



pravahini

Monthly Compendium

of Current Affairs by SUCCESS MANTRA (GTB Nagar)

PREFACE

It gives us great pleasure to release the monthly edition of the PRAVAHINI – Monthly e-Compendium & Weekly e-Periodicals of Current Affairs. The magazine's members have shown considerable cooperation as well as devotion. We at successmantra.in work tirelessly to create this magazine and bring it to you with a great sense of gratitude.

The PRAVAHINI November-2022 eBook covers the current events that happened in the month of July. Current Affairs is a crucial component of any competitive exams including CLAT, AILET, DU- LLB, HM, CAT, IAS, PCS, SSC, Banking, MBA and various other competitive examinations.

Current Affairs play the bigger role in many competitive and government exams. It holds the power of making or breaking your chance of success. Therefore, the candidates should cover the Current Affairs thoroughly and smartly.

The PRAVAHINI November-2022 eBook is divided into different sections keeping in mind the need of various exams. The sections covered namely International, National, Economy, Ecology and Environment, Science & Technology, Legal Affairs, Sports, States News Makers and few others.

We would also be pleased to receive any suggestion that could assist us with the upcoming editions.

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SM PRAVAHINI MONTHLY COMPENDIUM – November 2022

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Our Goal

Our goal at Success Mantra is to provide Quality education at rational price and thereby to create an environment that guides students towards the path of the success. Along with designing the curriculum and delivering the lectures, we work upon the ways the students think and approach problems asked.

B.S. Shanti




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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS EWS QUOTA

- Recently, the Supreme Court has upheld the validity of the 103rd Constitutional Amendment which provides 10% reservation for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) among forward castes in government jobs and colleges across India.



What is the Verdict?

Majority View:

- The **103rd constitutional amendment cannot be said to breach the basic structure of the Constitution**. The EWS quota does not violate equality and the basic structure of the constitution. Reservation in addition to existing reservation does not violate provisions of the Constitution.
- The reservation is an instrument of affirmative action by the state for the inclusion of backward classes. Basic structure can't be breached by enabling the state to make provisions for education.
- The 50% rule formed by the Supreme Court in the Indira Sawhney judgment in 1992 was "not inflexible". Further, it had applied only to SC/ST/SEBC/OBC communities and not the general category.

Minority View:

- Reservations were designed as a powerful tool to enable equal access. **Introduction of economic criteria and excluding SC (Scheduled Castes), ST(Scheduled Tribe), OBC (Other Backward Classes)**, saying they had these pre-existing benefits is injustice.
- The **EWS quota may have a reparative mechanism to have a level playing field** and the exclusion of SC, ST, OBC discriminates against equality code and violates basic structure.

SUPREME COURT BAN ON 'TWO FINGER TEST'

- The **Supreme Court on 31 October reiterated the ban on the "two-finger test" in rape cases**, warning that persons using such tests will be deemed guilty of misconduct.
- Observing that the test was based on a patriarchal mindset that assumed that sexually active women could not be raped, the **bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Hima Kohli** regretted that such a method of examination was being used even today.

What Is the Two-Finger Test:

- A **"per vaginal" or two-finger test is an explicitly intrusive physical examination** wherein a doctor inserts two fingers inside the vagina of a rape survivor to check if the hymen is intact or not.
- It **examines the laxity of vaginal muscles in order to determine if the woman has engaged in or has been subjected to sexual intercourse** – a proof of virginity. In some cases, it is done by inspecting the size of a vaginal opening and for tears in the hymen.

Erstwhile Judgment Of SC:

- In May 2013, the **Supreme Court had banned the two-finger test on rape victims on the grounds that it violates their right to privacy**. The court had asked the government to provide better medical procedures in order to confirm sexual assault.

- In 2018, **United Nations (UN) Human Rights, UN Women, and the World Health Organization (WHO)** had called for a ban on two-finger test in order to eliminate violence against women.
- They declared it a “medically unnecessary, oftentimes painful, humiliating and traumatic practice that must end.”

INDIA'S EVOLVING CARBON MARKET

- The **Ministry for Power, New & Renewable Energy** is taking steps to establish a Carbon Credit Market to help the country meet its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).
- A **carbon credit (also known as carbon offset)** is a credit for **greenhouse emissions** reduced or removed from the atmosphere by an emission reduction project, which can be used by governments, industry, or private individuals to compensate for the emissions they generate elsewhere.
- Those that cannot easily reduce emissions can still operate, at a higher financial cost.
- **Carbon credits are based on the "cap-and-trade"** model that was used to reduce sulfur pollution in the 1990s.
- One carbon credit is equal to one metric ton of carbon dioxide, or in **some markets, carbon dioxide equivalent gasses (CO₂-eq)**.
- **Negotiators at the Glasgow COP26 climate change summit** in November 2021 agreed to create a global carbon credit offset trading market.

PM MODI INAUGURATED INVEST KARNATAKA 2022

- The **Invest Karnataka 2022 summit** was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently.

What is Invest Karnataka 2022?

- The **Invest Karnataka 2022 summit** is a **global investment summit that is organized in Bengaluru** to attract foreign investments and create a development plan for the next decade.
- The **three-day summit commenced on November 2 this year**. During the event, the state will be able to showcase its cultural and investment prospects to countries across the globe. **It is held based on the theme “Build for the World”**.
- This **theme reflects Karnataka Government’s aim** to reap the benefit of the global supply chain.



GRANTING CITIZENSHIP TO MINORITIES OF OTHER NATIONS

- The **Union Home Ministry** recently notified an order granting citizenship to religious minorities in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and **Pakistan residing in Anand and Mehsana districts in Gujarat**.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs’ notification grants citizenship to **Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan living in Anand and Mehsana districts in Gujarat**.



- This **order empowers district collectors** to grant citizenship to these minorities under Citizenship Act, 1955.
- In 2016 and 2018, the **district collectors of Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar and Kutch were given the power to grant citizenship** to minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

INDIA'S BIGGEST HYPERSCALE DATA CENTRE

- **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** recently inaugurated Yotta D1 – India's second and **North India's first hyper-scale data center** – in **Greater Noida**.



What is Yotta D1?

- **Yotta D1 is the first of the 6 data center buildings** currently being built in the Greater Noida data center park. The first data center was operationalized in just 20 months with an investment of around Rs.1,500 crore.
- The hyperscale data center was developed by **Yotta Infrastructure** – **an arm of the Hiranandani Group**. It is situated at a strategic location close to important business hubs of India's National Capital Region. **This provides a major boost for the region's digital economy.**

INDIA INFRA. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND SCHEME

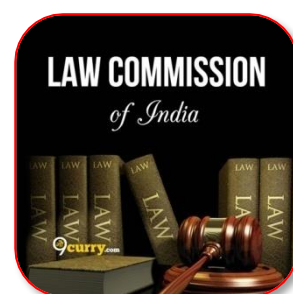
- **India Infrastructure Project Development Fund Scheme (IIPDF)** was notified by the Indian Government on November 3, 2022.
- The India Infrastructure Project Development Fund Scheme (IIPDF) was **launched by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)**.
- This central sector scheme extends financial aid required for the **development expenses of Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects**.
- It provides funding for project sponsoring authorities (both in the central and state governments) to access services provided by Transaction Advisors (TAs) and consultants involved in the development of the PPP projects.

WHAT IS LAW COMMISSION OF INDIA?

- **Retired High Court Chief Justice Rituraj Awasthi** has been appointed as the chairperson of the 22nd law commission of India which was constituted in 2020.

What is the Law Commission of India?

- The Law Commission of India is a non-statutory body constituted by the **Government of India from time to time**.
- The first Law Commission of independent India was established in 1955 for a three-year term. The first Law Commission was established during the British Raj era in 1834 by the **Charter Act of 1833 and was chaired by Lord Macaulay**.



Objectives:

- It works as an advisory body to the Ministry of Law and Justice. The Law Commission undertakes research in law and review of existing laws in India for making reforms therein and enacting new legislations on a reference made to it by the Central Government or suo-motu.

NATIONAL POPULATION REGISTER (NPR)

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has recently highlighted the need to update the **National Population Register (NPR)** database across the country.
- This is to **incorporate the changes due to birth, death, and migration for which demographic and other particulars of each family** and individual are to be collected.

What is NPR?

- NPR is a database containing a list of all usual residents of the country. A **usual resident for the purposes of NPR** is a person who has resided in a place for six months or more and intends to reside there for another six months or more.
- Its objective is to have a comprehensive identity database of people residing in the country. It is generated **through house-to-house enumeration during the “house-listing” phase of the Census.**
- The NPR was first collected in 2010 and then updated in 2015.
- **Legal Backing:** The NPR is prepared under the provisions of the Citizenship Act 1955 and the **Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.**
- It is mandatory for every “usual resident of India” to register in the NPR.

NPR and NRC:

- According to **Citizenship Rules 2003, NPR is the first step towards compilation of a National Register of Citizens (NRC).** After a list of residents is created (i.e., NPR), a nationwide NRC could go about verifying the citizens from that list.
- However, unlike the NRC, the NPR is not a citizenship enumeration drive as it records even a foreigner staying in a locality for more than six months.

NATIONAL BIO ENERGY PROGRAMME

- The **Ministry of New & Renewable Energy** announced recently that the **National Bio Energy Programme** will be implemented until 2025-26.
- The National Bioenergy Programme aims to promote bioenergy usage and create an investor-friendly ecosystem based on the circular economy.
- Bioenergy is derived from once-living organic materials called biomass that are used for **producing transportation fuels, heat, electricity and other such products.**
- The **National Bioenergy Programme will be implemented in 2 phases.** The first phase of the programme was approved by the Indian Government with a total budget of Rs.858 crore.

DY CHANDRACHUD TOOK OATH AS 50TH CJI OF INDIA

- Senior-most Supreme Court judge and Chief Justice of India-designate **Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud** is all set to become the 50th head of the Indian judiciary when President Draupadi Murmu would administer the oath of office to him at Rashtrapati Bhawan.
- He has been part of several Constitution benches and **landmark verdicts** of the top court including on matters relating to the Ayodhya land dispute, the right to privacy and adultery.
- Justice Chandrachud was also part of the benches which delivered **path-breaking judgements on decriminalising same-sex relations after it partially struck down Section 377 of the IPC**, the validity of the Aadhaar scheme and the Sabarimala issue.
- Recently, a bench headed by him **expanded the scope of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act** and the corresponding rules to include unmarried women for abortion between 20-24 weeks of pregnancy.



CAUVERY SOUTH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

- The Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary was notified recently by the state government of Tamil Nadu. The **state government had earlier notified Kochuveli Bird Sanctuary**, Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary, Kadavur Slender Loris Sanctuary and Dugong Conservation Reserve.

About the Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary

- An area in the reserve forests of Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri have been **notified as the Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- The **declaration was made under the Section 26A (1) (b) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**. This will be the 17th wildlife sanctuary in Tamil Nadu.
- The newly notified wildlife sanctuary spans an area of 686.406 sq. km. It is home to 35 mammal species and 238 bird species. It **hosts Leith's softshell turtles, smooth coated otters, marsh crocodile and four horned antelopes**.

REPORT OF EXPERT COMMITTEE ON SVAMITVA SCHEME

- **Report of the Expert Committee on SVAMITVA Scheme** was released at the National Conference on SVAMITVA Scheme and Rural Planning, which was organized on November 3, 2022 in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- The Expert Committee chaired by former secretary of India B. K. Agarwal was formed in February 2022.

The committee aims to:

- Promote transparency in the implementation of SVAMITVA scheme
- Promote adoption of record of land rights to increase formal credit access
- Develop linkages between various departments for informed decision-making related to property tax assessment and collection

What is the SVAMITVA scheme?

- SVAMITVA is an acronym for **Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas**. Implemented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), it is a central sector scheme launched on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day (April 24) in 2021.
- It aims to provide an integrated property validation solution in rural India so that “**clear ownership**” is established for properties in rural regions. It provides the “**record of rights**” to village household owners by providing Property Cards.

INDIA'S 1ST MULTI-MODAL LOGISTICS PARK (MMLP)

- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is going to develop India's first multi-modal logistics park (MMLP) near Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- The **Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** had **awarded RIL** the contract to set up India's first multi-modal logistics park (MMLP) close to Chennai.
- The Rs.1,424 project will be implemented under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, which was launched in October 2021.
- The model concession agreement for this project is on a **Design, Build, Finance, Operate, and Transfer (DBFOT) model**. The total concession period for the project is 45 years.
- The MMLP will be developed in 3 phases with the estimated developer investment of Rs.783 crore. The first phase will be completed by 2025.



Where is India's first MMLP situated?

- **India's first MMLP is being set up in Mappedu village in Thiruvallur district**, near the automobile and electronics manufacturing clusters on the Sriperumbudur-Oragadam industrial belt.
- The project will also cater to the secondary market clusters of Ranipet, Ambur, Tirupur and Bengaluru that hosts leather, heavy machinery parts, automobiles, cement, sugar and chemical industries.

WHAT IS NATIONAL POPULATION REGISTER?

- The government has declared certain databases **related to the Census and the National Population Register (NPR)** as critical information infrastructure.
- In a notification issued recently, the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** said the decision was taken after exercising the powers conferred to it under the Information Technology Act, 2000 (Amended 2008).
- The Centre declares the computer resources relating to the **Census Monitoring and Management System, the Self Enumeration and Civil Registration System (CRS)** web portals, mobile applications for house listing, population enumeration and updating the NPR as critical information infrastructure (CII) of the office of the registrar general and census commissioner, it said.
- The linked databases, **including the NPR database, the Census database and the CRS database**, the computer resources set up and installed at the National Data Centre, the office of the registrar general



and the census commissioner, Delhi, the Disaster Recovery Site and the data centers at Bengaluru and Lucknow have also been declared as CII, according to the notification.

WHAT IS 'EAT RIGHT STATION' CERTIFICATE?

- The **Food Safety and Standard Association of India (FSSAI)** awarded Bhopal Railway Station a 4-star 'Eat Right Station' certification for providing "high-quality, nutritious food to passengers".
- Railway stations are awarded the certificate after an FSSAI-empaneled third-party audit agency rates them **on a scale of 1 to 5 for food storage and hygiene practices.**

About the certification:

- The certification is **part of the 'Eat Right India' movement- a large-scale effort by FSSAI** to transform the country's food system to ensure safe, healthy and sustainable food for all Indians.
- **Chandigarh Railway station** was the fifth Indian railway station to receive a 5-star 'Eat Right Station' certification in September 2021.
- The **other railway stations with this certification include** Anand Vihar Terminal Railway Station (Delhi), Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus; (Mumbai), Mumbai Central Railway Station (Mumbai), and Vadodara Railway Station.
- Eat Right India adopts a judicious mix of regulatory, capacity building, collaborative, and empowerment approaches to **ensure that our food is suitable both for the people and the planet.**

INDIAN NAVY OFFSHORE SECURITY EXERCISE

- The **Indian Navy conducted a structured exercise** to evaluate organizational effectiveness in protecting offshore assets off Mumbai on an **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) platform** 150 km into the sea. The exercise was named 'Prasthan' by the Indian Navy.
- **Prasthan is conducted twice a year under the aegis of Headquarters, Western Naval Command.** The exercise which is conducted every six months aims to integrate the efforts of all maritime stakeholders involved in offshore defense.
- The **'Prasthan' which is an offshore security exercise** aims to examine various measures and protocols conceived to address security threats and other contingencies.
- The Indian Navy has included several crises such as bomb threats, blows out, fire, Terrorists, and medical evacuations during the exercise. The Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, Indian Coast Guard, ONGC, Mumbai Port Authority (MbPA), the Police fisheries, and customs were a part of the Prasthan exercise.



POSOCO RENAMED AS GRID CONTROLLER OF INDIA LTD.

- India's national grid operator Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) was renamed as **Grid Controller of India Limited.**
- The **Grid Controller of India Limited (Grid-India)** is a wholly owned central government enterprise that comes under the aegis of the Ministry of Power.



- Previously, it was a fully owned subsidiary of the **Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (Powergrid)** – the central public sector undertaking (PSU) owned by the Union Power Ministry.
- **It was set up in March 2009 to take care of the power management functions of the PGCIL.** It was later made a separate company, with PGCIL being involved only in setting up transition links.

Grid-India, as a separate company, was given the load dispatch functions. It oversees the operations of the national load despatch center (NLDC) and 5 regional load despatch centers (RLDCs). The NLDC is the apex body that **ensures the integrated operation of the national power system.**

PM MODI UNVEILED 'STATUE OF PROSPERITY'

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** unveiled a 108 feet tall bronze statue of **Sri Nadaprabhu Kempegowda in Bengaluru.** The 'Statue of Prosperity' is made to commemorate the contribution of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda who is the founder of Bengaluru.
- The **statue was conceptualized and sculpted by Ram V Sutar, who also curated the Statue of Unity.** The 'Statue of Prosperity' is made with 98 tonnes of bronze and 120 tonnes of steel.

About Nadaprabhu Kempegowda

- **Nadaprabhu Hiriye Kempe Gowda** is also known as Kempe Gowda. **He was a chieftain under the Vijayanagara Empire.**
- The capital of Karnataka, Bengaluru, was fortified by Kempe Gowda in 1537. He erected many Kannada inscriptions in the region. **Kempe Gowda was one of the most well-educated rulers of all time.**

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AMENDS AADHAAR RULES

- The **Central Government amended the Aadhaar regulations** requiring card holders to update relevant documents supporting Aadhaar information at least once every 10 years.
- The amendment of the **Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations** require updation of supporting documents of Aadhaar information at least once every 10 years from the date of enrolment.
- The update is not mandatory but can be encouraged to maintain the **accuracy of the data in the Central Identities Data Repository.** This regulation is limited to updating demographic information and does not involve biometric data like fingerprints.

How does this help the government?

- As of June 2022, **more than 133 crore Aadhaar cards have been distributed.** However, the actual number of Aadhaar card holders is less due to deaths.
- **Increasing accuracy of Aadhaar** related information can help the government eliminate leakages of **government schemes' benefits that occur due to inaccurate information of Aadhaar cards.**

Over 100 government schemes (650 state government schemes and 315 central government schemes) use Aadhaar authentication to eliminate deduplication and remove ghost beneficiaries.

MADHYA PRADESH SET TO IMPLEMENT PESA ACT

- The **Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act** is set to be implemented by the **state government of Madhya Pradesh to prevent the exploitation of the tribal population.**
- The formal announcement of the Act's implementation was made on the **occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Divas (November 15).**
- **Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act** aims to ensure self-governance via the traditional gram sabhas for people living in Scheduled Areas in the country.
- The **Scheduled Areas are places that are mainly dominated by tribal communities.** These regions were not covered by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment or Panchayati Raj Act.
- The **PESA Act aims to extend the provisions of Part IX of the Indian Constitution to the Scheduled Areas.** It enables the Panchayats and Gram Sabhas to implement the system of self-governance in these regions.
- The **Act allows the setting up of a Gram Sabha** for a village in the scheduled area. Every gram sabha will act as an autonomous body that manages certain aspects of the scheduled area, especially the resource management.
- The **Act also allows the gram panchayats to decide on matters** that are related to minor forest produce, land, and small water bodies along with the implementation of government schemes.
- They will also maintain records of migrant laborers for the elimination of the **practice of bonded labor in the scheduled areas.**



UIDAI ENROLLMENT OF PRISONERS

- Recently, as a **special measure to enroll prison inmates across the country, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has agreed to accept the Prisoner Induction Document (PID) as a valid document for enrolment or update of Aadhaar.
- Though the campaign to **extend Aadhaar facility to prisoners was launched in 2017**, the process did not take off on expected lines since enrolment to the scheme required valid supporting documents prescribed by the UIDAI.



What is the Unique Identification Authority of India?

- **Statutory Authority:** The UIDAI is a statutory authority established on 12th July 2016 by the Government of India under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, following the provisions of the Aadhaar Act 2016.** The UIDAI was initially set up by the Government of India in January 2009, as an **attached office under the aegis of the Planning Commission.**
- **Mandate:** The UIDAI is mandated to assign a 12-digit unique identification (UID) number (Aadhaar) to all the residents of India. The **overall Aadhaar saturation level in the country has crossed 93%, and in the case of the adult population it is nearly 100%**

NCW LAUNCHED DIGITAL SHAKTI 4.0

- The fourth phase of the **Digital Shakti Campaign** was launched recently by the National Commission for Women (NCW).
- The **Digital Shakti Campaign** is a national-level campaign that was launched in 2018 to digitally empower and skill women and girls to ensure their safety in cyberspace.
- Through this initiative, over 3 lakh women across India have been **made aware of cyber safety measures, reporting and redressal mechanisms, data privacy and technology usage**.
- Over the past decade, there has been a surge in the number of cybercrimes in India. A majority of these crimes targeted women. Some of the **reasons behind this are the prevalence of huge gender inequality and the lack of digital literacy**.
- Also, most of the **women who are victims of cybercrimes do not file complaints due to the absence of support from family or law enforcement and the lack of awareness**.



PM MODI INAUGURATED KASHI TAMIL SANGAMAM

- The **Prime Minister of India** inaugurated the month-long Kashi Tamil Sangamam in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- This programme is an initiative by the Government of India as a part of “**Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**” and to uphold the Spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat .

What is Kashi Tamil Sangamam?

- **Kashi Tamil Sangamam** celebrates many aspects of the historical and civilisational connection between India’s North and South.
- The broader objective is to **bring the two knowledge and cultural traditions (of the North and South)** closer, create an understanding of our shared heritage and deepen the people-to-people bond between the regions.
- It is being organized by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with other ministries like Culture, Textiles, Railways, Tourism, Food Processing, Information & Broadcasting etc. and the Government of Uttar Pradesh.
- The **endeavor is in sync with National Education Policy (NEP)**, 2020’s emphasis on integrating the wealth of Indian Knowledge Systems with modern systems of knowledge. **IIT Madras and Banaras Hindu University (BHU)** is the two implementing agencies for the programme.

PM MODI DEDICATED KAMENG HYDROPOWER PROJECT

- **PM Narendra Modi** dedicated the Kameng hydropower project to the nation.

About Kameng hydropower station

- The **600 MW Kameng hydropower project** was developed by the state-owned North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO). It is situated in Arunachal Pradesh’s West Kameng district.



- Stretching across more than **80 km**, **this project was developed at the cost of some Rs.8,200 crore**. This run-of-the-river scheme makes use of the flows from Bichom and Tenga rivers – the tributaries of River Kameng.
- It **has 2 dams (Bichom and Tenga) and a powerhouse having four units of 150 MW** each to generate 3,353 million units of electricity each year.
- The water from the two dams is transported via a Head Race Tunnel into the **powerhouse in West Kameng to drive 150 MW vertical turbines in each of the four units**.

PM MODI TO INAUGURATE BENGALURU TECH SUMMIT

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate the silver jubilee edition of the **Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS 22) virtually**.
- The **inauguration ceremony will be attended by several global leaders including** French President Emmanuel Macron, Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence and Digital Economy, UAE, Omar Bin Sultan Al Olama, Australian Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs Tim Watts, Finnish Minister of Science and Culture Petri Honkonen, and Martin Schroeter, Chairman and CEO, Kyndryl, US.
- **Bengaluru Tech Summit 22, which has attracted more than 575 exhibitors**, will witness at least 9 MoUs being signed and the launch of more than 20 products.
- For the first time, startups belonging to 16 states of the country are also participating in the Bengaluru Tech Summit 22.
- Over 350 experts of international repute will talk about the **recent technological developments during the conference themed “Tech4NextGen”**.



FIRST GREENFIELD AIRPORT IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **first Greenfield airport in Arunachal Pradesh — the Donyi Polo Airport at Itanagar** — and dedicated the 600 MW Kameng Hydro Power Station to the nation. Northeast India will now have 16 airports.
- The name of the airport reflects the traditions and rich cultural heritage of Arunachal Pradesh and the age-old indigenous reverence to the **Sun (‘Donyi’) and the Moon (‘Polo’) in the state**.
- The **foundation stone for this airport was laid by the PM in 2019**.
- The airport, which has been developed in an area of over 690 acres, at the cost of more than Rs 640 crore is expected to play a **major role in improving connectivity and will also contribute to the growth of trade and tourism in the region**, said Dilip Sajnani, Director, Airport Authority of India.



INDIA'S FIRST NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare recently unveiled the National Suicide Prevention Strategy – India's first suicide prevention policy.
- **National Suicide Prevention Strategy (NSPS)** aims to reduce suicide mortality by 10 per cent by 2030 through timely actions and multi-sectoral collaborations.
- The national strategy has several objectives. These are:
 - Set up effective **surveillance mechanisms for suicides within the next 3 years**
 - Establish **psychiatric outpatient departments** that provide suicide prevention services through the **District Mental Health Programme** in all states within 5 years
 - Integrate a mental well-being curriculum in all educational institutions within the next 8 years
- The strategy also seeks to develop guidelines for responsible media reporting about suicides and restricting access to the means of suicides. It will improve community resilience and societal support for suicide prevention.
- While it is in line with the **WHO's South East-Asia Region Strategy for Suicide Prevention**, this strategy will remain on par with the Indian culture and social milieu.



NATIONAL CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE FOR GREEN PORT

- **India's first National Centre of Excellence for Green Port & Shipping (NCoEGPS)** was launched at "INMARCO 2022" held in Mumbai.
- The **INMARCO** is a **quadrennial International Maritime Conference and Exhibition**, hosted by the Institute of Marine Engineers (India).
- It is a major initiative by the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MOPSW)** towards providing greener solutions. The NCoEGPS will be working under the framework of the Sagarmala programme of the MoPSW.
- The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is the knowledge and implementation partner for this project.

The center aims to develop a regulatory framework and alternate technology adoption roadmap for Green Shipping to foster carbon neutrality and **circular economy (CE) in the shipping sector in India**.

ARITTAPATTI BIODIVERSITY HERITAGE SITE

- The state government of Tamil Nadu recently issued a notification **declaring Madurai district's Arittapatti and Meenakshipuram villages as the state's first biodiversity heritage site**.
- **Biodiversity heritage sites (BHS)** are notified areas that are unique and ecologically fragile ecosystems known for hosting one or more components like species richness, rare, endemic and

threatened species, keystone species, species of evolutionary significance, wild ancestors of domestic species etc.

- These areas are **significant from a biodiversity point of view and cultural aspects** like sacred groves/trees and sites or other larger community conserved areas.

About Arittapatti Biodiversity Heritage Site

- The **Arittapatti Biodiversity Heritage Site spans across two villages** – Arittapatti village (Melur block) and Meenakshipuram village (Madurai East taluk).
- Arittapatti village is known for its ecological and historical significance. It hosts some 250 bird species, including three important raptors (birds of prey) – the **Laggar Falcon, the Shaheen Falcon and Bonelli's Eagle. It also hosts Indian Pangolin, Slender Loris and pythons and others.**
- The area is surrounded by a chain of seven hillocks or inselbergs that are a source of water for 72 lakes, 200 natural springs and 3 check dams. The 16th century Anaikondan tank, which was built during the reign of the Pandiyan kings, is one of them.

PERIODIC LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

- Recently, the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** has released the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).
- The unemployment rate in urban areas for persons aged above 15 eased to 7.2% in July--September 2022 from 9.8% in July-September 2021.

What is the Periodic Labour Force Survey?

- Considering the importance of the availability of labor force data at more **frequent time intervals, the National Statistical Office (NSO)**, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation launched the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) in April 2017.

The objective of PLFS is primarily twofold:

- To **estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators (viz. Worker Population Ratio, Labour Force Participation Rate, Unemployment Rate)** in the short time interval of three months for the urban areas only in the Current Weekly Status (CWS).
- To estimate employment and unemployment indicators in **both Usual Status and CWS in both rural and urban areas annually.**

WHAT IS INDIA DOING FOR PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT?

- **National Dashboard on Elimination of Single Use Plastic and Plastic Waste Management:** India launched a nationwide awareness campaign on **Single Use Plastics on World Environment Day in June 2022.**
- A mobile app for Single Use Plastics Grievance Redressal was also launched to empower citizens to check sale/usage/manufacturing of SUP in their area and tackle the plastic menace.

Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2022: It prohibits the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of several single-use plastic items as of July 1, 2022. It has also mandated Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) that incorporates circularity by making

manufacturers of products responsible for collecting and processing their products upon the end of the products' lifetime.

- **India Plastics Pact:** It is the first of its kind in Asia. The Plastics Pact is an ambitious and collaborative initiative to bring stakeholders together to reduce, reuse and recycle plastics within the material's value chain.
- **Mascot 'Prakriti':** To spread awareness among masses about small changes that can be sustainably adopted in lifestyle for a better environment.
- **Project REPLANS:** Project REPLAN (stands for REducing PLastic in Nature) launched by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) aims to reduce consumption of plastic bags by providing a more sustainable alternative.

DRAFT AIRCRAFT SECURITY RULES

- The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** has notified the **Draft Aircraft Security Rules, 2022**.

What is the Background?

- The **Draft Aircraft Security Rules, 2022** will supersede Aircraft Security Rules, 2011 and were necessary after Parliament passed Aircraft Amendment Act, 2020 in September 2020, giving **statutory powers to BCAS** along with the Director General of Civil Aviation and Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau.

What is the International Civil Aviation Organisation?

- **ICAO is a United Nations (UN) specialized agency, established in 1944**, which laid the foundation for the standards and procedures for peaceful global air navigation.
- The **Convention on International Civil Aviation was signed on 7th December 1944 in Chicago**. It established the core principles permitting international transport by air, and also led to the creation of the ICAO.
- One of the objectives is to foster the planning and development of international air transport so as to ensure the **safe and orderly growth of international civil aviation throughout the world**. India is among its 193 members. It is headquartered in Montreal, Canada.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

WHAT IS BLACK SEA GRAIN INITIATIVE?

- Russia recently pulled out of the Black Sea Grain Deal, which was launched to mitigate food inflation caused by conflict in Ukraine.
- The **Black Sea Grain Initiative was an agreement between Russia and Ukraine** with Turkey and the United Nations. It sought to create a safe passage of food grains exported from Ukraine, which is currently in war with Russia.
- Under this agreement, **export of grain, food and fertilizers will be allowed to resume from Ukraine via a “safe maritime humanitarian corridor”** from three key Ukrainian ports i.e., Chornomorsk, Odessa, and Yuzhny/Pivdennyi.
- A **Joint Coordination Centre (JCC)** having representatives from signatories of the Black Sea Grain Initiative was set up to implement this deal.



INDIA & US MILITARY CONDUCTED 'YUDH ABHYAS'

- **Indian and US militaries to conduct the battalion-level “Yudh Abhyas”** exercise between 15th November 2022 to 2nd December 2022.
- The **Yudh Abhyas will be held at Auli in Uttarakhand which is just 100 km from the Line of Actual Control (LAC)**. The member countries of the “Quad” will conduct the Malabar exercise off Yokosuka in Japan between 8th November 2022 to 18th November 2022.
- The “**Quad” member countries include India, Australia, Japan, and the US**. The Quad has declared that it would “deter” any “coercion” in the Indo-Pacific. “Yudh Abhyas” will include high-altitude warfare drills.’



GHANA ASSUMES PRESIDENCY OF UNSC

- West African country, **Ghana assumes the rotating monthly Presidency of the United Nations Security Council**.
- During the month of November 2022, Ghana shall preside over the meetings of the Council (**adoptions, debates and consultations**) and, under its authority, shall represent the Security Council in its capacity as an organ of the United Nations.
- In its capacity as President of the UN Security Council, Ghana is focusing on enhancing Global Peace and Security for Sustainable and Inclusive Development, particularly on the continent of Africa.
- Ghana rejoined the **UN Security Council on January 1, 2022**. It is the third time Ghana is holding a non-permanent seat on the Council.
- Ghana was first given the opportunity to serve on the council from **1962 to 1963**, and was back for the period of January 2006 – December 2007.

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU AGAIN RETURNS TO POWER

- **Former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu** sealed his return to power, as the final vote count from elections this week gave him and his far-right allies a clear majority in parliament.

The Current Scenario:

- Combined with 18 for two ultra-Orthodox Jewish parties and 14 for the rising extreme-right alliance called Religious Zionism gave the bloc supporting Netanyahu 64 seats.
- The **parties backing centrist caretaker Prime Minister Yair Lapid won 51 seats**, a definitive win for Netanyahu that spells an end to Israel's unprecedented era of political deadlock, which forced five elections in less than four years.



The Most Far Right Govt:

- The result sets **Netanyahu up to form what may be the most right-wing government in Israeli history.**

WHAT IS LOSS & DAMAGE FINANCE?

- For the first time in the **history of the UN's climate negotiations, loss and damage funding** became part of the official agenda for the COP27 that is being held at Sharm-El-Sheikh in Egypt. Other key additions to the agenda include "matters related to the least developed countries" and "long-term finance".
- **Loss and damage finance** is a proposed mechanism that provides financial aid to areas and communities that are already severely affected by climate change. This mechanism has been demanded for a **long time by developing and vulnerable communities, including India.**
- However, developed countries have opposed it due to the fear of being pushed into providing the majority of the funding.



What is India's agenda for COP27?

- **Climate finance and the clarity** regarding its definition so that developing countries are able to accurately assess the extent of the financial flows for climate action.
- India and other developing countries will push for the rich countries to agree to a **new global finance target known as the new collective quantified goal on climate finance (NCQG).**

MIDDLE EAST GREEN INITIATIVE

- **Saudi Arabia** recently committed 2.5 billion USD to the **Middle East Green Initiative.**
- The Middle East Green Initiative is a first-of-its-kind regional alliance that was launched by **Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman** in 2021 to curb greenhouse gas emissions from the Middle East.



- It has a **clearly defined strategy for regional climate action, ensuring a coordinated and localized response to climate change that is affecting the region.**
- It aims to reduce carbon emissions in the region by more than 60 per cent – more than 670 million tons of carbon equivalent.
- This plan includes increasing green cover by planting **over 50 billion trees across the Middle East and restoring 200 million hectares of degraded land.** It also seeks to increase the green land and marine reserves to 30 percent of the total national area. The initiative will reduce the global carbon levels by 2.5 per cent.
- **About MGI Summit:** The MGI Summit is a regional dialogue on climate that brings together countries from the Middle East and North Africa.

INDIA JOINED MANGROVE ALLIANCE FOR CLIMATE

Calling for integration of mangroves conservation with the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) programmes for carbon sequestering, India joined the Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC).

What is Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC):

- The **Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC)** is an intergovernmental alliance that seeks to expand and hasten the progress towards the conservation and restoration of mangrove ecosystems. Its members include the **UAE, Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, Australia, Japan, and Spain.**



MAC & India:

- **India is among the first five countries to join the MAC,** at the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) at Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt. The others are Australia, Japan, Spain, and Sri Lanka.
- The move is in line with **India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5- 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent, through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

WHAT IS GLOBAL CARBON BUDGET 2022?

- The **Global Carbon Budget 2022 report** was released on November 11, 2022. The report was released by the Global Carbon Project – **a group of scientists who track carbon emitted by human activities.**

What are the key findings of the Global Carbon Budget, 2022?

- The **global carbon emissions are expected to reach 40.6 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide** into the atmosphere in 2022.
- This projection is close to the highest-ever annual total of 40.9 billion tonnes of CO₂ emitted in 2019. There is no sign of carbon emission decline required for limiting global warming to 1.5 degree Celsius.
- In 2021, **China (31 per cent), the United States (14 per cent) and the European Union (8 per cent)** are the major contributors of global carbon emissions. India accounted for 7 per cent of the global carbon emissions.



26TH INTERNATIONAL MALABAR NAVAL EXERCISE

- **India is participating in 26th International Malabar Naval Exercise begins in Yokosuka of Japan.** In the Malabar Naval Exercise, Australia, Japan and the USA are also participating.
- The naval forces of these countries will take part in the exercise till the 18th of next month. Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kamorta are ready to demonstrate at the event.
- The **presence of these indigenously built ships of the Indian Navy** at these multi-national events will be an opportunity to showcase the ship-building capabilities of Indian Shipyards.
- The **MALABAR exercise was initiated in 1992 between the navies of India and the United States.**
- The International Fleet Review will be reviewed by **Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida** and will see the participation of 40 ships and submarines from 13 countries.
- The warships will also be deployed in the four-nation Malabar exercise scheduled to take place on 8th November. It started as a **bilateral drill between the Indian Navy and the US Navy in the Indian Ocean.** Japan became a permanent member of the exercise in 2015.

'YEAR 2022' ASEAN-INDIA FRIENDSHIP YEAR

- The year 2022 has been declared as the ASEAN-India Friendship year, as ASEAN and India commemorate 30 years of partnership. **A series of events has been planned to celebrate the occasion throughout the year.**
- As a part of this programme, an Indian media delegation is on a visit to Singapore and Cambodia under the ASEAN-INDIA Media exchange programme from 8th November to 13th November.
- On the first leg of the visit the delegation visited the **Singapore-India Chambers of Commerce and Industries (SICCI)** and had an exchange of thoughts on topics such as India-Singapore relations with a specific focus on business-friendly policies and the expectations of the business community in Singapore from India.
- The delegation also called on the **Indian High Commissioner to Singapore Mr. P. Kumaran** and got a detailed understanding about how the strategic partnership between India and Singapore has shown its resilience and both sides look forward to further strengthening this important relationship.



MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON 'NO MONEY FOR TERROR'

- The 3rd Ministerial “No Money for Terror” Conference will set to be held on November 18 and 19 this year in **New Delhi, India.**
- The **Ministerial No Money for Terror (NMFT) Conference** aims to create platform **for international discussions on countering terror financing.**
- The conference includes discussions on technical, legal, regulatory and cooperative aspects of the terrorism financing. It **aims to set pace for other high-level official and political discussions focusing on terror finance.**



- The **inaugural edition of this conference was held in Paris, France, in 2018**. The second edition of the NMFT took place in Melbourne, Australia, in 2019.
- The third edition was set to take place in India in 2020 but was postponed because of COVID-19 pandemic that caused the global-level restrictions on travel.

EAST TIMOR TO BECOME 11TH MEMBER OF ASEAN

- The **AEAN members agreed in principle to admit East Timor as the 11th member of the bloc**.
- The **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** is a regional bloc founded on August 8, 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand. Its member states are **Brunei**, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. East Timor was added as a new member of this regional grouping.



About East Timor

- **Timor Leste or East Timor** is a half-island nation in the eastern Lesser Sunda Islands. It is situated at the southern extreme of the Malay Archipelago. It occupies the **eastern half of the Island of Timor**.
- It is bounded by the Timor Sea to the southeast, the Wetar Strait to the north, the Ombai Strait to the northwest and the western Timor (part of Indonesian territory) to southwest.
- **East Timor was previously part of Indonesian territory**. Indonesia occupied the island nation in 1976. Hundreds of thousands have died on the island while resisting the annexation of Indonesia. Due to global pressure, the **Indonesian government authorized a referendum in 1999 to determine the future of East Timor**.
- In the UN-supervised referendum, the country voted to secede from Indonesia. It **was recognized by the United Nations in 2002. This makes it the youngest democracy in Asia**.

INDIA & FINLAND AGREEMENT ON DIGITAL PARTNERSHIP

- **India and Finland** agree to carry mutual cooperation between the two countries to a new level and enhance partnership in areas such as digital partnership in **Future ICT, Future Mobile Technologies and Digital Education**.
- The decision was taken during a meeting between **Finland's Minister of Education and Culture Petri Honkonen and Minister of Science and Technology Jitendra Singh** at North Block in New Delhi.
- He was accompanied by a high level delegation which later held a **separate meeting with the Indian delegation in the presence of the two Ministers**.



Honkonen's visit comes in the wake of the announcement made by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Finnish counterpart Sanna Marin during a Summit meeting** on 16 March last year.

METHANE ALERT & RESPONSE SYSTEM (MARS)

- The Methane Alert and Response System (MARS) was launched at the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change **held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt**.
- The **Methane Alert and Response System (MARS)** is a **satellite-based system** that enables governments to detect methane emissions and take measures to address them.
- This data-to-action platform is part of the global endeavor to tackle climate change by curbing greenhouse emissions.
- It was set up as part of the **United Nations Environment Programme's International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO)** strategy to gain policy-relevant data required for mitigating emissions.
- This will be the first publicly available global system connecting methane detection with the notification processes transparently.
- It **will use state-of-the-art satellite data** to detect and identify notable greenhouse emission events and notify concerned stakeholders. This data will also be used for supporting and tracking the progress of the mitigation efforts.
- If requested, **MARS partners** will provide technical or advisory services like assessing mitigation opportunities available in specific regions.



FIRST EVER FEMALE PRESIDENT OF SLOVENIA

- **Natasa Pirc Musar**, won the second round of Slovenia's Presidential elections. Natasa Pirc Musar becomes the first female President of the country. She won 58.86 percent of votes in the runoff, while the opposition right-wing politician and the **former Foreign Minister Anze Logar** won 46.14 percent of votes.
- The **new President of Slovenia, an EU, and NATO member state will replace Borut Pahor**. Borut Pahor has been active in politics for 30 years.
- Borut Pahor was formerly a fashion model who served two five-year terms and is often referred to in public as the Instagram President for his use of the social network.



About Natasa Pirc Musar

- **Natasa Pirc Musar is a Slovenian Attorney** and book author, former Information Commissioner, Journalist, and the former President of Slovenia's Red Cross.
- She is best known for her rulings and the books on freedom of information, high-profile legal cases, in which she represented Slovenia-born Melania Trump, the **Social Democratic Political Party of Slovenia, and other notable clients**.

WHAT IS PARIS PEACE FORUM?

- **The fifth edition of the Paris Peace Forum is being organized.**
- **The Paris Peace Forum is a French non-profit organization established in 2018.** It hosts an annual gathering of world leaders and heads of international organizations as well as leaders from civil society and private sector from across the world.
- **The goal of the annual event is not to directly address international conflicts** but to offer an international arena for initiating dialogue between a multitude of both private and civil society actors.
- Each year, the **forum showcases projects** that provide concrete and effective solutions to governance challenges.
- It **completes the existing world agenda of multilateral gathering by specifically focusing on global governance-related issues.** Economic and financial issues are dealt with at the World Economic Forum in Davos (Switzerland) and security issues at the Munich Security Conference.



G20 SUMMIT HELD IN BALI, INDONESIA

- **The 2022 G20 Bali summit** is set to be held on November 15 and 16 this year.
- The **summit in Bali is the 17th meeting of the Group of Twenty (G20) countries** that represent 85 percent of the global GDP, 75 percent of the global trade and 66 per cent of the global population.
- The **G20 summit will be held in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia.** Indonesia's presidency commenced on December 1, 2021. It will end during this summit.
- The theme for the **event is 'Recover Together, Recover Stronger'.** As part of the G20 Agenda, 3 working sessions will be organized. They are:
 - Sustainable energy transition
 - Global Health Architecture
 - Digital transformation



Who will be attending the 2022 G20 Summit?

- The G20 summit will be attended by leaders of **Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey and the U.K. and the US.**
- Russian President Vladimir Putin, and leaders of Brazil and Mexico will not be taking part in this event. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky was invited to address the summit virtually.

WHAT IS G7's GLOBAL SHIELD FUND

- Global Shield Fund coordinated by **G7's president Germany and the V20 group of climate-vulnerable countries**, aims to rapidly provide pre-arranged insurance and disaster protection funding after events such as floods, droughts and hurricanes hit.
- A G7-led plan dubbed "Global Shield" to provide funding to countries suffering climate disasters was launched at the **U.N. COP27 summit**, **although some questioned the effectiveness of the planned scheme.**



The Scale Of The Funding:

- Backed by 170 million euros (\$175.17 million) in funding from Germany and 40 million euros from other donors including Denmark and Ireland, the Global Shield will in the next few months develop support to be deployed in **countries including Pakistan, Ghana, Fiji and Senegal when events occur.**

PAN INDIA COASTAL DEFENCE EXERCISE 'SEA VIGIL 2022'

- The **third edition of the 'Pan-India' Coastal Defence Exercise 'Sea Vigil-22'** will be conducted from 15 to 16 November 2022.
- This National Level Coastal Defence Exercise was conceptualized in 2018 to validate various measures that **have been instituted towards enhancing maritime security since '26/11'.**
- Coastal Security being a major sub-set of Coastal Defence construct, the **concept of 'Sea Vigil' is to activate the Coastal Security apparatus across India and assess the overarching Coastal Defence mechanism.**
- The exercise will be **undertaken along the entire 7516 km coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone of India** and will involve all the Coastal States and Union territories along with other maritime stakeholders, including the fishing and coastal communities.
- The exercise is being conducted by the Indian Navy in coordination **with the Coast Guard and other ministries entrusted with the task of maritime activities.**



WHO ARE THE 'KURDISTAN WORKERS' PARTY OR PKK'?

- **Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK** is responsible for the bombing that killed six people and injured several dozen on Istiklal Avenue in Türkiye's Istanbul. The attack is said to have been ordered from Kobani – a **majority Kurdish city in northern Syria bordering Türkiye.**
- The **Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK)** was founded by the Marxist revolutionary Abdullah Öcalan in 1978 to create an independent Kurdistan.
- Its **guerrilla forces fought against the Turkish army from 1984 until Öcalan was captured in 1999, when 40,000 Kurdish civilians were killed.**
- The PPK declared a ceasefire in 2013. However, this ceasefire collapsed after Turkey joined the war against the Islamic State in 2015 and started bombing PKK targets in Iraq.



- **Under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan**, Türkiye cracked down PKK militants as well as Kurdish civilians, including lawmakers and activists.
- **Who are the Kurds?**
- The Kurds are the major ethnic group who live in the **mountainous geo-cultural region called Kurdistan**. Kurdistan spans from southeastern Turkey in the west to northwestern Iran in the east and from northern Iraq to northern Syria in the south to Armenia in the north.

INDONESIA JUST ENERGY TRANSITION PARTNERSHIP

- **Indonesia Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP)** was launched at the G20 Summit's side event Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII).
- Indonesia Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) is a long-term political agreement between the Indonesian Government and International Partners Group (IPG), with the US and Japan as joint leads, along with the **United Kingdom, Germany, France, the European Union, Canada, Italy, Norway, and Denmark**.
- Indonesia is among the world's top 10 greenhouse gas emitters. The **JETP will help the country to achieve an accelerated shift** from fossil fuel dependence to renewable energy sources. It seeks to minimize emissions from the power sector, phase down coal usage and create a strategy based on expansion of renewable energy.



FRANCE END OPERATION BARKHANE IN AFRICA

- **On November 9**, France ended the decade-long Operation Barkhane in Africa. This comes amid the deteriorating ties **between France and countries in the Sahel –Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea – following a series of military coups**.
- France launched **Operation Serval in January 2013 in the Sahel in North Africa**. The operation was limited to countering Islamic extremists linked to al-Qaeda, who have taken up control of northern Mali.
- In 2014, this **Operation Serval was scaled up and renamed as Operation Barkhane**. The upgraded operation's objective is to assist local armed forces in preventing resurgence of non-state armed groups across the Sahel region.
- It launched counter-terror operations in **Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Chad**. As part of this mission, some 4,500 French personnel were deployed alongside the local joint counter-terrorism force.



➤ \RED CROWNED ROOFED TURTLE

- India has proposed improving the protection of the **red-crowned roofed turtle (Batagur kachuga)** under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).
- **Red-crowned roofed turtle (Batagur kachuga)** is a freshwater turtle native to India and Bangladesh. It is currently on the brink of extinction.
- The turtle species is already classified as critically endangered under the **International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List**. Its survival is threatened because of habitat loss caused by pollution and hydrological projects in Gangal lowlands of northern India and Bangladesh.
- **It is also facing threats from illegal consumption and illegal international trade.** Historically, this species was found in central Nepal, northeastern India, and Bangladesh and in Burma.
- However, the **population in these regions dwindled as these turtles were harvested for meat and shells.** They also died because of drowning in fishing nets, water pollution and other challenges. Currently, India is implementing a captive breeding program for this species and has initiated conservation efforts as well.



UK INDIA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS SCHEME

- The **UK-India Young Professionals Scheme** was announced by British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak at the G20 Summit that was held in **Bali, Indonesia**.
- The **UK-India Young Professionals Scheme** will provide Indians places to work in the United Kingdom for up to two years. It will **benefit 3,000 degree-holding Indians aged 18 to 30 years.**
- This scheme will be implemented from the early 2023 on a reciprocal basis. The initiative will strengthen the **Mobility Partnership and Migration between the countries as agreed in 2021.**
- This scheme makes India the first visa-national country to benefit from the scheme. **It was launched by the United Kingdom amid the huge labor shortages in the country.**



JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE - KEEN SWORD 23

- The **joint military exercise – Keen Sword 23** – is being held from November 10 to 19 this year. **Exercise Keen Sword** is a joint and bilateral field training exercise between the **US military and the Japan Self-Defence Force.**
- It is held once in **two years to boost the preparedness and interoperability between the military personnel of Japan and the United States.** This biennial exercise has been held since 1986.
- This exercise provides opportunities for the US military and the JSDF to train together across various mission areas in realistic scenarios. Its ultimate goal is to **build credible deterrence amid growing Chinese aggression in the region.**



- It aims to create comprehensive scenarios to challenge the critical capabilities required to support the security of Japan and the stability of the Indo-Pacific.

WHAT IS CUTTACK'S BALIYATRA?

- **Baliyatra made it into the Guinness World Record** for making 22,000 paper boats in 35 minutes. The Guinness Record was created to raise global awareness about Cuttack's Baliyatra.
- **Baliyatra literally means "voyage to Bali"**. It is one of India's largest open-air fairs. The festival commemorates the 2,000-year-old maritime and cultural links between the ancient Kalinga (present-day Odisha) and Bali and other South and Southeast Asian regions that include **Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Burma (Myanmar) and Ceylon (Sri Lanka)**.
- The origin of the nine-day festival can be traced back to more than a thousand years.
- The **celebrations commence on Kartik Purnima (full moon night in the month of Kartik)**. This is the day when sadhavas (traders) traditionally began their voyage across the sea, when the winds are favorable for the boita (boats).



The most popular items for trade between Kalinga and Southeast Asia are **pepper, cinnamon, cardamom, silk, camphor, gold and jewelry**.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

- Recently, India has been handed over the presidency **Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)** for 2022-23 by the outgoing Council Chair, France in its 3rd Annual Summit in Japan.
- This development comes on the heels of assuming the Presidency of the G20, a league of the world's largest economies. **Tokyo is the first Asian city to host this summit.**



What is GPAI?

- It was launched in June, 2020, with fifteen members. The **Global Partnership in Artificial Intelligence** is described as the 'fruition of an idea developed within the G7.'

It is a **multi-stakeholder initiative on artificial intelligence (AI)**, which aims to fill what it describes as 'the gap between theory and practice on AI,' by supporting cutting-edge research, as well as applied activities, on AI-related priorities.

13TH EDITION IF 'NASEEM AL BAHR' EXERCISE

- The **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Trikand, INS Sumitra, and Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) Dornier**, participated in the 13th Edition of 'Naseem Al Bahr' (Sea Breeze). **INS Trikand** is a frontline frigate equipped with a versatile range of weapons and sensors. It is a part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet, based at Mumbai.
- **INS Sumitra**, a multirole offshore patrol vessel is part of the **Eastern Fleet of the Indian Navy, based at Visakhapatnam**.



What is Naseem Al Bahr?

- It is a **bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Navy of Oman (RNO)**. The exercise was conducted from 19th to 24th November 2022 off the coast of Oman and had three phases: harbor phase, sea phase and debrief.
- The first IN-RNO exercise was conducted in 1993. Year 2022 marks 30 years of IN-RNO bilateral exercises.

What is India's other Bilateral Maritime Exercises?

- **Thailand:** India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT)
- **Indonesia:** Samudra Shakti
- **Singapore:** Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)
- **Qatar:** Zair-Al-Bahr
- **Bangladesh:** Bongosagar Exercise
- **Sri Lanka:** Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise (SLINEX)
- **Japan:** Japan Maritime bilateral exercise (JIMEX), Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX)
- **France:** VARUNA

INDO-PACIFIC REGIONAL DIALOGUE (IPRD 2022)

- **Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2022** will be held from November 23 to 25 this year. The **Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD)** is the apex international conference organized by the Indian Navy every year.
- The **National Maritime Foundation (NMF)** is the Indian Navy's knowledge partner and chief organizer of this dialogue.
- The first two editions were held in the years 2018 and 2019 respectively in New Delhi. The 2020 edition of the IPRD was **canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The third edition was held in 2021 in virtual mode.**
- The **aim of this annual dialogue** is to assess the opportunities and challenges that emerge within the Indo-Pacific. It **provides a common platform to discuss topics related to the geopolitical developments** that are affecting the maritime domain of the Indo-Pacific.

About IPRD 2022

- The **IPRD 2022 will be held in New Delhi based on the theme 'Operationalising the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)'**. The concept of IPOI seeks to promote regional, inclusive cooperation based on seven interconnected pillars – maritime security, maritime ecology, maritime transport, capacity building and resource sharing, and science, technology and academic cooperation.

- The 2022 edition of the **dialogue will be held in physical format in New Delhi.**

AUS-IND ECONOMIC & TRADE AGREEMENT

- The **Australian Parliament** recently approved the free trade agreement with India. In India, such agreements require approval from the Union Cabinet.
- The **Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (AI-ECTA)** was signed by the two countries on April 2, 2022. This free trade agreement eases trade between India and Australia by reducing customs duties, regulatory laws, subsidies and quotas on products under import-export.
- The **pact ensures that the cost of production** is cheaper when compared with other countries.



Why is AI-ECTA significant?

- **AI-ECTA is the first free trade agreement** that India signed with a large developed economy in the last decade. Besides AI-ECTA and an FTA with Japan, all of India's FTAs are with other developing countries like **Singapore, South Korea, ASEAN, Malaysia and UAE.**
- **Once it becomes operationalized, AI-ECTA** will provide India duty-free access to the Australian market for over 6,000 broad sectors. These include textile, leather, furniture, jewelry, machinery and others.
- **It will help Australia** reduce its dependence on the Chinese market and forge new bilateral trade ties. Under this free trade agreement, Australia will provide **zero-duty access to India for some 96.4 per cent (by value) of its exports.** This includes products that currently incur 4 to 5 per cent customs duty in Australia.

8TH GARUDA SHAKTI EXERCISE

- The **eighth edition of the Garuda Shakti Exercise** commenced on November 21, 2022.
- The **Garuda Shakti Exercise** is a bilateral joint special force exercise between India and Indonesia. This joint military exercise is being organized as part of the bilateral defense cooperation between Indonesia and India.
- It has been held since 2012, **involving Para Special Force of the Indian Army.** It covers counter-terrorism, close-quarter combat and other special operations.
- The **main objective of this exercise is to increase trust and cooperation between the armies of India and Indonesia.**



About the 2022 edition of Garuda Shakti Exercise

- The 13-day Garuda Shakti exercise **is being held in Sangga Buana Training Area in Indonesia's Karawang.**

- It seeks to boost understanding, cooperation, and interoperability between the special forces of Indian and Indonesian armies.
- The **scope of this exercise includes increasing the skill levels of Special Forces, sharing of information about weapons, equipment, innovations, tactics and techniques.**

22ND COUNCIL OF MINISTER'S MEETING OF IORA

- **India participated in the 22nd Council of minister's meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** held at Dhaka in Bangladesh. The Indian delegation was led by Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh.

About IORA:

- The idea for **IORA first surfaced during the late South African President Nelson Mandela's 1995 visit to India.**
- IORA is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to fostering regional cooperation and sustainable development in the **Indian Ocean region through its 23 Member States bordering the Indian Ocean and 10 Dialogue Partners.**
- It is a regional forum that is tripartite in nature and brings together representatives of **Government, Business, and Academia, in order to foster cooperation and closer engagement among them.**

KUKI-CHIN BANGLADESHI REFUGEE ISSUE

- The **on-going conflict between Bangladesh security forces and the Kuki-Chin National Army (KNA)** triggered an influx of refugees from the Kuki-Chin community to the Indian state of Mizoram.



Who is the Kuki-Chin National Army (KNA)?

- The **Kuki-Chin National Army (KNA)** is the armed wing of the Kuki-Chin National Front (KNF) – a separatist group that was established in 2008 to create a separate state in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) in Southern Bangladesh.
- The KNF claims that all members of the **Bawm, Pungkhua, Lushai, Khumi, Mro, and Khyang ethnic groups are part of the greater Kuki-Chin race.**
- **Also known as the Bawm Party**, this group is having close relationships with rebel groups in Northeast India and Myanmar.

About the current conflict in Bangladesh

- The **Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) has launched an operation in October 2022** against the Kuki-Chin National Army (KNA) after it entered into an agreement with the newly formed militant outfit called the Jama'atul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya, which originated from the **remote hilly terrains of Rangamati and Bandarban.**
- **Under this three-year agreement**, KNF will provide shelter, training and other support to the militants in return for 3 lakh Bangladeshi Taka and food expenditure. While several of them have been arrested, 50 militants are currently being trained in the region.

ANWAR IBRAHIM APPOINTED AS 10TH PM OF MALAYSIA

- On November 24, veteran opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim was appointed as the **10th Prime Minister of Malaysia** by King Sultan Abdullah and sworn in.
- His appointment concludes the five-day political impasse caused after no party managed to secure a majority to form the government for the first time since the independence in 1957.
- Anwar Ibrahim is a **veteran politician in Malaysia who started his political career as a student activist**. He founded the **Muslim Youth Movement of Malaysia (ABIM) in 1971**.
- In the early days of his political career, **Ibrahim led protests against rural poverty and other socio-economic challenges afflicting the country**.
- He later joined the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) party and became the finance minister. During his tenure as a finance minister, he independently implemented various political decisions that helped Malaysia weather the impact of the Asian financial crisis.



QATAR SIGNED WORLD'S LONGEST GAS SUPPLY DEAL WITH CHINA

- **QatarEnergy announced a 27-year natural gas supply deal with China**, calling it the “longest” ever seen as it strengthened ties with Asia while Europe scrambles for alternative sources.
- **The state energy company will send four million tonnes of liquefied natural gas** annually from its new North Field East project to China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Sinopec).
- Asian countries led by China, Japan and South Korea are the main market for Qatar’s gas, which is increasingly being sought by European countries since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.
- Negotiations with European countries have struggled as Germany and others balked at signing the type of long-term deals made with Asian nations. **North Field is at the center of Qatar’s expansion of its liquefied natural gas production by more than 60 percent to 126 million tonnes a year by 2027.**
- **China is the first country to seal a deal for North Field East**. The Chinese company’s chairman revealed it had also requested a full share of the North Field South project that is dominated by Western energy giants.



MULTIDIMENSIONAL INTEGRATED STABILIZATION MISSION

- India has decided to send a utility helicopter unit to the Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). **Bangladesh and Pakistan will each send an armed helicopter unit to this operation.**
- The Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) is a United Nations peacekeeping mission that was set up **in 2013 by the UNSC to stabilize the western African country after the 2012 Tuareg rebellion.**



- This **mission was set up to assist in the political processes of Mali** and undertake numerous security-related tasks within the conflict-hit country.
- It is tasked with supporting the **transitional authorities of Mali in achieving the political stabilization and implementing the transitional roadmap.**

PANANTZA SAN CARLOS MINING PROJECT

- The **Ecuadorian Constitutional Court** had halted the Panantza-San Carlos mining project in a ruling that favored an indigenous community's rights to choose **which activities can happen on their territories.**



About Panantza-San Carlos mining project

- The **Panantza-San Carlos copper mining project** is an open pit mine spanning 38,548 hectares of land in the southern Ecuadorian Amazon.
- This **3 billion USD project** was expected to generate some 40 billion USD in export revenue of the next decade. This **project was funded by the Chinese mining company ExplorCobres SA.**
- It was part of the Ecuadorian government's push to become Andean mining power rivaling countries like Chile and Peru. Due to this project, indigenous people were **forcefully evicted and displaced from their homes in Nankints.**
- It was opposed by the Shuar Arutam people, who held that they were not consulted properly by the government to implement this project.

ECONOMOIC AFFAIRS

WHAT IS DIGITAL RUPEE?

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** will commence pilot launches of the **digital rupee** from November 1. It has identified nine banks for participation in the pilot launch.
- They are the **State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Yes Bank, IDFC First Bank, and HSBC.**



What Is Digital Rupee:

- A **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** or Digital Rupee is a digital form of currency notes issued by a central bank.
- Digital currency or rupee is an electronic form of money that can be used in contactless transactions.
- **Presenting Union Budget 2022, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** announced that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) would be rolling out its digital currency soon.

CBDCs Types:

- **Retail (CBDC-R):** Retail CBDC would be potentially available for use by all,
- **Wholesale (CBDC-W)** is designed for restricted access to select financial institutions.

FINAL SOVEREIGN GREEN BONDS FRAMEWORK OF INDIA

- Recently, the Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs has approved the final Sovereign Green Bonds Framework of India.
- Sovereign Green Bonds will be issued for mobilizing resources for green projects.



What is Sovereign Green Bonds Framework?

- The **Framework comes close on the footsteps of India's commitments under "Panchamrit"** as elucidated by the Prime Minister at Conference of Parties (COP) 26 at Glasgow in November 2021.
- It will further strengthen India's commitment towards its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) targets, **adopted under the Paris Agreement.**
- Green Finance Working Committee (GFWC) was constituted to validate key decisions on issuance of Sovereign Green Bonds.

INDIA TO BECOME WORLD'S THIRD LARGEST ECONOMY

- India is on track to **become the world's third largest economy by 2027**, surpassing Japan and Germany, and have the third largest stock market by 2030, thanks to global trends and key investments the country has made in technology and energy, says Morgan Stanley.



- **"We believe India is set to surpass Japan and Germany to become the world's third-largest economy by 2027** and will have the third-largest stock market by the end of this decade.
- "Consequently, India is gaining power in the world order, and in our opinion these idiosyncratic changes imply a once-in-a-generation shift and an opportunity for investors and companies."

About The Economic Prospects:

- All told, **India's GDP could more than double from \$3.5 trillion today to surpass \$7.5 trillion by 2031**. Its share of global exports could also double over that period, while the Bombay Stock Exchange could deliver 11% annual growth, reaching a market capitalization of \$10 trillion in the coming decade.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT'S SELF RELIANT INDIA (SRI)

- The Indian Government's Self Reliant India (SRI) Fund committed Rs.5,000 crore in a year.
- Self Reliant India (SRI) Fund is Rs.10,000 crore fund launched by the Indian Government.
- It is a **SEBI-registered category-II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)** that was launched by the Indian Government to provide growth capital to MSME Sector.
- It operates via the mother-fund and daughter-fund (Fund of Funds) structure. The mother fund is the SEBI fund that invests up to **20 per cent of the overall corpus**.
- The daughter fund (mostly venture capital and private equity funds) raises the rest 80 per cent of the capital from outside sources. The investment by this **fund will get leveraged fivefold, making the total value of the investment capital to MSMEs to Rs.50,000 crore**.



INDIA'S 1ST GREEN BOND FRAMEWORK?

- The Central Government recently released the framework for the proposed sovereign Green Bond.
- Green bonds are financial instruments that generate proceeds for the investments in environmentally-suitable and climate friendly projects. These instruments have lower capital cost than regular bonds.
- The **Indian Government announced at the Union Budget 2022-23** that it will issue its maiden sovereign green bonds in the present financial year.

What is the Green Finance Working Committee?

- The **Indian Government had set up a Green Finance Working Committee** headed by the Chief Economic Adviser to select eligible projects for financing via green bonds.
- This does not include large hydropower plants. The committee will meet at least two times a year.

- It has members from **relevant line ministries, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, NITI Aayog, and the Budget Division of the finance ministry's Department of Economics and others.**

AMENDMENTS IN ELECTORAL BOND SCHEME

- The **Electoral Bond Scheme** has been amended by the Indian Government.
- The Union Finance Ministry issued a notification amending the Electoral Bonds Scheme to allow the sale of electoral bonds for extra 15 days in the year of **general elections to the Legislative Assembly of States and UTs with legislature.**
- The notification allows the Central Government to open an additional one-week window for issuing electoral bonds starting from November 9, 2022.
- Prior to this notification, these bonds can be bought **by any individual in a period of 10 days each in the months of January, April, July and October** as specified by the Central Government.

What are electoral bonds?

- The Electoral Bonds Scheme was launched in 2018 to provide an alternative for cash donations to political parties. **Electoral bonds are financial instruments** through which anyone can donate money to political parties.
- The electoral bonds **can be bought by donors from authorized branches of the State Bank of India using cheque or a digital mechanism.** The donor can give these bonds to the political party or parties of their choice.
- The political parties can choose to encash electoral bonds within 15 days of receiving them and fund their electoral expenses. This retains the anonymity of the donor while also ensuring transparency.

APPOINTMENT

KV KAMATH AS INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR OF RIL

- Reliance Industries has appointed K V Kamath as the Independent Director of the company for a period of five years.
- The Board of Directors has, at its meeting held, based on the recommendation of the human resources, nomination and remuneration committee considered and recommended to the shareholders for approval the appointment of Shri K. V. Kamath.
- KV Kamath has also been appointed as an **Independent Director and non-executive Chairman for Reliance Strategic Investment Limited (RSIL)**.
- **About K V Kamath:** Currently the Chairman of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID), Kamath has served as Chairman of Infosys.
- In 2015 he was appointed as the first President of the **New Development Bank set up by the BRICS countries from where he retired in 2020.**

DATES & DAYS

BHARATIYA BHASHA DIWAS TO BE CELEBRATED ON 11TH DEC.

- The **University Grants Commission** has written to vice-chancellors and principals of all universities and colleges in this regard following recommendations of a committee constituted last year by the education ministry to promote Indian languages.
- All higher education institutions in India must observe a '**Bharatiya Bhasha Divas**' on **December 11** every year to create "language harmony" and develop a conducive environment for learning Indian languages.
- The commission also shared a concept note of the proposal with the universities, according to **which universities and colleges will organize competitions, games, exhibitions and other activities to mark the day.**
- The central government has been making efforts to promote Indian languages. It is soon going to **establish 22 bhasha kendras (language centers)** to promote Indian languages as enshrined in the eighth schedule of the Constitution.

7 STATES & 2 UTs CELEBRATES THEIR FORMATION DAY

- On November 1st, **seven of the 28 Indian states and two Union Territories observed their formation day.**
- The states of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab besides the Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Puducherry were formed on this day, though in different years. **Besides 28 states, India has eight Union Territories.**
- While Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh came into being in 1956, Punjab and Haryana were carved out as separate states in 1966 while Chhattisgarh was granted **statehood in 2002.**
- It was **the first time in 1956 that several states were formed on linguistic grounds under the State Reorganisation Act.** All these states and the Union Territory of Puducherry celebrate their formation days in November.



WORLD CITIES DAY CELEBRATED ON 31ST OCTOBER

- World Cities Day is observed on Oct. 31 to promote international cooperation in the promotion of **global urbanization and address related challenges.**
- The theme for World Cities Day has been the same since the inception. It is "**Better City, Better Life**". However, the sub-theme for the day differs each year.



- The **sub-theme for 2022 is “Act Local to Go Global”**. It highlights the importance of local actions in achieving the mission of the Sustainable Development Goal 11, which is **“Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”**.
- The sub-theme calls for strengthening local and regional governments to make cities greener and more equitable.

Which is the host city for this year?

- Each year, World Cities Day is hosted by different cities across the world. **The 2022 edition was hosted by Shanghai in China.**

VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK 2022

- The Vigilance Awareness Week 2022 is being observed between October 31 to November 6 this year.
- The **Vigilance Awareness Week** is a week-long observation, under the Central Vigilance Commission. It **aims to raise public awareness of the dangers of corruption**.
- It is observed every year, in the week in which India celebrates the **Ekta Diwas i.e. the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (October 31)**.
- The 2022 event is being observed on the theme of **‘Corruption Free India for a Developed Nation’**.



NATIONAL CANCER AWARENESS DAY 2022

- **National Cancer Awareness Day 2022** is celebrated every year on 7th November in India. This day is important because it educates people about the serious risk of cancer.
- According to the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, **cancer** is the second most deadly disease that causes death among people.
- According to the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, **cancer is the second** most deadly disease that causes death among people.



National Cancer Awareness Day 2022: History

- **Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan** first announced **National Cancer Awareness Day** in September 2014. He started a state-level movement on cancer control and encouraged people to report to municipal clinics for a free screening. A booklet talking about the early signs of cancer and how to avoid it was also distributed.
- A significant step in the **country against this deadly disease started in 1975** with the launch of the National Cancer Control Program which was started to facilitate cancer treatment in the nation. 10 years later, in 1984–85, the plan's approach was revised to focus on early cancer detection and prevention.

INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF SCIENCE & PEACE

- **November 9 to November 14** is observed as the **International Week of Science and Peace** every year around the globe.
- This week is an initiative taken by the United Nations (UN), hoping to make people contribute towards the encouragement and promotion of peace across the globe.
- The main goal behind this week's celebration is to contribute towards technology development and promote peace.
- The annual observance of the International Week of Science and Peace is making an important contribution to the promotion of peace.



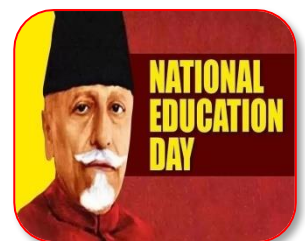
NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES DAY: 9TH NOVEMBER

- **National Legal Services Day** is marked every year on 9th November to celebrate the commencement of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 which came into force on this very day in 1995.
- This day was established with a mandate to offer support and help to weaker sections of society including **Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, women, disabled persons, natural calamities victims, and human trafficking victims.**
- National Legal Services Day is crucial in raising public knowledge about various provisions of the **Legal Services Authorities Act as well as litigants' rights.**
- The **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)** was established in 1995 by the Legal Services Authorities Act of 1987.
- It is an act of the **Parliament of India for enforcing the provisions of Article 39 A of the Constitution.** The authority carried out operations such as providing free legal aid and guidance to the needy and resolving issues through mediation and amicable settlement.



NATIONAL EDUCATION DAY OBSERVED ON 11TH NOVEMBER

- **The National Education Day** is observed annually on November 11 in India. In India, National Education Day is celebrated every year on November 11 as it **marks the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, who was India's first education minister after independence.**
- He was awarded **Bharat Ratna** posthumously, **India's highest civilian honor in 1992.**
- The day is observed to celebrate the work done by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad in the education sector during his tenure as the education minister.



- In 1920, he was elected as a member of the foundation committee to establish Jamia Millia Islamia at Aligarh in UP. He **also assisted in shifting the university campus from Aligarh to New Delhi in 1934. Now, the main gate of the campus is named after him.**

National Education Day 2022: Theme

- This day is celebrated to acknowledge and honor Maulana Azad's contribution to the country's education system. The theme for National Education Day 2022 is **"Changing Course, Transforming Education."**

WORLD PNEUMONIA DAY OBSERVED ON 12TH NOVEMBER

- **World Pneumonia Day** is a global event observed every year on 12 November to spread awareness and educate people to combat Pneumonia disease, which is a world's biggest infectious killer of adults and children, responsible for the majority of deaths of children below five around the world.
- The day is also focused on creating ample opportunity and encouragement for the global action mainly in the low and middle income countries to fight the toll due to pneumonia and other respiratory infection.

World Pneumonia Day 2022: Theme

- This year 2022, World Pneumonia Day theme is based on the Worldwide Pneumonia Awareness Campaign – "Pneumo Light 2022", with a theme and slogan "Pneumonia Affects Everyone", with an aim to amplify the effect of awareness campaigns by illuminating monuments worldwide.
- This year 2022, with the support of 42 countries 228 monuments will be illuminated to mark the World Pneumonia Day, with an intention to raise visibility of World Pneumonia Day, 2022 globally.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR TOLERANCE OBSERVED ON NOV. 16TH

- **International Day for Tolerance** is observed on **November 16** every year with an aim to build tolerance among diverse cultures and spread the message that tolerance is an integral part of society.
- The day is specifically recognized to educate people about the harmful consequences of intolerant society and its impact on the nation.



International Day of Tolerance: History

- The **UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 51/95 proclaiming November 16** as International Day for Tolerance back in 1996. The action followed the adoption of a Declaration of Principles on Tolerance by **UNESCO's Member States on the same day in 1995.**
- In 1995, the UN paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 125th birth anniversary **by kickstarting the commemoration of International Tolerance Day.**

NOVEMBER 15TH CELEBRATED AS JANJATIYA GAURAV DIWAS

- **November 15 is celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas or Tribal Pride Day** to honor tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda.
- On November 10, 2021, the **Union Cabinet declared November 15 as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas'** marking the birth anniversary of the revered leader and saluting his contributions to India's freedom movement.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** dedicated a museum in Ranchi in memory of **Birsa Munda also known as Dharti Aaba**.



Who is Birsa Munda?

- Born in 1875, **Birsa Munda** led a rebellious movement against British colonial rule and conversion activities in the areas of the Bengal Presidency, **which today are part of Jharkhand**.
- His rebellion in the **Munda belt of Khunti, Tamar, Sarwada, and Bandgaon helped in the revival of traditional tribal culture**. Birsa Munda gave the slogan of 'Abua Raj Ete Jana, Maharani Raj Tundu Jana,' which translates as "Let the queen's kingdom end and our kingdom be established."

Birsa Munda died at the young age of 25 in British custody at the Ranchi jail. However, in his limited years, Birsa Munda's contribution to tribal causes earned him the title of 'Bhagwan' or Lord.

NATIONAL PRESS DAY OBSERVED ON 16TH NOVEMBER

- **National Press Day** is observed on November 16 every year to **acknowledge and honor the Press Council of India (PCI)**.
- The day marks the presence of an independent and responsible press in the country. The **Press Council of India** also examines the quality of reportage of the Indian press and keeps a check on journalistic activities.



National Press Day: History

- **In the year 1956, the First Press Commission** decided to form a body with statutory authority which has the responsibility of maintaining the ethics of journalism.
- The Commission felt that a managing body was required in order to **connect with the people of the press and also to arbitrate** on any issues that arose.
- **In 1966 on 16 November**, the PCI was formed. The National Press Day of India is since then celebrated on November 16 every year to commemorate the establishment of the council.
- According to the **Press Council of India's official website**, the council is traditionally chaired by a retired Supreme Court Judge and 28 additional members of which **20 are members of the media outlets operating in India**.
- **Five members are nominated from the Houses of the Parliament** and the remaining three represent cultural, legal and literary fields.

INT. DAY FOR PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE

- The **UN General Assembly** has declared November 18 as the **World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Violence**.
- The **new World Day** is aimed at bringing global visibility to the trauma of child sexual abuse, with the hope that governments will take action to fight it. According to the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, **millions of children experience sexual violence each year**.
- The resolution invites all member states, relevant organizations of the UN system and other international organizations, world leaders, faith actors, civil society, and other relevant stakeholders to commemorate this **World Day each year in a manner that each considers most appropriate**.



It **encourages commitments to raising public awareness of those affected by child sexual abuse** and the need to prevent and eliminate child sexual exploitation, abuse and violence, and the imperative to hold perpetrators to account; ensuring the access of survivors and victims' to justice and remedies.

WORLD'S CHILDREN'S DAY OBSERVED ON 20TH NOVEMBER

- **World Children's Day** is celebrated on November 20 annually. The day aims to promote international togetherness and awareness among children as well as to improve their welfare.
- November 20 marks the anniversary of the UN General Assembly adopting a Declaration and Convention on children's rights.
- This year, the **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** wants to remind world leaders to "fulfill the promise of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child".



World Children's Day 2022: Theme

- The theme for International children's day is, "Inclusion, for every child". This theme means that every child belonging to any **society, community or nationality is entitled to equal rights**.

SHAHEEDI DIWAS: GURU TEG BAHADUR

- **Guru Tegh Bahadur was the ninth Sikh Guru and second Sikh martyr**, who sacrificed his life for religion and for the protection of human rights. The martyrdom day of Guru Tegh Bahadur is celebrated every year on November 24.
- **Guru Tegh Bahadur's Martyrdom Day** is also observed as Shaheedi Diwas. He was the father of the tenth Guru, Gobind Singh. It was on 24 November 1675, **Guru Tegh Bahadur** sacrificed his life for the sake of people who did not even belong to his community to protect religion, human values, ideals and principles.
- The **sites of his execution and cremation were later converted into Sikh holy places** namely Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib and Gurudwara Rakab Ganj Sahib in Delhi.

About Guru Tegh Bahadur:

- **Guru Teg Bahadur is also known as Hind Di Chadar– Protector of India.** He was born in Amritsar, Punjab, India in 1621 and was the youngest son of Guru Hargobind, the sixth Sikh guru.
- He **became the 9th Guru of Sikhs on 16 April 1664**, a position earlier occupied by his grand-nephew, Guru Har Krishan.
- He **had traveled in different parts of the country, including Dhaka and Assam**, to preach the teachings of Guru Nanak, the first Sikh guru. Guru Tegh Bahadur was executed on the orders of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb in Delhi for resisting the forced conversions of Hindus in Kashmir.

INT. DAY FOR ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is observed on November 25, every year. It is a day to pay tribute to the Mirabal sisters, the **Dominican Republic activists who were murdered at the order of Rafael Trujillo in 1960.**
- The United Nations aims to raise awareness about gender-based violence against women.
- This **year's campaign is a 16-day initiative** starting on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against women and concluding on International Human Rights Day on December 10.
- The 2022 theme of **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is 'UNITE! Activism to End Violence against Women and Girls.'**
- **According to the United Nations' official website**, this campaign will be an initiative of 16 days of activism starting from November 25 and concluding on **International Human Rights Day on December 10.**



CONSTITUTION DAY OBSERVED ON 26TH NOVEMBER

- Constitution Day is celebrated on 26th November every year in India to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. The constitution of India was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th November 1949, and it came into effect on 26th January 1950.
- The **Constituent Assembly adopted the Indian Constitution** on 26th November 1949 and it came into effect on 26th January 1950.
- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment announced the **Centre's decision to observe 26th November as Constitution Day in 2015.** The day is observed to promote constitutional values among the citizens of India.



Constitution Day: Significance

- **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** was the chairman of the drafting committee of the Constituent Assembly.
- He was the first Minister of Law and Justice in India.
- The framing of the constitution took over 2 years, 11 months, and 17 days.
- The constituent assembly **included 299 members and 15 were women.**

- When the constitution was adopted in 1949, 284 members signed it.
- Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the **Chairman of the Constituent Assembly**.

NATIONAL MILK DAY OBSERVED ON 26TH NOVEMBER

- **National Milk Day is celebrated on 26th November** every year to signify the importance and benefits of milk. Milk day is a special day that is observed to spread **awareness among people about the importance and need for milk**.
- **National Milk Day** is celebrated on the birth anniversary of **Dr. Verghese Kurien**, who is also known as the **‘Father of White Revolution’**. The National Milk Day highlights the importance of milk in human life.
- The day was chosen as the **National Milk Day by the dairy majors of the country including the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)**, the Indian Dairy Association (IDA), along with the milk federation of 22 states.
- The Indian Dairy Association took the initiative of **celebrating National Milk Day for the first time in 2014**.

About Dr. Verghese Kurien

- **Verghese Kurien is known as the “Father of the White Revolution” in India**. He was a social entrepreneur whose vision of the “Billion-Litre Idea”.
- Operation flood, made dairy farming India’s largest self-sustaining industry and the largest rural employment sector providing a third of all rural income. **This made India the largest producer of milk in the world**. Disposal of complaint.

REPORT & INDEX

PERFORMANCE GRADING INDEX FOR STATES/UTs

- The Union Education Ministry's Department of School Education and Literacy released the Performance Grading Index (PGI) for States/UTs for 2020-21.
- ***What is the Performance Grading Index?***
- Performance Grading Index (PGI) is a unique index that provides evidence-based comprehensive assessment of the school education system in all states and union territories. It provides insights into the performance and achievements of the school education system across India.
- The **PGI structure has 1,000 points across 70 indicators that are divided into two categories – Outcomes and Governance Management**. The 2 categories are again divided into five domains:
 - Learning Outcomes (LO)
 - Access (A)
 - Infrastructure and Facilities (IF)
 - Equity (E)
 - Governance Process (GP)



QS ASIA UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2023

- QS Asia University Rankings 2023 was released recently by the **Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) – a UK-based ranking authority**.

About QS Asia University Rankings

- The QS Asia University Rankings is released annually by the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS). It highlights the top universities in the continent of Asia. **The rankings are based on 11 indicators.**
- These indicators include academic reputation, employer reputation, faculty/student ratio, international research network etc.
- The 2023 ranking is the 15th edition. It featured 757 institutions – an increase from the last year's 687 institutes. This makes it the largest ever ranking for the region. The institutes in **China Mainland (128 institutions), India (118), Japan (106) and South Korea (88) dominate the ranking.**

What are the key findings of the QS Asia University Rankings 2023?

- The top performer of the QS Asia University Rankings 2023 is **China's Peking University, with an overall score of 100**. It held second position in the 2022 ranking.
- Other top performers are National University of Singapore (97.4) and China-based Tsinghua University (97.3).
- A total of 118 Indian institutes featured in the prestigious ranking. 5 IITs, IISc and Delhi University entered the top 100 in the ranking.

- **IIT-Bombay is the top performer in the ranking. Its ranking has risen from 42 to 40.** This makes it the best educational institute in Asia.

CLIMATE CHANGE PERFORMANCE INDEX 2023

- **Climate Change Performance Index 2023** was released jointly by **Germanwatch, NewClimate Institute and Climate Action Network.**
- The **Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)** is released every year at the **UN Climate Change Conference.** It is an instrument that ensures transparency in national and international climate politics.
- Since 2005, it has provided standardized assessment of countries' climate protection performance. **It currently tracks the countries' progress towards the goals set by the Paris Agreement.**
- It **uses a standard framework to compare the environmental performance of 59 countries** and the European Union, which together account for 92 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- The index assesses climate protection performance of these countries **using 14 indicators in four categories:**
 - GHG Emissions
 - Renewable Energy
 - Energy Use
 - Climate Policy



FIRST EVER WORLD WILDLIFE TRADE REPORT

- The **first-ever World Wildlife Trade Report** was released at the **19th Conference of Parties to CITES**, which is being held in Panama from November 14 to 25 this year.
- This conference is the fourth such meeting to be held in Central and South America and the Caribbean since the **CITES came into force in 1975.** It is the first COP to CITES to be held in the region since 2002.
- The **World Wildlife Trade Report** provides insights and assessment of the global trade of animals and plants that are regulated by **CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).**
- The CITES ensures the regulation of the international trade of wild animals and plants so that their survival is not threatened.



What are the key findings of the report?

- **Some 3.5 million CITES shipments** were reported in direct trade by exports between 2011 and 2020. This accounts for 1.3 billion individual organisms and 279 million kg of products reported by weight.
- Asia and Europe are the top exporters and importers of wildlife trade. **Asia accounted for 37 per cent of export transactions and 31 per cent of import transactions.**

- Asia and Africa account for the highest proportion of the global export value. The annual revenue generated by the **global legal trade in wildlife (CITES and non-CITES)** is around 220 billion USD.

NETWORK READINESS INDEX 2022

- The **Network Readiness Index 2022** was released by the US-based non-profit Portulans Institute. This report assesses the network-based readiness landscape of 131 economies based on their performances in four different pillars – technology, people, governance and impact. It encompasses 58 variables.



What are the key findings of the Network Readiness Index 2022?

- The **United States is the top performer in the index, with a total score of 80.3**. The second and third positions are held by Singapore (79.35) and Sweden (78.91) respectively.
- Singapore is the biggest climber in this index, since it climbed from the **7th position to the second by pushing Denmark (6th) and Finland (7th) out of the top five**.
- **Other five countries that are top 10 performers are Netherlands (4th), Switzerland (5th), Germany (8th), South Korea (9th) and Norway (10th)**.
- **Asia Pacific's top performer is Singapore, followed by South Korea and Japan**. The list of top 10 performers indicates that advanced economies in Europe, parts of Asia and the Pacific and North America are the most network-ready countries in the world.
- **17 of the top 25 countries** are in northern and western Europe, four are in eastern and southeastern Asia, two in Oceania (**Australia and New Zealand**) and two are in **North America (US and Canada)**.
- **India climbed 6 places to the 61st position**, with the overall score increasing from 49.74 in 2021 to 51.19 in 2022.

SCIENCE & TECH

WHAT IS C-295 AIRCRAFT?

- Recently, the **Prime Minister of India has laid the foundation stone for the C-295 transport aircraft** manufacturing facility in Vadodara to be set up by Airbus Defence and Space S.A., Spain and Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL).
- This is the first time a private sector company would be manufacturing a full aircraft in the country.

What is the C-295 MW transporter?

- The C-295 is a transport aircraft of 5-10 tonne capacity with contemporary technology. Robust and reliable, it is a versatile and efficient **tactical transport aircraft which can perform a number of different missions.**
- **Features:** The aircraft, with a flight endurance of up to 11 hours, can carry out multi-role operations under all weather conditions.

SPACEX FALCON HEAVY ROCKET

- On November 1, 2022, SpaceX launched the Falcon Heavy rocket from Kennedy Space Center in Florida to send US military satellites into space.
- Falcon Heavy is a partially reusable heavy-lift launch vehicle developed by the American aerospace manufacturer SpaceX. **It is a powerful rocket consisting of 2 strap-on boosters made using Falcon 9 first stages, a center core made from a Falcon 9 first stage and a second stage on the top.**



When was the maiden launch of the Falcon Heavy rocket conducted?

- The **first-ever launch of the Falcon Heavy Rocket happened on February 6, 2018.** This launch vehicle carried a Tesla Roadster belonging to SpaceX founder Elon Musk. The car had a dummy named “Starman” in the driver’s seat.
- The second Falcon Heavy Rocket was launched on April 11, 2019. All the three booster rockets successfully came back to the Earth. **Since then, the launch vehicle has been certified for the National Security Space Launch (NSSL) program.** This rocket will eventually be **superseded by the Starship Launch System, which is currently under development.**

WHAT IS MAKE-II PROJECT?

- Recently, the Indian Army has approved **five Project Sanction Orders (PSOs)** for the development of niche technology by the Indian industry under the Make-II route of defense procurement.

What is the Make-II Project?

- Make II projects are essentially industry funded projects involving design, development and innovative solutions by Indian vendors for development of prototypes. **22 out of 43 projects are now in prototype development stage, which is 66% of projects by cost, ₹18,000 crore out of ₹27,000 crore.**



New Additions under the Project:

- **High Frequency Man Packed Software Defined Radios (HFSDR):** These radio sets will replace the existing High Frequency radio sets in the inventory, which have limited data handling capability and obsolete technology.
- Lightweight SDR will provide **long distance radio communication** through enhanced data capability and band width coupled with enhanced security
- **Drone Kill Systems:** Drone kill system is a hard kill anti-drone system against low Radio Cross Section drones. It is being developed to function in all types of terrains, both during day and night.
- **Infantry Training Weapon Simulator (IWTS):** It is the first triservice Make-II project with the Army as the lead service.

ISRO'S SATELLITE 'RISAT-2'

- **Recently, the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) RISAT (Radar Imaging Satellite)-2 satellite** has made an uncontrolled re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere at the predicted impact point in the Indian Ocean near Jakarta.
- **RISAT-2 is India's first "eye in the sky"** which keep surveillance on the country's borders as part of anti-infiltration and anti-terrorist operations.



What is RISAT-2?

- The **principal sensor of Risat-2**, considered a 'spy' satellite, was an X-band synthetic-aperture radar from Israel Aerospace Industries.
- Risat-2 was built more quickly following the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks due to delay with the indigenously developed C-band for Risat-1 satellite.

INDIA SET TO LAUNCH VIKRAM-S?

- **India is set to launch Vikram-S** on November 15 from Indian Space Research Organisation's launchpad at Sriharikota – an island in Andhra Pradesh.
- **Vikram-S, a single stage suborbital launch vehicle, is India's first privately developed rocket.**
- It was developed by a Hyderabad-based startup Skyroot Aerospace.
- During its **maiden launch under Mission Prarambh (beginning)**, it will carry 3 customer payloads in a sub-orbital flight to help validate the majority of technologies in the Vikram series of space launch vehicles.



About the payloads

- Of the **three payloads launched aboard the Vikram-S under Mission Prarambh**, two are for Indian customers and one is for a foreign customer.

One of them is Funny-Sat. Weighing 2.5 kg, this payload will be sent to space by a Chennai-based aerospace startup Spacekidz. It **was developed by students from India, the United States, Singapore and Indonesia.**

POLAR SATELLITE LAUNCH VEHICLE (PSLV-C54)

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has succeeded in placing nine satellites in multiple orbits using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C54).
- **Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-06) and 8 nano satellites were launched during this mission.** The nanosatellites are the Nano Satellite-2 for Bhutan (INS-2B), Anand, Astrocast (four satellites), and two Thybault satellites.

What is Earth Observation Satellite-6 (EOS-6)?

- The **Earth Observation Satellite-6 (EOS-6)** is the third-generation Indian satellite of the Oceansat series launched for monitoring the oceans. It was developed by ISRO in partnership with the Ministry of Earth Sciences and others.
- This mission is a follow-up to OceanSat-1 or IRS-P4 and OceanSat-2 that were launched in 1999 and 2009 respectively.
- It is the first in the series to host three ocean observing sensors – the **Ocean Color Monitor (OCM-3), Sea Surface Temperature Monitor (SSTM), and Ku-Band scatterometer (SCAT-3).**
- Its **purpose is to observe ocean color data, sea surface temperature and wind vector data that are used for oceanography, climatic and meteorological applications.**

WHAT IS BLUEBUGGING?

- Several smartphones have their Bluetooth settings on discovery mode as **it is a default setting, making it vulnerable to bluebugging.**

What is Bluebugging?

- It is a **form of hacking that lets attackers access a device through its discoverable Bluetooth connection.**
- A hacker can gain unauthorized access to these apps and devices and control them as per their wish through bluebugging.
- **Any Bluetooth-enabled device including True Wireless Stereo (TWS) devices** or earbuds are susceptible to bluebugging. Once a device or phone is bluebugged, a hacker can listen to the calls, read and send messages and steal and modify contacts.
- Even the most secure smartphones like iPhones are vulnerable to such attacks.



What are the Related Government Initiatives?

- Cyber Surakshit Bharat Initiative
- Cyber Swachhta Kendra
- Online Cybercrime Reporting Portal
- Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)

- National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC)
- Information Technology Act, 2000
- National Cyber Security Strategy 2020

KEY POINTS ABOUT INS MORMUGAO

- **INS Mormugao is the second ship of Project 15B stealth** destroyers being built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).
- INS Mormugao was delivered to the Indian Navy on 24th November 2022. Project 15B was signed on 28th January 2011, which is a contract of four ships.
- This project is **follow-on of the Kolkata class (Project 15A) destroyers** Commissioned in the last decade and the lead ship of the project-INS Visakhapatnam had been commissioned into the Indian Navy on 21st November 2021.
- INS Mormugao was designed by the Warship Design Bureau, the Indian Navy's in-house organization, and M/s Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd, Mumbai. The four ships are named after four major cities in India, which are Imphal, Surat, Visakhapatnam, and Mormugao.

ESA ANNOUNCED FIRST EVER DISABLED ASTRONAUT

- The **European Space Agency has named the first ever “paraastronaut”** in a major step towards allowing people with physical disabilities to work and live in space.
- The 22-nation agency said it had appointed British Paralympic sprinter John McFall to take part in a feasibility study during astronaut training to assess the conditions needed for people with disabilities to take part in future missions.
- Notably: McFall, who lost his right leg due to a motorcycle accident at the age of 19, won a bronze medal in the 100 meters at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games.
- The announcement came as **ESA appointed a new set of astronauts for the first time since 2009 after whittling down 22,500 valid applications.**
- ESA posted openings last year for people fully capable of passing its usual stringent psychological, cognitive and other tests who are only prevented from becoming astronauts due to the **constraints of existing hardware in light of their disability.**
- It received 257 applications for the role of astronaut with a disability. McFall will work with ESA engineers to understand what changes in hardware are needed to open professional spaceflight to a wider group of qualified candidates, the agency said.



200TH CONSECUTIVE LAUNCH OF RH-200?

- **0lx successfully made the 200th consecutive** launch of the multipurpose sounding rocket RH200 from Thiruvananthapuram's Thumba coast.
- **RH200, which is capable of climbing to a height** of 70 km, is a two-stage multipurpose sounding rocket capable of carrying scientific payloads into space. The 200 in the name denotes the diameter of the rocket in millimeters.
- This **3.5-meter tall rocket belongs to the Rohini rocket family**. It is used by ISRO for atmospheric studies. The first and second stages of this rocket are powered by solid motors. This rocket is currently playing a major role in providing a flexible platform for experiments and testing of new technologies.
- **Initially, it used polyvinyl chloride (PVC)-based propellant**. The first RH200 to use the new propellant based on hydroxyl-terminated Polybutadiene (HTPB) was launched successfully from the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS) in 2020.



FIRSTAP - INDIA'S FIRST STICKER BASED DEBIT CARD

- **IDFC First Bank**, in association with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), recently launched **FIRSTAP – India's first sticker-based debit card**.
- A sticker-based debit card allows the user to make transactions by simply tapping the sticker on near-field communication **(NFC)-enabled point-of-sale terminal**.
- It can be used to tap and pay in stores, restaurants and **other places without the need to carry a debit card**.



About FIRSTAP

- The **FIRSTAP was launched by the IDFC First Bank in line with its customer-centric philosophy**. It is one-third the size of a regular debit card. It can be stuck on any surface of the customer's choice, like cell phones, identity cards, wallets, tabs, airpod cases etc.
- It can be stuck on wearable devices like watches and rings as well. It enables transactions up to Rs.5,000 without a PIN and those beyond that requires the entry of PIN.
- This sticker debit card comes with a complementary personal **accidental cover and 24/7 concierge services**. It also includes several RuPay offers.

MISCELLANEOUS

PAHARI TRIBES INCLUSION IN THE ST LIST

- The **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)** has now cleared the way for the inclusion of the 'Pahari ethnic group' in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) list of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The commission also called for the inclusion of the "Paddari tribe", "Koli" and "Gadda Brahman" communities to be included in the ST list of J&K. **Currently, Jammu and Kashmir has 12 communities that have been notified as STs.**



What is the Process of Inclusion in the ST List?

- The **process to include tribes in the ST list begins** with the recommendation from the respective State governments, which are then sent to the Tribal Affairs Ministry, which reviews and sends them to the Registrar General of India for approval.
- This is **followed by the NCST approval before the list** is sent to the Cabinet for a final decision. The final decision rests with the President's office issuing a notification specifying the changes **under powers vested in it from Articles 342.**
- The **inclusion of any community in the Scheduled Tribes** come into effect only after the President assents to a Bill that amends the **Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950**, as is appropriate, after it is passed by both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

MUDUMALAI TIGER RESERVE (MTR)

- The **Forest Department** is coming up with a comprehensive strategy to deal with the spread of the invasive species like *Senna spectabilis* which continues to spread rapidly in the **buffer zone of the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) in Nilgiris hill district.**
- Invasive weeds such as ***Senna spectabilis* and *Lantana camara***, as well as wattle, had taken over vast swathes of the Nilgiris.
- The invasive weed has a negative effect on local biodiversity, crowding out native species and limiting food availability for wildlife.



What are the Key Facts about Mudumalai Tiger Reserve?

- At the **tri-junction of three states, namely Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu**, it is located in the Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu. It has a common boundary with **Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala) on the West, Bandipur Tiger Reserve (Karnataka) on the North**, together forming a large conservation landscape for flagship species such as Tiger and Asian Elephant.
- **Mudumalai tiger reserve is among the 14 Indian tiger reserves** that were awarded the Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS) status for effective management of target species.

AGE OF CONSENT FOR ADOLESCENT

- Recently, Karnataka High Court, while dismissing a case filed under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO Act), saying the Law Commission of India will have to rethink the age of consent for Adolescents.
- The court said, the **aspect of consent by a girl of 16 years, but who is below 18 years**, would have to be considered, if it is indeed an offense under the Indian Penal Code and/or the POCSO Act.

What is the POCSO Act, 2012?

- It defines a child as any person below eighteen years of age and regards the best interests and welfare of the child as a matter of paramount importance at every stage, to ensure the healthy physical, emotional, intellectual and social development of the child.
- It defines different forms of sexual abuse, including penetrative and non-penetrative assault, as well as sexual harassment and pornography.
- It deems a sexual assault to be “aggravated” under certain circumstances, such as when the abused child is mentally ill or **when the abuse is committed by a person in a position of trust or authority like a family member, police officer, teacher, or doctor.**

GLACIERS AT MANY UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

- Glaciers at many **UNESCO World Heritage sites including Yellowstone and Kilimanjaro National Park** will likely vanish by 2050, the UN agency warned, urging leaders to act fast to save the rest. The warning followed a study of 18,600 glaciers at 50 World Heritage sites.
- The study **“shows these glaciers have been retreating at an accelerated rate since 2000 due to CO2 emissions, which are warming temperatures”**, UNESCO said.
- The glaciers were losing 58 billion tonnes of ice every year, equivalent to the combined annual water use of France and Spain, and were responsible for nearly five percent of observed global sea-level rise, the agency explained.
- “But it is still possible to save the glaciers in the remaining two thirds of sites if the rise in temperatures **does not exceed 1.5°C compared to the pre-industrial period.**” Countries have pledged to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels — a goal the world is set to miss on current emission trends.



E-WASTE MANAGEMENT RULES, 2022

- The Indian Government issued notification on **E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022**, which will come into effect from next financial year.

What are E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022?

- The E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 was published by the Ministry of Environment, forest and climate change on November 2, 2022.

- The new rules will come to effect from April 1, 2023. They will apply to all businesses and individuals involved in manufacturing, sales, transfer, purchase, refurbishing, dismantling, recycling and processing of e-waste or electrical and electronic equipment.
- Under the new rules, **the number of items that have been categorized as e-waste has been increased from 21 to 106.**
- It includes all electrical devices and radiotherapy equipment, nuclear medicine equipment and accessories, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), electric toys, air conditioners, microwaves, tablets, washing machine, refrigerator, iPad and others.
- This **includes electronic components, consumables, parts and spares that make the electronic products operational.**

WHAT IS NICOBARI HODI CRAFT?

- Recently, the **Andaman & Nicobar Islands** has filed an application, seeking the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag for the Nicobari Hodi craft.**
- This is the first application from the Union Territory seeking a tag for one of its products. Earlier, the government awarded the **GI tag to Mithila Makhana.**

What is Nicobari Hodi?

- The **hodi is the Nicobari tribe's traditional craft. It is an outrigger canoe**, very commonly operated in the Nicobar group of islands. The technical skills for building a hodi are based on indigenous knowledge inherited by the Nicobarese from their forefathers.
- The hodi is built using either locally available trees or from nearby islands, **and its design varies slightly from island to island.**
- **Considerations to be taken into account include the length of the finished canoe**, which has to be 12 times that of its width, while the length of the undressed tree trunk has to be 15 times this width.
- Hodis are used for transporting people and goods from one island to another, for sending coconuts, for fishing and racing purposes. The tuhet, a group of families under a headman, **consider the hodi an asset. Hodi races are held between islands and villages.**

OLIVE RIDLEY SEA TURTLES

- **Pairs of Olive Ridley Sea turtles** have begun emerging on the sea waters off Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary along the Odisha coast, marking the commencement of the ***annual mass nesting of these endangered marine species.***



What are Olive Ridley Turtles?

- The **Olive ridley turtles** are the smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world. These turtles are carnivores and get their name from their olive-coloured carapace.

- They are best known for their unique mass nesting called **Arribada**, where thousands of females come together on the same beach to lay eggs.

Operation Olivia: Every year, the Indian Coast Guard's "Operation Olivia", initiated in the early **1980s**, helps protect **Olive Ridley turtles** as they congregate along the Odisha coast for breeding and nesting from November to December. It also intercepts unlawful trawling activities.

INDIA'S BIGGEST FERTILIZER SUPPLIER

- **Russia has become India's biggest fertilizer supplier for the first time.** Russian exporters reportedly grabbed a 21% share of the Indian fertilizer market in the first half of the 2022-23 fiscal year, overtaking China, previously India's largest supplier.
- **Russian exports reportedly surged 371%**, to a record 2.15 million tons from April to October. In monetary terms, **India's imports over this period increased by 765%, to \$1.6 billion.**
- Russia's share of Indian fertilizer imports was hovering around 6% during the last fiscal year, while China's stood at 24%. In the first half of 2022-23, China's exports to **India halved to 1.78 million tons amid growing Russian supplies.**
- **About The Global Prices:** Global prices for fertilizers jumped in March after the US, the EU and allied states introduced sanctions against fertilizer supplies from Russia and Belarus. While Western countries have **since backtracked on the ban, Russia has found new markets, mostly in Asia, for its exports.**
- **About Fertilizer production:** Combined, Russia and Belarus accounted for more than 40% of global exports of potash last year. Russia accounted for about 22% of global exports of ammonia, 14% of the world's urea exports and **about 14% of monoammonium phosphate (MAP) – all key kinds of fertilizers.**



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