NATIONAL

1. Bamboo Crash Barrier "Bahu Balli"

Why in news - World's first 200 m long Bamboo Crash Barrier has been installed on the Vani-Warora Highway, Maharashtra.

Key Points –

- Crash barriers - Installed on either side of a highway to prevent vehicles from moving out of the road network.
- Bamboo species used - Bambusa Balcoa. It was treated with creosote oil and coated with recycled High-Density Poly Ethylene (HDPE).
- It was tested at National Automotive Test Tracks (NATRAX), Indore (MP).
- NATRAX (11.3km long) high-speed track is the longest in Asia and the fifth largest in the world.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

1. Safe City Projects

Why in news - Amit Shah launched Safe City Projects in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Key Points –

- Aim – to equip the police with technology to meet the challenges of the future.
- It is being implemented on a trial basis in 8 cities.
- Budget - Rs. 2,840 crores.
- In Nov 2022, PM Narendra Modi called for constituting a High-Power Police Technology Mission under Amit Shah to adopt future technologies for policing requirements.
- Centre for Internet Security – Bengaluru.

2. FinEMPOWER

Why in news - BSE and UN Women India launched "FinEMPOWER" program at the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

Key Points –

- Aim - to empower women towards financial security.
- BSE and UN Women India organised "Ring the Bell" for Gender Equality ceremony to accelerate investment in women leaders and entrepreneurs.

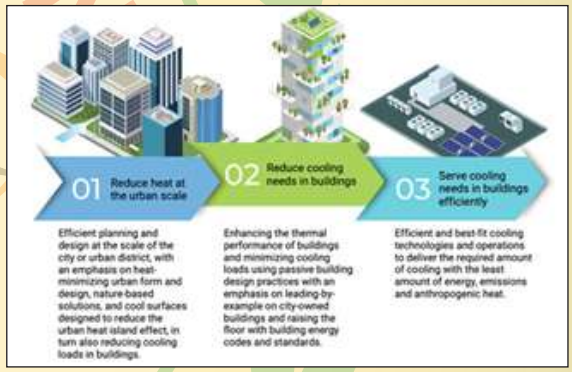
ENVIRONMENT

1. Urban cooling program

Why in news - Tamil Nadu has signed an MoU with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Key Points –

- Aim - to develop a comprehensive urban cooling programme to meet objectives under Tamil Nadu State Action Plan on Climate Change.
- National cooling program to support Indian cities to implement sustainable cooling is implemented by UNEP, National Institute of Urban Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.
- It is being delivered under the framework of Cool Coalition and the India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership.



2. UN High Seas Treaty

Why in news - On March 4, 2023, a draft international agreement referred to as the UN High Seas Treaty was finalized.

Key Points –

- The agreement was reached at UN headquarters in New York.
- Aim - to govern the conduct of governments (conserve Biodiversity) in 'open seas' or high seas.
- "Open seas" - World's oceans beyond the jurisdiction of any one country i.e., beyond the Exclusive Economic Zones (from coast of a country to 200 nautical miles or 370 km into the sea).
- It is also referred to as the 'Paris Agreement for the Ocean'.

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- Once ratified by countries (pass it in their own Parliaments), it will become legally binding.
- It was negotiated under the United Nations Convention on Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS) of 1982.
- Agreements on the actions of parties are to be taken based on consensus.
- Currently, there is no treaty for conserving the health of vast swathes of the earth's oceans.
- High or open seas constitute two-thirds of the world's oceans, and only 1% of them are legally protected.
- '30×30' goals (COP 15 of CBD) - to conserve 30% of terrestrial and marine habitat by 2030.

REPORTS & INDICES

1. 9th Women, Business and the Law 2023 Report

Why in news – The report was released by The World Bank.

Key Points –

At regional level -

- India's score - 74.4 out of 100.
- India's score is higher than the regional average observed across South Asia (63.7).
- Maximum score in South Asia - 80.6 (Nepal).

At global level –

- 14 countries scored a perfect 100 e.g., Belgium, Canada, Denmark etc.
- Since 1970, the global average has improved by about two-thirds, rising from 45.8 to 77.1 points.

- It identifies barriers to women's economic participation and encourages reform of discriminatory law in 190 economies.
- 8 indicators - Mobility, Workplace, Pay, Marriage, Parenthood, Entrepreneurship, Assets, and Pension.

ECONOMY

1. Har Payment Digital

Why in news - RBI launched 'Har Payment Digital' mission during Digital Payments Awareness Week 2023 (DPAW).

Key Points –

- Theme - "Digital Payment Apnao, Auron ko bhi Sikhao" (Adopt digital payments and Teach others also).
- Aim - to make every person in India a user of digital payments.
- DPAW - March 6 to 12, 2023.
- Payments Vision 2025 (of RBI) theme - "E-Payments for Everyone, Everywhere and Everytime".

SECURITY

1. FRINJEX-23

Why in news - The maiden joint military exercise between the Indian and French Army started in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

Key Points –

- Venue - Pangode Military Station.
- Theme - Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Operations in a Contested Environment.

AWARDS & HONOURS

1. BBC Indian Sportswoman of the year 2022

Why in news - Mirabai Chanu has bagged the 2022 'BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year' award.

Key Points –

- She is Tokyo Olympic Games (2020) silver-medallist weightlifter.
- She became the first athlete to win the award twice in a row (1st – 2021).
- At the Tokyo Games, she had become the first Indian to win a silver in the sport.

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APPOINTMENTS

1. Rashmi Shukla

Why in news - IPS Rashmi Shukla has been appointed as the Director-General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

Key Points –

- SSB - Border guarding force of India deployed along its borders with Nepal and Bhutan.
- SSB is one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

2. S.S. Dubey

Why in news - S.S. Dubey took charge as the 28th Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

Key Points –

- CGA is 'the Principal Advisor' on Accounting matters to the Union Government.
- CGA is responsible for establishing and managing a technically sound Management Accounting System of the Union Government.

SPORTS

1. 2nd Men's Junior World Kabaddi Championship 2023

Why in news - India beat Iran (41-33) to claim the maiden title.

Key Points –

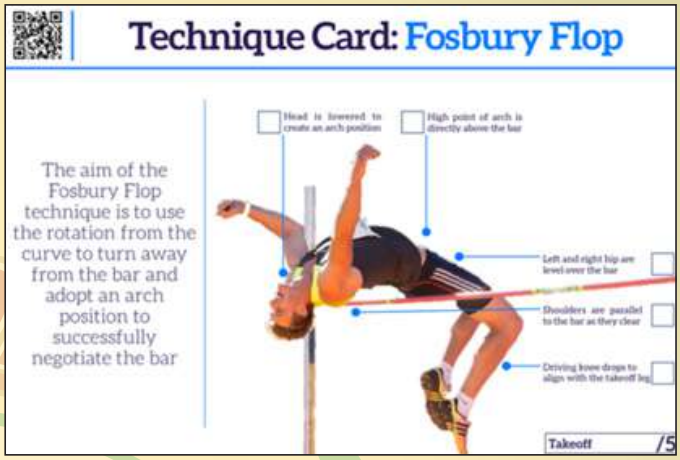
- Pakistan and Nepal were the joint bronze medallist.
- Venue - Urmia, Iran.

2. Dick Fosbury

Why in news - American high jumper Dick Fosbury passed away at 76.

Key Points –

- He revolutionised high jump technique with the Fosbury Flop.
- Fosbury Flop - Fosbury turned his back to the bar and arched his body over it to win gold at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics.
- The Fosbury Flop is now the most used technique around the world.



STATES/UTS

1. Mauganj

Why in news - Mauganj, a tehsil of Rewa, became Madhya Pradesh's 53rd district.

Key Points –

- It would be developed by joining four tehsils of Rewa district i.e., Mauganj, Hanumana, Nai Garhi, and Deotalab.

BIHAR

1. AIIMS Darbhangha

Why in news – Hon' CM Nitish Kumar justified earmarking a parcel of land at Shobhan, Darbhanga for construction of second AIIMS in the state.

Key Points –

- AIIMS Darbhangha was included in the union government budget for fiscal 2015-16.
- On Sept 15, 2020, the union cabinet approved 750-bed AIIMS in Darbhanga, to be built at a cost of Rs 1,264 crore.
- In November 2021, Bihar cabinet gave its nod to the project.
- Area earmarked - 150 acres.
- The site is just three kilometres from the East-West Corridor (NH 27, Length - 3,507 km, Silcher to Porbandar).
- Bihar's first AIIMS – Patna

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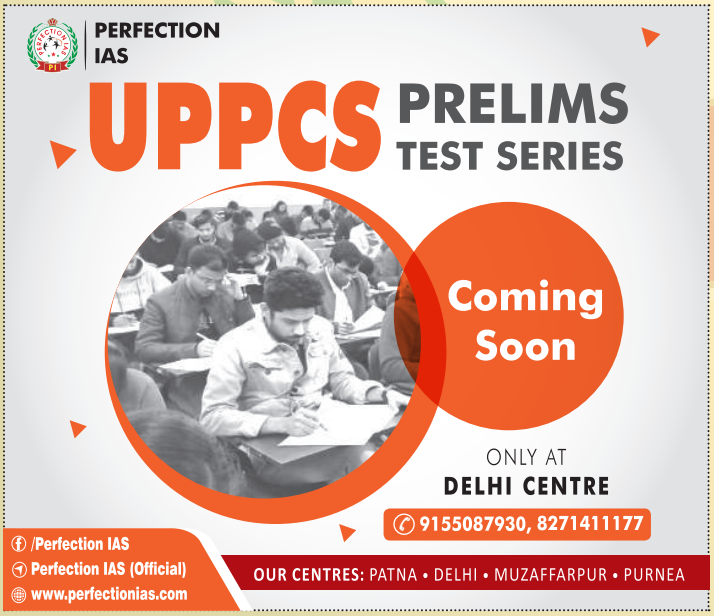
CURRENT AFFAIRS ONE LINERS

POINTERS

- In which city the meeting of Tourism Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organization will be held on March 17-18 – Varanasi.
- USA, Australia and which country have announced the agreement for the AUKUS nuclear submarine plans - the United Kingdom.
- What amount of loan has been given to MSME under Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme – Rs 3,61,000 crores.
- Pfizer will spend $43 billion to acquire which company - Seagen (Cancer Drugmaker).
- India and which country have qualified for the World Cricket Test Championship – Australia.
- Which country has bagged Golden & Silver Star at The International 'Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2023' in 'TV/Cinema Commercials International and Country International' Category at ITB, Berlin 2023 – India (Ministry of Tourism).
- Which has become the first metro in India to accept digital currency for parking - Kochi Metro.
- Which country has recently introduced Illegal Migration Bill - the United Kingdom.
- Which union minister has unveiled the pilot trial of MD15 buses (methanol-powered buses) and Prototype launch of M100 (100% Methanol) - Nitin Gadkari.
- Which state has recently launched a new health program 'Arogya Mahila' – Telangana.