

MAY 2023

CURRENT ISSUES

- Modern History
- Social Issues
- Indian Polity
- Science & Technology
- Tamil Society
- Geography
- EVS
- Indian Economy

TNPSC GROUP-I MAINS



SURESH'
IAS ACADEMY

தூத்துக்குடி

162-A, எட்டையபுரம் ரோடு

0461 - 4000970
99445 11344

திருநெல்வேலி

8A/1, இலந்தகுளம் ரோடு,
பாஸையங்கோட்டை

0462 - 2560123
98942 41422

இராமநாதபுரம்

82, புளிகாரத் தெரு,
கண்ணன் கோவில் அருகில்

75503 52916
75503 52917

மதுரை

மாஸ்டர் மதுரைப் பிள்ளையார்,
முடக்குச்சாலை, காளவாசல்

0452 - 2383777
98431 10566

சென்னை

4, அண்ணா ஆர்ச் ரோடு எதிரில்,
Skywalk அருகில்.

044 47665919
97555 52003

May Month Current Affairs 2023

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01

Modern History

Singaravelar's thoughts

- 1st of May which is celebrated all over the world as Labor Day can give more specialness to Tamil Nadu
- On May 1, 1923, India's first Labor Day was celebrated in Chennai by the thought sculptor Ma Singaravelar.
- Singharavelar who formed the first trade union in India in 1918
- Born on February 18, 1860 in a fishing family in Chennai, Singaravelar rose through his prodigious education to become a successful lawyer. Also engaged in social work
- Joining the Congress in struggles including the non-cooperation movement led by Gandhi, he gave up his career as a lawyer to work for the country and society.
- Singharavelar, who attended Congress conferences as a representative of world communist movements, addressed the crowd as "Comrades" at the Congress conference held in Gaya, Bihar in 1922.
- He insisted in the meeting that unless we set up our own self-government, we cannot end the sufferings of the workers
- Singharavelar urged Mahatma Gandhi that workers and farmers should be allowed to participate in the freedom struggle
- He wrote to Gandhi asking him to declare that the land and major industries of our future Swaraj should be communally owned.
- Deeply attached to lyothithasar's thoughts and Buddhism, he used to run the 'Maha Bodhi' movement at his residence.
- He presided over the first conference of the Communist Party of India held at Kanpur from 26 to 28 December 1925.
- In his speech at the conference, he strongly pointed out the caste atrocities prevailing in India

Pulitzer Prize 2023 : For Barbara Kingsolver & Hernan Diaz

Pulitzer Prize

- Pulitzer Prize for Best Fiction to Barbara Kingsolver and Hernan Diaz
- Pulitzer Prizes are awarded annually to outstanding individuals in 21 fields, including media, literature, and music
- The awards are presented by Columbia University in New York City, USA
- The award was established by Hungarian-born American journalist Joseph Pulitzer
- The awards are made from funds donated by Joseph Pulitzer to Columbia University
- The Pulitzer Prize has been awarded annually since 1917

2023

- Pulitzer Prize winners announced for 'Demon Copperhead' by Barbara Kingsolver and 'Trust' by Hernan Diaz

An original patriot who lived in a foreign land

- Chempakaraman is one of the rare martyrs who fought for India's freedom from a foreign land and tried to garner the support of the people of the world.

Jaihind slogan

- Chempakaraman was born in a middle-class family in Nanjil Nadu, which was part of the Travancore principality
- Bala Gangadhara Tilak's slogan 'Sovereignty is my birthright, I shall achieve it' was very much influenced him.
- After the partition of Bengal in 1906, he led a protest against the British government in the school where he was studying
- In 1907, Chempakaraman was the first to raise the rousing slogan of Jai Hind.
- Chempakaraman left India in a ship in 1908 with Walter William Strickland, an Englishman, who was pro-German spy in Thiruvananthapuram under the guise of a biologist.
- Chempakaraman eventually went to Germany for technical education and earned a double doctorate in economics and engineering.

He spread the spirit of freedom

- While still a student in Berlin, he founded the Aid India International Committee for
- Many European dignitaries also were a part of it. This organization was instrumental in increasing support for Indian independence among the diaspora
- He started a monthly magazine called Pro India and served as its editor. The magazine, which was published in both German and English, worked to present the true state of India to the Europeans as an alternative to the news and lies spread about India that were censored by the British government.
- When the First World War broke out, he started the Indian Freedom Committee and the Indian Volunteer Corps
- In that way, he was a pioneer of Subhash Chandra Bose in the revolutionary patriotic activities for the liberation of India

Clash with Hitler

- He joined the German army fighting against Britain in the First World War
- In 1914 he reached the coast of India, traveling with Commander Wangan Muller in Emden. In 1914 he traveled with Commander Von Muller aboard Emden and reached the Indian coast
- On September 22, 1914, Emden bombed the then Madras. After that he escaped without being caught by the British authorities
- In 1931 Hitler had said in an interview to the American British media that India was not close to freedom and that Indians should remain subordinate to the British government.
- Enraged by this, Chempakaraman ordered Hitler to apologize in writing by a warning due of 8 days
- A day after the due, Hitler issued his written apology
- At the same time Chempakaraman was included in the list of Nazi's enemies
- After that he continued his work for India's independence with the same vigor regardless of the hardships that befell him
- In 1933 he met Subhash Chandra Bose in Vienna and had a conversation. He also met Jawaharlal Nehru in Berlin.

02

Social Issues

POSH Act

- Protesting is being held against the President of Wrestling Federation of India Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, at Jandar Mantar in Delhi
- The central government set up an inquiry committee headed by boxer Mary Kom
- It was revealed by the inquiry committee that there is no 'Internal Grievance Committee' as required by the POSH Act in the Wrestling Federation of India.

What is POSH Act?

- The POSH Act was passed in 2013 to prevent, protect and redress women from sexual harassment in the workplace.
- Sexual harassment is defined under this Act
- Mainly the complaint procedures, investigation procedures and action to be taken against violators are clearly described in the act.

How did POSH come about?

- In 1992, Banwari Devi, a social worker from Rajasthan, desperately tried to stop the child marriage of an under-one-year-old girl.
- As a result, she was gang-raped
- Women's rights groups including Visakha filed a case in the Supreme Court seeking justice for Banwari Devi
- The Visakha guidelines were framed based on the Supreme Court's 1997 judgment in this case
- The POSH Act passed in 2013 expanded the Visakha guidelines

What does POSH mean?

- In every office or branch having 10 or more employees, the proprietor must set up an internal grievance committee.
- A victim under this Act can be of any age. She can file a complaint whether she is on duty at the workplace or not

Sexual offenses as defined by the POSH Act

- Physical touch
- Abuse
- Sexual request
- Sexist talk
- Showing pornographic video
- Unpleasant body language

- Unpleasant verbal abuse
- Active sexual behavior

Grievance Procedure

- It is not mandatory for victims to file a complaint with the Internal Grievance Committee
- If unable by the victim, any member of the committee shall provide necessary assistance to the aggrieved party to file a complaint in writing
- If the woman victim is unable to file a complaint due to physical or mental disability or death or other reasons, her legal heir may file a complaint.
- Complaint should be filed within 3 months from the date of incident
- If it can be proved that there were circumstances that prevented the victim from filing a complaint within the specified period, the limitation period can be extended
- The Internal Grievance Committee must forward the victim's complaint to the police or complete the investigation within 90 days
- After completion of the investigation, the committee shall submit its report to the owner of the company within 10 days
- The report should be available to both parties. No information about the identity of the woman, the defendant, the witness, the investigation, the recommendation, the action taken shall be disclosed therein

What happens after filing the report?

- The Internal Grievance Committee will recommend action in accordance with the company's service rules if allegations of sexual harassment are substantiated
- Compensation will be determined based on five factors: pain and suffering suffered by the woman, loss of employment opportunities, her medical expenses, income of the defendant and financial condition.
- If the victim or the respondent is not satisfied with the action of the Internal Grievance Committee they can appeal to the court within 90 days.

Rush to divorce

Family

- An important hallmark of human civilization is the family system. The family is the basic unit of society today

SC Verdict

- The Supreme Court has said that a couple who have reached the point where it is not possible to live together can annul the divorce within a month by using the power conferred by Article 142 of the Constitution.
- It applies only to cases where it is established in court that the couple seeking divorce has broken down their marriage and it is no longer possible for them to live together.
- Also, the judges have made it clear in the verdict that the couple cannot claim divorce within the same month as their right
- However, with this ruling, there is no need to wait for six months to get a divorce

- There is an understanding that divorce can be obtained with mutual consent in one month and it is seen that many people welcome it

Will divorces increase?

- The Dowry Prohibition Act (1961) and the Domestic Violence Act (2005) are important measures to deal with marital problems.
- And there are 763 family welfare courts across the country
- In towns where there are no family welfare courts, the dependent courts are dealing with family cases as an additional burden
- The first task of the courts is to settle family cases as far as possible
- Courts treat the case with compassion like medical and psychological counseling instead of starting the trial as soon as the case comes like other courts
- As in other civil cases, a court accepting a petition for settlement of a family dispute does not immediately require the filing of a counter-petition or an expedited hearing.
- Both parties are initially counseled by psychiatric counselors and physicians
- Only when that fails will the case be taken up for trial
- One year separation is a natural remedy for a divorcing couple. It is easy to predict that divorces will increase due to the mentality of trying to avoid it and the activities that encourage it

Undesirable effects

- Even after the introduction of laws like the Prevention of Child Marriage Act (2006) and the Prevention of Sexual Violence against Children Act (POCSO), child marriages are still prevalent
- Crimes against children and the number of child criminals have increased
- If divorces increase in this environment, the future of children will be in question
- The challenges of who will take care of the spouse's parents will also increase
- It is worth noting that ours is a society that often does not allow women to take responsibility for their parents to the extent that men do.
- It is inevitable that if the woman asks for it, a special section can be added to grant divorce depending on it, but if it is a unanimous request, it will be a child's play to get a divorce within a month.
- Moreover, for this generation that is in a hurry, measures to reduce the waiting period for divorce are more likely to cause further harm.

Senior citizens concession

- International Senior Citizens Day is celebrated all over the world on the first day of October every year to emphasize the importance of maintaining the welfare of senior citizens
- Central Government and State Governments of India have brought various laws to protect the interests of senior citizen

Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu Government is providing monthly assistance of Rs 1000 to destitute senior citizens
- Besides, 10 kg of rice per month from fair price shops and free Vesti& saree for Pongal are provided to family card of destitute senior citizens.

Medical Income Tax

- Senior Citizens with annual income up to Rs 2.5 Lakh do not need to pay income tax
- Senior citizens above the age of 80 are not required to pay income tax on annual income up to Rs 5 lakh
- Medical treatment is provided to indigent senior citizens through the government free medical insurance scheme
- Indian Railways has been offering a fare concession of 40 per cent on the journey stage to male senior citizens and 50 per cent on the journey fare to female senior citizens.

Payment concession

- The Senior Citizens Emergency Helpline operates across India with 24-hour dedicated toll-free numbers.
- If contacted through these numbers, appropriate government employees and non-government charity workers will come for emergency assistance
- Male Senior Citizens above 65 years of age and Female Senior Citizens above 63 years of age traveling domestically and internationally on Indian Airlines are entitled to 50% concession on normal class fares.
- Free legal aid is also provided by the courts to expeditiously dispose of cases related to senior citizens
- Banks and financial institutions provide an additional interest of half a percent on fixed deposits of senior citizens

A drug free society

Death Penalty

- Trafficking and use of narcotic drugs is punishable by severe penalties
- An Indian-origin man who was accused of smuggling a kilo of narcotics in Singapore was recently sentenced to death

Issues

- Drug abuse causes physical health disorders and degrades human resources
- Due to the increase in drug addiction, crime and problems in family relationships are also increasing
- Terrorist movements have led some youths to become drug addicts and engage in anti-social activities

UN Report

- 2020 Annual Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- As of 2020, 280 million people between the ages of 15 and 64 use drugs worldwide, a figure that has risen by 26 percent over the past 10 years.

India

- About 10 crore people in our country are addicted to various drugs
- In the last eight years alone, the number of drug users has increased by about 70 percent

June 26

- June 26 is observed every year as the International Day against Narcotic Drugs and Narcotic Trafficking, which was unanimously adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1987.
- On this day, awareness is created in countries around the world against drugs

Reason

- The number of drug users in our country is increasing day by day due to the smuggling of drugs from foreign countries and the production and circulation of drugs locally.
- Geographically, our country is located between Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, and Thailand, which are leaders in drug production and trafficking.
- This is one of the reasons for the high prevalence of drug addiction in our country
- In the last two years, the number of drug-prone districts in our country has increased from 272 to 372.
- 47,248 kg of Cannabis (Ganja) has been seized in Tamil Nadu in the last two years alone

Operation Ganja Vettai-4.0

- In Tamil Nadu, police are taking serious steps to control drug addiction through Operation Ganja Vettai-4.0

Narcotic drugs

- Under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, possession of prohibited narcotic drugs in small quantities is punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with a fine of ten thousand rupees or with both.

Severe punishment

- The above punishment is negligible compared to the harm that drugs cause in society
- Therefore, this law should be made more stringent and cases related to this should be investigated without delay and severe punishments should be given expeditiously
- Many people fall into drug addiction due to interest in drugs, pressure from friends, easy availability of drugs
- Instead of ostracizing such people, it is wise to embrace them and try to free them from the habit.

Medical treatment

- 508 Centers have been set up across the country to rehabilitate drug addicts under the Central Government's Drug Free India programme.
- These centers provide psychiatric counseling and medical treatment to drug addicts
- By introducing anti-drug awareness programs in school and college curricula, students can be prevented from becoming addicted to drugs.
- A drug-free society is only possible if every individual in the society participates along with the action taken by the government administration and the police

New Prisons Act

- A new Prisons Act has been prepared to replace the one enacted during British rule

1894 Prisons Act

- The existing Prisons Act of 1894 is a pre-independence law
- The Act focuses on detention of criminals, enforcement of discipline and order in prisons
- There is no provision in the Act for reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners

Model Prisons Act 2023

- The central government has prepared a new law called the Model Prisons Act, 2023 to replace this Act
- The new law attempts to change the old legal practices through measures including parole and release of prisoners, commutation of sentences to encourage good behavior, special units for women and third gender prisoners, focus on reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners.
- The new Act includes sections for punishment of prisoners and prison officers for using prohibited items like mobile phones in prisons, Prison Development Board, setting up and management of high security prisons, open prisons etc.
- The new law also contains provisions to protect the society from the criminal activities of persistent and serious criminals
- Some sections of Prisoners Act, 1900, Transfer of Prisoners Act, 1950 were also included in the new Act.
- The prisons department of the country is in the state list. Jail inmates also come under that list
- In this case, the Union Home Ministry has said that it hopes that the states will follow the Model Prisons Act 2023

Maternal Mortality

- India has the highest rate of perinatal and infant mortality in the world, which is alarming.
- The results of the study, conducted by the World Health Organization, UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund, were released at the International Conference on Early Childhood Health 2023 held last week in Cape Town, South Africa.
- The fact that India is among the top 10 countries responsible for 60% of all perinatal deaths worldwide is a warning bell that points to the inadequacy of our medical infrastructure.
- After India, countries like Nigeria, Pakistan, Congo, Ethiopia have the highest incidence of maternal mortality
- Reluctance of concerned countries to allocate adequate funds for maternal health and infant health
- The reluctance of countries to allocate adequate funds to maternal and infant health is holding back global programs to reduce such deaths, the World Health Organization said.

Statistics

- In 1990, the number of perinatal deaths in India was 556 per 100,000
- That means 1.38 lakh people (pregnant women, mothers, infants) die every year without adequate medical facilities.
- This is more than the world average at that time (385 for 1 lakh)
- The central government is implementing various schemes to reduce maternal deaths
- The Family Health Policy 2017 has set a target of less than 100 deaths per 100,000 births by 2020.
- As of 2017-19, India achieved the lowest number of perinatal deaths (103) compared to the world average (211).
- Even after this progress, the fact that India still leads the world in perinatal deaths shows the gap between people and medicine.

- Women's health is considered secondary due to prevailing gender discrimination in India
- The birth of a girl child is considered a burden to the family. These prevent women from getting adequate medical care
- Tamil Nadu ranks fifth in India with 54 deaths in efforts to meet UN's 'Sustainable Development Goals'
- While various programs are being implemented by the central and state governments for the welfare of maternal and newborn children, the incidence of perinatal deaths shows the inadequacy of government measures. This should not continue
- Governments should accelerate work to strengthen the health infrastructure to ensure that maternal deaths do not occur.

Necessity of International food security

G7

- The G7 summit, which includes the United States, Britain, Germany, France, Italy, Canada, Japan, and the European Union, was held in Hiroshima, Japan.
- Accepting the invitation of Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida, who is presiding over the conference, PM Modi attended as a special guest.

Discussion

1. Regional and International Affairs
 2. Indo Pacific Affairs
 3. Ukraine-Russia war issue
 4. Rising Chinese dominance
- An integrated food distribution system should be established considering the welfare of the most vulnerable people in the world
 - Priority should be given to marginal farmers
 - The international fertilizer supply chain needs to be strengthened
 - It should be ensured that there is no political interference in fertilizer supply

Presented to Nehru at the time of independence : Chola model scepter in the new parliament building

- Presented to Jawaharlal Nehru, the country's first Prime Minister at the time of independence, by Mountbatten, the last Viceroy of British India.
- Mountbatten asked Nehru, the first prime minister of independent India, how he could conduct a handover ceremony at the time of independence.
- Nehru consulted Rajaji, the last Governor General of the country, on this matter
- Rajaji said that according to the Tamil tradition, during the rule of the Cholas, when a new king took office, the spiritual leader would hand over the scepter to him.
- After that Rajaji was entrusted with the responsibility of producing scepter
- At the top of the scepter is a statue of Nandi, a symbol of justice
- This scepter handover ceremony took place on 15th August 1947 at 15 minutes before 12 am.
- This historic scepter is now in the Allahabad Museum.

03

Indian Polity

Mutual divorce

- A constitution bench of the Supreme Court ruled that the Supreme Court itself can decide divorce cases without requiring a six-month waiting period by using the special power under Article 142 of the Constitution without referring them to family courts.
- In unavoidable circumstances, the Supreme Court can exercise this special power to grant immediate divorce to a couple only on the basis of mutual relationship

Section 142

- Article 142 of the Constitution empowers the Supreme Court to issue any order beyond the provisions of law to ensure complete adjudication in a case.

Verdict

- In unavoidable circumstances the Supreme Court can grant divorce using special powers under Article 142
- The Supreme Court can grant immediate divorce to the couple on the basis of their mutual relationship under certain conditions
- There is no need for them to wait for six months as per the Hindu Marriage Act
- There is no room for doubt or debate that the Supreme Court can exercise its power under Article 142(1) to render complete justice in a case.
- A divorce-seeking couple cannot be allowed to file a petition directly in the Supreme Court under Article 32 of the Constitution or in the High Court under Article 226 for instant divorce under Article 142 of the Constitution.
- They ruled that only when a petition in the family welfare court fails to get a suitable solution, they can approach the High Court or the Supreme Court.

World Press Freedom Index : India at 161st position

Reporters without Borders

- International media watchdog Reporters Without Borders publishes a World Press Freedom Index ranking of 180 countries each year.
- It released the rank list for the year 2023 in that category
- Accordingly, India, which was ranked 150th last year, has dropped 11 places to rank 161st.
- Turkey is 16 places behind at 165th and Tajikistan is one place behind at 153rd.
- The organization, which released the ranking on World Press Freedom Day, based the rankings on factors including the risk of media being blocked from reporting by those close to political leaders and being captured

Manipur Riots

- The Meitei community constitutes 53 percent of the population of Manipur, one of the northeastern states
- It should be noted that before its accession to India, Manipur was ruled by Meitei kings

- Manipur is surrounded by the states of Assam, Nagaland and Mizoram and on the eastern border by Myanmar
- Most of the area is hilly and rich in natural resources. Seven new districts were created in 2016
- The tribal people at the time suspected that the new districts were created to encroach on their native lands by the Meiteis.

Meitei

- The population of Manipur can be divided into Meitei and tribals
- But the area where they live is only the capital Imphal and its surrounding plains
- 90 percent of Manipur's 34 Scheduled Tribes live in the hilly areas of the state.
- They mostly belong to the Naga, Kuki & Mizo tribes
- Manipur has long been under Meitei rule. Their dominance continues even after independence
- 40 of the state's 60 legislators belong to the Meitei community. Chief Minister Biren Singh is also a Meitei
- The Meiteis' language 'Meiteilon' is enshrined in Article VIII of the Constitution of India

Other hill tribes were mostly converted by Christian priests and lost their traditional language. English is the only language they know now

Struggle

- The Meitei have been fighting for their inclusion as a Scheduled Tribe since 2013
- The reason for this is not reservation in education and employment but the aim is to protect their native lands, culture and identity
- The same fears and anxieties that the Meiteis have are seen in the non-Meitei tribes as well
- Recently protected forest area, wetlands etc. were surveyed
- Some were evicted from some of the tribal villages. It is the extension of the protest that has now erupted into violence following the High Court order

371C

- The Meiteis' contention is that they were recognized as tribes before the merger with India in 1949
- Tribals fear that reservation to the Meiteis will deprive them of their rights under Article 371C of the Constitution.
- The Nagas and Kukis say that more than 30 percent of the education and employment quotas they are currently given will go to the Meiteis.

Riots in Manipur

- More than 50 people have been killed in violence in Manipur state against the granting of Scheduled Tribe status to the majority Meitei community, official sources said.

Manipur

- Manipur, which was a princely state, was annexed to India in 1949 after independence. Until then the Meitei community lived as tribes
- They were not recognized as scheduled tribes in independent India
- The majority of the Meitei community belong to the Hindu religion. Therefore, OBCs also enjoy the benefits of reservation for Scheduled Castes

- The Meitei community living in valley areas have access to all basic facilities like clean drinking water, schools, hospitals and industrial employment opportunities.
- Tribals living in hilly areas have less of these facilities

Issue

- Valley area is only 10 percent of Manipur's land area
- Due to the increasing population, lack of space has become a problem for the Meitei people
- As the tribal lands are legally protected, the Meitei community has no right to purchase them
- Thus they feel that Scheduled Tribe status is necessary for them
- They are also politically very important
- Other Scheduled Tribes in Manipur fear that if the community is declared as a Scheduled Tribe, it will encroach on their hitherto protected lands. This is the main reason for the massive outbreak of violence
 1. Problems caused by illegal immigrants from neighboring countries including Myanmar
 2. Conflicts with other state workers
 3. Increasing cultivation of opium in the hills
 4. Illegal immigrants are starting to work there. Strict measures taken by the Government to control the cultivation of Opium
 5. Encroachments on forest areas
 6. Many problems are already brewing in Manipur, such as the tension created by the state government's move to evict the Kuki and Zomi tribes living in villages in the forest areas.

High Court verdict

- The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs had on 29 May 2013 asked the Manipur state government to submit a report on the socio-economic status of the Meitei community.
- The Manipur High Court on April 19 directed the Central Government to recognize the Meitei community as a Scheduled Tribe after the Manipur government did not take action in this regard for 10 years.
- Subsequently, the protest held by the All Tribal Students Union and other tribal organizations on May 3 turned violent

Delhi Government has administrative authority : SC Verdict

- The Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court ruled that the Delhi government has legislative powers except general orders, police and land in service administration.

Verdict

- Civil service powers should be administered by a government elected by the people. Failure to do so will seriously undermine the policy of joint liability
- The Delhi Legislative Assembly has jurisdiction over other items in the list of states in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, except for general order, police and land, and over items in the general list.
- Keeping in view the federal philosophy, the central government should exercise its powers within its jurisdiction as per the Constitution

- Just because a national capital is not a territorial state does not mean that it has to function under the authority of the central government
- The executive power of the Government of Delhi is co-extensive with its legislative power
- The Delhi Legislative Assembly has all the powers as it has the power to make laws.

Political neutrality is essential for civil service officers

- It is imperative that civil service officers act neutrally without political bias
- The responsibility of implementing the day-to-day decisions taken by the state cabinet rests with the civil service officers who act impartially
- Civil service officers are under the administrative control of ministers
- If the government is to function effectively, the decisions of the elected representatives of the people must be duly implemented
- Civil service officers should realize that responsibility
- Neither the people nor the parliament nor the cabinet are responsible for implementing the policies of the government
- The responsibility rests with the Civil Service Officers
- Civil Service Officers should be responsible to Ministers
- Ministers are responsible to Parliament or State Legislature
- Parliament and Legislature are accountable to the people
- In this triple bind, civil servants ensure democratic principles
- The Constitution has given the power to make laws to the Parliament and the State Legislatures.
- An irresponsible civil service can endanger the administration of democracy
- They also run the risk of acting against the will of the people.

7 years imprisonment for assaulting medical personnel

- In Kerala, the state government has approved an Ordinance that will impose up to 7 years imprisonment and a maximum fine of Rs 5 lakh for assaulting doctors, medical students and other medical personnel.
- The Ordinance also provides for setting up special courts in each district to hear cases of violence against medical personnel
- An Ordinance to amend the Kerala Medical Personnel and Medical Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage to Property) Act, 2012 was approved.

Special Courts

- The Ordinance stipulates that these cases should be investigated by an officer not below the rank of Inspector of Police and the investigation should be completed within 60 days from the date of registration of the First Information Report.
- Paramedical students, security guards working in hospitals, administrative staff, ambulance drivers, assistants etc. are also brought under the protection of this Act.

Power Struggle in Delhi : Judgment for a solution

National Capital Territory Special Status

- It is welcome that the Constitution Bench headed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court has ordered that the state government elected by the people has authority over the administrative services in Delhi, the capital of the Union Territory of the country.
- Union Territories are defined as areas under the jurisdiction of the Central Government. Delhi was accorded the special status of National Capital Territory in 1991 under Article 239 AA of the Constitution.
- Accordingly, the Act confers such powers as the Legislature and the Cabinet. The three jurisdictional lists of the constitution are clearly defined in the Indian federal philosophy
- As far as Delhi is concerned, the powers of public order, police and land rest with the central government. This creates crisis for the Delhi government at various times

SC Verdict

- The long-standing power struggle in Delhi has been brought to an end by the decision of the Supreme Court Constitution Session
- A legislature elected by the people should always have control over power. The judgment of the Supreme Court also implies the same
- Even though the Delhi government has got the power it had been demanding in relation to the administrative service through the Supreme Court verdict, there are signs of corruption in the work of the government officials and employees who make up the administrative machinery.
- After the Supreme Court's verdict, the Aam Aadmi government ordered the removal of Delhi Services Department Secretary Asish More
- There is also a controversy that he did not respect the order. Such problems should be put to an end
- Federalism is part of the basic structure of democracy. If there is to be no conflict of power in Delhi, all sides like Central Government, Lt. Governor, Delhi Government should realize the responsibility and act in the coming time.
- It is important to keep in mind the judgment of the Supreme Court

Although the King of Delhi

National Capital Civil Service Commission

- The Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court heard a case filed by the Delhi government and ruled that the Delhi government, elected by the people, has absolute power in all matters except land, police and public order.
- In response to the verdict, the Central Government has issued an Ordinance to set up the National Capital Civil Service Commission to decide on the appointment and transfer of senior officials.
- The central government has also filed an appeal seeking a review of the Supreme Court verdict
- Not even 24 hours after the Supreme Court judgment gave them that power, the Ordinance took that power away again.
- AAP's allegation is that government officials are not under the control of the chief minister and ministers
- The Ordinance issued by the National Capital Civil Services Commission comprising the Delhi Chief Minister, Chief Secretary and Principal Home Secretary to decide on the appointment and transfer of senior officers has highlighted the Chief Minister in name only.

- Not only is the election based on majority, it also confirms the final decision of the Lt. Governor

Verdict

- The Supreme Court has made several comments in its judgment. It has stated that the federalism principle and the authority of the government elected by the people will be paramount
- At the same time, the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court has said that the powers of the Delhi government are subject to the laws of the Parliament
- Accordingly, it can be assumed that the central government has the authority to form a new management committee

Disputation

- A question is whether Parliament can act in such a way as to override the Supreme Court decision
- Another view is that the Supreme Court has no power to enact legislation and the Supreme Court cannot interfere with that right in Parliament

Comment by Dr. Ambedkar

- The power conflict between the Delhi Government and the Central Government was discussed in the Constituent Assembly itself
- Member Desh Bandhu Gupta argued that Delhi should not be made a devolved region
- But Law Minister Ambedkar was adamant that even though Delhi was a state, it should remain under the full control of Parliament
- The State Reform Committee set up in 1956 also endorsed the concept

Delhi Govt

- In 1966, the Delhi Metropolitan Council was formed
- Jana Sangh won the first election and LK Advani became its president
- 1993 Legislative Assembly constituted for the Union Territory of Delhi. BJP won the first election and Madan Lal Khurana became the Chief Minister
- Sheila Dikshit, who won the next election as the Congress party, not only became the Chief Minister but also won three consecutive terms and remained in office for 15 years.
- Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party took power after defeating the Congress and the BJP in the 2013 elections and continues to this day.

Issue

- In 2013, it was Home Minister LK Advani who introduced a bill to restore full statehood to Delhi.
- Even after that there was no problem until Sheila Dikshit was Chief Minister. The problem started when Arvind Kejriwal became the Chief Minister in 2013
- Many national capitals of global importance are under the direct control of the central government
- In USA-Washington, in Germany-Berlin, in France-Paris, in Australia-Canberra, in Canada-Ottawa the powers are vested in central governments.
- Ambedkar's argument in the Constituent Assembly was that the administrative control of the national capital, which houses the President, Prime Minister, Supreme Court judges, foreign embassies, defense offices and Parliament, should be vested in the Central Home Office.

04

Science & Technology

Artificial intelligence technology

- US-based OpenAI has introduced artificial intelligence software called ChatGPT
- ChatGPT performs language-based functions very quickly, such as answering questions immediately, and compiling information related to a topic when you input it.

Threat

- Experts say that AI will bring a huge change in various fields
- Whereas if it is not handled properly it will become a threat to mankind

Pioneer

- Yoshua Bengio, Yann LeCun and Geoffrey Hinton are pioneers in AI development
- A lot of fake news, photos, videos are created by AI and spread on the internet
- People are unable to discern what is real and what is created by AI technology

AI Outsmarting Humans : Time to Take Control

Introduction

- Google CEO Sundar Pichai, speaking on a recent TV show, expressed constructive optimism about the development of artificial intelligence, but expressed concern about the ambiguities embedded in it.
- It is worth recalling the comments made by the famous physicist Stephen Hawking about this technology
- Stephen Hawking's opinion is that AI technology, which operates on knowledge inputted by human-written computer programs, will start to think for itself and write new shades without the writers telling them to.

Facts that shook Scientists

- Recently Google required Bengali language for a specific AI program
- The team that wrote the program had not taught it Bengali. Nor does it say it is necessary
- But there were a couple of Bengali words used in the program
- The team was shocked to learn that the program had automatically learned and worked on Bengali
- Sundar Pichai, who has said that this is surprising to us, has used a term 'black box' to mean that this technology is incomprehensible.
- Artificial intelligence is the arrangement of machines to do what humans think faster, more accurately, and more consistently
- In such high-level programs, it is considered dangerous that AI machines can write and execute even programs not written by humans, if they feel the need.

Warning voices

- As AI continues to evolve, there is a danger that it will become a force beyond human control
- If it gets into the wrong hands it can be dangerous to mankind in many ways
- Geoffrey Hinton, one of the pioneers of artificial intelligence technology, has recently warned that software like ChatGPT may become more intelligent than humans in the future, with a hand from Google.
- Legal experts in the European Union have urged that regulations be brought in quickly.

G7 effort

- Leaders of the G7 have discussed the risk of ChatGPT to streamline its development and use.
- Issues related to copyright, transparency, and foreign powers have decided to enact laws to prevent the dangers of misuse of information.
- They have also decided to bring an Artificial Intelligence Act
- Any technology requires control and monitoring. The fact that the G7, a group of developed countries, is embarking on this effort is very encouraging

Motivation for science : A wide window to the universe

LIGO India

- Events such as supernova explosions, neutron star collisions, and merging black holes in the distant universe create cosmic waves in spacetime
- LIGO (Laser-Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory) detected this event for the first time in 2015.
- LIGO India will be set up with an investment of \$320 million to promote innovation and research in India in collaboration with the United States National Science Institute and India's Raja Ramana Center for Advanced Technology (under the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India).

From Einstein to LIGO researcher

- In 1916, Albert Einstein first formulated the general theory of relativity through gravitational waves.
- But it took 100 years for physicists to confirm Einstein's prediction
- Much of the history of astronomy is related to light and electromagnetic halos. That is, from radio waves to infrared, from visible light to energetic x-rays and gamma rays
- But gravitational waves are fundamentally different. They are like a fabric woven into a tidal wave in space-time

2015 LIGO

- In 2015, for the first time in human history, physicists discovered gravitational waves produced by the merging of two black holes 1.3 million light-years from Earth.
- The Nobel Prize-winning discovery was made possible by the Laser Interferometer gravitational Wave Observatory
- In 1970, the National Science Foundation of the United States laid the foundation for this

More research beyond the observatory

- LIGO is the world's largest gravitational wave observatory
- A great activity of science cooperation and engineering is provided by the United States, in the Pacific Northwest of Washington, Hanford, and near the Gulf of Mexico in Louisiana.

- Interferometry is used to predict waves in space-time
- That is, gravitational waves cause stretching and compression in space as they pass through
- Through this, scientists monitor gravitational waves through changes in LIGO laser beams
- Information obtained by LIGO is used in many areas of physics
- LIGO provides insights into the origins of black holes, merging neutron stars, and universe
- LIGO India will create new job opportunities in Hingoli district of Maharashtra
- Like America, India will become a source of students, researchers and educators
- Next-generation STEM will pave the way for research and scientific innovation

Advantages of Federation

- By joining a global network i.e. 2 LIGO sensors from USA, VIRGO from Italy, Kamioka Gravitational wave sensor from Japan KAGRA & LIGO India will push across boundaries to unravel the mysteries of the universe.
- The lab will answer fundamental questions about the cosmos
- It will inspire the next generation in research.

LIGO Center for Astronomical Research

- The central government is planning to set up a giant astronomical observatory named LIGO India in Hingoli district of Maharashtra to detect the origin of gravitational waves in the sky.

LIGO

- There are two meteorological observatories in the U.S. that work to determine where gravitational waves form in space
- It is called the Laser Interferometer Geogravitational Wave Observatory
- These enable accurate detection of gravitational waves in space around Earth
- The LIGIO instruments rely on triangulation technology to determine where gravitational waves originate around the world and where these gravitational waves originate in space.
- It is widely used in GPS navigation
- The two LIGO observatories in the United States are located in Hanford, Eastern Washington, and the other in Livingston, Louisiana.
- The distance between them is 3000 km. This is called base distance
- With the addition of LIGO India, the GPS service will improve manifold

Artificial intelligence : Misinformation of the print media

Geoffrey Hinton

- AI technology pioneer Geoffrey Hinton is hailed as one of the fathers of artificial intelligence
- His resignation from Google created shockwaves in the tech world
- Create a powerful Chatbot like ChatGPT using generative AI technology that innovates with artificial intelligence
- Hinton has expressed concern that tech companies' involvement in the monster competition will lead to risk

- The danger of AI demands more urgent attention than climate change
- We know the ways to deal with climate change. But Hinton's claim that we don't have clarity about what to do with AI technology underscores the gravity of the situation.
- It also reflects where mankind has arrived

Employment

- "ChatGPT-4" launched by OpenAI on March 14, 2023 has created a risk of replacing humans with data input ranging from education to the arts.
- It is in the context of the fact that it is not just the risk of losing people's jobs that makes Hinton's comments so important
- Considered as one of the tools of revolution in modern times, social media including twitter has been carrying the risk of destabilizing the society due to its bad use in the last decade.
- Social media has been a major contributor to the intensification of the social scourge of fake news
- However, AI devices that have acquired the power to complete what humans think and even do not think, further contribute to the creation and spread of fake news.
- News, information and creations can be created in writing, light, sound and visual media without any traces of being created by AI.
- With all AI tools freely available on the internet, the only danger to society is when they fall into the wrong hands.
- People depend primarily on print media for news credibility when the veracity of news that appears on the Internet is questionable.
- Print media can be the primary choice for those who want factual news, with time to check and judge the veracity of the information.

Conclusion

- Innovations and new technologies made possible by human knowledge are moving forward in history to contribute to the development of mankind
- At the same time, they also carry risks that could shake the fundamental aspects of humanity's existence, reaffirming the extraordinary development of artificial intelligence before it was realized.
- This is a modern challenge to be faced with the view of Valluvar as "Arivu Attram Kaakkum karuvi"

Blood delivery by drones in Noida

- Vaccines and medicines have already been transported by drones to hard-to-reach places
- Now, for the first time, blood samples are being transported by drones in Noida
- 10 units of blood were transported by i-drone from Government Institute of Medical Sciences and Lady Hardinge Medical College, Noida.
- Arrangements for this were made by the JP Information Technology Center in Noida
- The i-Drone was first used to transport vaccines to hard-to-reach places during the coronavirus outbreak

Technological development is the development of the country

Pokhran

- On 11th May 1998 Shakti nuclear test took place at Pokhran in Rajasthan state when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was Prime Minister.

- Dr. Raja Ramanna, R. Chidambaram, Dr. Abdul Kalam along with scientists from 'Baba Atomic Research Centre' and Jodhpur Defense Laboratory experts worked on the test.
- Preparations for Pokhran took place secretly, diverting the attention of US spy satellites to ships deliberately stationed in the Arabian Sea.

Atomic Energy Commission

- On April 15, 1948, the Atomic Energy Bill was passed
- Consequently, the Atomic Energy Commission was formed on 10 August 1948 under the chairmanship of Dr. Homi J Baba
- The 'Nuclear Reactor Research Centre', established on 12 March 1969 at Kalpakkam near Chennai, was dedicated to the nation on 23 July 1983 by the then Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi.
- It is special news that the Prime Minister of India has been the Minister of Space since then till now, which was built by the students of Nobel Scientist Sir CV Raman, Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, Homi J. Baba etc.

Space travel

- We have launched more than 120 domestic and foreign satellites in the 48 years since 1975, when India's first satellite, Aryabhata, was launched.
- We are also making progress in space travel

Satellite

- In terms of communication satellites, the Apple satellite was launched on June 19, 1981 by the European Space Agency's Ariane rocket.
- A new chapter has begun in Indian space. Today, advances in electronics have gone hand-in-hand with satellites, giving rise to technologies such as the Internet, television, video telephony, mobile phones, video conferencing, telemedicine, and teleclassroom.
- The Board of Scientific and Industrial Research came into existence in the 1940s as a result of a suggestion made by SS Bhatnagar, a scientist, who considered India's scientific and technological progress a few years before our country's independence.
- It was renamed as 'Council of Scientific and Industrial Research' on September 26, 1942 by order of the Department of Commerce of our country. It is today abbreviated as CSIR
- On 18 August 1951, the first Indian Institute of Technology came into existence at Kharagpur in West Bengal.
- Such scientific educational institutes also came up in Mumbai, Chennai, Kanpur and Delhi
- In 1961, the Technical Companies Acts were enacted
 1. National Physical Laboratory
 2. National Chemical Laboratory
 3. National Geophysical Research Institute
 4. National Maritime Institute
 5. National Metallurgical Laboratory
 6. National Aeronautical Laboratory
 7. National Botanical Research Institute

8. National Environmental Engineering Research Institute
9. National Dairy Development Board
10. National Plant Genetics Research Center
11. National Institute of Immunology
12. National Dairy Research Institute

- Various scientific institutes have sprung up

- Development organizations such as the Information, Planning and Analysis Group, the Technology Development Group, the Automation Appropriate Incentive Program, and the National Radar Group were established to focus solely on electronic computing development.
- In 1984, Rajiv Gandhi took over as the Prime Minister and the computer industry took a new turn.
- Computers have been introduced everywhere in government departments, industries, commercial sector in the country
- The country's computer policy was announced on 19 November 1984
- It encouraged the export of computer software abroad
- Unnecessary restrictions were relaxed. The announcement was praised by the foreign media.
- Meanwhile, on 19 November 1986, the second software policy for the computer sector was announced.
- This policy has enabled both the pre-communication activities of computer software business and computer industry training to take place through satellite.

Brahmos Missile

- Indian Navy successfully test-fires Brahmos supersonic missile from frigate INS Mormugoa

Trail

- INS Mormugoa is capable of intercepting and destroying the missile
- The Brahmos supersonic missile was test-fired for the first time from the warship
- INS Mormugoa frigate and Brahmos missile are indigenously manufactured
- The Brahmos missile is a joint venture between India and Russia
- Capable of traveling at 2.8 times the speed of sound, the missiles can be launched from submarines, warships, warplanes, land, etc.
- It may be recalled that India signed an agreement worth USD 37.5 million with the Philippines for the sale of Brahmos missiles.

Why should Vigyan Prasar be protected?

Vigyan Prasar

- It is an autonomous body under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India
- Established in 1989 for science dissemination, science communication and inculcation of scientific spirit in the people, this organization is now coming to an end.
- Alternatively, efforts are underway to establish a small unit within the Department of Science and Technology

- Revival of Vigyan Prasar can save Rs 20 crore a year, says Niti Aayog
- But the fact remains that the long-term loss to the country cannot be repaired by closing down the institution that has done so well in disseminating science in India.

An important organization

- 51 A (h) of the Constitution of India states that it is the duty of the State to impart scientific spirit to the people.
- The institute established on its basis has contributed more to the development of the country and the development of science and technology than any of the large institutes operating under the Government of India Department of Science and Technology.
- This organization is doing the work of inculcating scientific attitude in all the states in their respective vernaculars and the thought of questioning anything & everything
- The institute undertakes scientific dissemination and development work by directly reaching out to people from all strata of society such as differently abled, tribals, women and geographically inaccessible people.
- The Institute has directly and indirectly contributed to inclusive knowledge development and social development

Significant tasks

- Vigyan Prasar publishes an English and Hindi monthly magazine 'Dream 2047'
- This magazine is a treasure trove of knowledge for college students, research students and science enthusiasts
- Top scientists are constantly writing various innovative scientific articles
- The institute is carrying out the vigyan bhasha program to take science in their mother tongue
- It is a classic plan to incorporate not only the languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution but also the languages spoken by most of the tribal people
- Various scientific books are published by Vigyanprasar in Indian languages like Bengali, Tamil, Kannada, Urdu, Gujarati & Marathi.
- It also publishes monthly magazines Tajassus (Urdu), Ariviyal palagai (Tamil), Bigyan Katha (Bengali), Kutuhali (Kannada).
- Through this, the institute also brings together a team of scholars who write science in their mother tongue, and experts who include scientific vision and practices.
- Through 'India Science Wire', the organization is doing the work of converting the research publications coming out from the research institutes of India into simple scientific news articles and easily understandable stories for the people and bringing science news to everyone.
- It also runs an OTT channel called 'India Science TV'
- Through this, it is publishing videos containing scientific information in Hindi and English
- A government-run science and technology channel, its use is heavily dependent on the younger generation.

Science festivals

- Vigyan Prasar organizes international science festivals every year
- International Year of Light, International Year of Astronomy, International Year of Biodiversity, etc. recognized by the UN General Assembly have been successfully implemented as events of importance in various forms.
- It has also undertaken the task of bringing science day, maths day and environment day announced by the Government of India to the people in a simple way in the local language.

Reliable scientific information

- The main mission of this organization is to spread science through dramas and stories through All India Radio
- I have also received awards like UNESCO's Kalinga Award for Science Dissemination, National Award for Science Dissemination, Indira Gandhi Science Award, Atmaram Award for Best Science Books.

A wrong decision

- Dismantling the knowledge based system which has played a major role in such important nation building will be a hindrance to the next stage of progress and development of the nation.
- When science dissemination is done through 'outsourcing', the real benefits may not be achieved.
- The decision to close Vigyan Prasar was short-sighted. This action will be against the development of national interests.

New dangers of tuberculosis

TB

- Tuberculosis is not new to India. Historical records suggest that tuberculosis has been present in India since 1500 BC
- Tuberculosis, once known as a disease of the poor, has now become a disease that affects everyone
- Tuberculosis affects 4 crore people worldwide every year. One crore of them are Indians
- The Government of India is taking various measures to protect people from the risk of TB
- It has set a target of total eradication of tuberculosis by 2025
- Drug-resistant tuberculosis is spreading so fast and furiously in India

What is Tuberculosis?

- It is a disease caused by the bacteria Mycobacterium tuberculosis. It usually affects the lungs
- It can also affect other parts of the body like the kidneys, brain, liver, and spine
- Not everyone who has this bacteria in their body gets TB. This infection, which does not manifest as disease, is called latent tuberculosis

Symptoms

- Persistent cough
- Blood in mucus
- Excessive weight loss
- Fever
- Indescribably cold

How to Diagnose Tuberculosis ?

Sputum smear microscopy

- Mucus samples collected from the lungs are tested in this. Because the disease is caused by slow-growing bacteria, it can take three to eight weeks for results to be seen

Line Probe assay

- It is the first molecular test recommended by the World Health Organization
- A liquid sample is taken from patients' lungs and tested on strips called 'assays'
- It takes an average of two days to detect resistance to first- and second-line drugs for TB

CBNAAT/TrueNat:

- This test, approved by the World Health Organization, can confirm not only tuberculosis, but also rifampicin resistance within two hours.

Common Tuberculosis

Treatment period	24 weeks
Side effects	Chest pain, fatigue, rapid heartbeat, coughing up blood, nausea
Expense	Rs 7,500 in govt hospital Rs 20,000 in private hospital

Extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis

Treatment period	May vary according to vulnerability
Side effects	Joint pain, skin discoloration, diarrhoea, depression, corner bleeding, insomnia, severe weakness
Expense	Rs 6.9 lakh

Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis

Treatment period	24-27 months
Side effects	Deafness, depression, psychosis, stomach problems, blurred vision, darkening of skin, fatigue, body pain
Expense	Rs 4.7 lakh

Drug-resistant tuberculosis

- Treatment for tuberculosis is usually given in two phases
- In the first phase, a combination of 4 primary drugs namely Isoniazid, Rifampicin, pyrazinamide, ethambutol is given for two months.
- In the second phase only Isoniazid, Rifampicin, ethambutol drugs will be given for an additional 4 months

- Due to years of use or misuse of such antibiotics, bacteria acquire the ability to become resistant to these drugs. This is drug-resistant tuberculosis

Ignorance of people

- Not only the misuse of medicines but also the ignorance of the people is a factor in the occurrence and spread of this condition
- Cough is the only symptom of TB in the beginning, so the condition gets out of hand before it is definitively diagnosed as drug-resistant TB. It spreads to many people
- About 64 percent of people with TB symptoms do not seek medical treatment, according to the India TB Report 2023.
- Notably, the number of diagnosed multidrug-resistant TB patients in India stands at 63,801

Complex treatment

- Fewer drugs are available to treat drug-resistant TB. New drugs are not widely available
- These drugs can also cause side effects such as gastric allergy, headache, neurological damage, depression, hearing loss
- Treatment costs for drug-resistant TB are also very high
- The duration of treatment for typical tuberculosis is six months
- But treatment for drug-resistant TB can last up to two years
- A total of 14000 pills will be required at 20 pills per day during that period
- The cost of treatment for two years can range from one lakh to 25 lakhs

Checkup

- Special tests are needed to diagnose drug-resistant TB. These tests are often expensive. Not widely available
- To meet this shortfall, the government is allocating additional funds
- The number of TrueNAT/CBNAAT testing centers in the country was just 40 in 2014. Now it has increased to 5090
- At present there are 80 laboratories in the country to detect non-adherence of TB drugs
- They have the ability to detect non-adherence to drugs such as linezolid pyrazinamide

Can welfare be lost?

- The patents of two new drugs, Bedaquiline and Delamanid, for the treatment of drug-resistant tuberculosis are to be expired
- They are now being provided free of cost by the government. Being in the market can cost around 2000 rupees per day
- The government is making efforts to develop new short-term drugs for drug-resistant TB. ICMR's new drug is being tested in Mumbai
- Many short-term effective drugs are now available worldwide. They also have fewer side effects
- The government should take steps to bring these drugs into India and sell them at low prices.
- The government should ensure that no one has a monopoly on such essential medicines mainly due to patents. Otherwise, the opportunity to eradicate tuberculosis will be lost.

Central Govt Ordinance to take away power of Delhi Govt

SC Verdict

- A question arose as to who has the transfer authority to appoint senior officers like IAS IPS in Delhi
- The Supreme Court heard the case and gave a decisive verdict that the state government elected by the people has the authority to appoint and transfer IAS IPS officers.
- The judgment says that the Delhi government has authority over all other departments except public order, police and land.

Central Govt Ordinance

- Thus, the power of the Deputy Governor, who is the representative of the Central Government, is deprived
- This judgment was a setback for the Central Government in the context of conflict between the Delhi Government and the Central Government
- In order to invalidate this decision, the central government brought an emergency law to set up the National Capital Civil Service Commission for appointment and transfer of officials.

Commission

- The Ordinance states that the National Capital Civil Service Commission shall exercise the powers vested in it and perform the functions assigned to it.
- The Commission will be headed by the Prime Minister, the Chief Secretary and the Home Secretary as Member Secretary.
- The majority of the members present at the meeting should vote and decide all the results
- This should be approved by the Member Secretary
- It has become a situation that the Chief Minister cannot take any decision of his own accord by this commission set up by the Ordinance

Controversy

- The Modi government is acting against the unanimous verdict of the Supreme Court constitutional session
- The Supreme Court held that the elected government should be empowered to take decisions independently of its own will and in accordance with democratic principles.
- But this emergency law of the central government shows that the Modi government is failing. The central government brought this emergency law to wrest power from the Kejriwal government
- This is against the Constitution. The Ordinance has been deliberately brought at a time when the Supreme Court is on summer vacation

Global polio targets for this year are unlikely to be met

Global Polio Eradication Initiative

- Subtypes 2 and 3 of the poliovirus have been successfully eradicated since 1988 when the World Health Organization established the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.
- The number of polio cases worldwide has decreased by more than 99.9 percent

Current polio endemic country

- At present, only Afghanistan and Pakistan are reported to have uninterrupted transmission of poliovirus subtype 1.

Increase in infection

- A total of 22 cases of poliovirus subtypes were reported last year, including two in Afghanistan and 20 in Pakistan.
- All twenty reported infections in Pakistan were reported from security compromised districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.
- This is an 11-fold increase over the single case reported in 2021
- As of 10 May 2023, one outbreak of wild poliovirus subtype 1 has been reported again in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- The latest case of poliovirus subtype 1 for Afghanistan was reported on August 20, 2022.

Cause of infection

- ü According to the weekly report of Morbidity and Mortality, 859 cases of poliovirus that have re-formulated since recent vaccination were reported last year.
- Such infections are a 23 percent increase from those reported in 2021
- But the alarming fact of note is that the reinfection of vaccine-derived poliovirus has been reported in countries such as Canada, Israel, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, which have been eradicated for a long time.
- Additionally, various poliovirus cases have been reported globally in countries as diverse as Democratic Republic of the Congo, Israel, Malawi, Republic of the Congo, Yemen, etc.
- The report warns that unfortunately the current global epidemic of poliovirus transmission is 'unlikely' to meet the 2022-26 Global Polio Eradication Initiative target of detecting the last cases of this year's polio subtype 1 and vaccine-transformed poliovirus.

A new technology called calcium-41 is welcomed in radiometric dating

Carbon dating method

- Since its discovery in 1947, carbon dating has revolutionized many fields of science
- This method predicts the age of the organic material based on how much carbon-14 it contains
- However, since the half-life of carbon-14 in carbon-14 dating is approximately 5700 years, this method can only estimate the age of archaeological materials less than fifty thousand years old.

Calcium-41

- In 1979, scientific researchers proposed the Calcium 41 method
- Its half-life is 99,400 years
- Calcium 41 from cosmic rays from space explosions enters soil molecules and mixes with calcium and the Earth's crust to help determine the age of fossilized bones and rocks.
- It requires various stages of testing to maintain a reliable timeline

Nature Physics 2023

- According to the March 2023 issue of the journal Nature Physics, organic matter continuously takes in and releases carbon-14 while it is alive.
- When organic material dies, this process stops and the remaining carbon-14 in the body begins to decay

- The difference between the relative abundance of carbon atoms in organic matter and the number that should have been there can be used to calculate its age.
- The carbon dating method predicts a carbon-14 atom for every 1015 carbon atoms
- In every 1015 calcium atoms, calcium-41 is rarely found.

Are artificial sweeteners dangerous?

World Health Organization warning

- The World Health Organization has warned that long-term use of artificial sweeteners may increase the risk of developing type 2 diabetes and heart disease mortality in adults.
- WHO has released new guidelines for people who use non-sugar sweeteners to lose weight and prevent diseases such as diabetes, heart attacks and strokes to reconsider their usage

Non-sugar sweeteners

- People with diabetes are increasingly using low-calorie non-sugar sweeteners in coffee and tea instead of white sugar to reduce the severity of the disease.
- Sugar-free sweeteners including saccharine, aspartame, stevia, sucralose, acesulfame are added not only to a wide range of food products, but also to soft drinks, artificial fruit juices and pharmaceutical tablets.
- The use of these sweeteners has increased across the board as they are hundreds of times sweeter than white sugar and are low in calories.

Reason

- In 2015, the US Food and Drug Administration, which regulates the use of pharmaceuticals and food products in the global population, declared no risk in the use of artificial sweeteners
- As an extension, the World Health Organization gave the green flag on March 4, 2015 that consumers can consume less than 10% of their daily calorie needs through artificial sweeteners. It has also been reported that such sweeteners help in weight loss when taken at a daily dose of 5%
- In turn, many countries around the world have accepted the general public use of artificial sweeteners as a matter of policy

Re-examination and new guidance

- In this case, a study carried out in France announced that those who used artificial sweeteners for more than 8 years had an increased chance of getting cancer
- Then another study found that the popular artificial sweetener Stevia contains a chemical called erythritol, which increases the risk of heart attack and stroke.
- The results of this study prompted the World Health Organization to re-examine non-sugar substitutes and their benefits
- It published a report last week titled 'Use of Non-Sugar Sweeteners: WHO Guidelines' based on a total of 283 research articles.
- Accordingly, the report issued by WHO in 2015 has been withdrawn
- This means that non-sugar sweeteners are not useful for weight loss
- Instead, long-term use increases the risk of type 2 diabetes by 23%, heart disease by 32%, stroke by 19% and high blood pressure by 13%, it now warns.

Weaknesses of the study

- Although the number of studies cited by the World Health Organization approaches 300, each is a small-scale study, not a large-scale one.
- And many of those studies were done in lab rats and hamsters. Fewer have been performed in humans
- Most of them were Observational studies
- In these types of studies, subjects are not given artificial sweeteners. There are insufficient data to confirm that there is a risk of cancer
- No studies have confirmed that the chemical erythritol in Stevia sweeteners causes heart attacks.
- That's because many of the study participants already had risk factors for heart attack, such as high blood pressure and high cholesterol.
- Modern medicine does not recommend non-sugar sweeteners for weight loss. Users are advised to consume less starchy foods

Calories dens

- Because non-sugar sweeteners are low in calories, consumers tend to overconsume foods, soft drinks, and fruit juices containing such sweeteners. That is the danger
- For example, let's say one eat a lot of a dessert made with artificial sweeteners. Is there only sweet in that dish? There is oil, there is ghee. Consumers tend to forget that all three are calorie dens.

Cryptocurrency is the money of the future

- How did people meet their needs before money was invented?
- In ancient Tamil Nadu many commodities including rice, salt and honey were traded through barter
- They also traded pepper, sandalwood, etc. for gold and emeralds with Rome and Egypt.

Material-service criteria

- Today we have money as the measure of value for goods and services. These operate with a guarantee provided by the government. For example, our government guarantees the value of the Indian rupee
- And the transactions we face today are dependent on banks

Crypto currency

- Completely different from this is virtual money called crypto currency
- The value of a thing is what is accepted by the people in the society. Cryptocurrencies are money without the intervention of governments and banks
- These are called decentralized money. Such transactions are focused on both the payer and the payee.
- Blockchain is like a public ledger. Cryptocurrencies work based on this technology
- When one person sends money to another, this transaction is marked in the register and the money is credited to the recipient's account
- Thus, every transaction that takes place in this network is confirmed by the computers connected to it and linked by a chain-like system
- This block chain is considered more secure as it is common to the network and not stored centrally in any one place

Countries that recognized

- Currently some countries like El Salvador have recognized cryptocurrencies. The Government of India has also introduced a crypto currency called e-rupee through the Reserve Bank of India
- Although these are often not adopted for day-to-day transactions, they may bring huge changes in the future

Iron fortification : Health risks of high iron intake

- Iron is required for physiological functions such as the formation of hemoglobin. However, too much iron can be harmful to the body
- Dietary iron fortification is the only method that can be proposed to correct iron deficiency
- Commonly selected foods such as wheat, rice, and salt are fortified to provide up to two-thirds of adult women's iron requirement and men's daily requirement.
- Therefore, excessive intake of iron may result from regular consumption of a uniform quality diet or exceeding the limits of intake of fortified foods.

Tolerable Upper Intake Level

- There is a finite level of iron intake before the risk of adverse events begins to increase. This is called Tolerable Upper Intake Level
- And its dose is 40 mg per day
- Harmful to people with iron overload such as thalassemia patients
- Iron is excreted naturally due to the physiological function of menstruation in women
- But men do not have this physiological phenomenon, so they suffer from high levels of iron

A contemporary study

- Current research shows increased iron excretion in children
- Exactly how or by what means this extra secretion takes place is not known
- However, the net effect of iron adjustment on hemoglobin formation beyond excess iron reserves may be less than usual
- The body tries to regulate iron absorption as much as possible. But in a well-fed diet, excess iron is not absorbed

Adverse effects

- Studies show that unabsorbed iron can lead to inflammation in the gastrointestinal tract and disrupt the colonic microbiome with long-term effects.
- May cause cramping, constipation or diarrhoea
- Excess iron in the gastrointestinal tract can affect the absorption of other nutrients
- A very high level of problems is associated with diabetes
- Iron leads to oxidative stress, which damages cells, proteins, and DNA
- Abnormal lipid oxidation causes excess serum triglyceridemia and accumulation of excess triglycerides in tissues and liver tissue.
- An analysis of data on blood biomarkers of chronic disease risk from the Comprehensive National Nutrition Study of Indian Adolescent Children showed an increased risk of high serum glucose for every 10 mcg increase in serum ferritin (iron storage level).

- Cholesterol and high blood pressure increase proportionally.
- At very high doses, iron also plays a role in hepatic stellate cell activation and excessive deposition of extracellular matrix in the liver. This can lead to liver fibrosis.

Exclusive approach

- Despite the success of iron supplementation in correcting iron deficiency, it is important to consider the risks of high iron intake.
- Unsupervised high iron intake Instead of following established mandatory iron fortification programs, it is necessary to develop individualized strategies and ensure thorough monitoring to detect any adverse events early.
- It should be noted that only a certain segment of the population needs more iron in their diet and not everyone. Accuracy is essential in public health.

Artificial intelligence : Boon or Curse?

- Big companies such as Google and Amazon have developed their own technology to compete with OpenAI's ChatGPT.
- It is noteworthy that Geoffrey Hinton, one of the pioneers involved in the creation of artificial intelligence, said, "I regret the research I have done so far in AI, but I take solace in the fact that if I don't do this research, someone else will."

Peril

1. AI can be very dangerous if not handled properly
 2. Currently, there is a huge competitive environment among companies based on AI technology
 3. It can have bad consequences
 4. A lot of fake news, photos, videos are created and spread on the internet
- People are unable to discern what is real and what is created by AI technology
 - It has been said that the rapid development of technology is alarming

ChatGPT

- In November 2022, US-based OpenAI launched ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence technology software.
- ChatGPT raised our eyebrows by providing us with everything we asked for, such as instant response to queries, and fast compilation of related information when we input a topic into it.
- The initial bugs have been fixed and refined and now the ChatGPT-4 version is here
- But this service is not free. For this we will have to pay about 1200 rupees per month in Indian currency
- Early versions of ChatGPT executed human-made commands. It has the ability to think like a human being

Uses

- Earlier only 3000 words can be entered and questions can be asked. Earlier only 3000 words can be entered and questions can be asked
- More accurate answers are now available than ever before. In earlier versions we can only input text
- Now you can post photos and ask questions

In Medicine

- Experts predict that its range will make great achievements in the field of medicine
- From diagnosing the disease in the human body and providing medicine to performing surgery, its flow will be huge

AI in judgments

- There is a case in Pakistan that has gone unsolved for 9 years
- While inputting the details of the case, which was a challenge for the judges themselves, ChatGPT-4 gave nine types of verdicts.
- Apart from that, artificial intelligence keeps these judgments in accordance with the laws of the country of Pakistan
- Reid Hoffman wrote and marketed the book Impromptu with the help of artificial intelligence

Boon

- It tends to lighten man's work, apart from the possible loss of employment for many
- Although this artificial intelligence will not have much impact on sectors that require human manual labor like agriculture and construction, it will have a small impact on those sectors as well.
- This technology is a boon for large organizations and large scale project planners
- This technology can also be of great help to people with disabilities who need the help of another human being
- Academic scholars fear that if students start using such artificial intelligence platform, they will become lazy without learning what they need to learn.

Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs

- A few days ago, the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs has ordered that while buying a product from a commercial company, a customer should not be forced to give the phone number to submit a receipt.
- Any technology should serve the people and not hinder them
- It resists the practice of asking us for our phone number simply to announce offers in their business, but also to stealthily know our preferences.
- It is this artificial intelligence that monitors and hijacks our likes and dislikes for the profit of big companies
- A web of artificial intelligence is already woven around us. As we operate on the Internet, we fall into its loop

GSLV-F12

- GSLV-F12 rocket successfully launched with NVS-01 navigation satellite
- It was launched in the morning from the second launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Research Center in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- 15th rocket in GSLV category
- The sixth rocket to be powered by an indigenously developed cryogenic engine
- The height of the rocket is 51.70 meters
- The satellite carried a total weight of 420 tonnes, including fuel, from Earth



Major projects

- Four more satellites will be launched at a rate of one every five months
- We and NASA in the US are working on a program called Nisar
- As a radar system, it can also be used for many types of surveillance from space
- Chandrayaan-3 will also be launched in July to explore the moon
- Several phases of experiments are underway for the Gaganyaan project to send humans into space
- For the first phase of the probe, a spacecraft is scheduled to fly 14 kilometers from Earth and land back on Earth in July.
- An unmanned spacecraft will be sent into space and tested in early 2024

Use of satellites

- Used to precisely guide air, sea and land traffic
- It will help the country's border security, Indian Navy, Air Force to locate enemy locations. Helps in disaster times for monitoring
- It can be used for high precision detection of marine fisheries, high yielding agricultural land and international sea boundaries.
- Through the mobile phone application, the route to any place and the exact time can be found. Used for timing services of financial institutions

NVS-01

- Total weight: 2223 kilo. Span: 12 years
- Designed with state-of-the-art technology for the second generation
- Usually the satellite has an atomic clock. This will ensure that the time of ISRO's control center and the time of the satellite are synchronized
- So far satellites launched by ISRO have been given foreign clocks
- For the first time, the NVS-01 satellite carries an indigenously manufactured rubidium atomic clock.
- It was manufactured at ISRO's Research Center in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

IRNSS

- The Indian Space Research Organization decided to develop a framework called the Indian Regional Guidance Satellite System for land, sea and air transport and defense applications.
- Through this exclusive guidance technology is developed and operational for use in India
- Seven guidance satellites namely IRNSS 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E, 1F, 1G were designed and successfully launched in the period from 2013 to 2016.

NVS-01

- NVS-01 satellite was designed by ISRO as a replacement for IRNSS 1G satellite
- It was launched by GSLV-F12 rocket
- It is designed with advanced features in second generation technology.

05

Tamil Society

Thirukovilur Excavation

- Excavations at Thirukovilur in Thoothukudi district by the Central Department of Archeology have unearthed a large number of artifacts such as fine earthen floors, copper coins, hearths, chains and flint figures.
- It was announced in the Union Budget that a world-class museum will be set up at Adichanallur in Tuticorin district
- The Central Archeology Department has given permission to continue the excavation work at Adichanallur to identify the habitations of ancient humans.
- Excavation will be done at 5 places in Adichanallur area namely Agaram, Kongarayankurichi, Kaalvaai, Karunkulam and Thirukovilur.

Thirukovilur

- In the first phase, the Central Department of Archeology has started excavation work at Thirukovilur, about 6 km east of Srivaikundam
- 3 pits have been dug near Chera, Chozha and Pandeewarar temple there and excavation is going on. Layers of soil have been found in a pit
- Also 5 rows of unfired mud bricks have been found. This brick measures 26 cm long, 18 cm wide and 8 cm high
- Another excavation pit has 4 floors. Flint pipes have been found on the first and second floors
- An oven has been found on the fourth floor.
- Apart from this, red, black, glazed black, glazed red, and brown tiles are available.
- From the surface to a depth of two meters, multi-colored chains and broken bangles are found
- These chain are available in round, cylindrical and plate shapes in green, red, black and white colors
- Iron objects, copper coins and flint figurines have been found
- The materials obtained here will be kept in a museum to be set up at Adichanallur

Chenda and Thimila are Tamil instruments

- Musical instruments mentioned in the two thousand year old Chera literature Silapathikaram are still in use in Kerala today.
- Some examples are Idakka, Mattalam, Udukai, Thimila, Mizhavu, Para, Thudi which are still in use in Kerala.
- There is a connection between Kerala state arts and Kerala formal arts
- Tamil Nadu musical instruments are also used in formal arts. But this is not accepted by the Satriya Psalmists
- Paandi Melam is one of the types of beats played on the Chenda, a musical instrument that is a symbol of Kerala
- It is tradition that this alone should be beaten outside the temple. Its rhythm is related to the musical tradition of Tamil Nadu.

Tamil identity

- Kerala musical instruments such as Ilaithalam, Udukkai, Idaka, Ara mani, Otthakuzhal, Kinkini, Kinnam, Kokkarai, Kol, Mani, Kombu, Kombu Vadayam, Kulunguzhal, Golkudam, Sangu, Chenda, Sutta Mattalam, Sippaalakattai, Sengilai Talam, Silambu, Thudi, Thimilai. , Thappu, Naagara, Nandhunni, parai, Paani, Pulluvan kudam, Pulluvan veenai, Mizhavu, Vil, veeranam to name a few.

- Among these musical instruments, Idaka, Mizhavu, Thimilai, Thudi, Parai, Vil, etc. have Tamil identity.

Idakka

- Kerala musical instrument called Idakka is one of the Panchavadyams
- It is used in Sobana Sangeet performances. A divine instrument.
- The idakka is a musical instrument called Thudi in Shiva's hand which is a myth
- It is customary to hang it in the front of the deity when not in use
- Once upon a time the idakka was played even when the Shobana Sangeet was sung in all the temples and attala pujas of Kerala. Today this practice is declining
- This instrument is suitable for arts such as Kudiyaattam, Kathakali, Mohini Attam, Krishnan Attam etc.
- In a Kathakali event, the idakka is played when a female character appears. Chenda will not be played then
- The idakka is played with the help of the mizhavu instrument in Koodiyaattam
- It is also a tradition to play the ilaithalam while the Shobana hymn is being sung. A variety of smooth sounds can be produced from this instrument. There are many myths about it in the northern hemisphere

Idakka, Udukku

- Idakka is similar in structure to the Udukku instrument. It is 8 or 8.5 inches long
- Its body is made of ebony or jack wood
- Its two outer circular parts are fitted with cowhide
- The circle is 4 to 4.5 inches in diameter
- The holes in this circle are also tied with rope and one beats the idakka with his right hand
- About this musical instrument Rajagopalan says 'It is mentioned in old Malayalam literature. Its name comes from the Tamil tradition', he says
- In Saranga Deva's book 'Sangeetha Ratnakaram' it is mentioned by many names like Hugukka, Daakka.
- In Tamil idakka is known as Avanti. Adiyarkunallar says that the Kuluva people (line 130) are those who play musical instruments such as the idakka etc.

Thimilai

- Thimilai is the oldest musical instrument of Tamil. Now it has become an instrument of Kerala. One of the Panchavadyams, the sound of this instrument is said to be equal to Ongara
- Although Thimilai has the name Pani, Pani is slightly longer than Thimilai. Both these instruments are still in use in some temples of Kanyakumari district
- Adiyarkunallar recites Thaazhkural thannummai in Silappathikaram, mentions the names of the 31 musical instruments starting with Perigai. Thimilai is one of these
- Thimilai is mentioned as "viyan kudi thimilai" in Periya Puraanam by eripattha naayanaar
- Thiruvagasam says 'thimilai naanmaraiser thiruperunthurai'
- Thimilai has been mentioned in many places in Thirupugazh by Arunagirinaathar
- The name of Thimilai has been mentioned in the inscriptions of Thanjai thillaitaanam temple
- Thimilai has been used as an instrument in the period of Athith Chozha I and later Chozha period

Excavation work at Porpanaikottai

- The first phase of extensive survey work has started at Porpanaikottai under Veppangudi Panchayat of Pudukottai District by the Department of Archeology of Tamil Nadu Government.

Porpanaikottai background

- During the Iron Age, the area is thought to have occupied 17 acres of fort and 1.26 acres of habitations.
- The fort has a perimeter of 2.5 kilometers and a defensive rampart of 5.66 acres
- There are 32 fort towers with three entrance gates on the east west and north sides
- There are Muneeswaran and Karuppan temples on the four sides of the fort and a water tank inside the fort
- It is assumed that there may have been a habitat area near it
- Remains of smelted iron are found in the southern part

Jallikattu Verdict

- It is a matter of great joy and welcome that the Supreme Court has ruled that Jallikattu cannot be banned
- This has given rise to the belief that Jallikattu, the traditional heroic sport of Tamils, will not have any chance of disruption

Case

- Animal welfare activists present the jallikattu game as torture on bulls. Because of this Jallikattu also had legal hurdles
- In the face of continued court bans and removals of bans, the then DMK government passed the Tamil Nadu Jallikattu Regulation Act in 2009 to protect jallikattu.
- In 2014, the Supreme Court banned jallikattu on petitions by the Indian Animal Welfare Board, a central government body, and private organization PETA.
- In January 2017, as a result of a peaceful protest by a large number of people at the Chennai Marina beach, the AIADMK government of the day amended the Animal Protection Act 1960 to allow jallikattu.
- The ban on jallikattu was lifted after the central government approved it

Verdict

- In a case filed by the Animal Welfare Board and PETA again in the Supreme Court seeking a ban on this amendment, the Constitutional Bench headed by Justice KM Joseph has now ruled that the amendment of the Tamil Nadu government will go ahead.
- Although Jallikattu was banned in 2014 on the grounds that bulls were being tortured, the Supreme Court said that the Tamil Nadu government's 2017 amendment had significantly reduced the pain and suffering caused to bulls during jallikattu.
- The court also warned that violation of the provisions of this amendment in the name of culture and tradition during jallikattu competitions is punishable by law.
- Whether Jallikattu is an inalienable part of Tamil culture cannot be decided by a court. Another important aspect of this judgment is that it has been said that 'it is a matter for discussion by cultural, religious organizations and people's representatives'.
- At the same time, the Supreme Court has recognized that Jallikattu has been practiced in Tamil Nadu for at least a few centuries
- Although a review petition is likely to be filed against this verdict, it can be hoped that the views expressed by the judges will be a permanent bulwark in defense of Jallikattu.

The scepter has a special place in Tamil tradition

Importance

- Although the scepter is important in the world tradition, the Tamil tradition has a special place

- The wish of the Tamil kings was to rule without the scepter stumble
- The kings are reminded that the scepter given in their hands as a symbol of leadership should be admired by the people and never become a matter of malediction

Valluvar's comment

இயல்புளிக் கோலோச்சும் மன்னவன் நாட்ட

பெயலும் விளையுளும் தொக்கு

- Where king, who righteous laws regards, the sceptre wields,
- There fall the showers, there rich abundance crowns the fields.
- In the nature of government, the king who preserves the morality of the government will have abundant rains and abundant production of goods.
- We refer to governance as $\frac{1}{4}iV\frac{1}{4}éV\beta \cdot > _$ which means holding the scepter high. Then it means to govern properly. According to the scepter method, the scepter should not be subjected to any kind of conflict

Scepter

- When the word scepter comes to mind, the longest stave comes to mind
- The symbol of the particular king or government and the traditional symbol or symbol of the cult are usually attached to the head of this stave
- Three main items are used as emblems of kings
- Crown, throne and scepter are the three. All of these as symbols of government or governance are however scepter symbols of governance and fairness and justice
- In this sense, the scepter is not just an object. That's a hypothesis. In other words, it is a sign of sophistication
- Even if the deity rules, the scepter must be held high. The eighth day of Chitrai festival in Madurai city blossoms into Meenakshi's scepter ceremony.
- The goddess who rises in the six-legged mandapam will be decorated with macha mudra and rishaba mudra
- A garland of neem flowers will be given to Ambigai and a jeweled scepter will be given

The basic truth of the sceptre

- The basic truth of the scepter is that governance and rule should be full of fairness and justice
- It is fitting that the scepter, the liberating asset of our country, should be installed in Parliament, the temple of democracy
- The scepter is a symbol of monarchy. Meaning of Monarchy. The question may arise in many minds as to whether this applies to democracy.
- A scepter is more than just an object. It is the definite meaning that unfolds in the signified reality
- Monarchy was the first form of government in the development of human society
- When there were small meetings of 10 to 15 people, one person would lead the meeting as the leader of the meeting. Then the size of the crowd would have increase
- Over time, the congregations stay here and there, setting up residences
- A leadership style of protecting and maintaining the space and the crowd would have emerged. This is how the royal system would have expanded and blossomed into the monarchy system
- Then the seeds of democracy are planted when the leader continues to govern by incorporating the thoughts of his citizens
- Monarchy was followed by democracy. Therefore, some of the words associated with kingship have become symbols of rule and victory.

06

Indian Geography

Impact of El Nino

- As the El Nino phenomenon will affect monsoon rainfall, the central government has advised the state governments to be prepared to face adverse conditions and ensure adequate availability of seeds for the Kharif season.
- Due to the El Nino phenomenon, the Southwest Monsoon will be normal this year, according to the Meteorological Center's forecast

El Nino

- The El Nino phenomenon, which occurs due to warming of the surface waters of the Pacific Ocean adjacent to South America, weakens the monsoon winds and causes dry conditions in India.

Impact

- About 52 percent of India's total agricultural crop cultivation area is dependent on monsoon rains. Its contribution to the total food production of the country is 40 percent
- Through this, monsoon plays an important role in ensuring food security and economic stability in the country

Lithium deposits in Rajasthan

- Following Kashmir, lithium deposits have been discovered in Rajasthan
- The invention of batteries was miles more important in the development of science than the invention of electricity
- Lithium batteries are currently used in all electronic devices including cell phones, laptops, computers, electric vehicles, aircraft manufacturing, solar panels, etc.
- International demand for lithium is expected to increase 500 times over the next 25 years
- The element is called white gold because lithium is valued at par with gold
- Lithium deposits are found in Chile, Australia, Argentina, and China
- A target has been set to increase the number of electric vehicles in India to 14 lakh by 2030
- Achieving this goal has necessitated massive imports of lithium

Jammu & Kashmir

- Lithium deposits were found in Salal Haimana area of Reazi district in Jammu and Kashmir
- The Central Department of Mines has announced that there is 59 lakh tonnes of lithium there

Rajasthan

- Large deposits of lithium have been discovered in the Revanth hills in the Degana region of Rajasthan
- In 1914 during the British rule, the element tungsten was discovered in the Revanth hills of Degana region of Rajasthan.
- A large amount of tungsten was mined from there

- After the independence of the country, tungsten element was taken from the same area
- This element was used to make medical equipment
- India was unable to cope with the competition as China exported tungsten at very low prices in the international arena
- The mine closed in the 1990s due to rising costs of mining the element tungsten at Mount Revanth.
- The Geological Survey of India had been exploring for some years whether high-grade tungsten could be found in the same area
- Fortunately, large deposits of lithium were discovered
- This lithium reserve can meet 80 percent of the country's demand

Monsoon is delayed by three days this year

Southwest Monsoon

- Monsoon usually starts on June 1 in Kerala & gradually move towards south. The Indian Meteorological Department has not released any information on the monsoon trend
- But Skymet, a private monitoring center, has said that the monsoon rains will begin late and move slowly northwards over Peninsular India.
- Monsoon is based on the influence of various factors. The amount and direction of monsoon can change due to many factors such as temperature, atmospheric pressure and wind direction.

El Nino factors

- The East Pacific Ocean along the equator has been warmer than usual this year. That is why analysts believe that there is an El Nino environment
- More than usual summer heat and less monsoon rains confirm it
- With an El Nino environment expected to develop in July, concern and anticipation of the monsoon is on the rise

Significance

- Southwest Monsoon plays an important role in Indian economy. India receives 70% of its rainfall in the four months of June to September annually
- 51% of India's agricultural area depends on monsoon. 40 percent of food grain production is monsoon dependent
- About half of the population in India depend on agriculture for their livelihood. That is why monsoons are so important

Kharif Cultivation

- Southwest Monsoon is the most important reason for agricultural cultivation
- Not only is it essential for Kharif cultivation, but the catchment of water from dams, lakes and ponds in the south-west monsoon helps winter cultivation.
- Regular southwest monsoon rains are essential for India's food security and food prices
- As about 63 percent rainfall occurs in July and August, its impact is reflected in the cultivation
- The effects of rains will affect the procurement of food grains, leading to a rise in food prices

Rice production

- India's most important food grain, paddy production is dependent on southwest monsoon rains
- Its lateness and slow northerly movement will affect planting in most parts of India
- It is a big consolation that the government has announced that wheat procurement is normal. Decreasing or asymmetric seasonal rainfall has been increasing in recent times
- There is no need to fear a shortage as the government has sufficient grain reserves to meet it

Conclusion

- Regular monsoon rains are essential for RBI to curb inflation. If southwest monsoon starts in Kerala from June 1 to June 6, Indian farmers will start their work without any problem.

Coral reefs : A Natural Wonder

- Coral reefs make up only 0.1% of the ocean's total surface area
- 25 percent of the world's marine life lives in such a small space
- That's why coral reefs are called the rain forests of the ocean
- Coral reefs grow very, very slowly. Its growth is only 0.3 to 10 centimeters per year
- It takes about five thousand to ten thousand years to develop
- Coral reefs are made up of tiny organisms called corals. These are called polyp
- A polyp is a soft, light-permeable organism without a backbone
- It has arms called tentacles like jelly fish on the top. It captures and eats microbes through this. Polyps have a hard calcareous shell underneath
- This shell called calicle is the structure of coral reef

How it forms ?

- First this polyp clings to a rock in the ocean floor. Then one becomes two, two becomes four, and thousands of polyps divide in this way
- Calicles of this polyp coalesce with each other to form a large colony
- After thousands of years these colonies grow and combine with other colonies to form coral reefs
- All the coral reefs we see today were formed about five million years ago

Types

1. Continental coral reef
 2. Barrier reef
 3. Round coral reef
- These three are the 3 types of corals
 - They are found in colors like green, red, brown, yellow etc
 - Generally they have no color. It is the algae that grows on top of the coral reef that gives it its eye-catching color

Where will it be formed?

- Coral reefs do not form in all oceans of the world

- Coral reefs only form in tropical oceans such as the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans where they receive less sunlight.
- They are found only in the Andaman Islands and Lakshadweep Islands in India
- The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef. It is also a famous tourist destination in the Australian waters

Impacts

- About 58 percent of the world's coral reefs are threatened by human activity
- We have already lost 27 percent of our coral reefs. If we continue in the same way, sixty percent of the world's coral reefs will be destroyed in the next 30 years
- Global warming, seawater pollution, seasonal change, and crude oil spills are major threats to coral reefs.
- While worshipping beauty, it is man's duty to protect it.

Increasing heat

- The World Meteorological Organization has warned that the five-year period from 2023 to 2027 could be the hottest on record.

Heat rise

- Climate change induced by human activities is intensifying day by day as a result of uncontrolled use of fossil fuels
- As a result, the average temperature of the earth, which had been stable for ages, started to rise
- Climate events such as storms and heat waves are becoming more intense today as this has a huge impact on Earth's ecological systems.
- The average temperature has been steadily rising over the last six years since records began in 1880.

Paris Conference

- Scientists have declared 15 degrees Celsius as the threshold for global average temperature increase to protect life from the effects of climate change.
- The countries of the world are also accepting this as per the vision that only then can we limit the impacts and adapt to the climate change.
- In that sense it is not only a scientific fact but also a political constraint
- However, the Met Office predicts that the average temperature of the Earth will increase by 1.1 degrees to 1.8 degrees Celsius over the next five years.
- That means there is a 66 percent chance that global average temperatures will exceed pre-industrial levels of 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- The Weather Service predicts that the average for these five years may be higher than the average for the past five years (2019-22)
- It implies that there is no chance of going back to the old way. Rising temperatures will also have a primary impact on the oceans, making storms more intense.
- Cyclone Mocha, which hit Myanmar, blew faster than originally estimated and caused severe damage to life and property, the latest example.

07

Environmental Science

Environmental crime

- Due to scarcity of natural resources on one hand and demand for more resources in the name of development on the other, illegal extraction of natural resources leads to environmental crime.
- The primary environmental crimes are poaching, trafficking, illegal deforestation, air and water pollution, marine resource exploitation, and uncontrolled exploitation of above and below ground mineral resources.

Shocking murders

- Nature lovers and government officials are trying to prevent environmental crimes in India and globally
- Such attempts are followed by intimidation, assault and killing
- We have strong enough laws to control and prevent environmental crimes. However, crimes continue to occur

Tasks to be carried out

- There is a great need to create a unit for environmental crimes
- The team should include not only police officers, but also forest, environment and forensic science experts
- This will greatly reduce the incidents of other government department officials encountering environmental criminals and the resulting incidents.
- Additionally, people will be able to report crimes without fear
- Special courts are also required for environmental crime only to dispose of the large number of pending cases
- Such gaps in the policing and justice sector may be the reasons for the continued occurrence of environmental crimes
- And there is a possibility of brutality like murder, attempted murder, kidnapping, causing grievous bodily harm against those trying to prevent crimes.

Public debate is essential

- We are beginning to realize that climate change is happening.
- Indiscriminate carbon emissions, destruction of forests, mountains, oceans, and mineral resources are actions that accelerate climate change.
- Many researches have established a direct link between environmental crime and climate change
- We are in a state of environmental climate change crisis and we need to start aggressive action in this regard
- It is important to speak out about the fact that environmentally harmful environmental crimes are starting to directly affect us and our posterity.

Artificial intelligence is also becoming a threat to the environment

- There is constant talk about the potential dangers to society from the advent of artificial intelligence software such as ChatGPT
- However, due to these softwares, environmental activists have expressed concern that carbon emissions will increase in the future

Background problems

- OpenAI launched an artificial intelligence software called ChatGPT a few months back
- Subsequently, Microsoft started integrating this software with their Bing search engine
- Concerned by this, Google immediately launched Bard, an artificial intelligence chat software
- Amazon and China's Baidu have joined the race
- It is true that artificial intelligence software can simplify many tasks. But as a result, it brings with it many problems which is a matter of concern. Notable among them is carbon emissions
- The International Energy Agency has found that large amounts of carbon emissions have occurred in the past year during energy use by various companies
- Carbon emissions accelerate global warming, and by extension, many problems arise as a result of climate change
- Scientists are constantly warning that they will create many new environmental problems
- However, integrating artificial intelligence software such as ChatGPT with search engines will inevitably increase carbon emissions.

Giant data centers

- In order for artificial intelligence software like ChatGPT to work, they must undergo machine learning
- That is, by inputting information available on the Internet, these softwares try to analyze that information and learn from it
- Many data centers need to be 24 hours a day to perform this machine learning
- Data centers are created by consolidating thousands of upgraded computers
- Those computers have processors that perform high-speed math
- A data center is spread over about 35 thousand square feet
- Computer power is what makes computers run so fast
- Artificial intelligence computers need such computing power to run. It has a million times more power than the computer we use
- If that many computers are running for 24 hours, the machines will start to heat up. If this heat is not dissipated and cooled, computers will burn out
- Many technologies are employed to reduce the computing heat of such gigantic data centers
- Hundreds or thousands of Air conditioners and fans are used for this purpose
- So we can calculate how much electricity is needed to run such a large data center
- This electricity is generated entirely from fossil fuels which pollute the environment

Carbon emission

- Training the previous version of ChatGPT required about 1287 MWh of power
- With this amount of energy we can fly from Chennai to Delhi 1200 times
- Its current version is even more power-hungry. Perhaps if billions of people were using it every day, its energy demand would be even greater
- If you combine this with search engines, billions of searches will be done in a day
- If so, the electricity demand will increase many times. Because the electricity for this demand can only be generated from environmentally harmful fuels, the carbon emissions are potentially five times higher than at present.
- Various efforts are underway today to control carbon emissions. Google search engine on the other hand creates a significant amount of carbon emissions
- Data on carbon emissions in google data centers is not transparent. But companies such as Google and Microsoft have said they are working to curb carbon emissions

- The goal of the Climate Agreement is to reduce the world's carbon emissions to net zero by 2050.
- But it is not that easy. Although everyone is aware of the environmental problems, including global warming caused by carbon emissions, today's civil society has an ever-increasing need for energy.
- Thus there are many obstacles to achieving net zero
- Google has committed to net zero carbon emissions by 2030
- Microsoft has asked for time till 2050. But to compound the problem, high levels of carbon emissions are becoming a threat due to the new levels of computing power required by modern artificial intelligence technologies.

Solutions

- Generating the energy needed for data centers in an environmentally friendly way
- Conducting various studies on air conditioning technology to make it a low carbon emission technology
- Many new improvements are made in the algorithms of artificial intelligence to maximize its special features. Thereby reducing the power required by the system
- Instead of competing for profit, companies can come together to introduce artificial intelligence technology that is environmentally friendly.

When will there be an end to NLC's greed?

Caution

- Farmers of Cuddalore district who refuse to hand over their farmland to NLC are struggling to protect their livelihoods.
- Unable to suppress their protest, the NLC administration is trying to portray the protest as affecting Tamil Nadu's power sector.
- NLC is now supplying electricity to Tamil Nadu at Rs 2.30 per unit. In the open market, it will have to be bought at a price of up to 12 rupees
- The NLC leader has said that if it is to be stopped, people should give their lands

The reality

- NLC Thermal Power Stations are shut down for maintenance once in a while. Similarly, even now coal mines are closed
- Also NLC has more land and coal than it needs
- According to the data contained in the document titled NLC's corporate plan till 2030, NLC gets 26 million tonnes of coal per annum from its three mines in Cuddalore district.

Sales in open market

- 26 million mined coal in Cuddalore district is not used by NLC to generate electricity
- Instead it sells a portion of it in the open market and earns revenue
- 830 crore revenue in 2021-22 from sale of lignite alone, unprecedented in history
- For that, coal production was increased by 30 percent in that year alone

Inevitable company?

- Until a few days ago, about 1500 MW of electricity was allocated to Tamil Nadu through NLC's thermal power plants.
- But it only gets about 900 MW on average
- Tamil Nadu's average power requirement is 15000 MW, with a maximum requirement of 18,000 MW.
- But the total power generation capacity of the state is 36,000 MW
- This is more than double the requirement. Out of which NLC supplies only 800 to 1000 MW

- It is also not true that NLC is providing electricity to Tamil Nadu at low cost
- According to the agreement signed by the Tamil Nadu government on March 16, 2022, the price of electricity to be supplied by nlc to Tamil Nadu is Rs 3.06 per unit.
- But on the same day, the Tamil Nadu government signed an agreement to buy less than that at Rs 2.61 per unit from the central government's Solar Energy Corporation.

Destroyed Livelihoods

- In the 1950s, the people of the 23 villages that make up Neyveli's environs donated their livelihood lands for the noble cause of getting electricity to Tamil Nadu.
- But due to greed, the NLC, which has mined lakhs of tonnes of coal more than required and is selling it in the open market, is clamoring for more land for further exploitation.
- Based on a report issued by the Union Ministry of Coal Mines, the closure of 30 coal mines has been announced to protect people from climate change.
- In this case, the government should conduct a study on the effects of the NLC company on the farmers, the nature, the environment and the well-being of the people.
- There are many ways to generate electricity. But if the arable lands are lost, there is no other option for agriculture. Rulers should not forget this.

New Amendment

- There are rumblings that the central government's new amendment to the Forest Protection Act will pose a threat to India's forests and wildlife.
- The Forest Protection Amendment Bill 2023, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on March 29, 2023 and sent to the Standing Committee on Science, Technology, Environment and Forests of the House of States for public consultation, has become a topic of discussion among environmental activists.

Forest Laws

- Although the Indian Forest Act has been in force since 1927, the colonial British administration and the Indian government after independence only implemented the Act to regulate the use of forest trees and resources.
- Besides, the scheme does not aim to protect forests or prevent deforestation
- In 1976, the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution of India transferred forests from the State List to the General List, and the Central Government also gained power over forest-related activities.
- It was in this situation that the Forest Protection Act 1980 was brought into force
- According to this law, the permission of the central government has to be obtained for non-forest use of forest areas
- An advisory committee was also formed to recommend forest reclassification and ensure the protection of forests

Why this amendment bill?

- The general objective is that at least 33 percent of India's land area should be forest
- As it has reached 24.62% so far, further increase in forest area is difficult
- Thus, treeless land is defined as forest even if it is recorded as forest somewhere in the land records, whether it is hilly plantations or densely wooded areas.
- On the other hand, the existence of large tracts of land under the definition of 'forest' made it difficult for the State Governments or private industry to use such tracts for non-forest purposes.
- It is in this context that the new amendment bill has been brought

Amendments requiring attention

- The Act adds a new preamble to the Forest Protection Act

- That includes achieving national targets of net zero emissions
- Maintaining ecological balance
- Maintaining cultural heritage values of forests
- Meeting economic needs
- Achieving organic neutrality has been emphasised
- The Forest Conservation Act came into force on 25 October 1980. Therefore the Bill considers as forest areas only those areas defined as forest as per government land documents on or before that date.
- It departs from the broad definition of forest given by the Supreme Court in TN Godavarman v. Union of India.
- Thus forests protected under the judgment can be easily used for non-forest projects. Due to this we may lose substantial forest areas

Negative effects

- Also exempted from the provisions of this Act are road-rail infrastructure and national defense related projects
- Thus there is no need for assessment of wildlife habitat loss and other impacts caused by these projects
- In that way the intervention of National State Wildlife Boards, National Biodiversity Commission and State Biodiversity Boards is likely to be prevented.
- These can have significant negative effects on wildlife conservation and biodiversity
- The amendment gives the central government extraordinary powers to prescribe terms and conditions for conversion of forest areas for non-forest projects.
- Amendments have also been made to carry out surveys, logging works and other projects related to national security without any prior permission from the forest department.
- Exemptions are further extended for non-forest projects in the second section of the Act
- Accordingly, exemptions have also been given to afforestation, jungle trekking and eco-tourism structures so that such projects can be executed without the permission of the central government.
- Such exclusions can cause significant changes in the forest ecosystem
- Also, there are fears that developments like zoos and eco-tourism will cause changes in the forest landscape and threaten tribal forest rights and indigenous flora and fauna.

New Challenge

- As climate change continues, science suggests two ways to deal with it: mitigation and adaptation.
- Mitigation means reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide, by creating carbon sinks
- Adaptation means preparing ourselves and our structures to face extreme weather disasters caused by climate change
- There is no doubt that forests are the best organic absorbers in the world
- Native trees and plants absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere during photosynthesis
- In order to achieve the national targets of net zero emissions and achieve carbon neutrality, the amendment bill, among other amendments, will lead to a reduction in the density of forest trees and vegetation.
- It is questionable whether it is used to protect forest land and wildlife
- Thus, maintaining the ecological balance becomes a major challenge
- Similarly, it is not understood how amendments aimed at affecting the forest rights of tribals and their gram sabha decisions will help preserve the cultural and traditional values of the forest.
- On the whole, the proposed changes in the amendment bill seem to be aimed only at meeting economic needs
- There is no doubt that there will be two major slippages in forest conservation

08

Indian Economics

Role of Migrant Indians in Indian Economy

Remittance

- A strong link between the diaspora and economic growth is the savings sent back home by migrants known as remittances.
- Remittances are defined by the International Monetary Fund as money earned by citizens who have gone abroad for employment either temporarily or permanently and send to their families in their home countries.

Importance

- Savings remittances from migrants play an important role in providing a country with the foreign exchange it needs
- It plays an important role in overcoming the deficit in foreign trade balance of various developing countries
- Since 2015, savings remittances by migrant workers from low- and middle-income countries have exceeded those countries' large foreign direct investment.
- And the savings of these migrants are three times higher than official development assistance provided by international organizations such as the United Nations and the World Bank.

India ranks 1st

- Since 2008, India has been the largest recipient of savings remittances by migrants globally
- India has \$100 billion in savings by 2022, with Mexico \$60 billion, China \$51 billion, the Philippines \$38 billion, and Egypt \$32 billion.
- Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are leading states in receiving their savings from migrants since 2016-17
- But from 2020-21 onwards this situation has changed and Maharashtra is leading
- Maharashtra receives 35 per cent of migrant remittances, says RBI report

Great share

- Savings remittances from migrants have an impact on macroeconomic and microeconomic factors of the Indian economy
- Migrant remittances play a major role in mitigating the adverse effects of the ever-increasing current account deficit on our country's foreign trade balance.
- A large amount of foreign exchange is needed to keep the rupee at par with the US dollar and other currencies
- Savings remittances from migrants help overcome foreign exchange shortages
- There is no doubt that these savings are very helpful to the Government of India during natural calamities and economic crises
- The income of families receiving remittances from migrants increases and their purchasing power increases
- This increases consumption in households and directly helps the country's GDP growth

- They are able to spend more on their children's education. Their standard of living also increases. Households' savings rise and the country's investment grows
- In recent times, there has been a fundamental shift in migration, with large numbers of Indians migrating to countries like the US, UK and Canada, which offer better skills and higher incomes, rather than the usual Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

RBI Report

- According to a Reserve Bank report, 53.5 per cent of India's migrant savings in 2016-17 came from Gulf countries.
- 26.9 percent came from the US, 3 percent from the UK and 1 percent from Canada
- In 2020, the global economic stagnation due to the corona pandemic has caused a fall in petroleum prices.
- As a result, the pace of economic growth in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries slowed down and employment opportunities were affected
- As a result, the amount of remittances sent by migrant workers in those countries has halved to 28.6%
- India has received \$100 billion, defying expectations that the economic slowdown caused by the spread of the coronavirus will hit Indians' remittances hard.
- In 2020, there was only a 0.2% decrease in savings inflows. A 7.5% rise to \$89.4 billion in 2021
- 12 percent growth to reach \$100 billion by 2022 (Rs 8.17 lakh crores)
- It is 2.9% of India's GDP

Chances of getting affected

- In response to climate change and global warming, developed countries are pressuring the Gulf States to reduce their oil production and consumption for their own self-interest.
- Due to this, the economic development speed of those countries may be affected. And Indian migrants working in Gulf countries are more likely to be affected.
- Factors like GDP, crude oil price and currency exchange rate of the countries where Indians have migrated heavily play an important role in determining the amount of savings flowing into India.
- Indians in the Gulf countries are particularly vulnerable to fluctuations in crude oil prices.
- Therefore, in order to protect the income of migrant workers, local investment opportunities should be created
- Considering the recent rise in anti-foreign sentiment in the Gulf countries and the Arab nationalist policies that the governments of those countries are starting to adopt, the Indian government should try to negotiate and establish good relations with those countries.

Operation Kaveri

- The rescue mission of more than three thousand Indians trapped in hot domestic material has been successful
- The Indian Air Force and Navy played a major role in the successful conduct of Operation Kaveri
- The central government has taken full advantage of the ceasefire announced on April 24 between the conflicting forces in Sudan to bring the Indians to safety. By May 1, approximately 3400 Indians have returned to the country

Sudan riots

- Sudan's Khartoum and Solana, home to approximately 5.5 million people, have been facing destruction for the past two weeks.

- Airstrikes, street clashes and bombings have turned it into a land of unrest.
- According to official UN figures, 528 people have been killed. More than 4500 people were injured
- Such violence and chaos is not new in Sudan, the third largest country in Africa
- Sudan is a country in northern Africa bordering the Red Sea. With a population of about four and a half million people, Sudan is rich in mineral resources including petroleum and gold
- But 65% of the population is in the grip of poverty
- Sudan is a sparsely populated desert country covering an area of 18.86 lakh square kilometers
- A 19th-century European colony, Sudan gained independence from Britain in 1956
- Sudan has seen 6 military coups since then : 1958, 1969, 1985, 1989, 2019, 2021
- Colonel Omar al-Bashir ruled Sudan for 30 years after seizing power in a military coup in 1989.
- Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and Gen Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, who are now in conflict, were made for his divisive tactics.

Sovereign Council

- Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo took power in April 2019 under a deal that ousted Omar al-Bashir in 2018 when people took to the streets to fight against him.
- It was decided that the protest leaders and the army would jointly rule under a coalition called the Sovereign Council
- Abdel Fattah al-Burhan is the head of the council, followed by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo as prime minister. The agreement is that the regime will continue until elections are held in July this year
- It was Burhan's insistence that the paramilitary forces led by Dagalo should join the Sudanese army immediately
- But Dagalo was not ready for that. Behind this are seen the hands of foreign powers
- Dagalo is backed by the United Arab Emirates and the Russian petroleum company Wagner
- Russia's indirect support for the Sudanese army is seen. The mineral resources in that country are the reason why foreign countries talk about democracy, peace and normalcy in Sudan
- As recommended by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, the experiences of Ukraine and Sudan show that there is a need to create a special force and operational procedures to rescue Indians in times of trouble abroad.

Europe uses India, China to get Russian oil despite economic sanctions

News

- Center for Energy and Clean Air Research, the European Union, most of the G7 countries and Australia receive oil from Russia via India and China.
- The above mentioned countries are receiving oil indirectly despite restrictions on import of crude oil and petroleum products from Russia.

Laundromat

- China, India, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Singapore have stepped up curbs on imports of refined petroleum products a year after Russia attacked Ukraine.

- These five countries are known as Laundromat countries
- These countries buy crude oil from Russia and use it and then export it to countries that have embargoed Russia
- Laundromat countries are importing more Russian crude oil than in pre-war years.
- In the pre- and post-war years they imported large amounts of oil from Russia

Chart 1: The chart shows the Russian crude oil imports (in million tonnes) to "laundromat" countries

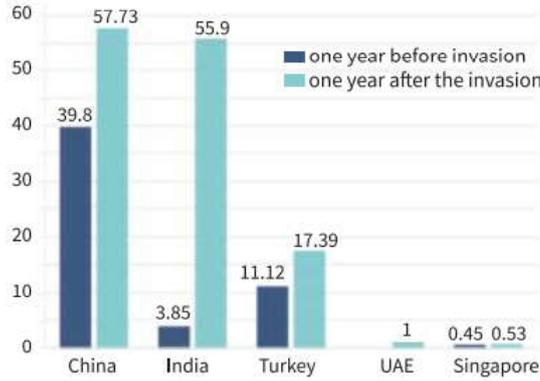
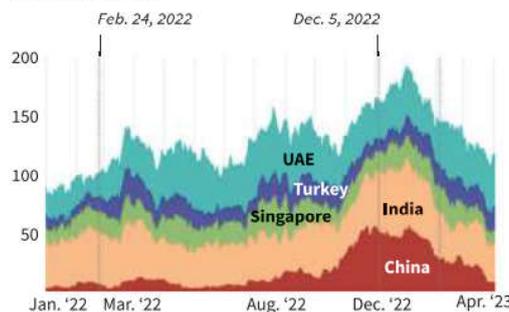
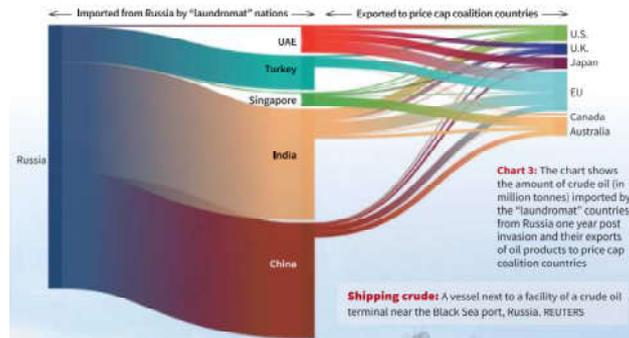


Chart 2:

- Russia's exports were 140% higher than before the war
- Due to heavy economic embargo Russia is supplying less crude oil
- Between 5 December 2022 and 24 February 2023, 12.9 million tonnes or 9.5 billion euros worth of oil were imported from Laundromat countries.
- Studies show that India is the largest exporter of oil to the price cap alliance countries
- The European Union is the largest importing region from Laundromat countries
- Imports 20.1 million tonnes of petroleum products
- The United States is next, importing 8.5 million tons.

Chart 2: The chart shows the monthly oil product exports (in thousand tonnes per day) from the five "laundromat" countries to price cap coalition countries. The chart shows 30-day running average of exports





Is globalization coming to an end?

Dollar trading

- 80% of international trade is denominated in US dollars
- The dollar plays a primary role as the world's foreign exchange reserves. As a result, the countries of the world are forced to depend on the US dollar
- This makes the United States an unshakeable power on the world stage

Ukraine-Russia

- Russia waged a war on Ukraine.
- Subsequently, the United States and European countries imposed economic sanctions on Russia
- As a result, dollar trading with Russia by other countries has become problematic
- In this context, the need to get rid of the dominance of the US dollar has intensified among the world countries

Alternate to dollars

- Last year, Russia announced plans to hold talks with the BRICS countries on creating an alternative currency to the dollar
- In this context, a few weeks ago, China and Brazil signed an agreement to conduct trade between them in their respective currencies instead of the dollar.
- Saudi Arabia and Argentina are also said to be joining this list
- In India's case, the RBI last year started the process of creating a framework for doing business in rupees with some foreign countries, including Russia

The opportunity created by World War II

- After World War II, the United States emerged as the dominant power on the international political scene
- America began to become the leading country internationally in many fields like industrial development, technological development, and military
- A major reason for this growth in the United States was the dollar becoming the common currency of exchange

Dollar instead of gold

- As World War II was coming to an end, the world's economic structure was collapsing
- As inflation was at its peak, the currency of the countries of the world was in great decline

- Until then, the currency value of countries was calculated on the basis of gold
- With the collapse of the economic structure due to the war there was a need to create new exchange value
- At the time, the United States held three-quarters of the world's gold reserves. And the US dollar was a strong currency against other countries' currencies
- Due to this, the US dollar was introduced as the common currency and the value of 1 ounce of gold was set at US\$ 35.
- The essence of this agreement was that a country would now have to buy its gold in terms of dollars

Richard Nixon

- America ran out of gold reserves. Besides, the US economy was under severe strain due to the war on Vietnam
- In this context, in 1971, then US President Richard Nixon canceled the swap agreement between gold and the dollar.
- That means the value of the dollar is now independent. He said it should not be compared to gold
- After this announcement, the world began to focus on holding the US dollar as a reserve rather than gold
- In this way, the US dollar became the foreign currency in the world

Growth of Asia and Globalization

- Colonial countries began to gain independence
- India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Indonesia, Vietnam, Tunisia, Morocco, Ghana, Bangladesh etc became independent countries.
- After the 1980s, countries like China, South Korea, and Taiwan gained importance in industrial development
- Liberal central policies were introduced on the premise that if industrial activity was to increase, private investment should be increased
- Reforms took place in trade policies between countries. Liberal policies such as privatization, free trade between countries, and relaxation of labor regulations were promoted
- This was followed by globalization in the 1990s. Countries are approached as markets

America's dominance has strengthened

- Although Asia has traveled to great growth through globalization, the biggest beneficiary of globalization has been the United States
- The breakup of the Soviet Union created many favorable opportunities for the United States
- Due to globalization the use of dollar increased as trade between the world reached an unprecedented level
- Thus its value increased manifold. America's dominance on the world stage quickly became stronger.
- The US started using the dollar as a weapon in international politics
- America's dominance began to prevail not only in the political and economic field but also in the cultural field

Counter-globalization

Lehman Brothers bank

- In 2008, the United States faced a major economic crisis after the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers bank

- The economic crisis in the United States spread across the world as the markets of the world were bound together by globalization
- During this period, China began to actively position itself as an alternative power to the United States
- The 2008 economic crisis and the Sino-US conflict have changed the world's political and economic landscape, and the coronavirus has intensified this change.

In the time of Corona

- In 2020, the borders of the countries were closed during the Corona lockdown. It was a moment the world had never seen before
- International trade was affected. Migration of people stopped. It was a moment to rethink the economic structure of the world
- Following the Corona, countries of the world have started to focus more on self-reliance
- Recently there have been increasing restrictions on trade relations between countries
- The changes taking place in the political and economic structure of the world over the decades are called deglobalization

Multipolar structure

- This shift has been exacerbated by Russia's war in Ukraine. The changes in international relations following this war have been very rapid

As far as India is concerned

- The US has imposed a ban on crude oil imports from Russia due to Russia's war in Ukraine
- The United States urged other countries to follow suit
- But India is not tied to America. Russia crude oil prices fall due to US sanctions
- Taking advantage of the opportunity, India increased its crude oil imports from Russia
- This move by India caused great displeasure to the US
- India is now on its way towards self-reliance. In this case, India's stance on the Russia-Ukraine issue is seen as the next step in international relations
- China, which has overtaken the United States as the number one in international trade, has taken advantage of this trade opportunity to position its currency, the Yuan, as a foreign currency alternative to the dollar.

Multipolar

- They define the countries of the world as moving away from the global center and towards a multi-polar structure
- Rather than being centered on the United States, they say that the world is developing into separate zones of political and economic power.
- It is expected that the countries of the world will become separate zones, centered on the United States, the European Union, and China

Agreement between India and Israel

- A key agreement was reached to expand cooperation in the areas of trade, transport and security
- The trade value between the two countries rose from around \$200 million in 1992 to \$7.86 billion in the last financial year.

- Air traffic with India will improve in the coming years as Gulf countries agree to allow airspace for Israeli aircraft.
- Talks are underway to resume direct flight services that have been halted due to the coronavirus pandemic
- The resumption of direct flight services will greatly help the tourism, students and business sectors of both the countries
- We welcome various foreign students, including India, choosing Israel for higher education, which will connect the scientific community of the two countries, they say

India's G20 leadership

- All the steps taken by India through G20 leadership will help the global economy
- India's G20 leadership role is unique in terms of its importance globally
- We observe that India is getting closer to the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Egypt

Relations with India

- Defense ties are an important part of the growing partnership between India and Israel
- Bilateral relations are based on three key aspects: shared ideas, mutual interests and common challenges
- Israel is the first country to manufacture in India in support of the 'Make in India' initiative.

Bankruptcy proceedings - NCLT

- The National Company Law Tribunal has accepted GO First's application for resolution of insolvency proceedings
- GO First, which is saddled with debts of up to Rs 11,463 crore, had applied to the National Company Law Tribunal seeking resolution of the insolvency proceedings and extension of time to repay the debt.
- The amount of unpaid debt exceeds the limit specified in the bankruptcy law
- Lenders have sent notices demanding repayment of installments
- Therefore, they said that there is no alternative but to accept the application under Section 10 of the Bankruptcy Act
- According to the order of the tribunal, time is given to repay the loan as per the Bankruptcy Act
- By this means, until the insolvency proceedings are settled, no suit can be pursued against the company or any judgments of the court etc. can be enforced.

Kanchipuram is the leading exporter

- For a state to have economic growth, there must be a large number of industries that provide employment
- Moreover, if there is a demand for the products produced there, exports will increase
- Due to such industries, the industries and the development and expansion will happen faster, employment opportunities will increase and the standard of living of the people will improve
- As exports increase, the country also earns foreign exchange. This will reduce the current account deficit

Gujarat

- Jamnagar district in the state of Gujarat has the honor of being the highest exporting district in India
- This is because of the petroleum products exported from there
- Jamnagar accounted for 24 percent of the country's total exports till January

- The second place also has been secured by the state of Gujarat. Surat district is the second largest exporter
- So Gujarat state has got the first two places in exports, while the third place is occupied by the suburban district of Maharashtra state.

Tamil Nadu

- Although Tamil Nadu is not in this list, it is satisfying to be in the list of top 10 districts in exports
- But this list also includes Devabhumi Dwarka Kutch districts of Gujarat. Thus, five districts in the list of top 10 districts are in the state of Gujarat
- Dakshina Kannada district in the state of Karnataka is at the fourth place
- Kanchipuram district in Tamil Nadu is in 9th place. The reason why Kanchipuram gets this pride is because of the smart phones that are manufactured and exported from here
- Kanchipuram district accounts for 33 percent of Tamil Nadu's exports.
- Kanchipuram is the second-largest exporter of smart phones and electronic components after Gautama Buddha Nagar district in Uttar Pradesh.
- Kanchipuram district is the leading exporter of non-railway vehicles
- An example is that such industries provide high employment opportunities
- A Vietnamese-based Foxconn factory in Kanchipuram district that manufactures Apple iPhones employs 35,000 workers.
- It is the only company in the country where so many people work in one place
- Work is done here in 3 shifts. The average age of the workers here is 21 to 22 years. This is their first job
- Even though Kanchipuram is the best iPhone and motor vehicle industry hub, Tamil Nadu needs to grow at par with Gujarat.
- Similarly, if each district is identified as a center for industry and industrial development is created, the youth of the respective district will get employment locally.

Why did GO First go bankrupt?

National Company Law Tribunal

- When a company faces financial crisis, it is customary for the financial institutions that have given loans to the company to file a petition in the National Company Tribunal seeking bankruptcy proceedings against the company and recovering their loan amount.
- But GO First has filed for bankruptcy on its own
- This is the first time that a company in the airline industry has filed for bankruptcy on its own
- GO First's application has been accepted by the National Company Tribunal and bankruptcy proceedings have been initiated

What is the issue ?

- GO First has procured engines for its aircraft from US-based Pratt & Whitney
- But over the past few years some of those engines have damaged. P&W has delayed in providing replacement parts
- GO First mentioned that they were forced to reduce their flight services due to this

- GO First had a total of 54 aircraft. As of March 2022, 13 flights have been grounded due to engine failure. Now that number has gone up to 25
- From 2771 in April 2022, GO First's flight operations have decreased to 1362 in April this year.
- As a result, his company suffered heavy losses
- It was facing a crisis in paying employees and paying airport charges

What happens in bankruptcy proceedings?

- The management board of the company will be dissolved. Instead, an interim panel will be set up by the National Tribunal
- The committee will examine the mechanism for resolving the debt of the company. And will make efforts to sell the company
- A period of 180 days will be given for this. Extendable to 330 days depending on circumstances
- When a company is subject to insolvency proceedings, no financial proceedings can be taken against the company
- This means that the company's assets remain intact until the end of the bankruptcy process. It cannot be confiscated by the enforcement department
- GO First has 5000 employees. Their employment is questionable

A hostile heart is the home of sorrow

India-China

- The border dispute between India and China has been simmering for more than 70 years
- The recently held Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Defense Ministers' meeting in New Delhi has left the door open to find a solution to the problem
- It is noteworthy that the Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and the Chinese Defense Minister Li Shangfu met separately before the conference
- After a long time, the ministerial level talks between the two sides have taken place only now.

McMohan line

- The border issue between China and India dates back to the British Indian period
- Based on the Shimla Convention, the McMohan Line was decided as the Indo-China border in March 1914. But China did not accept it
- China's contention is that the water channel in the Karakoram mountain peaks should be defined as the border
- India's demand is to demarcate the waterways of the Kunlun Hills

Sikkim - Arunachal Pradesh

- In 1975, the then Indira Gandhi government annexed Sikkim, which was a separate state, to India.
- Although China recognized Sikkim as a part of India in 2004, the Chinese map published in 2017 included Sikkim as its part.
- After the Sino-Indian War in 1962, the Chinese army that entered Arunachal Pradesh withdrew
- But several times since then, China claimed Arunachal Pradesh as its own territory. Still owning it. There is tension along the border due to continuous infiltration attempts

Galwan attack

- In June 2020, China trespassed into Indian territory and set up a camp at the 14th observation post.
- A controversy arose when Indian soldiers tried to remove it. On the night of June 15, the Chinese troops encroached on the Galwan area and the Indian troops confronted them
- 20 Indian soldiers and twice as many Chinese soldiers were killed in the encounter
- The talks between the military officials of the two countries put an end to the problem for the time being
- The subsequent talks between the defense ministers of the two countries led to the return of the Chinese soldiers who had entered the Indian border to their camps along the border.

Rajnath Singh

- The Delhi meeting assumed significance as it was the first meeting between the defense ministers of the two countries since then
- Before the conference they met privately and discussed the issues at length.
- The Indian Defense Minister stressed that peace on the border is the basis of India-China relations and therefore the issues should be resolved through talks immediately
- Rajnath Singh also pointed out that violations of the existing interim agreements are the cause of the problems

Li Shangfu

- Li Shangfu's argument is that social status continues without any problems at the border
- The Chinese Defense Minister is reported to have said that issues are resolved from time to time through talks between military officials and that India does not need to escalate the border issue
- This is a problem that both countries need to approach with vision. There should be no delay in increasing mutual trust between the two armies
- China's defense minister has said that common interests and joint operations are more important than issues between India and China

Conclusion

- Border tension in any country affects the peace and daily life of the people of the country
- China spends \$17.9 billion (roughly Rs. 14.38 lakh crore) annually on defense, while India spends \$6.2 billion (roughly Rs. 5.13 lakh crore) annually.
- In both countries, the allocations for development work are consumed by security needs. It is the arms makers themselves who profit from this and not the people

Rs 2000 notes to be withdrawn

- Reserve Bank of India announced withdrawal of Rs 2000 notes from circulation
- In November 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced demonetisation of the old Rs 500 and Rs 1000 notes in circulation in the country.
- After that RBI issued new notes of Rs 10, Rs 20, Rs 50, Rs 100, Rs 200, Rs 500 and Rs 2000.
- Many economists criticized the central government's move to introduce the Rs 2000 note after announcing demonetisation of Rs 1,000 notes in a bid to reduce black money in the country.
- No new Rs 2000 notes were printed after FY 2018-19

- RBI completely stops circulation of Rs 2000 note through ATM machines

Why withdrawal ?

- Most of the 2000 rupee notes were printed before March 2017. They are about to expire
- It was also observed that 2000 rupee notes were not generally used for cash transactions
- The RBI has explained that this action is being taken for reasons including money laundering, elimination of black money hoarding and providing quality currency notes to the people.

Reserve Bank of India has announced to withdraw Rs 2000 notes from circulation

- One argument is that since most of the 2000 rupee notes were printed before March 2017, they have expired.
- Another argument is that 2000 rupee notes are removed to avoid crumpling, tearing and soiling of the notes.
- Printed banknotes are estimated to have a normal lifespan of four to five years
- Of the 2000 rupee notes, there are five non-expired notes. They can be taken out of circulation when they reach the banks
- If the reasons mentioned by the RBI are money laundering and elimination of black money, then the question arises why the deadline is given to exchange 2000 rupee notes till September 30.

Rs. 500, Rs. 1000

- 1000 rupees and 500 rupees notes were demonetized on 8 November 2016
- The move, which was carried out without warning, had a huge impact on the Indian economy
- The currency in circulation has dwindled. As an interim measure, 2000 rupee notes were introduced by the government at an urgent pace. Within a few weeks, new five hundred rupee notes came into circulation

Rs. 2000

- The RBI has started to phase out the printing of Rs 2000 notes gradually as the amount of currency notes in the public domain has increased.
- In FY 2018-19, printing of Rs 2000 notes was completely stopped
- Most of the Rs 2,000 notes now in public were printed before March 2017, RBI says.
- Transactions of Rs 2000 notes through banks and ATMs were already restricted

Scope and time frame

- 2000 rupees notes can be deposited into bank savings account till 30th September. Can be exchanged directly at the bank
- Retail exchange for 2000 rupee notes can be done not only at banks, but also at 19 regional offices of RBI
- But in case of retail exchange, only maximum amount worth twenty thousand rupees can be exchanged at one time
- 2000 notes can be deposited into the savings account in any amount
- If the aim of RBI's withdrawal of Rs 2000 notes is to eradicate money laundering and black money, it does not seem to work. High value currencies have no way of being available to the common man
- It is the landlords, businessmen, politicians, people in the black market who are involved in the distribution of

drugs, who keep 2000 rupees notes unaccounted for. Unlike the previous demonetisation drive, it seems that the government's intention is not to eliminate unaccounted money, as it has allowed for various mechanisms to exchange currency notes.

- There is no point in criticizing that the real estate business, which is involved in cash transactions, will be affected by this
- With the increase in digital transactions and banking transactions and the introduction of GST, it is necessary to control cash transactions in the real estate sector.
- Politicians and civil servants have found many new ways to get bribe and have given up on cash transactions ever since
- Abolition of Rs 2000 notes may cause difficulties in cash distribution to voters during elections. That's all

Conclusion

- Removing 2000 rupee notes from circulation is a reasonable decision. But the question of what urgency makes the RBI's decision questionable
- Unlike the previous decision, demonetisation of Rs 2000 notes with transparency will not result in neither benefit nor harm.

ONDC : A new milestone in India's digital journey

Transaction

- The UPI framework is cited as a milestone in India's digital journey. In 2009, the Reserve Bank of India and the Confederation of Indian Banks jointly established the National Payments Corporation of India, a non-profit organization with an aim to unify all types of payment systems in India.
- UPI was formed as its sequel. Introduced in 2016, the UPI framework has facilitated transactions between various banks in India by connecting them.

In Practice

- It made it possible to transfer money from one bank to any bank through a mobile phone app
- Today, from large shopping malls to small petty stores, money transactions are mainly done through UPI
- Countries around the world are taking India's UPI system as an example and are taking steps to create such a framework in their own countries as well

ONDC

- Now India is about to take another leap like UPI, which is ONDC
- Just as UPI has revolutionized money transfer, ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) is expected to revolutionize e-commerce.

E-Commerce

- Amazon and Flipkart are leading e-commerce companies in India, while Zomato and Swiggy are leading in food delivery.
- These companies have brought about a huge change in the Indian business practice
- At the same time, huge suffers have also happened due to these companies. Especially local shops are under severe pressure due to these companies

- There are 1.2 crore small traders in India. Only 15000 of them do business through e-commerce sites like amazon & flipkart
- Ecommerce sites are yet to fully reach small merchants in small towns and rural areas
- Traders are constantly complaining that their business is being crippled by the overgrowth of amazon, flipkart
- Besides, they have to pay high commission for trading through these companies
- In this case, ONDC is the structure that the central government has taken forward to democratize e-commerce activity and take it to every corner of India. ONDC will act as a public platform for online trading
- That means anyone can use ONDC
- Even small grocery shop owners can register their shop with ONDC
- Thus, it is said that local trade will improve by registering on the ONDC platform, from small traders to big traders such as grocery shops, textile shops in the town.

Not an App

- ONDC is not an app
- Like UPI it is a framework. Apps like Phone Pay and Google Pay offer money transaction services using the UPI framework
- Similarly, other applications provide services using the ONDC architecture
- Currently, the Paytm application is starting to use the ONDC architecture
- ONDC in India came into force in September 2022. Currently, ONDC has been introduced only in certain cities like Bengaluru in the initial phase. Not yet fully utilized
- But ONDC has emerged as a challenger to Zomato, Swiggy in cities where it has just been introduced
- Not only in the retail business, it is also starting to operate in the travel service sector as an alternative to Ola, Rapido etc
- Overall, India's trade and service practices are set to change to a great extent through ONDC

Debtor US Government : A financial storm is brewing

American debt-ceiling crisis

- The US government spent \$900 billion to repair the economic damage caused by the corona lockdowns
- As a result, the Federal Reserve raised interest rates very quickly in a short period of time to control inflation
- One of the consequences of this is the debt-ceiling crisis, which is the next in the line of economic problems that the United States is facing, with the bankruptcy of some banks.

Unable to pay wages

- In the event of a financial crisis, the government will not be able to pay salaries, pensions, interest on loans, medical, welfare and other government schemes, tax refunds, etc. to government employees and the military.
- This is no ordinary problem. A huge problem. The storm will also blow in various economic markets like the bond market, stock market, banks
- It may even be like what happened in 2008. That's why US Treasury's Taylor Allen is calling it a financial disaster

31.5 trillion dollars debt

- From June 1, there will be no money in the exchequer and therefore all expenses will be suspended

Parliamentary approval

- Credit is the way to deal with the situation. It requires fresh approval by the US Congress
- Approval requires a vote of support from members of the opposition Republican Party
- Biden seeks approval to borrow another \$1.5 trillion upto March 2024

Not the first time

- If not, this is the first time that the debt-ceiling crisis has occurred in the United States
- After 1960 it has come more often especially in 1995, 2011 and 2013.
- Every time they get a new approval in the US Congress, they keep raising the amount of debt they can buy

What will happen ?

- Stocks and bonds prices will fall sharply. Gold prices may go up
- Interest rates on home, automobile and other loans will increase
- The economy will suffer. Millions of people will become unemployed. More will happen
- Expenditure will be much higher than income. The problem is that the government borrows more and more, no matter how big and strong the country is
- In other words, the economic problem of the US government is a headache for the world economy

Modi's 10 Point Action Plan

G7

- The G7 organization, which includes the seven countries USA, France, Britain, Italy, Germany, Canada, Japan, is internationally important
- Other countries except Japan belong to European America
- Russia was expelled from the organization following its annexation of Georgia in 2008 and Crimea in 2014.
- The weakness of the G7 is that the major economies of the world, China and India, are not connected
- For the G7 to increase its importance, the number of member states must increase
- Its member countries, which now comprise more than half of the world's total wealth, account for one third of global GDP
- They make up one-tenth of the population
- By inviting India, Brazil, Indonesia, and Vietnam to the G7 summit in Hiroshima, Japanese Prime Minister Kishida seems to be distinguishing himself from the rest of the West.

Motto

- The Japan-led G7 conference in Hiroshima had two objectives
- They are to uphold the rule of law-based international order and build rapprochement with the developing countries of the so-called Global South

- The international order is not only about the war in Ukraine, but also includes Taiwan, the South China Sea region, and the Pacific Ocean.
- It is not new for G7 leaders to vote for aid to the developing world South at each summit, only to forget about it after the summit is over.
- Western governments and their banks routinely put pressure on poor countries to default on debt payments
- It is not new that the world's seven richest countries do not give importance to the problems of poor developing countries

10 Point Action Plan

- Prime Minister Modi's 10-point plan to make a difference in the lives of mankind at Hiroshima was applauded by the countries attending the conference.
- Key features of PM Modi's 10-point plan include curbing food wastage, de-politicizing fertilizer distribution globally, promoting small grains, integrated health care, and need-based development programs for developing countries.
- The G7 Summit and the Quad Summit will be followed by the Shanghai Cooperation Summit in Delhi in July and the BRICS Summit in South Africa in August.
- The G20 Summit will be held in India in September. Let's hope that these will contribute to world peace and development, regardless of gathering.

The only insurance plan to spread insurance activity in India

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority is undertaking multi-pronged reforms to expand the protection framework for citizens
- Vistar is a new insurance plan that provides coverage for life, health, accident and property through one simple policy
- Allowing insurers to sell value-added services with insurance eg offering yoga classes with a health plan.
- Connecting Insurers and Insurance Providers through a one stop central platform called Bima Sugam for consumers.
- To carry out a campaign to induce women insurance in all gram sabhas
- By linking digital death records to the platform, claims can be resolved within an hour or a day.
- Creation of insurance groups in states and expansion of insurance across districts.

Central Govt issues Rs 75 special coin

- To mark the inauguration of the new Parliament building, the central government is going to issue a special Rs 75 coin with the image of the building engraved on it
- Weighing around 35 grams, one side of the coin features the Ashok pillar symbol of lion heads in the middle.
- On both sides Bharat is written in Devanagari script and India in English
- The number 75 with rupee symbol will be placed below. On the other side, the image of the new Parliament building will be engraved and the number 2023 will be used to represent the current year, the notification said.
- It is significant that the new Parliament building is being inaugurated as the 75th year of India's independence is being celebrated