutional Support; Fostering Innovation and Entrepreneurship; Access to Market; Funding Support; Mentorsip Support etc.
- Participants are graded as best performers, top performers, leaders, aspiring leaders, and emerging start-up ecosystems.
 - Gujarat, Karnataka and Maghalaya emerged as Best Performers in their respective categories.
- India is home to the world's third largest startup ecosystem after US and China.

Initiatives taken

- Startup India Initiative along with Startup India seed fund.
- Start - up Accelerators of MeitY for Product Innovation, Development and growth (SAMRIDH) programme.
- Fund of Funds for Startups with a total corpus of Rs 10,000 crore.
- IPR benefits and Tax exemptions tailored for Startups.
- National Startup Awards to recognize and reward outstanding Smartups and ecosystem enablers.

The Decline in Imports of toys into the Indian market

- Toy imports are down by 70% and exports up 61% over the last three years as Make in India yields positive results for the sector.
 - Since the PM's clarion call on "Rebranding the Indian Toy Story", the imports of toys to India has reduced from USD 371 mn(FY 2018-19) to USD 110 mn (FY 2021-22)

About India's Toy Industry

- Currently it is primarily an unorganized industry in India.



- It is estimated to be \$ 1.5 bn making up 0.5% of the global market share.
- Though India's toy market is worth \$ 1.7 billion, almost 85-90% of toys sold in India are made in China.
- A Parliamentary standing committee on commerce (2018) noted that the influx of Chinese toys into India has hampered local toy businesses.

Initiatives:

- Toycathon 2021 organised by Ministry of Education to conceptualise toys/games based on Indian Civilisation.

- National Action Plan for Indian Toy Story to boost local manufacturing.
- Under National Education Policy 2020 toy-making will be introduced to students from the

sixth standard onwards.

- Exemption on standardization for goods and articles manufactured and sold by registered local artisans.

| Toys | State |
|--|----------------|
| Channapatna toy, Kinnal toys | Karnataka |
| Etikoppaka Toys, Kondapalli toys | Andhra Pradesh |
| Nirmal toys | Telangana |
| Thanjavur Golu Dolls, Choppu saman | Tamil Nadu |
| Laiphadibi | Manipur |
| Asharikandi Terracotta Toys | Assam |
| Sambalpur toys and paper mache and stone toy | Odisha |
| Chankana (a toy with a whistle), ghuggu (rattle box for babies), lattoo (spinning top), handwai (kitchen sets) | Punjab |
| Thigda Dhingla | Gujarat |

World Bank releases Global Findex Database 2021: Financial Inclusion, Digital Payments, and Resilience in the age of COVID - 19

- Global Findex database surveyed how the people in 123 economies use formal and informal financial services including use of cards, mobile phones, and internet to make and receive digital payment throughout 2021.

India's Specific Findings

- India is among seven countries home to half the world's 1.4 billion adults without access to formal banking.

- Aadhaar system contributed to significant increase in financial inclusion, driving account ownership up to 80% of adults in 2017 from 35% in 2011.
- Internal fraud and leakage from pension payments dropped by 47% when the country transitioned from cash to sending payments to biometric smart cards.
- Distance to financial institutions, lack of trust, and lack of need, are the factors for bank account inactivity.

Recommendations

- Gender gap in mobile access must be addressed to ensure equitable progress on financial inclusion.

- Financial regulators and supervisory agencies should develop better supervisory monitoring systems to identify types of financial risks in the market.
- Establish clear guidelines for financial institutions about disclosures and transparency, as well as sound enforcement practices to ensure compliance.

About Financial Inclusion

- Financial inclusion means that individuals and businesses have access to useful and affordable financial products & services that meet their needs – transactions, payments, savings, credit, and insurance – delivered in a responsible and sustainable way.
- It helps in achieving ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity, and it is linked to various United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Development, Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) pitches for Gender Budgeting Act

- DMEO, an attached office under NITI Aayog, has called for mainstreaming of gender - based budgeting across all ministries through formulation of Gender Budgeting Act.
 - India is ranked 140 out of 156 countries as per Global Gender Gap Report 2021 (by World Economic Forum).
- DMEO is aimed at fulfilling organization's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mandate and building M&E ecosystem in India.
- Gender Budgeting is an outcome-oriented approach to government fiscal policy that seeks to use a country's budget as a tool to resolve societal gender inequality and promote inclusive development.
 - Beijing Declaration and platform for Action 1995 provided various policy recommendations with regard to Gender Budgeting
 - India has had a Gender Budget component since 2005-06.
 - Gender Budget statement comprises of two parts:
 - **Part A** : Highlights Women Specific Schemes, with 100% allocation for women.
 - **Part B** : Schemes where at least 30% of allocation is for women.

Gender Budgeting Promotes:

- Government-wide strategy for gender equality reform.
- Sound mechanisms to ensure accountability and sustainability of gender initiatives.
- Tools and evidence to inform policy decisions.
- There are two offices attached to the NITI Aayog, one is DMEO and other is National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (NILERD).

Finance minister chairs first meeting of apex monitoring authority of National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP)

- The mandate of apex monitoring authority is to periodically review the activities of NICDP.
- NICDP is India's infrastructure programme aiming to develop new industrial cities as "Smart Cities" and converging next generation technologies across infrastructure sectors.
- Under this, India is developing various industrial corridor projects.
 - Industrial corridors are dedicated high-end infrastructural multi-modal transport corridors in India that provides hassle-free fast mobility for industrial purposes.
- It will create employment opportunities and economic growth leading to overall socio-economic development.
- Also, National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC) Limited is developing 11 Industrial corridors comprising 32 nodes/projects for taking forward the vision set out under PM Gati Shakti.
 - NICDC Limited is a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) under Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

- NITI Aayog will also map different projects such as Industrial, Freight and Defence Corridors, PM-Mitra parks, Medical, Pharma and Logistic Parks to bring them under PM GatiShakti.
- PM Gati Shakti is National Master Plan (NMP) for Multi-modal Connectivity.
 - It is a digital platform to promote integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.
 - It will facilitate last mile connectivity of infrastructure and reduce travel time for people.
 - Small industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is the implementing agency.

6 pillars of PM Gati Shakti

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Comprehensiveness | One centralised portal for all existing/planned initiatives of various Ministries and Departments. |
| Prioritization | Cross-sectoral interactions among Departments to prioritize their projects. |
| Optimization | Identification of critical gaps in projects, select most optimum transport route in terms of time and cost. |
| Synchronization | By ensuring coordination of work between each department and different layers of governance |
| Analytical | Provide entire data at one place with GIS based spatial planning and analytical tools, enabling better visibility to executing agency |
| Dynamic | Satellite imagery will give on-ground progress periodically and projects progress will be updated on a regular basis on portal. |

Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MOHUA) launches Street Vendors Atmanirbhar Nidhi (SVANidhi) Mahotsav

- SVANidhi Mahotsav is a cultural festival for celebrating the success of Prime Minister SVANidhi Scheme and recognizing beneficiary street vendor's contribution towards Indian economy.
 - PM SVANidhi scheme, launched in 2020, facilitate working capital loans upto Rs 10,000 to street vendors to help them restart their businesses which were adversely impacted due COVID-19 pandemic.
 - It is a central sector scheme under MoHUA.
 - It is the first comprehensive effort for financial inclusion of street vendors.

Achievements under PM SVANidhi

- It is the fastest growing micro credit scheme.
- Over 36.6 lakh loans have been sanctioned till now.
- More than 30 lakh new vendors have been recognised through Letter of Recommendation (LoR).

Issues with PM SVANidhi

- 12-13% of loans disbursed to street vendors have become NPAs.
- Disbursement ratio in some areas remains low due to lack of awareness.
- Disparity among states in implementation.
- Only 40% street vendors repaid working capital loan given during Covid -19.

Way ahead

- Setting up camps to provide vendor certificates and LoR.
- Sensitisation of banking personnel.

Benefits of PM SVANidhi

- Amount can be repaid into monthly instalment in the tenure of 1 year.
- Interest subsidy on timely/early repayment of 7%.
- Monthly cash-back incentive on digital transactions.
- No penalty on early repayment of loan.

In a first, Andhra Pradesh government Agency Exports 120 Tonnes of Tobacco to the USA

- The export was done by A.P. MARKFED (Andhra Pradesh State Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd) to bail out farmers struggling to find buyers for low grade varieties.

Tobacco Cultivation in India

- The country has around 0.45 million hectares of area under tobacco cultivation. Globally, it accounts for 9% of the total tobacco production.
- India is the 2nd largest tobacco producer (behind China) and 2nd largest exporter of tobacco (behind Brazil).

Climatic Condition

- Basically tobacco is a semi tropical crop but can be successfully grown in tropical region.
- About 100 to 120 days frost-free climate with an average temperature of 80°F.
- Well distributed rainfall of 88 to 125 mm per month.
- Cannot tolerate high speed winds and storms during growth period.
- Light to medium loam soil which is poor in humus content but better in potash, phosphoric acid and iron.

Major tobacco growing states :

- Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka etc.

Governing body:

- Tobacco Board, headquartered in Andhra Pradesh, acts as a facilitator to the tobacco growers, traders and exporters.
- It is Under Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Types of Tobacco

- FCV (Flue Cured Virginia) Tobacco: Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka
- Bidi Tobacco: Gujarat & Karnataka
- Cigar & Cheroot: Tamil Nadu & West Bengal
- Hookah Tobacco: Assam, West Bengal, Bihar & U.P.
- Chewing & Snuff: Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Bihar, Assam & U.P.

India's Defence Exports Top Rs.13000 crore in FY 2021-22

- India's defence exports recorded an impressive 54.1% rise over the previous year touching a highest record of Rs.13000 crore.
 - Private sector accounted for 70% of the exports, while public sector firms accounted for the rest.
 - Previously, private sector dominated with a share of almost 90%.
- Exports to the US, Philippines and other countries in South-East Middle - East and Africa.

- Major exports include Brah-MoS Missile to Philippines, supply of all fuselages used by US attack helicopter Apache etc.
 - Recently, India's Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) has emerged as front runner for Malaysian fighter jet order.
- Government is making concerted efforts to enhance indigenous defence manufacturing in India including collaborative efforts with other countries to 'Make in India'.
 - India aims to achieve a turnover of USD 25 Billion including export of USD 5 Billion in Aerospace and Defence goods and services by 2025.

Initiatives

- Establishment of 2 Defence Industrial Corridors (Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu).
- Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)
- Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 to promote 'Make in India' & 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' in defence.
- Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti (boost IPR culture in indigenous defence industry).

Schemes to Provide Boosts for Pharma Infra

- Department of Pharmaceuticals (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers) has asked States and UTs to ensure wider participa-

tion in the new 'Strengthening of Pharmaceuticals Industry (SPI)' Scheme to strengthen the industry.

- **Objective of scheme:** Strengthening the existing infrastructure facilities of pharmaceutical industries to make India a global leader in the pharma sector.

Components of scheme

- **Assistance to Pharmaceutical Industry for Common Facilities (API-CF with outlay of Rs.178 crore):** Aims to strengthen existing pharma clusters' capacity for sustained growth, by creating common facilities with focus on research and development labs, testing laboratories etc.
- **Pharmaceutical Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme (PTUAS with outlay of Rs.300 crore):** Support pharma SMEs, either through up to a maximum of 5% per annum (6% in units owned and managed by SC/STs) of interest subvention or through credit-linked capital subsidy of 10%.
- **Pharmaceutical & Medical Devices Promotion and Development Scheme (PMPDS with outlay of Rs.21.5 crore):** To facilitate growth and development of Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Sectors through study/survey reports, awareness programs, creation of database etc.

About India's Pharma sector

- Largest manufacturer and exporter of generic medicines occupying a 20% share in global supply by volume.
- Largest vaccine producer in the world, accounting for 60% of global vaccine demand.
- Currently valued at \$41.7 billion, Indian pharma sector is expected to reach \$120 bn by 2030.

38 Discoms Qualify for Rs.1.9 Trillion under Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)

- RDSS is a Reforms-based and Results - linked scheme that seeks to improve operational efficiencies and financial sustainability of state owned DISCOMs/Power Departments by providing conditional financial assistance.
- It provides assistance to DISCOMs for modernisation and strengthening of distribution infrastructure.
- Under, it Power distribution companies (DISCOMs) would focus on loss - reduction initiatives in the first phase and will look at system strengthening in the second phase.
 - DISCOMs remain the most critical link in power sector value chain.
 - It generates cash that feeds to entire value chain right up to power generation and fuel supply.

Objectives of RDSS:

- Reduce aggregate technical & Commercial (AT & C) losses across DISCOMs to 12-15%.
- Reduce gap between average cost of power supply and average revenue realised to zero by FY 25.

Scheme has the following components

- Part A: Financial support for Prepaid Smart Metering and up-gradation of the Distribution Infrastructure.
- Part B: Training & Capacity Building and other Enabling & Supporting Activities.

Issues faced by DISCOMS:

- High - cost structure, insufficient and irregular revenue stream, high operational losses, and unsustainable levels of overdue and debt.

SARFAESI Act of 2002

- Banks have invoked Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of security.

About SARFAESI Act

- To guard financial institutions against loan defaulters.
- Banks can take control of securities pledged against the loan, manage or sell them to recover dues without court intervention.
- It is applicable throughout the country and covers all assets,

movable or immovable, promised as security.

- Comes into play if a borrower defaults on his or her payments for more than six months.

Most States Frame Draft Rules, Centre's Push on Rollout of Labour Codes

- To streamline labour laws in the country the Centre notified four broad labour codes (refer the table) that replaced 29 sets of labour laws.
 - As labour falls in concurrent lists, both Centre and states are required to notify rules under the four codes to enforce these laws.

- While the Centre pre-published the draft rules for all four codes, some state governments are yet to complete the process.

Concerns associated with labour codes

- Code makes it difficult for labour unions to go on a strike without giving prior notice. They will have to give at least 14 days' notice in advance to employers if they want to go on strike.
- Reduction in take-home pay of employees and firms will have to bear a higher provident fund liability.

parative advantages like fertile soils, favourable climatic conditions, rich biodiversity, forest wealth, educated manpower and a geographically strategic location (for) the Southeast Asian countries and China.

- The NER witnessed an 85.34% growth in the export of agricultural products in the last six years reaching upto USD 17.2 million in 2021-22.
- The major destination of export has been Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Middle East, the UK and Europe.
- However, barely 1% of the region's agri output is exported, due to a lack of infrastructure for long-term storage, unavailability of processing industries, production and aggregation issues, etc.
- Initiatives taken by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Development and Authority (APEDA)
 - Facilitating field visits of importers to have first-hand information about the qualitative cultivation practices being followed by farmers.
 - Capacity building programmes on export awareness across the different parts of NER.
 - Conference on the Export Potential of Natural, Organic and Geographical Indications (GI) Agro Products

4 Labour Codes

| | |
|--|---|
| Code on Wages, 2019 | Aims to regulate wage and bonus payments in all employments and to provide equal remuneration to employees performing work of a similar nature. |
| Code on Social Security, 2020 | Consolidates nine laws related to social security and maternity benefits. |
| Industrial Relations Code, 2020 | Aims to improve the business environment by reducing the labour compliance burden of industries. |
| Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 | Regulate the health and safety conditions of workers in establishments with 10 or more workers, and in all mines and docks. |

APEDA Formulates Strategy to promote North-East Region (NER) as Agri Export Hub

- The eight states in NER - Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim - possesses several com-

- Support for branding & promotion of North East products such as KIWI Wine, etc
- APEDA, a statutory body based in New Delhi, was established under Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985.

Centre cases Norms For Adjusting states Off-Budget Borrowings (O-BBS)

- Under the new norms, O-BBs done by states up to 2020-21 may not be adjusted and only those done in 2021-22 can be adjusted over up to 4 years till March 2026.
 - Earlier this year, Centre has informed states that O-BBs are to be equated with states' own debt and incremental O-BBs raised (2020-21 & 2021-22) would be adjusted out of the borrowing ceiling this year.
- O-BBs by a state government refer to loans taken by its entities, special purpose vehicles, etc., which are expected to eventually be serviced through the state government's own budget, instead of the cash flows or revenues generated by the borrowing entity.
 - Such borrowings bypass the states' net borrowing ceiling fixed in a FY by routing loans outside state budget.
 - Such borrowings have an impact on the revenue defi-

cit and fiscal deficit and thus surpassed the targets set for fiscal indicators under the state FRBM Act.

- For 2022-23, 'states' borrowing' ceiling has been set at 3.5% of GSDP, along with an additional 0.5% linked to reforms in power sector.
- Under Article 293 (3), state governments are required to take the Centre's permission for fresh borrowing, if they are indebted to the Government of India.

Reasons for increasing O-BBs by states:

- Constrained revenue growth due to the pandemic-induced slowdown and increasing revenue expenditure.
- Erosion of autonomous fiscal space due to GST

e-NAM (National Agriculture Market)

- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoAFW) launches Platforms (POPs) under e-NAM
- PoPs will facilitate farmers to sell their produce beyond their State boundaries.
- This will enhance farmer's accessibility digitally to multiple numbers of markets, buyers, and service providers, and to bring transparency in trade transactions.
- e-NAM, launched in 2016, is a pan - India electronic trading portal which networks exist-

ing APMC mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.

- Small Farmers Agribusiness consortium (SFAC) is lead agency for implementing e-NAM under MoAFW.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) issued FAQs on GST Applicability in 'Pre-packaged and Labelled' Goods

- CBIC said for the purpose of GST, "pre-packaged commodity" would mean a commodity which, without the purchaser being present, is placed in a package of whatever nature, whether sealed or not, so that the product contained there in has a pre-determined quantity.
- Under this, single packages of food items like cereals, pulses and flour weighing up to 25 kg will be considered as 'pre-packaged and labelled', liable to 5% GST.
 - However, sales to customers by retail shopkeeper in loose quantity from the item bought from a manufacturer/distributor in a 25-kg pack, will not attract GST.
 - Also, single package of these items containing a quantity of more than 25 kg would not fall in the category of pre-packaged and labelled commodity.

Zero Coupons, Zero Principal Instruments (ZCZP)

- The Ministry of Finance declared ZCZP as securities, thus included in the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956.
 - Presently, this list includes shares, scrips, stocks, bonds, debentures, etc.
- ZCZP bonds are the funding instrument for the NGOs projects, on which the NGOs are not required to pay principal or pay interest after completion of the project.
 - Government defines ZCZP as an instrument issued by a not-for-project organization that shall be registered with the social stock exchange segment of a recognized stock exchange by the regulations made by the Securities and Exchange Board of India.
 - It will help organizations/corporates utilize their social responsibility funds and support non-profit organizations more transparently.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

- It is the central regulating body for agriculture financing and rural section.
- Established in 1982 under the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act 1981.

Key functions

- Ensure financially inclusive rural India- Financial, Development and Supervision.
- Supervising Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) etc.

Glossary for the Troubled Global Economy leading to Recession

- As inflation rate in US marked a 40 year high, observers have pointed to
 - An inversion of the US yield curve,
 - US central bank not being able to achieve a soft -landing for the economy and
 - Start of reverse currency wars

| Concepts | Description |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Bond yield curve inversion | Yield curve is the graphical representation of yields from bonds. Under normal circumstances, as one lends for a longer duration, one gets higher yields. However, there are times when this bond yield curve becomes inverted (bonds with shorter tenure end up paying higher yields than bonds with longer tenure) which suggests that investors expect future growth to be weak. This is a strong predictor of recessions. |
| Soft - landing | The process of monetary tightening to contain inflation is done in such a manner that it slows down the economy but doesn't lead to a recession known as soft -landing. However, when the actions of the central bank bring about a recession, it is called hard-landing. |
| Reverse Currency War | Raising interest rates in the US has led to weakening of other currencies vis-à-vis dollar. Mostly, countries do this themselves to keep their exports competitive and is known as currency war However, weakening currency against dollar also leads to costlier import of crude oil as a result of which countries are now working to ensure their currency doesn't lose too much value against the dollar. This is being termed as the reverse currency war. |

BHARATMALA pariyojana Programme (BMP) may be completed 6 years late : ICRA

- As per rating agency ICRA, government's ambitious road connectivity project under BMP is expected to be completed in FY2028 with a delay of nearly 6 years.
- Initially, it was envisaged to be complete by FY 2022.
- Presently, only 60% of the total highway project has been awarded and only 23% of the project was complete, as on March 2022.
- **Major reasons for delay highlighted are:**
 - Delays in land acquisition,
 - Significant rise in land acquisition,
 - Covid-19 pandemic.
 - Funding is a roadblock with costs almost doubling since 2015.
- BMP, announced in 2015, was launched under Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
 - Its primary focus is optimizing the efficiency of movement of goods and people across the country.
 - Under phase-1, it involves

development of 34,800-km highway by FY2022.

- Phase 2 envisages around 48,000 km of road network across India by 2024.

Need for BMP

- To improve efficiency of existing corridors through development of Multimodal Logistics Parks and elimination of choke point.
- Enhance focus on improving connectivity in North East and leveraging synergies with Inland Waterways.
- Lack of accident response infrastructure.
- To emphasis on use of technology and scientific planning for Project Preparation and Asset Monitoring.

Reserve Bank of India Revises Regulatory Framework for Urban Co-Operative Banks (UCBS)

- The revision is based on the recommendations of N S Vishwanathan panel set up in 2021.

Key highlights of revised norms

- **Four-tiered regulatory framework:** UCBS are classified as Tier-1, Tier-2, Tier-3 and Tier-4 with differentiated regulatory prescriptions to strengthen the

financial soundness of the existing UCBS.

- UCBS which do not meet the requirement will be provided a glide path of five years to facilitate a smooth transition to the revised norms.

- **Minimum net worth:** Rs.2 crore for Tier 1 UCBS and Rs.5 crore for others to strengthen the financial resilience of the banks.
- **Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR):** Retained at 9% for Tier 1 UCBS and revised to 12% for others so as to strengthen their capital structure.

About UCBS

- UCBS are cooperative societies registered under provisions of the respective State Cooperative Societies Act or Multi-state Cooperative Societies Act, 2002. UCBS are supervised under the Registration of Cooperative Societies.
- However, the power to issue banking licenses and regulate, supervise and develop banking functions of UCBS are vested with the RBI by virtue of the Banking Regulation (BR) Act, 1949.

CRAR

- It is a measurement of a bank's available capital expressed as a percentage of a bank's risk-weighted credit exposures.
- It is used to protect depositors and promote the stability and efficiency of financial systems around the world.

India Opens Opium Market to Private Players

- For the first time, central government has allowed a private company, Bajaj Healthcare, to manufacture concentrated poppy straw (CPS) alkaloids and active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) from unlanded poppy capsules.
 - CPS is a mechanised system under which entire harvest is cut by machine, transferred to factories for alkaloid extraction and eliminates diversion of legally produced opium.
- Significance of private players involvement
 - Boost domestic production of various alkaloids such as morphine and codeine.
 - Bring in modern technology to extract alkaloids.
 - Reduce imports of opium.

- Offsetting the declining area under cultivation of poppy in India.
- Opium is a natural substance obtained from poppy seeds and its derivatives.
 - Alkaloids obtained from opium are used to make cough syrups, cancer medicines and pain-management medicines.
 - Only 12 countries including India allow its cultivation legally for medicinal use.
 - It is used illicitly for smoking, drinking, or eating as pills
- Due to potential for illicit trade and risk of addiction, opium poppy cultivation is strictly regulated.
 - At present, cultivation and processing of poppy and opium is controlled by provisions of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and Rules.

Windfall Tax - Anti-Robbery tax

In news

- The Government of India has imposed an export tax of Rs.6 on petrol and Rs.13 on diesel.
- Apart from that, an additional

tax of Rs 23,250 per ton has been imposed on domestically produced crude oil.

- On the other hand, the rupee is depreciating against the dollar.
- International crude oil prices are increasing.
- Accordingly, domestic petrol, diesel and retail prices have not increased.
- Therefore, oil companies began to focus on exports, calculating the high profit from exports.

About

- Finance Minister has introduced anti-robbery tax to control it.
- The government does not prevent any business from making reasonable profit.
- In a market economy, business competition is the business of private companies.
- In the business of companies, the business competition is about the price.
- The government cannot interfere excessively.
- The government cannot look at the fact that petrol and diesel are exported to foreign countries out of looted profits and are not available to the people locally.

- A part of that profit should also be available to the people of India.
- An additional tax revenue of about Rs 65,000 crore per year will be available from the government's anti-robbery tax.
- Anti-robbery tax will be withdrawn when crude oil prices fall to \$40 per barrel.

Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)

- RBI will soon implement CBDC in phases for wholesale and retail segments.
- CBDCs are typically digital tokens (but in the form of a legal tender issued by the central bank) whose monetary value would be identical to that of a country's physical fiat money and would be exchangeable one-to-one with such fiat money.
 - It is not comparable with private virtual currencies or cryptocurrency.
 - It would enhance storage, cost and operational efficiency of money.
 - In Bahamas, sand dollar (their own domestic CBDC) has been in use.

Chemicals and Fertilisers Ministry Rolled out 3 Schemes to Strengthen MSMEs in Pharmaceutical Sector

- 3 initiatives were rolled out under the Scheme of Strengthening Pharmaceuticals Industry' (SPI).
 - Initiatives are aimed at making Indian pharma MSMEs

a part of Global supply chain by incentivizing them to acquire Schedule M or Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) certification by WHO.

- GMP certification is a standard defined by WHO for ensuring products are produced and controlled as per the quality standards.

| Schemes | Features |
|--|---|
| Pharmaceutical Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme (PTUAS) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would facilitate pharmaceutical MSMEs with proven track records to upgrade their technology. • It provides for a capital subsidy of 10 % on loans up to a maximum limit of Rs 10 crore with a minimum repayment period of three years or interest subvention of up to 5 % (6% in case of units owned by SC/ST) on reducing balance basis. |
| Assistance to Pharma Industries for Common Facilities Scheme (API-CF) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would strengthen the existing pharmaceutical clusters' capacity for sustained growth. • It provides for an assistance of up to 70% of the approved project cost (90% for Himalayan and north-east region) or Rs 20 crore, whichever is less. |
| Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Promotion and Development Scheme (PMPDS) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scheme is aimed at creating a database of pharma and medical device sectors. • It would involve preparation of study reports on topics of importance for the Indian pharma and medical device industry. |

Bureau of Indian standards (BIS) publishes 10 Indian Standards on Safety aspects of toys

- A total of 10 Indian Standards have been published, out of which 7 are the part of Quality Control Order (QCO) on 'Safety of Toys'.
 - The QCO makes it mandatory, from Jan 1, 2021, that toys for children under 14 years of age conform to 7 Indian Standards for Safety of Toys and bear a Standard Mark (ISI Mark) under licence from BIS.
 - Before licence is granted, toys undergo stringent tests to ensure that they are safe with respect to physical safety, safety against chemicals, flammability, electrical safety etc.

About Indian Toy Industry

- Estimated to be \$1.5 bn making up 0.5% of global market share.
- Manufacturing is mostly located in NCR, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and clusters across central Indian states.
- The sector is fragmented with 90% of the market being unorganized.

Steps taken by government to promote toy industry

- National Action Plan for Indian Toy Story to boost local manufacturing.

- Need-based interventions for toy industry in 13 identified handicrafts toy clusters.
- Under National Education Policy 2020 toy-making will be introduced to students from the sixth standard onwards.

Ministry of Fisheries Animal husbandry and Dairying launched NDDB's Subsidiary for Manure Management

- National Dairy Development Board (NDDb)'s MRIDA Limited, wholly, owned subsidiary company of NDDB will work in manure management initiatives across the country
 - It was established as an Unlisted Public Limited company under Companies Act, 2013 on July 1, 2022.
 - It'll set up a manure value chain, biogas based CNG and energy generation for dairy plants.
- Mature management (MM) is the process in which animal excretion is captured, stored, treated, and used.
 - Manure is a cost-efficient and valuable fertilizer containing varying amounts of nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus micronutrients, and organic matter.
 - Efficient MM contributes to increasing the productive economic life cycle of milch animals beyond milking

there by help in lowering of GHG emission.

- MM initiatives have potential to generate biogas equivalent to 50 percent of India's present LPG consumption and produce bio slurry equivalent to 44 percent of India's NPK (nitrogen, phosphorous and potash) requirement.
- India also runs a GobarDhan scheme to generate energy from cattle waste.
- It also contributes to enhancing the livelihoods of dairy farmers by giving them an extra source of income.

About NDDB

- NDDB initially registered as a society under Societies Act 1860.
- It was merged with erstwhile Indian Dairy Corporation by Act of Parliament NDDB Act 1987.
- NDDB has registered a trademark named "SuDhan" to provide common identity to dung based organic fertilisers.

RBI Released Discussion paper on climate Risk and Sustainable Finance

- Uncertainty about timing and severity of climate-related and environmental risk is increasingly being recognized as a source of financial risk for banks and, in turn, for stability of overall finance system.

- **Climate-related risks can impact financial sector through:**
- Physical risks (economic costs and financial losses from floods, heatwaves etc.)
- Transition risks (arising from process of adjustment towards a low-carbon economy).

Potential effect of such risks:

- **Credit risk** (impairing value of assets held by banks' customers, or impact supply chains affecting customers' operation and profitability)
- **Market risk** (decline in valuation and increased volatility on underlying economic activity)
- **Liquidity risk** (increased demand for liquidity to respond to extreme weather events).
- **Operation risk** (disruption in business continuity due to impact on bank's infrastructure, processes etc)

Suggestions by RBI

- **Governance:** identify climate-related, environmental risks and opportunities and assess actual and potential impact of these risks.
- Strategy to address climate change risks through proper formulation, planning and implementation of climate and environment strategy.
- Sensitise India financial sector to importance and benefits of green finance through capacity building, training etc.

Trend of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India

- According to data by ministry of Commerce, India received the highest annual FDI inflows of USD 84.835 billion in FY 21-22 overtaking last year's FDI by USD 2.87 billion.

Other key trends

- Top sourcing nations for FDI- Singapore followed by USA and Mauritius.
- Top FDI received receiving states - Karnataka followed by Maharashtra and Delhi.
- Top sectors receiving FDI- computer Software & Hardware followed by services Sector and Automobile Industry.
- FDI in Manufacturing: Increased by 76% in FY22 (USD 21.34 billion) in comparison to FY21.

Significance of FDI

- Major non-debt and stable financial resource for economic development.
- Development of Human Resources through transfer of skills and management techniques.
- Source of Technology Transfer for advanced and efficient production systems.
- Promote global economic integration through increased exports.
- **Other benefits:** Quality job creation; promotion of innovation and competition, Exchange rate stability because of capital inflow and exports.

Core Industries

- As per Ministry of Commerce & Industry, the Index of eight Core Industries (ICI) increased by 12% in June 2022 against 9.4% in June 2021.
- ICI measures combined and individual performance of production in selected eight core industries VIZ. petroleum Refinery products (28.04%); Electricity(19.85%); Steel(17.92%); Coal (10.33%); Crude Oil (8.98%); Natural Gas (6.88%); Cement(5.37%); Fertilizers(2.63%);
- These Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27% of the weight of items included in the index of Industrial Production (IIP)
- These sectors have a major impact on the India economy and significantly affect most other industries as well.

Core sector output expands by June 2021

- India eight core sectors output growth moderate to 12.7% in June, from 18.1%.
- Coal, cement, electricity and refinery products rose 15% or more, compared with the June 2021 output levels.

Crypto Currency - Cybercrime Alert

- Crypto currency is digital money.
- This is Electronic money created using 'block chain' computer technology.

- Crypto currency cannot be seen with your eyes.
- Bit coin is the king of crypto currency.
- Currently one bit coin is worth Rs 15,93,833.
- No one can predict when its price will rise and when it will fall.
- There are tens of thousands of crypto currencies like 'Ethereum', 'Cardano', 'Solana', 'Tron', 'Sushi', 'bake', 'cake', 'banana', 'shibu', 'chia', 'safemoon'.
- India is the 2 nd largest Bit coin user in Asia.
- Being entirely 'online' currency, makes it easy for 'cyber' criminals to misuse crypto currencies for fraud.
- On April 16, 2018, RBI issued a circular banning crypto currency trading in India.
- The Government of India has announced that if one engages in crypto currency trading, he will have to pay 30% tax on that profit.
- The Supreme Court lifted the ban on March 4, 2020, and allowed crypto currencies again.
- Our neighboring state Kerala is featured in the category of 'Best improvement in environment for innovative industries'.
- The presence of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir also highlights the change taking place in that Union Territory which has been affected by terrorism.

About

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his Independence Day speech on August 15, 2015, announced the 'Innovate India' project called 'Startup India'.
- The main objective of this scheme is to create innovative entrepreneurs in various sectors from the technology sector to agriculture, manufacturing, health and education.
- 'Innovative industry is the backbone of the new India; The driving force that gives power to the economic development of the country.
- In India, 55 industries now have innovative entrepreneurs. Through this, lakhs of people get employment.
- The success of Unified Payments System (UPI) has also played an important role in the success of the innovation industry and other payment systems are also helping the innovation industry.

Innovation India

- Tamil Nadu is included along with the states of Punjab, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Andaman-Nicobar, Arunachal Pradesh and Goa.

Foreign direct Investment (Employment)

- It is commendable that Tamil Nadu is included in the list of 7 states that are most suitable for employment investments.
- The other 6 states are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Punjab and Telangana
- Such ratings and classifications will help international companies to choose Tamil Nadu as a suitable destination for their investments.

Minimum Support Price (MSP)

- The committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Sanjay Agarawal, former secretary of the Union Agriculture Department, which deliberated on ways to make the minimum support price system for commodities more efficient and transparent.
- The minimum support price is set by the Commission of Agricultural Costs and Prices.
- The Committee will consult on practical possibilities to make the Commission more autonomous and to further strengthen the system of marketing of agricultural produce.
- The panel will solve the ways to improve organic farming, micro-irrigation schemes, new crops and grazing systems, among others.

Fourth Industrial Revolution

- The world is currently in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
- Digital technology and related technological developments have made this new technological revolution possible.
- Denoting everything related to technology in abbreviations has become one of the practices of this digital age.
- The English name of the Fourth Industrial Revolution is referred to as '4IR'. Sometimes referred to as 'Industry 4.0'.
- The combination of advances in various technologies, including including Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Internet of Things, Genetic Engineering, Quantum Computing, Smart Sensors, Big Data form the fourth industrial revolution

First industrial revolution

- Since the invention of the steam engine in the 18th century, has made the manufacturing process mechanical, urbanization also increased.
- This was called the first industrial revolution.

Second Industrial Revolution

- In the 19th century, overall production increased due to

scientific advances including the invention of railways and electricity.

- This was defined as the Second Industrial Revolution.

Third industrial Revolution

- In the mid-20 century with the automation of production by computer-digital technology, major changes took place in various industries including banking, energy and communication.
- This was known as the Third Industrial Revolution.

Digital Revolution

- The technological changes and developments currently taking place are dependent on digital technology.



- But the speed, scale and impact of these changes are unprecedented in this world and they are changing human life as a whole, so it can be defined as a new industrial revolution period.
- This proposal was formally announced by the founder of the World Economic Forum, its

chief executive Klaus Schwab first in 2016

- He has also written a book titled 'The Fourth Industrial Revolution'.

Benefits

- The IPS system that predicts which road the car you are traveling on will take you to the destination in the shortest time
- Tools that provide information through voice commands including Apple Siri and Alexa
- Arrangements for recommending movies and series that suit your taste on Netflix Netflix phone OTT sites.
- If someone uploads a photo of you on Facebook, it recognizes your face and tags you on Facebook,
- The Calories of the food you eat
- How many steps have you walked in a day and how much physical work have you done?
- Knowing how many calories you have lost through these from the smart watch you are wearing.
- All these are bridging the gap between the physical, biological and digital worlds.
- Millions of people can be connected simultaneously through smart phones.
- The facilities for storing and sharing information and knowledge are endlessly expanding.

- In terms of industry and business, it is natural for customers to choose the best business company from any corner of the world.
- With the information provided by the seller about a product or service, it is possible to know the opinions of the customers who have used them.
- For companies, the increase in automation can reduce many types of costs, including production costs, employee wages, transportation, and because they can communicate with anyone in any corner of the world from a single location
- Global business networks have become possible for everyone.
- The Fourth Industrial Revolution holds the potential to multiply global incomes and living standards.
- All of the changes brought about by the Fourth Industrial Revolution deepen this digital divide and consequently increase inequality.
- Also, the privacy of individuals is under huge threat due to internet and digital tools that penetrate every inch of life.
- The risk of humans being monitored incessantly is magnified.
- As automation is increasing, employment for humans is decreasing.
- While automation reduces employment, the need for skilled workers to handle new technologies also increases.
- Therefore, changes should be made in the education sector and skill training in order to make the youth knowledgeable and skilled in these technologies.
- At that time, the United States had three-fourths of the world's gold reserves.
- At that time the US dollar was a strong currency compared to other countries' currencies
- Because of this, the US dollar is the common transaction currency.
- The US dollar equivalent of 1 ounce of gold was set at \$35.
- The essence of this agreement is that a country has to buy the gold it needs on a par basis.
- The Bretton Woods Agreement continued for 25 years.
- At one point, the United States did not have enough gold reserves for Pan's circulation.
- Besides, the American economy was in a severe decline due to the war on Vietnam.
- In this context, in 1971, Richard Nixon, who was the president of the United States, cancelled the exchange agreement between gold and the dollar.

Disadvantages

- All the facilities brought by the fourth industrial revolution benefit only those who are able to connect themselves with the digital world.
- In developing countries including India and poor countries there are many people outside the digital world without using any facility including smart phone and internet.

When to recover from the fall?

The World of Dollars

- In July 1944, the United Nations conference on the creation of a new exchange value was held at the Mount Washington Washington Hotel in the Bretton Woods area of the United States.



- That is, the value of the dollar is now unique.
- He said it should not be compared with gold.
- After this announcement, the countries of the world began to focus on keeping the US dollar as a reserve rather than keeping gold as a reserve.

- That is how the US dollar became the world's foreign exchange reserve.
- Today 80% of world trade takes place in Dollar.
- The current decline is attributed to the Russia-Ukraine war, interest rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve, and trade deficits.
- As the US raised its interest rates, foreign investors withdrew their investments in the Indian stock market and started investing in US stocks.
- Due to this, the balance of dollar in India began to decrease.
- As far as India is concerned, foreign investors have been selling their shares in the Indian stock market due to India's economic instability even before the US Federal Reserve raised interest rates.
- Since the beginning of this year, more than 30 billion dollars of stock market related foreign investment has flowed out of India.
- As a result, five months ago, India was buying a Dollar at 74 rupees.
- At present, the same one dollar has to be bought by paying 80
- billion (Rs 33.60 lakh crore) in the last financial year.
- In the last financial year, India imported chicken worth Rs 48.96 lakh for Rs 612 billion.
- As a result, India's trade deficit rose to 192 billion dollars (Rs. 15.36 lakh chickens).
- This is the highest trade deficit.
- It is not enough for a country to increase its exports.
- The gap between exports and imports should be narrowing, but the gap is widening every year in India.
- The trade deficit in the first quarter of the current financial year stands at \$70.8 billion (Rs 5.6 lakh chickens).
- It was \$31.4 billion (Rs 2.5 lakh crore) in the first quarter of last financial year.
- The trade deficit has more than doubled.
- India is basically an import dependent country, India imports more than 80% of its crude oil requirement.
- About 20% of Indian auto parts are imported from abroad.
- 60% of the spare parts in electronics manufacturing are imported from abroad.
- Generally, when a country exports more, the inflow of dollars into the country increases.

Impact of Russia-Ukraine war

- Russia is one of the world's leading exporters of crude oil.
- Ukraine is a major exporter of wheat, corn, sunflower oil, fertilizer and iron.
- As these exports were disrupted by the war, global prices of essential commodities rose sharply.
- Besides, the war caused a crisis in the global supply structure.
- As a result, inflation reached its peak.

Raising interest rate

- The US Federal Reserve has started raising interest rates in an effort to control inflation after inflation in the United States reached a 40-year high.
- When a country raises its interest rate, the interest income on the country's debt securities will increase.
- Thus stock market investors started investing more in debt securities.

Rupee depreciation

- Apart from the Federal Reserve's interest rate hike, India's trade deficit is the most fundamental reason for the depreciation of the rupee that India is currently facing.

India's trade deficit

- Trade Deficit India's merchandise exports touched \$420

- That is, the more a country increases its imports, the more the value of a country's currency will fall.
- Until India's trade deficit is reduced, the value of the Indian rupee against the dollar will continue to fall.

Will the RBI-E effort pay off?

- The Reserve Bank has taken a new initiative to carry out export-import related transactions using Indian rupees.

How does it work?

- If doing business with Russia, Indian banks should first open a special account with banks in Russia.
- A certain amount in Russian currency in Rupees is to be deposited into the account.
- Similarly, Russian banks have to deposit a certain amount in rupees with Indian banks.
- When an Indian importer imports goods from Russia, he pays the amount in rupees to his Indian bank.
- This information will be communicated to the bank in Russia.
- Immediately, the amount will be disbursed to the Russian exporter from the ruble account held by the Indian bank in the bank in Russia.
- Likewise, when an Indian exporter exports goods to Russia,

the importer in Russia who receives the goods will pay the amount to the Russian bank.

- The Russian bank will immediately notify the Indian bank.
- After that, the amount for that export will be given to the person from the rupee deposit held by the Russian bank in the Indian bank.

Impact

- The impact on people is that the cost of foreign travel is high
- The cost of education for Indian students abroad will rise significantly.
- It will lead to an increase in the price of goods.
- If the price of crude oil goes up, the fares of cargo trucks will go up.
- Prices of essential commodities including vegetables will rise.
- Due to the rise in prices of electronics and auto spare parts, mobile phones, prices of electronic devices including laptops and vehicles will rise.
- An endless fall in the value of the rupee will make people's hard-earned income meaningless.

BSNL

- The Union Cabinet has approved a package of Rs 1.64 lakh crore to strengthen BSNL Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.

- 'Bharat Net' and BBNL called 'Broad Brand Nigam Limited' will be merged with BSNL.

- The infrastructure facilities created under Bharat-Net will



continue to be a national asset that can be used by all telecom service providers on a non-discriminatory basis.

Fiscal Deficit

- Central government's fiscal deficit reached 21.2 % of the annual target in the first quarter.
- The Comptroller of Public Accounts (CAG) has stated in the statistics released on Friday that: Financial deficit is the difference between the revenue and total expenditure of the government.
- This represents the total borrowings required by the government.
- At the end of the first quarter of the financial year 2022-23, Central Govt's fiscal deficit stood at Rs 3.51 lakh crore.

Deficit

- It is estimated that the country's fiscal deficit will be Rs 16.61196 billion for the current financial year as a whole at 6.4 % of GDP.

2. Socio Economic Issue

Population Growth

About

- China is the world's most populous country with a population of 141 million.
- India has the second largest population of 134 crores.
- It has been reported that there will be 150 crore people in India by 2030 and it will increase to 166 crore by 2050.
- It is also said that after 2030, China's population will gradually decrease and India will be at the top.
- D.R.Malthus, the famous 18th century economist said that 'increasing population growth will cause people to suffer from lack of food'.
- The opinion published by him on that day is felt to be true by many countries of the world, including Sri Lanka, which is facing a food shortage.
- In 2018, World Population Day, for the first time, gave the slogan 'Family Planning is a Human Right', and today women have the right to refuse pregnancy at short intervals.

2011 census

- According to the 2011 census, the projected population of India is around 121 crores.



- About 62 crore are men. About 59 crore women.
- The population of Tamil Nadu is expected to cross eight crore soon.
- The target population of Tamil Nadu is 7 crore 21 lakh 38 thousand 958 people.
- This includes 3,61,58,871 males and 3,59,80,087 females.
- The number of children under the age of six is low.
- Tamilnadu population is 5.96% of India's population.
- Tamil Nadu ranks 7th in the list of most populous states in India.
- The population of Tamil Nadu has increased by 15.6% in the last 10 years.

- India's elderly population (aged 60 or over) is projected to double by 2041, from 8.6 percent in 2011.

Current situation

- While there has been a sharp decline in fertility rates in Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir, there has been no major change in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- Studies show that 800 women die every day in child birth.
- Population issues include family planning, human rights, right to health, child health, gender equality, child marriage, contraceptive use, sex education, knowledge of venereal disease.
- Sexual problems should be closely monitored among girls aged 15 to 19 years.
- Because 150 lakh births in the world take place in women of this age.
- Due to increase in population there are various problems such as food, water, environmental pollution, social disturbances, increase in crime, health problems, unemployment, traffic congestion, lack of space, economic crisis.
- Awareness should be created about the problems of population growth, family planning and safe contraceptive methods.

- If the media also supports it, great results will be obtained.
- In addition to giving importance to education about population in schools, seminars on the social and economic impacts of population growth should also be arranged.

Population of Tamil Nadu

- Population of Tamil Nadu has doubled in 50 years.
- On July 11, 1987, the world's population reached 500 crores.
- That day is being observed as World Population Day.
- The first census of the country was held in 1872.
- Census has been conducted every 10 years since 1881.
- While the 16th census is to be held in 2021, the census work has not been carried out for 2 years due to the spread of Corona.
- The population of the country which was 20 crores at the beginning of the 20th century has increased to 100 crores over the centuries and population growth (birth rate) has been significantly controlled.

World population growth

- World population growth was
 - 1.14% in 2016,
 - 1.12% in 2017
 - 1.14% in 2016
 - 1.12% in 2017
 - 1.09% in 2018
- It is expected to decrease to 1% by 2023.

Population of Tamil Nadu

- The population of Tamil Nadu was
 - 1.92 crore in 1901.
 - 3.01 crores in 1951
 - 3.3 crores in 1961
 - increased by 22.3% during the period from 1960 to 1970
 - 4.11 crores in 1971.
- Thereafter, as population growth was partially controlled by intensive family planning programs,
 - 4.8 crore in 1981
 - 5.5 crore in 1991
 - 6.24 crore in 2001
 - 7.24 crore in 2011
 - now estimated to be over 8 crore
- Government should implement new schemes to reduce population growth as the population of Tamil Nadu has doubled in the last 50 years.

Mission Shakti

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has issued detailed guidelines for the 'Mission Shakti' scheme.
- The norms of 'Mission Shakti' will be applicable with effect from 1st April 2022.

Components:

- Sambal:
 - It is for Safety and Security of Women.
 - It consists of schemes of One Stop Centre (OSC), Women Helpline (WHL), Beti

Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), with a new component of Nari Adalats - women's collectives to promote and facilitate alternative dispute resolution and gender justice in society and within families.

Samarthya:

- It is for Empowerment of Women.
- It consists of erstwhile schemes of Ujjwala, Swadhar Greh and Working Women Hostel have been included with modifications.
 - In addition, the existing schemes of National Creche Scheme for children of working mothers and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) under umbrella Integrated Child Development Services ICDS have now been included in Samarthya.
 - A new component of Gap Funding for Economic Empowerment has also been added in the Samarthya Scheme.

What are the Objectives of Mission Shakti?

- Provide immediate and comprehensive continue of care, support and assistance to women affected by violence and for those in distress.
- To put in place quality mechanisms for rescue, protection and rehabilitation of women in

- need of assistance and victims of crime and violence.
- To improve accessibility to various government services available for women at various levels.
- Making people aware about Government schemes and programmes as well as legal provisions to fight social evils like dowry, domestic violence, Sexual Harassment at Workplace and to promote gender equality etc.
- Collaboration with partner Ministries/ Departments/ States/ UTs for convergence of policies, programmes/ schemes and to create an enabling environment for public private partnership for safety and empowerment of women across sectors.
- To prevent gender-biased sex selective elimination; to ensure survival, protection, education and development of the girl child.
- It also seeks to reduce the care burden on women and increase female labour force participation by promoting skill development, capacity building, financial literacy, access to microcredit etc.

Centre has no New Data on Child Labour

Why in news now?

- No ministry had any data regarding the status of child labour in our country.

- The NCLP's schools for child labourers work for three to four years and they have also more or less stopped functioning due to scarcity of funds.
- Education Ministry also does not have a mechanism to find out the number of children engaged in child labour.

Background

- The Labour Ministry has told the Parliament Standing Committee on Labour that since the NCLP was merged with the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan in 2016, the Ministry has no records of child labour.
- The currently available data is from the 2011 Census, which says the country has more than a million child labourers.

- According to data from Census 2011, the number of child labourers in India is 10.1 million of which 5.6 million are boys and 4.5 million are girls.
- A total of 152 million children 64 million girls and 88 million boys are estimated to be in child labour globally, accounting for almost one in ten of all children worldwide.

What is Child Labour?

- The term "child labour" is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity,

and that is harmful to physical and mental development.



- It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and/or interferes with their schooling by: depriving them of the opportunity to attend school; obliging them to leave school prematurely; or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.

Grave concerns of the issue

- This is a serious situation.
- It is for the first time that a parliamentary panel is engaged in a detailed examination of the national policy on child labour.
- Though we have legislation, the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, since 1986 the menace of child labour is continue unchecked.

Various provisions against Child Labour

- Article 23 of the Indian Constitution states that any type of forced labour is prohibited.
- Article 24 states that a child under 14 years cannot be employed to perform any hazardous work.

- Article 39 states that “the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused”.
- Motivate Village Education Committees (VECs) to improve the conditions of schools.

Child Development in 11th Five Year Plan 2007 to 2012:

- The child development approach in the Eleventh Plan is to ensure that children do not lose their childhood because of work, disease, and despair.
- It is based on the understanding that the rights of all children, including those who do not face adverse circumstances, must be protected everywhere and at all times so that they do not fall out of the social security net.

Required measures

- **Survey of child labour:** It is necessary that the government commissions research and surveys on different aspects of child labour in the country.
- **New Policy for Child Labour:** A lot of changes have been done since the child labour policy in 1986. But a further relook of all the laws and policies is urgently needed.
 - Consistency in the constitutional and legal provisions pertaining to children’s rights is critical and required.
- **National Child Labour Programme (NCLP):** The current National Child Labour Programme (NCLP) needs to be revamped.

- **Social Mobilisation:** Given that eradication of child labour is not an easy task, preventive strategies are more sustainable in the long run. The role of social mobilization and community participation is crucial.

Abortion Law in India



Why in News?

- Recently, the Supreme Court of India allowed an unmarried woman to end her pregnancy at 24 weeks, after the Delhi High Court refused to allow it, citing the provisions of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act.

About MTP:

- Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971 act allowed pregnancy termination by a medical practitioner in two stages:
 - A single doctor’s opinion was necessary for abortions up to 12 weeks after conception.
 - For pregnancies between 12 to 20 weeks old, the opinion of two doctors was required to determine if the continuance of the pregnancy would involve a risk to the life of the pregnant

Why role of Panchayats becomes significant to eradicate child labour?

- Approximately 80% of child labourers in India have roots in from rural areas. The panchayats can play a significant role in mitigating in child labour.
 - Role of panchayat members in mitigating child labour.
 - Generate awareness about the ill effects of child labour.
 - Encourage parents to send their children to school.
 - Create an environment where children stop working and get enrolled in schools.
 - Ensure that children have sufficient facilities available in schools.
 - Inform industry owners about the laws prohibiting child labour and the penalties for violating these laws.
 - Activate Balwadis and Aanganwadis in the village so that working mothers do not leave the responsibility of younger children to their older siblings

woman or of grave injury to her physical or mental health or if there is a substantial risk that if the child were born, it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously "handicapped" before agreeing to terminate the woman's pregnancy.

Recent Amendments:

- In 2021, Parliament altered the law to allow for abortions based on the advice of one doctor for pregnancies up to 20 weeks.
- The modified law needs the opinion of two doctors for pregnancies between 20 & 24 weeks.
- Further, for pregnancies between 20 and 24 weeks, rules specified seven categories of women who would be eligible for seeking termination under section 3B of rules prescribed under the MTP Act,
 - Survivors of sexual assault or rape or incest,
 - Minors,
 - Change of marital status during the ongoing pregnancy (widowhood & divorce),
 - Women with physical disabilities [major disability as per criteria laid down under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.
 - Mentally ill women including mental retardation,
 - The foetal malformation that has a substantial risk of being incompatible with life or if the child is born it may

suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities to be seriously handicapped, and

- Women with pregnancy in humanitarian settings or disasters or emergencies may be declared by the Government

What was Delhi High Court's Position?

- It taken the view that she was unmarried and since the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act allowed only married women to terminate the pregnancy after 20 weeks, she would not be eligible to get an abortion,
 - It mentioned Rule 3B of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Rules, 2003, as it

speaks of change in marital status of woman, as the woman was in a live-in relationship & was not married.

What was Supreme Court's Ruling?

- It took an expansive view of the issue and interpreted MTP Act 2021, as the word partner instead of husband, exhibiting the intention of the law of the land to not confine it to only marital relationships.
- It also said that the petitioner cannot be denied the benefit of the law, on the ground that she was unmarried, & that doing so would be contrary to the 'object and spirit' of the legislation.

Historical Perspective

- Until the 1960s, abortion was illegal in India and a woman could face three years of imprisonment and/or a fine under Section 312 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).
- It was in the mid-1960s that the government set up the Shantilal Shah Committee and asked the group, headed by Dr Shantilal Shah, to look into the matter of abortions and decide if India needed a law for the same.
- Based on the report of the Shantilal Shah Committee, a medical termination bill was introduced in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and was passed by Parliament in August 1971.
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971 came into force on 1st of April 1972 and applied to all of India except the state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Also, Section 312 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, criminalises voluntarily "causing miscarriage" even when the miscarriage is with the pregnant woman's consent, except when the miscarriage is caused to save the woman's life.
 - This means that the woman herself, or anyone else including a medical practitioner, could be prosecuted for an abortion.

- Further, the bench directed the director of the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to set up a medical board of two doctors to examine the woman (as per the provisions of the MTP Act) to determine if it was safe and not a risk to the life of the mother to terminate the pregnancy.
 - If it is their opinion that it is safe to do so, then AIIMS can conduct the procedure on her.

What are the issues related to the MTP Act?

- While the law recognizes changes in a pregnant woman's marital status with her spouses such as divorce and widowhood it does not address the situation for unmarried women.
- It is a highly regulated procedure whereby the law transfers the decision-making power from the pregnant woman to the Recognized Medical Practitioner (RMP) and provides great discretion to the RMP to determine whether abortion should be provided or not.

Replacement Level Fertility

Why in News?

- Recently, the Government of India reported that India has achieved replacement level fertility, with as many as 31 States/Union Territories reaching a Total Fertility Rate of 2.1 or less.

- Between 2012 and 2020, India added more than 1.5 crore additional users for modern contraceptives thereby increasing their use substantially.
- Government also unveiled the India Family Planning 2030 vision document.

What do we know about Replacement Level Fertility?

- Total Fertility Rate of about 2.1 children per woman is called Replacement-level fertility.
 - TFR lower than 2.1 children per woman - indicates that a generation is not producing enough children to replace itself, eventually leading to an outright reduction in population.
 - Total fertility rate (TFR) in simple terms refers to the total number of children born or likely to be born to a woman in her lifetime if she were subject to the prevailing rate of age-specific fertility in the population.
- India's total fertility rate (TFR) has declined from 2.2 in 2015-16 to 2.0 in 2019-21, indicating the significant progress of population control measures, revealed the report of the fifth round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5).

What is India Family Planning 2030 Vision?

- Focus Areas:
 - Strategies to overcome teenage childbearing, lack of

male participation in awareness programmes, migration and lack of access to contraceptives have been identified as priorities.

• Contraceptives:

- Modern contraceptive prevalence Rate:
- Women with Migrant Husband:

• Modern contraceptive prevalence Rate:

- 35% in Bihar and 24% in UP
- It is mostly driven by lack of contraceptive preparedness before husband's arrival, inability to procure contraceptives due to inaccessibility to health facilities and stigma around procuring contraceptives when the husband was away.

Women with Resident Husband:

- 47% in Bihar and 36% in UP
- Although modern contraceptive use among married adolescents and young women have increased, it remains low.
 - Married adolescent girls and young women reported high unmet need for contraception.
- In several districts, more than 20% of women marry before they become adults.
 - The districts are located in Bihar (17), West Bengal (8), Jharkhand (7), Assam (4) and two each in UP, Rajasthan and Maharashtra.

- The same districts have seen low use of modern contraceptives.
- The vision also included a plan to use the private sector for providing modern contraceptives.
 - Private sector contributes 45% share of pills and 40% share of condoms. For other reversible contraceptives like injectables, the share is 30% and 24% for Intra-uterine contraceptive device (IUCD).

How did India achieve the Replacement Level Fertility?

- **Women Empowerment:**
 - The latest data also show significant progress on several indicators related to fertility, family planning, age at marriage and women's empowerment all of which have contributed to the decrease in TFR.
- **Contraceptives:**
 - Between 2012 and 2020, India added more than 1.5 crore additional users for modern contraceptives thereby increasing their use substantially.
- **Reversible Spacing:**
 - Introduction of new reversible spacing (gaps between children) methods, wage compensation systems to undergo sterilisation, and the promotion of small family norms also worked well over the years.

Government's Initiatives:

- **Mission Parivar Vikas:**
 - The Government has launched Mission Parivar Vikas in 2017 for substantially increasing access to contraceptives and family planning services in 146 high fertility districts with TFR of 3 and above in seven high focus states.
- **National Family Planning Indemnity Scheme (NFPIS):**
 - This scheme was launched in the year 2005, under this scheme clients are insured in the eventualities of death, complication and failure following sterilization.
- **Compensation scheme for Sterilization Acceptors:**
 - Under the scheme, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides compensation for loss of wages to the beneficiary and also to the service provider (& team) for conducting sterilizations from the year 2014.

New Health Warning on Tobacco Product Packages

About the New Health Warning:

- The norm related to the new display image on tobacco packs will be in place for period of one year, starting from December 1, 2022.
- From December 1, 2023, another display image will be



used with warning written as "tobacco users die younger".

- Ministry has made new amendments to Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Rules, 2008. These amendments were notified on July 21, 2022.
- Person engaged in manufacture, production, import, supply, or distribution of any tobacco products, directly or indirectly, have been mandated to ensure that all tobacco product packages have specified health warnings.
- Violation of the new health guidelines will attract imprisonment or fine in accordance with Section 20 of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003.

Tobacco Use in India

- As per Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) 2016-2017, prevalence of tobacco smoking is lowest in Maharashtra, among states in India.
- More than, 91% of smokers in India believe that smoking results serious illness. In India, 10.7% of the adults smoke

tobacco while, 28.6% adults use tobacco either in smoke or smokeless form.

- According to Tobacco Free Union, tobacco-related diseases in India is responsible for death of more than 1 million people every year.

NAMASTE Scheme

In News

- The Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs has announced the 'NAMASTE scheme' for cleaning sewers and septic tanks.

- NAMASTE (National Action Plan for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem) Scheme is a joint venture between;

- The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

- **The main objective of the scheme is to ensure;**

- Zero fatalities in sanitation work in India.
- No sanitation workers come in direct contact with human faecal matter.
- All Sewer and Septic tank sanitation workers have access to alternative livelihoods.



Sanitation workers in India

- Despite the various laws, Sanitation workers in India constantly face stigma and are devoid of fundamental rights.
- During the 1990s, various civil societies started a movement to abolish dry latrines.
 - This movement has always demanded the abolition of the dehumanising practise of the manual removal of human excreta.
 - In the present time, the focus shifted to manhole deaths and the requirement

of safety equipment for sanitation workers.

- The Union government has enacted an Act in 1993, the act restrict the construction of unsanitary dry latrines and employing manual scavengers.
 - With time, the construction of dry latrines has reduced, but the number of deaths in manholes, sewers and septic tanks continues to remain high.
- According to the data released by the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry, a total of 971 people lost their lives while cleaning sewers or septic tanks since 1993, the year law prohibiting the employment of manual scavengers was passed.

Manual Scavenging

- Manual scavenging is a term used mostly for "manually cleaning, carrying, disposing of, or otherwise handling, human excreta in an insanitary latrine or an open drain or sewer or a septic tank or a pit".
- Manual scavengers usually use hand tools such as buckets, brooms and shovels. The workers have to move the excreta, using brooms and tin plates, into baskets, which they carry to disposal locations sometimes several kilometres away.
- The occupation of sanitation work is tied with the caste in India.

- All kinds of cleaning are considered lowly and are assigned to people from the so-called lowest caste of the social hierarchy.
 - In the caste-based society, it is mainly the so-called lower caste or Dalits who work as sanitation workers.
 - According to data by the Union Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry, the government has caste-related data of 43,797 identified manual scavengers, and over 42,500 of them belong to the Scheduled Castes, 421 to the Scheduled Tribes, and 431 to Other Backward Classes.
 - The construction of dry toilets and the employment of manual scavengers to clean such dry toilets were prohibited in India in 1993.
 - The law was extended and clarified to include a ban on the use of human labour for direct cleaning of sewers, ditches, pits and septic tanks in 2013.
 - India banned the practice of Manual scavenging under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (PEMSR).
 - The Act bans the use of any individual for manually cleaning, carrying, disposing of or otherwise handling in any manner, human excreta till its disposal.
 - In 2013, the definition of manual scavengers was also broadened to include people employed to clean septic tanks, ditches, or railway tracks.
 - The Act recognizes manual scavenging as a “dehumanizing practice,” and cites a need to “correct the historical injustice and indignity suffered by the manual scavengers.”
 - Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) released in 2015, states that there were around 18 million manual scavenging households in rural areas.
 - Statistics show that 80% of India’s sewage cleaners die before they turn 60, after contracting various infectious diseases.
 - **Reasons:**
 - Manual scavenging persists mainly because of the continued presence of insanitary latrines.
 - It is strongly connected to the caste system.
 - Lack of support by society to eliminate this most inhuman profession.
 - Lack of education and humanity is missing in many parts of India.
 - Data show the manual scavengers’ reluctance to take up self-employment, even if they try to switch their job; they face social discrimination due to their caste.
- ### Concern
- Even though manual scavenging is banned in India, the practice is still prevalent in many parts of the country.
 - Only in 30% of cases of Compensation awarded after death, hardly anyone receives the Rehabilitation or Alternative jobs to which they are entitled by law.
 - Employers and local authorities are not providing Protective measures.
 - When the Government builds toilets through its Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, it is not taking into account the question of who will have to clean the septic tank.
 - Rehabilitation has been Slow because they are mostly illiterate and have no Skill to do any work other than Sanitation related activities.
 - Most sanitation staff hardly has any ID cards, protection of medical insurance policies, etc.
 - The workers in sanitation departments are recruited through open competition. The local administration usually approaches particular cast members during such hiring.
 - The situation is so alarming that while we find volunteers to distribute food and undertake rescue operations during natural calamities, hardly any volunteer offers to do clean-up work or dispose of dead bodies.

- There are no vehicles for sanitation workers to travel to their designated workplace, and they have to either walk for kilometres or use garbage vehicles. This is forced choice and is connected to the dignity of a worker.
- There are hardly any exclusive trade unions for sweepers, and unlike other sections in the government or private workforce, their problems are expressed by mainly those who are not associated with sanitation work (Civil society or NGOs).
- Despite the laws, manual scavenging was reported in many states. In 2021, the National Human Rights Commission observed that the eradication of manual scavenging as claimed by state and local governments is far from over.

Steps by the Government

- Sanitation is a State subject as per the 7th Schedule.
- In 2013 Delhi announced that they were banning manual scavenging, making them the first state in India to do so.
 - District magistrates are responsible for ensuring that no manual scavengers are working in their district.
- "The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993", drafted by the Ministry of Urban Development was passed by Parliament in 1993.
 - The act punishes the employment of scavengers or the construction of dry (non-flush) latrines with imprisonment for up to one year and/or a fine of Rs 2,000.
- In 2007 the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers was passed to help in the transition to other occupations.
- The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act 2013.
- Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation (Amendment) Bill, 2020.
 - The Bill calls for complete mechanization of cleaning sewers and septic tanks.
- Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to make sewer cleaning mechanized.
- 'Swachhta Abhiyan App' has been developed to identify and Geotag the data of insanitary latrines and manual scavengers so that the insanitary latrines can be replaced with sanitary latrines and rehabilitate all the manual scavengers to provide dignity of life to them.
- In 2014, the Supreme Court order made it mandatory for the government to identify all those who died in sewage work since 1993 and provide Rs. 10 lakh each as compensation to their families.

Way Forward

- India's Supreme Court has ruled that the practice of manual scavenging violates international human rights law, including protections found in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
 - India is also a party to other international conventions that reinforce obligations to end manual scavenging.
- Article 21 of the Constitution guarantees the Right to Life' and that also with dignity.
- Need to ensure proper implementation of the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers, and promote Alternative opportunities or Jobs.
- Ensure that rehabilitation entitlements under the 2013 Act including financial assistance, scholarships, housing, alternative livelihood support, and other important legal and programmatic assistance are available to manual scavenging communities.

XI. Science and Technology

Modified Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) Places Three Foreign Satellites into orbit

- PSLV on its 55th mission (PSLV - C53) successfully launched three Singaporean satellites in the second commercial mission of New Space India Limited (NSIL).
 - NSIL is the commercial arm of ISRO with primary responsibility of enabling Indian industries to take up high technology space - related activities.
- Besides placing satellites in orbit, ISRO also achieved successful launch of PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM), a platform which allows in-orbit scientific experiments using the final (fourth) stage of PSLV.
 - PSLV is a four - stage launch vehicle (1st & 3rd stage: Solid; 2nd & 4th : Liquid) where first three spent stages fall back into the ocean and final stage ends up as space junk.
 - Fourth stage can be used in missions where the load is light and can help growing demand from startups, and student and scientific communities.
- POEM has a dedicated Navigation Guidance and Control

system which will act as platform's brain to stabilize it with specified accuracy.

- POEM will derive its power from mounted solar panels and a Li-Ion battery.

About PSLV (Workhorse of ISRO)

- It is the third generation launch vehicle of India. It is the first Indian launch vehicle to be equipped with liquid stages.
- It can take up to 1,750 kg of payload to Sun - Synchronous Polar Orbits of 600 km altitude.
- PSLV has also been used to launch various satellites into Geosynchronous and Geostationary orbits.

Vritika Research Internship

- VRIKITA' is the call for initiation and practice in science through Training and skill Intership.
- It aims to provide opportunities to promising PG students from universities and colleges to get exposure and hands - on research skill development experience.
- These interships will primarily be facilitated by organisations / institutions / laboratories of national importance such as IITs, IISc, IISERs, NITs, CSIR, ICAR, ICMR etc.

- It is sponsored by Science & Engineering Research Board (SERB), Department of science and Technology (DST).

Anthrax

- Anthrax has been detected in wild boars in the Athirapally forest range in Thrissur (Kerala).
- Anthrax is primarily a zoonotic disease in herbivores caused by a spore - forming bacterium called *Bacillus anthracis*.
- In Humans, it is spread directly or indirectly from infected animals or occupational exposure to infected or contaminated animal products.
 - Anthrax in humans is not generally regarded as contagious, although are record of person-to-person transmission exist.
- It can be prevented through vaccination.

India largest floating solar power project

- NTPC has said it has commissioned India's largest floating solar power project.



- 100 MW Floating Solar Project has been operationalized at NTPC Ramagundam, Telangana.
 - The total installed capacity of NTPC has now reached 69,134.20 MW, having 23 coal-based, seven gas-based, one Hydro, and 19 renewable energy projects.
- The projects is endowed with advanced technology as well as environment friendly features.

National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI)

- The Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare inaugurated the centenary year celebrations of the ICAR - National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal (Haryana)

About NDRI

- Established in the year 1923.
- Leading institution in teaching, research & extension education.
- The R&D activities of the Institute mainly focus on:
 - Production and management of dairy animals for better productivity.
 - Innovating suitable milk processing technologies and equipments, and
 - Making dairying self - sustaining, profitable business.

Indigenous stealth drone

- Indigenous stealth drone makes maiden flight from test range in Karnataka.

- The stealth drone, also referred to as an Unmanned Combat Airborne Vehicle (UCAV)



- The UCAV is a precursor to the Ghatak armed stealth drone programme called AURA (Autonomous Unmanned Research Aircraft).
- AURA is described as a self-defending, high-speed, reconnaissance UAC with a weapon firing capability.
- It has been designed and developed by the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE).

New Pathway to Regulate Nitrate Absorption in Plants

- Researchers from National Centre of Biological Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research have studied a target gene of miR444 (micro - RNA) called MADS27 in both rice (monocot) and tobacco (dicot) plants.
 - Regulatory miR444 switch is known to turn off at least five genes called MADS box transcription factor genes.

- MADS box binds to their favourite specific DNA sequences and switches the neighbouring genes on.

- Three-pronged effect of Gene MADS27

- Regulated intrate absorption by switching "on" proteins involved in this process.
- It leads to better development of roots by regulating auxin hormone production and transport.
- Helps in the abiotic stress tolerance by keeping the main stress player proteins "on".

- Impact of nitrate imbalance

- Without nitrates, the amount of chlorophyll in leaves reduces i.e. leaves turn pale green or yellow colour.
- Reduces the farmers' crop yield.
- Excess nitrogen causes iron deficiency in plant leaves.

- Nitrogen is one of the most important macronutrients for plant development.

- Plants absorb nitrogen from soil in the form of nitrates and ammonium.
- Nitrates play a role in controlling genome - wide gene expression that in turn regulated root system architecture, flowering time, leaf development, etc.

The Need For Space Sustainability

- Recently, UK Space Agency and Secure World Foundation

(a private organisation promoting cooperative and peaceful use of outer space) held a summit for space sustainability.

- Space Sustainability is ability of all humanity to continue to use outer space for peaceful purposes and socio-economic benefit.
 - It entails meeting needs of present generations while preserving outer space for future generations.
- **Need for space sustainability**
 - To reduce orbital crowding and collision risk as number of satellite launches set to increase in next decade.
 - Increased space missions due to emergence of private space players (Space X, Blue Origin etc.).
 - Demonstrations of Anti-satellite weapons (ASAT) tests.
- **Initiatives for sustainable outer space use**
 - In 2019, UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) adopted voluntary, non-binding guidelines to ensure long-term sustainability of outer space activities.
 - UK plans for an Astro Carta based on Artemis Accords (NASA's led global agreement for lunar exploration and beyond) for sustainable space exploration.
 - ISRO's Project NETRA' to monitor space debris to pro-

tect its space assets. ISRO is also developing SPADEX to provide in-orbit servicing.

Aryabhat - 1

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science have built a prototype of an analog chipset called ARYABHAT-1 (Analog Reconfigurable Technology and Bias-scalable Hardware for AI Tasks).
- It will be faster and require less power than the digital chips found in most electronic devices.
- It would be helpful for Artificial Intelligence (AI) - based applications like object or speech recognition e.g., Alexa or Siri.
- Different machine learning architectures can be programmed on it and operate across a wide range of temperatures.

Section 69 (A) of the IT Act, 2000

- Twitter (a microblogging site) initiated legal action against government order of take down certain content posted on it.
- Government issued this order under section 69(A) of IT act 2000, that allowed the Central Government to issue blocking orders to social media intermediaries in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, public order etc.
 - As per rules for blocking orders are sent to a review committee, which then issues these directions.

- Blocking orders issued under the aforesaid section are usually confidential in nature.

Aditya-L1

- A workshop was conducted by Aditya-L1 Science Support Cell (AL1SSC) to perform scientific analysis using aditya-L1 data.



- Aditya-L1 mission is India's first dedicated spacecraft mission to study the sun.
- It will be inserted in a halo orbit around Lagrangian point 1 (L1)
 - At Lagrange points, gravitational pull of two large masses (like Sun and Earth) precisely equals centripetal force required for a small object to move with them.
- Aditya-L1 will enable a comprehensive understanding of dynamical processes of Sun and address some of the problems in solar physics and heliophysics.

GigaMesh

- GigaMesh is an innovative wireless network solution that can give fibre-like bandwidth internet services to suburban and rural areas.
 - It aims to address congestion issues in 4G infrastructure and provide high-tech and affordable internet connectivity.

- It is developed by Astrome, a deep-tech startup.
 - Astrome is supported by AL and Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK), the Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

Oncolytic Virotherapy

- Oncolytic Virotherapy is among the most promising anti-cancer treatments in recent years that uses a virus called oncolytic virus.
- Oncolytic viruses (OVs) are able to selectively replicate in and destroy tumour cells and subsequently induce systemic anti-tumour immune response.
 - They can kill cancer cells while leaving nearby healthy cells and tissues intact.

Log Bhagidari (People's Participation Pivotal for Launching Jan Abhiyan for Vector Control and Elimination : Union Health Minister

- The need for people participation was highlighted during a review of 13 high burden States/UTs preparedness for prevention and control of vector borne diseases ahead of the monsoon.
- VBDs are human illnesses caused by pathogens like parasites, viruses and bacteria that are transmitted by vectors, which are organisms that transmit infectious pathogens

between humans, or from animals to humans.

- Most vectors are bloodsucking insects (Eg. Mosquito, Ticks, Lice etc.), which ingest disease-producing pathogens during a blood meal from an infected host (human/animal) and later transmit it into a new host, after the pathogen has replicated.
- VBDs account for over 17% of all infectious diseases.
- Factors determining distributions of VBDs in India: Unplanned urbanization; environmental challenges like global warming; prolonged monsoon (provide favourable breeding conditions for vectors); globalization of trade and travel etc.
- National Vector borne Disease Control Programme (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) is the umbrella program for prevention and control of 6 VBDs in India (see box)

| VBDs in India | Vector (Pathogen) |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Malaria | Anopheles Mosquito (Parasite) |
| Dengue | Aedes Aegypti Mosquito (Virus) |
| Japanese Encephalitis | Culex Mosquito (virus) |
| Kala-Azar | Sandfly (parasite) |
| Lymphatic Filariasis | Culex Mosquito (Parasite) |
| Chikungunya | Aedes Aegypti Mosquito (virus) |

- The Union government has targeted-Elimination of Malaria by 2030, Lymphatic Filariasis by 2030 and Kala – Azar by 2023.

Lux - Zeplin (LZ) Dark Matter Detector Delivers its First Result

- A test run of LZ detector in U.S. has shown it to be the most sensitive dark mater detector yet created.
- Visible universe-including Earth, sun, other stars, and galaxies – is made of protons, neutrons, and electrons bundled together into atoms.
 - This ordinary, also called baryonic, matter makes up less than 5 percent of the mass of universe.
 - Rest of the universe appears to be made of a mysterious, invisible substance called dark matter (25 percent) and a force that repels gravity known as dark energy (70 percent).
- Unlike normal matter, dark matter does not interact with electromagnetic force.
- This means it does not absorb, reflect or emit light, making it extremely hard to spot.
 - Scientists study dark matter by looking at the effects it has on visible objects.
- **Significance of Dark matter study:**
 - It may account for unexplained motions of stars within galaxies.

- Critical to understanding of evolution of universe and to emergence of stars, plants etc.
- Will help to determine if the universe is open (Continues to expand), closed (expands to a point and then collapse) or flat (expands and then stops when it reaches equilibrium).

• **About LUX - ZEPLIN (LZ) detector**

- It is designed (underground) to capture dark matter in the form of weakly interacting massive particles (WIMPs).
- It consists of a huge titanium tank filled with extremely pure liquid xenon.
- Centre of LZ is one of the purest place on earth (free of radiation and dust).
- Collaboration of scientists/institutions from U.S., U.M., Portugal, and Korea.

NASA's James WEBB Space Telescope Delivers Deepest Infrared Image of Universe

- Known as Webb's first Deep Field, image shows the galaxy cluster SMACS 07723 as it appeared 4.6 billion years ago.
- One of the goals of JWST was to search for first galaxies or luminous objects



formed after Big Bang along with other goals of determining how galaxies evolved, observing stars formation etc.

- JWST, NASA's id infrared flagship observatory, is an international collaboration between

NASA, European Space Agency, and Canadian Space Agency.

- It is placed in Sun-Earth Lagrange Point 2 (L2).
- JWST is being considered as successor of Hubble Space Telescope.

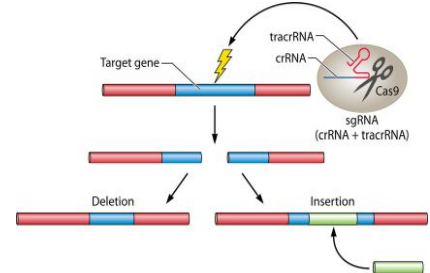
| | Hubble Telescope | JWST |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Distance from Earth | 507 km | 1.5 million km at Second Sun-Earth Lagrange point |
| Primary Mirror Diameter | 2.4 meter | 6.5 meter |
| Searching for | Young Galaxies (12.5 Billion years ago) | New born Galaxies (13.5 Billion years ago) |
| Serviceable | Yes | No |
| Wavelengths | Visible, UV, Part of near-infrared | Near and mid infrared |

10 Years of CRISPR Genome Editing

- Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats Associated protein 9 (CRISPR-Cas9) is used to modify gene function, to change genetic code or edit DNA at particular locations.
- Genes, basic unit of inheritance, are passed from parents to offspring and contain the information needed to specify physical and biological traits.
- Other genome editing systems include TALENs, Zinc-Finger Nucleases etc.

How CRISPR-Cas9 Works?

- It works as cut and paste mechanism on DNA Strands. The genetic codes that need



- to be changed are identified. The Cas9 protein is used as a pair of scissors to cut off a part from the strand.
- Strand when broken has self-repairing tendency. This way a damaged DNA strands can be removed

and help the human body restore to healthy state.

Applications

- Edit genes in human embryo, change genetic codes of crops to improve crop resilience, creating new therapies for Cancer treatment, curing inheritable diseases etc.
 - It is cheap, quick, easy, safe and more accurate.
- Nobel Prize for Chemistry, 2020 was awarded to Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A Doudna for development of CRISPR-Cas9 technique.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in defence:

- Ministry of Defence launched 75 newly-developed AI products/technologies during the first-ever 'AI in Defence' (AIDef) symposium.
 - Products include robotic mine detector, intrusion detection system, sensors for under water domain awareness, Mandarin translation device etc.
- AI can provide multiple options for military applications (for strategic, operational and tactical level planning) including intelligent UAVs, intelligence analysis, training, war-games, offense etc.
- **Steps taken by India:** AI-related challenges under innovations for defence excellence (IDEX), DRDO's Centre for Artificial Intelligence and

Robotics, First responder robot in collaboration, IMSAS marine planning software etc.

Air Pollution Censor

- To bolster measurement of air pollution in rural India, IIT-Kanpur would install nearly 1,400 sensors in rural blocks of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
 - Pilot project is expected to pave the way for a national network of air quality sensors in rural India.
- Air pollution in Indian is largely farmed as an urban blight though causes of pollution, such as biomass burning, and reliance on diesel gensets for electricity are worsening air quality in villages too.
- Aiso, National Clean Air Programme, launched in 2019, is primarily aimed at 122 cities that have been categorized as India's most polluted cities.

The World needs New Antimicrobial Resistance Vaccines

- The WHO released the first - ever report on the pipeline of the vaccines currently developing to prevent infections by Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) bacterial pathogens.
 - Title : An analysis of bacteria, vaccines in preclinical and clinical development: 2021".
 - AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites change over time

and no longer respond to medicines making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness, and death.

- The analysis identifies 61 vaccine candidates in various stages of clinical development.

Key Highlights

- Vaccines are available against four priority bacterial pathogens: Pneumococcal disease (Streptococcus pneumonia), Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b), Tuberculosis (Mycobacterium tuberculosis), and Typhoid fever (Salmonella Typhi).
- Current Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccines against tuberculosis (TB) do not adequately protect against TB. The remaining three vaccines are effective.
- It calls for equitable and global access to existing vaccines, accelerate trials for AMR-related vaccine, especially among populations that need them most in limited - resource settings.
- However, AMR is about more than bacterial infections and thus vaccine development is critical to AMR's control.
- **Steps taken by India to control AMR**
 - Chennai Declaration, 2012, to promote antibiotic stewardship.

- India's Red Line campaign demands that prescription-only antibiotics be marked with a red line, to discourage the over-the-counter sale of antibiotics.
- National Action Plan on AMR (NAP-AMR) (2017-21).

Push for wider Use of Genomics in All Countries: World health organisation

- WHO's Science Council (SC) issued its first report on accelerating access to genomics for global health, arguing that it is not justifiable ethically or scientifically for less-resourced countries to gain access to such technologies long after rich countries do.
 - SC was established (2021) by Director General of WHO to provide guidance on the science and research strategy of the organization.
- Report's recommendations address four themes:
 - Advocacy to promote genomics.
 - Implementation of genomic methodologies.
 - Collaboration among entities engaged in genomics.
 - Attention to the ethical, legal, and social issues (ELSI) raised by genomics.
- Genomics refers to the study of the entire genome of organisms and the large amounts of corresponding data generated from it.

- Genetics, on the other hand, is concerned with study of heredity.
- **Applications and uses of genomics:**
 - Human genomics for medical purposes (Prevent, diagnose, predict, manage, monitor, and treat genetic disorders).
 - Microbial genomics for medical purposes (identification of infectious agents, vaccine design etc.)
 - Agriculture and aquaculture genomics (identification of new traits and disease susceptibility etc.)
 - Biological and medical research (drug development, discovery of genes influencing disease etc.)
 - Others (forensic science, assessment of ancestry etc.)

Sodium-ion (Na-ion) based battery Technology might soon be a viable Alternative to lithium based ones: University of Houston

- The University of Houston developed an electrolyte which makes it significantly more viable to produce sodium ion-based batteries commercially and on a larger scale.
- Sodium-ion (Na-ion) batteries are solid-state batteries, and use solids instead of liquids to ferry ions through their core.

- **It has three components:**
 - A negatively charged anode made up of hard carbons;
 - A positively charged cathode constituting sodium-containing layered materials;
 - Electrolyte that allows electrons to move.
- **As compared to Lithium ion battery, Sodium-ion battery**
 - Replaces the polymer separator used in lithium-ion batteries with a solid-state separator, which is more energy-dense.
 - Lowers charging time and improve life by eliminating the need to have lithium diffuse into the carbon particles as in conventional lithium-ion cells.
- **Potential of Sodium Battery**
 - Natural abundance of sodium resources.
 - Greener and sustainable battery system.
 - Lesser cost of extracting than lower than lithium (least 20 percent)
 - Contain non-flammable solid electrolytes that exhibit high safety.
- **Issue with Li-ion battery**
 - High Environmental cost by way of mining.
 - Extremely reactive.
 - Needs a protective circuit to keep it running safely.
 - Expensive with reserves localized only in certain parts of Chile, Australia, Argentina, and China.

| CHARACTERISTIC | NA-ION | LI-ION |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Energy density | 70-160 Wh/kg, with potential to go to 200 Wh/kg | Ranging from about 150 wh/kg for lithium-iron phosphate cathodes to 275 Wh/ kg for nickel-manganese-cobalt cathodes |
| Manufacturing | Yet to be manufactured at commercial scale | Proven at scale and in high-performance cars. |
| Raw Material Cost | Sodium hydroxide is \$300-\$800 per metric ton | Lithium hydroxide is \$78,000 per metric ton. |
| Safety | No risk of thermal runaway | Can overheat and catch fire. |
| Cycle life | Some developers have struggled to overcome | Steady performances over a high number of cycles |
| Performance at low temperature | Maintains 90% performance at -20°C in cooler temperature | Drops considerably |
| Recyclability | Simple recovery process | Complex separation of metals may be required |

Hypersonic Missile

- US has successfully tested two Lockheed Martin hypersonic missiles-Air-Launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW)



booster amid an arms race with China and Russia.

- Hypersonic weapons travel in the upper atmosphere at more than five times the speed of sound (Mach 5), or about 6,200 km per hour.
- Earlier in May, Russia said it had successfully test-fired a hypersonic zircon cruise missile.

- In 2020, the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully tested a hypersonic technology Demonstrated Vehicle (HSTDV) in the form of hypersonic air-breathing scramjet technology.
 - Presently, only US, Russia and China have hypersonic technology.

Monkeypox Virus

- First Monkeypox case detected in Kerala.
- Monkeypox is a zoonotic disease, first discovered in 1958



in Monkeys, transmitted from infected animals to humans.

- It occurs primarily in tropical rainforest areas of Central and West Africa and is occasionally exported to other regions.
- It belongs to family poxviridae, which also includes viruses causing smallpox and cowpox disease.
- Transmitted through lesions, body fluids, respiratory droplets and contaminated materials such as bedding.
- Vaccines used during smallpox eradication programme provided protection against monkeypox.

Diseases in News

Kala Azar

- Also known as Black fever, or Visceral Leishmaniasis it is

protozoan parasitic diseases, spread by sandfly bites. The flies are infected with the parasite called 'Leishmania donovani'

- Disease is linked to malnutrition, population displacement, poor housing
- It is a treatable and curable disease.
- In India, the disease is endemic in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
 - National Kala-Azar Elimination Programme was launched to control this disease.
 - Government aimed to eliminate the disease in India by 2015, but that deadline was missed.

African Swine Fever

- Recently, cases have been reported from Bihar, leading to State government imposing a 30-day ban on the transportation of pigs, pork and pork products and pig manure.
- ASF is Highly contagious and deadly viral disease affecting pigs and wild boar with up to 100% case fatality rate.
 - ASF is not a threat to human health and cannot be transmitted from pigs to humans.
 - Currently, there is no effective vaccine against ASF.
 - Symptoms-high fever, vomiting and diarrhoea among others.
- It was first reported in India in 2019.

Indian space Research organisation (ISRO) Sets New Deadlines For Important Missions

- As per new deadlines, ISRO's first solar mission (AdityaL1) and third lunar mission (Chandrayaan-3) is set to take place in first quarter of 2023.
 - However, first abort demonstration for ISRO's Gaganyaan mission is scheduled for later 2022.
- Earlier in 2018, ISRO had already conducted a pad abort test, under which astronauts

can escape from spacecraft in case emergency arises at launch pad.

- For abort missions, ISRO has developed test vehicles that can send the systems higher to a certain extent, simulate failure and check escape system.
- Gaganyaan's escape mission included five "quick-acting" solid fuel motors along with a high burn rate propulsion system, and fins for stability. This system will be separated from crew module.

| Mission | Details |
|--------------------------|--|
| Aditya L1 Mission | 1. It will study about sun's corona, solar emissions, solar winds and flares, and coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs), and will carryout round-the-clock imaging of Sun. 2. Aditya 1 (Meant to observe only solar corona) was renamed as Aditya-L1 (Lagrangian Point 1) 3. Lagrange points are position in space where gravitational forces of a two-body system (like Sun and Earth) produce enhanced regions of attraction and repulsion. 4. Other solar mission: European Space Agency's solar orbiter, NASA's Parker Solar probe. |
| Chandrayaan-3 | It is a follow-up of Chandrayaan-2 mission, which aimed to land a rover on lunar South pole. |
| Gaganyaan Mission | 1. It seeks to demonstrate indigenous capability to undertake human space flight mission to Low Earth Orbit. 2. As part of it, two unmanned missions and one manned mission is approved by Government. 3. Until now, only US, Russia and China have managed to send manned missions to outer space. |

MONKEYPOX IS PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OF INTERNATIONAL CONCERN (PHEIC): WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO)

- Monkeypox satisfies the requirement of a PHEIC under the WHO's International Health Regulations (IHR), 2005.
- According to IHR, an outbreak qualifies as a PHEIC if
 - 1) It's unusual or unexpected,
 - 2) Has potential for international spread, and
 - 3) Requires an immediate international response.
 - Once it spreads internationally, it is declared as a Pandemic.
- The PHEIC is WHO's highest level of alert and the announcement can unlock funding and

global efforts to collaborate on sharing vaccines and treatments.

- So far this year, there have been 15000 cases of monkeypox in more than 60 countries.
- About Monkeypox
 - It is a viral disease that spreads via close contact and tends to cause flu-like symptoms and pus-filled skin lesions.
 - The current outbreak is unlike any previous one outside of Africa in that there is sustained person-to-person transmission of the infection.
 - It has been spreading chiefly in men who have sex with men in the recent outbreak outside Africa, where it is endemic.

- It is transmitted by blood - feeding insects, such as certain species of flies and mosquitoes, or ticks.
- Its spread can be controlled through attenuated virus vaccines.

Challenges of Fiberisation Ahead of India's 5G Development

- In the backdrop of the 5G spectrum auction for telecom airwaves by government, the challenges for requisite infrastructure in terms of fiberisation is underscored.
- Fiberisation is the process of connecting radio towers with each other via optical fibre cables.
 - It represents the part of the network that connects the core of the network to the edge facilitating large amounts of data used in 5G services.
 - Also, it provides additional bandwidth and stronger backhaul support.
 - In India, currently only 33% of the towers are fiberised, compared to the 80%-90% in the U.S., Japan and China.
 - To transition to 5G, India needs at least 16 times more fibre.
- **Challenges to Fiberisation**
 - Monetary constraints like India requires Rs. 2.2 lakh crore of investment to help fiberise 70% towers.

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Endemic disease | Constantly present in a population or region, with relatively low spread |
| Epidemic disease | Sudden increase in cases spreading through a large population. |
| Pandemic disease | Sudden increase in cases across several countries, continents or the world. |

Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)

- For the third consecutive year on outbreak of LSD is reported in Gujarat, killing nearly 1,000 cows and buffaloes.



- LSD is an infectious viral disease mainly affecting cattle, causing fever, nodules on the skin and occasionally death.
 - It also causes reduced milk yield of animals.
- Originally found in Africa, it has also spread to countries in the Middle East, Asia, and eastern Europe.

- Time constraints like to connect every village in the country with optical fiber cable (OFC) in 100 days, cables must be laid at a speed of 1251 km a day, around 3.6 times the current speed.
- Ineffective implementation of Indian Telegraph Right of Way (RoW) Rules 2016 which provide for one-time compensation and uniform procedure for establishment of Overground Telegraph Line (OTL).

| Other government initiatives for fiberisation | |
|---|--|
| In October 2021, DoT revised RoW rules, making it easier to install aerial optical fibre cable. | DoT's GatiShakti Sanchar online portal is a way to simplify RoW approvals and help deploy cables for 5G. |

Anti - Retroviral Therapy (ART)

- India is facing shortage of dolutegravir and nevirapine drugs used in ART given to HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) positive persons.
 - Dolutegravir is used by adults, adolescents and children (aged more than 6 years with body weight more than 20 kg) and Nevirapine syrup is given to infants.
- ART aims to reduce the replication of HIV and bring the viral load to undetectable levels. It reduces the mortality and illness resulting from HIV infection.
 - HIV attacks the body's immune system and can lead to AIDS.

Minister lauds scientists for conducting world's first locomotion trials of Deep - Sea Mining System

- Last year, scientists from National Institute of Ocean Technology (under MoES) conducted world's deepest underwater locomotion trials of Deep-Sea Mining System in Central Indian Ocean at depth of 5270 meters.
 - It is part of Deep Ocean Mission (DOM).
- DOM aims to explore Deep Ocean for resources and develop deep sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources. It will be a mission mode project to support Blue Economy Initiatives.
 - Blue Economy is sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs. Its

size in India is about 4% of the GDP.

- Mission will be implemented in a phase-wise manner over a period of 5 years (2021-26).
 - Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is the nodal Ministry.
- **Major components of the Mission**
 - Development of Technologies for Deep Sea Mining, and Manned Submersible.
 - Development of Ocean Climate Change Advisory Services.
 - Technological innovations for exploration and conservation of deep-sea biodiversity.
 - Deep Ocean Survey and Exploration
 - Energy and freshwater from the Ocean.
 - Advanced Marine Station for Ocean Biology.

Related News

- Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences launched a first-of-its-kind and state-of-art fully automated buoy-based coastal observation and water quality now-casting system for the Indian Ocean.
 - It is developed by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad.
- It will provide real-time data of 19 water quality-related

measurement such as temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, etc.

- It will help generate accurate nowcasts about coastal water quality, improve indices of coastal ecosystem's health, and calibrate and validate sensors onboard satellites such as Oceansat - III.

Cabinet approves project for saturation of 4G mobile services

- Project will provide 4G mobile services in 24,680 uncovered village in remote and difficult areas and will promote delivery of various e-governance services, banking services, tele-medicine, tele-education etc.
- It has a provision to include 20% additional villages on account of rehabilitation, new-settlement, withdrawal of services by existing operators etc.
 - In addition, 6,279 villages having only 2G/3G connectivity shall be upgraded to 4G.
- Project will be executed by BSNL using Atmanirbhar Bharat's 4G technology stack and will be funded through Universal Service Obligation Fund.

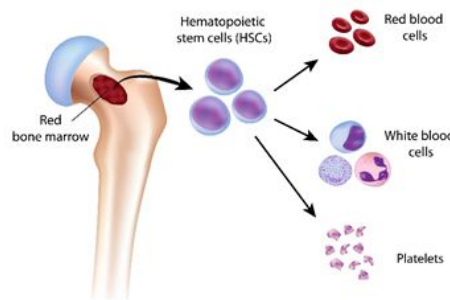
Stem Cell Transplantation (SCT)

- Researchers reported fourth patient of HIV cured after stem cell transplant.
- SCT, also called bone marrow transplant, is a procedure

in which a patient receives healthy stem cells to replace damaged stem cells.

Two main types

- **Autologous transplantation** : Uses patient's own stem cells. These cells are



removed, treated and returned to his body after a conditioning regimen.

- **Allogeneic transplantation** : Uses stem cells from a donor.
- Stem cells are special human cells that are able to develop into many different cell types such as muscle/blood/brain cells.

Ministry of communications floats consultation paper on 'Need for a new legal framework governing telecommunication in India'

- The draft paper notes the emergence of new technologies such as 5G, Internet of Things, etc. and underscores the need to have a modern and future-ready legal framework which addresses the realities of telecommunications in 21st century India.

Key proposals for the new law

- Recognises exclusive privilege of the government to provide telecommunication services, establish and maintain telecommunication network and infrastructure.
- Simplification of the regulatory framework through adequate provisions to ensure regulatory certainty and promote investment.
- **Regulatory clarity for spectrum allocation.**
 - At present, spectrum assignment is done through a combination of policies and court orders.
 - Recently, the CAG report highlights gaps in spectrum allocations.
- Effective Right to Way (legal right to pass along a specific route through property belonging to another) through a uniform, non-discriminatory framework to ensure continuity of connectivity.
- Overhaul the current Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) with the wider concept of a "Telecommunication Development Fund".
- Appropriate provisions for addressing situations of public emergency, public safety and for taking measures in the interests of national security.
- Framework for mergers, acquisitions, etc. and provisions pertaining to Insolvency as well as penalties.

Key findings of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) on spectrum allocation

- Spectrum allocations in India have been conducted on an adhoc basis between 2012 and 2021.
- This has led to uncertainties in the availability of the resource to the government while also causing delays in spectrum assignments.
- Spectrum allotted to the government are either sub-optimally utilised or unused.
- DoT has not taken steps to assess technological developments worldwide, which was mandated by National Digital Communication Policy, 2018.

Vitamin B1 (thiamine)

- The Department of Pharmaceuticals has invited applications for Vitamin B1 under the 'Production Linked Incentive scheme for Bulk Drugs'.
 - Under the scheme, financial incentive is given to eligible manufacturers of identified 41 eligible products for 6 years.
- Vitamin B1 is a water-soluble vitamin that enables the body to use carbohydrates as energy. It is essential for glucose metabolism, and plays a key role in nerve, muscle, and heart function.
- **Natural sources:** Outer layers and germ of cereals, yeast, beef, pork, nuts, whole grains, and pulses.

Aircraft carrier Vikrant

- The Indian Navy (IN) recently received the delivery of India's first indigenous aircraft carrier



Vikrant built with 76% indigenisation by Cochin Shipyards Limited (CSL) - a public sector shipyard, under the Ministry of shipping.

Vikrant

- It has been named after its predecessor (built in the UK) which had played a pivotal role in the 1971 war.
- It will help Indian Navy to develop into a blue - water Navy.
- A blue- water navy is one which can operate globally, vast deep waters of different oceans.

Cryptojacking

- Cryptojacking is a cyber-attack that is hard to detect, where in a computing device is hacked by the attacker, and its resources are used to illicitly coin mining of cryptocurrency.
- Coin mining is a legitimate, competitive process used to release new crypto coins into circulation or to verify new transactions.
 - It involves solving complex computational problems to

generate blocks of verified transactions that get added to the blockchain.

Hepatitis

- World Hepatitis day, observed every year on July 28, to create awareness of viral hepatitis.
 - Theme : 'Bringing hepatitis care closer to you'.
- Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver.
 - Five main viral classifications of hepatitis are hepatitis A, B,C, D, and E.
 - Different virus is responsible for each type of viral hepatitis.
 - It is the only communicable disease where mortality is showing an increasing trend.
 - Causes : Alcohol consumption, Inflammatory reaction, contact with infected blood or body fluid.
 - Integrated Regional Action Plan for viral hepatitis 2022 - 2026 is being developed by WHO.

India's Space Development

Types

- Launch vehicle technology (PSLV, GSLV, SSLV, RLV)



- Remote sensing satellites
- INSAT system used in telecommunication, weather forecasting.
- Space travel to Moon, Mars, Sun

Back ground

- In 1962, the establishment of the Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR) initiated 7 accelerated activities in the country.
- In the same year, work on the Thumba Equator Launch Site (TERLS) near Thiruvananthapuram was also started.
- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) was established in August 1969.
- In June 1972 Space Commission and Department of Space were formed and in September 1972 ISRO was brought under this department
- Major projects to be undertaken at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram: Development of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), Geo Synchronus Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) and (GSLV) Mk-III, Rohini sounding rockets and Small Satellite Launch Vehicle are included .
- Reusable Launch Vehicle, Test Vehicle Project, air-breathing propulsion and critical technologies towards human spaceflight.

Mahendragiri ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC):

- This complex is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities to implement advanced propulsion technology products for the Indian Space Programme.
- **National Homicide Sensing Centre, Hyderabad:** Its main tasks are development of techniques for remote sensing applications including establishment of ground stations for acquisition of satellite data, development of data products, aerial remote sensing data acquisition, dissemination to users, disaster management support.
- **Master Control Facility (MCF) at Hassan, Karnataka:** It is the best control center in the South Asian region, with a geo-arc visibility of over 140.
- **New Space India Limited (NSIL):** This company was incorporated as a Government of India/Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) on 6 March 2019 under the administrative control of the Central Department of Space.
- Its mission is to build satellites, launch them as required: develop missiles, and develop technological changes in line with the Indian industry.
- ISRO's first interplanetary mission Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) completed 7 years in its orbit on 24 Sep 2021.
- **Chandrayaan:** 2 years have been completed.

- The 'Chandrayaan-3' mission aims to demonstrate lunar surface landing and rover for sample analysis near the landing site.
- **Aditya L1 Mission:** The first space-based Indian mission to study the Sun from a halo orbit around the Lagrangian point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system.
- It observes the photosphere, Chromosphere and the outer layers of the Sun with 7 'balloons'.
- **Gaganyaan Project:** Human spaceflight is to carry a crew of 3 people into 'Low Earth Orbit' and return them safely to a pre-defined location inside the Earth.
- This is a major milestone for the Indian space programme.
- **Remote Sensing Satellite:** Operational Remote Sensing Services started with the launch of Indian Remote Sensing Satellite IRS-1A which has been operational since 1988: It facilitates forecasting of weather, storms.

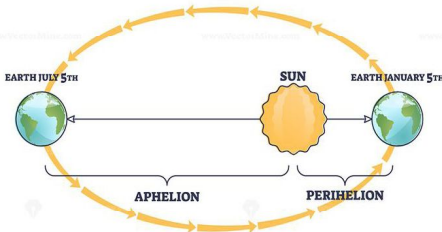
Aphelion event

- The distance between Sun and Earth is 9 million km.
- But, during this Aphelion event, the distance between the two will increase to 15 million km.
- That is, 66% distance increase.
- The Earth's orbit around the Sun is elliptical like the shape of a hen's egg.

Perihelion

- Therefore, the Earth will be near the Sun for a certain period of time.

PERIHELION AND APHELION



- It is perihelion which occurs annually on December 3rd.

About

- Similarly, aphelion is the position that is slightly further away from the boundary of the ecliptic. It will happen on July 4-5.
- The average distance between the Sun and the Earth is 15.21 crore Km.
- The shortest distance of the Helian phase and 14.71 crore km.
- The difference between the maximum and minimum distance of the orbit is only 1.7% less than the average distance.
- It is completely false to say that the distance difference turns out to be 66%.
- Earth's axis is tilted about 23.5 degrees. Therefore, while the sun's rays fall obliquely in the Northern Hemisphere in December, they fall vertically in the Southern Hemisphere.

- Because of this, summer in the southern hemisphere & its cold in the northern hemisphere
- In the month of July, the sun's rays fall vertically above the head in the northern hemisphere.
- At that time, the sun's rays fall obliquely in the southern hemisphere.
- Therefore, summer in the Northern Hemisphere and winter in the Southern Hemisphere, there is no direct relationship between the Earth's seasons and the distance between the Earth and the Sun.

Space Industrial Park

- The Government of Tamil Nadu has allotted 2,000 acres of land to ISRO to set up the second rocket launch pad of the Indian Space Research Center called Space Industrial Park, Kulasekharapatnam, Tuticorin District.
- ISRO is carrying out the work of setting up a rocket launch pad to launch small type of rockets.
- In this park, land will be allocated to companies that will manufacture the tools needed to build rockets.
- DITCO is planning to set up a space industrial park near the rocket launch pad.

5G Spectrum

In news

- Adani Data Networks, Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea

have applied to bid for 5G spectrum in SUL 5G spectrum

What is 5G?

- The 5G network will operate in the millimetre-wave spectrum (30-300 GHz) which can send large amounts of data at very high speeds as the frequency is very high, and it experiences little interference from surrounding signals.
- 5G is the latest upgrade in the long-term evolution (LTE) mobile broadband networks.
- In the high-band spectrum of 5G, internet speeds have been tested to be as high as 20 Gbps (gigabits per second).

5G mainly works in 3 bands

- Low band spectrum: It has good coverage and speed of internet and data exchange however the maximum speed is limited to 100 Mbps (Megabits per second).
- Mid-band spectrum: It offers higher speeds compared to the low band, but has limitations in terms of coverage area and penetration of signals.
- High-band spectrum: It has the highest speed of all the three bands, but has extremely limited coverage and signal penetration strength.

What is the difference between 5G and 4G?

| 4G | 5G |
|---|---|
| Uses lower reading frequencies of 700 MHz to 2500 MHz. | Uses much higher radio frequencies of 28 GHz. |
| Low speed with less data transfer. | Faster speeds with more data transfer. |
| Higher latency as compared to 5G that is about 20-30 milliseconds. | Has lower latency which is predicted to be below 10 milliseconds, and in best cases around 1 millisecond. |
| Supports a lesser number of devices (about 4,000 devices per square kilometre). | Uses a millimetre-wave spectrum which enables more devices to be used within the same geographic area supporting around one million per square kilometre. |
| Has led to more congestion and lesser coverage. | It uses a new digital technology that improves coverage, speed, and capacity. |

What is the Global scenario?

- Commercial 5G networks began to be deployed in 2020 worldwide and are expected to reach 12% of world mobile connections (1.1 billion) and generate revenues up to the U.S.\$1.3 trillion by 2025 for operators.
- 5G had been deployed in 50 cities in the United States.
- South Korea rolled out 5G to 85 cities.
- Japan and China have started 5G mobile services on a trial basis.

Is India ready for the 5G leap?

- DoT confirmed that 13 cities in India would get 5G services in 2022. These include Delhi,

Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Gurugram, Chandigarh, Bangalore, Ahmadabad, Jamnagar, Hyderabad, Pune, Lucknow and Gandhinagar.

Advantages of 5G for India

- The new generation mobile network has the transformative potential to provide a wide range of benefits to the Indian economy, which when combined with artificial intelligence provides a new face to a connected and autonomous system.
- 5G networks could improve the accessibility of services such as mobile banking and health-care, and enable exponential growth in opportunities for unemployed or underemployed

people to engage in fulfilling and productive work.

- The Indian policy-makers can educate and empower citizens and businesses, and transform existing cities into smart and innovative cities.
- Socio-economic Benefits:** This may allow citizens and communities to get socio-economic benefits and comforts delivered by a well-advanced, more data-intensive, digital economy.

Uses

- Broadly speaking, the uses of 5G in India may encompass enhanced outdoor and indoor broadband, the Internet of things (IoT), smart cities and smart agriculture, energy monitoring, remote monitoring, smart grids, telehealth, industrial automation, remote patient monitoring, and industrial automation to name some of the areas.
- 5G technology can be used for agriculture and smart farming in the future.
- Using smart RFID sensors and GPS technology, farmers can track the location of livestock and manage them easily.
- Smart sensors can be used for irrigation control, access control, and energy management.
- It will support medical practitioners to perform advanced medical procedures with a reliable wireless network connected to another side of the globe.

- Doctors can connect with patients from anywhere anytime and advise them when necessary.
- Scientists are working on smart medical devices which can perform remote surgery.
- Smart medical devices like wearables will continuously monitor a patient's condition and activate alerts during an emergency.

Challenges for rolling out 5G

- **Critical infrastructures:** 5G will require a fundamental change to the core architecture of the communication system.
- Since the major flaw of data transfer using 5G is that it can't carry data over longer distances, the 5G technology needs to be augmented to existing infrastructure.
- **Financial liability:** For the transition from 4G to 5G technology, one has to upgrade to the latest cellular technology, thereby creating financial liability on consumers.
- **Capital inadequacy:** Lack of adequate capital with suitable telecom companies (like Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea) is delaying the 5G spectrum allocation.
- **Late adoption:** Countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including India, Bangladesh, and Indonesia are late in adopting 5G technology, hence, may get decreased revenue from the service.
- **Government subsidies:** The likelihood of government subsidies is low, because of the history of high reserve prices set by the governments for spectrum auctions amid ongoing fiscal deficits.
- **Digital divide:** 5G will not bridge the digital divide between rural and urban in the short term, rather this may increase it.
- **Niche service:** 5G will be a niche service unlike 3G and 4G which were distributive services.
- It will get intensified over a comparatively longer period and concentrated to particular sectors.
- **Previous technology:** Consumers are still struggling with basic network issues like call drops and interrupted data services.
- 4G networks still cause frequent disruptions in internet services.
- **Interference:** There are concerns that the rollout of 5G mobile service could potentially interfere with aircraft navigation systems.
- Air India cancelled eight flights on US routes in January 2022.
- Hence it is important to elevate the quality of service of existing 4G networks before embarking on a new 5G platform.

Nano fertilizers

- The use of indigenously developed 'nano fertilizers' should be popularized among farmers instead of chemical fertilizers.

- India alone accounts for 35% of global fertilizer use.
- India imports 70 lakh to 100 lakh metric tonnes of fertilizers every year.
- Central government is spending Rs 2.5 lakh crore alone on fertilizer subsidy.
- A bottle of Nano Fertilizer is equal to a sac of fertilizer
- A bottle of Nano Fertilizer is sold for Rs.240.
- Nano fertilizers are safe. It has also been proven effective in studies.
- All nano-fertilizers are locally developed.
- The Central Government wants to achieve the goal of 'One Nation, One Fertilizer'.
- The Central Government laid the foundation stone for Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-Operative Ltd's (IFFCO) which will be set up with an investment of Rs.350 crores.

Sindhuhvaj Submarine

- In line with Russian-built Sindhukosh Submarine, INS Sindhuhvaj Submersible is an example of project project initiative 'Self-reliant India'.



- Sonar is a device used to measure the depth of the ocean.

The ship had various features including completely indigenously built satellite communication system and navigation equipment.

- INS Sindhudhvaj was the first submariner to win the CNS Rolling Cup for innovation. This submarine retired from Indian Navy service.

Metaverse

- This new technology 'Metaverse' is taking virtualization to the next level for users.
- Through this, one can be taken to an artificially created world in an instant
- The brain works according to what the human eye sees. As such, this technology makes the human eye believe that it is somewhere else.
- So, our brain also believes the same and makes us perceive the artificial world shown in it.
- This technology cannot be described in words. This technology can only be experienced.
- It is not just for entertainment but also for health related uses.
- For example, people who cannot go to a hospital to see a doctor can get the experience of seeing a doctor who is far away immediately.
- Training classes such as yoga and dance can be trained in a more controlled way with 'Metaverse' technology than the current video conferencing technology.

- Blockchain opportunities such as 'NFT' are growing to create and market three-dimensional (3D) virtual objects using this technology.
- If the fifth generation network comes in three years, through high-speed internet, Indians will be able to travel across countries and watch sports like cricket from the comfort of their homes.
- If more people use the Metaverse technology, the demand for travel will also decrease.
- When the traffic decreases, the toxic fumes emitted by the vehicles also decrease and there is a chance to save the natural resources to some extent.

Cosmic Secret

- Five images were selected by a panel consisting of representatives from the US space agency NASA, the European Space Agency, the Canadian



- Space Agency, and the Space Telescope Science Institute.
- Fundamental particles called quarks burst into the primordial cosmic space.
- We say that the 'Hadron Age' occurred in space when the strong nuclear interactions increased in those particles with massive gravitational pull.

- Subsequently, a Big Bang occurred at the end of the 'Lepton Age' of weak nuclear interactions.
- Any flash of memory has disappeared in a split of second.
- The precision James Webb Space Telescope has captured a tiny fraction of cosmic matter that existed 1.38 billion years ago in the raging surface of the "exploding cosmic shock."
- A cosmic ocean filled with hydrogen atoms, the smallest nucleus, and helium atoms, four times its mass, expanded.
- The expanding universe began to relax and cool down a bit
- At the dawn of the universe, the universe became dark everywhere.
- However, the gravitational force in colder bulge galaxies was increasing.
- Those gas spheres are finally pressurized inside and hypothermia rises, causing heat waves on their surface. When the interstellar peak was reached, the star began to glow.
- The fusion of hydrogen atoms accelerates the production of helium atoms. From within the dark cosmic womb the stars were born.
- The stars began to form rings and atmospheres (galaxies).
- They were convoluted, flat oval and irregular in shape. In the center of some of them, massively elevated mounds formed
- One such region is being built by the name of 'Agaya Ganga'.

We also call it 'Milky Way'. That is motherland for us.

- The cosmic wheel containing twenty thousand billion suns is said to be one hundred thousand light years across.
- That is, suppose there is an extraordinary vehicle moving at a speed of 3 lakh kilometers per second in the blink of an eye.
- If you sit on it and travel across the Milky Way Universe, it will take one lakh years to reach the other edge.
- The Webb Telescope has amazingly captured the southern star cluster 'Carina Nebula', which is 313 light-years away from Earth.
- Conspicuous vertical rock formations (gauss mig glyphs) reveal early and rapid phases of star formation.
- In this ship-like carina, there is a white giant star called the 'Agathyar' (Canopus) constellation.
- It is the second brightest star in the night sky. In earlier times this was the guide in the sky for seafarers.
- Another image sent by the Webb Telescope is meant to detect early galaxies in the neighborhood.
- The 'Southern Heavy Cloak Observatory' has detected some distant galaxies at a distance of about 460 million light-years.
- The same time period when our solar system was born in the cosmic womb can also be referred to as archaic memories.
- Then all the small bodies like planets, asteroids, comets started orbiting the Sun.
- The Webb telescope, while casting a wide-angle exoplanet search, discovered a gas giant exoplanet codenamed 'Wasp-96b' at the time of Phoenix.
- The mass of the planet is 1,000 billion tons. That means the planet is 160 times heavier than Earth.
- It orbits a star named 'Wasp-96' with an external temperature of 52006000 degrees Celsius at a distance of approximately 67 lakh km.
- The color halo of the space telescope has confirmed that watery clouds and mists are distinctly visible in the exoplanet's atmosphere.
- About 1,120 light-years from Earth, in the southern sky is the constellation Phoenix, it is depicted by the phoenix, the mythical bird that rises from its own ashes.
- The four constellations Phoenix, Pao (Peacock), Tucana (Doucan) and Krus (Cuckoo) are collectively known as the 'Southern Birds'.
- The spheroid cluster contains dense 'dark matter' that creates enough gravity to bend the path of light in a gravitational bow
- As early as 1936, the world-renowned scientist Albert Einstein was prophetically aware of such a gravitational lens.
- The fainter haloes can be seen magnified through the heavy haloes, which act as The cosmic bows. The largest image sent by NASA's James Webb Space Telescope is the Stephen's Quintet of four galaxies.
- This image is an enormous image covering a size one-fifth the diameter of the Moon (750 km). It is no ordinary news that it has 15 crore pixels; It is the pinnacle of modern technology.
- It is noteworthy that these four clusters, which can be seen in the 'Pegasus' constellation, which is known as the 'Flying Horse' in the northern sky, were discovered in 1877 by Edouard Stephan from the Marseille Observatory.
- The constellation Pegasus, also known as the 'Flying Horse', is illuminating in a new way, even for scientists.
- Gas near a black hole indicates how it is mixed. Also, how galaxies cut off star formation from each other.
- The images sent by the telescope also describe this.
- For the first time, a Web telescope has brought the world's full view of not only the interstellar womb but also the graveyard of a galaxy 2,000 light-years away.
- A supermassive star explodes to give birth to a black hole. It is a supermassive hole that does not emit even light at a speed of 3 lakh kilometers per second. The Webb Telescope's powerful infrared instrument has imaged one such dying galaxy in the Southern Ring Nebula.

XII. Miscellaneous

1. Index

| Index Name | Launched by | Content |
|---|---|--|
| Asia-Pacific sustainability Index | Knighr frank | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Index has been topped by Singapore. 2. Among Indian cities, Bengaluru was ranked first, while in the Asia-Pacific region, it has been ranked 14th. 3. Bengaluru is the only Indian city to achieve 'Gold' Standard Category. 4. In the Index, four Indian cities Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Delhi and Mumbai have been ranked among top 20 sustainable cities. |
| State ranking Index for National food security Act | Ministry of food processing Industry | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Top three states are Odisha, UttarPradesh, Andhra Pradesh. 2. Bottom three states are Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Goa. 3. Three Parameters, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NFSA coverage, rightful targeting and implementation. 2. Delivery platform 3. Nutrition Initiative 4. Most states and UT have fared well in digitization, Aadhaar seeding and epos installation. 5. Among special category states Tripura has been obtained first place. |
| Purchasing manager Index (PMI) | Compiled and released monthly by the Institute for supply management. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Index is an indicator of both in the manufacturing and services sector. 2. The PMI is a number from 0 to 100 3. PMI value above 50 denotes expansion. 4. PMI value below 50 denotes contraction. 5. It is different from the Index of Industrial production. |

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| <p>India Innovation Index</p> | <p>NITI Aayog</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The number of Indicators has increased from 36 to 66 2. There are 7 pillars in the Index, five enabler pillars measure the inputs and two 'Performance' pillars measure the output. 3. Top states are Karnataka topped with a score 18.5 followed by Telangana and Haryana. 4. Bottom states are Bihar, Odisha and Chhattisgarh. 5. Hill and north-east states Manipur is top, Nagaland last. 6. UT / Small state <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chandigarh (first) 2. Ladakh (last) |
| <p>Digital payment Index</p> | <p>Reserve Bank of India</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To capture the extent of digitisation of payment across the country. 2. This index is published semi annually. 3. Real time data from the index demonstrated significant growth, Indicating rapid adoption and deepening of digital payments across the country. |
| <p>Aridity Anomaly outlook index</p> | <p>Indian meteorological department</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Index monitors agricultural drought, a situation when rainfall and soil moisture are inadequate to support healthy crop growth till maturity, causing cross stress. 2. The aridity Index is computed for weekly or two-week periods. 3. Negative value Indicate a surplus of moisture while positive values Indicate moisture stress. 4. Only 63 of 756 districts are non-arid, while 660 are faring different degree of aridity-mild, moderate and Severe. 5. Some 196 districts are in the grip of a severe degree of dryness and 65 of these are in Uttar Pradesh. |

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| <p>Performance Grading Index for districts (PGI-D)</p> | <p>Ministry of education</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The index assesses the performance of school education system at the district level by creating an index for comprehensive analysis. 2. The PGI-D structure comprises of total weight age of 600 points across 83 indicators. 3. Highest achievable Grade is Daksh. 4. The lowest grade in PGI-D is called Akanshi-3 which is for scores up to 10% of the total points. 5. Ultimate objective of PGI-D is to help the districts to priorities areas for intervention in school education and thus improve to reach the highest grade. |
| <p>Global live ability Index</p> | <p>Economist intelligence Unit</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vienna is the most liveable cities. 2. The cities in India have been ranked poorly in the list. 3. New Delhi has been ranked 112th while Mumbai is ranked at 117th position. 4. Yearly assessment is published by EIU. 5. EIU ranks 173 global cities based on their urban Quality of life accessing healthcare, stability, environment-Culture, education and Infrastructure. |
| <p>Gender gap Index</p> | <p>World economic forum</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. India at 135 out of 146 countries. 2. India's over all score has improved from 0.625 (in 2021) to 0.629, which is its seventh-highest score in the lase 16 years. 3. The gender gap is the difference between women and men as reflected in social, political, intellectual, Cultural, or economic attainments or attitudes. 4. The gender gap index provides scores between 0 and 1, where 1 shows full gender parity and 0 is complete imparity. |

2. Report

| S. NO. | REPORT NAME | RELEASED BY | CONTENT |
|--------|--|--|--|
| 1 | Financial stability Report | Reserve bank of India | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FSR is a bi-annual report that reflects risks to financial stability and the resilience of Indian financial system. 2. Banking system can absorb macro shocks without further capital infusion. 3. Capital to risk weighted assets ratio of scheduled commercial banks rose to a new high of 16.7% 4. Provisioning coverage ratio also increased 5. Scheduled commercial banks gross non-performing asset ratio fell to a six-year low of 5.9% in march 2022 and Net NPA reduced to 1.7% |
| 2 | World cities Report 2022 | UN-Habitat | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continued urbanization with people living in cities reaching 68% in 2050 from 56% in 2021 2. Urban population of India will reach 675 million by 2035 from 483 million in 2020 3. Significant declines in the level of airborne pollutants, especially in developing countries during lockdown. 4. Cities, especially those in warm climates or low-lying coastal areas, face existential threats due to the risks and impacts of climate change and extreme weather events. |
| 3 | Sustainable development Goals Report 2022 | United Nations Department of Economic and Social affairs | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SDG Report 2022 is the only UN official Report that monitors global progress on the 2030, agenda for sustainable development using the latest available data and estimates. 2. Economic shock due to COVID-19 have pushed 93 million into poverty in 2020, undoing "more than four years" work at alleviating poverty. 3. Rising global green house gas emission resulting in record-breaking temperature. 4. World forest area continues to shrink. 5. War in Ukraine created one of the largest refugee crisis. 6. Conflict, Covid 19, climate change and growing inequalities are converging to undermine global food security. |

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| 4 | 'Digital banks': A proposal for licensing & Regulatory Regime for India | NITI Aayog | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In recent years India has made rapid strides in furthering financial inclusion, catalysed by the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and India stack. 2. The financial inclusion has been furthered by the unified payment interface, which has witnessed extraordinary option. 3. UPI recorded over 4.2 billion transactions worth Rs 7.7 trillion in October 2021 4. India is at the cusp of operationalizing its own open banking frame work. 5. Issue of a restricted digital bank license the Issue of a license would be restricted in terms of volume / value of customers serviced and the like. 6. Enlistment of the license in a regulatory sandbox framework enacted by the reserve bank of India. |
| 5 | The Indian bio-economy Report 2022 | Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance council (BIRAC) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bioeconomy is defined as "an economy where the basic building blocks for materials, chemicals and energy are derived from renewable biological resources. 2. Country's bioeconomy has reached over USD 80 billion in 2021 (2.8% of the GDP) which is expected to touch US \$300 billion by 2030. 3. Bio Agri to double its Bioeconomy contribution from \$10.5 billion to \$20 billion in 2025. 4. The Biotech industry crossed \$1 billion in R & D spending. |

3. Committee

| 1. Apex committee for performance and efficiency (defence): | |
|---|--|
| Chairman | Purpose |
| Defence secretary | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This kind of audit is expected to provide valuable inputs to the top management of the ministry in planning and execution of projects. 2. Suggest systemic improvements in internal controls, soundness of financial procedure and identification of risk factor. 3. The broad areas that have been identified for the conduct of performance and efficiency Audit include defence capital procurements, provisioning, logistics etc. |

| 2. Government Forms panel to make "More effective and Transparent" MSP: | |
|---|--|
| Head | Purpose |
| Headed by former Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agrawal | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More effective and transparent MSP 2. The panel will look at ways to strengthen the Agricultural marketing system as per the changing requirements. 3. The committee will look at ways to promote natural farming, crop diversification, and micro irrigation scheme. 4. Suggest strategies for making Krishi Vigyan Kendras and other Research and development institutions knowledge center. |
| 3. Tamil Nadu Government constitutes committee to formulate state education policy: | |
| Head | Purpose |
| Retired Judge murugesan (Head), 12 member (1+12) committee | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The committee will take input from educationists and subject experts and suggests reforms aimed at developing a modern, technology- driven education framework. 2. Through the state education policy, the Tamil Nadu Government aims to bring reforms to the state's education system. 3. The newly formed committee will have the authorisation to bring reforms in the examination process and suggest Reform in teacher Recruitment and training. |

4. Minutes (News in shorts)

Suraksha Manthan 2022

- It was organized by the Indian Army on aspects of Border and coastal security (at Jodhpur) attended by Army, BSF and coast Guard.

Masala bonds (or) Rupee-denominated Bonds

- RBI has recommended that government approach New development Bank to sell rupee-denominated bonds in overseas markets.

- Masala bond is a term used to refer to a financial Instrument through which Indian entities can raise money from overseas markets in the rupee.
- In 2015, RBI allowed Indian entities to issue Rupee dominated Bonds overseas.

TIHAN (Technology Innovation hub on Autonomous Navigation)

- India's first Autonomous Navigation facility was inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad.

- TIHAN is multidisciplinary Initiative to make India a global player in futuristic and next generation 'Smart mobility' technology.

- TIHAN is one of the 25 technology Innovation hubs under National mission on interdisciplinary cyber-physical systems.

Rare Earth Minerals

- India and Australia will strengthen cooperation in Joint projects involving REMS like lithium and cobalt.

- REMS, a set of seventeen metallic elements, are actually more abundant than their name suggests but extracting, processing and refining are tricky.
- Rare earth minerals are necessary components of more than 200 products across a wide range of applications, especially high-tech consumer products.
- In 2019 China was responsible for 80% of REMS imports.

Tamarind

- Tamarind trees in Andhra Pradesh have fallen prey to rampant urbanisation, leading to sharp rise in prices of its leaves.
- It is a semi ever green tree native to Africa but also grown in India, Pakistan and many other tropical regions.

Nairobi flies

- People in the east Sikkim have reported skin infections after coming in contact with Nairobi flies.
- Nairobi flies are small, beetle like insects, a species of insect native to East Africa.
- They thrive in area with high rainfall, and are attracted by bright light.

Thermocouples

- Russian Rosatom state corporation has signed an agreement with India's Atomic power operator, Nuclear corporation of India LTD to supply thermocouples for four power units

of Kudankulam Nuclear power plant in Tamil Nadu.

- Thermocouples are primary temperature measuring transducers designed to measure the temperature of the nuclear reactor coolant.

RBI eases forex Rules to defend currency

- RBI announced a series of steps to boost foreign exchange inflows to arrest rupee's slide against dollar.

Measures include

- Doubling annual overseas borrowing limits for companies to \$1.5 billion.
- Temporarily abolishing Interest-rate caps for banks to attract deposits from non-resident Indians.
- Eased rules for foreign investors to invest in government and corporate debt in India.

India's June trade deficit widened to a record \$25.63 billion

- Trade deficit is pushed by a rise in crude oil and coal imports, adding to fears of further pressure on the rupee.
- Trade deficit refers to a situation where the country's import dues exceed the receipts from the exports.

IRDAI approves new motor insurance policies

- Insurance Regulatory and development Authority of India

has permitted general insurance firms to introduce following tech-enabled concepts for motor own damage cover.

- Pay as you drive: Premium based on their usage.
- Pay how you drive: Premium will depend on the driving behaviour.
- Floater policy: Will allow vehicle owners to get a single policy for their multiple vehicles.

Hindustan power exchange begins operation

- HPX is the 3rd power exchange in the country as Indian energy exchange and power exchange of India Ltd are already operations.
- Power exchanges provide the market participants a platform for trading and hence manage their power portfolios efficiently.
- It is promoted by power trading corporation of India limited, Bombay stock exchange and ICICI Bank.

Derecho

- Several States in us were hit by a storm system derecho that turned skies green.
- Green colour is due to light interacting with huge amount of water hold by such systems.
- A derecho is a widespread, long-lived straight-line wind-storm that is associated with a band of rapidly moving showers or thunder storms.

- In straight-line storms thunder storm winds have no rotation unlike tornado.
- Being a warm-weather phenomenon, a derecho generally occurs during summer time.

Eos cansor cobrensis

- Eos Cansor cobrensis is a 305 million-year-old fossil identified from an incomplete skeleton found in New Mexico.
- It belonged to Varanopidae, an extinct family of reptiles that resembled monitor lizards.
- It is identified as the oldest tree-climbing reptile on record.

State public sector enterprises privatisation (SPSE)

- To incentivise SPSEs privatisation, the centre has promised to provide 100% of the realised amount to states from such strategic disinvestments in FY23.
- It covers SPSEs under a majority ownership and management control of state or state and Central Government together.
- It will be on a first-come-first-serve basis with a cap of Rs. 11,000 Crore for a state.

Flash Flood

- At least 13 people, mainly Amarnath Pilgrims, have died and dozens went missing after flash floods caused landslides in central Kashmir.

About flash flood

- A flood caused by heavy or excessive rainfall in a short

period of time generally less than 6 hours.

- Can occur within minutes or a few hours of excessive rainfall.
- Can also occur even if no rain has fallen, for instance after a levee or dam has failed, or after a sudden release of water by a debris or ice jam.

Nonylphenol

- A study revealed the presence of high levels of toxic chemical NP in drinking water across India.
- Nonylphenol is commonly used in the production of Nonylphenol Ethoxylates, which is used as surfactants, as well as in day-to-day consumer products such as detergents, wetting agents and dispersants.

Impact in human

- Birth defects, skin and eye irritation.
- United Nations Environment Programme has also designated NP as a chemical of global concern.

National Internet exchange of India (NIXI)

- NIXI has established two new internet Exchange points in West Bengal under digital India vision.
- IXP is a physical network access point through which primary Network providers connect their networks and exchange traffic.

- NIXI is a not-for-profit organisation established in 2003.

Jiribam - Imphal Railway line

- Recent landslide in Manipur has hit the Jiribam-Imphal railway line project.
- It is an 111km long project started in 2013 to connect Imphal with Jiribam district of Manipur near Assam border.
- Estimated to be completed by 2023, the project involves 46 tunnels, including a 12-km single tube tunnel, and nooney Bridge-slotted to become world's tallest rail bridge, once completed.

Khejri tree

- Proposed installation of solar power plants in Rajasthan has led to a major confrontation with Bishnoi activists, who have strongly protested against the felling of Khejri trees.
- Khejri tree plays an important role in maintaining the ecosystem of that region because of its ability to survive in dry weather.
- It also helps in sustaining the soil's nutrient value and ensuring a good yield of desert crops and food plants.

Interpol's International Child Sexual exploitation initiative (ICSE)

- CBI has joined ICSE initiative.
- ICSE database uses video and image comparison to analyse

child sex exploitation material and make connections between victims, abusers, and places.

- It will allow CBI to collaborate with other countries for detecting child sex abuse online and identifying abusers, victims etc, using specialised software.
- Earlier CBI set up online child sexual abuse and Exploitation prevention / investigation unit for using child sex exploitation material data.

Census Towns

- Meghalaya Government has launched the MGNREGS in census towns of the state.
- Census towns are areas that are not defined as a town by state Governments but have characteristics.
- Three conditions to define census towns are
- Population of 4000 and more
- Population density of atleast 400 persons per square kilometer.
- Male non-farm workforce of more than 75%

Banni Grasslands

- Gujarat forest department will restore 10,000 hectares of Banni grasslands in coming year, and every year in coming decade.
- Banni grassland is one of the Asia's largest and lying in the kutch district of Gujarat.
- Banni has sensitive soil ecology.

Illegal phone-tapping case

- The CBI examines whether illegal phone taps of National stock exchange employees involved acts of omission or commission by the SEBI, audit firm Ex India.

Phone Tapping

- It refers to monitoring Internet-based communications and phones by a third party through secret means.
- Both central and State Governments have a right to tap phones under section 5(2) of the Indian telegraphic Act 1885.
- Phone tapping orders could be issued only by secretary union ministry of home affairs, or his state counterpart in the Interest of "Public Safety", sovereignty and Integrity of India, security of the state etc.

Asia Energy transition initiative

- Japan plans to provide support to India to drive the transition to clean energy under this initiative.
- It aims to achieve sustainable growth and Carbon neutrality in Asia through energy transitions.
- It includes a \$10 billion in finance for renewable energy, energy efficiency and liquefied natural gas projects.

Sydney energy forum

- At the forum, India highlighted that it has achieved clean energy targets nine years ahead of schedule.
- As of date, India has installed 162GW of renewable energy capacity which is 41% of the 402GW of electricity installed.

About forum

- Co-hosted by the Australian Government and the International Energy Agency.
- Objective of the forum is to secure clean energy supply chains for the Indo-pacific.

Digi Locker

- Birth certificates of children born after August 2015 issued by the civil Registration system will be available on digi locker to its registered users.
- Digilocker is a flagship initiative of the ministry of Electronics & IT.
- In India the registration of births and deaths is carried out under provisions of the Registration of Birth and Death Act, 1969.

Taranga Hill-Ambaji-Abu Road Rail Line

- Cabinet approved the Taranga Hill-Ambaji-Abu Road new rail line to provide connectivity improve mobility between two important religious spots.

- Ambaji (Gujarat) is one of the 51 shaktipeeths in India and a famous pilgrimage destination.
- Taranga hill houses the Ajitnath Jain temple.

Registration of press and periodicals Bill 2019

- As Reported, the central Government is preparing a bill for a new registration regime for newspapers that will also include the digital news media industry, which currently is not included in the centre's registration framework.
- The bill will replace the colonial-era press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 which currently regulated the newspaper and printing press industry in India.

Randomised Controlled Trials (RCT)

- RCT is an experimental form of impact evaluation in which the population receiving the programme (or) policy intervention is chosen at random from the eligible population, and a control group is also chosen at random from the same eligible population.
- RCTs break the larger Questions about policy Interventions into smaller to simplify the research.
- For example the big Questions like poverty are broken down into its various dimensions like poor health, inadequate education, etc.

Centralised Public Grievance Redress and monitoring system(CPGRAMS)

- CPGRAMS has been made operational in all scheduled language to expand its outreach to all regions.
- Earlier it was available only in 5 languages (Hindi, English, Bangla, Gujarati, Marathi)
- It is an online platform available to the citizens 24*7 to lodge their grievances to the public authorities on any subject related to service delivery.
- It is a single portal connected to all the ministries / department of Government of India and states.

Namsai declaration

- The Assam CM and his Arunachal Pradesh counter-part signed the 'Namsai declaration' for minimising the Inter-state boundary dispute involving 123 villages.
- The boundary line shown on 29 toposheets by a high-powered committee in 1960 will be taken as the basis for the realignment of the Arunachal Pradesh-Assam boundary towards resolving decades of dispute.
- They have constituted 12 regional committees each covering the districts on either

side of the boundary for joint verification of the 123 villages, the committee would submit its first tranche of report by August 15.

BIMSTEC Expert Group on cyber security cooperation

- To develop plan of Action on cyber security challenges in the BIMSTEC region.
- This plan will cover the mechanism for the exchanges of cyber related information, cyber crime, protection of critical Information Infrastructure.
- It will be implemented within the time frame of 5 years.
- The BIMSTEC is a regional organization comprising seven member States, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Srilanka and Thailand.

India to be self-sufficient in Urea by 2025

- Union fertiliser minister said India would eliminate Urea import by 2025 through the increased domestic production and enhanced use of nanourea.
- Government has commissioned six new conventional urea plants with an annual production capacity of about 1-3million tonnes.
- India consumers around 35 million tonnes of urea at present. In FY22, India imported 10.16 MT of urea, mainly from China, Oman, UAE, Egypt and Ukraine.

Grey water Management

- 100% saturation of Grey water management has been achieved in Pappankuzhi village, Tamil Nadu.
- Grey water is defined as the wastewater that includes water from baths, showers, hand basins, washing machines, dishwashes and kitchen sinks but excludes stream from toilet.

Project 17A frigate

- Defence minister launched the fourth and latest ship of the Indian Navy's 17A frigates, the Dunagiri.
- These are follow-on the p17 frigates with improved stealth features, advanced weapons and sensors and platform management systems.
- Designed in-house by Indian Navy's directorate of Naval design the project 17A frigate form part of the nationwide objective to achieve a self-reliant India.

Euro-dollar parity

- The euro and the U.S dollar reached parity meaning one dollar could buy one euro in the foreign exchange market.
- The euro however is not the only currency that is depreciating, the Japanese yet has also lost value against the U.S dollar.

Project 75(I)

- Defence ministry has once again extended the deadline to

submit responses to the request for proposal in the deal for six advanced submarines under project 75(I).

- Project 75(I) envisages Indigenous construction of six modern conventional submarines.
- It has been cleared under the strategic partnership model where an Indian shipyard will be selected by the government, which will also nominate the foreign original equipment manufacturer under the overall arch of make in India.

US overtake UAE to become the top Remittance source for India

- As per the RBI study the US surpassed the UAE as the top source country, accounting for 23% of total Remittances in 2020-21.
- Maharashtra has emerged as the top recipient state surpassing Kerala.
- Share of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka has almost halved in 2020-21 accounting for only 25% of total remittances since 2016-2017.

Prime minister National Relief Fund

- Set up in 1948 originally to accept public contributions for assistance of partition refugees.
- Now it is used to provide immediate relief to families of those

killed in natural calamities and victims of major accidents and riots and others.

- It receives Voluntary contributions from individuals and organisation and does not get any budgetary support.
- Prime minister chairs the fund.

DIGI YATRA Project

- Digi yatra under ministry civil aviation envisages a connected eco system enhancing the seamless travel experience for the passengers and simultaneously improving the security.
- It facilitates paperless travel and avoid identity checks at multiple points in an airport.
- Digi Yatra foundation has been set up as a joint venture company with the objective of creating the digi Yatra Central ecosystem.

Indian citizenship

- More than 3.9 lakh Indians have renounced their citizenship in the past three years with America emerging as the top choice among 103 countries where the emigrants settled.
- Any citizen of full age and capacity, who is also a citizen or national of another country, can renounce Indian citizenship.
- Other ways of loss of Indian citizenship deprivation of citizenship by Government if citizenship obtained by means of fraud etc, Termination of citi-

zanship if a citizen voluntarily acquires citizenship of another country.

Cable television Network Rules

- These Rules were framed under the cable television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.
- It prohibits the telecast of any programme containing attacks on religions/communities or visuals/words contemptuous of religious groups or which promote communal attitudes.
- The Rules were amended in 2021, to provide for a statutory mechanism for redress of grievances and complaints.

Latest labour indicators released by National statistical office (NSO)

- NSO is the statistics wing of ministry of statistics and programme implementation.
- NSO consists of the central statistical office, the computer centre and the National sample survey office.

Findings

- In both rural and urban areas, part timers as proportion of total employed are more in the 60 age-group among males and urban females.
- More females work part-time than males across all age groups in both rural and urban areas.

P-notes

- Investment in the Indian capital markets through participatory notes (p-notes) declined to Rs. 80,092 crore making in the lowest level in 20 months.

About p notes

- Participatory Notes are financial Instruments issued by a registered foreign institutional Investor to an overseas investor who wishes to invest in Indian stock markets without registering themselves SEBI.
- The anonymity provided by the P-Notes makes it lucrative for entities that try to use this route to round trip funds.

National culture fund

- Its objective is to establish and nurture partnerships in the field of culture and heritage with private and public sectors, government etc.
- It also mobilizes resources for the restoration, conservation, protection and development India's rich heritage.
- Set up in 1996 under the charitable Endowment Act 1890.
- Governing council for the fund is chaired by the union minister of culture.
- Since inception, NCF has completed 52 projects with various donars.

Bhil tribe

- It is the second largest tribe in India.

- They mainly resides in Rajasthan, western Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Northern Maharashtra.
- In Bhil tribe, sub-tribes Bhil-Garasia and Dholi Bhil are included.
- Language-Bhili, which belongs to the Indo-Aryan family languages.

About Bhil uprising

- Bhils were concentrated in the hill ranges of Khandesh in the previous maratha territory British occupation of this region in 1818 lead to insurrection in 1819 which was crushed by the British military.

Millet

- NITI Aayog and the world food programme India have launched the mapping and exchange of good practices Initiative for mainstreaming millets in Asia and Africa.

About Millets

- Millets are coarse grains and a repository of protein, fibre, vitamins and minerals.
- Three major millet crops currently growing in India are jowar, bajra and ragi.
- Food and Agriculture organisation has endorsed India's call for declaring 2023 as the "International year of millets".

Heat wave in Europe

- Extreme temperature have hit Europe with the UK hitting its

highest ever temperature above 40°C.

- This has resulted in wildfires, drought and hundreds of heat-related deaths.
- These changes turned Western Europe into what has been described as a "heat dome" a low pressure area that began to attract hot air from northern America.

Aneurysm

- An aneurysm is an abnormal swelling or bulge in the wall of a blood vessel, such as an artery.
- It can occur anywhere throughout the circulatory system, but most commonly develop along the aorta and in blood vessels of the brain.
- Causes include smoking, age, high cholesterol, obesity, hypertension or tissue disorders.

Aksai Chin

- China is planning to build another highway through Aksai Chin, running along the India border and connecting Xinjiang and Tibet.

About Aksai Chin

- It is a disputed border area between India and China.
- For India it is part of Ladakh region.
- Indian discovery of road and objection to Chinese presence in the sector was one of the factors leading to the Indo-China war in 1962.

- After the war, China retained control of about 38,000 sq.km of territory in Aksai Chin.

MIST submarine cable system

- The expert Appraisal committee under the ministry of forests has recommended coastal Regulatory zone clearance for the 8,100 km long Myanmar / Malaysia - India - Singapore Transit submarine cable system.
- MIST is an International submarine cable communication network.
- It will provide secure, reliable, robust and affordable telecom facilities in Asia.
- The main trunk route is from Tuas (Singapore) to Mumbai (India).
- Submarine cables use fiber-optic technology.

Serotonin

- Serotonin is a kind of neurotransmitter, a chemical that help transmit messages or signals from one nerve cell to another for communicating.
- It helps regulate mood, sleep, appetite and other major aspects of daily functioning.

Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project (KLIs)

- Minister of Jal Shakti said that KLIs was not eligible for inclusion under the National project scheme as Telangana has obtained investment clearance from centre.

- KLIs is a multi-purpose irrigation project on the Godavari river in Kaleshwaram.
- National project will be provided financial assistance by centre in the form of central grant, which will be 90% of the estimated cost of such projects.

Santhal Tribe

- The president Droupadi Murmu belongs to the Santhal tribe.

About Santhal Tribe

- Third-largest scheduled tribe community in the country.
- Mostly distributed in Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- The Santhals are credited for taking on the force of the East India Company through the Santhals' Hul (Revolution) of 1855-56.

Sarna religion demand

- Various tribal communities of five states, including Jharkhand, Odisha, Assam, Bihar, West Bengal demanded that the centre recognise their religion as "Sarna" and ensure their enumeration under this category in upcoming census.
- The demand stems from anxieties over losing identity, culture, and the traditional way of life in the absence of formal recognition.
- Sarna, a "religion" based on concept of nature worship.

First Har Ghar Jal certified district

- Burhanpur became the first Har Ghar Jal certified district in the country under Jal Jeevan mission.
- Jal Jeevan mission, is envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India.

Trade Infrastructure for export scheme (TIES)

- Under the scheme, financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid is provided to Central/State Government owned agencies for setting up or upgrading export infrastructure in states/UTs.
- The scheme can be availed for infrastructure projects with significant export linkages.

Fall back liability

- Parliamentary standing committee on commerce has dismissed e-commerce players argument that they have no control over the items sold on their platform

Fallback liability

- When a seller registered on its platform fails to deliver the goods or services ordered by a consumer due to negligent conduct, omission or commission of any act by such seller the market place is responsible.

Monitoring App for seamless inspection (MASI)

- MASI is an application developed by national commission for protection of child rights for real-time monitoring of the child care institutions and their inspection mechanism across the country.

Coastal Clean up Campaign(CCUC)

- Launched by the ministry of earth science.
- Mobile app "Ecomitram" has been launched spread awareness about the campaign.
- CCUC is the first of its kind and longest running coastal cleanup campaign to be carried out across 75 sea beaches.

Flag code of India, 2002

- The code has been amended to allow the national flag to be flown at day and night if it has been hoisted in the open or on the house of a member of the public.
- The code is a compilation of all the laws, practices, conventions, Instructions and guidelines governing the display of the national flag.

India - Japan maritime partnership Exercise

- A maritime partnership exercise was conducted between Japan maritime self defence force and Indian Navy in Andaman sea.

- Aim-Enhancing Interoperability and stream lining seamanship.

Waste water Surveillance

- Waste water contains the bacteria, virus etc in its sewage environment for days, thus serving as an excellent tool for tracking their presence.
- It acts as an early warning system for detecting multipathogens and provides evidence Based approach for predicting risks to human as well as animal health.

Khadi

- Khadi cloth is facing issues due to steep like in prices of raw materials.
- According to the Khadi and Village industries commission Act 1956, Khadi refers to "any cloth woven on handlooms in India from cotton, silk or woollen Yarn handspun.
- Khadi cloth must be both hand-woven and handspun.

Arab Spring

- Tunisian president is set to secure more power under new constitution that is expected to pass in a referendum.
- Arab spring was a series of pro-democracy uprisings that enveloped several countries.
- Event in these nations generally began in spring of 2011, which led to the name.

- Aim: Protect against unfair governmental rule and demand to reinstate fundamental rights of the people.

Embedded SIM

- TRAI has released consultation paper on e-SIM for M2M (Machine-to-Machine) communications.
- e-SIM is a form factor that is physically integrated into device, mostly by soldering to device printed circuit board.
- It cannot be easily removed in the field.
- It supports multiple applications unlike regular SIMs.

N-treat technology

- N-treat is a seven stage process for waste treatment.
- It is an in-situ treatment of servage from the drains.
- It has been developed by IIT-Bombay.

Socio-Economic and Caste Census - 2011

- Recently government informed that it has no plans to release the caste data collected under the SECC 2011.
- SECC is a study of Socio-economic status of rural and urban house holds.
- It was commenced and co-ordinated by ministry of Rural development.
- It is used different committee methodologies in urban and rural areas.

- NC Saxena committee (for rural areas).
- SR Hashim committee (for urban areas).

Defence Acquisition Council

- It is the highest decision-making body in the defence ministry for deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions for the three services and the Indian coast Guard.
- Minister of defence is the chairman of the council.

Technical Recession

- US expected to avoid technical Recession.
- Technical Recession is a term used to describe two consecutive quarters of decline in output.
- It is mainly used to capture trend in GDP.

Roadmap to India's 2030 decarbonization Target

- TERI released roadmap for feasible pathways to achieving India's decarbonisation targets.
- At cop 26, India announced goal of decarbonizing energy to 50% and achieving 500 GW of fossil fuel-free generating capacity by 2030.

Key Suggestion

- Increase share of decentralized solar power.
- Increase momentum of wind power growth.

- Implement storage projects.

BM-SEAL-11 Project

- Cabinet committee on Economic affairs has approved additional investment by Bharat Petro Resources Ltd for development of BM-SEAL-11 concession project in Brazil.

Significance

- Strengthen India's energy security.
- Diversifying India's crude oil supply.
- Strengthening India's foot hold in Brazil.

Google street view

- Google announced launch of its street view feature in India.
- Google street view collects high-definition images to give users 360-degrees views of streets, tourist, spots, hills and rivers.

UN-Peacekeeping

- UNSC condemned attack at MONUSCO that killed two peacekeepers from India.

About

- Helps countries achieve lasting peace, supports political process, protects civilians and gurantee ceasefire.
- UNSC determines when and where a UN Peace operation should be deployed.

Aid for Trade

- India received the highest recipient of aid for trade from developed countries in 2020.
- The Aid for Trade initiative was launched in 2005 at the WTO ministerial conference to align donor and partner countries strategies in promoting trade for poverty reduction.
- Its progress is monitored by the WTO and OECD.

Internet usage grows faster in rural India

- According to the report by the Internet and mobile Association of India.
- Number of internet users in rural India increased 18% and 5% in urban areas 2021.
- GOA has the maximum internet penetration and Bihar the lowest among states.
- The number of Internet users will be 900 million by 2025.

Hub and Spoke model

- Ministry of consumer affairs develop Hub and Spoke model.
- Objective is to modernized storage of foodgrains and to ramp-up the storage capacity for food grains in India.
- Hub and spoke model is a transportation system which consoli-

date transportation assets from standalone locations referred to as "spoke" to a central location named as "Hub" for long distance transportation.

Earth overshoot day

- The earth overshoot day lands on July 28, 2022.
- It is calculated by Global footprint network.
- Earth overshoot day marks the date when humanity has exhausted nature's budget for the year.

Carbon 14 dating

- Burning of fossil fuels has resulted in falling proportion of radioactive Carbon-14 in the atmospheric CO₂ affecting effectiveness of Carbon-14 dating adversely.
- Carbon-14 dating provides objective age estimates for carbon-based materials that originated from living organisms.

The family courts (Amendment) Bill, 2022

- Lok Sabha passed a bill to grant statutory cover to already established family courts in Himachal Pradesh and Nagaland.
- The Bill amends the family courts by states to deal with

disputes related to family and marriage.

- The government of HP and Nagaland have set up family courts in their states under the Act.
- However the central government has not extended the application of the act to these states.

India International Bullion exchange (IIBX)

- Indian prime minister launched India's first IIBX at International financial services centres at Gujarat International finance Tec-city in Gandhinagar.
- It could lead to standard gold pricing in country.
- India is world's second biggest consumer of gold after China.

Loktak lake

- Manipur Government to remove all floating houses and fishing structures on Loktak lake.
- Loktak lake is the largest fresh water lake in North east India.
- Phumdis are heterogeneous mass of vegetation, soil and organic matters at various stages of decomposition.
- Keibul Lamjao is the only floating national park in world floats over it.

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முதன்மைத் தேர்வுக்கான உத்தி

1. முதன்மைத் தேர்வுக்குப் படிப்பதற்கு முறையானத் திட்டத்தை வகுத்து அதை முழுமையாகப் பின்பற்ற வேண்டும்.
2. நாட்டு நடப்புகள் குறித்த விவரங்களை தினமும் தயார் செய்ய வேண்டும். புதிய தகவல்களைத் தொடர்ந்து தெரிந்து கொள்ள வேண்டும்.
3. தேர்வுக்குத் தயாராவதில் உறுதியாக இருக்க வேண்டும்.
4. ஒவ்வொரு பாடத்திற்கும் ஒதுக்கப்பட்டுள்ள மதிப்பெண்களைக் கருத்தில் கொண்டு அனைத்துப் பாடங்களுக்கும் தயாராவதற்கு போதிய நேரத்தை ஒதுக்க வேண்டும்.
5. தேர்வுக்குத் தயாராவது அலுப்பூட்டும் வகையில் இல்லாமல் இருப்பதை உறுதி செய்யும் வகையில் கால அட்டவணை தயாரிக்கப்பட வேண்டும்.
6. திருப்புதலின் போது நேரத்தை மிச்சப்படுத்துவதற்காக, முதல் முறை அல்லது இரண்டாவது முறை பயிலும் போது முக்கிய அம்சங்களை அடிக்கோடிட்டு வைத்திருக்க வேண்டும் / முன்னிலைப்படுத்த வேண்டும். நாம் முதன்முறை படிப்பதன் நோக்கம் தேவையற்ற விசயங்களை விலக்கி, நாம் படிக்க வேண்டிய பாடங்களின் அளவைப் பாதியாகக் குறைப்பதுதான். இரண்டாவது முறை பயிலும் போது, நாம் படிக்க வேண்டிய பகுதிகளை, தேர்வுக்கு முன் உள்ள இரண்டு நாட்களில் திருப்புதல் செய்யும் வகையில், மேலும் குறைக்க வேண்டும்.
7. முந்தைய ஆண்டு வினாத்தாள்களின் அடிப்படையில் விடைகளை எழுதிப் பயிற்சி செய்ய வேண்டும்.
8. தேர்வை எதிர்கொள்வதற்கு ஒரு விண்ணப்பதாரர் எந்த அளவுக்குத் தயாராகியிருக்கிறார் என்பதைப் புரிந்துகொள்வதற்காக அடிக்கடி மாதிரித் தேர்வுகளை எதிர்கொள்ள வேண்டும்.
9. பயிற்சியே ஒருவனை முழுமையாக்குகிறது என்பதே முதன்மைத் தேர்வுக்கான மந்திரமாக இருக்க வேண்டும்.
10. எந்தவொரு பாடத்திற்குமான பயிற்சியில் சேரும் தேர்வர்கள், அதற்கான மாதிரித் தேர்வுகளில் முழு ஈடுபாட்டுடன் பங்கேற்க வேண்டும். முதன்மைத் தேர்வுக்கும், முதல்நிலைத் தேர்வுகளுக்கும் இடையிலான முக்கியமான வேறுபாடு என்னவென்றால், முதல்நிலை தேர்வுக்கான மாதிரித் தேர்வுகளை மூன்றாவது நபரின் துணை இல்லாமல் ஆன்லைனிலோ, ஆஃப்லைனிலோ தனித்தே எழுதலாம். ஆனால் முதன்மைத் தேர்வைப் பொறுத்தவரை மூன்றாவது நபரைக் கொண்டு மதிப்பீடு செய்வது மிகவும் அவசியமாகும். மதிப்பீடு செய்யும் மூன்றாவது நபர் ஒரு வல்லுநராகவோ, அல்லது சிறந்த ஒரு பயிற்சி நிறுவனமாகவோ இருக்கலாம்.
11. முதன்மைத் தேர்வு என்பது தேர்வர் அறிந்துள்ள தகவல்களையும் அவரது நினைவுத் திறனையும் மட்டுமே சோதிப்பதாக இல்லாமல், அவர்களின் புரிதலின் ஆழம், அறிவுசார் திறன்கள் ஆகியவற்றை மதிப்பிடுவதை நோக்கமாகக் கொண்டது ஆகும். பொதுபாடத் தாள்களில் அனைத்து வினாக்களுக்கும் விடை அளிக்க வேண்டும். வினாக்களின் தன்மை ஒவ்வொரு தாளுக்கும் மாறுபடும். ஆனால், அதிக வினாக்கள் இருக்கும் என்பதால் தேர்வர் விடைகளை வேகமாக எழுத வேண்டும். விடையளிக்க வேண்டிய வார்த்தைகளின் வரம்பும் அதிகமாக இருக்கக் கூடும்.
12. முதன்மைத் தேர்வைப் பொறுத்தவரை, வார்த்தைகளின் எண்ணிக்கையை கவனத்தில் கொள்ளப்பட வேண்டிய மிக முக்கியமான அம்சமாகும்.
13. முதன்மைத் தேர்வுகளை எழுதுவதற்கான அணுகுமுறையில் தேர்வர்கள் மிகவும் தெளிவாக இருக்க வேண்டும். தேர்வு அறையில், வினாத்தாளைப் பெற்ற பிறகு, விடைகளை வேகமாக எழுத வேண்டி இருக்கும் என்பதால், சிந்திப்பதற்கு நேரம் இருக்காது. எனவே, வினாக்களை புத்திசாலித்தனமாகத் தேர்வு செய்து விடை அளிக்க வேண்டும்.
14. வினாக்களில் தரப்பட்டுள்ள கருத்துரை கொடு, கருத்து தெரிவி, விரிவாகச் சொல், காட்சிப்படுத்து, தெளிவுப்படுத்து போன்ற வார்த்தைகளின் பொருளைப் புரிந்துகொண்டு, அதற்கேற்ற வகையில் உங்கள் எழுத்துத் திறனை வெளிப்படுத்த வேண்டும்.



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