

JULY 2023

CURRENT ISSUES

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

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தூத்துக்குடி

162-A, எட்டையபுரம் ரோடு

0461 - 4000970
99445 11344

திருநெல்வேலி

8A/1, இலந்தகுளம் ரோடு,
பாண்டையங்கோட்டை

0462 - 2560123
98942 41422

இராமநாதபுரம்

82, புளிகாரத் தெரு,
கண்ணன் கோவில் அருகில்

75503 52916
75503 52917

மதுரை

மாஸ்டர் மஹால் பின்புறம்,
முடக்குச்சாலை, காளவாசல்

0452 - 2383777
98431 10566

சென்னை

4, அண்ணா ஆர்ச் ரோடு எதிரில்,
Skywalk அருகில்.

044 47665919
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01

Modern History

Rettamalai Srinivasan

- Born on 7th July 1860 at Kozhiyalam, Chengalpattu District
- He has the honor of organizing the people who were crushed by caste in Tamil Nadu about 125 years ago
- The conferences he convened at the Wesleyan Mission Hall in Rayapetta in 1893 and at the Chennai Town Hall in 1895 stirred up the Adi Dravidian people of Tamil Nadu.
- For 7 years from 1893 to 1900, he ran a magazine called Paraiyan, which brought the problems of the community to the attention of the government.
- Initially started as a monthly magazine, it became a weekly magazine within three months

Pioneer

- He left with the intention of going to London and seeking British sympathy by highlighting the places of the downtrodden and had to land in South Africa. Then he returned home again in 1904
- In Tamil Nadu he worked with leaders like MC Raja, N Sivaraj, Sahajanand etc. and at Indian level with leaders like Gandhiji and Dr. Ambedkar.
- Rettamalai Srinivasan was the pioneer in embracing Buddhism in India
- In 1882 he converted to Buddhism after meeting Colonel Olcott and Madame Blavatsky in the Nilgiris.
- He left it within seven or eight years as the converts would not have the support of the government which was given to the Scheduled Castes

Dravidian identity

- It was Rettamalai Srinivasan who fought to call all Scheduled Castes in Tamil Nadu as Adi Dravidians and got an ordinance issued for it during the Justice Party regime.
- He was one of those who saw the identity of Dravidian as casteless
- That is why he was given the title Dravidian Mani on his eightieth birthday

Historical name

- When Gandhiji proposed calling the Scheduled Castes across India as Harijan, many opposed it
- In December 1938, the 'Social Distress Relief Bill' was passed into law in the Madras Provincial Assembly
- Participating in the debate, he proposed an amendment to replace the word Harijan with the words Adi Dravidian Schedule Castes in Section Two of the Bill.
- It does not make sense to call a class of people children of God. Asked that whether all others were the children of Satan, he affirmed that the word Adi Dravidar was a historical name befitting the downtrodden.

To be done by the Govt

- The term Adi Dravidar is still in use by the Tamil Nadu government due to an ordinance passed during the Justice Party's rule at the initiative of Rettamalai Srinivasan
- It is not the name of a sub-caste included in the Scheduled Castes
- There was never any caste by that name. The name was given as a symbol of rejection of caste.
- Even though the decree was issued, the names of sub-castes were used by the authorities during the census and caste certificates, so the identity fought for by pioneers including Rettamalai Srinivasan is still not fully implemented.

Kamaraj: Pioneer of educational development in Tamil Nadu

Perunthalaivar

- The present day Virudhunagar was Virudhupatti then
- Born on 15th July 1903
- Father Kumaraswamy is a coconut merchant. Mother : Sivakami
- The name of their family deity is Kamatshi Amman
- So they named the child Kamatshi.
- His mother fondly called him Raja. Combining both the names, he was later named as Kamarajar

Work for the nation

- He was stopped from schooling in his 6th grade and was sent to his uncle's clothing store for work. He was always concentrated in politics

Meeting with Gandhi

- Kamarajar met Gandhi when he came to Madurai in 1921. He decided to have Gandhi as his mentor
- Gandhi was the driving force behind Kamaraj's self-respect, simplicity and honesty, which are worth celebrating
- Later he also held Nehru high in his mind
- It was Sathyamurthy who recognized the inspirational leader in him at a young age
- Kamarajar had Sathyamurthy as his political leader

10 years imprisonment

- Kamarajar is a man who is not afraid of struggles. In Kerala's Vaikom in 1923, when the anti-untouchability movement took place, the two heads that later carved Tamil Nadu took part in it.
- One is Periyar and the other is Kamarajar. He was in jail for almost 10 years in his life, never afraid of jail

Became a leader

- In 1934, Tamil Nadu Congress won the elections. At the Congress conference held in 1936, Sathyamurthy became the president and Kamaraj became the general secretary
- In 1937 the Madras Provincial Legislative Assembly elections was held. Kamarajar was elected unopposed from Satur constituency, which includes Virudhunagar

Peoples' leader

- Although Rajaji held the reins as chief minister, Sathyamurthy's disciple Kamarajar kept the party under his control
- When Rajaji announced the Hereditary Education Policy, strong opposition arose
- It is the method of studying in school in the morning and doing their clan business in the evening
- Rajaji decided to resign to face the opposition. It was this predicament that moved Kamarajar towards the Chief Minister's seat
- Immediately after becoming the Chief Minister, he abolished the Hereditary Education Policy

Academic achievement

- He gave maximum development in the education sector in the history of Tamil Nadu. He came up with a program of free education for all
- Between 1957 and 1962 he opened more than 13 thousand new schools
- The number of students increased from 19 lakhs to 40 lakhs
- We are celebrating Kamaraj's birthday as Education Development Day since 2008 in honor of this achievement

Midday Meal Scheme

- He came up with this scheme in 1956-57 to increase enrollment in schools and reduce dropout rates
- Farmers contributed a share of their produce to the scheme.

Conjunction with people

- He remained an accessible leader till the end. Mainly he was determined that the various levels of government authority should not stand as a barrier between him and the people

King maker

- After Nehru's death, the race for the post of Prime Minister arose. Kamarajar's role in the unanimous election of Lal Bahadur Shastri was immense.
- After Shastri's death in the next 20 months, the race for Prime Minister resumed.
- Like last time, Morarji Desai stood directly this time too. He took these decisions at a time when there were voices calling for Kamarajar to be appointed as Prime Minister
- Kamarajar gave a strong meaning to the term king maker in Indian politics

Flame of the South - Subramaniya Siva

Birth place

- During the freedom struggle that reached its peak in the early 1900s, V O Chidambaranar, Mahakavi Bharati and Subramania Siva were Tilak's generals in Madras province. They are the fathers of Southern nationalism
- Subramaniya Siva revered his religion & caste to be Bharatam. He also revered Bharat Mata as his mother. He claims his occupation to be national Propaganda, he always had the aim of complete Independence

Profile

- Born in Batlagundu on 4th October 1884 to Rajam Iyer and Nagalakshmi. He was named Subburaman, Muneeswaran, Munirathnam
- He learned yoga and wisdom from Swami Sadananda. He strengthened his body and was named of Paavazhangadi Bailwan
- Arumugam, who was his Uncle & his Political Guru called him as Shivam.
- In 1906, he listened to Arya Samaj activist Tagore Khan Chandravarma. He gained political awareness
- The Travancore principality expelled him from the country. He left village by village for the liberation of the country by spreading indigenous propaganda
- Unconcerned about anything, he campaigned from village to village and reached Tirunelveli district on foot
- At Kadayanallur he was assisted by Sankaranarayana Iyer, the president of the Swadeshi shop, who had heard Shiva's heroic discourses.
- When the liberation war started in Thirunelveli and Thoothukudi, he was involved in the struggle along with Chidambaranar.
- On the third day of February 1888, Subramania Siva met V O Chidambaranar at Tuticorin.
- Chidambaranar and Siva worked together to create awareness among the people of Thoothukudi
- On 16th October 1906 V O Chidambaran started the Indian Indigenous Navigation Shipping Company at Tuticorin.
- Veerapandiya Kattabomman, who raised the slogan of the Indian freedom struggle from the south, was hanged on this day in 1899.
- Bengal was partitioned by Lord Curzon in 1905, violent protests broke out, Tilak's speeches inspired liberation sentiments, and his speeches appeared in the press.

- Bharatiyar's India Press sowed the seeds of liberation among the masses
- The impact of the Russian Revolution led by Lenin in 1905 and 1907 reverberated in India
- Describing patriotism as a new force, Siva urged labor demands and called for a strike.
- As a result, people from Tirunelveli to Thoothukudi also got agitated
- 1908 On 27th February, Thoothukudi coral factory workers went on strike
- The strike was successful with Siva joining V O Chidambaram. Both delivered a stirring speech at a public meeting held in Tirunelveli on March 9
- They were arrested for that. Violence broke out in Tirunelveli and Tuticorin
- Four killed in Tirunelveli firing
- Coral factory workers went on strike from March 12 to 19, 1908 to protest the unprovoked arrest of the leaders.
- They didn't care about losing the concessions they've earned. This was the first political strike in India
- Collector Winch described Shiva as a bad rebel
- Shiva was jailed for 10 years for describing patriotism as Navashakti. V O Chidambaran was sentenced to double life imprisonment
- The sentence was reduced on appeal. Chidambaranathan Siva was also imprisoned in different jails during their sentence
- Siva wrote about those experiences while imprisoned in Trichy Jail
- They were given jobs like spinning wool, grinding flour, drying lime-soaked wool, etc.
- In prison Shiva was afflicted with deadly leprosy. But his national liberation war did not weaken. He was released in 1912
- None of the thousands of people who had gathered and sent their way when they went to screen did not come at the time of release. But Shiva who came out was not discouraged
- In 1913, he started the magazine Gnanabanu. Gnanabanu was started in the name of his wife Meenakshi as the British government refused to give permission to start a magazine in the name of Subramania Siva. Its editor is Subramania Siva
- It was published by Vadivel Chettiar Press, Komaleeswaran Pettai, Chennai
- The 24-page magazine appears to have been printed in 350 copies. Siva wrote essays under various pseudonyms such as Naradar, Kulandhaivel, Vishwamitrar
- There were also subscribers in foreign countries like Penang, Singapore, South Africa etc
- Mahakavi Bharati, VO Chidambaranar, VVS Iyer also wrote in Gnanabanu under pseudonyms like Savitri, Nithiyatheeran, Or Utthama Desabimani.
- When the Tilak era ended and the Gandhi era came, he also recognized it
- He participated in the Alcohol sho picketing and non-cooperation movement. He went to jail for the third time
- He was in direct contact with Gandhi. Shiva disciple Madurai Chidambara Bharati took him to Karaikudi to meet Gandhi when he came to Madurai in 1921.
- Shiva, who was inspired by the Khadar movement, admired and loved the philosophy of communalism
- He kept the pages containing news about Community International separately
- He became interested in the communist movement. He passed away on July 23, 1925, before the emergence of the Communist Party in India. He was 41 years old then

02

Social Issues

What impact will population growth have on India's growth?

World Population review

- According to World Population Review Organization, India's population is currently 142.78 crore and China's population is 142.56 crore.
- Earlier population growth was seen as a factor affecting the development of the country
- It was an extension of this view that family planning was intensified in India in the 1970s
- At that time India was economically backward. Now the global view on population growth has changed
- Population growth is seen as a factor contributing to the development of a country as economic opportunities increase globally

Benefits

- Population can create huge market opportunity. As population increases, consumption increases accordingly
- It is necessary to increase production to meet consumption demands. More business opportunities will arise
- Investments by domestic and foreign companies will increase to tap this market opportunity
- As far as India is concerned, per capita income is projected to rise by 700 percent to \$16,000 by 2050.
- This is expected to increase the consumption capacity of the people by four times from what it is at present
- Not only does China's population lag behind India's; It has started to decline
- It is estimated that by 2050 India's population will increase to 160 crore and China's population will decrease to 130 crore.
- It is predicted that by 2050 the average age of Indians will be 38 and that of China will be 50.
- This means that the number of elderly people in China is increasing

The younger generation

- The growth of a country is closely related to the number of younger generations in its population
- 15 to 64 years is defined as working age. This age group is the most important part of the employment structure of a country

Average age

- Currently, the average age of Indians is 29. According to current calculations, it will rise to a maximum of 38 in another 30 years
- This will increase the number of people participating in the employment structure in the Indian population
- It is seen as a great opportunity for India in industrial development

Third place in economy

- Today India has overtaken Britain to the fifth place economically
- By 2030, India is projected to occupy the third position
- India's growth is driven by its digital architecture and proliferation of start-ups

- The recently introduced 5G technology is expected to revolutionize all sectors of India and create lakhs of new jobs

Youth

- Currently two-thirds of India's population are born after the liberal introduction, i.e., after 1990, and their ability to learn modern technologies has contributed to India's growth.
- In that way, the contribution of the younger generation will be very important in the technological development of India in the next thirty years
- At the same time India has many challenges related to population growth. Economic inequality is very serious in India at present
- India lags behind in education and health infrastructure. India is in dire straits in terms of employment
- The role of women in the employment structure is very low
- Only by addressing these issues can India harness its growing population as an opportunity for growth
- Otherwise, experts warn, it will be an additional burden

Will population growth be controlled?

Can the earth hold?

- The total population of the world by 1950 was about 200 crores. It has grown to 800 crores in the last 70 years
- How did this monstrous growth happen? There is concern that if this growth doubles, the earth will be able to withstand it

Many problems

- India has overtaken China as the most populous country in the world. Although this may seem like a matter of pride for India, the reality is that it will face many problems
- Poverty, inflation and unemployment plague the society. In addition to this we must also take into account the shrinking of habitats due to climate change

Natural resources

- As the population increases, the demand for essential needs like food and shelter will increase. Forests and fields will be destroyed for that
- Environmentalists are concerned about further exploitation of natural resources

Malthus

- Fears about population growth began as early as the 19th century. In 1798, Thomas Robert Malthus, an economist living in England, was alarmed by the growing population.
- He thought that uncontrolled population growth would lead to shortage of food and famine. He also wrote a book about it
- In that book, he writes that the amount of food production is not sufficient to keep up with the increase in population and hence there is a possibility of food shortage at some point and the social order will deteriorate.
- He said the solution is to force the poor to have fewer children

UN Report

- According to the United Nations, the world population is 8.107 million
- After 1700 the pace of the Industrial Revolution was also accompanied by population growth

- Population growth in the last 50 years has also been clouded by the increase in agricultural production and the development of the medical sector as a result of the Green Revolution from 1960 to 1995.
- It is expected that the world population will reach a peak in the near future and then begin to decline due to economic reasons such as land scarcity, health problems and environmental degradation.

Population control

- Population control is the control of population growth.
- Usually this is only due to a reduction in the birth rate
- An example of compulsory population control is the One Child Policy of the People's Republic of China
- This made having more than one child a difficult life

India

- The Indian government also took some measures to control the population. Due to the increasing population, the economic development of the country and the quality of life of the people were affected to a great extent, so the Government of India officially brought the family planning program

National Family Welfare Scheme

- After the crisis, the National Family Planning Program was replaced by the National Family Welfare Program and compulsory strategies were abandoned
- Only broad sociological goals are now on the agenda
- Whenever there is a change of government at the center, it has become a routine for schemes and laws to change

Water

- Due to increase in population, forests are shrinking and water resources are decreasing drastically
- The government has declared National Water Week from January 13 to 17 every year to create public awareness about the need for water and the protection of forests.
- India gets 12 lakh crore cubic feet of water annually from natural sources
- Out of which 2.10 lakh crore cubic feet of water evaporates
- 10 lakh crore cubic feet of water is wasted as it passes through land
- A whopping 4.5 trillion cubic feet of water flows into the ocean every year due to floods
- The remaining 3.3 lakh crore cubic feet of water has to be met for agriculture, drinking water and industrial needs
- Due to improper industries, the ozone layer has been holed, the glaciers have become shorter and their height has decreased, the air quality has decreased and the amount of rain has decreased.
- India has 67.7 million hectares of forest area. One-fourth of India's population depends on forests
- In this case, 41% of the forest area is at risk of destruction due to population growth. Governments should take this into consideration
- World Population Day is celebrated annually on July 11 in an effort to create awareness among people about the increasing population. However, it is in the hands of the public to stop its flow

Kerala guides the development of transgender

Pride project

- The Kerala government has announced a scheme to provide employment to transgender in the name of Pride Project
- It is no wonder that this project, which is to be implemented with the help of the Kerala Department of Social Justice, is getting a lot of response

Pioneer

- Central and state governments are taking several schemes to tackle the problems faced by transgender. Kerala is a pioneer in this
- In 2014, the Supreme Court gave a landmark judgment on the rights of transgender in a case between the National Legal Services Commission and the Central Government.
- The verdict has expressed concern over the ill-treatment of transgender in society
- The judgment clearly stated that the society's rejection of their existence as a third gender beyond the gender identity of male and female is a violation of Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India.

Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019

- This historic verdict supported social change for transgender. The Protection of transgenders' Rights Act was enacted
- Central and state governments have also been motivated to formulate schemes for transgender
- Following this, for the first time, the Tamil Nadu Government constituted the Transgender Development Board
- After that 11 states including Kerala started this board. Compared to other states, Kerala is at the forefront of protecting the rights of transgender and making life improvements.

Projects

- A vocational training scheme for transgender called Sakalyam
- Scheme for imparting distance education called Varnam
- Vocational Education Scheme - Saphalam
- The Kerala government is using many schemes like Yatnam training program for competitive exams, assistance scheme for transgender who marry legally.
- To top it all off, the Kerala government has announced a scheme to provide Rs 2 lakh for gender reassignment surgery in 2018.
- A post-treatment medical assistance scheme of Rs 3000 per month for 12 months is also implemented by the state government.
- It is worth noting that Tamil Nadu Government has started a separate center for transgenders in Madurai Rajaji & Chennai Rajiv Gandhi Hospitals.
- The Pride project announced by the Kerala government can give economic freedom to transgenders. This project is also a precedent for upholding the basic democratic characteristic of non-discrimination on the basis of religion, caste, gender in the context of increasing fundamentalism and feelings of diversity in the country.

Khalistan terrorism

- The attack on the Indian embassy in San Francisco and the anti-India posters across Canada are signs of the resurgence of Khalistan organizations.
- Avtar Singh Khanda, who is believed to be Amrita Pal Singh's leader who is lodged in an Assam jail, has died in a hospital in Birmingham, UK.
- KLT leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar was shot dead by 2 youths at the gate of Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Surrey, Canada.
- Khalistan Commando Chief Paramjit Singh Panjwar has been shot dead by unidentified assailants in Lahore, Pakistan.

Khalistan Zindabad

- Gurmeet Singh Bagga, head of the German-based Khalistan Zindabad Force, Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, head of

the US-based organization 'Sikhs for Justice', and Paramjit Singh Pamma, the head of the LTTE, operating from Birmingham, UK, continue to be the leaders of the Khalistan extremism.

Canada

- One after another, attacks against India started taking place in Canada
- On January 31, the Gaurishankar Temple in Brampton was attacked. On February 17, posters were put up against India at the Mississauga Ram Temple
- On March 23, two hand grenades were thrown at the Indian Embassy in Ottawa
- Following them, the activities of Khalistan separatists have been increasing in the countries of America, Canada, Britain, Australia and Germany for the last six months
- We cannot laugh at the fact that Canada and EU countries are allowing the activities of Khalistan separatists against India in the name of freedom of expression.
- In 1985 Air India flight Kanishka was shot down by Khalistanis in retaliation for the 1984 Operation Blue Star attack on Amritsar Golden Temple against Bhindranwale.
- All 329 passengers were Canadian citizens of Indian origin. Yet the culprits have not been found or punished
- Those countries should not heed the Indian government's warning that the situation could escalate if the separatist campaigns and threats against Indian citizens and diplomatic officials are prevented by law.
- Attacking Indian embassies and putting up warning posters with images of officials is not only condemnable but also calls for immediate action.

Opposition

- The US government has strongly condemned the attack on the San Francisco embassy and has assured the security of the embassy and its staff.
- Of late, the Canadian government has also condemned the activities of the Khalistanis
- The governments of that country should also come forward to ban the efforts of Sikhs living abroad to organize against India in the name of Khalistan Liberation Rally.
- Those countries should realize that allowing the activities of separatist extremist terrorist organizations against India considering the minority vote bank of Sikhs can turn out to be a story of milking the snake.

41.5 crore Indians have been lifted out of poverty in the last 15 years

- The United Nations Development Program has released the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index
- In the last 15 years, 25 countries in the world have halved Multidimensional poverty, the UN said in the report
- Multidimensional poverty is observed in terms of health, education and quality of life
- The United Nations Development Program and the University of Oxford examined changes in 81 countries between 2000 and 2022.
- According to the study, 25 countries have halved their multidimensional poverty in the last 15 years
- Specifically, in India, 41.5 crore people have been lifted out of multidimensional poverty in the fifteen-year period from 2006 to 2021.

UN Report

- According to a UN report, about 12.5 crore Indians have been lifted out of poverty in the last 15 years
- The Multidimensional Poverty Index report was published jointly by the United Nations Development Program and Oxford University's Institute for Poverty and Human Development.

MPI

- The report contains information about the poverty level found in various dimensions including education, health and quality of life in the countries of the world
- India, which has emerged as the most populous country in the world, has lifted around 41.5 crore people out of poverty between 2005-06 and 2019-21, according to the report.
- The report also mentions that the number of people living in poverty in 25 countries, including India, has halved in the last 15 years
- The report stated that it is possible to eradicate poverty at the global level and it is also mentioned that the poverty alleviation measures are likely to face a slight setback as the details of those who have been forced into poverty during the Corona pandemic are not fully known.

Key details

- Total countries studied - 110
- Number of poor - 110 crores
- Percentage of poor in total population - 18%
- Half of the poor live in non-Saharan Africa - 53.4 crore
- Poor people living in middle-income countries - 73 crore
- Poor people living in low-income countries - 38.7 crore
- South Asian countries are home to more than a third of the poor - 38.9 crore

Multidimensional Poverty Index Factors

Hygiene

- Nutrition
- Infant deaths

Education

- Year of schooling
- School attendance percentage

Quality of life

- Cooking fuel usage
- Clean residence
- Drinking water facilities
- Electricity
- School attendance percentage
- Housing, assets

Number of poor by region - %

Region	Population %	Population of poor	% of poor
Non-Saharan Africa	17.6%	53.4 crore	47.8%
South Asia	30.9%	38.9 crore	34.9%
East Asia	33.8%	10.6 crore	9.5%
Arab countries	5.7%	5.3 crore	4.7%

Latin America	9.7%	3.3 crore	3%
Europe-Central Asia	2.4%	20 lakhs	0.2%

Juvenile poor

Number of juveniles	56.6 crore
Poor children living in African countries	30.6 crore (54.1%)
Poor children living in South Asian countries	17.7 crore (31%)

Countries that have halved poverty in the last 15 years

- Albania, Bolivia, Cambodia, China, Congo, Dominican Republic, Gabon, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyz Republic, Morocco, Nicaragua, North Macedonia, São Tomé and Príncipe, Serbia, Turkmenistan, Vietnam, Lesotho, Mongolia, Nepal, Peru, Suriname, Thailand

Number of poor by income - %

Countries	Population %	Population of poor	% of poor
Low-income countries	10%	38.7 crore	34.7%
Lower middle income countries	53.7%	63.9 crore	57.3%
Upper middle income countries	36.2%	9 crore	8.1%

Special Component Project Fund : Will the oppressed get justice?

- It is a special component scheme for Scheduled castes & Scheduled Tribes
- The objective of the tribal sub-programme is to reduce and equalize the developmental gap between the Scheduled Castes and other communities, to raise the socio-economic status of the people, to create productive assets for them, and to bring and implement separate projects.

Vanished funds

- Funds earmarked for Scheduled Castes in the financial year 2021-22 for Special Component Scheme is Rs 14,387.85 crore.
- The amount spent on this is Rs 11,969.30 crore. About Rs 2,418.55 crore i.e. 16.81% of the amount was not spent as unutilized funds and disappeared into the public account.
- At the end of each financial year, the unspent funds allocated for these people should be accounted for in the next year's financial statement with a reason, but no one bothers to do that responsibility; There is no one who eagerly seeks and listens.

Transfer of funds

- Under-allocation of funds to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and diversion of such funds to other schemes continues.
- The Social Security Food Guarantee Scheme Account with the help of Public Distribution System has been allocated funds under the General Scheme for many years
- In this financial year 2023-24, 2310 crore rupees have been transferred from the special component plan fund account of Scheduled Caste people to the general plan fund account.
- Similarly, Rs 1,540 crore has been transferred from Special Component Scheme funds to the new General Scheme Womens' Entitlement Scheme

- In general, the total funds allocated under this scheme for women from all walks of life is 7 thousand crore rupees
- 3850 crore rupees have been diverted from the special fund for Scheduled Castes into general program expenditure for these two public schemes alone.

Guiding Neighboring States

- Disadvantages of subsidy provided by TAHDCO aside, 80% subsidy up to one lakh rupees, 70% subsidy up to two lakh rupees and 60% subsidy above two lakh rupees are provided for loans granted by TAHDCO in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- But in Tamil Nadu only 30 percent is given as single subsidy by TAHDCO
- Grants should be provided to TAHDCO as well as to institutions in the above mentioned states
- In the neighboring states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Rs 3931 crore and Rs 1784 crore have been earmarked as state government contribution for the financial year 2022-23 respectively.
- It is only by increasing the state government's contribution to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes in Tamil Nadu that the people here can get the benefits of development.
- But despite the subsidy provided by TAHDCO, public sector banks or co-operative banks run by the Tamil Nadu government do not come forward to provide loans for the development of scheduled caste tribal people and their business ventures to improve their livelihood.
- Such contradictions are the biggest hindrance to the economic progress of Scheduled Castes, with Central and State Governments issuing circulars from time to time advising that collateral financing should not be sought, state banks insisting on collateral and delaying financing.
- In Telangana, Dalit Bandhu, an entrepreneurship program for Scheduled Castes is being implemented from August 2021. According to this scheme, 21,563 houses have been selected and surveyed in Huzurabad municipality of the state and a fund of Rs 10 lakh per beneficiary has been given at their door-step which is being implemented very well.
- 18,021 Scheduled Caste beneficiaries have been uplifted under this scheme in 2021-22 alone.
- In the year 2022-23 alone, Rs 17,000 crore has been disbursed and around two lakh people from Scheduled Castes have become entrepreneurs.

Duty of the Government

- 10 crore rupees have been allocated as project funds in the financial year 2022-23 for the scheme of providing land to scheduled caste tribal women in the name of the demand presented in the assembly in the name of the land acquisition scheme in Tamil Nadu in 2021-22. (Scheme with 50% subsidy provided by Tamil Nadu Govt)
- But the financial plan did not reach as expected
- Till date in Tamil Nadu for less than 100 beneficiaries are being implemented every financial year
- But under the land grant scheme implemented in Telangana, 17,096 acres of land has been completed for 6,995 beneficiaries at a cost of Rs 769 crore from 2014-15 to 2022-23.
- Therefore, in Tamilnadu also, the concerned programs should be implemented to benefit Scheduled Castes & Tribes.

Civilization is about respecting women

75th Independence Day Speech

- Speaking at the 75th Independence Day celebrations, Indian Prime Minister Modi urged people to take a commitment to stop all acts of insulting women in daily life.

Manipur

- In a village 35 kilometers from the capital Imphal in the state of Manipur, a video of two young women being stripped naked and dragged through the middle of the road in a procession has recently surfaced on social media and shocked us.

Against women

- Of the 60 lakh crimes registered by the Indian police between January 1 and December 31 last year, 4,28,278 cases were related to crimes against women.
- It has increased by 26.35% in the last six years
- Most of the cases registered in 2021 are related to women trafficking, domestic violence and dowry deaths.
- Also 107 girls are exposed to acid attack, 1580 girls are trafficked and 15 girls are sold.
- 2668 women have been victims of cyber crimes
- Uttar Pradesh, the country's most populous state, ranks first in crime against women, followed by Rajasthan and Maharashtra.
- According to the latest statistics, 76,263 women have been abducted
- This is 14 percent more than 66,544. In 2021, the police received complaints from 1,37,956 women
- A crime is reported against them every four minutes
- Many are trafficked for sex and domestic work
- Most of the 28,222 women abducted were found to have been abducted for forced marriage
- Crimes and cases of abuse by husband or his relative are on the rise. The prevalence of domestic violence against women in India is unfortunate

Dowry Act

- The Government of India enacted the Dowry Prohibition Act in 1961 and Section 498A in 1983 against dowry abuse. However, dowry continues to be sought from the bride's family
- According to recent World Bank statistics, dowry is paid in 95 percent of rural Indian marriages.
- According to police records last year, there was an average dowry death every 77 minutes
- If women are to use the laws for themselves, they must first realize their true position
- Laws on gender pay should be changed. Women's participation in political and social struggles should be increased
- Women democratic representatives should be equal to men at all levels
- Political participation of women involves not only their welfare but also social welfare
- The reason women are somewhat safe and empowered today is because of the struggles of many women
- Women should create a concept for themselves in every field like education, employment, skill development
- Women are basically hardworking. But their work is not formally recognized
- Women who take care of the home should be given the same respect as women who work outside
- It is commendable that Tamil Nadu government is ensuring the welfare of women, children, the poor, senior citizens, transgenders, etc. through various social welfare schemes through the social welfare department.
- Women should be made aware of these in schools. The truth is that they are afraid to take action in a patriarchal society

- It is also advisable for women to use Kavalan app for their safety when traveling alone and share the travel route with an family members
- They can call the toll-free number 1091 to get help
- It is time for us all to realize that eradicating violence against women is our collective responsibility

What should be done to achieve hunger-free state?

- The Global Report on the Food Crises (GRFC) 2023 released recently estimated that between 691 million and 783 million people in the world suffered from hunger in 2022.
- While the two pandemic years did not record a growth in food insecurity, the data for 2022 shows levels far higher than pre-pandemic 2019.
- This year's report records the historic moments that had an impact on the assessment - a pandemic and ensuing economic crisis, a war (in Ukraine), soaring prices of food, and agricultural inputs.
- The GRFC is produced by the Food Security Information Network in support of the Global Network against Food Crises, and involves 16 partners to achieve a joint consensus-based assessment of acute food insecurity in countries.

What is food security?

- Food security is defined (from the World Food Summit of 1996) thus "When all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active, and healthy life".
- The prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population is based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES).

What are the key findings?

- The Global Report starts with a qualified assertion that hunger is no longer on an alarming path upwards at the global level, but still far above pre-COVID pandemic levels, and that the world is far off track towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 - Zero Hunger.
- It sets the global contexts preceding and during the year under assessment, particularly paying attention to the increasing phenomenon of urbanisation, and its effects on food security.
- New estimates of FIES, as per the report, "confirm that for 2022, no progress was made on food insecurity at the global level.
- Following a sharp increase from 2019 to 2020, the global prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity remained unchanged for the second year in a row, but remained far above pre-COVID-19-pandemic levels,"
- In 2022, an estimated 2.4 billion people did not have access to adequate food.
- This is still 391 million more people than in 2019. Global hunger, measured by yet another metric - the prevalence of undernourishment - remained relatively unchanged from 2021 to 2022 but is, again, far above pre-COVID-19-pandemic levels, affecting around 9.2% of the world population in 2022 compared with 7.9% in 2019, according to the report.
- Some good news is that stunting, another key metric, defined as the condition of being too short for one's age, among children under five years of age has declined steadily, from 204.2 million in 2000 to 148.1 million in 2022.
- Simultaneously, child wasting, caused by insufficient nutrient intake or absorption, declined from 54.1 million in 2000 to 45 million in 2022.

- In terms of children who are overweight or obese, the study indicated a non-significant increase from 5.3% (33 million) in 2000 to 5.6% (37 million) in 2022.
- The revised analysis presented in this year's report shows that almost 3.2 billion people worldwide could not afford a healthy diet in 2020, with a slight improvement in 2021.
- The cost of a healthy diet increasing globally by 6.7% between 2019 and 2021.
- It also projects that almost 600 million people will be chronically undernourished in 2030.

What are the key drivers of food insecurity?

- The report notes the following reasons as being responsible : slowing down, thanks to lockdowns, economic, downturns, and other pandemic-related disruptions in 2020 that led to job losses and reduced incomes for many people; the Ukraine war; government policies that may not be entirely favourable; and increasing urbanisation that drives changes through the agrifood systems.
- The report's comparison of food security among rural, peri-urban and urban populations reveals that global food insecurity is lower in urban areas.

What are the solutions ahead?

- The report helps "identify vulnerable population groups, contributing to evidence to inform decision-making and effective action through the appropriate targeting and design of policies and programmes."
- As the authors record, sound nutrition is fundamental to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and must be central in government policy and supported by civil society and the private sector.
- Some of its recommendations include supporting healthier food outlets as key for enabling access to healthy diets.
- Policy incentives are necessary to encourage shops to sell greater amounts of fresh and minimally processed foods.
- Another key input is on street foods, which an estimated 2.5 billion people worldwide consume everyday, thanks to the convenience and cost factor.
- The report calls for addressing multiple infrastructure and regulatory gaps to improve nutritional safety and quality of street food.
- The GRFC also suggests building rural infrastructure, including quality rural and feeder roads to connect remote farms and enterprises to main road networks.
- Other public investments to support linkages between (mainly small) farms and small and medium enterprises could include warehousing, cold storage, dependable electrification, access to digital tools and water supply.
- It underlines several times the role of local governments as fundamental actors in leveraging multilevel and multi-stakeholder mechanisms that have proved effective in implementing essential policies for making healthy diets available and affordable for all.

National Education Policy : 10 major projects

National Curriculum

- A separate curriculum was devised for children between the ages of three and eight in the country. Thus the integrated curriculum system was formulated
- It emphasized on story and game based teaching method

Vidya Pravesh

- NCERT developed a three-month teaching method based on story for class I students

- It is designed to prepare children entering class 1 for school. It was designed to prepare children to learn letters and numbers and develop their imagination
- Apart from the states of Sikkim, Manipur, Kerala, 33 other states and Union Territories have implemented this scheme

PM Shri Schools

- Schools to Grow India project launched. As mentioned in the National Education Policy, the program will focus on developing students' skills towards building an egalitarian, integrated and diverse society.

Mother tongue is encouraged

- All India Council for Technical Education has sanctioned 49 engineering courses in 7 regional languages across 12 states
- Books for medical education have been translated into Hindi language. Central University Entrance Examinations, JEE-Main, NEET-UG examinations were conducted in 13 languages
- School textbooks are being translated into other languages using artificial intelligence through ANUVADINI, an app developed by AICTE
- NCERT is taking steps to prepare textbooks in all 22 languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution with a view to ensure that subjects are taught in other Indian languages along with English in CBSE schools.

Two degrees at the same time

- The University Grants Commission has released the rules for pursuing dual degree courses simultaneously in colleges
- Accordingly the college timings of the two degree courses must be different. This program is not applicable for Ph.D

Experts as Adjunct Professors

- Universities and college administrations can now appoint subject experts as ad hoc professors. There is no requirement to adhere to the qualifications for appointment of permanent professors under this scheme. UGC has developed a website to identify eligible candidates for appointment as ad-hoc professors

Four year undergraduate course

- The National Education Policy has introduced a four-year undergraduate degree. It also provides students with the facility to take a break and continue with other courses at any time. Accordingly, 105 universities including 10 central universities have been offering this new degree since the last academic year

IIT Campuses Abroad

- The National Education Policy guides Indian Institutes of Technology to set up branch campuses abroad
- Accordingly IIT Chennai is going to set up a branch campus in Zanzibar, Tanzania. Education will be taught there from October. Likewise, branch campuses are being set up in the United Arab Emirates by IIT Delhi and in Malaysia by IIT Kharagpur.

Foreign Universities in India

- Arrangements have also been made to set up branch campuses of foreign universities in India. The work of framing the regulations has reached the final stage
- Australia's Universities of Wollongong and Deakin have already signed MoUs to set up branch campuses in GIFT, Gujarat.

Higher Education Commission of India

- The National Education Policy leads to the formation of the Higher Education Commission of India by integrating the UGC, AICTE and the Council of Teacher Education with a view to disciplining higher education.

03

Indian Polity

Sale of Electoral Bonds

- The central government introduced the system of sale of electoral bonds for political parties to collect donations
- The first sale of electoral bonds took place from 1-10 March 2018
- These bonds can be purchased by Indian citizens and domestically registered companies and donated to political parties
- Bonds are valid for 15 days from the date of issue. After that it will expire
- Only State Bank of India (SBI) is authorized to sell electoral bonds
- These bonds are sold at authorized SBI branches at Chennai, Bangalore, Kolkata, Delhi, Chandigarh, Sri Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Bhopal, Raipur, Mumbai.

Will Prime Minister Narendra Modi's US visit impact the Indian economy?

- Most of the countries of the world are facing economic challenges due to the main reasons of the Corona pandemic and then the Ukraine Russia war

Indian economy

- Our country has a large population of young generation and skilled population
- And statistics give growth account in our manufacturing sector
- GST collection, which is a mirror of the country's business situation, has been on a steady upward trend for the past three months
- At the same time, cash flow is not abundant in the life of the average person
- Business opportunities for small business organizations are limited
- As a result, the employment opportunities of the poor and middle class have decreased
- Apart from this, the export situation of the country is declining drastically. This will increase the price of imported goods
- By increasing our exports, our foreign exchange reserves will increase

American visit

- 12 agreements were signed during this visit

Jet engine

Five Agreements

- India's Hindustan Aeronautical Corporation has signed an agreement with US-based General Electric Aerospace to manufacture F 414 budget fighter engines for use in military fighter jets.
- Now we can use our jet engines even in Tejas fighters
- After USA, UK, Russia and France, India can now manufacture its own jet engines

Semiconductor

- For the first time, an agreement has also been signed to manufacture semiconductors locally
- We had to depend on other countries including China to get them
- Micron to set up manufacturing facility in Gujarat at a cost of Rs 22,000 crore

Drone

- A deal has also been signed to buy drones from the US for the military
- These drones are critical to the nation's security. It will create global supply chains and value chains with India and the US
- NASA plans to send humans to the moon by 2025
- India is also a signatory to the agreement in this regard
- NASA and ISRO will work together on International Space Station missions by 2024
- If Tesla, the world's No. 1, sets foot in India and makes its mark in car manufacturing, our foreign exchange will be spared from spending on auto fuel. The environment will improve
- America's advanced drone technology is also available to our defense industry
- America, which used to think of India as an alternative to China, now respects us as an alternative to European countries

The Nationalist Congress broke up

- 40 MLAs join BJP political alliances sworn in as the Chief Minister. Ajit Pawar, a senior leader of the opposition Nationalist Congress, was sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister
- Then the government was overthrown because the Nationalist Congress MLAs did not support it
- After various twists and turns, the Shiv Sena joined hands with the Congress and the Nationalist Congress to form a new coalition government in November 2019.
- Shiv Sena leader Uddhav Thackeray was the Chief Minister and Ajith Pawar was the Deputy Chief Minister
- After nearly two-and-a-half years in power, senior Shiv Sena leader and minister Eknath Shinde has raised the war flag against Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.
- Majority of Shiv Sena MLAs joined Shinde's side
- BJP and Shiv Sena's Shinde team to form new coalition government on June 30, 2022
- Eknath Shinde was sworn in as Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis as Deputy Chief Minister

Will Anti-Defection law be valid?

- If a couple of MPs or MLAs voluntarily quit the party, they will lose their post under the Anti-Defection Act.
- However, if two-thirds of the total MPs or MLAs of the party split, it will be considered a split. They may continue in office
- Of the 53 MLAs in the Nationalist Congress, 40 now support Ajit Pawar
- So no action can be taken against them under the Prevention of Party Defection Act

4 sworn-ins in 4 years

- After the 2019 elections to the Maharashtra Assembly, the swearing-in ceremony was held for the fourth time in 4 years.

- In November 2019, BJP's Devendra Fadnavis was sworn in as Chief Minister and Nationalist Congress's Ajit Pawar as Deputy Chief Minister. This government lasted only three days
- In November 2019, Shiv Sena's Uddhav Thackeray was sworn in as Chief Minister and Nationalist Congress's Ajit Pawar as Deputy Chief Minister. This government fell due to a split in the Shiv Sena
- Eknath Shinde, who broke away from the Shiv Sena on June 30 last year, was sworn in as the Chief Minister and Devendra Fadnavis as the Deputy Chief Minister.
- Ajit Pawar was sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister yesterday.

E-Free Speech

India's Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000

- Intermediaries - role in the use of computer resources and electronic records.
 - Telecom service providers
 - Network service providers
 - Internet service providers
 - Web-hosting service providers
 - Search engines
 - Online payment sites
 - Online-auction sites
 - Online-market places

Section 69A

- Central govt. has the power to issue directions for blocking of any information generated, transmitted, received, hosted in any computer resource for the public access.
- Ground for blocking – in the interest of
 - Sovereignty or integrity of India,
 - Defence of India,
 - Security of the State,
 - Friendly relations with foreign States or
 - Public order or preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence.

Shreya Singhal case 2015

- Section 66A – It allowed for the arrest of individuals for posting “offensive” or “annoying” content online.
 - SC declared 66A as unconstitutional and struck it down.
 - Vague and gave excessive power to the state.
- Section 69A -
 - Has well established safeguard.
 - Constitutionally valid.

Safeguard in Section 69A

1. Blocking can only be resorted to where the Central Government is satisfied.

2. Reasonable restriction to freedom of speech as provided in Article 19(2).
3. Reasons have to be recorded in writing.
4. Rule 9 – A notice must be provided to the intermediary and the user (original content creator).

Issues with the Karnataka HC judgement

Karnataka HC did not follow the judicial precedent laid out in the Shreya Senghal judgment

- HC held that provision of notice under Rule 9 is not mandatory.
- This curtails the freedom of speech and expression.
- This curtails right of the user or individual to challenge the blocking order.

Justification given by the HC are false

- Justification given by HC
 - Twitter users can easily access the appropriate remedies even if notice is not provided.
 - Users affected by the blocking order have not approached the HC.
- Counters to claim provided in the editorial
 - Meity using confidentiality clause under Rule 16 to block access.
 - Even using RTI it is not easy to access the blocking order.
 - Human rights activist and author, Aakar Patel, whose Twitter account had been blocked, had filed an appeal against the blocking order. (HC failed to take the case).

Grounds on which the contents are blocked are faulty

- Shreya Senghal Case -
 - SC - Blocking Rules must be limited to the eight specifically enumerated grounds under Article 19(2) of the Constitution.
- Meity cited "fake news" and "misinformation" as the reason for blocking the content.
- Misinformation and fake news are not grounds under which free speech can be restricted under Article 19(2) and Section 69A.

Wholesale blocking of twitter accounts

- Twitter - Section 69A only permits the blocking of specific tweets and not the whole accounts.
- Wholesale blocking – censors future speech and expression.
- Brij Bhushan And Another vs The State Of Delhi case.
 - Pre-censorship on freedom of speech is unconstitutional

PM Modi at SCO conference

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization includes Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, and the Kyrgyz Republic
- India is chairing the association this year
- India joined the SCO Alliance in 2017 and is chairing it for the first time

No terrorism

- Terrorism has become a major threat to regional and international peace. The SCO Federation should also take concrete measures against terrorist activities including their financing
- The Commonwealth of Nations should work together in counter-terrorism operations
- Some countries are using cross-border terrorism to spread their policies
- Those countries are also havens for terrorists. The SCO should not hesitate to condemn such countries that support terrorism
- There should be no double standard in counter-terrorism measures

Combined operation

- Their supply chain, including food, fertilizer and fuel, has been hit hard amid multiple international challenges, including disease outbreaks and war tensions.
- So all the countries of the world are suffering. To meet such challenges, the Commonwealth of Nations must work together

Afghanistan issue

- Afghanistan should not be used as a base for carrying out terrorist activities in other countries
- The SCO countries insist on providing humanitarian assistance to the people of that country, establishing an inclusive government in that country, preventing terrorist activities and drug trafficking, and providing rights for women and children to minorities.

Collaboration at a new high

- India has thousands of years of cultural interaction with SCO member countries
- Under the leadership of sco, India has taken steps to take the multilateral cooperation between the Commonwealth countries to new heights
- India has taken steps to further strengthen cooperation among the alliance countries in start-up, traditional medicinal products, youth skill development, digital integration, Buddhist heritage.
- SCO has emerged as an important organization for establishing peace and development in countries belonging to the European and Asian continents

New Member : Iran

- Iran became the ninth member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization
- We can now work closely with Iran to make exclusive use of the Safhar port
- The International North-South Transport Corridor will provide Central Asian countries with safe access to the Indian Ocean
- Actions for the accession of Belarus as a member state were also initiated at the conference
- The country is expected to join the federation as its tenth member at next year's conference

Uniform Civil Code

- In India, individual rights like marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption are governed by the laws of religions followed by different sections of people
- The aim of the common civil law was to change this state of affairs and bring the individual rights of all people under one common law

- It has been a hot topic of debate in India ever since Narendra Modi-led central government assumed power in 2014

So far

- The Indian Penal Code brought by the British in 1862 incorporated most of the elements of the Criminal Code
- However individual rights are not covered under the Indian Penal Code
- They were governed by the individual laws of different religions. Over the years the need was felt to bring them under the Indian Penal Code
- The All India Women's Conference held in the 1930s demanded equal rights for all women
- They raised their voice that they wanted equal rights in marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption etc. irrespective of religion.
- After the country's independence in 1947, the Jawaharlal Nehru-led government accelerated the process of reforming religious laws through a common civil code.
- The Constitution of India came into force in 1950. It said that instead of religion-based personal laws governing personal matters, there would be a common civil law for all citizens, which the state would try to protect

What does the Constitution say?

- Article 44 of the Constitution states that the State shall endeavor to ensure and protect the common civil law for its citizens
- However the framers of the Constitution recognized the seriousness and complexity of the problem and left the enforcement of the General Civil Code to the discretion of the Government.
- Over the years various governments have debated the implementation of a common civil law
- However, many controversies arose in this matter. There are various civil laws in India

Hindu Personal Law

- Hindu personal laws are derived from ancient religious texts and customs
- The Hindu Marriage Act 1955 governs marriage and divorce among Hindus
- The Hindu Succession Act 1956 deals with the right of inheritance. Under the Hindu Succession Act, Hindu women have equal rights with Hindu men to inherit property from their parents
- This Act applies to Buddhists, Jains and Sikhs

Muslim Personal Law

- Muslims in India follow Muslim personal law based on Shariat (1937)
- The Act regulates matters related to marriage, divorce, inheritance, alimony among Muslims
- Indian Succession Act 1925 applies to Christians, Persians and Jews
- Christian women receive a predetermined share in the family property based on the presence of children or other relatives
- Persian widow women get a share equal to their children. If the parents of the deceased are alive then they get half of the child's property.

Opposition comments

- Personal laws in minority communities are deeply intertwined with the religious identity and practices of those communities
- Imposing a common civil law on them would dilute the individual rights and protections of minority groups
- Destroy their cultural autonomy. Protecting the rights of minorities and their unique practices is considered important in a pluralistic society like India

- Thus the common civil law will devalue the cultural fabric of the country. Critics argue that it would also affect citizens' religious freedom.

Support comments

- Proponents of common civil law argue that implementing a uniform law common to all across the country will promote gender equality and women's rights.
- They believe that common civil law ensures equal rights in matters such as marriage, divorce, succession, alimony, etc.
- However, opponents argue that gender justice can only be achieved within the framework of existing individual laws.
- But advocates highlight and argue that common civil laws will go a long way in ensuring that all communities equally enjoy the benefits of modern changes in education, women's equality, and marital lifestyles.

Katchatheevu issue : Time to settle

- The traditional right of Indian fishermen especially Tamilnadu fishermen to go to the sea and catch fish and claim ownership of Katchatheevu is no longer there.
- That right was denied under the 1974 and 1976 agreements between India and Sri Lanka
- Katchatheevu is now considered to belong to Sri Lanka. Katchatheevu, which was a part of India when the princely states were merged, is not under our control even today
- The question of whether the agreement will be valid has not been answered till date

What does the law say?

- In 1960, the Supreme Court gave a judgment in the case of Berubari Union in the case of land exchange between India and Bangladesh.
- The ruling held that when any part of a country is ceded to another country, the agreement will be valid only if the said two countries exchange them after the approval of the parliaments of the two countries concerned.
- In view of such a clear ruling, our stand is that the agreements of 1974 and 1976 are void when there is no legal transaction of consent of the parliaments till date on the issue of India's transfer of Katchatheev to Sri Lanka.
- A 1974 agreement between the two prime ministers stipulated that fishermen from both countries would continue to enjoy traditional fishing rights in both countries' waters.
- While the rights of our fishermen to dry their nets, rest, participate in the festival and worship at the Anthony temple in the Katchatheev waters were guaranteed, the reason why those rights were removed in the 1976 agreement between the secretaries of state of the two countries is not understood.
- Can the Government Secretaries change the agreement signed and accepted by the Prime Ministers of the two countries?

Is there a chance?

- Even if the Supreme Court ruled that these agreements were invalid because the legal procedures were not followed, would that judgment bind the Sri Lankan government?
- What will happen if both countries take this issue to international court? According to the judgments of the International Court of Justice in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (1969) and the Qatar Bahrain Maritime Delimitation case, parliamentary approval is not required.
- So there is little chance of saying that India Sri Lanka Agreement is invalid
- Even if the International Court of Justice decides that the owner of the island is entitled to it, there is no clarity on the enforcement mechanism
- The central government's silence on this matter is also in favor of Sri Lanka

A new agreement is necessary

- The Law of the Sea allows India to claim territorial waters up to a distance of 24 nautical miles when a judicial officer demarcates the territorial sea.
- In that case, our right to Katchatheevu, which is 18 nautical miles away, is confirmed
- However, a new agreement between the two countries is necessary for the safety of the two countries and the interests of the fishermen of the two countries

The Right moment

- Due to the current economic downturn in Sri Lanka, India is providing financial assistance and material assistance in the form of loans and grants on humanitarian grounds.
- Jayalalithaa took a series of steps to restore the Katchatheevu, taking as a precedent on Sri Lanka's 99-year lease of the Hambantota port on loan to China, already in the grip of China.
- As seen in the Government's separate resolution passed in the Legislative Assembly on 09.06.2011, and the request made to the Prime Minister on 16.09.2004 when he met the Prime Minister on the basis of permanent lease and to continue the traditional fishing rights of the fishermen of Tamil Nadu who went to Katchatheevu area and to restore the experiential right of Katchatheevu, the central government should acquire Katchatheevu on the basis of long term lease

To do

- Firstly, the case filed by the Jayalalithaa government in the Supreme Court, which is currently pending, should speed up the legal process to get a favorable verdict for us.
- Next, as the time to find such a solution may be delayed, efforts by the Department of Foreign Affairs to obtain a long-term lease of the island from the Sri Lankan government as an interim administrative arrangement should be expedited.

Indo-China border issue

China's strategy

- China's strategy has been to occupy the borders through diversionary tactics and launch psychological covert warfare against India by attacking at unexpected times.
- China's unwillingness to follow through on any of the 1993 peace accords, 1996 mutual trust efforts, and 2005 and 2013 agreements is the main reason for the continued conflict.
- It is India's firm conclusion that only if all those agreements are followed as agreed upon, smooth relations between the two countries can be restored

Border issue

- It has been China's ploy to arbitrarily cross the border control line and make changes in it. Forces have been withdrawn from five conflict zones
 - Galwan area where the June 15, 2020 attack took place
 - South shore of Pangong Lake in February 2021
 - 17th observatory in Kohgra hot spring area in August 2021
- The troop withdrawal resulted from 18 rounds of talks between the military commanders of the two countries at the 15th Monitoring Center adopted in September 2022.
- Except for the withdrawal of troops, there was neither a de-escalation of tensions nor a complete stabilization of the situation
- China's continued expansion of infrastructure in the border control area undermines confidence that the border issue will be resolved smoothly.

Negotiation

- So far more than 30 rounds of talks have been held between the two countries
- Special representatives, Foreign Ministers and Finance Ministers of the two countries discussed the border issue
- However, no decision was reached. There is now a situation where China, the second largest economy in the world, and India, the fifth largest economy in the world, do not even allow the journalists of the other on their soil.
- Even after 18 rounds of talks, China is not ready to withdraw from the Depsang Plain and Demchok areas where Indian troops regularly patrolled the LoC.
- It is trying to acquire these occupied areas through a peace treaty
- China's condition is that India should cede the two areas as part of an interim agreement on the border issue

G20 conference

- It is funny that Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang and Defense Minister Li Shangfu both announced that there is peace at the border where thousands of bilateral soldiers are gathering while attending the G-20 Summit and the Shanghai Cooperation Summit.
- Both said that China will make every effort to improve India-China relations, work together in international organizations and make progress in talks.
- China's Defense Minister Li Shangfu, who says both sides should approach the border issue with vision and prioritize bilateral relations, is implicitly saying that India should accept China's occupation
- Fortunately, the development of road infrastructure in the border areas shows that India is not caught in China's trap
- It is not unknown to China that India is keeping ready road infrastructure, warheads with modern technologies and additional troops along the Line of Control.

Concrete road

- A four kilometer long concrete road is being constructed in Saser la valley at an altitude of 17800 feet in the Karakoram range of eastern Ladakh.
- The 56-km road connecting Sasoma, Saser la, Murgo will facilitate easy movement of troops to the Chinese-held Indian areas of Depsang Plain and Demchok. This is a sign that we are ready

Government Staff Selection Commission

- Articles 315 to 323 of the Constitution of India provide a detailed explanation for selection of central and state government employees
- The Government Staff Selection Commission was formed to act independently like the Judicial Department and the Election Commission to select talented people as government employees.

Through employment registration

- Generally, government employees are selected through a merit-based recruitment through an examination conducted
- For some normal posts, candidates registered with the District Employment Department may be selected on the basis of seniority

Work for Successor

- Exceptions are employment to the heir of an employee who dies while in service and employment to a family member due to unavoidable reasons for sympathetic or political reasons. This is the method of selection of government employees

Temporary employees

- Rule 10 of the Tamil Nadu State and Subordinate Service Rules, 1955 provides for selection of temporary staff for urgent reasons and immediate requirements.
- According to this rule, in case of unavoidable emergency i.e. when there is no suitable person in the waiting list selected by the Tamil Nadu Government Recruitment Commission for a post requiring specific qualifications or when the candidate is not selected by the Tamil Nadu Government Recruitment Commission, temporary staff may be appointed.
- Such temporary appointees cannot remain in office for more than one year. It should not be treated as a probationary period for these temporary employees
- The rules make it clear that this tenure does not give them any vested priority.

Rule 10(1)

- Rule 10(1)A describes the posts that are allowed to be selected outside the Tamil Nadu Government Service Commission
- For such posts, employees should be selected on the basis of merit from the waiting list by the state and district employment department
- If such employees are not available, the rule describes that employees should be selected by advertisement in the media.

Drugs, Medical Devices and Cosmetics Bill, 2022

- Seeks to replace Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

Objectives

- To make medical products safe and ensure that they are within standards.
- To merge laws in India relating to import, manufacture, distribution and sale of drugs, medical devices and cosmetics.
- To ensure clinical trial of new drugs and clinical investigation of investigational medical devices are done in a safe manner. To ensure quality drugs, cosmetics and medical devices sold in India.
- To adapt to changes in medical technology.
- To give a boost to domestic manufacturing of medical devices and attract FDI in the healthcare sector.

Important provisions

Online Pharmacies

- Online pharmacies should get license.
- Section 83(2)(l) - Central government to make rules and regulation regarding online pharmacies.

Medical devices

- Medical Devices Technical Advisory Board
 - Officials from Government Departments + Industry experts.
 - To advise the government on technical matters related to medical devices. Manufacture, import, or distribution of medical devices that are substandard are prohibited.
- Central Licensing Authority.
 - To provide permission for clinical investigation of medical devices on human participants and clinical trials of drugs in humans.
 - Can remove the need for clinical investigation and clinical trials in times of emergency Establishment of State drugs laboratories and State medical devices testing centers.

- Compensation and medical treatment for people who had died and injured during clinical investigation.

AYUSH Products

- The new bill will regulate Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa, Homeopathy, and Traditional Medicines as Ayush Products.
- Ayurveda, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, Unani, and Homeopathy Drugs, Medical Devices, and Cosmetics Consultative Committee - To ensure uniformity.
- Scientific Research Board - To aid in the scientific advances used for developing innovative drugs from AYUSH Products.

Penalty

- Imprisonment - 1-10 years which may extend to life imprisonment.
- Fine - up to Rs. 15 lakhs.
- Penalty provisions for clinical trials and clinical investigation without permission.
- Penalty provisions for failure to provide compensation for injury or death related to clinical trials.
- Police to aid Drugs Control Officer in investigation process and to prevent the escape of suspected offenders.

India-Sri Lanka Treaty and Relations

News

- Indian Prime Minister Modi urged the Sri Lankan President to 'establish equality and justice in the areas where Sri Lankan Tamils live'.

Economic partnership

- Having agreed on the vision of economic partnership, sea, air and energy connectivity between the people of the two countries should be strengthened.
- We should also increase mutual cooperation in tourism, electricity, trade, higher education and skill development
- During the meeting, the two leaders agreed to initiate talks on economic and technical cooperation
- This is expected to create new opportunities between the two countries
- It has been agreed during these talks to improve air service between India and Sri Lanka
- It has also been decided to start a ferry service between Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu and Kankesanthurai in Sri Lanka

UPI transaction

- An agreement to use India's UPI transaction system in Sri Lanka for financial services transactions was signed yesterday during bilateral talks
- India has decided to speed up infrastructure for electricity connectivity between Sri Lanka and to explore the feasibility of a petroleum pipeline.

Fishermen's problem

- During the bilateral talks, it was agreed that the two countries should take a humanitarian approach to the problems related to the livelihood of fishermen.

13th Amendment

- During his meeting with the Sri Lankan President, Prime Minister Modi insisted that the Sri Lankan government should fulfill its commitment to implement the 13th Amendment and hold provincial council elections in Sri Lanka.
- Through this, Sri Lanka should ensure that the Tamil community lives with respect and dignity

- Also, the Prime Minister asked Sri Lanka to take steps to establish equality and justice in the Tamil areas and take reconstruction measures for peace.

75 crore project

- On the occasion of 200 years of settlement of the Tamil community of Indian origin in Sri Lanka, Prime Minister Modi proudly announced that various projects worth 75 crores will be implemented for the Tamil citizens of Sri Lanka.
- India will provide necessary contribution to the development projects of northern and eastern regions of Sri Lanka.
- Prime Minister Modi said that Sri Lanka, a sustainable and secure resource, is good not only for India but also for the entire Indian Ocean region.

Collaboration with conflict

India's tact

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit held in the first week of this month was an example of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs' prowess. The conference did not generate much fanfare as all the leaders attended via video instead of in person
- External Affairs Minister Jaishankar should be commended for facing the conference successfully

Shanghai Conference

- The 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organization Conference was held via video conferencing
- Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif participated in the conference led by India this time.

Impact on India-US relations

- If Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko, who are anti-American and anti-Western, were present, India's recent rapprochement with the US and Europe might have been affected.
- Especially, the conference which will be held immediately after Prime Minister Modi's visit to America may cast doubt on India's credibility

Dilemmas

- Even India has some dilemmas in it. In the absence of balanced relations following the 2020 Galvan conflict, welcoming Chinese President Xi Jinping with emphasis will raise many political questions. Similarly, dealing with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would have been awkward after the 2019 Pulwama attack, when all state contacts had ended.

Origin of SCO

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization was formed in Shanghai on June 15, 2001
- It was joined by China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan
- The organization was created to balance US dominance in Central Asia
- India was granted observer status in the organization in July 2005
- In June 2017, India and Pakistan joined the organization as permanent members
- Since then, India has been one of the most important countries of the organization, along with Russia and China
- Currently, there are many bilateral issues between the Shanghai Cooperation Organization countries
- Needless to say about India-China & India-Pakistan relationship
- Central Asian countries are distrustful of China and Russia. They have become pro-US countries

- Even China and Russia are united in a single point of anti-US but there are various problems between those countries
- Despite these contradictions, the main reason why the Shanghai Cooperation Organization continues is because that friendship is necessary for the development and peace of the Asian continent.

Bilateral problem

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization has a basic restriction on not raising bilateral issues
- Despite that, the views were expressed in a recent video conference
- The Russian president has spoken strongly about the economic sanctions imposed by the United States in connection with the war in Ukraine
- The Chinese President emphasized on the framework plan for the country's road project initiative
- India and Pakistan blame each other for terrorism and attacks on minorities
- But it is noteworthy that the conference report only mentions counter-terrorism and digital exchange.

Leadership of India

- No one can blame India for not paying attention to the leadership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization due to the leadership of the G-20
- 134 events, 15 ministerial level meetings and successful video conferencing is a huge success.
- With all the countries participating in the conference being affected by terrorism, Prime Minister Modi's emphasis on preventing terrorism is the right approach.

Will G20 agree on a joint communique?

- With about 50 days to go until the G20 Summit in New Delhi, Sherpas (senior members of the staff of the heads of state and government) and negotiators at various G20 ministerial meetings and working groups have been unable to issue a single joint communique thus far. Instead, given the stand by Russia and China to oppose the paragraphs on the war in Ukraine contained in the statements that have been issued till now, India has been forced to issue a series of "Chairman's Summary and Outcomes Documents" at the various meetings.
- These include the three meetings of the all-powerful G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, to ones to Tourism, Education, Labour, Crime and Digital Security and even the Space economy.
- Are there still chances of a joint communique or "Leaders Declaration" being issued at the G20 Summit in India in September 9-10?

Why does a joint communique matter?

- Since its inception in 1999, and upgradation to a leader's level summit in 2008, the G20 grouping of the world's biggest economies has always managed to find a consensus within the countries and issue a joint declaration at the end of every summit.
- If that doesn't take place in New Delhi this September, it would be an ignoble first for the grouping, and could even raise questions over whether the G20 is sustainable in its present form.
- After the Russian annexation of Crimea in 2014, G-8 leaders had suspended Russia, changing the grouping to G-7.
- However, the G20 summit in Brisbane, Australia that year managed to issue a joint declaration without mentioning the Crimean conflict, and even managed a "family photo" with all the leaders including Russian President Vladimir Putin.
- In 2022, the Indonesian G20 presidency faced tense moments as the declaration was negotiated until the very last moment of the summit.
- Mr. Putin didn't attend, and no "family photo" was allowed, but it managed to issue a document.

- During its tenure as President, India wishes for the best possible outcome at the G20 summit, and hence its negotiators on the "Sherpa track", who collage the final document, are putting sustained efforts into ensuring a resolution to the logjam over Ukraine.

Why has the current presidency continued with the 'Bali Paragraphs' in its documents?

- Indian officials maintain that a lot of hard work went into the formulation of the "Bali Paragraphs", and therefore that have been imported into India's G20 documents.
- They say the Bali formulation can be divided into three parts - the references to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolutions "deploring" Russia's war in Ukraine, which are from the UN and cannot be modified, Second, the statement that "most members" strongly condemned the war in Ukraine, refers to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) conventions for "qualifiers" where "most" means 62.5% or 12 of the 20 G20 members.
- Third, the use of Prime Minister Modi's Phrase - "This era is not of war" - is universal and doesn't refer to any one country or war.
- Meanwhile the additional line that the G20 is not a forum for security issues, but for economic issues arising from security concerns, like the impact of the Ukraine war on fuel, food and fertilizer prices, is unimpeachable.
- The Indian Sherpa Amitabh Kant has also made it clear that developing countries did not create the Ukraine conflict, nor is the war India's priority at the G20. Instead, India wants to leave the intractable issues for the end, keeping the focus on the induction of the African Union as a member of the G20, development goals, digital public infrastructure, gender-led empowerment, reform of multilateral development banks and other priorities.

Why are Russia and China opposing?

- Russia and China oppose the language on Ukraine, even though it is taken from last year's Bali G20 document that they signed.
- Both the countries have now refused to endorse the "Bali Paragraph[s]" in every G20 meeting under India's presidency, albeit for different reasons.
- Russia says the language at Bali no longer holds true as it does not include increased U.S. and European military support to Ukraine, or the increased sanctions against Russia that followed.
- China has said that it doesn't believe the G20, essentially an economic forum, should discuss "geopolitical issues" as it hasn't in the past two decades, indicating the Bali statement was an exception.
- An added problem could be the footnote by South Africa in the latest meeting of G20 Labour Ministers in Indore which ended on Friday, the insists that "Sherpas have not concluded discussions" on the "Bali Paragraph[s]", indicating that unless this is resolved soon, the issues over Ukraine may see more pushback from other countries to India's hopes for a consensus.
- On the bright side, Russia, in the last two meetings, appears to have accepted the second, more generic paragraph from Bali that speaks about the problems of conflicts generally, indicating some progress.

What are the chances of a joint communique now?

- With a number of ministerials including the 3rd Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting done, the Sherpa track will kickstart the draft "Delhi Declaration" negotiations from August 1, and try to nail all the areas of differences including U.S. China tussles over debt sustainability, privacy issues over digital public infrastructure and so forth, and chip away at the most significant differences over the Ukraine war.
- Officials say, given the political nature of the Ukraine issue, as well as developments in the war on the ground changing the situation, there may be little point in finalising something that could get dated.
- As a result, until an alternative acceptable language is not hammered out, they have left a "placeholder" reference to "geopolitical issues" in the final G20 Leaders Declaration document being prepared, while they finalise the rest of the document on other issues.
- In addition, Indian negotiators have been taking suggestions from other countries including its two other "troika" colleagues : Indonesia, which hosted the G20 in 2024.

- A draft circulated by Brazil in June that suggested acknowledging the Bali consensus and “moving on” from the Ukraine conflict was rejected, as was a longer Russian alternative draft.
- Much will now depend on the heavy lifting by leaders including Prime Minister Modi.
- And all eyes will be on whether Mr. Modi undertakes travel to Russia and Ukraine as Indonesian President Jokowi did last year, or if he is able to make progress at the BRICS Summit at the end of August in Capetown, given Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa are all members of the G20, not to mention, the last minute diplomacy he may have to exert closer to the G20 Summit itself.

Deputy Chief Minister

- Whether or not the post of Deputy Chief Minister is legislated, 12 states currently have Deputy Chief Ministers
- D K Shivakumar in Karnataka
- T. S. Singh Deo in Chhattisgarh
- Tejashwi Prasad Yadav in Bihar
- Dushyant Singh Chautala in Haryana
- Keshav Prasad Maurya & Brajesh Pathak in Uttar Pradesh
- Mukesh Agnihotri in Himachal Pradesh
- Devendra Fadnavis & Ajit Pawar in Maharashtra
- 4 states in North East have Deputy Chief Ministers
- Andhra Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has 5 Deputy Chief Ministers

The post of Deputy Chief Minister

- Actually the appointment of Deputy Chief Minister is a kind of political compromise
- The post of deputy chief minister is a concession given in exchange for the support of coalition parties when there is a coalition government or in the absence of a leader with a large electoral victory
- The post of deputy chief minister is given to a leader of the coalition party or the ruling party to quell dissenting voices

What the law says?

- According to Article 163(1) of the Constitution there shall be a Cabinet headed by the Chief Minister to assist and advise the Governor in the exercise of his functions.
- Section 163 or section 164 (other provisions relating to Ministers), sub-section (1) thereof provides that the Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor. It only says that other ministers will be appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister
- But this provision does not say anything about the post of Deputy Chief Minister
- Practically a Deputy Chief Minister is considered equivalent to a Cabinet Minister in the state
- The Deputy Chief Minister enjoys the same salary and perks as a Cabinet Minister

History of the post of Deputy Chief Minister

- Anugrah Narayan Sinha, the first deputy chief minister in India and an upper caste Rajput leader, was one of the most prominent Congress leaders in Bihar after the state's first chief minister, Dr Krishna Singh (Sinha).
- Bihar - Anugrah Narayan Sinha was the Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar until his death in 1957.
- Tamil Nadu - Current Chief Minister MK Stalin became the first Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 29 May 2009 when his father and DMK leader Karunanithi took over as Chief Minister. At that time he was the Minister of Local Government

Deputy PM

- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was next to the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Nehru and Patel were then the highest Congress leaders. They were also seen as representing two different schools of thought within the party
- Morarji Desai, Saransingh, Devilal and LK Advani were held the office of Deputy Prime Ministers

Judgement

- In 1989, a court case was filed against Devilal's appointment as Deputy Prime Minister in VP Singh's government.
- In the case of KM Sharma vs Devi Lal (1990), the Supreme Court upheld the appointment of Devi Lal
- In view of the clear statement of the learned Attorney General that respondent No. 1 (Lal) was only a Minister like other members of the Cabinet, the Court clarified that making him Deputy Prime Minister did not confer any powers of the Prime Minister on him.
- Although there are no clear provisions in the constitution regarding the position of deputy chief minister in general, political circumstances dictate the need for a deputy chief minister
- We Indians follow Westminster Parliamentary Democracy
- So although there are no clear provisions in the constitution regarding the post of Deputy Chief Minister, political circumstances determine the need for Deputy Chief Minister and Deputy Prime Minister. In that respect the law of our country is similar to the British model
- The practice of appointing a 'deputy' has been in practice since Nehru Patel's time
- But Deputy Prime Minister or Deputy Chief Minister, whatever, is not a co-ordinate authority, it is like an honorary title.

Acceptance of resolution of no confidence

- Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi moved a no-confidence motion in the Lok Sabha under Rule 198 of the Lok Sabha Rules of Procedure.
- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla read the statement on the resolution. By law, a no-confidence motion requires the support of at least 50 MPs

No-confidence motion that only met with failure

- This is the 28th time that a no-confidence motion has been moved in the Lok Sabha against the ruling government
- No-confidence motions filed against the ruling government at various times in the past have all ended in failure
- Morarji Desai resigned from his post before the resolution filed against his government could be debated.

Failure of Resolution that demands trust

- While no-confidence motions filed by opposition parties against ruling governments have failed, confidence motions filed by the ruling government have also had a history of failure.

VP Singh Govt

- In November 1990, the government led by Prime Minister VP Singh moved a motion of confidence in the Lok Sabha
- As the BJP withdrew its support to the government on the Ram temple issue, the resolution failed and the government fell

H. D. Deve Gowda Govt

- Only 158 MPs voted in favor of the confidence motion moved by Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda's government in April 1997

- As 292 MPs voted against, the resolution failed and the government fell

Vajpayee Govt

- Atal Bihari Vajpayee formed the government in 1998 and moved a confidence motion in April 1999 after 13 months in power.
- The resolution failed by a margin of one vote as the AIADMK withdrew its support to the government. Vajpayee lost the post of Prime Minister

Power sharing

Introduction

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who recently arrived in India, to fully implement the 13th Amendment Act, which provides for a political solution to the long-standing demands of Tamils by devolving power to provinces in Sri Lanka.

13th Amendment

- The 13th Amendment was passed in the Sri Lankan Parliament as part of the 1987 peace accord signed between Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President Jayewardene in an attempt to resolve the ethnic conflict between Tamils and Sinhalese in Sri Lanka.
- The 13th Amendment is now 36 years old and is raised every time the rulers of India and Sri Lanka meet
- The 13th Amendment provides for the creation of a provincial council procedure
- The legislative amendment has promised to devolve power to all nine provinces of the country, including the Sinhala majority areas, under this council
- If the amendment is fully implemented, all nine provinces will have autonomy over land, police, education, health, agriculture, housing and finance.

Autonomous authority

- Since Sri Lanka's independence from the British in 1948, Tamils have been demanding political autonomy for the North Eastern Provinces.
- But none of the Sri Lankan rulers came forward to give power sharing to the provinces as all the power is concentrated in the central government of Sri Lanka
- Arguing that the 13th Amendment will destroy the unitary nature of Sri Lanka, they insist that the amendment should be repealed.
- They also see the 1987 agreement as an intervention by the Indian government on Sri Lanka

End of the war

- When the 13th Amendment was passed in Parliament in 1987, the conflict between the Sri Lankan Army and the LTTE was at its peak
- Sri Lanka's civil war ended in 2009 following the defeat of the LTTE in the Battle of Mullivaikal.
- The Sri Lankan rulers have consistently argued that the creation of a separate Tamil Eelam would harm Sri Lanka's unity and hinder development.
- But after the LTTE movement and millions of Tamils were destroyed in the war, the current state of Sri Lanka does not need to be told.
- A long-term solution to the problems between the ethnic communities is necessary to create a united Sri Lanka
- For that, India has been continuously saying that devolution of power to Tamil areas is necessary. Inclusive development will save Sri Lanka from the current crisis.

04

Science & Technology

Twitter vs Threads

- The growth Twitter has seen since its inception in 2006 till date has been phenomenal
- Threads has emerged as a major competitor to Twitter, which until now enjoyed a near-monopoly
- So far many alternatives to Twitter have been created like Bluesky, Spoutible, Post
- But the Threads app introduced by Meta company has emerged as a big threat to Twitter

Growth of Twitter

- Twitter was founded in July 2006 by Jack Dorsey, Noah Glass, Biz Stone, and Evan Williams.
- Launched at a time when technology was developing rapidly, Twitter's growth was also rapid
- International political leaders, sportspersons and celebrities joined Twitter, which paved the way for posting comments briefly
- The public was also quick to engage themselves on Twitter
- This provided great benefits to both parties. Twitter became a platform for leaders to quickly express their views. It helped make them more popular
- At the same time, Twitter became a platform for users to quickly find out about international events

Twitter helps at risk

- Twitter has emerged not only as a platform for sharing ideas but also as a simple platform for solving various crises and problems
- Twitter also paved the way for taking specific issues directly to ministers and departmental officials
- By that the problems were solved quickly
- Twitter has been of great help in cases of regulatory violations, sudden problems, and times of disaster
- Forecasts of disasters such as floods, avalanches, storms, earthquakes, heat waves, coordination of rescue operations, and relief assistance are being carried out with the help of Twitter.

Action by Elon Musk

- SpaceX and Tesla owner Elon Musk bought Twitter last year, bringing together a diverse community
- He announced that he was going to release Twitter after it was accused of imposing various restrictions on freedom of expression
- He also announced that steps will be taken to eliminate fake accounts on Twitter
- After that, he brought various changes one after the other in the social networking site twitter
- Essentially, Elon Musk has introduced a new subscription plan after all these years Twitter has been free for everyone to use
- He also informed that it is mandatory to subscribe to get blue tick authorization for official account
- He also announced new restrictions on viewing posts on Twitter
- Accordingly, users can access only a limited number of posts each day

Introduction by Meta: "Threads"

- Meta, which said it was developing a Twitter-like social network, has launched Threads ahead of schedule.
- All the features found in Twitter are available in the Threads social network
- Different people can easily communicate with each other in that app as well

Twitter in awe

- The arrival of the Threads app has Twitter in a state of confusion and fear
- A letter from attorney Alex Spiro on twitter to Meta founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg bears that out.
- Alex Spiro alleges that Meta hired former Twitter employees and stole trade secrets and intellectual property.
- Twitter has also warned the company that it will file a case in court regarding this issue
- Regarding this issue, Elon Musk said in a twitter post that he can accept competition but not cheating
- But Twitter has denied the company's allegations. Not one of the engineers who designed the Threads app is a former Twitter employee, a Meta spokesperson said.

What is the cause of fear?

- Meta is the parent company of Instagram Facebook which is already popular among people
- Meta has made it easy for Instagram users to sign up for the Threads app
- Meta has announced that Instagram users can join Threads without changing their username, and all Instagram followers can be followed in the Threads app as well.
- Within 24 hours of the launch of the Threads app, around three crore people have joined it
- Instagram already has more than 200 million users. So the number of people joining Threads is expected to increase
- More people are likely to flock to Threads due to increasing restrictions on Twitter and new features offered by Meta
- Mainly, if Instagram users abandon Twitter and turn to Threads, the company will suffer in a big way

Is Threads safe?

- They point out that Meta itself has said that user data will be used for advertising
- And if one want to exit the Threads app, then he have to exit Instagram as well
- Due to data protection regulations found in EU countries, the Threads app is not launched there
- Meta has announced that the app will soon be launched in those countries as well
- Whether to leave Twitter and join this app depends on the personal choice of the users
- But it looks like the ongoing battle between Twitter and Threads won't end anytime soon

Limits asthma

Lung disease

- In some people, allergies to certain substances or in certain conditions cause inflammation of the lining of the airways in the lungs.
- In some people, the airway becomes compressed due to the tightness of the bronchial muscles
- Due to this, there will be effects like coughing and difficulty in breathing. Asthma is the condition where such effects occur. It is one of the chronic diseases

Factors that increase vulnerability

- Lung infection
- Allergy
- Climate changes like snow, cold, extreme heat
- Stress, anxiety, tension, mental confusion
- Anger, fear, shock, nervousness, Excessive sensitivities
- Family environment
- Work environment

Allergic substances

- air pollution
- Flower Pollens
- Pet dander, fine fur
- Corn, fish, dried fish, eggplant
- Processed meat, eggs, cheese
- Tuber foods
- Peanuts, chickpeas
- Chocolate, walnut
- The substances that cause allergies vary from person to person

Symptoms

- Cough with chest pain
- As cough increases, mucus production also increases
- Difficulty breathing
- Tightness of the chest

Symptoms for children

- In most cases of asthma, children experience difficulty breathing. Lack of oxygen in the body. In the severe stage of the disease, there will be effects such as cyanosis in the body, respiratory failure, irregular heart beat and lung contraction

Maintenance

- If the sufferers of the disease are children, their parents should clearly ask the doctor about the condition of the disease and the ways to avoid it
- It is very important to follow the instructions and recommendations given by the doctor
- If the symptoms of the disease appear, one should see a doctor without delay. Immediate treatment is required to limit the severity of the disease

ISRO decides to hand over SSLV rocket to private sector

- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has decided to fully privatize the SSLV rocket for launching lightweight satellites.

- Rockets are made to launch satellites
- So far ISRO has developed six types of rockets namely SLV-3, ASLV, PSLV, GSLV, LVM-3 and SSLV.
- Out of which SLV-3 and ASLV have already been retired
- Other rockets are successfully operating
- Various satellites have been launched 54 times mainly by PSLV rocket alone
- The SSLV rocket was recently developed by ISRO. That type of rocket was developed to facilitate the launch of satellites weighing less than 500 kg
- SSLV is working to focus on nano and micro satellites weighing between 10 to 100 kg.
- In this case, ISRO has decided to completely hand over the SSLV rocket to the private sector
- ISRO is leading in international space research
- But ISRO has been dominant in the Indian space industry so far
- The central government is taking steps to increase the participation of the private sector in the space sector.

Introducing Lisa, the first virtual newsreader on TV in Artificial Intelligence technology in Odisha

- Odisha private television has introduced a female newsreader built on artificial intelligence technology, named Lisa
- Beyond computers and the internet, artificial intelligence technology is growing all over the world
- ChatGPT is introduced to answer all types of queries on this technology. AI robot lawyers have even been introduced to argue cases in US courts
- Also, research is being done to solve problems using AI technology in all fields
- Odisha's private television OTV has introduced a virtual female newsreader for the first time in the country.
- Virtual Girl News Reader has surprised everyone. She is named Lisa
- OTV operates as a regional free-to-air channel
- Lisa is the first female virtual newsreader on television. Once upon a time the computer was a thing of wonder
- Since then the times have changed and now the internet is dominant. People spend a lot of time on the Internet
- Considering such changes, OTV channel has introduced Lisa, a female virtual newsreader for the first time
- Introduction of Lisa is a new experience for us, even google doesn't translate Odia language to English, our team tried hard to bring Lisa, even though Lisa can't speak Odia fluently like you, they mentioned that she can speak better than Google.

Chandrayaan-3

- Chandrayaan-3 was designed by scientists at the Indian Space Research Organization after learning from the failure of the Chandrayaan-2 mission launched in 2019 and refining it.

Major changes

1. There is no orbiter this time as there was in Chandrayaan-2. This system is planned to use the orbiter cell for telecommunications
2. For the last few minutes the lander will fall to the lunar floor like a falling stone. The orbiter's legs are designed to withstand a fall of about three meters per second

3. Even though it looks like a flat surface, the surface of the moon is covered with small craters and rocks. Chandrayaan-3 orbiter cell is designed to stand up even on a slope of 120° due to height adjustable legs.
4. The camera is between the legs of the ground landing orbiter. This camera gives pictures every moment of landing. Also, based on how fast the orbiter is approaching the specific terrain through these images, the spacecraft can predict the speed of the cell through artificial intelligence. Also, this camera will help you choose a safe place to land by avoiding the rocks and pits that can be seen below.
5. It is equipped with a new "laser doppler velocity" instrument to predict the speed, precise distance and direction of the target when the spacecraft lands on the moon.
6. Chandrayaan 2 had 4 launch engines near the 4 legs and one in the middle for a total of 5 launch engines. A panel of experts investigating the failure of Chandrayaan 2 said that the fifth engine could cause problems. So the central engine has been removed in Chandrayaan 3
7. During landing the four engines must be operated at various rates to obtain the required directional speed. Last time the engines could only be operated at 40, 60, 80, 100 percent power differentials. Now it has been improved and modified to work on subtle differences in percentage power of 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 & 100.
8. Human intervention is not possible during the landing process, which required about 15 minutes on Chandrayaan 3. It should run on a fully artificial intelligence automatic engine. The commands for this automation have been further improvised
9. Various instruments are equipped to monitor the hazards on the moon and accurately predict the suitable landing site. These sensors indicate how fast the orbiter is moving, in which direction it needs to go to reach the target, how far the ground surface is, and where in the ground there are hazards such as potholes, craters, ridges, and rocks. Only if the spacecraft's sensors gather information at a rate of several times per second can the automated orbiter be able to act carefully every moment and land safely. It is now enhanced to collect data at a faster rate than before
10. Solar panels are mounted on the lander to provide sunlight at any angle to the moon. Also, multi-directional antennas are also installed to facilitate communication with the Earth in any direction

Chandrayaan -3

- The Indian Space Research Organization, which is making the world look back on space exploration, is about to launch the Chandrayaan-3 lunar probe.
- 4 types
 1. Orbiter program that orbits a spacecraft like a satellite around a planet
 2. A 'crash cell' project to crash into a planet
 3. An activated landing cell scheme allows the aircraft to land smoothly without breaking or crashing
 4. A rover to land on the ground and operate a robotic car-like instrument on it to explore the planet's surface
- Chandrayaan 1, a lunar orbiter project, was successful in 2008
- Chandrayaan-2, launched in 2019, attempted to send the orbiter, lander and rover together to the moon.
- Its orbiter was successfully orbiting the moon
- But the attempt to land failed at the last second. The Chandran-2 mission was to launch a soft-landing probe from space and send a rover to explore the lunar surface.

How is it being sent?

- ISRO's brand new rocket LVM 3 will launch Chandrayaan-3.

- The rocket that reaches space will reach an altitude of about 180 km in 15 minutes of launch
- At that moment it will accelerate at a speed of 37080 kilometers per hour
- The station will be stationed on a circular route of about $17 \times 36,500$ km
- It has two main parts namely landing cell and propulsion cell
- After the spacecraft's instruments have been checked, the rocket in the propulsion cell will fire and provide additional thrust as the spacecraft approaches Earth.
- A spaceship with thrust will go higher. Just as a swing gets more and more life if it is pushed on the way down, so each time it comes closer to Earth, the propellant rocket goes an extra distance.
- After about 20 days, 384000 km will be covered
- At that point the Earth's gravity and the Moon's gravity are equal. Once that point is reached, if the rocket is fired again, the spacecraft will slip out of the Earth's grip and into the Moon's grip.
- After that, the spacecraft will begin its lunar tour. After about 40 days, it will orbit the moon in a hypercircular path of about 100 km
- The spacecraft will then decelerate and slowly land on the moon

When will it reach?

- US Apollo spacecraft reached the moon in just three days, Chinese spacecraft in just five days, Chandrayaan will reach the moon in 40-45 days.
- Chandrayaan-3 will be launched on July 14 by LVM 3 rocket and will land on the moon only on August 23.

Where will it land?

- Chandrayaan 3 will land at 68-70°S & 31-33°E between Manzinus and Boguslawsky craters on the South Pole of the Moon.
- There are many craters on the south pole of the moon that are not exposed to the sun's light. Here the water brought by the comet is frozen into ice
- If human settlement is established in this area in the future, oxygen can be separated from the water and used for breathing
- Hydrogen can be used as fuel. That is why many nations are invading the south pole of the moon
- Russia's Luna-25 spacecraft is also scheduled to land in the same area in the next few months

What will it do?

- A lander that lands on the moon opens a door. The door tilts downwards and protrudes like a tongue
- A moon that revolves around itself once in about 30 days has about 15 days of day followed by 15 days of night.
- The lander and rover will operate for 15 days as the spacecraft will run solely on solar energy.
- There are tools to measure the thermal conductivity of the lunar surface, instruments to measure earthquakes, and instruments to detect plasma objects that form near the surface of the moon.
- NASA's Reflector is also equipped. It reflects and deflects laser light sent from Earth. The distance between the Moon and the Earth is measured by the time it takes for the laser light to travel back and forth
- Rover has two instruments. The first will send a laser beam to melt the sand on the moon's surface and study the steam that emanates from it
- A second instrument will study the sputtering of alpha particles after they hit the lunar surface and trace mineral elements such as sodium, magnesium, aluminum, silicon, potassium, titanium, and iron in the lunar surface.

Why travel to the moon?

1. One of the main objectives of the project is to observe the changes in the solar wind impacting the lunar surface
2. Also, meteorites that are rich in rare elements such as cerium and yttrium, which are rare on earth, have hit the moon. The aim of this project is to investigate these elements which are likely to be readily available on the surface of the Moon
3. Energy can be produced by nuclear fusion using the mineral helium 3. Just two tonnes of helium-3 is enough annually to meet India's energy needs. So with today's emerging robotic technology, such as 3D printing, scientists believe it may soon be possible to mine the moon.
4. In 1967, the West and the then Soviet Union reached an international agreement declaring all space objects as the common property of mankind due to competition in space programs. This Act stated that no one can claim ownership of space. Efforts are being made to reform this international law in the current environment where the lucrative space business is becoming possible

Why in July?

- Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft was launched on July 22, 2019. The main reason for sending now is that in July the Earth will be near to the Moon
- After the rocket is launched, the propulsion cell separates from the rocket at about the 16th minute
- It will circle the earth 56 times. It will orbit at a minimum distance of 170 km and a maximum distance of 36,500 km from Earth
- The speed gained through this will help to reach the moon
- After separation from the rocket, the propulsion field with rover lander equipment will travel towards the moon.
- The lander will separate after reaching a distance of 100 km from the moon
- The South Pole of the Moon is larger in area than the North Pole. And it's always dark because it's on the opposite side of Earth. That is why the South Pole landing is planned
- The rover will only be operational for one lunar day after landing on the moon
- A lunar day is equal to 14 days on Earth. After that it will expire. It will gather the information we need within it

Chandrayaan-1

- It was launched on October 22, 2008. The project costing a total of 386 crores was designed to land on the lunar surface
- Launched by PSLV C 11 rocket
- Chandrayaan-1 detected the presence of water on the moon and elements including aluminium, magnesium and silicon.

Chandrayaan-2

- Launched on 22 July 2019 by GSLV Mark 3 rocket
- The spacecraft, designed at a cost of 604 crores and weighing a total of 3850 kg, included an orbiter to orbit the moon, a lander and a rover to land on the moon.
- Instead of landing slowly, the lander lost contact as it descended rapidly
- Meanwhile, over the last four years, the orbiter has circled the moon more than ten thousand times and carried out various surveys.
- Through it, it has been confirmed that there is a gas molecule called argon in the moon

Unique features of Chandrayaan-3?

Alternate to orbiter

- The Chandrayaan spacecraft will carry a propulsion module to carry a lander and a rover.
- The lander and the rover will be released to the moon to a distance of 100 km and an altitude of 30 km.
- After that, the instrument on the thruster will conduct a preliminary survey to see if there are habitable planets.
- Last time a probe orbiter was sent around the moon without a propellant

Lander legs

- This time ISRO has designed the legs of the lander very solidly and confirmed it through various tests

Telescope

- The lander has telescope instruments attached to its legs to help it land on the ground

Modern camera technology

- This time the lander is equipped with state-of-the-art camera sensors with artificial intelligence techniques
- A new structure has been implemented so that the images taken through it are immediately available to the ISRO control center

Speedometer

- The project uses a laser Doppler velocity sensor technique to calculate the lander's landing speed, similar to the method used to measure the speed of cars.

Change in engine

- Last time the lander was equipped with 5 engines
- They had an engine built into them to kick off the dust created by the lander landing on the powdery lunar surface
- Considering that there may be some adverse effects, this time the engine is removed and the lander travels with four engines.

Guidelines

- 7 types of sensors and camera techniques in the lander are used to guide the soft landing. In this way, the setback that happened last time can be avoided

Landing control

- Some subtle changes have also been made to the speed control ratio of the engines used to land the lander
- Through this the final descent speed will be controlled

Studies and tasks

Lander

- The probes will examine how the Moon's surface conducts heat, whether the Earth's surface causes earthquakes, and the presence of ionic elements.
- Another instrument is the NASA reflective technique
- It reflects and focuses laser beams to help determine precise distances to the moon

Rover

- As for the rover, it will land on the surface of the moon and travel
- It is equipped with two different probes

- By exposing the ground to a laser beam, it melts the sand and analyzes its properties with the steam released
- Another instrument uses alpha rays to drill ten centimeters into the ground surface and detect minerals including aluminum and silicon.

Propulsion module

- If the lander and rover land on the Moon, the Propulsion Module carrying them will orbit the Moon for exploration.
- The module contains an inspection tool called SHAPE. It detects the living environment by detecting spectral rays called spectropolarimetry
- That is, with the reflection of those rays, we can find out whether carbon, hydrogen, oxygen are there and know whether organisms are fit to live there.
- In the future, such a study can be conducted on other planets to find out whether there is a habitable environment there

Why explore the South Pole?

- The south pole of the moon is the part where the sun does not shine. Because of that there will be cold and freezing conditions. The South Pole, the region of occurrence, is rich in hydrogen, water, and ice
- Apart from that, minerals like helium are also likely to be abundant
- By studying these elements, scientists believe that the origin of the solar system can be calculated
- Because of that, countries of the world are interested in landing on the south pole of the moon

Sling shot

- Landing on the Moon can only be achieved by orbiting the Earth continuously and then entering and orbiting the Moon continuously
- The technique of moving away from the Earth's orbit to the Moon's orbit is called a slinging shot in science
- Thus, the LVM rocket completes its mission by taking the Chandrayaan spacecraft 179.1 kilometers from the ground and leaving it in an elliptical orbit of the Earth.
- After that the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft begins to travel in an elliptical orbit with the help of Earth's gravity
- Just as a ball tied to the end of a thread and spun in a long circle gradually increases in speed, so does the speed of a spacecraft

Deathwell Adventure

- As the velocity increases the distance of the elliptical path also increases
- Chandrayaan-3 will reach the limit of the Earth's orbit, just as a motorcycle in an adventure like Death Pit accelerates a motorcycle on an incline and expands its circle to the top.
- Chandrayaan-3 will begin a new mission in the Moon's orbit, away from Earth's orbit, at a distance of about 3.84 lakh kilometers, where the Earth's gravity and the Moon's gravity are equal.
- Then the spacecraft will travel in that orbital path with the help of the moon's gravity.
- After reaching a distance of 100 km and an altitude of 30 km, the lander will detach itself from the propulsion module and begin its descent into the moon.
- The rover will leave the lander and explore the lunar landscape
- On the other hand, the lander will come back around the moon from the point where it was launched and probe the propulsion module
- The Chandrayaan-3 project requires the spacecraft to travel from Earth to the Moon in over 40 days.

LVM-3 rocket

- Height : 43.5 m
- Weight : 642 tons
- Fuel : 4 stages
- Solid fuel : 2 motor
- Liquid fuel : 1
- Cryogenic engine : 1

Lander

- Weight : 1749.86 kilo
- Research tools : 4
- Span : 14 days
- Communication : Orbiter, Rover, ISDN
- Energy source : Solar energy

Propulsion module

- Weight : 2145.01 kilo
- Communication : ISDN
- Span : 3-6 months

Rover

- Weight : 26 kilo
- Research tools : 2
- Span : 14 days
- Communication : Lander
- Energy source : Solar energy

Rafale-M jets

Central Govt approval

- Center approves purchase of 26 Rafale-M fighter jets from France's Dassault Aviation for Indian Navy

Scorpene-class submarines

- The Indian Navy has also approved the procurement of 3 more Scorpène-class submarines
- All of them will be built in India. The works will be handed over to Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders

Rafale-M jets to boost naval strength

- The Indian Navy is set to purchase 26 Rafale-M fighter jets from France's Dassault Aviation
- The Rafale fighter jet was designed for ground operations. Meanwhile, the Rafale-M fighter jet was designed to be used by warships in maritime areas.

Design

- Rafale-M fighter jets are equipped to take off from aircraft carriers at sea
- Taking off from and landing on warships will have a shorter range
- Rafale-M fighter jets are designed accordingly

- Also due to the need to remain at sea, the Rafale-M fighter jets are equipped with facilities to protect against salt air, landing gear and strong wings.

Small wings

- Warships do not have extensive accommodation. Effective use of limited space is essential
- To solve that problem, the wings of the Rafale-M fighters were designed to be smaller

Small and lightweight

- Compared to Rafale fighter jets, the operational capability is limited to short range
- Rafale-M fighter jets can also be refueled in flight
- Through this, the fighter jets can be kept operational for a long time

Special sensors

- It is also equipped with modern radar equipment to detect enemy ships and submarines
- The telecommunication equipment also works based on modern technology

Training and individual skills

- Rafale fighter jets are fully sea-based. Landing the Rafale-M fighter jets on surface-to-sea warships requires special skills
- Therefore, separate training should be done for that

Rust inhibitor

- It gets affected by the salty air of the sea and starts rusting easily
- Special coatings are applied to the Rafale-M fighter jet to prevent it
- The Indian Air Force has been using Sukhoi fighter jets purchased from Russia for many years.

Key Differences Between Rafale-M and Super Hornet Fighters

Facilities	Rafale-M	Super Hornet
Wings	Non-foldable	foldable
Length of the wings	35.9 ft	44.8 ft
Number of anti-ship missiles	1	4
Number of seats	1	2
Minimum weight	13,387 kilo	14,552 kilo
Maximum weight	29,900 kilo	29,937 kilo
Speed	2,200 kmph	1960 kmph
Attack distance	1,000 nautical mile	1,275 nautical mile
Maximum height	50,000 ft	50,000 ft
Fuel saving capacity	6668 ltr	7430 ltr

India signs deal with France to build Scorpène-class submarine

- In the Horizon 2047 document, India and France will collaborate on aeronautical technologies and produce fighter jet engines. DRDO and France's Safran are preparing the project for this
- US has agreed to 80 percent technology transfer for production of GE-414 aircraft engine with 98 kg Newton power.
- France has offered 100% technology transfer in the production of powerful combat engines
- Through this, the 110 kg Newton fighter engine will be produced in collaboration with France's Safran

- It will be used in India's fifth generation fighter jet. Also, in collaboration with France's Safran, heavy lift helicopter engines will be produced.

Threads : Dominating Social media

- Social networking sites are the results of the rapid development of information technology
- Initially there was only Facebook, but now WhatsApp, Twitter and Instagram are lining up. Everyone including politicians post their views on social media
- The information reaches millions within minutes of posting. Twitter is a very popular among them
- Elon Musk, the world's richest man, bought Twitter for Rs 3.60 lakh crore
- He imposed a condition that twitter users could only get exclusive offers if they subscribed immediately after purchase and imposed several restrictions to reduce unnecessary registrations and prevent wastage of data.
- Not only did he cancel the celebrity endorsement blue tick, but he charged a fee to reinstate it, which earned him the displeasure of users. Twitter's business rival is Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram
- Mark Elliot Zuckerberg, the owner of these companies, and Elon Musk have been rivals for a long time
- Mark Elliot Zuckerberg recently launched Threads, a social networking app to compete with Twitter through his Facebook parent company Meta.
- More than three crore people joined soon after launch
- In Tamil Nadu, MP Kanimozhi and Tamil Nadu BJP leader Annamalai joined themselves soon. The Threads app allows you to post more characters than Twitter, i.e. 500 characters
- Apart from this, images and videos of up to five minutes can be uploaded
- Like twitter, like, comment, repost and share services are also available in this app.
- Since the owner of Threads is the owner of instagram, it can be started from with an instagram account
- This app, which has been launched all over the world, is yet to be launched in the 27-nation European Union
- Meta announced that the Threads app will serve as a platform for public conversations
- At the same time, Meta has been sued alleging illegal use of Twitter's trade secrets and other intellectual property.
- There have been criticisms that Threads is a carbon copy of twitter and that it is a twitter killer.
- Seeing the speed of threads, twitter has removed its character limit. But, will this hamper the development of Threads? It is doubtful. At the same time, there is some confusion regarding personal data protection in this new app
- If a majority of Instagram's 203.5 million users start a thread account, its social media empire will surely explode. But will it succeed Twitter? Will be seen in future

Artificial Intelligence : Boon and curse

Artificial Intelligence

- John McCarthy first coined the term artificial intelligence in 1956
- Artificial intelligence is the intelligence of machines. A branch of computer science that aims to create such intelligent machines
- An artificial intelligence tool is a system that perceives its situation and takes action accordingly to increase chances of success. That means machines that make situational decisions just like humans

Environmental damage

- Scientific discoveries have brought many benefits to the world. While the idea that life has become easier is put on the one hand, it is also said to bring many harms, from environmental degradation to psychological health problems.

Department of Medicine

- This technology shows very accurate results in diagnostic tests in the medical field
- Thus artificial intelligence technology plays an important role in life saving services. It is also necessary to provide accurate and sophisticated services during surgery
- The medical world is celebrating the promise of artificial intelligence to treat only the diseased areas, minimizing the after effects of radiation surgeries for deadly diseases like cancer.
- There is no denying the immense potential of artificial intelligence in fields such as helping rheumatoid arthritis sufferers function and finding immunotherapy drugs.
- We can expand its uses not only to the medical field but also to agriculture, construction and engineering fields
- This insight could be of great use in expanding the possibility of success in high-cost research such as space exploration.

Shortcomings

- Science tells us that there are as many disadvantages as much as there are benefits. Last March, experts including Tesla CEO Elon Musk issued an open letter calling for an immediate halt to the development of next-generation artificial intelligence technology.
- The letter warned that artificially created minds would eventually become more capable than humans and proliferate in large numbers to the point of destroying the human race.
- OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, Google DeepMind CEO Demis Hassabis and experts in the field have warned that artificial intelligence could lead to the extinction of the human race.
- Many software and electronic devices developed using artificial intelligence can be used as major weapons by anti-social gangs and governments of some countries. Misinformation created with the help of artificial intelligence can disrupt society and have negative impacts
- The human mind can go on and on about something. Its functions are overwhelming. For such a mind to be enslaved by a tool is tantamount to man handing himself over to a machine of his own making

Artificial Intelligence : Boon and curse

- While artificial intelligence has begun to make its mark in various fields, on the one hand, many people are celebrating it with their heads up, but some are warning that it could become a huge headache for the future of humanity.

Point of difference

- It is true that artificial intelligence is proving to be able to perform tasks beyond the reach of human intelligence
- But scientists believe that it is not possible to artificially create the human brain's empathetic intelligence, which uses what it has learned through compassionate experiences, as well as adaptive intelligence to navigate situations.
- This is because artificial intelligence gathers computer programs and data that already exist on websites and integrates them to predict and propose solutions. In that way it differs from the natural thinking process of the human brain

- For example, changes in a person's mood can be predicted based on data inputted into a chat box as symptoms of mental illness.
- Artificial intelligence can detect whether or not a person is suffering from a mental disorder and what kind of mental disorder they are suffering from without their knowledge.
- In particular, data from a person's social media posts can reveal information such as whether they are depressed or suicidal.
- It cannot be denied that artificial intelligence is going to play an important role, from treating an individual based on medical record data to making national policy decisions on healthcare.

High risk

- If humans depend on artificial intelligence for many functions that need to be done using the brain, including intelligence, the brain will shrink like the unused body parts will shrink and will suffer from various neuropsychiatric effects.
- It is possible to generalize the negative effects that artificial intelligence will have on brain neurology and mental health with the effects caused by the use of smart phones that are in the habit today.
- On the one hand it helps in preventing suicide but on the other hand artificial intelligence in the hands of anti-socials can spread fake information and incite an individual to commit suicide by creating a gang mentality (mob attack) and causing massive riots.
- From knowing family members' cell phone numbers, birthdays to knowing directions to the next street, we've come to a point where we can't function without smartphones.
- In schools and psychiatric hospitals, we are clearly seeing the effect of entrusting most of the brain functions to smart phones such as Frontal lobe functions such as speech, reasoning, problem solving, decision making, creativity and Parietal lobe functions such as sense of touch, music, mathematics, finding transportation routes and Temporal lobe functions such as emotional aging and memory.
- However, there is no doubt that artificial intelligence, which is even more intelligent, will turn students into students with learning disabilities and language impairments.
- A team of researchers says that it can make people easily emotional and turn them into unscrupulous, guilt-free anti-socials.

A worrying trend

- The use of artificial intelligence chat boxes like ChatGPT affects students' reading comprehension and writing skills and affects the teacher-student relationship. Many people worry that the rapid development of artificial intelligence technology will lead to job losses for many people
- What has not yet received widespread attention is that artificial intelligence has already begun to create human potential that is not capable of using intelligence
- However, artificial intelligence can serve humans based on the input data.
- In that way, the knowledge of mankind recorded in printed books becomes the proof of it
- We can face the problems of artificial intelligence through printed media with the ability to verify the truth of information and reason.

Standardization is essential

- When Alfred Nobel introduced the explosive dynamite to the world, little did he know that it would spell doom for mankind.

- Geoffrey Hinton, the father of artificial intelligence, realized this early on in his report
- The line between the intrinsic use of smartphones and their misuse is so thin that we are struggling to overcome the dangers from the school to the bedroom. This also applies to artificial intelligence
- It is certain that humanity and human minds will face doom if the use of artificial intelligence is not regulated.
- Artificial intelligence technologists, companies, social activists, writers, mental health experts, academics, and rulers should join forces to bell this tech cat.

Chandrayaan

Chandrayaan-1

- The Indian Space Research Organization's first lunar exploration program ended on 22 October 2008 after communication with the two-year-old Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft was lost on 29 August 2009.

Chandrayaan-2

- Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft was launched from Sriharikota on July 22, 2019 by lvm-3 (GSLV Mark III) rocket to land and probe the South Pole of the Moon.
- It reached lunar orbit in September of the same year
- However, ahead of schedule, its lander failed to land
- Chandrayaan-3 project is designed with new technology at a cost of Rs 615 crore

Chandrayaan-3

- Chandrayaan-3, launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Launch Center in Sriharikota by an LVM-3 rocket, will depart from Earth orbit and enter lunar orbit on August 1 and the lander will be released from the thruster on August 17 after reaching a distance of 100 km from the moon, ISRO said.
- India will become the first country in the world to explore the South Pole of the Moon and become the fourth country after Russia, USA and China to set up a research field on the Moon.
- The lander, rover and probe of this spacecraft will study the thermal conductivity of the moon's surface, the presence of elements such as aluminum and silicon, and the properties suitable for life on the moon.

40 days

- In 1969, America's Apollo 11 spacecraft reached the moon four days after liftoff.
- The spacecraft was propelled by a powerful Saturn V rocket.
- Now there are reasons why Chandrayaan-3 is taking more than 40 days to reach the moon
- The project uses Slingshot technology to orbit the Earth, then enter the Moon's orbit, orbit the Moon, and land on the Moon.
- That's why these long days. This technology was also used when the Mangalyaan spacecraft was sent to Mars in 2014

Moon's South Pole

- There are many differences between exploring other parts of the Moon and exploring the South Pole
- Many parts of the South Pole do not get sunlight. Because of that, the cold and frozen shadow region of the South Pole is filled with hydron, water, and ice
- Apart from that, minerals like Helium-3 are also likely to be abundant. Countries of the world are interested in exploring the south pole of the moon, which is full of surprises

- Like the previous two Chandrayaan projects, Tamil Nadu is personally proud to have a scientist from Tamil Nadu acting as Project Director for this project.
- Pollachi-based Scientist Mylaswamy Annadurai for Chandrayaan-1 and Vanitha Muthiah from Chennai for Chandrayaan-2 were Project Directors.
- ISRO scientist Veeramuthuvel from Villupuram is the director of the Chandrayaan-3 project
- With the successful launch of the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft, India has asserted its importance in the international space arena

National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill, 2023

- Based on the recommendation of National Education Policy 2020.
- The erstwhile Science & Engineering Research Board (SERB) will be repealed & subsumed under NRF.
- Total funding Rs. 50,000 crore (2023 to 2028)
 - Rs 36,000 crore by industrialists and philanthropist.
 - Rs 10,000 crore by central government.
 - Rs 4000 crore by subsuming SERB.

Objectives

- Will provide high-level strategic direction.
- To seed, grow & promote RD in our country.
- To foster a culture of research & innovation in universities, colleges, research institutions, & R&D laboratories.
- Equitable allocation of research funding.
- To increase private funding for R&D.
- To create policy framework to increase collaboration.
- To forge collaborations & participation among industry, academia, state government depts & research institutions.

Organizational structure

- Administration - Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- Governing Board
 - Ex officio President - Prime Minister.
 - Ex officio VP - Minister of S&T & education.
 - Eminent researchers and professionals
- Chairman of executive council - Principal Scientific Adviser.

PSLV-C-56 successfully launched

- The PSLV C-56 rocket was successfully launched with seven satellites from Singapore. The Indian Space Research Organization has been launching foreign satellites commercially
- Accordingly, ISRO's NSIL has entered into an MoU to launch seven satellites including Singapore's DS-SAR.

In 24 minutes

- The PSLV C-56 rocket was launched from the first launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Research Center in Sriharikota.

05

Tamil Society

Thulukkarpatti Excavation

- At the Thulukkarpatti excavation site near Valliyur in Tirunelveli district, a few pottery sherds inscribed with Tamil characters have been found.
- More than a thousand artefacts found in the first phase of excavation here have been sent to the excavation headquarters in Delhi.
- Currently, the second phase of excavation is underway. More than 1100 artifacts have been found so far
- A large number of potsherds with Tamil inscriptions, inscribed potsherds, white decorated potsherds, black and red potsherds have been found.
- Also a pot tile with the Tamil character 'Puli' engraved on it was found recently
- In continuation of this, potsherds inscribed with the Tamil characters z, s«(l),]~B and]Ä have now been found.
- The evidences available now prove that there was a literate Tamil community lived in the banks of Nambiyar about 2000 years ago.

Porpanaikottai Excavation

- Excavations at Porpanaikottai have unearthed gold stud, coral beads made of carnelian stones and bone tip tools used for weaving.
- At Porpanaikottai in Pudukottai district on May 20, within a few days of the commencement of excavation work by the Tamil Nadu Department of Archaeology, a brick structure 19 cm deep was unearthed in pit A1.
- Also, so far 159 artefacts such as round chips-49, nose stud-2, glass bangle-4, glass beads-95, flint-1, spindle whorl-2, coin-1, carnelian bead-1, polishing stones-2 and two Graffiti have beenfound
- Different types of tiles are also excavated like continuously glazed ceramic tiles, black colored tiles, roof tiles, perforated tiles-2

Chain Bead

- Pit H2 yielded a six-petalled gold nose stud or ear stud at a depth of 133cm, pit B1 yielded a bone tip tool at a depth of 140 cm to 145 cm and a circular red carnelian bead at a depth of 150 cm to 160 cm.
- Bone tip tool was used in weaving industry for spinning yarn

- Carnelian stones are available only in North India especially in the state of Gujarat
- Presently the circular beads found here is made of carnelian stones

Nose stud

- Through this we can understand the domestic trade in the early historical period
- The discovery of a six-petalled gold nose stud or ear stud weighing 0.26 grams reveals the importance of Sangam period history and culture.
- In the Porpanaikottai excavation, 8 pits of 5 meters length and width have been set up so far in the 3.11 acre palatial habitat area.

Porunai Civilization is parallel to Indus Valley Civilization

- The people of Indus Valley Civilization did not know the techniques of iron products. But Porunai civilization people have made iron weapons and lived well before 4500 years ago
- Hence it is possible that Porunai Civilization pre-dates the Indus Valley Civilization
- It is also believed that there may have been a contact between the two civilizations
- It is expected that the time will come very soon to prove that what the people of Indus Valley spoke was Tamil
- The Tamils who lived on the shores of Porunai were ancient. Those who advanced in science at that time must have celebrated this discovery
- At this time, the Tamil Nadu government should also be praised for showing interest in archaeology
- This is the time to celebrate not only on the banks of Porunai river but everywhere in Tamil Nadu
- There is evidence coming up continuously for the phrase that Tamils are the earliest of the human race
- This timing is determined by grain type
- The pot containing this grain also contained iron objects. A sword found in Mayiladum Rock was dated to 4,200 years
- The same way, it is not too much if the iron objects found in a pot at Shivalagi on the shores of Porunai are 4500 years old.
- Four thousand five hundred years ago, Tamils made and used iron swords. If so, the important question is how many years ago the Tamils would have had knowledge of iron. To find this, first you need to know where the iron is
- Then the soil should be dug up and the iron should be extracted from it
- The extracted iron should be used to decide what kind of products and weapons to use.

06

Indian Geography

India - Myanmar - Thailand : 70 percent completion of tripartite highway works

- The construction of 1400 km long highway between India, Thailand and Myanmar is going on fast
- 70 percent of the work has already been completed
- This trilateral road can significantly increase land transport connectivity with Southeast Asia
- The trilateral highway will connect Mora in the Indian state of Manipur with Mae Sot in Thailand via Myanmar.

The anatomy of the Yamuna floodplains

Floodplain

- Flat area of land adjacent to the river.
- Extends from the banks of the river to the outer edges of the valley.

Types

- Floodway (stream channel) – Main channel.
- Flood fringe – Extends from floodway to the edge of the valley.

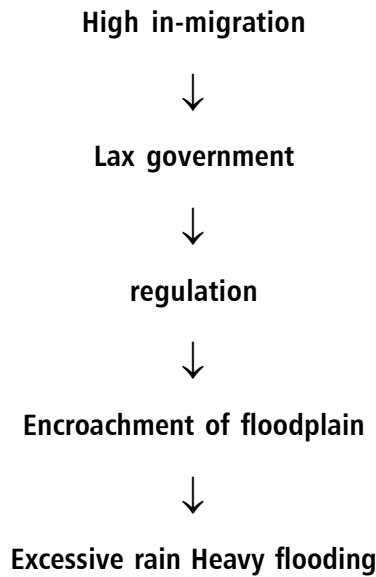
Yamuna Floodplain

- Enters Delhi from Palla village and exits at the Okhla barrage.
- Length in Delhi – 22 Kms.
- Floodplain – 2kms both sides of the river (total – 9700 hectares).

Importance of Yamaha floodplains

- Natural flood control.
 - Absorb excess water during heavy rainfall.
- Groundwater recharge.
 - Yamuna river infiltrates into the ground and recharges the underlying aquifers.
 - Ensures water supply
- Floodwater Storage and Slow Release.
 - Helps balance between years of excessive rainfall and years of low rainfall.
 - Holds water during excess rain and release during lean season.
- Livelihood opportunities.
 - 3,330 hectares of farmlands as of 2020 in the floodplains.
 - Farming in Palla and Hiranki villages.
 - Rich silt deposited by the river helps grow crops like rice, wheat, and flowers.

Why is Delhi facing floods



What led to increase in human settlement along

Yamuna floodplains

- Settlement of refugees from Western Punjab post partition.
- Push for urbanization during the 1st and 2nd plan. (Rajghat, the ring road and the thermal power plant).
- Settlement of migrant laborers who came to Delhi during the 1982 Asian Games.

Steps taken by judiciary

- 2004 - Delhi High Court ordered eviction of “unauthorized” settlements.
- 2016 – NGT placed a ban on agriculture-related activities till the “Yamuna is restored and made pollution free”.

Result

- Unauthorized settlement replaced by capital intensive projects along floodplains (Bus Depots, Akshardham Temple complex, Commonwealth Games Village, metro depots, luxury apartments, and highways).

Government regulation

- Delhi Master Plan of 1962 – Yamuna floodplain was designated as a protected area free from construction.
- 2000 notification - Central Ground Water Authority notified the floodplains as ‘protected’ for groundwater management.
- Draft Master Plan For Delhi 2041 – Yamuna designated as Zone ‘O’.
 - River zone (active floodplain) – Construction prohibited.
 - Riverfront – Controlled construction.

Solution : Floodplain zoning

- Way of managing the use of land in areas that are prone to flooding.
- Reduce the risk of damage and protect people and property from the dangers of flooding.
- Floodplain divided into different zones.
- Each zone will have specific rules and restrictions on what can be built or done there.

Other solutions

- Creating climate-resilient infrastructures, desilting drains, creating green areas and improving drainage systems.

07

Environmental Science

Does climate know caste?

IPCC report

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is an international organization that conducts scientific studies on climate change
- The IPCC examines the direction of climate change, from science to impacts, and publishes assessment reports at regular intervals
- The IPCC has published a total of 6 assessment reports from 1990 to 2022
- While the IPCC's reports have not received widespread attention beyond the scientific community, the organization's 2018 Special Report on 1.5°C has caused a global stir among the general public.
- Against this backdrop, the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report released last March prioritized one of the key issues of climate change.
- Societies that have historically contributed least to current climate change are disproportionately affected by the resulting impacts

Environment and caste

- The preceding weeks examined how capitalism evolved into a modern-day economic system based on fossil fuels as a result of the industrial revolution, the primary contribution of large corporations and small groups of capitalists to human-induced climate change, and the underlying class struggle.
- In this context, it is necessary to talk about caste, which is an inevitable feature of India, along with economic class, in the discourse on climate change in the Indian context.
- Although the influence of caste has prevailed in Indian society for 2000 years, its function and form have not been the same in all periods.
- It has been changing its ideas and tactics to maintain its power according to the changing environment, says researcher Braj Ranjan Mani
- Tragically, even in this 21st century, when science and technology are moving their frontiers to the edge of the universe, casteism is deeply rooted in India.
- The work of curbing the immoral thought of caste is going on in many places
- As a part of it, from impurity to egoism, all the factors of caste can be seen in the context of the study of caste in a surprising way that the environment adapts itself to their background.
- How caste operates in today's era of climate change and how those who are subject to caste oppression are primarily affected by the effects of climate change are worth exploring.

Class and caste

- Precipitation variations, changing monsoons, intensifying storms, flash floods, new normal heat waves, sea erosion etc. indicate that the effects of climate change are intensifying in India over the past few years.
- All sections of the society are directly affected by such calamities. But are the effects the same for all parties?
- The vulnerability faced by those at the top of the social hierarchy and those at the bottom such as Dalits, Tribals, Nomads, Fishermen, Urban Poor, Untouchables, Gender Minorities can never be equated.

Ecological justice

- India released its National Action Plan for Climate Change policy in 2008
- Subsequently, various states are publishing their own climate action plans
- This policy provides guidance on how to adapt to the impacts of climate change
- But those policies do not seem to focus on caste or the impacts of climate change on communities oppressed in the name of caste.
- It is the lower castes who are pushed down the social tower and are economically the most impoverished
- In the event of natural disasters, rescue operations and habitat reconstruction reach them at last. Some times, they do not reach them at all
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should recognize caste as a factor along with race, class and gender.
- India should include caste as a factor in climate change impacts
- All things are common to all procreative life. But those who are relegated to the bottom of the social hierarchy by caste are the first to face the effects of climate change in addition to the systems of oppression they already face.
- Indian society must first free itself from the grip of caste. Only then will it be possible to ensure social justice for all, including environmental justice, in an era of climate change.

Why is India focusing on ethanol vehicles?

Introduction

- Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari recently announced that 100% ethanol-powered vehicles will soon be in use in India.
- The Minister's statement that if 40% electric vehicles and 60% ethanol blend fuel are widely used in India, the price of petrol will come down to Rs 15 has attracted a lot of attention.

By 2040

- The central government is working to set a target that all vehicles sold in India should be electric by 2040.
- India imports 85 percent of its crude oil requirements from abroad
- India spent Rs 13 lakh crore on crude oil imports in the last financial year alone
- According to the central government target, it will take another 15 years to switch from petrol diesel vehicles to fully electric vehicles
- So how to reduce the use of petrol and diesel during this period? That is why the central government has started focusing on ethanol

Ethanol : A biofuel

- Like gasoline, ethanol is flammable
- Ethanol is made from agricultural products including sugarcane and corn
- Ethanol is available at lower cost as it is produced at lower cost
- Currently, a liter of petrol costs more than Rs 100. The cost of ethanol is Rs.60 in comparison and the environmental impact of biofuel ethanol is very less
- There are problems with using ethanol as it is in vehicles
- Ethanol is less efficient as compared to petrol
- Moreover, producing enough ethanol to meet global fuel demand is challenging

- Because ethanol is produced from major agricultural commodities, there is a risk of food shortages
- Hence it is often used as a blended fuel i.e. mixed with petrol

Brazil : A precedent

- The trend of mixing ethanol with gasoline dates back to the 1970s. Brazil is a precedent in implementing this
- During the global crude oil crisis in the 1970s, Brazil faced severe fuel and economic crisis
- It is a country with high sugarcane yield. Thus Brazil decided to mix ethanol with gasoline
- The government of Brazil created a policy that all vehicles in use must have an ethanol engine
- Ethanol-blended gasoline has been used in Brazilian vehicles since 1975
- Most of the vehicles currently in use there are 100% ethanol powered
- However, in Brazil only 25% ethanol is blended into gasoline
- The United States is the world's largest producer of ethanol
- Ethanol engine vehicles are widely used there
- There, up to 15 percent ethanol is mixed with gasoline. Various countries have embarked on efforts to increase the ethanol blend in gasoline, taking into account the economic impact and climate change

Indian situation

- Currently, petrol sold in India is blended with 10% ethanol
- The central government has embarked on an effort to increase it by 20%
- A target of 20% ethanol blended petrol has been set for widespread use across the country by 2025
- After that it is also possible to gradually increase the ethanol blending ratio
- There is no problem in using 10% ethanol blended petrol in the vehicles currently in circulation in India
- Increasing the ethanol blend to 20 percent and above will require some modification of the vehicle's engine
- So the car companies are trying to make their new products run on 100% ethanol
- In India, 2019 100% ethanol vehicle - TVS Apache RTR 200 Fi E100 launched
- Last year, Toyota launched India's first 100% ethanol engine car
- In this case, the company is launching a new model of ethanol engine car called Camry in August. Such vehicles are known as flex fuel vehicles
- That means they run on both petrol and ethanol
- India currently blends 10% ethanol in petrol, saving up to Rs 40,000 crore on petrol imports, says central government

Farmers will benefit

- As agricultural inputs form the basis of ethanol production, participation of farmers in this move in India becomes essential
- Nitin Gadkari points out that till now our farmers have been our food providers; Henceforth, they will also become our fuel producers
- If ethanol production increases, the procurement price of sugarcane is likely to increase
- This will give additional profit to the farmers. Overall, India's efforts to increase ethanol consumption are expected to create new economic opportunities in the agricultural sector

Advocating for environmental friendliness

- The Forest Conservation Amendment Bill 2023 is being discussed by a joint committee of Parliament. The amendment

bill is a controversial piece of legislation that addresses the challenges of industrial development and forest conservation

- Industrialization inevitably means usurpation of the receiving area of forests and ecosystems
- While the Forest Conservation Act 1980 has empowered the State to regulate and impose costs on such industrial exploitations.
- A landmark Supreme Court judgment on the first declared forests in the case of Godavarman Thirumulpad Vs Union of India (1996), extended the protection of forests to officially classified forests among others.
- India's forest cover has increased at a very low rate, says the biennial report of the Forest Survey of India
- Within officially registered forests its growth is stagnating or at best increasing
- India covers 24 per cent of its area under forest cover in areas such as orchards, plantations and trees in rural home gardens.
- To increase this figure to 33 percent, India has pledged to increase its carbon sequestration by 2.5 billion to 3 billion tons by 2030 as part of its international climate commitment.
- The existing Forest Conservation Act, 1980 is inadequate for these purposes in the environment ministry's reckoning. Because it discourages private agroforestry and logging activities
- From 2019 to 2021, India added 1540 square kilometers of forests. Of this, 1509 sq km was outside the registered forest area
- The new amendments to the Forest Act provided incentives by clearly defining the limits of the 1996 judgment.
- Only land registered as forest in any government register on or after 1980 is considered as forest under the Act.
- The Act does not mention forests recognized by states for non-forest use between 1980-1996.
- These amendments mean that states can no longer classify unclassified forest land or patches of trees with forest-like characteristics as forest land.
- The amendments also allow up to 100 km of forest land near the Indian border to be used for strategic and defense purposes without central government approval.
- The primary criticism is that these amendments do not actually contribute to reforestation of natural forests but encourage afforestation for commercial purposes.
- Increasing private forests may sound good in theory, but it is wishful thinking that these forests should be permanent carbon sinks. Because there are strong market incentives to use them as carbon sinks.

Reduction in central government subsidy : What is the impact on electric vehicle sales?

- William Morrison of Des Moines, Iowa, USA built the world's first electric car in 1890.

Reason

- Petrol, diesel vehicles play a major role in carbon dioxide emissions
- Also, in countries like India, which are major importers of fossil fuel, crude oil, a large portion of foreign exchange goes to it.
- India imports about 85 percent of its crude oil requirements
- To reduce this and to reduce environmental impact, the central government is taking various measures to promote the sale of electric vehicles
- Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme was implemented by the central government in 2015.

Objective of the project

- Its main objective is to promote the mass production of electric vehicles and encourage customers to purchase such vehicles.
- Next, the project was introduced to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and air pollution. Also, by 2030, the target has been set to increase the share of electric vehicles to 30% in the total number of vehicles

Increase in subsidy

- A subsidy of Rs 10,000 per kilowatt-hour or a maximum of 20% of the battery capacity of buses, cars, 3 and 2-wheeler electric vehicles has been provided.
- This subsidy is given directly to the vehicle manufacturers. Due to this, the manufacturing companies reduced the prices of the vehicles

Sales are up 154%

- A target has been set to subsidize 10 lakh two-wheelers under the FAME II scheme
- The FAME II scheme is scheduled to end by March 2024, according to the Union Ministry of Heavy Industries
- It has suddenly reduced the subsidy under FAME II scheme from Rs 15,000 to Rs 10,000 per kwh. As a result, the manufacturing companies were forced to increase the price of electric vehicles
- For example, if the price of an electric two-wheeler is Rs 1 lakh, the earlier subsidy was Rs 40,000. Now only Rs 15,000 will be available. Due to this, the price of the vehicle has increased by 25%

1 crore by 2030

- Statistics show that about 12 lakh electric vehicles were sold in India last year. The annual growth rate of electric vehicle sales is estimated to be 49% between 2022 and 2030.
- According to this, electric vehicle sales are expected to increase to 1 crore (one year sales) by 2030.
- It is also predicted that 5 crore people will get direct and indirect employment in this sector by 2030
- Widespread use of electric vehicles is essential to reduce carbon emissions and prevent environmental pollution and avoid dependence on fossil fuels.

Forest Protection Amendment Bill 2023

- The Forest Protection Amendment Bill 2023 is expected to be tabled in Parliament during the monsoon session. The Bill has been approved by the Joint Committee of the Parliament

Background to the Amendment Bill

- The Forest Protection Act, enacted in 1980 to protect India's forests, empowers the central government to regulate the exploitation of forests by industrial companies and forest-dwelling communities for their own use.
- From 1951 to 1975, 40 lakh hectares of forest land has been converted to non-forestry purposes.
- In the period from the implementation of the Forest Conservation Act to 2023, this has decreased to 10 lakh hectares
- This is evidence that this Act has significantly prevented forest lands from being taken over for other uses
- But this Act protected only those lands classified as forest in the records of Central and State Governments

SC Verdict

- In 1996, the Supreme Court judgment in Godavarman v. Central Government expanded the definition of land to be protected under the Forest Protection Act.
- Accordingly, not only the areas declared as official forests but also all the land that can be defined as forest according to the dictionary should be protected.

- The judgment said that since there is no absolute and all-encompassing definition of forest, state governments should use their own criteria to define and demarcate forests.
- The extent to which the above Supreme Court judgment has contributed to the conservation of forests continues to be debated as not all states have followed suit.
- India's Forest Policy published in 1988 recommends that one-third of the country's geographical area should be covered by forests. But only 21 percent of the land is forest
- Adding wooded areas and orchards beyond the registered forest lands comes to 24 percent
- The Union Ministry of Environment has said that amendments are being made to the Forest Protection Act to correct this problem

Major revisions

- The Act includes a preamble underscoring India's commitment to protecting forests and their biodiversity and addressing the challenges of climate change.
- The name of the Act has been changed to Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam. It means forest conservation and development
- The Act has been amended to apply only to lands declared as forest in any government document dated 1980 or later.
- The Forest Conservation Act does not apply to land declared forest between 1980 and 1996 if it has been legally taken over for forest-related uses.
- Forest lands within 100 km from the international border, forest lands to be used for strategic projects of national importance, lands up to 5-10 hectares for defense and military projects are exempted from the provisions of this Act.

Background of Resistance

- One of the major objections to the Bill was that the exclusion of certain areas from the purview of the Act would harm significant forest cover in the Himalayan, Trans-Himalayan & North-Eastern regions.
- It is feared that allowing the removal of trees in these forests without proper assessment and planning could threaten biodiversity in ecologically important areas and trigger extreme weather events
- Another major reason for opposing the Bill is that narrowing the scope of the Act to areas declared as forests on or after 25th October 1980 would subject significant forest land and areas of various bio-diversity importance to non-forestry purposes such as sale, conversion, felling of trees and exploitation.
- Objections have also been raised to changing the name of the Act to Sanskrit. Experts say the amendment will dilute the Supreme Court's verdict in the Godavarman case
- Some state governments have protested that forest protection falls under the jurisdiction of both the central government and the state governments, and the proposed amendments to the law would increase the power of the central government.

Ministry's reaction

- The ministry said that the bill does not intend to dilute the Godavarman judgment and that the bill contains provisions to ensure that land is not misused.
- It has been said that the exemption given to lands near international borders is not universal and only applies to specific projects of strategic importance identified by the Central Government and these exemptions are not available to private companies.

Plan to increase non-conventional energy capacity to 50 percent

- G20 energy ministers meeting was held in Goa yesterday. Energy Ministers of G20 countries, Energy Ministers of

9 countries who participated as special invitees and 14 officials from international organizations participated in this.

- India is one of the leading countries in solar and wind power generation
- Similarly, India is strongly implementing measures against climate change. We have achieved the non-conventional energy efficiency target 9 years ahead of schedule
- Currently, we plan to increase non-conventional energy capacity to 50 percent by 2030
- The world expects the G20 countries to improve their transition to sustainable, cheap and clean energy. We need to ensure that developing countries achieve such a transition at low cost
- We need to find ways to bridge this technology gap and improve energy security. It has now become the world's largest LED lighting distribution project. This saves more than 4500 crore units of electricity per year
- And by 2025, a target of 20 percent ethanol blended petrol has been set across India
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that India is on track to become a carbon neutral country through green hydrogen.

Mangrove : Kidney of the Earth

31% forests

- Forests cover 31% of the Earth's total land area
- Each of these forests is classified differently based on the environment in which they are located
- Soil type, topography and altitude are said to be the main factors in classifying a forest to which category it belongs.
- Forests are the second largest land use in our country after agriculture. 21.71% of India's diverse land area is covered by forests
- These forests are classified as tropical forests, tropical rain forests, subtropical evergreen forests, subtropical deciduous forests, coniferous forests, swamp forests or mangrovr forests.

Mangrove forests

- In this type of forest, the place where the three lands of Mullai, Marutham and Neithal meet are swamp forests. That is, the land areas that are permanently flooded or filled with water are called mangroves. These are also known as wetlands
- Wetland is an area of alluvial soil with year-round wetness and small plants and aquatic animals and birds.
- Wetlands are of two types namely saline wetlands and freshwater wetlands.
- The forests that grow in these swamps are called swamp forests
- In this, the forests that grow in saline swamps are called mangrove forests
- In Malay, Spanish, Portuguese, Swiss, "Mangrove" means small jointed trees

4992 sq km

- More than 100 countries have swamp forests covering an area of 15.2 million hectares or one lakh 52 thousand square kilometers.
- Apart from the continents of Europe and Antarctica, these forests are spread over the continents of Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Australia.
- Reports suggest that three-fourths of these forests are in 15 countries of the world
- 42 percent of these are found in the Asian continent
- India has 27,403 wetlands covering an area of 4992 square kilometers

- Out of this, 23,444 wetlands are located in the interior. 3,959 wetlands are located along the coasts of states including West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Goa, Maharashtra, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Its area is about 6750 square kilometers. 80% of these wetlands are Mangrove forests
- These are known as Swamp Forests, Sundarban Forests, Maritime Forests, Kandan Forests, Surappunnai Forests and Thillaivanam.
- They thrive in harsh environments with high salinity and extreme heat
- This is due to the salt filtering system found in these plants and the complex roots used to stay submerged in the tidal ocean.
- Marshes located near the sea tend to retain seawater and runoff during storm surges.
- Mangrove forests play an important role in balancing the climate. As they live where the river meets the sea, the solids including silts carried by the river are blocked by their dense roots and become silt there.
- In this way, the wastes brought from the river are filtered and pollution is prevented from mixing in the sea. They also act as a barrier to the sea and shore and prevent sea erosion

Cause of formation of coral reefs

- Fish and shrimp feed on many species of small organisms. Wetlands are used as breeding grounds for shrimps
- Mangrove plants are responsible for the formation of coral reefs that feed the oceans with fish
- It means that young coral reefs appear in the roots of this plant. These forests are essential for a rich ocean
- Capable of sequestering ten times as much carbon dioxide as terrestrial forests
- Hence the role of these forests in preventing climate change is immense
- Wetlands act as a barrier between salt water in the sea and fresh water on land.

Calms floods

- These plants are effective in calming the fury of tsunami-like floods. These are called tidal forests because of their ability to reduce the speed of waves in the ocean
- The Sundarban mangrove forests in West Bengal are considered to be the largest mangrove forests in the world
- In Tamil Nadu, mangrove forests are found in Pichavaram in Cuddalore district, Muthupettai in Tiruvarur district, Vedaranyam in Nagai district, Thoothukudi, Palavekadu in Tiruvallur district, Kaluveli in Villupuram district.

Earth's kidney

- These forests, which help us in so many ways, are facing great destruction due to climate change. This will reduce biodiversity. The marine environment will be affected
- The shrimp stock will be completely destroyed. Researchers believe that without these forests, there would be no fish
- Just as rainforests are called the lungs of the earth, absorbing carbonic acid gas and providing oxygen, similarly mangroves are called the kidneys of the earth because they filter pollutants from the water.

Ramsar Declaration

- An international conference was held on February 2, 1971 in Ramsar, Iran, to prevent the destruction of wetlands, which play an important role in protecting land from natural disasters such as storms, floods, and tsunamis.
- In this conference, a declaration was issued to bring to the public the need to protect wetlands around the world and to develop programs at the local, state, national and international levels to protect wetlands.
- This is called the Ramsar Declaration. 172 countries including India have signed this convention. There are 75 Ramsar sites in India
- Tamil Nadu has a maximum of 14 Ramsar sites out of which Pichavaram is one

2 schemes launched by the Prime Minister

- Prime Minister launched two projects namely Amrit Dharohar & MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes).
- In which the Amrit Dharohar project aims to develop Ramsar sites as eco-tourism hubs, provide green employment opportunities to thousands of people and achieve sustainable eco-development with the help of local communities over the next 3 years.
- The MISHTI project was launched to restore and conserve the wetland ecosystem in the country and implement aspects including comprehensive exploration of the potential area for development of wetlands covering an area of approximately 540 square kilometers in 11 states and two Union Territories over a period of 5 years starting from the financial year 2023-24.
- The central government contributes 80 percent of the project cost and the state governments contribute 20 percent.

Wetlands that save the world

- Wetlands protect the Indian coastline. Wetlands provide a range of benefits such as protection against cyclones, improved water quality, healthy marine and coastal biodiversity, including fisheries.
- Carbon emissions can be reduced by protecting and managing wetland ecosystems. India has the third richest wetland diversity with 46 species belonging to 14 families and 22 genera found along the coasts of four Union Territories.
- Areas like Sundarbans and Bitarkanika are rich in diversity due to high freshwater inflows.
- At the same time it is less in states like Tamil Nadu. Wetlands regenerate themselves if conditions are favorable. Swamp seeds carried by tidal waters thrive in favorable areas
- Wetlands should be restored by facilitating flow through canals to degraded areas without tidal currents.
- Without proper restoration and protection, swamp forests will decline
- The UN General Assembly declared the period 2021-2030 as the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration.
- Wetlands are affected by pollution, habitat encroachment, urbanization, etc
- It is therefore necessary to involve local communities living along the coast in the restoration, maintenance and management of wetlands.
- Their lives and livelihoods are completely dependent on the health of the wetland ecosystem
- The Maharashtra government set up a mangrove cell in January 2012 to protect the mangroves in Mumbai and its adjoining areas.
- Accordingly, in 7 districts, swamp forests and 15,088 hectares of swamps on government land have been declared as reserve forests.
- The cell also establishes wetland plantations in degraded areas
- In Kerala, in May 2014, the district administration and forest department jointly declared 236 hectares of mangroves as reserve forests under the Mission Mangrove Kannur project.
- A collaborative wetland management model was initiated in the early 1990s by the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation to restore and protect wetlands in collaboration with local communities and the State Forest Departments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.
- The Prime Minister launched MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes) on June 5, involving state forest departments, local communities and NGOs.
- The project covers an area of 540 square kilometers with a budget of Rs 1250 crore for five years
- This would generate about 22.8 million man-days of employment, along with 4.5 million tonnes of carbon sinks
- Mangrove forests under the State Forest Department have statutory protection

- At the same time, non-revenue land, salt flats and wetlands on private land are unprotected under the Forest and Wildlife Act. This has to change
- Only then can wetlands be prevented from being converted to other land uses.

Some facts

- Wetlands sequester four times as much carbon as terrestrial ecosystems
- Globally, wetlands can sequester 24 million tons of carbon per year
- Globally, the area of wetlands has decreased by 1.04 million ha during the period 1990-2020.
- Between 2019 and 2021, wetland area in India has increased by 17 square kilometers. Odisha(8 sq km) and Maharashtra(4 sq km) have seen significant growth in this.

MISHTI

Mangrove

- Plants that can survive in salt water
- Location – Tropical and subtropical (24° N & 38° S)
- Intermediate area

Importance of Mangrove

- Resistant to climate change
- State of Global Mangrove Forests 2022 Report
- Mangrove forests store four times more carbon than other ecosystems
- Reduces the effects of hurricanes
- Controls beach erosion
- Conserve biodiversity

Sl. No.	State / UT	Dense Mangrove forest	Widely dense mangrove	Open mangrove	Total	Changes as per ISFR 2019
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	213	192	406	1
2.	Goa	0	21	6	27	1
3.	Gujarat	0	169	1006	-2	-
4.	Karnataka	0	2	11	13	3
5.	Kerala	0	5	4	9	0
6.	Maharashtra	0	90	234	324	4
7.	Odissa	81	94	84	259	8
8.	Tamilnadu	1	27	17	45	0
9.	West Bengal	994	692	428	2114	2
10.	Andaman & Nicobar	399	168	49	616	0
11.	Dadra, Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu	0	0	3	3	0
12.	Puducherry	0	0	2	2	0
	Total	1475	1481	2036	4992	17

Distribution of Mangrove Forests

- 4992 sq km

Problems faced by Mangrove Forests

- Use of Mangrove Forests for Agriculture
- Aquaculture in coastal areas
- Clearing of swamps for timber, fodder, fuel
- Factory use

MISHTI

- Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes
- Mangrove afforestation initiative
- Implementation of Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and Fund
- Problem : Mangrove forests have a very long lifespan
- Solution : Educating and engaging communities
- Central Govt Scheme - National Coastal Program for Protection and Management of Wetlands and Coral Reefs
- Coastal Regulatory Zone Initiative (2019)
 - Environmental Protection Act 1986
 - Forest Life Conservation Act 1972
 - Indian Forests Act 1927
 - Biodiversity Act 2002

India has 75% of the world's tiger population

Tiger Conservation Programme

- International Tiger Day is observed on July 29. The Government of India launched the Tiger Conservation Program in 1973 to save the tiger population from extinction to help preserve the ecological balance.
- Union Minister of State Ashwani Kumar released a detailed report containing the 50-year benefits of the project at the Corbett Tiger Reserve in Uttarakhand.
- This ambitious program aimed at conserving India's tiger population and biodiversity has borne fruit over the past 50 years. India is home to nearly 75% of the world's wild tiger population

2.3%

- Initially comprising 9 tiger reserves covering an area of 18,278 sq km, the project has grown into a remarkable achievement with 63 reserves spread over an area of 75,796 sq km. It covers 2.3% of the total land area of India

Why the fall?

- The first act of tiger conservation in the 1970s focused on enacting the Wildlife Conservation Act and establishing protected areas for tigers and tropical forests.
- However, in the 1960s, tiger numbers began to decline due to poaching
- Landscape-level approach, community involvement and support, implementation of strict law enforcement and use of modern technology for scientific monitoring to ensure tiger conservation have helped to increase tiger population.

Increase

- A significant increase in tiger numbers has been observed in the Siwalik range and Gangetic plains along the border of central India and Nepal, particularly in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Uttarkhand and Maharashtra.
- Some areas such as the Western Ghats have experienced a decline in tiger numbers. This necessitated more targeted surveillance and security efforts
- Few states including Mizoram, Nagaland, Jharkhand, Goa, Chhattisgarh and Arunachal Pradesh are concerned about low tiger numbers.
- Few states including Mizoram, Nagaland, Jharkhand, Goa, Chhattisgarh and Arunachal Pradesh are alarmingly low in tiger numbers.
- The tiger conservation program has made tremendous progress over the last five decades. But challenges like poaching still continue to threaten tiger conservation

GST – Towards the Goal

GST Introduction

- Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced on July 1, 2017, replacing 17 taxes and 13 additional taxes of central and state governments.
- GST was introduced with the objective of reforming indirect taxes and making taxation more favorable to consumers, manufacturers and exporters.

Input Tax Credit

- Earlier there were various indirect multiple taxes called sales tax and value added tax
- Different taxes are levied on each product and any product or service becomes a burden on the customer by being taxed multiple times.
- After the introduction of GST, tax on top of tax was eliminated and only the value added portion came under tax ambit
- The Input Tax Credit system, which refunds the tax paid on inputs, has enabled manufacturers, distributors and retailers to pay only their share of tax.
- The advantages that GST has created are clarity and uniformity in payment of taxes for carrying out any business or service as there is uniform taxation and taxation related laws and regulations across India.
- Uninterrupted e-commerce has confirmed the status quo of bribery
- After the introduction of GST, state after state check posts have become jobless
- Thereby, the bribe to be given when cargo trucks cross from state to state and city to city has been came to an end.
- In the last five years, the volume of cargo carried between states has increased by 44 percent
- The Golden Quadrilateral Road Framework, which was initiated by the previous Vajpayee regime and expanded by the Manmohan Singh regime and the current Narendra Modi government, has been a major boon for freight since the introduction of GST.
- GST or Value Added Tax system is implemented in 175 countries of the world
- This tax base was introduced in France in 1954
- Taxation is only on the increase in value of any commodity
- Input tax credit mechanism is followed in all countries
- The objective of GST is single tax on all goods. Currently, there are 4 tiers of taxation namely 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%.
- Most of the essential goods of the people are exempted from duty. Luxury goods are taxed at a maximum of 28%

Financial technology city in global trade

Financial technology

- As information technology has grown, so have financial activities. All banking services, trading services and financial services are completed within a couple of seconds through a website on a mobile phone.

- As the financial technology sector, which integrates the services of traditional banking and non-banking financial institutions with emerging modern technology, is witnessing tremendous growth across the world, Tamil Nadu is forced to chart its own development path in line with that pace.
- Financial technology based industries are coming towards Tamil Nadu. As Tamil Nadu is a symbol of information technology development, we should create financial technology related job opportunities and make Tamil Nadu a state that excels in the financial technology sector.
- It has been announced that a financial technology city will be set up in Nandambakkam, Chennai
- In order to implement it, a financial technology city will be set up at Nandambakkam at a cost of Rs 370 crore on 56 acres of land and a financial technology tower with an area of 5.6 lakh square feet comprising offices for start-up of finance and financial technology companies.
- 12,000 crore investments will be attracted by setting up the financial technology city and 10,000 people will be employed.
- 10,000 crore investment will be attracted by the construction of financial tower and employment will be provided to seven thousand people.
- Aiming to launch the first financial technology tower by 2025, Additional Chief Secretary Industries S Krishnan and Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Managing Director Jayashree Muralitharan kicked off the work at lightning speed.
- Financial technology offices can be set up anywhere and do business and trade with locations in any corner of the world.

GIFT City

- The first phase of GIFT City in Gujarat is set up on an area of 1000 acres
- As GIFT City is set to become a global business haven, Tamil Nadu should also shine as a global financial technology city.

India-Tanzania trade begins in local currency

- From time to time demands were made to carry out this bilateral trade in own currency
- The Reserve Bank of India has now given approval for this
- Through this, the three Indian banks namely Bank of India, Bank of Baroda and Canara Bank operating in Tanzania can provide appropriate solutions to the two countries for doing business in their own currencies.
- And some trade transactions have already started between the two countries in Indian Rupee and Tanzanian Shilling
- Trade between India and Africa is also strong. India trades with Africa worth Rs 8,09,631 crore

Economy

- India has overtaken Britain as the fifth largest economy in the world
- India is on track to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2028
- Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are two states that play a major role in India's economic development

Top 5 States in Economy (based on 2021-22 GDP)

- Maharashtra - Rs 26 lakh crores
- Tamil Nadu - Rs 20 lakh crores
- Gujarat - Rs 18.5 lakh crores
- Karnataka - Rs 18 lakh crores
- Uttar Pradesh - Rs 17 lakh crores

Best states to do business

- 7 best states to do business in India according to a report released by the central government last year
 1. Andhra Pradesh
 2. Gujarat
 3. Telangana
 4. Haryana
 5. Karnataka
 6. Punjab
 7. Tamil nadu

States with more industries

- Tamil Nadu is the number one state in India with the largest number of factories
 1. Tamil Nadu - 38,837
 2. Gujarat - 28,479
 3. Maharashtra - 25,610
 4. Andhra Pradesh - 16,924
 5. Uttar Pradesh - 16,184

Foreign investment

- India received \$142 billion (Rs 11.64 lakh crore) of FDI in the three years 2019-2022.
- Of this, 87.5 per cent i.e. \$125 billion (Rs 10.25 lakh crore) investment was attracted by five states.
 1. Maharashtra - Rs 3.2 lakh crores
 2. Karnataka - Rs 2.8 lakh crores
 3. Gujarat - Rs 2.2 lakh crores
 4. Delhi - Rs 1.4 lakh crores
 5. Tamil nadu - Rs 49,200 crores

Increase in Russian crude oil prices for India

- Western countries including the United States and Britain imposed economic sanctions on Russian companies following the start of the war between Ukraine and Russia
- So Russian crude oil producers started selling crude oil at discounted prices
- Countries including India and China purchased large quantities of crude oil from those companies

2% to 44%

- Before the Ukraine-Russia war, India procured less than 2 percent of its crude oil from Russia, now sourcing 44 percent of its crude oil from Russia.

Three times more

- It has been reported that the cost of importing crude oil from Russia is almost three times higher than that of other countries.
- Russian oil companies charge between \$11 and \$19 per barrel to import crude oil, according to reports.
- This is more than three times the average fee.

Reason

- At present, public sector companies such as Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum, Mangaluru Refinery, Hindustan Petroleum and private companies including Reliance and Nayara are separately engaged in discount negotiations with Russian companies.
- Due to that, the discount for crude oil has come down drastically, experts say
- Crude oil is likely to be available at an additional discounted price if all those companies jointly negotiate a discount.

GST Appellate Tribunal

- It was decided in the 50th meeting of GST Counseling to set up GST Appellate Tribunals
- In the first phase, these tribunals will be set up in state capitals. Later it will be gradually expanded to other cities
- 22 percent GST has been approved for SUV category cars. However, sedans are exempted from it

GST exemption

- Dinutuximab cancer treatment drug imported by individual is exempted from GST
- Also approved for GST exemption for special foods used in the treatment of rare diseases
- Satellite launch services provided by private companies are also exempted from GST
- GST on LD slag used in road construction, etc., and soluble glue used in aquaculture has been reduced from 18 percent to five percent.
- GST on yarn has been reduced from 12 percent to five percent

Trade in Rupees- Dirhams : India-UAE agreement

- During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, an agreement was signed to replace the US dollar with the currency of the two countries, the Rupee-Dirham.
- The agreement was signed between the Reserve Bank of India and the UAE Central Bank
- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and UAE Central Bank Governor Khaled Mohamed Balama exchanged the agreement.
- Through this agreement, the traders of both the countries will be able to engage in trade activities using their local currencies
- India-UAE Agreement for Integration of UPI-IPP Internet Payment Systems Signed by RBI-UAE Central Bank
- Also an agreement to link RuPay Card with UAE Card has been signed
- An agreement to set up a branch campus of IIT Delhi in UAE was also signed during the talks
- The agreement was signed on behalf of the Education Ministries of the two countries

India and its States' exports

- Exports play an important role in strengthening the country's economy
- The more goods a country exports, the better its economic activity
- At the same time, imports should be low compared to exports
- India has exported goods worth \$447 billion in FY 2022-23 (Rs 36.65 lakh crores)
- This is an increase of six percent compared to FY 2021-22
- As far as imports are concerned, the last financial year saw imports worth \$714 billion (Rs 58.55 lakh crores)
- This is an increase of 16.5% compared to the previous financial year

- If the trade deficit between exports and imports is high, it will affect the country's foreign exchange reserves. So India is forced to reduce the trade deficit

Export goods

- India mainly exports engineering products, petroleum products, jewelery and electronics

Top five states in exports

Gujarat	33%	Rs 12 lakh crore
Maharashtra	17.5%	Rs 5.94 lakh crore
Tamil nadu	9%	Rs 3.33 lakh crore
Karnataka	6.5%	Rs 2.28 lakh crore
Uttar Pradesh	5%	Rs 1.77 lakh crore

- These five states alone account for 71% of India's total exports

Backward States

- The North Eastern states are far behind in exports
- Mizoram, Tripura, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Sikkim are the seven northeastern states in India which are the least exporting states in India.
- The contribution of these seven states to India's total exports is just 0.07%

Top Six Export Centers

Petroleum products	Jamnagar, Gujarat	67%
Diamond, Jewellery	Surat, Gujarat	36%
Smart phones	Gautam Buddha Nagar,Uttar Pradesh	26%
Vehicles	Kanchipuram, TN	21%
Rice, Wheat	Karnal, Haryana	17%
Pharma products	Medchal-Malkajgiri,Telangana	15%

Export Preparedness Index 2022 : TN ranks 1st

- Tamil Nadu has topped the Export Preparedness Index 2022 released by NITI Aayog on Monday
- Gujarat, which had topped the list for the previous two years, slipped to fourth place
- NITI Aayog publishes the Export Preparedness Index to assess the export potential and performance of the states.
- Tamil Nadu topped the index with a score of 80.89.
- It is followed by Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal and Kerala.
- Himachal Pradesh(59.13) tops the list for hilly states. It is followed by Manipur, Tripura,Sikkim, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and other states.
- Haryana(63.65) tops the landlocked states. It is followed by Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and other states.
- Goa tops the list of small states and union territories with a score of 51.58. It is followed by Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar and Ladakh.

Four assessments

- Creating an enabling environment for exports
- Simplifying the organizational structure
- Establishing necessary infrastructure facilities

- The Code aims to create a competitive environment among States in the above mentioned
- The index is published on the basis of measures such as the state government's export policy, prevailing business environment, export environment and performance
- In this regard, Nitya Aayog Chief Executive Officer BVR Subrahmanyam said that the overall environment for exports is being created in the states; Hence the states are the basic members of the country's exports and this index will help to spread awareness about exports. He said it is necessary to build a comprehensive base for exports in the country.

Jamnagar tops in the districts category

- Gujarat's Jamnagar is the top in exporting district
- Following this are the districts of Surat, Mumbai suburbs, Mumbai, Pune, Baruch, Kanchipuram, Ahmedabad, Gautama Buddha Nagar, Bangalore suburbs.

Is 100-day work plan responsible for agriculture collapse?

Job Guarantee

- The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was passed in 2005 to provide 100 days of work per financial year to family in villages.
- All over the country women are employed more than men in this scheme (56% as in 2022-23)
- The total number of agricultural laborers in Tamil Nadu is 1,31,48,575. Out of which the total number of people who have got job card under this scheme is 91,42,246. Among them, 38,46,788 are Scheduled Castes. Schedule Tribes 2,33,923
- 29 different works including irrigation, road construction and tree planting were being done in the rural areas
- Currently they are being used for various construction works of the government. Migration in search of work has been reduced due to this employment scheme

Field condition

- The law stipulates that no matter how many members a family has, they must be given employment for 100 days a year under this scheme. But it is not fully followed
- In the year 2021-22 only 49 days of work and 42 days of work in 2022-23 have been provided.
- The allocation of funds for this scheme is being reduced every year
- 98,000 crore in 2021-22, which is reduced to 73,000 crore in 2022-23 and 60,000 crore in 2023-24. Due to this, not everyone who has a job card can get a job
- The money earmarked for this scheme plays an important role in the village economy. Apart from agricultural workers, women of small farming families also earn income through work
- It is a creative scheme to help the rural wage laborers to become self-reliant. The government should make employment a right and provide employment for 100 days
- Unemployment relief should be provided if employment is not available. This was the first law to make work a right in 75 years of independent India
- The highlight of the scheme is that the rural population is partially freed from economic insecurity

Unreasonable argument

- In the background of this, the argument put forward is that the 100-day work scheme is the reason for the lack of manpower for agricultural work. If there are two people in a family, only 42 days of work have been provided on an average under this scheme last year. So 21 days per person
- Out of 365 days, leaving the 21 days, which job do they go to in the remaining 344 days ?
- Of course, no agricultural laborer can survive solely on the work available in agriculture. Because it is rare to get 50 days of work in a year in agricultural work. Wages in agricultural jobs are lower than other jobs

- Besides, agriculture is becoming mechanized rapidly
- Machines are used for most things like paddy cultivation, sugarcane cutting and tree cutting. Hence the demand for agricultural labor is decreasing
- The argument that 100-day scheme workers are lazy is unwarranted
- The fact is that they are doing hard physical labor everyday doing all available jobs like construction work, loading work, going to work in shops, driving, going to work in foreign states, quarries, brick kilns, rice mills etc.
- And today's youth do not want to go to the landlords and do agricultural work. Today's youth cannot accept the feudal mentality they have. So they look for other jobs. They work harder and harder than before

Simple goals

- There is no one who questions in the field of 100 day work program. Can you say anything about government departments that work in such a way that people are satisfied?
- Even those who are reluctant to criticize the workings of government departments are critical of the 100-day scheme workers.
- Most of the people in this scheme are women especially Scheduled Castes and Tribes. So they can be criticized and humiliated. Because these are simple targets who have no way of questioning

Cause of agricultural decline

- Agriculture is not profitable, rise in price of inputs, lack of purchase guarantee, government not fixing remunerative prices for agricultural commodities, non-availability of timely credit, non-availability of manufacturing industries using agricultural commodities as raw materials are the main reasons for decline in agriculture.

Tamil Nadu tops the commodity export index

NITI Aayog report

- According to Niti Aayog, Tamil Nadu ranks first in the commodity export index
- Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Suman K Bery has released the Export Preparedness Index for the year 2022 for the third year in a row.
- In this, Tamil Nadu is at the first position by taking 80.89 points overall. Maharashtra (78.20), Karnataka (76.36) and Gujarat (73.22) are next.
- Export metrics for each sector were assessed. In this, the state government's policy on trade environment, measures to increase exports and export activities were mainly taken into consideration
- Apart from these four main factors, ten different sub-factors were used in the scale
- Export development policy, activities of companies, business environment, infrastructure, transport connectivity, infrastructure for exports, state government assistance for increasing trade, research and development infrastructure, export diversification, development mechanisms were also taken into account.
- Tamil Nadu continues to lead in exports of automotive, leather goods and textile industries
- Recently, Tamil Nadu has advanced to the top position in electronics exports
- As per study, it is mentioned that the export from Kanchipuram, Chennai and Tirupur areas is high. The main reason for this is the factories in these areas
- Kanchipuram has a large export of silk and silk products. Exports from Kancheepuram for geo-coded products are significant
- Petroleum products, engineering products, pharmaceuticals and chemical products are the major exports from Chennai
- In the textile industry, Tirupur's contribution to the export of ready-made garments is leading. Cotton and handloom products are mostly exported from here
- Tamil Nadu scored 97.21 points in the Enterprise Structure Index

- It scored 73.68 points in export index and 63.34 points in export performance
- Tamil Nadu's contribution to India's total exports is 9 percent. Automobiles, textiles, machine parts etc. are exported from Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu's contribution in the export of seafood and agricultural products is also significant
- Tamil Nadu, which has been ranked first in the export of electronic goods, is currently leading the way in the Export Preparedness Index
- The activities of the Tamil Nadu government are not only the target of trillion dollar but also the role of the state in the development of India is huge.

No neutrality in resolving disputes

- The decision by the two countries to end six long-standing trade disputes at the World Trade Organization was one of the notable outcomes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to the US.
- The WTO Appellate Body has been redundant since 2019. Three cases settled as part of the deal are before the defunct Appellate Body. The remainder may be appealed as void. In this context, both sides have been out of demand

Disputes

- One of the earliest cases in settled disputes involved a challenge to domestic content requirements under India's National Solar Mission
- Although disagreements over India's compliance with WTO obligations persisted, many spin-offs arose from this dispute with the United States
- It sought authorization from the WTO's dispute settlement body for trade retaliation. India competed in this
- India also challenged some sub-federal schemes implemented in the US in the field of renewable energy and won the case
- Amending domestic laws to comply with international treaty obligations is a matter of great political sensitivity
- Particularly in the US, while India's success in the original WTO proceedings was significant, it recovered some of the US's resources in subsequent compliance proceedings
- The dispute was ready to reach the Appellate Body
- India also faces an uncertain future, particularly some corporate tax exemptions provided under the SEZ scheme, from resolving challenges in some of its foreign trade policy schemes, including the Special Economic Zone and Export-Oriented Branch Schemes.
- India's appeal to the defunct appellate body will keep the dispute dormant
- At the same time, India voluntarily scrapped some controversial schemes, including the Export of Goods from India scheme
- India also embarked on a comprehensive process to reform its SEZ legislation
- Proper WTO compliance in the short term on export subsidy measures may not have been easy for India
- In its context, the settlement of disputes in all six cases shows a pragmatic approach on the part of two strong trading partners
- They accepted each other's domestic challenges in dispute settlement and realized the importance of resolving differences
- However, it is not unprecedented for a WTO panel to reach the heart of a trade agreement. There was an understanding between the two conflicts. But temporarily stopped
- The first involves India's challenges against the controversial Section 232 tariffs imposed under the US Trade Expansion Act of 1962.

- The US imposed additional tariffs of 25% on steel and 10% on aluminum. This prompted a series of WTO challenges and unilateral trade challenges
- India saw these as security measures and imposed retaliatory measures. The US overestimated India's retaliatory obligations
- At the same time India believed that these duties could be retained as long as the Article 232 tariffs were in place
- India and the US will not give up on their actions despite proposals to end the disputes. But the United States will receive and consider requests to opt out of Section 232 measures with approval rates of 70% for steel products and 80% for aluminum products that meet mutual concerns and interests.
- Although importers in the US have to file exemption applications, the robust approval rates provide India's steel and aluminum exporters with a solid market access opportunity to face tough challenges in competing in the US market.
- The US has received an assurance from India that it will waive additional duties that are retaliatory in nature on certain US agricultural imports that have suffered some collateral damage, in exchange for rates stated in the approval rates for Steel and Aluminum.
- India removes only retaliatory duties on these eight products and does not provide any preferential treatment on them
- Finding mutually agreeable solutions to long-standing disputes is not unknown in the WTO
- Reaching an agreement in six separate disputes involving different sectors and products is not unprecedented
- Greater use of diplomacy and bilateral talks can be more effective in practice when adjudicative decisions are not immediately available or politically impossible.
- In other words, the decision to end these controversies means that India is trying to write a new chapter in the US
- Trade relations and sets a pattern for other WTO members to follow
- As mentioned by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, the agreement was reached between India and the US.
- Trade relations are scaling new heights. And it could deepen macroeconomic ties.

Is RBI's compromise solution correct?

- The Reserve Bank of India announced last month that banks can enter into conciliation with willful defaulters and loan defaulters.
- The basis of the compromise option allowed by the Reserve Bank is that a partial amount of the loans of the said persons can be received and the remaining outstanding amount can be treated as a loss.
- RBI has said that this conciliation test will provide an opportunity for banks to collect due loan amounts and improve their balance sheet.

Who are willful defaulters?

- Reserve Bank has defined those who willfully do not pay the loan balance despite having the ability and facility to repay the loan taken from the bank as willful defaulters
- Deliberate non-repayment of loans occurs due to reasons such as use of loans taken from banks for purposes other than the purpose for which they were acquired, selling of drops given as collateral without the knowledge of the banks.

What is compromise settlement?

- An agreement reached through negotiations regarding the repayment of the loan balance is called a compromise settlement

- Based on this, the borrower will give the bank an amount less than the loan amount taken by him
- The bank will receive this less loan amount and accept it as full and final settlement
- That means the bank waives off a portion of the borrower's debt. This discount is only allowed to be availed once
- After the introduction of economic reforms in our country, many such compromises with banks have been approved. As a result, the banks have lost crores of rupees

Haircut

- Creditors refer to the act of reducing the amount of loan outstanding that they have to repay as a haircut
- According to the data released by TransUnion CIBIL, a credit reporting agency registered with the Reserve Bank of India, the outstanding amount due from defaulters in December 2020 was Rs 2,45,767 crore.

Conditions of RBI

- RBI has allowed this reconciliation subject to certain conditions. In particular, the cost and time involved in legal proceedings should be taken into account
- Amicable settlement talks should be consistent with the policy of the bank management
- Also report should be sent to RBI from time to time. Legal proceedings against debtors should be pursued as per the rules of procedure
- A restriction has also been placed that new loans should be given only after at least 12 months to those who have settled with the banks
- Banks can recover at least part of the loan dues through conciliation
- Reasons given in favor of this circular are that this compromise solution will benefit borrowers who want to avoid legal complications and reputational damage.
- But in reality the compromise solution is likely to affect the credibility and accountability of banks. RBI's announcement implied that no action would be taken

Disadvantages of compromise solution

- This will act as an incentive for them to default on loans in the future and indulge in repeated loan scams
- As a result of this settlement, the banks do not get the full amount due from the borrowers. This will cause losses to the banks. Banks can raise interest rates to protect themselves from losses. Lending can be reduced
- As a result the profitability and stability of banks will suffer. The interests of those who repay the loans in an honest manner are sidelined and the fraudsters benefit
- By offering such incentives to unscrupulous people, people may get the impression that the banks are colluding with them
- Some may have left their country without repaying their debts or declared bankruptcy
- Tracing them and confiscating their assets is a difficult task for banks
- Critics allege that many corporates have benefited from debt restructuring programs by extending loan repayment periods and taking new loans to cancel existing ones.
- In 2019, the RBI issued a circular stating that loan defaulters and willful defaulters are not eligible for benefits under the loan restructuring scheme.
- But the latest June circular appears to challenge confidence in the banking sector

Compromise

- By this sanction RBI not only condones the actions of the loan defaulters but also puts the burden of their mistakes on the common man.

- There is a risk of banks compromising their integrity
- Discrimination in loan waivers continues to this day. Barring a few nationalized banks, banks are reluctant to disclose even the names of those who have defaulted on loans of over Rs 100 crore.
- But the banks have no hesitation in carrying out the process of auctioning the assets of those who have defaulted on installments of less than one crore rupees, such as home loans, car loans, small business loans, etc.

Public interest

- Any compromise settlement should be aimed at recovering the debts at the least cost and in the shortest possible time
- It should be kept in mind that the interests of the general public are more important than the interests of the debtors during the conciliation talks

Disparities between districts of Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu leads

- Tamil Nadu ranks ahead of other states in India in various socio-economic indices. Tamil Nadu ranks among the top three states in the country in terms of percentage of school-going girls, low infant mortality rate and low number of stunted children.
- Tamil Nadu has the highest percentage of students enrolled in higher education in the country

Imbalance

- There is a huge gap between the developed districts of Chennai, Coimbatore, Kanyakumari and the districts of Ramanathapuram, Pudukottai, Ariyalur, Perambalur on various socio-economic indices (including metropolitan areas and rapid urbanisation).

Clean fuel

- 98 percent of households in Chennai use clean fuel (Including electricity and cooking gas)
- 42% in Pudukottai. In the western districts of Coimbatore, Erode and Tirupur, more than 95% of households use clean fuel
- The ratio is less than 60 percent in the south-eastern coastal districts of Thiruvallur, Pudukottai, Nagapattinam and the southern districts.
- The proportion of households using improved sanitation facilities is 96.2 per cent in Kanyakumari whereas 53.8 per cent in Villupuram.
- In the central districts of Ariyalur, Perambalur, Karur, Salem, and Trichy and in the southwestern districts of Virudhunagar, Dindigul, only less than 2% of households use sanitation facilities.
- The proportion of stunted or underdeveloped children for age is 33.6% in Karur and 18% in Tiruvallur. Districts like Chennai, Kanchipuram, Cuddalore are in a good position on this scale (Almost 20% or less)
- In the northern districts of Vellore, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri more than 28 percent of children are stunted.
- Among girls aged 20 to 24, the proportion of teenage marriages is 21% in Salem and Perambalur districts & 19% in Chennai
- In the southern districts of Thoothukudi, Tenkasi, and Tirunelveli, the ratio of computerized schools is 65 percent. In Chennai and Villupuram it is almost 90 percent
- Chennai and Kanyakumari are far ahead in the Multidimensional Poverty Index, which measures the lack of access to basic amenities such as health, education and quality of life. Pudukottai is far behind
- The North Coastal Districts are leading in terms of total district production. South & East coastal districts are lagging behind

International inflation is likely to rise

- India is the second largest producer of rice in the world after China. Meanwhile, India is the leading exporter of rice
- India's contribution to international rice exports is more than 40 percent
- Many countries from Europe, Africa and North America rely on India for rice
- In this case, India has banned the export of non-basmati rice varieties to foreign countries
- Due to this decision of India, there is a possibility of shortage of rice internationally and its price will increase
- Economists warn that inflation will increase due to it

Why ban?

- India's production of food grains reached an all-time high last crop season. But it is feared that the production will suffer a lot in the current year
- The main reason for this is that Southwest Monsoon started very late in the current year due to the El Nino environment in the Central Pacific Ocean.
- In the southern states including Kerala and Karnataka, the Southwest Monsoon rains are not enough
- But the north western states including Delhi, Haryana, Himachal, Uttarakhand, Gujarat have received excessive monsoon rains
- Farmers in the southern states who had started harvesting operations in anticipation of the southwest monsoon were hit hard by the lack of timely rains
- Meanwhile, crops were flooded in northern states due to excessive monsoon rains
- It is expected that the production of rice in the current year will not be as determined as the yield has been affected by these two types of severe damage
- The central government has banned the export of non-basmati rice varieties as a precautionary measure to prevent domestic shortages and rising prices in the face of declining production.

International impact

- Many countries around the world have rice as their staple food
- Rice is the staple food of about 300 crore people of the world's 800 crore population. Not only that, countries with large numbers of overseas Indians also require more rice
- Economists say India, which is a major exporter of rice internationally, has imposed a ban on rice exports, which will have major implications internationally.
- The day after India's rice export was banned, Indians living in the United States competed and bought large quantities of rice
- Many people bought several months' worth of rice bags in advance and kept them in stock. A similar situation was seen in countries including Australia

Rice importing countries

Country	Quantity (1,000 metric ton)
China	5,200
Saudi Arabia	3,600
European Union	2,650
Philippines	2,200
Japan	1,600
Ivory Coast	1,500

America	1,375
Senegal	1,300
Mexico	1,200
Iraq	1,200

Impact on monetary inflation

- The war between Ukraine and Russia broke out amid the gradual recovery of the international economy affected by the spread of the Corona virus
- The war continues to have various effects on the international economy
- The fuel and food supply chain was severely affected. As a result, inflation reached historic highs in various countries including the United States and Britain
- Economists say that inflation is likely to rise again at the international level due to the El Nino environment and Russia's cancellation of the Black Sea Agreement leading to the distribution of food grains while inflation in various countries is now returning to normal.
- Of the 2.2 crore metric tonnes of rice India exported last year, one crore tonnes was non-basmati rice
- It has been said that India's ban on rice exports to protect the domestic population will definitely have an impact on the international level

Indian companies allowed to register on foreign stock exchanges through International Financial Services Center in Gujarat

- The central government has allowed Indian companies to list their shares on the International Financial Services Center in Gujarat. With this, Indian companies can easily get investments from foreign companies

IFSC

- An International Financial Services Center has been set up at the International FinTech City in Gujarat. Indian companies can directly list on foreign stock exchanges through this centre
- The International Financial Services Center was set up in 2015 at the Gujarat International Fintech City in Gandhinagar, the capital city of Gujarat
- Not only listed companies in Indian stock exchange but all companies including unlisted companies can directly list their companies in foreign stock exchanges through IFSC. Through this, Indian companies can easily get international investment

Who benefits from Russia's cheap crude oil imports?

Economic blockade

- Russia declared war on Ukraine in February last year. The United States and European countries have imposed economic sanctions on Russia to condemn this move
- The US imposed restrictions on Russia not to use the dollar for its international trade
- It also banned the purchase of crude oil and natural gas from Russia. This embargo allowed Russia to sell crude oil produced in its country to other countries at a lower price

Discount price

- India was importing crude oil from the world market especially from Saudi Arabia, Iraq and UAE at USD 112 per barrel.
- The Modi government bought large quantities of crude oil from Russia when Western sanctions forced Russia to sell its own crude oil at a concession of \$75 per barrel.

Benefit to public

- This decision was expected to benefit the public. Because whenever the price of crude oil goes up, the price of essential commodities and vegetables goes up. When the price of crude oil goes down, the price of these will either go down or there will be no price rise

Why trade?

- If crude oil is bought from Russia at a lower price, the price will fall in India. India engaged in trade with Russia, defying the Western countries' economic embargo on Russia, claiming that the people would benefit from it

Russia ranks number one

- Due to this move, India has imported 15 times more crude oil from Russia than usual in the last one year. Thus, for the first time, Russia has become the number one supplier of crude oil to India
- Russia may have used India's money for war on Ukraine

Who benefited?

- Crude oil procured at affordable prices does not only go to government companies. Half of it was given to two private companies, Reliance and Nayara Energy
- These two companies have been making huge profits by buying crude oil from Russia at hideous prices, refining it and exporting it abroad at high prices.

Chinese yuan

- Generally, when India trades with foreign countries, the transaction is done in US dollars. Because in world trade, the most recognized currency is the US dollar
- But Russia could not accept payments in dollars because of the economic sanctions
- India could not trade with Russia in rupees. Russia also did not agree to buy in Indian rupees
- Using this opportunity, China talked to Russia and got them to agree to accept payment from India in its national currency, Yuan
- As a result, India is now paying Russia in yuan, China's currency, for the cheap crude oil it buys from Russia

India's ban on rice exports and its impact on the international arena

Climate change

- Carbon dioxide emitted by factories and vehicles leads to global temperature rise. The world is now beginning to feel the effects of climate change
- In particular, El Nino in the Pacific Ocean has caused irregular climate change. Due to this, changes in weather conditions occur like drought on one side and flood on the other side

Low Production

- This year, the monsoon has started late in the southern states including Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka. Also not enough rain
- As a result, paddy cultivation has decreased. But the northern states are experiencing unprecedented heavy rains. As a result, agricultural lands are submerged in water. Due to drought on one side and floods on the other, rice production may decrease in the current year

Export ban

- Meanwhile, the price of rice has been increasing significantly for the past few months. In this context, there is a risk that the price of rice will rise further if production declines this year

- That is why the central government banned the export of non-basmati rice on the 20th in order to control the rise in domestic rice prices.
- The nations of the world depend on each other for their food needs. It is evident today that if one country's agricultural exports are blocked, many countries will be affected
- In that way, rice is the staple food of 300 crore people out of 800 crore people around the world. America, Europe and Africa depend on rice imports

India's share

- India accounts for 40 percent of global rice exports. Last year, 5.54 crore tonnes of rice was exported internationally. India's share in this alone is 2.22 crore tonnes
- Non-Basmati rice accounts for 25 percent of India's total rice exports. Already, due to the Russia-Ukraine war, wheat prices have increased internationally. Currently, the Indian government has imposed a ban on the export of rice, and food insecurity has intensified globally

Impacts in USA, Australia

- America and Australia have been greatly affected by India's ban. Many US states have run out of rice
- Crowds of people flocked to buy rice in many supermarkets. The price has also doubled, i.e. the price of 10 kg of rice has increased from Rs 1640 (\$20) to Rs 3200 (\$40).
- Americans are lamenting that this has had a huge impact on their food budgets
- With only a month's worth of rice in stock, Americans are at a loss as to what to do next
- In Australia, even though basmati is an alternative to white rice, people there are not very interested in buying it
- As people are buying more rice than they need and hoarding it, prices in Australia are likely to increase as in the US
- Turkey, Syria and Pakistan are said to be seriously affected by India's rice export ban
- In the context of high food inflation in these countries, India's rice export ban is expected to have a major impact

IMF request to lift the ban

- India's ban on rice exports has paved the way for further increases in global food prices, says the International Monetary Fund.
- As the Russia-Ukraine war escalates, Ukraine is unable to export from the Black Sea region
- In response to this, the prices of wheat and oilseeds have seen a rise globally. In this situation, India's rice export ban will increase the price of the grain by up to 15 percent, says Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, Chief Economic Adviser at the International Monetary Fund.
- Therefore, the IMF urged India to withdraw the embargo on rice immediately
- A ban on rice exports can be partly overcome by rich countries. But the plight of poor people from countries like Somalia, Sudan, Kenya, Lebanon, which has been affected by civil strife is pitiable.
- Agricultural leadership countries like India should realize this and ensure that the food chain between the world countries is not interrupted

Influence of world countries

- Today's world is beginning to realize how extreme seasonal variations like excessive rainfall, extreme heat, lack of rainfall, floods affect food production in one country, and how it affects another country.
- The Russia-Ukraine war has shown us that if the global political situation worsens, the situation will become even worse

India and its states Start up

- Agriculture sector was earlier said to be the backbone of India. But now startups are seen as the backbone of India
- Startup companies play a very important role in the economic growth and job creation of the country
- In the past 10 years, start-up companies have brought about tremendous changes in various fields such as commerce, transportation, education, government service, financial transactions.

States with the highest number of startups

State	No. of Start-ups
Maharashtra	19,601
Karnataka	15,000
Gujarat	12,900
Uttar Pradesh	10,122
Tamil Nadu	6,764

- There are a total of 99,380 startups in India

Employment generation

- Maharashtra - 1.50 lakhs
- Karnataka - 1.15 lakhs
- Delhi - 88,000
- Uttar Pradesh - 68,000
- Gujarat - 52,000
- Haryana - 49,000
- Telangana - 45,000
- Tamilnadu - 40,000
- Kerala - 29,000
- As start-up companies have emerged as the determining force for the country's next phase of economic growth, central and state governments are making serious efforts to create a strong start-up framework.

Unicorn

- Start up organisation which have one million dollar and above is called Unicorn organisation. As per 2023 Report there are Unicorn organisation in India.

