



# ENLITE IAS

*fortnightly current affairs magazine*

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## POLITY


### 1. Electoral Bonds

#### In News

- Electoral Bonds chief source of donations for political parties report by the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR)

#### About Electoral Bonds




- It was introduced in **2017**.
- An Electoral Bond is like a *promissory note* that may be **purchased** by a person who is a *citizen* of India or *body incorporated or established* in India.
- A person being an *individual can buy* Electoral Bonds, either *singly or jointly* with other individuals.
- The bonds are like *banknotes that are payable to the bearer on demand* and are *interest-free*.
- One can purchase these bonds *only digitally or through cheques*.
- **Benefits**
  - Enhanced transparency in political party funding.
  - Accountability in disclosing donation utilization.
  - Discouragement of cash transactions.
  - Preservation of donor anonymity.



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## Electoral Bonds

**Why in news ?** - Between 201617 and 202122, seven national and 24 regional parties received a total donation of ₹9,188.35 crore from poll bonds, out of which the BJP's share was ₹5,271.97 crore, while all other national parties together received ₹1,783.93 crore, according to a report by the Association of Democratic Reforms.

Electoral Bonds	Benefits of Electoral Bonds				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Bank of India is authorised to issue and encash these bonds.</li> <li>• Electoral bonds are purchased anonymously by donors and are valid for 15 days from the date of issue.</li> <li>• As debt instruments, these can be bought by donors from a bank, and the political party can then encash them.</li> <li>• These can be redeemed only by an eligible party by depositing the same in its designated account maintained with a bank.</li> <li>• The bonds are issued by SBI in denominations of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore.</li> <li>• The bonds are available for purchase by any citizen of India for a period of ten days each in the months of January, April, July and October as may be specified by the Central Government.</li> </ul>	 <p><b>WILL BRING</b> substantial transparency in political donations against the present system of contributions in the election funding mechanism</p>	 <p><b>HOW MUCH</b> funding comes, what kind of funding it is, the source of funding and where it will be spent will be known clearly</p>	 <p><b>NON DISCLOSURE</b> of recipients will ensure people are free to donate to any political party of their choice</p>	<p><b>WILL REINFORCE</b> the idea of moving away from a cash system towards clean money which cheque system could not achieve</p>	<p><b>15 DAYS</b> between buying and selling will ensure they don't turn into a parallel economy</p>
<p><b>Eligibility</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only the political parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951</li> <li>• Have secured not less than 1% of the votes polled in the last general election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly</li> </ul>	<p>☎ <b>7994058393</b>  <a href="http://www.enliteias.com">www.enliteias.com</a>   <a href="mailto:enliteias@gmail.com">enliteias@gmail.com</a></p>				

## 2. Collegium system

### In News

- The SC Collegium under CJI DY Chandrachud has quietly and transparently streamlined the appointment process of judges to the constitutional courts.

### About the Collegium system

- The Collegium system, which has evolved through *judgments of the SC*, is the way by which *judges of the SC and HCs* are *appointed* and *transferred*.
- It is a *five-member body*, headed by the *incumbent CJI* and comprises the *four* other *senior most judges of the SC at that time*.
- **Evolution – Three Judges Cases**
  - *P. Gupta & Others v. Union of India (1981)*
  - *Advocate on Record Association v. UoI (1993)*
  - *re Special Reference case (1998)*
  - It was established that the *recommendation made by the CJI without following the consultation process* for the appointment of SC and HC Judges is *not binding* on the government.
- *National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC)* was thought of as a replacement of the Collegium System but it was *invalidated* by the Supreme Court.
- **Criticism against the Collegium System**
  - Lack of Transparency and Accountability.
  - Scope for nepotism.
  - Embroilment in public controversies.
  - Overlooks several talented junior judges and advocates.

## 3. Rule 267 Vs Rule 176 of the Rajya Sabha

### In News

- Rule 176 vs Rule 267: What Govt agrees to, what Opp demands

### About the Rule 267

- **Purpose**
  - To *suspend any rule's application related to the day's listed business* and *discuss an urgent issue of public importance*.
- **Process**
  - An *Opposition member* can give *notice under Rule 267*, requesting the suspension of all listed businesses for the day to discuss the urgent matter.
  - If the *Chairman consents* and the motion are carried, the Rajya Sabha can *suspend regular business* and devote time to address the pressing issue.

- **Format**
  - The discussion can *suspend all listed businesses*, allowing time for in-depth debate.
- **Voting**
  - *No formal motion or voting* is required.

#### **About the Rule 176**

- **Purpose**
  - To allow for a *short-duration discussion* not exceeding two-and-a-half hours on a matter of urgent public importance.
- **Process**
  - A *member* can give *notice in writing* to the *Secretary-General*, supported by the *signatures of at least two other members, stating the specific matter* they wish to raise.
  - The *Chairman*, in *consultation* with the *Leader of the Council*, will then fix a *date and time* for the short-duration discussion.
- **Format**
  - The discussion is *time-bound* and *limited to two-and-a-half hours*.
- **Voting**
  - *No formal motion or voting* is required.

#### **4. Vice Chairperson of Rajya Sabha In News**

- 4 women MPs in RS vice-chairpersons' panel

#### **About the Vice Chairperson of Rajya Sabha**

- *Article 118(1)* of the Constitution empowers *each House of Parliament* to make rules for regulating its *Procedure and the Conduct of its business*.
- Under this provision of the Constitution, *Rajya Sabha* adopted rules for regulating its procedure and the conduct of its business in *1964*.
- Under the Rules of Rajya Sabha, the *Chairman nominates from amongst the members a panel of vice-chairpersons* who hold office until a new panel of vice-chairpersons is nominated.
- Any one of them can *preside over* the House in the *absence* of the *Chairman or the Deputy Chairman*.
- He/she has the *same powers* as the Chairman when so presiding.
- A member of the panel of vice-chairpersons *cannot preside over* the House when the *office of the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman* is *vacant*.
- During such time, the Chairman's duties are to be performed by such members of the House as the *President may appoint for the purpose*.

- The number of Women MP's in Lok Sabha has shown a regular increasing trend in the recent times and has increased from **45 (8.3%) in 2004 (14th Lok Sabha)** to **81 (14.9%) in 2019 (17th Lok Sabha)**.

## 5. Adjournment motion

### In News

- During the Monsoon Session, Congress MPs moved adjournment motions in the Lok Sabha to take up urgent discussion on alleged sexual assault in Manipur.

### About the Adjournment motion

- The adjournment motion is a **parliamentary procedure** used in the **Lok Sabha** (lower house of the Indian Parliament) to draw **urgent attention** to a specific matter of **urgent public importance**.
- Word 'adjournment' means to *suspend a session or meeting* till another time or indefinitely
- Background
  - The adjournment motion originated from the **UK's House of Commons**.
  - In India, it was *introduced* in Lok Sabha under the **Government of India Act of 1919**
- The motion allows for *discussions on pressing issues* and can result in strong **censure of the government** but *does not necessitate the government's resignation*.
- The adjournment motion requires **support of 50 members**
- Restriction of the motions
  - Must be *definite, factual, and urgent*
  - Should cover **only one matter**
  - Must pertain to a *recent* occurrence
  - *Cannot raise a question of privilege*
  - Cannot revive a previously discussed matter in the same session
  - Cannot be related to a matter under court adjudication
  - Should not cover any question that can be raised separately.

## 6. Motions in Parliament

### In News

- Recently, a Member of Parliament moved adjournment motion in the Lok Sabha citing the need for urgent discussions on ethnic violence in Manipur.

### About Motions

- A motion is a **formal proposal** made by a member in a **House of Parliament** to initiate a *debate or a decision on a matter*.

### No-Confidence Motion

- This is a motion moved in the *Lok Sabha* (and *not in the Rajya Sabha*) to test the *confidence* of the government.
- The motion needs the *support of 50* members to be admitted.
- If a *no-confidence motion* is *passed*, the *government must resign*.
- No-confidence motions are significant political events that usually occur when there is a perception of the government losing majority support.

### Confidence Motion

- It is passed when the governments formed with *wafer-thin majority* have been called upon by the *President* to prove their *majority on the floor of the House*
- Passage indicates the government's continued mandate to govern.

### Privilege Motion

- A member can initiate this motion when they believe a *minister has violated* the *privileges* of the *House or its members* by *withholding crucial information about a case or providing inaccurate and manipulated facts*.
- The primary aim of this motion is to *express disapproval* and *criticize* the respective minister's actions.

### Motion of Thanks

- It is a parliamentary procedure to *express gratitude for the President's Address at the commencement of Lok Sabha*.
- At the end of the discussion, the *motion is put to vote*. This motion *must be passed* in the House. *Otherwise, it amounts to the defeat of the government*.

### Cut Motion

- Proposed to *reduce the amount of a demand* in the *budget*.
- Their *passage* by the Lok Sabha amounts to the expressions of *want of parliamentary confidence* in the government and *may lead to its resignation*.



## 7. Parliamentary Privileges

# Parliamentary Privileges

**Why in news?** - Taking note of the "growing incidents" of members casting aspersions on the presiding officers of Rajya Sabha, the Committee of Privileges has said that henceforth any such action by members would "amount to breach of privilege and contempt of the House" and there would be "exemplary consequences".

<p><b>Collective Privileges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parliament has the right to publish its reports, debates and proceedings and also the right to prohibit others from publishing the same.</li> <li>It can exclude strangers from its proceedings and hold secret sittings to discuss some important matters.</li> <li>It can make rules to regulate its procedure and the conduct of its business.</li> <li>It can punish members as well as outsiders for breach of its privileges.</li> <li>It has the right to receive immediate information about the arrest, detention, conviction, imprisonment and release of a member.</li> <li>The courts are prohibited to inquire into the proceedings of a House or its committees.</li> <li>No person (either a member or outsider) can be arrested, and no legal process (civil or criminal) can be served within the House without the permission of the presiding officer.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Individual Privileges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members of Parliament cannot be arrested during the session of Parliament and 40 days before the beginning and 40 days after the end of a session.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This privilege is available only in civil cases and not in criminal cases or preventive detention cases.</li> </ul> </li> <li>They have freedom of speech in Parliament. No member is liable to any proceedings in any court for anything said or any vote given by him in Parliament or its committees.</li> <li>They are exempted from jury service. They can refuse to give evidence and appear as a witness in a case pending in a court when Parliament is in session.</li> </ul>
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— PARLIAMENT OF INDIA —

**Sources of Privileges**

- Constitutional provisions.
- Various laws made by Parliament.
- Rules of both the Houses.
- Parliamentary conventions.
- Judicial interpretations

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## 8. Minority Communities in India In News

- Recently, the Ministry of Minority Affairs, shared significant achievements and insights about the various schemes

### About the Minority Communities in India

- Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, and Zoroastrians (Parsis)* have been **notified** as minority communities under the **National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992**.
- In **2014**, *Jains* were also notified as a minority community.

- As per the *Census 2011*, the percentage of minorities in the country is about **19.3%** of the total population of the country.
- The population of Muslims are 14.2%; Christians 2.3%; Sikhs 1.7%, Buddhists 0.7%, Jain 0.4% and Parsis 0.006%.
- **Constitutional Provisions**
  - The term "*minority*" is *not defined* in the Indian Constitution.
  - The Constitution recognizes *only religious* and *linguistic minorities*.
  - **Article 29:** It provides that any section of the citizens residing in any part of India having a *distinct language, script or culture of its own*, shall have the *right to conserve* the same.
  - **Article 30:** Under the article, all minorities shall have the right to *establish* and *administer educational institutions* of their choice.
  - **Article 350-B:** Originally, the Constitution of India did not make any provision with respect to the *Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities*. But, the *Seventh Constitutional Amendment Act of 1956* inserted **Article 350-B** in the Constitution.

## ENVIRONMENT

### 1. Yamuna River

#### In News

- Yamuna water level breaches 60-year record; Kejriwal seeks Centre's help

#### About Yamuna River

- The Yamuna River is one of the *major tributaries of the Ganges* in Northern India
- **Source:** *Yamunotri Glacier* at an elevation of **6,387 meters** on the southwestern sides of *Banderpooch* crests in the *lower Himalayan ranges*.
- **Basin:** It *meets the Ganges* at the **Sangam** (where Kumbh mela is held) in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh after flowing through Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi.
- **Important Dam:** Lakhwar-Vyasi Dam (Uttarakhand), Tajewala Barrage Dam (Haryana) etc.
- **Important Tributaries**
  - *Chambal*
  - *Sindh*
  - *Betwa*
  - *Ken*

### 2. New Evidence of Phosphine in Clouds of Venus

#### In News

- Scientists detected phosphine at deeper level in Venus' atmosphere than before using the James Clark Maxwell Telescope (JCMT) at Mauna Kea Observatory, Hawaii.

#### About the News

- Scientists in 2020 detected the presence of *phosphine gas* in the *deeper layers of clouds of Venus*.
- *Phosphine on Earth* is known to be *synthesized by bacteria* thriving in environments with *extremely low levels of oxygen*.
- Scientists have acknowledged that while the detection of phosphine could potentially serve as a *biosignature*, it could also be attributed to other mechanisms that are currently not completely comprehended.

#### About the Venus

- Venus is Earth's *closest planetary neighbor*.
- It is also known as *earth's twin*. Similar in structure but *slightly smaller* than Earth, it is the *second planet* from the Sun.
- Venus is wrapped in a *thick and toxic atmosphere* that *traps in heat*.

- Surface temperatures reach a scorching 880 degrees Fahrenheit, hot enough to melt lead.
- It is the **hottest planet** in the solar system.
- The planet's atmosphere is primarily suffocating **carbon dioxide** and **sulfuric acid** clouds.

### 3. Siachen Glacier


#### In News

- In June 1958, V. K. Raina, a top Indian geologist, led the first Geological Survey of India expedition to the Siachen glacier.

#### About the Siachen Glacier

- The entire Siachen Glacier, with all major passes, has been under the **administration of India since 1984 (Operation Meghdoot)**.
- The Siachen Glacier is the **world's highest battlefield**.
- The Siachen Glacier is **positioned from northwest to southeast**.
- It originates at the base of the **Indira Col West, a col (low point) on the Indira Ridge**, at an altitude of **6,115 metres**, and it descends to an altitude of **3,570 metres**.
- It is the **Second-Longest glacier** in the **World's Non-Polar** areas after **Fedchenko Glacier** in **Tajikista**

## Siachen Glacier

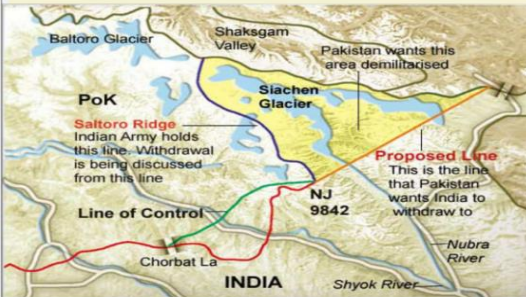


**Why in news?**


- In June 1958, V. K. Raina, a top Indian geologist, led the first Geological Survey of India expedition to the Siachen glacier.

**Siachen Glacier**

- Location - In the eastern Karakoram range in the Himalayas just northeast of the point NJ9842 where the Line of Control between India and Pakistan ends.
- The glacier lies between the Saltoro Ridge immediately to the west and the main Karakoram range to the east.
- Length - At 76 km (47 mi) long, it is the longest glacier in the Karakoram and second-longest in the world's non-polar areas.
- Major passes - Sia La, Bilafond, and Gyong La.
- River Originate - Nubra River
- Controlled by India as part of 1984 Operation Meghdoot,.



Pic Credit - BBC



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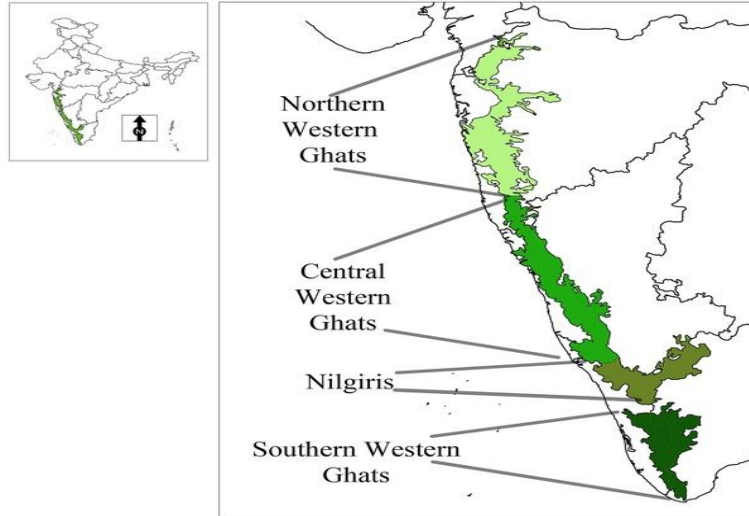
#### 4. Western Ghats

##### In News

- Western Ghats lost 5% evergreen forest cover, shows analysis

##### About The Western Ghats

- **The Western Ghats**, also known as the *Sahyadri Hills*, are well known for their rich and unique assemblage of flora and fauna.
- The range is called *Sahyadri* in *northern Maharashtra* and *Sahya Parvatham* in *Kerala*.
- The northern portion of the *narrow coastal plain* between the **Western Ghats** and the **Arabian Sea** is known as the *Konkan Coast*.
- The *central portion* is called *Kanara* and the *southern portion* is called *Malabar region* or the *Malabar Coast*.
- It is recognized as a *UNESCO World Heritage Site*.
- It is one of the *eight hotspots of biological diversity* in the world due to its high level of *biological diversity and endemism*.
- **Geology of Western Ghats**
  - The mountains of the Western Ghats are *Block Mountains* formed due to the *down warping of a part of land into the Arabian Sea*.
  - The mountains of the Western Ghats are *not true mountains*, but are the *faulted edge* of the *Deccan Plateau*.
  - *Major rocks* found in the region include *Basalt, charnockites, granite gneiss, khondalites, leptynite, metamorphic gneisses* with *detached occurrences* of crystalline *limestone, iron ore, dolerites and anorthosites*.
- **Climate and Vegetation**
  - The *high montane forest* ecosystems influence the *Indian monsoon* weather pattern.
  - The Ghats act as a *key barrier, intercepting the rain-laden monsoon winds* that sweep in from the south-west during late summer.
  - The *western slopes* have *tropical and subtropical moist broadleaf forests* marked predominantly by *Rosewood, Mahogany, and Cedar* etc.
  - The *eastern slopes* of the Western Ghats have *dry as well as moist deciduous forests* marked predominantly by *Teak, Sal, Shisham, Sandalwood trees*.



## 5. National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)

### In News

- Recently, a new study reveals that 56% of the world's oceans have experienced a change in colour due to climate change.


### About the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)

- It was launched in **2008** by the *Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change*.
- It aims at **creating awareness** among the representatives of the public, different agencies of the government, scientists, industry and the communities on the threat posed by climate change
- There are **8 national missions** forming the core of the NAPCC which represent multi-pronged, long term and integrated strategies for achieving key goals in climate change. These are

1. **National Solar Mission**
2. **National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency**
3. **National Mission on Sustainable Habitat**
4. **National Water Mission**
5. **National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem**
6. **National Mission for A Green India**
7. **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture**
8. **National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change**



## National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)



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Enlightening minds. Lightening journeys.


### National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)

- The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) was launched in 2008 by the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change.
- Aim - It outlines a national strategy that aims to enable the country to adapt to climate change and enhance the ecological sustainability.

**Features**

- Protection of the underprivileged and vulnerable segments of society through inclusive and sustainable development strategies that are climate change-aware.
- Improvements in ecological sustainability are brought about by qualitative changes in national growth.
- Deployment of suitable technology at a rapid and extensive rate for both adaptation and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Mechanisms for voluntary cooperation and regulation to advance market innovation and sustainable development.
- Effective plan implementation by employing special connections like local governments and civic society through public-private partnerships.

8 National Missions Forming the Core of the NAPCC



- Encouragement of global IPR regulation and appropriate funding for research, development, exchange, and transfer of data and technologies under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

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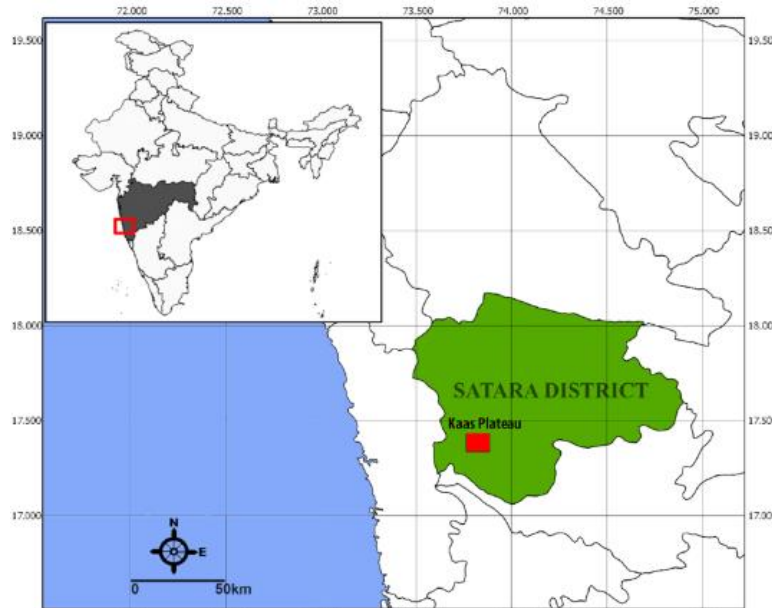
## 6. Kaas Plateau

### In News

- Sediments decode climate and environmental changes on Kaas Plateau around 8664 years BP

### About the Kaas Plateau

- The Kaas Plateau, located in *Maharashtra's* Satara district, is a *UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site* and a designated *biodiversity hotspot*.
- Known as Kaas Pathar in Marathi, its name is derived from the *Kaasa tree*, botanically known as *Elaeocarpus glandulosus*
- The plateau has various seasonal flowers forming a floral carpet over the entire *lateritic crust* during August and September.



## 7. The Hoolock Gibbon

### In News

- The conservation status of *India's sole ape species*, the Hoolock gibbon, has become a pressing global concern.

### About the Hoolock Gibbon

- It is the *smallest and fastest* of all apes inhabit *tropical and subtropical* forests in *Southeast Asia*.
- They have *high intelligence, distinct personalities, and strong family bonds* similar to other apes.
- They represent one of the **20 gibbon species** found worldwide.
- Population and Habitat
  - The current population of Hoolock gibbons is estimated to be around **12,000** individuals.
  - They are found in forested areas of *Northeast India, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Southern China*.
- Conservation Status
  - International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List
    - *Western* Hoolock Gibbon: **Endangered**
    - *Eastern* Hoolock Gibbon: **Vulnerable**.
  - Also, both the species are listed on *Schedule 1 of the Indian (Wildlife) Protection Act 1972*.



## 8. Zombie Fires

### In News

- As global temperatures rise, fires are spreading farther north and into the Arctic, leading to a rise in “zombie fires.”

### About the zombie fires

- Zombie fires are *underground wildfires* that *smoulder beneath the surface*, burning slowly and releasing large amounts of smoke.
- They can **persist through winter, re-emerging in the following spring.**
- These fires are difficult to *detect and extinguish*, making them a challenging fire fighting task.
- Zombie fires occur in *carbon-rich peatlands* and can have significant environmental impacts, contributing to climate change and air pollution.
- Reason
  - The *Arctic’s warming conditions* make the *forest and tundra* more susceptible to *wildfires*, and *changes in atmospheric circulation, including more frequent lightning strikes, contribute to fire outbreaks.*

## 9. Desiccation-Tolerant Plant Species

### In News

- Over 60 species of plants that can survive extreme dehydration found in Western Ghats

### About the Desiccation-Tolerant Plant Species (DT Plants)

- Plants are able to tolerate the desiccation of their vegetative tissues. *DT plants* are the most common residents of *tropical rock outcrops*.
- DT plants can *survive high dehydration*, losing up to **95%** of their water content.
  - Dehydration in plants occurs when the *plant loses more water than it takes in.*
- Habitation
  - DT plants can be found in both *tropical and temperate* regions.
  - They can *quickly regenerate* when *water supplies are restored* and are frequently found on *rocky outcrops in the tropics.*
  - It is crucial for the world's warming that some species can thrive at higher temperatures.

## 10. Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary

### In News

- Project Cheetah: Villagers oppose fencing of Gandhi Sagar sanctuary, work stopped

### About the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary

- It is located in **Madhya Pradesh** on the northern boundary of the Mandsaur and Nimach districts, adjoining Rajasthan
- The landscape is characterized by **vast open landscapes** and **rocky terrain**
- The vegetation includes northern **tropical dry deciduous forest, mixed deciduous forest,** and **scrub**
- Some of the flora found in the sanctuary is **Khair, Salai, Kardhai, Dhawda, Tendu,** and **Palash.**
- The fauna includes **Chinkara, Nilgai, Spotted Deer, Striped Hyena, Jackal** and **crocodiles.**

## 11. Sundarbans

### In News

- Barges Navigating Sundarbans Allegedly Trigger Erosion and Disrupt Siltation

### About the Sundarbans

- It is a vast contiguous **mangrove forest ecosystem** in the coastal region of **Bay of Bengal spread over India and Bangladesh on the delta (world's largest)** of the **Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers.**
- It contains the **world's largest mangrove forests.**
- Much of the area has long had **the status of a forest reserve,** but conservation efforts in India were stepped up with the creation of the **Sundarbans Tiger Reserve in 1973.**
- **Sundarbans National Park,** established in **1984,** constitutes a core region within the tiger reserve; it was designated a **UNESCO World Heritage site in 1987.**
- Sundarbans was designated as a **Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 2001.**
- Sundarban Wetland, India was recognised as the '**Wetland of International Importance**' under the **Ramsar Convention in January 2019.**



## 12. Auroras

### In News

- Recent observations by the BepiColombo mission by ESA and JAXA provided valuable insights into auroras on Mercury.

### About the news

- On Mercury, auroras are caused by *electrons from solar wind directly interacting with its surface*.
- During the mission's close Mercury flyby, the spacecraft observed the planet's *magnetosphere*, the region influenced by its magnetic field.
- The magnetosphere was found to be unusually compressed, likely due to the high pressure from the solar wind.
- It confirms that the mechanism generating auroras on Mercury is *similar to that found throughout the Solar System*.
- It sheds light on the process of *X-ray auroras* on the planet, a significant step in understanding the *interactions between the solar wind and planetary surfaces*.

### About the Auroras

- Auroras are natural light displays that occur in the *Earth's Polar Regions*, mainly near the *Arctic and Antarctic circles*.
- They are caused by *charged particles from the sun colliding with the Earth's atmosphere*.
- The *Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis)* occur near the North Pole, while the *Southern Lights (Aurora Australis)* occur near the South Pole.
- Composition and Colours**
  - Auroras consist of gases and particles, including oxygen and nitrogen.
  - The collisions of these particles with the atmosphere release energy in the form of light.
  - The *colours* observed in auroras depend on the *type of gas* and *altitude of the collisions*.

**BepiColombo**



**Why in news?**

- During a close Mercury flyby, the BepiColombo spacecraft collected data that showed how electrons raining down on the planet's surface are triggering X-ray auroras.

**BepiColombo**

- Launched by - European Space Agency (ESA) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
- Launched on - 2018
- Aim - to study Mercury's surface, composition, magnetic field, and its interaction with the solar environment.



Pic Credit - NASA
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### 13. Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve

#### In News

- The forest department has identified 12 illegal, unauthorised or unrecognised resorts in Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve, Megamalai division in Theni.

#### About the Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve


- It was established in **2021**
- It is the **fifth Tiger Reserve** in **Tamil Nadu** and **51st** tiger reserve in India.
- It provides protection to **Megamalai**, the **Vaigai's** primary catchment, in turn helping water levels to rise in the river.

Tiger reserves in TN	
Name	Area (In hectares)
Mudumalai	32,100
Kalakad Mundanthurai	70,654
Anamalai	95,859
Satyamangalam	79,349
Srivilliputhur-Megamalai	1,01,657.13

TN tiger population	
Census	No. of tigers
2006	76
2010	163
2014	229
2018	264

## Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve (SMTR)



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**Why in news?**


- An RTI query revealed that the forest department has identified 12 illegal, unauthorised or unrecognised resorts in Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve (SMTR), Megamalai division in Theni.

**Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve (SMTR)**

- Location - Western Ghats region of Tamil Nadu
- It was formed in February 2021 by combining Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary and Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary.
- It will function as a connecting link between Kerala's Periyar Tiger Reserve and Tamil Nadu's Southern Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve.
- Associated River - Vaigai River
- Flora - It's a blend of tropical evergreen and semi-evergreen forests, dry deciduous and moist mixed deciduous woods, and grasslands.
- Fauna - Elephants, Tiger, Leopard, Nilgiri Tahr, Gaur, Spotted Deer, Barking Deer, Sambar Deer

**Other Tiger Reserves of Tamil Nadu**





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## 14. Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary

### In News

- Recently, violence erupted in Assam's Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary, resulting in the death of a woman and injuries to six others, including forest guards

### About the Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary

- It is a part of the *Laokhowa-Burachapori ecosystem*.
- It is located in the *south bank of the Brahmaputra River*.
- **Fauna:**
  - This sanctuary is home to the *Great Indian one-horned rhinoceros*, tiger, leopard, wild buffalo, hog deer, wild pig, and elephants.
  - The bird list includes the *Bengal Florican (highly endangered)*, *Black-necked Stork*, *Mallard*, *Open billed Stork*, *Teal*, and *Whistling Duck* among others.
  - Due to several *wetlands* it is an ideal breeding place for several species of migratory birds during the winter season.
- **Flora:** The grassland is also rich in various kinds of medicinal herbs and plants.

## 15. Tiger Orchids

### In News

- The Tiger Orchids are in bloom at the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI), Palode

### About the Tiger Orchids (*Grammatophyllum speciosum*)

- The plant was listed by the Guinness Book of World Records as the *world's tallest orchid*.
- **Native Distribution:** *Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea*
- **Native Habitat:** Terrestrial (Primary Rainforest, Freshwater Swamp Forest, Riverine)
- **Preferred Climate Zone:** Tropical, Sub-Tropical / Monsoonal
- **CITES Protection:** True (Appendix II)
- **Growth Form:** Its stem is 3 m or longer, and up to 5 cm thick. It is also the *largest orchid species* in the world.

## 16. India's First Cannabis Medicine Project

### In News

- Jammu is set to lead India's *first Cannabis Medicine Project*, collaboration between *CSIR-IIIM Jammu* and a *Canadian firm under PPP*.

### About the Project

- The project *aims to harness the potential of cannabis for medical purposes*, particularly in treating neuropathies, cancer, and epilepsy.
- To *address drug abuse awareness* in J&K and Punjab
- Emphasizing the *medicinal benefits* of cannabis.
- The cannabis research project holds promise for discovering therapeutic properties of the plant, previously known for abuse, and obtaining regulatory approvals for clinical studies and drug development.
- It will *foster investment opportunities* in Jammu and Kashmir
- *Cannabis* (also called *marijuana*), a *psychoactive drug* from the cannabis plant, has been used for *recreational* and *medicinal* purposes for centuries.
- In India, *possession of prohibited drugs is an offence, but medical use is allowed*.

## 17. Silvopasture Systems

### In News

- Harness silvopasture systems for local climate resilience

### About the silvopasture systems

- They are a *sustainable land management approach* that combines *trees, livestock grazing, and forage production* on the *same land*, providing ecological and economic benefits.
- **Advantages**
  - Improved local climate resilience: Creating *favourable Microclimates*, buffering against temperature and wind extremes, providing a favourable environment for livestock, thus improving animal welfare
  - Can play a vital role in *reversing deforestation trends* caused by increased demand for pasture.
  - Silvopasture acts as a *natural carbon sink*, reducing carbon dioxide emissions significantly
  - Enhancing *soil quality*



## 18. Fluorochemicals

### In News

- Researchers at the University of Oxford have achieved a groundbreaking breakthrough by developing a new technique to produce fluorochemicals without using hazardous hydrogen fluoride (HF) gas.

### About the Fluorochemicals

- Fluorochemicals are essential chemical compounds used in various industries, including polymers, agrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, and lithium-ion batteries.
- They are known for their unique properties, including **high thermal stability** and **resistance to chemicals**.
- Traditionally, fluorochemicals are produced through an **energy-intensive process** involving the use of **hazardous hydrogen fluoride (HF) gas**.
- **HF** is generated by reacting a **crystalline mineral called fluorspar (CaF<sub>2</sub>) with sulphuric acid under harsh conditions**. This process has **safety risks and environmental consequences** due to **HF spills**.
- **New Method of Fluorochemicals Formations**
  - Inspired by the **natural biomineralization process** that **forms teeth and bones**, researchers successfully activated **solid-state calcium fluoride (CaF<sub>2</sub>)** through a **mechanochemical process**.
  - This innovative method, named **Fluoromix**, allows for the **direct synthesis** of over **50 different fluorochemicals from CaF<sub>2</sub>** with impressive yields of up to 98%.

## 19. Ethanol

### In News


- Recently, the Indian Prime Minister announced at the G20 Energy Ministers' meeting that India has rolled out 20% ethanol-blended petrol in 2023 and aims to cover the entire country by 2025.

### About the Ethanol

- Ethanol, also known as **ethyl alcohol**, is a **biofuel** produced from various sources such as **sugarcane, corn, rice, wheat, and biomass**.
- The production process involves the **fermentation of sugars by yeasts** or via **petrochemical processes** such as **ethylene hydration**.
- Ethanol is **99.9% pure alcohol** that can be **blended with petrol** to create a **cleaner fuel alternative**.

- Apart from being a fuel additive, ethanol production yields *valuable by products* like *Distillers' Dried Grain with Solubles*, and *Potash from Incineration Boiler Ash* that find applications across various industries.

## E20 Fuel




**Why in news?**

- E20 fuel outlets will have pan-India presence by 2025 , the Indian Prime Minister announced at the G20 Energy Ministers' meeting

**E20 Fuel**

- E20 Fuel is a blend of 20% ethanol and 80% petrol.
- Major sources of ethanol sugarcane, rice , maize is allowed.
- India has already met its E10 target in 2022, so petrol used in the country has 10% ethanol in it.
- The government now aims to achieve a complete 20% blending of ethanol by 2025 ( advanced from 2030).



**Do You Know?**

At present ethanol production is concentrated in Uttar Pradesh , Maharashtra and Karnataka .

**Significance**

- Adoption of E20 fuel will be instrumental in cutting down vehicular emissions.
- It will also help in cutting down the country's oil import bill, thereby saving foreign exchange and boosting energy security.
- It would extend support to the agricultural sector as well as provide additional income to farmers.

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## 20. Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE) Movement

### In News

- The *1.5 degrees Celsius warming target*, along with this year's *El Nino*, has garnered attention. Reports suggest the planet may cross this temperature threshold due to the rising climate phenomenon.

### About Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE) Movement

- The idea of LiFE was *introduced by India* during the *26<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow in 2021*.
  - The idea promotes an *environmentally conscious lifestyle* that focuses on *'mindful and deliberate utilisation'* instead of *'mindless and wasteful consumption'*.
- **Objective**
  - It seeks to leverage the *strength of social networks* to *influence social norms* surrounding climate.



- The Mission plans to create and nurture a *global network of individuals*, namely '*Pro-Planet People*' (P3).

## 21. Panchamrit initiative of India in UNFCCC

India has presented the following *five nectar elements (Panchamrit)* of India's climate action:

- Reach **500 GW Non-fossil energy capacities by 2030**.
- **50 per cent of its energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030**.
- Reduction of total projected carbon emissions by **one billion tonnes from now to 2030**.
- Reduction of the **carbon intensity of the economy by 45 per cent by 2030**, over 2005 levels.
- Achieving the target of **net zero emissions by 2070**.

## 22. Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary

### In News

- Notify Mhadei sanctuary as tiger reserve within 3 months: HC to Goa

### About the Mhadei Wildlife sanctuary

- Located in the **Northern part of Goa**, Sanguem taluka, near Valpoi town.
- Encompasses picturesque waterfalls, including *Vazra Sakla Falls* and *Viridi Falls*.
- Known for its nesting grounds of **critically endangered Long-billed vultures** near Vazra Falls.
- Diverse landscape with **thick moist deciduous forests** and **some evergreen species**.
- Notable for **sacred groves protecting rare and indigenous trees**.
- **Flora and Fauna**
  - Rich biodiversity with Indian gaur, Tigers, Barking deer, **Sambar deer**, Wild boar, Indian hare, and more.
  - Designated an **International Bird Area** for hosting several bird species like **Malabar parakeet** and **Rufous babbler**.
  - Represents a crucial habitat for **tiger conservation** in Goa.



## SCHEMES/INITIATIVES

### 1. Agri Infra Fund

#### In News

- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has launched a new campaign titled ***BHARAT (Banks Heralding Accelerated Rural & Agriculture Transformation)*** under the ***Agri Infra Fund (AIF)***.

#### About the Agri Infra Fund

- AIF is a ***financing facility*** launched in July ***2020*** to provide all-around financial support to farmers, agri-entrepreneurs, FPOs, PACS, Cooperatives, SHGs etc
- It aims to create ***post-harvest management infrastructure*** and ***build community farming assets*** throughout the country.
- **Features**
  - Under it, ***1 Lakh Crore*** will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans with ***interest subvention of 3% per annum***.
  - It also provides credit guarantee support through the ***Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme*** for loans of ***up to Rs 2 crore***
  - The fund will be ***managed and monitored*** through an ***online Management Information System (MIS) platform***.

### 2. Mission Vatsalya Scheme

#### In News

- It launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, ensures children's safety and security in India.

#### About the Mission Vatsalya Scheme

- ***Pre-2009: Ministry of Women and Child Development*** implemented ***three schemes***:
  - Juvenile justice program for children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with the law.
  - Integrated program for street children.
  - Scheme for assistance to children's homes.
- ***2010:*** These schemes merged into the ***Integrated Child Protection Scheme***.
- ***2017:*** Renamed as the ***Child Protection Services Scheme***.
- ***2021-22:*** Reintroduced as ***Mission Vatsalya***.
  - ***Umbrella scheme for child protection services in India***.
  - Aims to secure a healthy and happy childhood for every child in the country.

## Mission Vatsalya



### Mission Vatsalya

- Funding - Centrally Sponsored Scheme since 2021-22.
- Ministry: The Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- Mission Vatsalya Scheme is a roadmap to achieve development and child protection priorities aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- It lays emphasis on child rights, advocacy and awareness along with strengthening of the juvenile justice care and protection system with the motto to 'leave no child behind'.

### Components under Mission Vatsalya



### 3. Credit Guarantee Fund

#### In News

- First ever “Credit Guarantee Scheme” for Livestock Sector launched for rebooting rural economy by leveraging MSMEs

#### About the Credit Guarantee Fund

- The Credit Guarantee Fund is a *financial mechanism* that provides *risk mitigation* for *lending institutions*, by lending to individuals or businesses, even *without sufficient collateral*.
- If the *borrower defaults*, the *fund reimburses the lending institution for the guaranteed portion of the loan*.
- The *Credit Guarantee Fund Trust*, established in March 2021, is India’s *first-ever fund trust* under the Credit Guarantee Scheme for the agriculture and Animal Husbandry sector.
- It aims to significantly increase the number of MSMEs benefiting from the *AHIDF scheme* and strengthen the ecosystem for collateral-free credit from banks
- **Features of the Scheme**
  - Under the scheme, the *Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying* has established a *Credit Guarantee Fund Trust of Rs. 750.00 crores (under NABARD)*

- It provides credit guarantee coverage of **up to 25%** for credit facilities extended to MSMEs by eligible lending institutions.

#### 4. Advance Authorisation Scheme

##### In News

- DGFT implements the Advance Authorisation Scheme, allows duty-free import of inputs for export purposes

##### About the Scheme

- It allows the **duty-free import of inputs**, which are *physically incorporated into an export product*.
- In addition to any inputs, packaging material, fuel, oil, and catalyst which is **consumed in the process of production of export product**, is also allowed.
- **DGFT** provides a *sector-wise list of Standard Input-Output Norms (SION)* under which the exporters may choose to apply.

### Advance Authorisation Scheme

**Why in news?**

- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) implemented the Advance Authorisation Scheme under the Foreign Trade Policy, which allows duty-free import of inputs for export purposes.

**Advance Authorisation Scheme**

- An advance authorisation scheme allows duty-free import of inputs, which have to be mandatorily used in products that are required to be exported within a specified time.
- Features
  - They are not allowed to sell the products in the domestic market.
  - Advance Authorization is valid for 12 months from the date of issue of such Authorization.
  - The revised composition fee formula is based on a specific rate for different levels of the 'CIF (cost, insurance, freight) value of authorisation.
  - The fees levied under these 3 slabs; at ₹5,000 for a cost, insurance, freight (CIF) value of advance authorization license valued at up to ₹2 crores, ₹10,000 for a value between ₹2 crore and 10 crores, and ₹15,000 for value over ₹10 crores.
- Significance - The simplification of calculations for composition fees helps in automation and faster service delivery by making the process more efficient and easier to understand.

```

graph TD
    A[Advance Authorisation Scheme Methods] --> B[SION]
    A --> C[SELF - DECLARATION]
    A --> D[PRIOR FIXATION OF NORMS]
    A --> E[SELF - RATIFICATION]
    
    B --> B1[Apply for Advance Authorisation as per SION & Get the License from DGFT]
    C --> C1[Apply for Advance Authorisation as per Self Declaration & Get the License from DGFT]
    D --> D1[Approach NORMS Committee for fixation]
    E --> E1[Apply for Authorisation as per Self Declaration Self ratification basis & Get the License from DGFT]
    
    B1 --> B2[Import Raw material Duty Free]
    C1 --> C2[Import Raw material Duty Free]
    D1 --> D2[Apply for Advance Authorisation based on Norms fixed & Get the License from DGFT]
    E1 --> E2[Import Raw material Duty Free]
    
    B2 --> B3[Export]
    C2 --> C3[Approach NORMS Committee for fixation of norms]
    D2 --> D3[Import Raw material Duty Free]
    E2 --> E3[Export]
    
    B3 --> B4[Close Advance Authorisation]
    C3 --> C4[Approved]
    C3 --> C5[Not Approved]
    D3 --> D4[Export]
    E3 --> E4[Close Advance Authorisation]
    
    C4 --> C6[Export]
    C5 --> C7[Pay Duty + Interest on Excess]
    D4 --> D5[Close Advance Authorisation]
    
    C6 --> C8[Close Advance Authorisation]
    
```

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## 5. Sovereign Green Bonds

### In News

- PFRDA to allow funds to invest in sovereign green bonds: Chairman Deepak Mohanty

### About the Sovereign Green Bonds

- Sovereign Green Bonds are **government-issued bonds** used to fund projects that have **positive environmental impacts** and **contribute to sustainability goals**.
- It was announced in the **Union Budget 2022-23** and the framework for SGrBs was issued by the **Ministry of Finance** in **2022**.
- **Investors** in these bonds **do not bear project-related risks**.
- Last year, the government **raised Rs 16,000 crore** from the issuance of **Sovereign Green Bonds** to fund projects aimed at reducing carbon emissions.
- The projects can include **renewable energy, clean transportation and green buildings**, among others.
- **Proceeds** from these bonds are **earmarked for green projects**.
- This is **unlike standard bonds**, the proceeds of which can be **utilised for various purposes** at the **discretion of the issuer**.

## 6. ESG Scheme

### In News

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has permitted mutual funds to introduce five new categories under the **ESG (environmental, social, and governance) scheme**.

### About the ESG Scheme

- ESG aims to encourage **sustainable and ethical business practices**, including **climate change, pollution, human rights, corporate governance**, and more.
- **SEBI** issued a guidance note in **2012**, urging companies listed on Indian Stock Exchanges to disclose their **ESG performance in annual reports**.
- With effect from the **financial year 2022-2023**, filing of **Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR)** has been made **mandatory** for the **top 1000 listed companies** by **SEBI**.
- **ESG schemes** are mandated to invest **at least 65% of assets** in listed entities with BRSR Core assurance, while the balance can be invested in companies with BRSR disclosures, starting from October 1, 2024.
- **How ESG differs from corporate social responsibility (CSR)?**
  - India has a robust **CSR policy codified in the Companies Act 2013**, mandating that corporations engage in initiatives that contribute to the welfare of society by

spending *at least 2% of their net profit over the preceding 3 years on CSR activities.*

- **ESG regulations** differ in *process and impact.*
  - For example, The **U.K. Modern Slavery Act** requires companies to *publish the efforts they have taken to identify the risks of child labour in their supply chain, etc.*

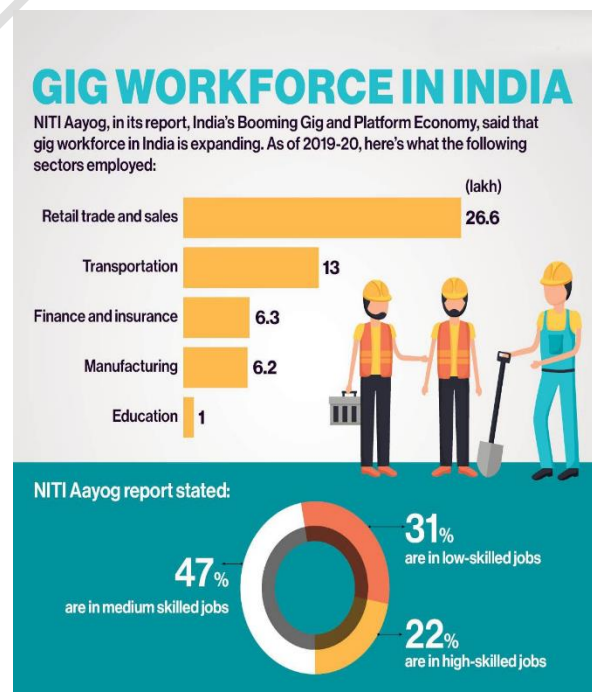
## 7. Code on Social Security, 2020

### In News

- The Rajasthan Assembly recently passed a significant Bill aimed at extending social security benefits to gig workers.

### About Code on Social Security, 2020

- The *Code on Social Security, 2020* aims to amend and consolidate laws related to social security to extend it to **all employees and workers** in **organized or unorganized sectors.**
- The Code can be applied to establishments **subject to size-threshold** through **notification by the central government.**
- **Separate Social Security Funds** will be set up by the **Central and State Governments** for unorganized workers, gig workers, and platform workers.
- **Registration provisions** are specified for **unorganized workers, gig workers, and platform workers.**
- A **National Social Security Board** will be established to **recommend and monitor** schemes for these categories of workers.
- Funding for schemes of gig workers and platform workers may come from contributions by **central and state governments, as well as aggregators.**
- **During an epidemic**, the central government may defer or reduce employer and employee contributions under **Employee State Insurance (ESI) and Provident Fund (PF) for up to three months.**
- Who are **Gig Workers?**
  - A ‘gig worker’ is currently defined as someone who “**earns from such activities outside of the traditional employer-employee relationship and who works on a contract**” for various **platforms or aggregators**, such as Swiggy, Zomato, Ola, Uber, Urban Company, etc.



## 8. PM-DevINE Scheme

### In News

- The Union Ministry for the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region provided recent updates on the ***Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North Eastern Region (PM-DevINE)***.

### About the PM-DevINE Scheme

- The PM-DevINE scheme as a ***Central Sector scheme*** was introduced as a part of the ***Union Budget 2022-23***.
- The Cabinet granted approval for the PM-DevINE scheme on 12th October 2022.
- It has been ***granted 100% central funding***, ensuring that resources are directly allocated to the development initiatives.
- It will be implemented by ***Ministry of Development of North-East Region***.
- Objectives of PM-DevINE
  - ***Infrastructure Development***.
  - ***Supporting Social Development Projects***.
  - ***Empowering Youth and Women***.

## 9. Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Amendment Bill, 2023

### In News

- The Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Amendment Bill, 2023, proposes to create digital birth certificates that will serve as comprehensive documents for various purposes.

### About the Bill

- It aims to ***eliminate the need for multiple documents to prove the date and place of birth***.
- Key features
  - The Bill introduces significant ***amendments to the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969***.
  - Provides for the appointment of a ***Registrar-General, India*** for issuing general directions for registration of births and deaths.
  - Create a ***National and State level database*** of registered births and deaths which would help in updating other databases.
  - The Bill makes it ***mandatory for States*** to register births and deaths ***digitally*** on a centralized portal called the ***Centre's Civil Registration System (CRS)***.
  - ***Medical institutions*** will be required to provide a ***certificate*** stating the cause of death to the Registrar.
- **Benefits**

- The centralized register will facilitate the *efficient and transparent delivery* of public services and social benefits.
- The database will also update the *National Population Register (NPR), ration cards, and property registration records*.
- It will also *simplify the registration process* for adopted, orphaned, abandoned, surrendered, and surrogate children.

## 10. SAGE Portal

### In News

- Recently, the Minister of State for the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment provided valuable insights into the accomplishments of the *Senior care Ageing Growth Engine (SAGE) Portal*

### About the SAGE Portal

- The SAGE Portal serves as a catalyst to *attract entrepreneurs and start-ups* to invest in the "*silver economy*" segment, *fostering innovation* in elderly care solutions.
- SAGE provides convenient "*one-stop access*" for stakeholders, including senior citizens and their families, to discover and access a wide range of products and services catering to their needs.
- The *government* plays a crucial role as a *facilitator*, enabling the elderly to access the products and services offered by identified start-ups through the SAGE Portal.
  - Selected start-ups or start-up ideas receive *equity support of up to Rs. 1 crore per project* through the *Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI)*.
  - The government ensures that the *total government equity* in the start-up *does not exceed 49%*.

### About the SACRED Portal

- **Senior Able Citizens for Re-Employment in Dignity (SACRED) Portal** empowers senior citizens and provides them with *opportunities for re-employment*.
- This portal specifically targets citizens aged *60 years and above*, focusing on the needs and requirements of this age group.
- The portal provides opportunities for senior citizens to find suitable jobs and work options that *match their preferences and skills*.
- The SACRED Portal employs a *virtual matching system* that aligns the preferences of senior citizens with private enterprises seeking experienced individuals.



## 11. Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)

### In News

- The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu presented the “Bhoomi Samman” 2023

### About the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)

- It has been *extended to 2023-24*, to complete its original targets as well as expand its ambit with a slew of new schemes.
- It is being implemented by the *Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development)*.
- Benefits**
  - Real-time land ownership* records will be available to the citizen.
  - Conclusive titling will also significantly *reduce litigation*
  - This method will *permit e-linkages to credit facilities*.
  - Information on *eligibility for Government programs* will be available, based on the data.

**Digital India Land Record Modernisation Programme (DILRMP)**

**Why in news?**

- The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu presented the “Bhoomi Samman” 2023.

**Digital India Land Record Modernisation Programme (DILRMP)**

- Funding - Central Sector scheme
- Ministry - Department of Land Resources , Ministry of Rural Development.
- Origin - In 2008, two schemes viz, Computerisation of Land Records (CLR) and Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updating of Land Records (SRA&ULR) were merged into a modified scheme named DILRMP.
- Aim - It attempts to build upon the commonalities that exist in the arena of land records in various States to develop an appropriate Integrated Land Information Management System (ILIMS) across the country.
- Major Components - Computerization of land records, Survey/re-survey, Computerization of Registration.

**Digital India**  
Power To Empower

**Mobile as digital identity**

- Digital locker
- Policy on IoT,
- Rural services
- Open API policy
- Bridging the digital divide

- 11 Tasks**
- 16 Discussions**
- 1 Poll**
- 8 Blogs**
- 1 Talk**

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## INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS/INITIATIVES

### 1. France

#### In News

- France's decision to supply Ukraine with SCALP missiles as part of the ongoing counter-offensive against Russian forces has sparked anger from Russia.
- Three pillars as its basis, India and France outline road ahead till 2047

#### About the France

- It is the *largest country in Western Europe*.
- It spans Western Europe and *overseas regions and territories* in the Americas and the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans.
- France *shares borders* with *Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Monaco, Italy, Andorra, and Spain* in Europe, as well as the *Netherlands, Suriname, and Brazil* in the Americas via its overseas territory in *French Guiana*.
- Its *overseas territories* include *French Guiana* in South America, *Saint Pierre and Miquelon* in the North Atlantic, the *French West Indies*, and many islands in Oceania and the Indian Ocean.



#### About India and France

- **Pillar 1: Partnership for Security and Sovereignty**
  - **Defence:** Continuation of cooperation on *fighter jets and submarines*, following the timely delivery of the *36 Rafale jets* for the IAF and the success of the *P75 program (six Scorpene submarines)*.
  - **Space:** Enhancement of scientific and commercial partnership through agreements between *France's CNES and India's ISRO*.
    - This includes the joint *Earth observation satellite TRISHNA*, maritime surveillance satellites
  - **Counter-Terrorism:** Strengthening cooperation between France's GIGN and India's National Security Guard.
  - **Critical Technology:** Strengthening cooperation on cutting-edge digital technology, including supercomputing, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and quantum computing.
- **Pillar 2: Partnership for the Planet and Global Issues**

- **Blue Economy:** Launch of a partnership between *France's IFREMER* and *India's National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)* on ocean research under the Blue Economy and Ocean Governance roadmap.
- **Financing the Energy Transition:** Announcement of financing from the French Development Agency for *India's sustainable cities program "CITIIS 2.0"* and financing from Proparco for the South Asia Growth Fund (SAGF III).
- **Decarbonized Hydrogen:** Manufacturing electrolyzers in India, in line with the Indo-French roadmap for decarbonized hydrogen.
- **Pillar 3: Partnership for People**
  - **Student Mobility:** Target of welcoming 30,000 Indian students in France by 2030
  - **Diplomatic and Consular Network:** Opening of a Consulate General of India in Marseille, France and a Bureau de France in Hyderabad, India.
  - **Culture:** France's selection as India's partner for establishing a major new National Museum in New Delhi.
- **Background:**
  - France was one of the first countries with which India signed a “*strategic partnership*” after the end of the Cold War, in January **1998**.
  - France was also one of the very few countries to **support** India’s decision to **test nuclear weapons in 1998**.
  - **Defence Cooperation:** France has emerged as a key defence partner for India, becoming the *second largest defence supplier in 2017- 2021*.
  - **Joint Exercises:**
    - *Exercise Shakti (Army)*
    - *Exercise Varuna (Navy)*
    - *Exercise Garuda (Air Force)*
- **Cooperation at International Forum:** France **supports** India’s bid for **permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council** as well as its **entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group**.
- **Climate Cooperation:** Both countries are concerned about climate change, where India has **supported France in the Paris Agreement** expressing its strong commitment to mitigating the effects of climate change.

## 2. North Korea

### In News

- Why North Korea has tested **Hwasong-18**, a new solid-fueled intercontinental ballistic missile

### About the North Korea

- North Korea is a country in *East Asia*.
- It constitutes the *northern half of the Korean Peninsula* and borders *China and Russia* to the north at the *Yalu and Tumen rivers*, and South Korea to the south at the *Korean Demilitarized Zone*.
- *The war* between *North Korea and South Korea* began in **1950** and both governments claimed to be the *sole legitimate government of all of Korea*, and *neither accepted the border as permanent*.



## 3. The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)

### In News

- It is a *Free trade agreement (FTA)* between
  - *Australia*
  - *Brunei Darussalam*
  - *Canada*
  - *Chile*
  - *Japan*
  - *Malaysia*
  - *Mexico*
  - *Peru*
  - *New Zealand*
  - *Singapore*
  - *Vietnam*.
- The CPTPP was signed by the **11 countries** on 8 March **2018 in Santiago, Chile**.
- **Background**
  - In 2005, a trade agreement between a *small group of Pacific Rim countries* comprising Brunei, Chile, New Zealand, and Singapore led to the formation of *Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP)* consisting of **12 nation-states**.
  - After the *withdrawal of the US*, the remaining eleven signatories, known as the *TPP-11*, continued talks and their efforts led to the *formation of CPTPP*.

- **Significance**

- CPTPP removes **99% of tariffs on goods and services**, just like the original TPP did, all the member countries have agreed to *cut down on wildlife trafficking*.
- It **prevents environmental abuses**, such as *unsustainable logging and fishing*.

#### 4. Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

##### In News

- Recently, the **first-ever Foreign Ministers’ meeting** of the **BIMSTEC** began in **Bangkok, Thailand**.

##### About the BIMSTEC

- The BIMSTEC is a **regional organisation** comprising **7 Member States**:
  - five deriving from **South Asia**
    - **Bangladesh**
    - **Bhutan**
    - **India**
    - **Nepal**
    - **Sri Lanka**
  - two from **Southeast Asia**
    - **Myanmar**
    - **Thailand**.

**BIMSTEC**

**Objectives of BIMSTEC**

- Creating an enabling environment for the rapid economic development of the sub-region.
- Encouraging the spirit of equality and partnership.
- Promoting active collaboration and mutual assistance in the areas of common interests of the member countries
- Accelerating support for each other in the fields of education, science, and technology, etc.

**Important Connectivity Projects**

- Kaladan Multimodal Project – links India and Myanmar.
- Asian Trilateral Highway - connecting India and Thailand through Myanmar.
- Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicles Agreement

**Indian International Policy Associated with BIMSTEC**

- Neighborhood First - primacy to the country's immediate periphery;
- Act East - connect India with Southeast Asia

**7 MEMBER COUNTRIES**

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SAARC	BIMSTEC
A regional organisation looking into <b>South Asia</b>	Interregional organisation connecting <b>South Asia</b> and <b>South East Asia</b> .
Established in <b>1985</b> during the cold war era.	Established in <b>1997</b> in the post-Cold War.



Member countries suffer for mistrust and suspicion.	Members maintain reasonably friendly relations.
Suffers from regional politics.	Core objective is the improvement of economic cooperation among countries.
Asymmetric power balance.	Balancing of power with the presence of Thailand and India on the bloc
Intra-regional trade only 5 percent.	Intra-regional trade has increased around 6 percent in a decade.

## 5. Universal Postal Union (UPU)


### In News

- Universal Postal Union to evaluate UPI for cross border remittances using global postal network

### About the Universal Postal Union (UPU)

- The UPU is a *United Nations specialized agency* and the *postal sector's primary forum* for international cooperation.
- **India** joined the UPU in **1876**.

## Universal Postal Union (UPU)




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**Why in news?**

- The Universal Postal Union will evaluate UPI for integrating the unified payment interface with cross-border remittances using the global postal network, an official release said .

**Universal Postal Union (UPU)**

- Formation
  - Established in 1874 by the Treaty of Bern.
- Headquarters - Swiss capital Berne.
- It is the second oldest international organization worldwide.
- Functions
  - The UPU is the primary forum for cooperation between postal sector players.
  - It sets the rules for international mail exchanges.
  - It helps to ensure a truly universal network of up-to-date products and services.
  - The organizations roles are - an advisory, mediating and liaison role, and provides technical assistance where needed.
  - It makes recommendations to stimulate growth in mail, parcel and financial services volumes and improve quality of service for customers.



UPU

- Membership
  - Any member country of the United Nations may become a member of the UPU.
  - The UPU has now 192 member countries.
- Composition
  - The UPU consists of 4 bodies - the Congress, the Council of Administration, the Postal Operations Council, and the International Bureau.

Pic Credit - Universal Postal Union

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## 6. Sweden

### In News

- Protesters in Iraq storm Swedish Embassy in Baghdad over Koran burning

### About Sweden

- Sweden is a *Scandinavian nation* with thousands of *coastal islands* and *inland lakes*, along with *vast boreal forests* and *glaciated mountains*.
- It borders *Norway* to the west and north, *Finland* to the east, and is connected to *Denmark* in the southwest by a *bridge tunnel across the Oresund*.



## 7. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

### In News

- The recent NATO summit held in Vilnius

### About the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

- NATO's essential and enduring purpose is to safeguard the *freedom and security of all its members* by *political and military means*.
- NATO promotes *democratic values* and enables members to consult and cooperate on defense and security-related issues to solve problems
- NATO has *only once invoked Article 5*, on September 12, *2001 following the 9/11 attacks* on the World Trade Center in the USA.

**North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**

NATO Member Countries		
Albania (2009)	Greece (1952)	Poland (1999)
Belgium (1949)	Hungary (1999)	Portugal (1949)
Bulgaria (2004)	Iceland (1949)	Romania (2004)
Canada (1949)	Italy (1949)	Slovakia (2004)
Croatia (2009)	Latvia (2004)	Slovenia (2004)
Czech Republic (1999)	Lithuania (2004)	Spain (1982)
Denmark (1949)	Luxembourg (1949)	Turkey (1952)

**North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**

- NATO is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) of April, 1949
- Initial aim was to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.
- Headquarters - Brussels, Belgium
- Objective - NATO's essential and enduring purpose is to safeguard the freedom and security of all its members by political and military means and collective defence under Article 5 of treaty.
- Other recent development - Finland becomes the 31st member of NATO bloc.

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## 8. International Solar Alliance

### In News

- India may build solar infra in Pacific island nations amid Chinese push

### About the news

- The move comes *amid increased outreach by China in the region*, prompting traditional heavyweights like *Australia* and the *Quad nations* (US, Japan, Australia, and India) to *place greater emphasis on engaging with Pacific Island countries* to address shared challenges.

### About the International Solar Alliance

- It is an *action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform for increased deployment of solar energy technologies*.
- Its basic motive is to *facilitate energy access, ensure energy security, and drive energy transition* in its member countries.
- **Member Nations:** All member states of the United Nations are eligible to join the ISA.
- **Tenure:** The *Director General* has a *term of four years* and is *eligible for re-election*.
- **4-Priority Areas** of the Program
  - Analytics & Advocacy
  - Capacity Building
  - Programmatic Support
  - Readiness and enabling activities

## International Solar Alliance

**International Solar Alliance**

- The ISA was conceived as a joint effort by India and France which is presented by the leaders of the two countries at the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris in 2015.
- The ISA is an alliance of more than 121 countries, most of them being sunshine countries, which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
- The primary objective of the alliance is to work for efficient exploitation of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
- The alliance is a treaty-based inter-governmental organization.
- The alliance is also called International Agency for Solar Policy and Application (IASPA).
- The ISA is to be headquartered in Gurugram, India.

**WHAT ISA REPRESENTS**

<b>73%</b> of global population	<b>36%</b> of world GDP	<b>55%</b> of total energy consumption worldwide	<b>23%</b> of installed solar capacity
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Source: ISA, IE

**138 GW:** Combined solar power generation potential of ISA member-countries in the next five years

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## 9. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

### In News

- The NITI Aayog unveils TCRM Matrix Framework to Revolutionize Technology Assessment and drive Innovation in India

### About the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

- It is the global forum for *intellectual property (IP) services, policy, information and cooperation*.
- It is a *self-funding agency* of the *United Nations*, with *193 member states*.
- Its aim is to lead the development of a balanced and effective *international IP system* that enables *innovation* and *creativity* for the benefit of all.
- It is headquartered in *Geneva, Switzerland*.
- Every year World Intellectual Property Day is being celebrated on 26th April
- *Palestine* has *permanent observer status*.
- *India* joined WIPO in *1975*.
- **History of WIPO**
  - *1883* — *Paris Convention* for the Protection of Industrial property
  - *1886* — *Berne Convention*
  - *1891* — *Madrid Agreement*
  - *1974* — WIPO joins the *United Nations*
  - *1978* — *Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)* system launched
  - *1994* — *Arbitration and Mediation Centre (AMC)* established

## 10. Cambodia

### In News

- Cambodia's election, held on Sunday, is expected to be won by the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) led by Prime Minister Hun Sen

### About the Cambodia

- In the countries *northwest* are the *ruins of Angkor Wat*, a *massive stone temple complex built during the Khmer Empire*.

  
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## Cambodia

**Cambodia**

- Cambodia is a country on the Indochinese mainland of Southeast Asia.
- Capital - Phnom Penh
- Borders
  - West and Northwest - Thailand
  - Northeast - Laos
  - East and Southeast - Vietnam
  - Southwest - Gulf of Thailand
- Rivers - Mekong River
- Major Heritage Places - Angkor Wat, Ta Prohm and Preah Vihar
- Major Groupings - Cambodia is a member of the United Nations, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund. It is a member of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), ASEAN, and joined the WTO





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## 11. Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA)

### In News

- India and Australia have formed a joint working group to explore the possibility of a mutual recognition agreement (MRA) that would facilitate Indian whiskey makers' access to the Australian market.

### About the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA)

- A Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) is a **formal agreement between two or more countries or trading partners**.
- It allows them to **recognize** and **accept** each other's standards, regulations, and conformity assessment procedures for specific products or services.
- By doing so, MRAs aim to **facilitate trade** and **market access** by reducing redundant testing, certification, and inspection requirements.
- The formation of the group comes after **Australia got duty-free access for its high-end wines** under the **Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (ECTA)**, between India and Australia.

## 12. Argentina

### In News

- India and Argentina have agreed for a bilateral exchange of young researchers and Startups, particularly in the field of Biotechnology and Agriculture

### About the Argentina

- Argentina is the *second-largest country in South America after Brazil*.
- Argentina is bordered by the *Andes Mountains and Chile to the west*.
- To the *east of the Andes, the interior of the country is flat, fertile grassland called the Pampas*.
- The eastern border of the country is the *Atlantic Ocean*.
- *Bolivia* is to the northwest and *Paraguay* is to the north.



## 13. Joint G-20 Communiqué

### In News

- The upcoming G-20 Summit in New Delhi in September 2023 is facing obstacles in issuing a Joint Communiqué due to opposing stances from Russia and China concerning paragraphs related to the War in Ukraine.

### About the Joint G-20 Communiqué

- The G-20 grouping, comprising the *world's major economies*, has *traditionally* managed to *reach a consensus* and *issue a joint declaration at the end of each summit*.
- A failure to do so in India being the Chair would be unprecedented and may raise questions about the *sustainability of the G-20 in its current form*.
- Previous summits, such as *Brisbane in 2014* and *Indonesia in 2022*, faced challenges but *eventually succeeded* in producing a document.
- Despite challenges, the *Sherpa track* is set to begin draft negotiations for the *"Delhi Declaration"* from August 2023.
  - The Sherpas will attempt to address areas of differences, including *U.S.-China tensions over debt sustainability* and privacy issues over digital public infrastructure.

**About G20**

- The **Group of Twenty (G20)** was founded in **1999 after the Asian financial crisis** as a forum for the **Finance Ministers** and **Central Bank Governors** to discuss global economic and financial issues.
- The G20 was **upgraded** to the level of **Heads of State/Government** in the wake of the **global economic and financial crisis of 2007**, and, in **2009**, was designated the “**premier forum for international economic cooperation**”.
- The G20 members represent **80% of global investment** and **over 75% of global trade**.

**What is the G20?**

The Group of 20 is made up of 19 of the world's biggest economies, as well as the European Union. It formed in 1999 to discuss policy matters and financial stability.



These countries account for **85%** of global GDP



**2/3** of the world's population is from these countries

**14. Vietnam**

**In News**

- India gifted the indigenously built in-service missile corvette INS Kirpan to Vietnam.

**About Vietnam**

- **Location:** Southeast Asia, bordered by **China** to the north, **Laos** to the northwest, **Cambodia** to the southwest, and the **South China Sea** to the east and south.
- **Capital:** **Hanoi**
- **Largest Rivers:** The **Mekong** in the south and the **Red** in the north, end at the South China Sea.
- **Currency:** Vietnamese Dong (VND)
- **Independence:** Declared on **September 2, 1945, from French colonial rule.**
- **Historical Events:**
  - **Vietnam War (1955-1975)** involving the **US and North and South Vietnam**
  - **Reunification** of North and South Vietnam in **1976.**



## 15. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

### In News

- Recently, the UNESCO has released the Global Education Monitoring Report 2023

### About the UNESCO

- UNESCO is a *specialized agency of the United Nations (UN)*.
- It seeks to build peace through international cooperation in *Education, the Sciences and Culture*.
- It is also a member of the *United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG)*, a coalition of UN agencies and organizations aimed at *fulfilling the SDGs*.
- UNESCO's *Headquarters* are located in *Paris* and the Organization has more than 50 field offices around the world.
- It has *194 Members and 12 Associate Members* and is governed by the *General Conference* and the *Executive Board*.
  - *Three UNESCO member states are not UN members:*
    - Cook Islands
    - Niue
    - Palestine.
  - While *two UN member states are not UNESCO members:*
    - Israel
    - Liechtenstein

## ECONOMY

### 1. Advancing Aviation Sector in India

#### In News

- Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) investing Rs. 98,000 crore (2019-2024) in airport infrastructure to meet growing air traffic demands.


#### About the Advancing Aviation Sector in India

- Safety oversight is ensured through regular *surveillance* and *audits* by the *Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)*.
- Emphasis on sustainable aviation, encouraging carbon neutrality and adoption of green energy at airports.
- The *Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)* is committed to achieving Sustainable Aviation in collaboration with the *International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)*, following the principles and provisions of the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*.


## Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)




### Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)

- Ministry - Ministry of Civil Aviation
- It is a statutory body under Aircraft Regulation Act, 1934.
- Duty - It investigates aviation accidents and incidents, maintains all regulations related to aviation and is responsible for issuance of licenses pertaining to aviation like PPL's, SPL's and CPL's in India.
- It also co-ordinates all regulatory functions with the International Civil Aviation Organisation.



## Directorate General of Civil Aviation



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## 2. Wheat Board of India

### In News

- Experts call for establishing Wheat Board of India

### About the Wheat Board of India

- *Cereal Experts* from **India, Australia, and Canada** have proposed the establishment of the Wheat Board of India, a comprehensive organization to **ensure food and nutrition security** through wheat for the growing population.
- The experts were attending two-day *international milling and baking technical conference* that concluded in Guwahati.
- The event was organised by the *Wheat Products Promotion Society (WPPS)*, a 33-year-old non-profit organisation.
- **Needs**
  - To simplify regulatory compliance
  - To modernize wheat production and processing
  - For the development of climate-resilient wheat varieties and improved milling technologies

## 3. Bank Run

### In News

- Economists are engaged in a debate regarding Full-Reserve Banking (100% reserve banking) versus Fractional-Reserve Banking.

### About Bank Run

- A bank run refers to a situation where a **large number of depositors simultaneously withdraw their funds from a bank**, often due to **concerns** about the **bank's solvency or stability**.
- **Impact**
  - **Liquidity Crisis:** The bank may not have enough cash reserves to meet all the withdrawal requests, which can further fuel panic among depositors.
  - **Contagion Effect:** A bank run on one bank can create a **ripple effect**, spreading fear and panic to other banks in the system and can lead to a broader financial crisis if it isn't contained promptly.
  - **Loss of Confidence:** A bank run can erode public confidence in the entire banking system, leading to a **loss of trust** in financial institutions and can result in a **long-term decrease in deposits**, making it harder for banks to lend and support economic growth.

## **HISTORY/ART & CULTURE**

### **1. Sushruta Jayanti**

#### **In News**

- The All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) is organizing a three days seminar from 13-15<sup>th</sup> July 2023 on the auspicious occasion of Sushruta Jayanti-2023.

#### **About the Sushruta**

- He is the listed author of the *Sushruta Samhita*, a treatise considered to be one of the most important *surviving ancient treatises on medicine* and is considered a *foundational text of Ayurveda*
- Sushruta is often referred to as the "*Father of Surgery*".
- **Contributions:**
  - *Created and developed surgical procedures*, documented in the *Sushruta Samhita*, an *ancient text on plastic surgery*.
  - *Surgical knowledge* is primarily documented in the *Sushruta Samhita*, while *medical knowledge is found in the Charak Samhita and Ashtanga Samhita*.
  - *Trained students* are known as the *Saushrutas*, having skill in *surgical techniques* and *emphasized anatomical studies*
  - Described *upakarmas (treatments for wounds)*, surgical instruments, and procedures.

### **2. Tankai Method**

#### **In News**

- The Ministry of Culture and the Indian Navy sign a MOU to revive the “ancient, stitched shipbuilding method (Tankai method)

#### **About the Tankai Method**

- The '*stitched shipbuilding method*' is a *2000-year-old* traditional boat building technique that involves *sewing the planks of a boat together with cord or wire instead of using nails or screws*.
- This method is still used in some parts of the world for building small boats.
- The stitched ship holds *significant cultural value* in India, given its historical importance and the *preservation of traditional craftsmanship*.
- These ships offered *flexibility* and *durability*, making them *less susceptible to damage from shoals and sandbars*.

### 3. Bharat Mandapam

#### In News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the *international exhibition-cum-convention Centre (IECC)* complex named *Bharat Mandapam* at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.

#### About the Bharat Mandapam

- The term '*Bharat Mandapam*' is derived from *Lord Basaveshwara's* concept of '*Anubhav Mantapa,*' which was a significant institution in the *12th century.*
- *Anubhav Mantapa* is considered one of the *earliest parliaments in human history,* where *poets* and *socio-spiritual reformers* known as *Sharanas* discussed and deliberated on various reforms.
- *Prabhudeva,* a *renowned Yogi,* served as the *President,* while *Lord Basaveshwara* acted as the *Prime Minister.*
- The *members* of the Anubhav Mantapa were *not elected by the people;* instead, they were *chosen or nominated by the higher authorities of the Mantapa.*
- The *architectural design* of the convention centre incorporates elements from India's traditional art and culture, representing the nation's rich heritage and modern achievements.

## Basaveshwara

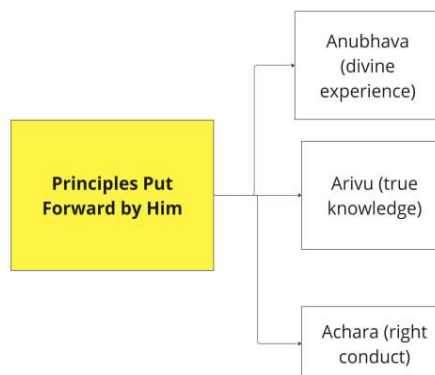


#### Basaveshwara

- Birth Place - Bagevadi (of undivided Bijapur district in Karnataka) in 1131 AD.
- He was a 12th-century poet and philosopher
- He served as karanika (Accountant) in the initial stage and later as the Prime minister in the court of Kalachurya king Bijjala (1157-1167, AD).
- Significance of Basaveshwara
  - Founder of Lingayatism.
  - The term Lingayat denotes a person who wears a personal linga, an iconic form of God Shiva, on the body which is received during the initiation ceremony.
- Basavanna spread social awareness through his poetry, popularly known as Vachanaas.
- He developed and inspired a new devotional movement named Virashaivas

#### Social Reforms

- He believed in a society free of the caste system, with equal opportunity for all and preached about manual hard work.
- He also founded the Anubhava Mantapa which was a common forum for all to discuss the prevailing problems of socio, economic and political strata.



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## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### 1. Tuberculosis (TB)

#### In News

- In Significant Breakthrough, J&J To Allow Nonprofit To Distribute Generic TB Drug

#### About the Tuberculosis

- It can practically affect *any organ of the body*.
- The most common ones are *lungs, pleura (lining around the lungs), lymph nodes, intestines, spine, and brain*.
- It is treated with a standard **6-month course of 4 antimicrobial drugs** that are provided with information, supervision and support to the patient by a health worker or trained volunteer.
- **Global Efforts**
  - The **WHO** has launched a *joint initiative “Find. Treat. All. #End TB”* with the **Global Fund and Stop TB Partnership**.
  - **WHO** also releases the **Global Tuberculosis Report**
- **India’s Efforts**
  - **National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Tuberculosis Elimination (2017-2025)**
  - **Nikshay Poshan** -Aimed to *support every Tuberculosis (TB) Patient* by providing a **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of Rs 500 per month for nutritional needs**.

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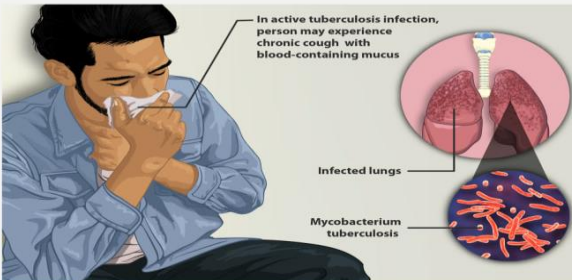
### Tuberculosis

**Why in news?**

- As Johnson & Johnson’s 20 year primary patent on the critical, lifesaving drug resistant tuberculosis (DR TB) drug bedaquiline expired they publicly announce that it will not enforce any ‘secondary’ patents for the drug in any country with a high burden of TB.

**Tuberculosis**

- Cause - Bacterium called Mycobacterium tuberculosis
- TB most commonly affects the lungs
- TB is a treatable and curable disease.
- Transmission
  - TB is spread from person to person through the air.



In active tuberculosis infection, person may experience chronic cough with blood-containing mucus

Infected lungs

Mycobacterium tuberculosis

**Tuberculosis Symptoms**

fever

fatigue

weight loss

persistent cough

blood in cough

night sweats

**Initiatives to Control Tuberculosis**

- The Saksham Project
- Nikshay Poshan Yojana
- TB Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign

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## 2. Synthetic Genome

### In News

- Recent research demonstrates that synthetic life forms with minimal genomes can evolve and out-compete non-evolved versions.

### About the Synthetic Genome

- It is an *artificially created or modified genetic material* that can be *inserted into a living organism*.
- It involves *designing and constructing DNA sequences in a laboratory setting*, allowing scientists or engineer to *manipulate the genetic makeup of an organism*.
- *For example*, scientists have *synthesized genomes for bacteria like Mycoplasma mycoides, creating synthetic life forms capable of replication*.
- **Environmental applications**
  - Synthetic genomes can be used to engineer organisms that can *remediate pollution or degrade waste products*
- **Industrial Applications and Biotechnology**
  - Synthetic genomes can be engineered for the *production of chemicals and biological at an industrial scale*

## 3. Chandrayaan-3

### In News

- With the launch of Chandrayaan-3, the ISRO is embarking to achieve a successful soft landing on the moon.


### About the Chandrayaan-3 Mission

- It is India's *third lunar mission* and *second attempt* at achieving a *soft landing* on the moon's surface.
- It consists of an *indigenous Lander module (LM), Propulsion module (PM) and a Rover* with an objective of developing and demonstrating new technologies required for Inter planetary missions.
- **Mission Objectives** of Chandrayaan-3
  - To demonstrate *Safe and Soft Landing* on Lunar Surface
  - To demonstrate *Rover roving* on the moon
  - To conduct *in-situ scientific experiments*.
- **Features**
  - The *lander (Vikram)* and *rover payloads (Pragyan)* of *Chandrayaan-3* remain the *same as the Chandrayaan-2 mission*.



- The propulsion module of Chandrayaan-3 features a new experiment called *Spectro-polarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth (SHAPE)*.
  - SHAPE aims to *search for smaller planets with potential habitability by analyzing reflected light*.

## Chandrayaan-3



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**Why in news?**

- Chandrayaan-3 launched successfully by Indian space agency ISRO.

**Chandrayaan-3**

- Chandrayaan-3 is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2
- The propulsion module will carry the lander and rover configuration till 100 km lunar orbit.
- It would be launched by LVM3
- Mission Life - One Lunar day (~ 14 earth day).
- Chandrayaan-3 mission is aimed at demonstrating critical technologies to land the spacecraft on the south pole of the moon.
- Components - propulsion, lander and rover.

**Launch Vehicle MarkIII (LVM3)**

- LVM3 is configured as a three stage vehicle with two solid strap-on motors (S200), one liquid core stage (L110) and a high thrust cryogenic upper stage (C25).
- LVM3 is the new heavy lift launch vehicle of ISRO for achieving a 4000 kg spacecraft launching capability to GTO (Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit) in a cost effective manner.

# MISSIONS TO MOON

- Artemis:  
**United States**

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- Chandrayaan-3:  
**India**

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- Chang'e Project:  
**China**

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- Luna-25:  
**Russia**



Pic Credit - India Today

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## 4. Coal Gasification

### In News

- The Ministry of Coal is considering a Comprehensive Scheme to promote Coal Gasification, aiming to achieve 100 Million Tonne (MT) coal Gasification by FY 2030.

### About the Coal Gasification


- It is a process in which *coal is partially oxidized* with *air, oxygen, steam or carbon dioxide to form a fuel gas*.
- This gas is then used instead of piped Natural Gas, methane and others for *deriving energy*.
- **Production of Syngas**
  - It produces *Syngas* which is a mixture consisting primarily of *methane (CH<sub>4</sub>)*, *carbon monoxide (CO)*, *hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>)*, *carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)* and *water vapour (H<sub>2</sub>O)*.



- **Significance**

- *Steel companies* can reduce costs by *replacing expensive imported coking coal* with *Syngas from coal gasification* plants in their *manufacturing process*.
- It is primarily used for *electricity generation*, for the *production of chemical feedstocks*.

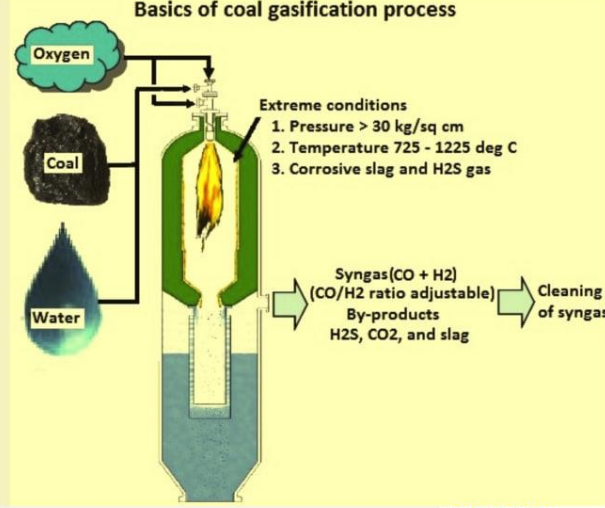
**Coal Gasification**



**Coal Gasification**

- It is the process of producing syngas.
- Syngas consists of carbon monoxide (CO), hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>), carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), natural gas (CH<sub>4</sub>), and water vapour (H<sub>2</sub>O).
- Benefits
  - Transporting gas is a lot cheaper than transporting coal.
  - Help address local pollution problems.
  - Has greater efficiency than conventional coal-burning

**Basics of coal gasification process**



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## 5. Perseverance Rover

### In News

- The United States NASA Perseverance rover has uncovered evidence of organic compounds in a Martian crater.

### About the Perseverance Rover

- It is a *car-sized Mars rover* designed to *explore the Jezero crater on Mars* as part of *NASA's Mars 2020 mission*.
- It was manufactured by the *Jet Propulsion Laboratory* and launched on July 30, 2020.
- **Major Objectives:**
  - Seek *signs of ancient life* and *collect samples of rock and soil for possible return to Earth*.
  - Study the *geology and climate of Mars* and how they have changed over time.
  - Demonstrate technologies that could *enable future human exploration of Mars*, such as producing oxygen from the Martian atmosphere and testing a miniature helicopter.

- **Various Mars Missions**

- *India's Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) or Mangalyaan (2013)*
- *ExoMars rover (2021) - European Space Agency*
- *Tianwen-1 - China's Mars Mission (2021)*
- *UAE's Hope Mars Mission (UAE's first-ever interplanetary mission) (2021)*
- *Mars 2 and Mars 3 (1971) - Soviet Union*

## 6. H5N1 Avian Influenza

### In News

- Surging bird flu cases may increase human infection risk, warn UN agencies & WOH

### About the H5N1 Avian Influenza

- Bird flu refers to the disease caused by infection with *avian influenza Type A viruses*.
- *H5N1*, a subtype of *avian influenza*, has the potential to *infect other mammals such as minks, ferrets, seals, domestic cats*, and others through *contact with infected birds, their faeces, or infected bird carcasses*.
- **Symptoms in Humans**
  - Range from *mild to severe influenza-like illnesses* such as *fever, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, nausea, abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting*.
  - People can also develop *severe respiratory illness* and *altered mental status, seizures etc*.
- **Types of Influenza Viruses**
  - There are *four types* of influenza viruses: *influenza A, B, C, and D*
  - **Influenza A and B** are the two types of influenza that cause *epidemic seasonal infections nearly every year*.
  - **Influenza C** mainly occurs in *humans*, but has been known to also occur in *dogs and pigs*.
  - **Influenza D** is found mainly in *cattle*. It's *not known to infect* or cause illness in *humans* yet.

## 7. Oppenheimer: The Father of the Atomic Bomb

### In News

- Christopher Nolan's new film on the American physicist, who built the most destructive weapon known to man, then advocated against nuclear weapons, and was punished for it, opens on July 21.

### About J Robert Oppenheimer

- Robert Oppenheimer was the *scientific director* of the *Manhattan Project, the USA's World War II program to develop the first nuclear weapons*.
- He is known as the "*Father of the Atomic Bomb*".
- The dawn of the Atomic Age occurred on *July 16, 1945*, with the *Trinity Test*, marking the *successful detonation of the first atomic bomb*.
- Subsequently, the *United States dropped atomic bombs* on *Hiroshima* and *Nagasaki* in Japan, resulting in devastating destruction and the loss of hundreds of thousands of lives, primarily civilians.
- Oppenheimer, plagued by doubts about the implications of bestowing humanity with the means for its own annihilation, sought *solace and reflection in the philosophy of the Bhagavad Gita*.
- Oppenheimer's contemplation of the Bhagavad Gita allowed him to reconcile his actions, comparing his role in developing the atomic bomb to the *moral dilemmas faced by Arjuna in the epic*.

## 8. Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever

### In News

- In India, one person succumbed to Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever last month in Gujarat

### About the Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever

- CCHF is a *viral haemorrhagic fever transmitted by ticks and contact with viremic animal tissues*.
- It poses a threat to public health due to its potential for epidemics, *high case fatality ratio (10-40%)*
- There is *no vaccine available*, and *treatment primarily focuses on symptom management*.
- The *antiviral drug ribavirin* has shown potential benefits in treating CCHF infections.
- **Transmission**
  - CCHF virus is primarily transmitted through *tick bites* or *contact with infected animal blood or tissues during and after slaughter*.

## 9. Biofortification

### In News

- The Indian industry aims to create separate branding for biofortified foods, similar to “organic” products, to enhance their popularity.

### About the Biofortification

- Biofortification is a process of *enhancing the nutritional content of crops by increasing the levels of essential vitamins and minerals.*
- It is a *targeted approach to address nutrient deficiencies* in populations, particularly in regions where people have *limited access to diverse and nutritious diets.*
- The main objective of biofortification is to *improve the nutritional status* of vulnerable populations, especially in *developing countries* where *malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies are prevalent.*
- Biofortification aims to provide a *sustainable and cost-effective solution* to combat *malnutrition* and related health issues.

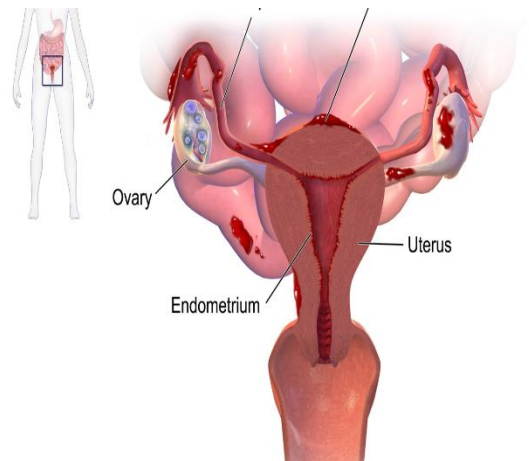
## 10. Endometriosis

### In News

- A new study could help expand the range of treatment options for a condition that affects millions of women with chronic pain and infertility.

### About the Endometriosis

- It is a *chronic condition* that affects approximately *one in 10 women worldwide.*
- It occurs when the *tissue that normally lines the uterus (endometrium) grows outside of it, forming lesions on the ovaries, fallopian tubes, bladder, bowel or other pelvic organs.*
- The *exact cause* of endometriosis is *still unknown.*
- **Impacts**
  - Women with endometriosis often experience *infertility, chronic pain during periods, pelvic pain, bloating, nausea, fatigue,* and may also be at a higher risk of *depression and anxiety.*
- **Current Available Treatments**
  - **Hormonal Therapy:** Certain hormone-based treatments, like *birth control pills or hormone-containing intrauterine devices,* can help control the growth of endometrial tissue.



- **Surgery:** *Laparoscopic surgery* can be performed to remove or destroy the endometrial tissue growths.
- **Fertility Treatment:** For women facing fertility issues, *assisted reproductive technologies* like *in vitro fertilization (IVF)* can be considered.

## 11. Geomagnetic Storm

### In News

- Geomagnetic storm threatens radio communications! Blackouts possible

### About Geomagnetic Storm

- A geomagnetic storm refers to the *disruptions to the Earth's magnetic field caused by solar emissions*.
- **Cause**
  - The largest storms that result from these conditions are associated with solar *coronal mass ejections (CMEs)*.
  - When a CME or a *high-speed solar stream* reaches our planet, it *slams into the magnetosphere* and *peels open the planet's magnetosphere, kind of like an onion*.
  - This allows energetic solar wind particles to stream down and hit our atmosphere over the poles.
  - The Earth's *magnetosphere is created by its magnetic fields* and it usually *protects us from the particles emitted by the Sun*.
  - The solar wind conditions that are effective for creating geomagnetic storms are:
    - *Sustained* (for several too many hours) periods of high-speed solar wind
    - A *southward directed solar wind magnetic field* (opposite the direction of Earth's field) *at the dayside of the magnetosphere*.
- **Impact**
  - Solar weather events like this can *supercharge auroras, sometimes making them visible in places where they wouldn't have been otherwise*.
  - They can also *disrupt navigation systems* and *create harmful geomagnetic induced currents (GICs)* in the power grid and pipelines.

## 12. Solar Mini-grids

### In News

- Achieving Universal Energy Access by 2030, as outlined in Sustainable Development Goal 7, requires Increased Efforts on Solar Mini-grids

### About the Solar Mini-grids

- Solar mini-grids are *small-scale electricity generation and distribution systems* that use *solar photovoltaic (PV) technology to generate electricity and store it in batteries.*
- They are typically designed to provide *electricity to communities or areas that either needs to be connected to the main power grid or experience frequent power outages.*
- **Importance**
  - Around **9% of the global population** still **lacks access to electricity**, with Sub-Saharan Africa and rural areas being the most affected.
    - Solar mini-grids can play a crucial role in addressing this challenge by providing reliable and affordable electricity to these communities.
  - Moreover, over **1.9 billion people worldwide lack access to clean cooking**, and solar mini-grids can also **power electric stoves**

## 13. Intellectual Property Rights

### In News

- Intellectual Property Rights Policy Management framework covers **8 types of intellectual property rights**

Right Area	Legal provision	Subject	Term of Protection
Patent	Patent Act, 1970	Must qualify requirements of being novel, Inventive and having industrial utility	20 years
Trademarks	Trademark Act 1999	Protects brand name, logo, design for a business or commercial enterprise	10 years; renewed for 10 years on payment of additional fees
Designs	Designs Act 2000	New or original designs (ornamental / visual appearance discernible to the human eye) which can be replicated industrially	10 + 5 years



Copyrights	Copyrights Act 1957	Creative, artistic, literary, Musical and audio-visual works	Authors -Lifetime+ 60 years; Producers – 60 years Performers – 50 years;
Geographical Indications	Geographical Indications Act 1999	Goods bearing unique characteristics due to geographical linkage - agricultural goods, natural goods, manufactured goods, handicrafts and foodstuff	10 years, Renewed for 10 years on payment of additional fees
Trade Secret	Common Law approach covered through IPC, Contract Act, IP Act and Copyright	Confidential information having commercial value	Till the time confidentiality is safeguarded.
Plant Varieties	Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act (PPVFR), 2001	Traditional varieties and landraces, all developed varieties (non-traditional and non-landrace) in trade/use for older than 1 year and not older than 15 years or 18 years (in case of trees and vines), and new plant varieties.	6-10 ears.

#### 14. World Fragile X Day

##### In News

- The World Fragile X Awareness Day is marked on 22<sup>nd</sup> July every year, started in 2021 to raise awareness about the *rare genetic illness, Fragile X or Martin-Bell syndrome*.

##### About the Fragile X or Martin-Bell Syndrome

- Fragile X syndrome (FXS) is an *inherited genetic disease passed down from parents to children that causes intellectual and developmental disabilities*.
- FXS is the most *common hereditary cause of mental disability in boys*.
  - It affects *1 in 4,000 boys*
- The disease is a *chronic or lifelong condition*.

- Only some people with FXS are able to live independently.
- **Causes**
  - FXS is caused by a **defect in the FMRI (Fragile X Mental Retardation 1 gene) gene is located on the X chromosome.**
  - It is responsible for **producing a protein called FMRP (Fragile X Mental Retardation Protein)**, which plays a crucial role in **normal brain development and function.**

## 15. INDIAai

### In News

- India AI' and Meta, India sign MoU to foster advancements in AI & Emerging Technologies

### About the INDIAai

- It is a **joint venture** between the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, the **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)**, and **NASSCOM**.
- It is a **knowledge portal, research organization, and ecosystem-building initiative** focused on preparing the nation for an **AI-driven future**.
- **Objectives**
  - To establish a **framework for cooperation** and to make **Meta's open-source AI models available for use by the Indian AI ecosystem.**
  - To **advance research and development in AI and Emerging Technologies**, seeking breakthroughs in AI technology and its applications.
  - Establishing a **Centre of Excellence to nurture the startup ecosystem of AI and other Emerging Technologies.**
  - Building **datasets in Indian Languages** to enable translation and large language models, prioritizing low-resource languages to foster social inclusion and improve government service delivery.
  - **Enhance accessibility to AI compute resources** for researchers, start-ups, and organizations with limited resources.

## 16. Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India) Scheme Phase-II

### In News

- Recently, the Ministry of State for Heavy Industries highlighted the developments of FAME India Scheme Phase-II in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

### About the FAME India Phase-II

- It is a part of the *National Electric Mobility Mission Plan*. Main thrust of FAME is to *encourage electric vehicles by providing subsidies*.
- The scheme covers *Hybrid & Electric technologies* like Mild Hybrid, Strong Hybrid, and Plug in Hybrid & Battery Electric Vehicles.
- *Two phases* of the scheme
  - **Phase I:** started in **2015** and was completed on 31st March **2019**.
  - **FAME India Phase-II:** *Upfront reduction* in the purchase price of EVs for buyers.

## 17. White Label ATMs

### In News

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken significant steps to promote ATM penetration, especially in *Tier III to VI centres*, by *permitting non-bank companies to set up, own and operate White Label ATMs (WLAs)*.

### About the White Label ATMs

- ATMs *set up, owned and operated by non-banks* are called WLAs.
- Non-bank ATM operators are *authorised* under the *Payment & Settlement Systems Act, 2007 by the RBI*.
- They provide *banking services* to customers using *debit/credit/prepaid cards issued by banks*.
- Besides *dispensing cash*, WLAs offer services like *account information, cash deposit, bill payment, mini statements, PIN change, and cheque book requests*.
- **Brown Label ATM**
  - ATMs where the *hardware and the lease of the machine are owned by a service provider*, but the *cash management and connectivity to banking networks are provided by a sponsor bank*.
  - They have the *branding of the bank*.
- **Orange Label ATM**
  - ATMs provided for *share transactions*.
  - They are mainly used by *investors and traders* for buying and selling stocks and securities.
- **Pink Label ATM**
  - ATMs *monitored by guards* who ensure that *only women access* these ATMs. They are set up to provide safety and convenience to women customers.
- **Green Label ATM**
  - ATMs are provided for *agricultural transactions*.
  - They are mainly used by *farmers and rural customers* for various banking needs.

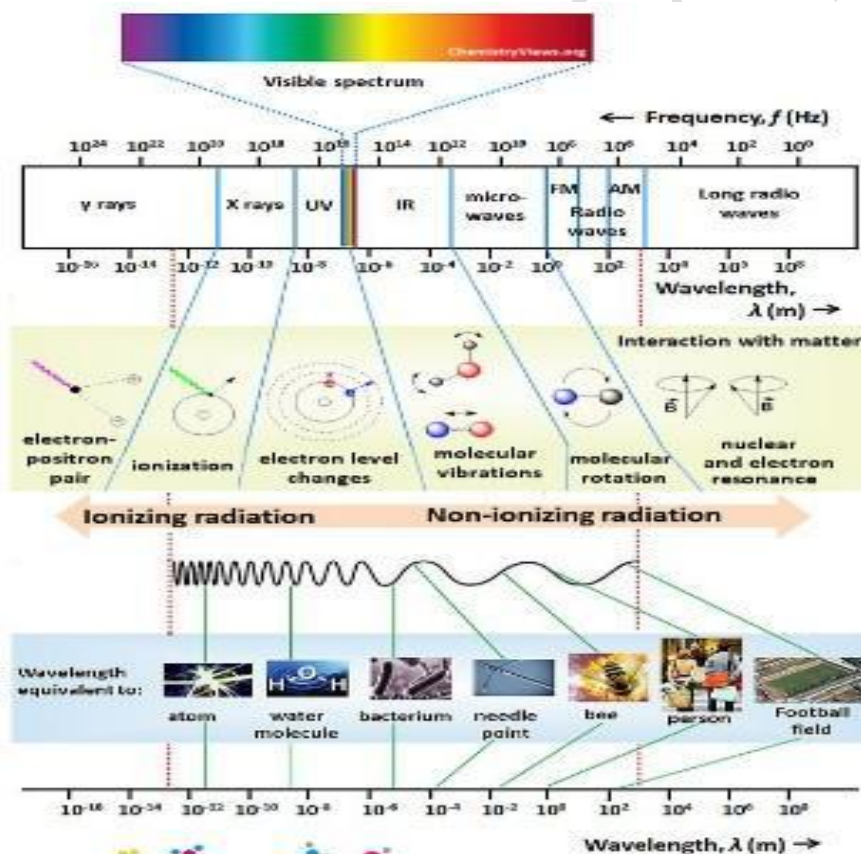
## 18. Fast Radio Bursts

### In News

- Recently, an international team of astronomers studied repeating Fast Radio Bursts (FRB), *FRB 20190520B*, using the *Green Bank Telescope in the U.S.* and the *Parkes Observatory in Australia.*

### About the Fast Radio Bursts

- They are *mysterious emissions of radio light (or Radio Waves)* that come from the *far reaches of the universe.*
- FRBs reach Earth from faraway galaxies, *emitting as much energy in a millisecond as the sun does over weeks.*
- They are the *brightest radio bursts* found in nature.
- Astrophysicists have only been able to '*see*' *FRBs momentarily using large radio telescopes*, but their *precise origins and causes are unknown.*
- Some FRBs are '*one-off*' *phenomena*, while others are *repeaters, flashing earth intermittently.*



## 19. World Hepatitis Day

### In News

- World Hepatitis Day (WHD) takes place every year on 28th July bringing the world together under a single theme to raise awareness of the global burden of viral hepatitis and to influence real change.

### About the Hepatitis

- The word hepatitis refers to **any inflammation of the liver** — the *irritation or swelling of the liver cells from any cause*.
- It can be **acute** (inflammation of the liver that presents with sickness — jaundice, fever, vomiting) or **chronic** (inflammation of the liver that lasts more than six months, but essentially showing no symptoms).

### Causes

- Usually caused by a **group of viruses** known as the **“hepatotropic” (liver directed) viruses**, including **A, B, C, D and E**.
- *Other viruses may also cause it*, such as the **varicella virus that causes chicken pox**.
- **SARS-CoV-2**, the virus causing Covid-19 **may injure the liver too**.
- Other causes include *drugs and alcohol abuse, fat buildup in the liver (fatty liver hepatitis)* or an **autoimmune process** in which a person’s body makes antibodies that attack the liver (*autoimmune hepatitis*).

### Types of Hepatitis

- **Hepatitis A virus (HAV)**
  - It is an inflammation of the liver that can cause **mild to severe illness**.
  - It is **transmitted** through **ingestion of contaminated food and water** or through **direct contact** with an *infectious person (sex practices)*.
  - Almost **everyone recovers fully from hepatitis A** with a **lifelong immunity** (few people with *HAV could die from fulminant hepatitis*).
- **Hepatitis B virus (HBV)**
  - It is a viral infection that attacks the liver and can cause both **acute and chronic disease**.
  - It is most commonly **transmitted from mother to child during birth, in early childhood, during sex with an infected partner, unsafe injections**. (similar to HIV AIDS)
  - Hepatitis B can be **prevented by vaccines**.
- **Hepatitis C virus (HCV)**
  - The virus can cause both **acute and chronic hepatitis**, ranging in severity from a mild illness to a serious, **lifelong illness** including **liver cirrhosis and cancer**.

- It is a ***blood borne virus*** and most infection occurs through *exposure to unsafe health care, blood transfusions, injection drug use and sexual practices*.
- There is currently ***no effective vaccine against hepatitis C***.
- **Hepatitis D virus (HDV)**
  - It is a virus that ***requires hepatitis B virus (HBV) for its replication***. It affects globally nearly 5% of people who have a chronic infection with HBV.
  - ***Hepatitis B and D can infect people together (co-infection) or one after the other (super-infection)***. This is more common in native people, dialysis patients and drug users. Having both viruses is very bad for the liver and can cause cancer or death.
- **Hepatitis E virus (HEV)**
  - It is an inflammation of the liver caused by infection with the HEV.
  - It is found worldwide, but most common in East and South Asia.
  - The virus is transmitted via the ***fecal-oral route***, principally via ***contaminated water***.
  - A ***vaccine to prevent hepatitis E virus infection*** has been developed and is ***licensed in China*** but is *not yet available elsewhere*.



## DEFENCE/MILITARY EXERCISES

### 1. NOMADIC ELEPHANT-23


#### In News

- India-Mongolia joint military exercise “Nomadic Elephant – 2023” to commence at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

#### About the NOMADIC ELEPHANT

- NOMADIC ELEPHANT is a **training event conducted alternatively in Mongolia and India.**
- India is also an active participant in an *annual week-long joint training exercise* called the *Khaan Quest, hosted by Mongolia.*

## NOMADIC ELEPHANT-23




**Why in news?**

- 15th edition of exercise “NOMADIC ELEPHANT-23” begins.

**NOMADIC ELEPHANT-23**

- Bilateral exercise between India and Mongolia.
- Place - Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- Aim - To build positive military relations, exchange best practices, develop inter-operability, bonhomie, camaraderie and friendship between the two armies.
- Theme - Focus on counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain under United Nations mandate.


Pic Credit - Indian Army

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### 2. INS Kirpan

## INS Kirpan



**Why in news?**

- INS Kirpan decommissioned from Indian Navy and handed over to Vietnam as a present.

**INS Kirpan**

- It is a Khukri class missile corvette commissioned into the Navy on January 12, 1991.
- It has a displacement displacing capacity of close to 1,400 tonnes.
- It is capable of a speed of more than 25 knots.
- The Khukri class are equipped with Diesel Engines assembled in India.
- The ship is fitted with a medium-range gun, 30 mm close-range guns, chaff launchers, and surface-to-surface missiles.



Pic Credit - ANI

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- It performs a wide variety of roles, including coastal and offshore patrol, coastal security, surface warfare, anti-piracy, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.

## INDEX/REPORTS

### 1. Export Preparedness Index (EPI) Report, 2022

#### In News

- *NITI Aayog* is releasing the **third edition** of the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) for States/UTs of India for the year 2022

#### About the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) Report, 2022

- EPI is a comprehensive tool that measures the *export preparedness of the States and UTs* in India.
- **Aim**
  - To undertake a *comprehensive analysis of States and UTs across export-related parameters* in order to *identify their strengths and weaknesses*.
  - To *highlight the achievements* of states/UTs and *encourage peer learning* among the states/UTs to uphold the *spirit of competitive federalism*.
- **Pillars**
  - Business Ecosystem
  - Export Ecosystem
  - Export Performance

### 2. National Multidimensional Poverty Index

#### In News

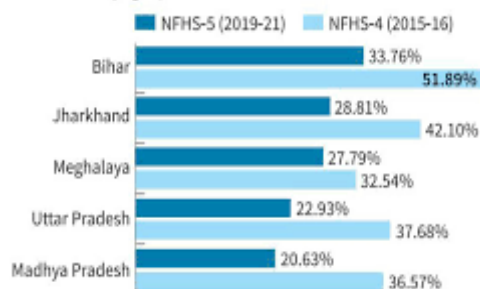
- Recently, NITI Aayog has released the Report “National Multidimensional Poverty Index

#### About the National Multidimensional Poverty Index

- The report has been prepared based on the latest *National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21)*
- The *first edition of MPI* was released in **2021**.
- The MPI seeks to *measure Poverty across its multiple dimensions* and in effect *complements existing poverty statistics based on per capita consumption expenditure*.
- It has *three equally weighted dimensions*
  - *Health*
  - *Education*
  - *Standard of living*

#### Poverty score

The chart shows the top-five States with the highest share of population with multidimensional poverty, according to the latest NITI Aayog report



- **Features**

- **Reduction in Multidimensional Poverty**

- *Between 2015-16 and 2019-21*, India witnessed a *significant decline* in the *number of multidimensionally poor individuals*.
- Around *13.5 crore people* moved out of multidimensional poverty during this period

- **Decline in Poverty Percentage**

- India's population living in multidimensional poverty *decreased from 24.85% in 2015-16 to 14.96% in 2019-21*, reflecting a *decline of 9.89 % points*.

- **Rural-Urban Divide**

- The *rural areas of India experienced the fastest decline in poverty*, with the *poverty rate dropping from 32.59% to 19.28% between 2015-16 and 2019-21*.

#### **SDG Target**

- The MPI value for India has *nearly halved* from *0.117 to 0.066* between *2015-16 and 2019-21*.

### **3. Women's Empowerment Index (WEI) and the Global Gender Parity Index (GGPI).**

#### **In News**

- A recent report by the United Nations sheds light on the status of women's empowerment and gender parity around the world.

#### **About the Report**

- The comprehensive analysis, jointly created by *UN Women* and *UN Development Programme*, evaluated 114 countries based on the **Women's Empowerment Index (WEI)** and the **Global Gender Parity Index (GGPI)**.
- Only *1% of women globally live in countries with high women's empowerment and gender parity*.
- Leadership roles and decision-making remain predominantly male-dominated, restricting opportunities for women.
- On average, *women achieve only 60% of their full potential*, according to the WEI.
- Women *lag behind men by 28%* across key dimensions of human development, as measured by the **GGPI**.
- *None of the 114 countries analyzed achieved complete women's empowerment or gender parity*.

- Over **90% of women worldwide** reside in countries with **low or middle** women's empowerment and low or middle performance in achieving gender parity.

#### About the Women's Empowerment Index (WEI)

- The WEI is a composite index developed by **UN Women** and **UNDP**.
- It measures **women's empowerment across five dimensions**:
  - **life and good health**
  - **education, skill-building and knowledge**
  - **labour and financial inclusion**
  - **participation in decision-making,**
  - **freedom from violence.**
- The WEI captures women's power and freedom to **make choices and seize life opportunities**.

#### About the Global Gender Parity Index (GGPI)

- The GGPI is a composite index that **assesses gender disparities in key dimensions of**:
  - **human development**
  - **including health**
  - **education**
  - **inclusion**
  - **decision-making.**
- The GGPI is developed by **UN Women** and **UNDP** as part of a *new global report* titled '**The Path to Equality: Women's Empowerment and Gender Parity in Human Development**', which was launched in July **2023**.

#### 4. Henley Passport Index 2023

##### In News

- India secures 80th rank on Henley Passport Index

##### About the Index

- The Henley Passport Index is a **ranking system** that evaluates all the world's passports based on the **number of travel destinations their holders can access without the need for a prior visa**.
- It is **compiled and published by Henley & Partners**, a global citizenship and residence advisory firm
- **Top Position: Singapore** now holds the most powerful passport in the world, granting its citizens visa-free access to an impressive 192 travel destinations out of 227 worldwide.
- Indian passport has climbed seven places to secure the 80th rank, up from 87th in 2022.

## 5. Heat Index

### In News

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has recently introduced the Heat Index on an experimental basis.

### About the Index

- The Heat Index is designed to offer *general guidance for regions in India* where the *apparent temperature*, also known as the “*feel-like*” temperature, is *higher due to a combination of heat and humidity*, causing discomfort for people.
- The Heat Index is calculated using an *equation similar to the one used by the National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)* in the USA.
- It takes into account the *impact of humidity on high temperatures* to provide a more *accurate representation of how the weather feels to humans*, indicating the level of discomfort.
- The **Heat Index is categorized into colour codes** for easy interpretation:
  - **Green:** Experimental Heat Index *below 35°C*
  - **Yellow:** Experimental Heat Index in the range of *36-45°C*
  - **Orange:** Experimental Heat Index in the range of *46-55°C*
  - **Red:** Experimental Heat Index *above 55°C*





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