

NATIONAL

1. Minerals Security Partnership (MSP)

Why in news - India is concerned over not finding a place in MSP.

Key Points –

- India had signed an agreement with an Argentinian firm in 2020 to jointly prospect lithium in Argentina.
- Highest lithium reserve – Chile > Australia > Argentina.
- Rare earth metals in India - Lanthanum, Cerium, Neodymium, Praseodymium and Samarium.

About MSP –

- MSP is an ambitious partnership to secure supply chains of critical minerals and aimed at reducing dependency on China.
- It is an 11-member group.
- Members – USA, Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, United Kingdom and the European Commission.
- It focuses on the supply chains of Cobalt, Nickel, Lithium and also the 17 “rare earth” minerals.

INTERNATIONAL

1. UNSC special meeting on counter-terrorism

Why in news - India will host diplomats of the 15-nation UN Security Council on October 29, 2022 for a special meeting on counter-terrorism.

Key Points –

- Theme of meeting - Mindful of the increasing threat posed by the misuse of new and emerging technologies.
- India is the chairman of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee for 2022.
- India’s tenure at the UNSC will end in December 2022.

ENVIRONMENT

1. Tourist circuits in Corbett NP

Why in news - The Uttarakhand government is working on “Modi circuit” that will cover the places visited by PM Narendra Modi inside the Jim Corbett National Park.

Key Points –

- PM Modi visited Corbett NP in a “Man vs Wild” episode with Bear Grylls.
- Uttarakhand has already created several circuits, for Maa Bhagwati, Shiva, Vishnu, Nav-grah, Golju Maharaj, Nagdevta, Hanuman, and Vivekanand.

2. Stronger climate targets

Why in news - India enhanced its climate change targets for 2030.

Key Points –

- New commitment –
 - A. At least 45% reduction in the emissions intensity of GDP (emissions per unit of GDP) from 2005 levels. (existing target - 33 to 35% reduction).
 - B. At least 50% of installed electricity generation capacity in 2030 would be based on non-fossil fuel-based sources. (existing target- 40%).
- Both these enhanced targets have been included in India’s updated nationally determined contributions (NDCs).
- India’s forestry target - Create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent by 2030.
- India aims to achieve net zero status by 2070.

3. 10 new Ramsar sites

Why in news - India has added 10 more Ramsar sites taking the number of such sites to 64.

Key Points –

- New addition - Tamil Nadu (6), Goa (1), Karnataka (1), Madhya Pradesh (1) and Odisha (1).



- 64 wetlands covering an area of 12,50,361 ha have been designated as Ramsar Sites of International Importance from India.

SECURITY

1. "Pitch Black" exercise

Why in news - India's participation in the exercise "Pitch Black" has been confirmed by the Australian government.

Key Points –

- It is scheduled to take place from August 19 to September 6.
- 100 aircraft and 2,500 military personnel from from 17 countries would participate.
- In June 2020, India and Australia signed the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA).

RANKS & INDICES

1. Financial Inclusion Index (FII)

Why in news - Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the Composite Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index).

Key Points –

- Annual FI-index - 56.4 (FY 21-2022), 53.9 (20-2021).
- It has been constructed without any "Base Year".
- It comprises of three broad parameters (97 indicators) –
 - A. Access (35%)
 - B. Usage (45%)
 - C. Quality (20%)

AWARDS & HONOURS

1. Commemorative postal stamp Pingali Venkayya

Why in news - The government of India released a special commemorative postage stamp to mark the 146th birth anniversary of Pingali Venkayya.

Key Points –

- The stamp was released by PM Narendra Modi during an event "Tiranga Utsav" in New Delhi.
- Pingali Venkayya designed India's national flag.
- He became instantly famous as "Japan Venkayya". He was fluent in Japanese.
- In 1916, he published a booklet titled "A National Flag for India".

BOOKS & AUTHORS

1. Lion of the Skies: Hardit Singh Malik, the Royal Air Force and the First World War

Why in news - The book written by Stephen Barker has been released recently.

2. Dangerous Earth

Why in news - Ellen Prager has written the book titled "Dangerous Earth: What we wish we knew about volcanoes, hurricanes, climate change, earthquakes and more".

APPOINTMENTS

1. Suresh N Patel

Why in news - Suresh N Patel was sworn in as the Central Vigilance Commissioner on August 3, 2022.

FESTIVALS

1. Aadi Pooram festival

Why in news – The festival is celebrated on a wide scale in Srivilliputhur (TN).

Key Points –

- It is believed to be the birthplace of the Goddess Andal - an incarnation of Goddess Lakshmi.
- It is celebrated for 10 days in all Lord Vishnu temples in the state of Tamil Nadu.

STATES/UTS

1. Kerala Savari

Why in news - Kerala to come up with an online cab service by launching its own e-taxi service from August.

Key Points –

- It is the first time that a government is launching an online taxi service in the country.

2. Swami Vivekananda Yuva shakti Yojana

Why in news - Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai has launched the scheme to empower 10 lakh people to self-employed them by including financial assistance and skill training.

3. Mission Bhumi Putra

Why in news - Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma launched “Mission Bhumi Putra” to issue digitalised caste certificates to students.

Key Points –

- GST (July) - Rs 1931 crores. (SGST - Rs 584 crore and IGST - Rs 1347 crore).
- SGST and IGST have registered a growth rate of 34% in the current financial year till July.
- In M/O Finance figures, apart from SGST and CGST cash, only IGST cash and cess payment data are included. Due to this, a negative growth of 1% has been shown in the tax collection of the state.

3. Dry Horticulture Scheme (Shusk Bagwani Yojana)

Why in news - Agriculture Department is providing incentives to plant trees on the bunds of the fields under Saat Nishchay-2.

Key Points –

- About 3 crore rupees will be spent in the next 3 years on the scheme.
- Center of Excellence, Desri (Vaishali) would provide Amla, Plum, Jamun, Jackfruit, Bael, Pomegranate, Lemon and Sweet lime saplings to the farmers.
- Incentives –
 - A. Rs 60,000 per hectare in 3 annual installments.
 - B. To meet the cost of planting material, a maximum of Rs 30,000 per hectare or 50% of the cost would be given as a grant.
- In 2021, an area of 566 hectares was expanded under dry horticulture. Target (2022) 875-hectare expansion.
- Farmers can apply for a maximum 4 hectares and at least 0.1 hectares.
- To get benefits, farmers has to compulsorily do drip irrigation.
- Training would also be given to 2400 farmers.

BIHAR

1. Berra (Patna) and Chiraya (Nalanda) barrage

Why in news - Water Resources minister Sanjay Kumar Jha has directed the officials to complete the construction of these barrages at the earliest.

Key Points –

- Both will provide irrigation to about 5187 hectare area.
- Berra barrage is being constructed on the Dardha river.

2. GST collection in Bihar

Why in news - Bihar Dy CM cum Finance Minister Tarkishore Prasad gave GST figures for the month of July, 2022.





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POINTERS

- Which country was the top beneficiary of trade aid from WTO in 2020 – **India (\$2.7 billion)**.
- Which IIT set up Center of Excellence for Biomedical Device and Diagnostic Innovation – **IIT Guwahati**.
- Who has authored a new book titled “The Journey of a Nation: 75 Years of Indian Economy” – **Sanjay Baru**.
- Who has inaugurated the 4th ONGC Para Games in New Delhi on August 2, 2022 – **Hardeep Singh Puri**.
- Indian women's team won first gold medal in Commonwealth Games 2022 in which sports – **Lawn bowls**.
- NSE and BSE approved the merger of which two digital platforms – **Zee and Sony Pictures**.
- Who has developed world's most durable hydrogen fuel cell – **Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)**.
- Which became first city to get traffic data by Google – **Aurangabad**.
- Which company is the only company to buy 700 MHz band in 5G spectrum auction – **Jio**.
- In which state was the Operation Mukti Abhiyan resumed – **Uttarakhand**.



PI

PROUD MOMENT WITH 131 SELECTIONS IN 66TH BPSC EXAMINATION