

Weekly Current Affair

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Weekly Current Affairs

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Weekly Current Affairs

International Relations

40 million more people experienced food insecurity in 2021 than 2020: Report

Why in News

- According to the report by the **Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC)**, some 40 million more people globally experienced acute food insecurity at crisis or worse levels in 2021 than 2020.
- The **GNAFC** is an international alliance of the United Nations, the European Union, governmental and non-governmental agencies working to tackle food crises together.



Key Points

- Of these, over half a million people (570,000) in Ethiopia, southern Madagascar, South Sudan and Yemen were classified in the most severe phase of acute food insecurity.
- The document showed that around 193 million people in 53 countries or territories experienced acute food insecurity at crisis or worse levels in 2021.

There were three main drivers for the food insecurity according to the report:

- The first was conflict. The report was written prior to the Russian invasion of Ukraine February 24, 2022. But it found that conflict forced 139 million people in 24 countries / territories into acute food insecurity. This is an increase from 99 million in 23 countries / territories in 2020.
- Another cause was weather extremes, which forced over 23 million people in eight countries / territories into acute food insecurity, up from 15.7 million in 15 countries / territories in 2020.
- A third cause was economic shocks. Over 30 million people in 21 countries / territories suffered acute food insecurity in 2021 due to economic shocks, down from over 40 million people in 17 countries / territories in 2020.

Source: DTE



India falls 8 positions to 150th rank in RSF 2022 World Press Freedom Index

Why in News

- According to the report released by **Reporters Without Borders (RSF)**, India's ranking in the **2022 World Press Freedom Index** (20th edition) has fallen down to 150th position from last year's 142nd rank out of 180 countries.



Key Points

- The ranking of India's neighbours, except that of Nepal, have also slid down, with the index placing Pakistan at 157th position, Sri Lanka 146th, Bangladesh 162nd and Myanmar at 176th position.
- Nepal has climbed up by 30 points in the global ranking at 76th position.
- This year, **Norway (1st)**, Denmark (2nd), Sweden (3rd), Estonia (4th) and Finland (5th) grabbed the top positions, while North Korea remained at the bottom of the list.
- About the global scenario, the RSF said the 20th World Press Freedom Index reveals a two-fold increase in "polarisation" amplified by information chaos, that is, media polarisation fuelling divisions within countries, as well as polarisation between countries at the international level.

Source: HT

NASA to shut down SOFIA telescope that found water on Moon

Why in News

- The United States **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has decided to shut down the world's largest flying telescope "**Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA)**" that confirmed the presence of water on the Moon.



Key Points

- SOFIA is a 2.7-meter infrared telescope sitting inside a Boeing 747SP airplane, flying at an altitude of 38,000-45,000 feet above the surface.
- SOFIA is a collaboration between NASA and the German Space Agency (DLR).
- Since its inception in 2014, SOFIA has been collecting data to understand star birth and death and the formation of new solar systems.



- It has also been keeping a close eye on planets, comets and asteroids in solar system.

Important discoveries of SOFIA:

- In 2020, NASA announced that SOFIA discovered water molecules (H₂O) on the sun-facing side of the Moon.
- In 2019, SOFIA also discovered helium hydride — the first molecule formed in the Universe almost 14 billion years ago.
- SOFIA also identified atmospheric circulation patterns in Jupiter.

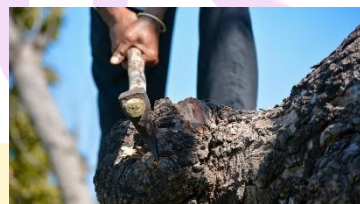
Note: India's Chandrayaan-1 mission and NASA's ground-based Infrared Telescope Facility found evidence of hydration in the sunnier regions, they couldn't confirm whether hydrogen was in the form of H₂O or OH.

Source: DTE

State of the World's Forests 2022 Report: 10% of total forest area on Earth lost in 30 years

Why in News

- According to the **2022 edition of The State of the World's Forests (SOFO) Report**, the world has lost 420 million hectares (mha), approximately 10.34 percent of its total forest area in the last 30 years.



Key Points

- The 420 mha of forests have been lost between 1990 and 2020, due to deforestation, though forests cover 4.06 billion ha (31 percent) of the earth's geographical area.
- It added that although the rate of deforestation was declining, 10 mha of forests were lost every year between 2015 and 2020.
- Some 47 mha of primary forests were lost between 2000 and 2020. More than 700 mha of forest (18 percent of total forest area) is in legally established protected areas. Nevertheless, forest biodiversity remains under threat from deforestation and forest degradation.
- The annual global consumption of all natural resources combined is expected to more than double from 92 billion tonnes in 2017 to 190 billion tonnes in 2060 due to increases in population size and affluence.

Note: More than 140 countries have pledged, through the **Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use**, to eliminate forest loss by 2030 and to support restoration and sustainable forestry. To this end, an additional \$19 billion has been allocated to help developing countries achieve these objectives.



Source: DTE

United States Trade Representative places India on 'Priority Watch List'

Why in News

- The United States Trade Representative (USTR) placed India on the 'Priority Watch List' along with China, Russia and four others, for lack of adequate Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection and enforcement.
- The other countries that have been put on the list are Argentina, Chile, Indonesia and Venezuela.
- All seven countries on this year's list were on last year's, too.



Key Points

- The USTR said that India remained one of the most challenging economies for IP enforcement and protection and the country's overall IP enforcement was inadequate.
- In its "Special 301 Report" on the adequacy and effectiveness of US trading partners' protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, these countries will be the subject of particularly intense bilateral engagement during the coming year.
- The 'Special 301' Report is an annual review of the global state of IP protection and enforcement.
- USTR reviewed more than one hundred trading partners for this year's Special 301 Report.

Source: ET

National

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's France visit



Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid an official visit to France on May 4, 2022 on his way back from the 2nd India-Nordic Summit in Copenhagen.

Key Points

- In Paris, Prime Minister Modi met Emmanuel Macron, President of France, in one-on-one and delegation level formats.
- The two leaders held discussions on the entire range of bilateral issues, including cooperation in defence, space, blue economy, civil nuclear and people-to-people ties.



Note:

- This is PM Modi's fifth visit to France after August 2019, June 2017, November 2015 and April 2015.
- Both leaders also met on the sidelines of the G20 Rome Summit in October 2021, G20 Osaka Summit in June 2019 and G20 Buenos Aires Summit in December 2018.
- India and France, which are strategic partners since 1998, have a multifaceted partnership across the spectrum in defence, civil nuclear, economy, space and maritime security, clean energy and environment, counter-terrorism, people-to-people ties.
- India and France are founding members of the **International Solar Alliance** announced by Prime Minister Modi at UN Climate Change COP21 in November 2015.

Source: TOI

Three One District One Product Brands and Five Products launched under the PMFME scheme of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries

Why in News

- Pashupati Kumar Paras, Union Minister of Food Processing Industries launched Three **One District One Product (ODOP)** brands under the **Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme**.



Key Points



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- The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has signed an agreement with NAFED for developing 10 brands of selected 20 ODOPs under the branding and marketing component of the PMFME scheme.
- 7 ODOP Brands and 9 Products, 3 ODOP Brands and 5 Products namely Madhurmithas, Anaras, Pind Se and two products Masala Paste and Lemon Honey under the newly developed brands Kashmiri Mantra and Madhumantra respectively were successfully launched.

About the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme:

- Launched under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, PMFME Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme that aims to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry and to promote formalization of the sector and provide support to Farmer Producer Organizations, Self Help Groups, and Producers Cooperatives along their entire value chain.
- With an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25, the scheme envisions to directly assist the 2,00,000 micro food processing units for providing financial, technical, and business support for up-gradation of existing micro food processing enterprises.

Source: PIB

PLASTINDIA 2023

Why in News

- Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launched **PLASTINDIA 2023**-11th International Plastic Exhibition & Conference.



Key Points

- Dr. Mandaviya stated that “these exhibitions are important because they will attract international plastic players to the country and provide a platform to learn and exchange ideas and technology”.
- India's Petrochemical Industries has been one of the fastest-growing industries in the Indian economy with high demand growth.
- India is projected to contribute more than 10% of the incremental global growth in Petrochemicals over the next decades.
- Indian Chemical industry has become a global player and earns foreign exchange for the nation with the "Make in India, Make for World" approach.
- Exports of Indian Chemicals have registered growth of 106% in 2021-22 over 2013-14.



- The petrochemicals industry should develop a strategy to reduce high carbon footprint, and ocean pollution and focus on adopting green technologies to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070.

About PLASTINDIA 2023:

- PLASTINDIA refers to a series of exhibitions under the Plastindia Foundation, which will hold the 11th International Plastics Exhibition, Conference and Convention from 1st-5th February, 2023 at ITPO Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- It will showcase India as the global hub for sourcing processed items related to Plastics, Raw materials, Machinery and products for use in all segments of human life.

Source: PIB

Dharmendra Pradhan releases the Mandate Document for the development of National Curriculum Framework

Why in News

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan released the 'Mandate Document: Guidelines for the Development of the **National Curriculum Framework (NCF)**'.



Key Points

- Central to the implementation of the transformative National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is the new National Curriculum Framework (NCF) which will empower and enable outstanding teaching and learning in the country, by converting the vision of the NEP 2020 into reality in schools and classrooms.
- The development of the NCF is being guided by the NSC (National Steering Committee), chaired by Dr K Kasturirangan, supported by the Mandate Group, along with the NCERT (National Council for Education Research and Training).
- **NCF includes:**
 - National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE)
 - National Curriculum Framework for Early Childhood Care & Education (NCFECCE)
 - National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (NCFTE)
 - National Curriculum Framework for Adult Education (NCFAE)
- The '**Mandate Document**' guides the development of the NCF. The Mandate Document is the bridge between the NEP 2020 and the NCF.
- NCF will also fully account for other initiatives like NIPUN Bharat, the national mission for Foundational Literacy and Numeracy by the Ministry of Education, which are being implemented with the required urgency even as the NCF is being developed.



Source: India Today

Kisan Drones Why in News

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar said that the government is promoting the use of '**Kisan Drone**' for the convenience of the farmers, reducing the cost and increasing the income.
- Mr. Tomar said this while addressing the conference on "Promoting Kisan Drones: Issues, Challenges and the Way Ahead" organized as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.



Key Points

- The government is providing 50% or maximum Rs. 5 lakh subsidy to SC-ST, small and marginal, women and farmers of northeastern states to buy drones. For other farmers, financial assistance will be given upto 40% or maximum Rs.4 lakh.
- The government is promoting the use of 'Kisan Drone' for crop assessment, digitization of land records, spraying of pesticides and nutrients for which provision has also been made in the budget.
- To promote use of drones in agriculture and make drone technology affordable to the farmers and other stakeholders of this sector, financial assistance @ 100 % cost of drone together with the contingent expenditure is extended under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization to the Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institutes, Institutions of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, KVK (Krishi Vigyan Kendra) and State Agricultural Universities for its demonstration on the farmer's fields.
- Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) are provided grants @ 75% for purchase of drones for its demonstration on the farmers' fields.

Source: newsonair

National Open Access Registry (NOAR)

Why in News

- Recently, the **National Open Access Registry (NOAR)** has successfully gone live.

Key Points

About National Open Access Registry (NOAR):

- NOAR has been designed as an integrated single window electronic platform accessible to all



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MINISTRY OF
POWER

stakeholders



including open access participants, traders, power exchanges, national/regional/state load despatch centres for electronic processing of short-term open access application thereby automating the administration of the short-term open access in inter-state transmission system.

- National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC) operated by Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) has been designated as the nodal agency for implementation and operation of NOAR.
- NOAR would be the key to facilitate faster electricity markets and enable integration of Renewable Energy (RE) resources into the grid.
- NOAR is part of the Ministry of Power, Government of India's initiative and the required regulatory framework has been notified by the CERC through operationalization of the 5th Amendment Regulation of Open Access in inter- State Transmission.

Source: PIB

6th India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations

Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi co-chaired with Olaf Scholz, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, the plenary session of the **India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC)** in Berlin.

Key Points

- The biennial IGC is a unique dialogue format that also sees the participation of several Ministers from both sides.
- This was the Prime Minister's first IGC with Chancellor Scholz.
- This Partnership envisages a whole-of-government approach to India-Germany cooperation on SDGs and climate action, under which Germany has agreed to make an advance commitment of 10 billion Euros of new and additional development assistance until 2030.

List of agreements signed on the occasion of 6th India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations:

- **Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI)** on Green and Sustainable Development Partnership
- JDI on the implementation of Triangular Development Cooperation projects in Third Countries
- JDI on the establishment of an agreement on the exchange and mutual protection of classified information and on the establishment of an



agreement to establish a direct encrypted connection between MEA and German Foreign Office

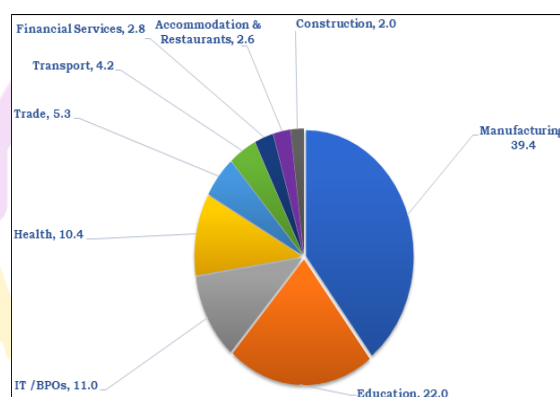
- Indo-German Development Cooperation Regarding Renewable Energy Partnership
- Joint Declaration on the Initialing of the Agreement on a Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership
- JDI on continuation of cooperation in the field of advanced training of corporate executives and junior executives from India
- Indo-German Green Hydrogen Task Force
- JDI on Agroecology
- JDI on Forest Landscape Restoration

Source: PIB

Report on third round (Oct-Dec, 2021) of Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) a part of AQEES released

Why in News

- The **Ministry of Labour and Employment (MOLE)** released the Report of third quarter of **Quarterly Employment Survey (QES)** a part of **All India Quarterly Establishment based Employment Survey (AQEES)** for the period October-December, 2021, prepared by the **Labour Bureau**, an attached office of MOLE.



Key Points

- The AQEES has been taken up by the Labour Bureau to provide frequent (quarterly) updates about the employment and related variables of establishments in both organized and unorganized segments of 9 selected sectors.
- These sectors are Manufacturing, Construction, Trade, Transport, Education, Health, Accommodation & Restaurants, IT/ BPOs and Financial Services.
- These 9 sectors accounted for about 85% of the total employment in units with 10 or more workers in the 6th Economic Census.

Major Findings of the Report:

- The Report indicates increasing trend in employment in organized segment, employing 10 or more workers, of the selected 9 sectors.



- 'Manufacturing' sector is the largest employer accounting for around 39% of the estimated total number of workers followed by Education Sector 22%.
- Almost all (99.4%) establishments were registered under different statutes.
- Overall around 23.55% of units provided on-the-job training to their workers.
- Among 9 sectors, 34.87% of units in health sector provided on-the-job training, followed by IT/BPOs at 31.1%.
- About 1.85 lakhs vacancies were reported across the 9 sectors.
- 85.3% of the workers were Regular workers and 8.9% contract workers.

Source: PIB

India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

Why in News

- The **India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**, the biggest bilateral trade pact between the two major economies, was activated.
- The agreement was signed on February 18, 2022 between the two sides.



Key Points

- Secretary, Department of Commerce, BVR Subrahmanyam flagged off the first consignment of goods comprising of Jewellery products from India to UAE under the India-UAE CEPA.
- Overall, India will benefit from preferential market access provided by the UAE on over 97 % of its tariff lines which account for 99% of Indian exports to the UAE in value terms particularly from labour-intensive sectors such as Gems and Jewellery, Textiles, leather, footwear, sports goods, plastics, furniture, agricultural and wood products, engineering products, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and Automobiles.
- As regards trade in services, Indian service providers will have enhanced access to around 111 sub-sectors from the 11 broad service sectors.
- Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement is expected to increase the total value of bilateral trade in goods to over US\$ 100 billion and trade in services to over US\$ 15 billion within 5 years.

Note: The Commerce Secretary informed that India was negotiating trade agreements at a very fast pace with complementary economies and that talks were ongoing with UK, Canada and EU.



Source: The Hindu

India's Pharma exports grow by 103% since 2013-14

Why in News

- Indian pharma exports witnessed a growth of 103% since 2013-14, from Rs. 90,415 Crores in 2013-14 to Rs. 1,83,422 Crores in 2021-22.



Key Points

- The export achieved in 2021-22 is the Pharma Sector's best export performance ever.
- It is a remarkable growth with exports growing by almost USD 10 billion in 8 years.
- The trade balance continues to be in India's favour, with a surplus of USD 15175.81 Million.
- Indian pharma companies enabled by their price competitiveness and good quality, have made global mark, with 60 percent of the world's vaccines and 20% of generic medicines coming from India.
- India ranks 3rd worldwide for production by volume and 14th by value.
- The current market size of the Indian pharmaceutical industry is around USD 50 billion.
- The share of pharmaceutical and drugs in global exports is 5.92%.
- India's top 5 pharma export destinations are USA, UK, South Africa, Russia and Nigeria.

Source: ET

Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 launches National Behaviour Change Communication Framework for Garbage Free Cities

Why in News

- Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0**, under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, has launched the '**National Behaviour Change Communication Framework for Garbage Free Cities**'.



Key Points

- National Behaviour Change Communication Framework for Garbage Free Cities** shall serve as a guiding document and blueprint for States and



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Cities to undertake large scale multimedia campaigns along with intensive and focused inter-personal communication campaigns.

- The framework focuses on intensifying messaging around the key focus areas of source segregation, collection, transportation, and processing of waste, plastic waste management, and remediation of legacy dumpsites to truly transform the urban landscape of India.

About Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0):

Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM):

- SBM is a country-wide campaign initiated by the Government of India in 2014 to eliminate open defecation and improve solid waste management.
- Phase 1 of the SBM lasted till October 2019. Phase 2 is being implemented between 2020-21 and 2024-25.
- SBM was split into two: rural and urban.

About Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0:

- On 1st October 2021, the Prime Minister launched the Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban 2.0 with the overall vision of creating “Garbage Free Cities”.

Source: PIB

PM inaugurates the Semicon India Conference 2022

Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **India's first Semicon India Conference 2022** in Bengaluru.
- The Semicon India Conference, 2022 was held from April 29 to May 1.

Key Points

- The **theme** of conference was "Design and Manufacture in India, for the World: Catalysing India's Semiconductor Ecosystem".

Prime Minister's address:

- PM Modi underlined 6 reasons for India being an attractive investment destination for Semiconductor technologies.
- First, India is building a digital infrastructure to connect over 1.3 billion Indians.
- Second, with steps like connecting six hundred thousand villages with broadband investment in developing capabilities in 5G, IoT and clean energy technologies, India is paving the way to lead the next technology revolution.
- Third, India is headed for robust economic growth with the world's fastest-growing Startup Ecosystem. India's own consumption of Semiconductors is



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expected to cross 80 billion Dollars by 2026 and 110 Billion Dollars by 2030.

- Fourth, India has undertaken wide-ranging reforms for improving the ease of doing business in India.
- Fifth reason is heavy investment in skilling and training young Indians for the needs of the 21st century.
- Sixth, India has undertaken several measures towards transforming the Indian manufacturing sector.
- Shri Modi also told about the recently announced **Semicon India Programme** with a total outlay of over 10 billion dollars. This program aims to provide financial support to companies investing in semiconductors, display manufacturing and design ecosystems.

Note: Recently, Qualcomm India and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)'s Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) partnered to support Indian semiconductor startups.

Source: HT

Atal New India Challenge 2.0 (ANIC 2.0)

Why in News

- Atal Innovation Mission launched the phase 1 of the 2nd edition of the **Atal New India Challenge (ANIC 2.0)**.

Key Points

About Atal New India Challenge:

- Atal New India Challenge is a flagship program of Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog.
- The program aims to seek, select, support and nurture technology-based innovations that solve sectoral challenges of national importance and societal relevance.
- One of the primary goals of the ANIC program is to support innovations in areas critical to India's development and growth – Education, Health, Water and Sanitation, Agriculture, Food Processing, Housing, Energy, Mobility, Space Application etc.
- Working in collaboration with the different verticals of NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, ISRO and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the 1st phase of **Atal New India Challenge (ANIC 2.0)** will see 18 challenges being thrown open from 7 sectors.
- Sectors are E-mobility, Road Transportation, Space Technology and Application, Sanitation Technology, Medical Devices & Equipment, Waste Management and Agriculture.

Source: PIB



MSME Sustainable (ZED) Certification Scheme

Why in News

- Union Minister for **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** Narayan Rane launched the **MSME Sustainable (ZED) Certification Scheme**.

Key Points

About MSME Sustainable (ZED) Certification Scheme:



- This Scheme is an extensive drive to enable and facilitate MSMEs adopt **Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED)** practices and motivate and incentivize them for ZED Certification while also encouraging them to become MSME Champions.
- Through the journey of ZED Certification, MSMEs can reduce wastages substantially, increase productivity, enhance environmental consciousness, save energy, optimally use natural resources, expand their markets, etc.
- Under the Scheme, MSMEs will get subsidy as per the following structure, on the cost of ZED certification: Micro Enterprises: 80%, Small Enterprises: 60% and Medium Enterprises: 50%.
- There will be an additional subsidy of 5% for MSMEs which are also a part of the **SFURTI** or Micro & Small Enterprises - Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP) of the Ministry.
- A provision of up to Rs. 5 lakh (per MSME) will be made available for handholding and consultancy support for MSMEs under ZED Certification for assisting them to move towards Zero Defect Zero Effect solutions.
- The MSMEs can also avail a number of other incentives offered for ZED Certification by States & UTs, Financial Institutions etc. and can also apply for free Certification under the **MSME KAWACH (COVID-19 Support) initiative**.

Source: ET



State

J&K Delimitation Commission issues final notification

Why in News

- The Delimitation Commission headed by Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, (a retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India), and Sushil Chandra, (Chief Election Commissioner) and K. K. Sharma, (State Election Commissioner, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir), as Ex-Officio members of the Delimitation Commission met to finalise the Delimitation Order for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.
- The Gazette notification for the same has also been published.



Key Points

As per the final Delimitation Order, the following will come into effect from the date to be notified by the Central Government:-

- Out of the 90 Assembly Constituencies in the region, 43 will be part of Jammu region and 47 for Kashmir region keeping in view the provisions of Section 9(1)(a) of the Delimitation Act, 2002 and Section 60(2)(b) of Jammu & Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019.
- After consultation with Associate Members, representatives of political parties, citizens, civil society groups, 9ACs have been reserved for STs, out of which, 6 are in Jammu region and 3 ACs in the Valley.
- There are five Parliamentary Constituencies in the region.
- The Delimitation Commission has seen the Jammu & Kashmir region as one single Union Territory.
- Therefore, one of the Parliamentary Constituency has been carved out combining Anantnag region in the Valley and Rajouri & Poonch of Jammu region.
- By this reorganisation each Parliamentary Constituency will have equal number of 18 Assembly Constituencies each.
- It may be recalled that the Delimitation Commission was constituted by the Govt. of India, in exercise of powers conferred by Section 3 of Delimitation



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Act, 2002 (33 of 2002), for the purpose of delimitation of Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

- The Delimitation Commission was entrusted with the work of delimiting the Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir on the basis of 2011 Census and in accordance with the provisions of Part-V of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 (34 of 2019) and the provisions of Delimitation Act, 2002 (33 of 2002).

Note: The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir was carved out from the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir through the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 (34 of 2019), passed by the Parliament.

Source: Indian Express

Nitish Kumar inaugurates India's first greenfield ethanol plant in Bihar

Why in News

- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated the **India's first greenfield grain-based ethanol plant** at Purnea.

Key Points

- The Rs 105-crore plant by Eastern India Biofuels Pvt Ltd is the first one developed since the Centre gave a go-ahead to Bihar's ethanol production and promotion policy-2021.
- The project is a part of Bihar's ambitious foray into ethanol production using sugarcane, maize and rice to meet the country's fuel needs.
- The ethanol plant has been built using the latest technology and will not discharge any waste, making it a zero-liquid discharge plant that is completely environment friendly.

Source: ET



'Miyan ka Bada' railway station renamed as 'Mahesh Nagar halt' in Rajasthan's Barmer district

Why in News

- The 'Miyan Ka Bada' railway station of Rajasthan's Barmer district has now been renamed as 'Mahesh Nagar Halt'.



Key Points

- Earlier in 2018, the name of the village was changed from 'Miyan ka Bada' to Mahesh Nagar.

Earlier, the names of the following railway stations have been changed:

- Manduadih Railway Station is now known as Banaras Railway Station
- Mughalsarai Junction is now Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Railway Junction
- Robertsganj Railway Station was renamed Sonbhadra Railway Station
- Allahabad Junction is now Prayagraj Junction
- Faizabad Junction is now known as Ayodhya Cantt
- Dandupur Railway Station is renamed Maa Barahi Devi Dham Railway Station
- The Uttar Pradesh government has also renamed Jhansi Railway Station as 'Veerangana Laxmibai Railway Station' after Rani Laxmibai.
- The Habibganj railway station in Bhopal was renamed after Gond queen Rani Kamlapati in 2021.

Source: HT

Economy

LIC IPO worth Rs 21,000 crore opens for public subscription

Why in News

- The **Initial Public Offering (IPO)** of **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has opened for public subscription from May 04, 2022.
- It will remain open for subscription till 9th of May.
- LIC IPO is the biggest public offering in the country.



Key Points

- An **Initial Public Offering (IPO)** refers to the process of offering shares of a private corporation to the public in a new stock issuance.
- LIC has fixed the price band of 902 to 949 rupees per Equity Share for its maiden public offer.
- With this IPO, the government is looking to divest its 3.5 percent stake in the insurer by selling 22 crore 13 lakh shares.



- The Government aims to raise around 21 thousand crore rupees through IPO.

About Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC):

- It is an Indian statutory insurance and investment corporation.
- **Chairperson:** M R Kumar
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Founder:** Government of India
- **Founded:** 1 September 1956

Note: LIC is recognized as the third-strongest and 10th most-valuable global insurance brand as per the Insurance 100 2021 report released by Brand Finance.

Source: newsonair

Defence

NATO's Defender Europe 2022 and Swift Response 2022 exercises

Why in News

- NATO's Defender Europe 2022 and Swift Response 2022 exercises began on 1 May, 2022 in 9 European countries.

Key Points

- More than 7,000 troops from NATO and Partner countries and 3,000 units of equipment took part in the planned joint exercises in Poland.
- According to the Polish Ministry of National Defense, Defender Europe 2022 and Swift Response 2022 is being run from 1 to 27 May.
- Defender Europe and Swift Response are regular international exercise organized by the US Armed Forces to increase preparedness and interoperability between US and NATO allies and partners.



About North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):

- It is an intergovernmental military alliance between 30 member states, of which 28 are in Europe and the other 2 in North America.
- **Founded:** 4 April 1949
- **Headquarters:** Brussels, Belgium

Source: ET



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Science & Technology

India to develop and build first indigenous Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vessel

Why in News

- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways decided to develop and build India's first indigenous Hydrogen Fuelled Electric Vessels at Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL).



Key Points

- Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said that the plan for building Hydrogen Fuelled Electric Vessels is keeping pace with the Global Maritime Green Transitions.
- The move is part of India's transformative efforts on the innovative and new technology front on green energy, sustainable cost-effective alternate fuel front.
- The Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vessel based on Low Temperature Proton Exchange Membrane Technology (LT-PEM) called Fuel Cell Electric Vessel (FCEV) is expected to cost around Rs. 17.50 crores of which 75 percent would be funded by the centre.
- Hydrogen Fuel cells can be used in a wide range of applications, including transportation, stationary, portable, material handling, and emergency backup power applications.
- Fuel cells operating on hydrogen fuel are an efficient, environmentally-friendly, zero emission, direct current (DC) power source already applied to heavy duty bus, truck, and train applications, and are now under development for marine applications.

Source: ET

C-DOT and C-DAC sign MoU to boost indigenous technology in telecom and ICT

Why in News

- The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) have signed an MoU at the Semicon India 2022 event to boost indigenous technological design and development in telecom and ICT.



Key Points



- Both C-DOT and C-DAC have agreed to collaborate and work jointly, in identification and development of activities in the areas of 4G/5G, Broadband, IOT/M2M, packet core, Computing etc.

About Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT):

- C-DOT is a premier telecom R&D organization under the Ministry of Communications, Government of India, carrying out advanced research and developmental activities in narrowband and broadband switching and transmission networks, terrestrial radio systems, satellite systems, optical communication equipment, network protocols, advanced security solutions and network management systems.

About Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC):

- C-DAC was set up to emerge as a premier R&D institution for the design, development and deployment of electronic and ICT technologies and applications for socio economic advancement.

Source: ET

Environment

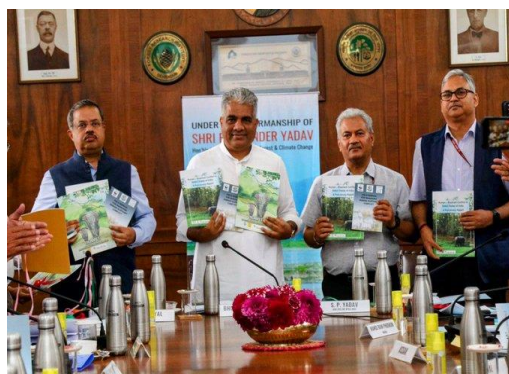
Bhupender Yadav launches field manual for forest staffers to manage human-elephant conflict

Why in News

- Recently, Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched a field manual in India to guide forest staffers dealing with human-elephant conflict (HEC) in major elephant range states.
- He chaired the 16th Steering Committee meeting of Project Elephant at the Forest Research Institute (FRI) in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- The name of manual is **"Field Manual for Managing Human-Elephant Conflicts"**.

Key Points

- Besides the manual, Yadav also released the Preliminary Report on Human Elephant Conflict and a booklet titled Trumpet.
- The manual has been prepared by the ministry, along with the Wildlife Institute of India (WWI) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF India).



Weekly Current Affairs

- India is home to approximately around 27,000 Asian Elephants.
- As per Elephant Census (2017), Karnataka has the highest number of elephants (6,049).

About Asian Elephants:

- There are three subspecies of Asian elephant which are the Indian, Sumatran and Sri Lankan.
- **Global Population:** Estimated 20,000 to 40,000.

Protection Status:

- IUCN Red List: Endangered
- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
- CITES: Appendix I

Source: DTE

Sports

Ronnie O'Sullivan wins record 7th World Snooker Championship 2022 title

Why in News

- England's Ronnie O'Sullivan has won record 7th World Snooker Championship 2022 title.

Key Points

- Ronnie O'Sullivan joined Stephen Hendry in holding the modern-day record, adding to his world titles from 2001, '04, '08, '12, '13 and '20.
- The **2022 World Snooker Championship** (officially the 2022 Betfred World Snooker Championship) was a professional snooker tournament that took place at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, England.



Source: HT

Kerala beat West Bengal to win their 7th Santosh Trophy 2022 title

Why in News

- Kerala beat West Bengal in the penalty shootout to win the Santosh Trophy 2022 at the Manjeri Payyanad Stadium in Malappuram, Kerala.



Key Points

- This was Kerala's 7th Santosh Trophy title.
- The 2022 Santosh Trophy is the 75th edition of the Santosh Trophy, the premier competition in India for teams representing their regional and state football associations.

Source: The Hindu

Harshada Sharad Garud becomes first Indian to win gold at Junior World Weightlifting Championship

Why in News

- Harshada Sharad Garud became first Indian to win a gold medal at the **IWF Junior World Weightlifting Championships 2022** in Heraklion, Greece.



Key Points

- Harshada Sharad Garud lifted 153-kilogram in the 45-kg weight category.
- Before Harshada, there are only two Indians to win a medal in IWF Junior World Championships.
- Mirabai Chanu had won a bronze in 2013 and Achinta Sheuli won a silver medal in 2021.

Source: TOI

Awards & Honours

India chosen as first Country of Honour ever at Cannes Film Market

Why in News

- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur announced that **India will be the official Country of Honour at the upcoming Marche' Du Film**, organized alongside the 75th edition of Cannes Film Festival, in France.



Key Points

- The Minister said "It is the first time the Marché du Film has an official Country of Honour, and this special focus will continue annually with different nations in the spotlight at future editions."



Weekly Current Affairs

- India is also a “**Country of Honour at the Cannes Next**, under which 5 new Start Ups would be given an opportunity to pitch to the Audio-Visual Industry.
- In another highlight of India’s participation at this edition of Cannes Film Festival is the World Premier of the Movie “Rocketry” produced by R. Madhavan.

Source: PIB

Jain University becomes the overall winner of the KIUG 2021

- The host, **Jain University** became the overall winner of the **Khelo India University Games (KIUG) 2021** with 20 gold medals along with 7 silver and 5 bronze.
- Lovely Professional University finished second. Panjab University finished third.
- Around 3,879 participants from around 190 universities competed for 257 gold medals in 20 disciplines in the second edition of the KIUG 2021 held at Bengaluru.



About Khelo India University Games (KIUG):

- It is a national level multi-sport event held in India, where athletes from universities across the country compete in different sports disciplines.
- It is organised by Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports along with Association of Indian Universities, Indian Olympic Association and National Sports Federation.

Source: newsonair

Snow leopard expert Charudutt Mishra gets Whitley Gold Award 2022

Why in News

- Noted snow leopard expert and wildlife conservationist **Charudutt Mishra** has won the prestigious **Whitley Gold Award 2022** for his contribution to involving indigenous communities in the conservation and recovery of big cat species in Asia’s high mountain ecosystems.



Key Points

- This is his second Whitley Fund for Nature Award. He got the first in 2005.
- Mishra was given the award for his work in 12 snow leopard range countries.
- Mishra, who is also the co-founder of Bengaluru-based Nature Conservation Foundation, established India's first community scheme to save snow leopards over a decade ago.
- There are an estimated 6,500 wild snow leopards in the high mountains and plateaus of twelve countries including Russia, Afghanistan, China, Pakistan, India and Mongolia.

About Whitley Awards:

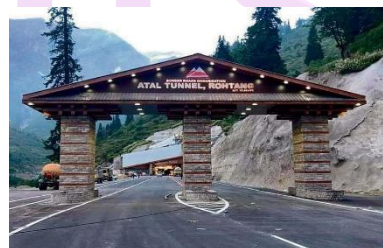
- The Awards are held annually by the Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN) to recognise and celebrate effective grassroots conservation leaders across the global south. The award is often referred to as the 'Green Oscars'.

Source: HT

Atal Tunnel receives 'Best Infrastructure Project' award

Why in News

- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) engineering marvel, **Atal Tunnel**, built in Rohtang in Himachal Pradesh, received the **Indian Building Congress' (IBC) 'Best Infrastructure Project'** award.



Key Points

- More than thirty state-of-the-art infrastructure projects were nominated for the award.
- The IBC jury selected the strategic tunnel as the 'Best Project for Excellence in Built Environment' in 2021.
- Atal Tunnel, built using the New Austrian Tunnelling Method, was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 3, 2020.

Note: On February 9, 2022, the 9.02 km long, Atal Tunnel, which runs beneath the 'Rohtang Pass' on the Manali – Leh Highway, was officially certified by the World Book of Records as the 'World's Longest Highway Tunnel over 10,000 Feet.'

Source: India Today



Weekly Current Affairs

Appointments/Resignations

Former petroleum secretary Tarun Kapoor appointed adviser to PM

Why in News

- The Central government appointed former petroleum secretary **Tarun Kapoor** as adviser to the PM Narendra Modi.

Key Points

- Tarun Kapoor's appointment will be initially for a period of two years from the date of joining.
- Kapoor, a 1987-batch IAS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre, superannuated as the secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on November 30, 2021.

Note: **Sangeeta Singh**, a 1986 batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer has been given additional charge of Chairman, **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**.

Source: TOI



Lieutenant General Manoj Pande takes over as new Chief of Army Staff

Why in News

- General Manoj Pande took over as the new Chief of Army Staff.

Key Points

- General Manoj Pande succeeded General Manoj Mukund Naravane.
- General Pande is the 29th Army Chief and the first officer from the Corps of Engineers to get this opportunity.

Note: Lieutenant General Baggavalli Somashekar Raju also took over as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff.

Source: TOI



Books

Devendra Fadnavis releases a Marathi book on Union Home Minister Amit Shah

Why in News

- Maharashtra BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis released a Marathi book, titled '**Amit Shah Ani Bhajapachi Vatchal**' on Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Key Points

- The book documents the life and journey of Shah and his contribution in building the BJP.
- The book, originally written by Dr Anirban Ganguly and Shivanand Dwivedi, has been translated into Marathi by Dr Jyostna Kolhatkar.

Source: Business Standard



Important Days

May 3, World Press Freedom Day

Why in News

- May 3 is celebrated as World Press Freedom Day or Press Freedom Day.

Key Points

- The **theme** for World Press Freedom Day 2022 is "Journalism under digital siege".
- The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of press freedom in any democracy.

History:

- World Press Freedom Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in December 1993, following the recommendation of UNESCO's General Conference.



Weekly Current Affairs

- Since then, 3 May, the anniversary of the Declaration of Windhoek is celebrated worldwide as World Press Freedom Day.

Source: un.org

May 01, International Labour Day

Why in News

- International Day of Workers or International Labour Day is celebrated on May 1 in most countries.
- It is also known as May Day.

Key Points

- Labour Day has its origins in the labour union movement in the United States in the 19th Century. In 1889, the Marxist International Socialist Congress adopted a resolution for a great international demonstration in which they demanded that the workers should not be made to work for more than 8 hours a day.
- May Day was first celebrated on May 1, 1890, after it was declared by the first International Congress of Socialist Parties in Europe on July 14, 1889.

Source: [HT](#)

