

Daily Current Affairs

15 July 2023



Important News: National

1. Atlantic menhaden

Why in News:

- Researchers say that overfishing of the Atlantic menhaden are at the root of the recently reported declining reproductive rates of ospreys.

Key Points:

- The Atlantic menhaden is a commercially important Atlantic Ocean fish, also known as Fatback, Bunker, Pogie.
- They are found in coastal and estuarine waters from Nova Scotia to northern Florida.
- They are harvested for use as fertilizers, animal feed, and bait for fisheries including blue crab and lobster.
- They are a major source of omega-3 fatty acids, so they are also used to develop human and animal supplements.
- But they are also a mainstay of the commercial fishing industry, caught in mass quantities to be processed into bait for crabs and lobsters, and in greater volume for so-called reduction fisheries, in which they are ground up and turned into products including fish oil and fish meal.
- The Chesapeake Bay is the largest inlet in the Atlantic Coastal Plain of the eastern United States.



Source: Indian Express



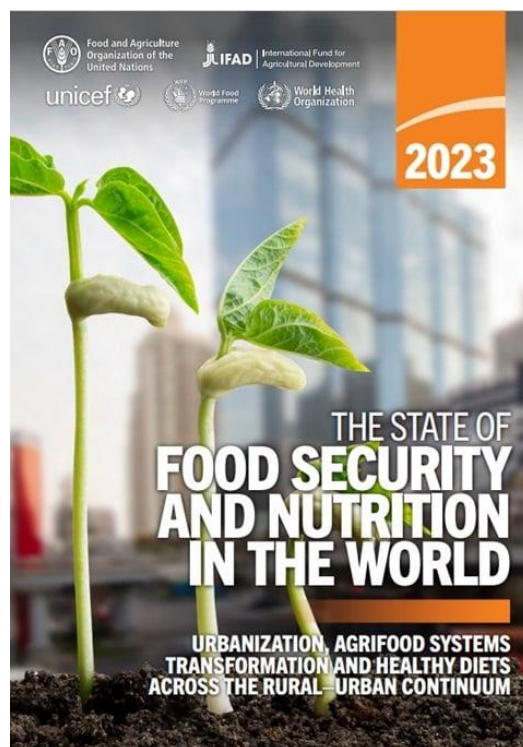
2. State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023

Why in News:

- It was published in July 2023 jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

Key Points:

- The report mentions that over 122 million people are facing hunger in the world since 2019 due to the pandemic and repeated weather shocks and conflicts, including the war in Ukraine.
- Over ~2.4 billion individuals did not have consistent access to nutritious, safe, and sufficient food in 2022.
- In 2021, 22.3% (148.1 million) children were stunted (too short for their age), 6.8% (45 million) were wasted (too thin for their height), and 5.6% (37 million) were overweight.
- Previously self-sustaining rural regions, especially in Africa and Asia, are now found to be increasingly dependent on national and global food markets.
- As urbanisation accelerates, there is a noticeable increase in the consumption of processed and convenience foods, leading to a spike in overweight and obesity rates across urban, peri-urban, and rural areas.



Source: Business Standard

3. Tunicates

Why in News:

- The tunicates are a species of marine invertebrates with an evolutionary history from at least 500 million years ago



Key Points:

- The new fossil, named Megasiphon thylakos, revealed that ancestral tunicates lived as stationary, filter-feeding adults and likely underwent metamorphosis from a tadpole-like larva.
- The Researchers are interested in them as they are the closest relatives of vertebrates, which include fish, mammals, and people.
- Tunicates are truly strange creatures that come in all shapes and sizes and have a wide variety of lifestyles.
- An adult tunicate's basic shape is typically barrel-like, with two siphons projecting from its body.
- Studying them is critical to understanding our evolutionary history.



Source: Times of India

Important News: Awards

4. PM Modi receives France's highest civilian award 'Legion of Honour'

Why in News:

- PM Modi, who is on a two-day visit to France, was conferred with the highest honour of France, the 'Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour', by French President Emmanuel Macron.

Key Points:

- The French President Emmanuel Macron awarded PM Modi with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour at the Elysee Palace in Paris. This is the highest military and civilian award in France. PM Modi is the first Indian Prime Minister to receive this honour, aligning him with internationally renowned leaders such as Nelson Mandela and Angela Merkel.



DailyCurrent Affairs

- The multiple recognitions from different countries, the most recent being from France, indicate his growing stature as a world leader.
- This is the 14th state honour for PM Modi.
- These honours both reflect his global influence and substantiate India's enhanced reputation at the world stage.



Source: Livemint

Important News: States

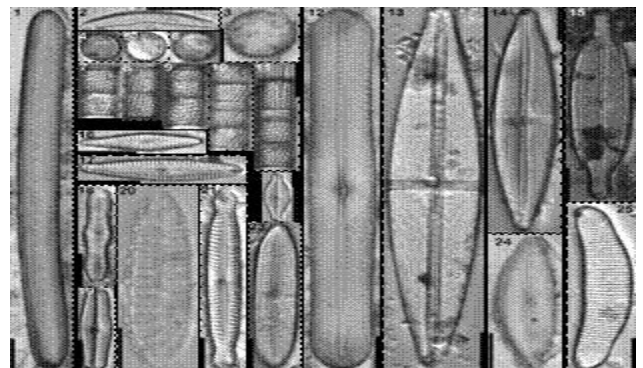
5. Kaas Plateau

Why in News:

- A new study of the sediments from a seasonal lake in the Kaas Plateau has indicated a major shift in the Indian Summer Monsoons towards dry and stressed conditions with low rainfall during the Early-Mid-Holocene, around 8664 years BP.

Key Points:

- Kaas Plateau, nestled in the Western Ghats is about 140 km from Pune, was included in the UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site in 2012. Known as Kaas Pathar in Marathi, its name is derived from the Kaasa tree.
- The seasonal lake in the Kaas Plateau is probably a product of an erosional localized shallow depression on a pediment (rock debris) developed over the crust.
- During the recent past (around last 1000 years), pollen, as well as the presence of a high number of planktonic and pollution-tolerant diatom taxa indicated lake



DailyCurrent Affairs

eutrophication, possibly due to human impact and cattle/livestock farming in the catchment.

- It is a major biodiversity hotspot owing to the many varieties of endemic flowers and butterflies that are found here.

Source: The Hindu

Important News: States

6. Authoor betel leaves from Tamil Nadu

Why in News:

- The Authoor betel leaves from Tamil Nadu received a Geographical Indication (GI) certificate by the Tamil Nadu State Agriculture Marketing Board.

Key Points:

- The certificate is granted in the name of Authoor Vattara Vetrilai Vivasayigal Sangam. This GI recognition opens up new avenues for marketing the Authoor betel leaves, enabling their reach in both domestic and international markets, tapping into their marketing potential.
- The Authoor betel leaf, predominantly utilized during special occasions such as temple festivals, housewarmings, and weddings, possesses a distinctively spicy and pungent flavor.
- The significance of Authoor betel leaves in Tamil culture is highlighted by their mention in the 13th-Century book 'The Travels of Marco Polo (The Venetian)'. Additionally, the rich historical value and importance of Authoor betel leaves are further evidenced by various ancient stone inscriptions.



Source: Economic Times

Important News: Economy

7. Export Preparedness Index (EPI) Report, 2022

Why in News:

- NITI Aayog is releasing the third edition of Export Preparedness Index (EPI) for States/UTs of India for the year 2022 on July 17, 2023.

Key Points:

- The EPI is a comprehensive tool which measures the export preparedness of the States and UTs in India. Exports are vital for stimulating economic growth and development in a country, which necessitates understanding the factors which influence export performance.
- The EPI assess the performance of the States and UTs across four pillars – Policy, Business Ecosystem, Export Ecosystem, and Export Performance. Each pillar is composed of sub-pillars, which in turn capture a state's performance using relevant indicators.
- The report discusses India's export performance amid the prevailing global trade context in FY22, followed by an overview of the country's sector-specific export performance.
- The report further highlights the need to develop our districts as export hubs in the country and undertakes a district-level analysis of merchandise exports in the country.
- EPI aims to provide insights that drive policy changes to address specific challenges faced by states and UTs.



Source: Indian Express



Important News: Reports**8. Government launches ATR Module of AuditOnline****Why in News:**

- The module aims to provide a more structured approach to the audit process, ensuring clarity on the actions taken in response to audit findings.

Key Points:

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has launched the Action Taken Report (ATR) Module of AuditOnline to promoting transparency and accountability.
- With 256,795 registered Panchayats, the scope of audits and accountability has expanded significantly.
- The ATR Module aims to address the numerous observations made during audits. To date, a staggering 2,103,058 observations have been documented, reflecting the comprehensive nature of the audit process. This documentation ensures that the necessary actions are taken to rectify any discrepancies and improve financial management practices.
- By prioritizing the audit of all Panchayat accounts, states and Union Territories (UTs) can meet the criteria of the Fifteenth Finance Commission, enabling higher allocation of funds for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Rural Local Bodies (RLBs). Strengthening the District Level Financial Advisors (DLFAs) and Audit Departments will be pivotal in achieving timely completion of audit activities.



Source: Economic Times

BYJU'S
EXAM PREP

