NATIONAL

1. "NET Zero" Innovation Virtual Centre

Why in news - India and United Kingdom would jointly create India-UK "NET Zero" Innovation Virtual Centre.
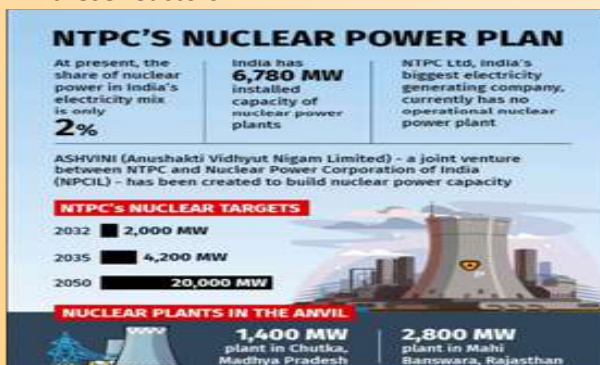
Key Points –

- "Roadmap 2030" - Provide a framework for UK-India relations across health, climate, trade, education, science and technology, and defence.
- UK is India's 2nd largest international research and innovation partner.
- The joint research program of both countries has gone from an almost zero base to close to £300-400 million.
- MOES-NEKTON - Joint research program towards exploration and conservation of marine Biodiversity.

2. Joint development of Nuclear Power Plants (NPP)

Why in news - NTPC signed a joint venture agreement (JV) with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) for the development of NPP.

Key Points –

- Joint venture name – ASHVINI.
- Initially, the Joint Venture company shall develop two Pressurized Heavy-Water Reactor (PHWR) projects –
    a) Chutka Madhya Pradesh Atomic Power Project (2x700 MW)
    b) Mahi Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (4x700 MW).
- These reactors would be set up in "fleet mode" by the year 2031 at a cost of Rs. 1,05,000 crores.
- A total of 7,000 MW or 7 GW is expected from these reactors.

NTPC'S NUCLEAR POWER PLAN

At present, the share of nuclear power in India's electricity mix is only **2%**

India has **6,780 MW** installed capacity of nuclear power plants

NTPC Ltd, India's biggest electricity generating company, currently has no operational nuclear power plant

ASHVINI (Anushakti Vidhyut Nigam Limited) - a joint venture between NTPC and Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) - has been created to build nuclear power capacity

NTPC's NUCLEAR TARGETS

Year	MW
2032	2,000 MW
2035	4,200 MW
2050	20,000 MW

NUCLEAR PLANTS IN THE ANVIL

1,400 MW plant in Chutka, Madhya Pradesh

2,800 MW plant in Mahi Banswara, Rajasthan

Value addition –

- NTPC is India's largest power producer.
- India's aim - to start generating 2,000 MW of nuclear energy by 2032, 4,200 MW by 2035 and 20,000 MW by 2050.

3. Ganga-Pushkaralu Utsav

Why in news - The 12-day Pushkaralu festival of Telugu-speaking people began on April 22 in Varanasi.

Key Points –

- Frequency - Once in 12 years.
- Worship - 12 sacred rivers i.e., Ganga, Yamuna, Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri, Bhima, Tapti, Narmada, Saraswati, Tungabhadra, Sindhu, Pranhita.
- Festival is based on the position of Jupiter at the time.

INTERNATIONAL

1. The Big Catch-Up

Why in news - "The Big Catch-Up" was launched to restore immunisation progress lost during pandemic.

Key Points –

- Launched by - World Health Organization, UNICEF, Gavi the Vaccine Alliance, along with Immunization Agenda 2030.
- India is among the 20 countries where around 75% of children have missed essential immunisation in 2021, in part due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- It would pay special attention to the 20 countries — Afghanistan, Angola, Brazil, Cameroon, Chad etc.

2. Preparedness and Resilience for Emerging Threats (PRET)

Why in news - The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched PRET to be better prepared for future outbreaks.

Key Points –

- Aim – to provide guidance on integrated planning for responding to any respiratory pathogen such as influenza or coronaviruses.
- It was announced at the Global Meeting for

Future Respiratory Pathogen Pandemics held on 24-26 April 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland.

- In Feb 2023, WHO published a "Zero-Draft" of the Pandemic Treaty to bring in Global and National-Level Pandemic Preparedness.

ECONOMY

1. CBDC e-Rupee

Why in news - Reliance General Insurance became the first insurer to accept RBI's CBDC e-Rupee for premium payments.

Key Points –
- It has tied up with Yes Bank to facilitate the collection of premiums.
- eRupee is a digital token that is equivalent to a banknote i.e., legal tender, and is a sovereign currency backed by the RBI.

Digital Rupee (e₹)

Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)

RBI's concept of CBDC

Legal tender in a **digital** form, same as the **sovereign currency**

Exchangeable at par (1:1) with the existing fiat currency

Acceptable as a **medium of payment**, **legal tender** & a **safe store of value**

SCIENCE – TECHNOLOGY

1. GigaChat

Why in news - Russian lender Sberbank unveiled its chatbot GigaChat as a rival to OpenAI's sensational ChatGPT.

Key Points –
- Features - Answer questions, hold conversations, write program code to develop software, and even generate images.
- ChatGPT is not available in Russia over concerns about its potential misuse.

About ChatGPT –
- GPT - Generative Pre-Trained Transformer.
- A prototype dialogue-based AI chatbot capable of understanding natural human language and generating human-like written text.
- Uses - Digital marketing, online content creation and answering customer service queries.

ENVIRONMENT

1. CORSIA and LTAG

Why in news - Indian airline is set to join the sustainable aviation bandwagon from 2027.

Key Points –
India would join –
a) CORSIA - Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation.
b) LTAG - Long-Term Aspirational Goals.
- Both CORSIA and LTAG are initiatives of International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO).
- ICAO has adopted the aspirational goal of 2% annual fuel efficiency improvement through 2050, carbon neutral growth from 2020 onwards, and net zero by 2050.

Value addition –
- National Policy on Bio Fuels 2018 aims ethanol blendingof 20% in petrol by 2025-26.
- The Bureau of Indian Standard has issued Indian Standard for Bio-Jet ATF in January 2019.
- Spicejet operated a flight with 25% SAF (Biofuel produced from Jatropha seeds) blended with ATF from Dehradun to Delhi in August, 2018.
- Indigo carried out its first international ferry flight with 10% blended fuel from Toulouse to Delhi on February 2022.
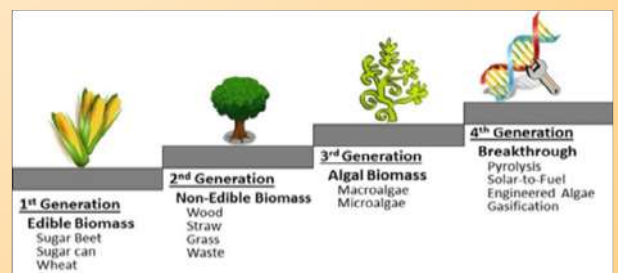- Vistara carried out 30% blended SAF ferry flight from Seattle to Delhi in March 2023.

AWARDS & HONOURS

1. World Green Award 2023

Why in news - Chennai Metro Rail has received the Green World Award, an environmental award for the year 2023.

Key Points –
- International Green World Awards ceremony took place on April 24 in the city of Miami in the United States.

2. Leipzig Book Prize 2023

Why in news - Maria Stepanova has been awarded the prestigious Leipzig Book Prize for European Understanding in 2023.

Key Points –
- Honored for - Girls Without Clothes (volume of poetry).
- Her novel "In Memory of Memory" was nominated for the Booker Prize in 2021.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

1. "Reflections"

Why in news - Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman launched the book titled "Reflections".

Key Points –
- Author - Narayanan Vaghul.
- It provides a detailed account of his experiences in the financial landscape of India.

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➢ CURRENT AFFAIRS ONE LINERS ◄

➢	Which airline has unveiled world's first robotic check-in assistant named Sara – **Emirates.**
➢	The 2 day Sinthan Snow Festival-2023 was hosted by which state/UT involving a variety of activities like Bike Rally, Paragliding, Snow Kayaking etc - **Jammu and Kashmir (Kishtwar).**
➢	The Indian Army inducted its first batch of "Five Women Officers" into which regiment – **Artillery.**
➢	Who has been appointed as the Chief Technical Officer of Air India - **Sisira Kanta Dash.**
➢	Who has launched the world's first Nano DAP (Liquid) - **Amit Shah.**
➢	Who has launched a book titled "Saurashtra Tamil Sangam Prashasti" authored by Somnath Sanskrit University – **PM Narendra Modi.**
➢	Which country has become the largest recipient of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) funded programmes/projects in the year 2022 – **Pakistan.**
➢	The Chief Minister of which state has launched the third phase of 5T School Transformation Initiative – **Odisha.**
➢	Which state has launched "Inflation Relief Camps" – **Rajasthan.**
➢	Which state has created a world record by making 3700 KG khichdi - **Madhya Pradesh.**