

NATIONAL

1. Vedanta-Foxconn JV

Why in news - Taiwan's Foxconn announced that it was pulling out of the joint venture (JV) with Vedanta.

Key Points –

- An MoU to set up the \$19.5 billion plant in Gujarat was signed in September 2022.
- Two other proposals (ISMC and IGSS Venture) for India's \$10 billion chip incentive scheme too remain uncertain.
- Foxconn is the world's largest contract electronics maker.

2. Telangana Eunuchs Act 1919

Why in news – The Telangana High Court struck down the Telangana Eunuchs Act of 1919.

Key Points –

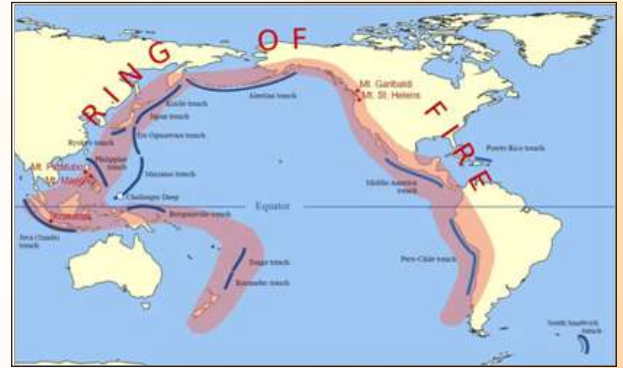
- It was declared “unconstitutional” and an intrusion into the private sphere of transgender people.
- It violated Article 14 and Article 21.
- “Eunuchs” -All persons of the male sex who admit to be impotent or who clearly appear to be impotent on medical inspection.
- Case name - V. Vasanta Mogli vs. The State of Telangana.

Value Addition –

- Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act of 2019 covered only welfare measures.
- The act has no provision for specific offences attributed to them, such as “kidnapping or emasculating boys or committing unnatural offences.”
- IPC Section 377 - criminalized homosexuality (read down by the Supreme Court in 2018).
- National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) judgement – 2014.

Key Points –

- Location- Moquegua region.
- Peru's most active volcano.
- The zone is part of the “Ring of Fire” along the edges of the Pacific Ocean known for volcanic activity and earthquakes.



ECONOMY

1. Potato patent and PPVFRA

Why in news – The Delhi High Court upheld the order by the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA).

Key Points –

- PPVFRA revoked the intellectual property protection granted to PepsiCo India Holdings Pvt. Ltd with respect to a potato variety (FL 2027) developed by it.
- PepsiCo India Holdings was granted a certificate of registration for FL 2027 as an “extant variety” on February 1, 2016 for 6 years.
- FL 2027 failed the test of novelty.

Value Addition –

- **FL 2027**–
 - a) a potato variety with high dry matter and low sugar content better suited for making chips.
 - b) developed in 1996 by Robert W Hoopes of PepsiCo Inc.
 - c) grown by some 14,000 farmers in India via contract cultivation.
- Indian Patents Act 1970 doesn't give Patent to seeds / plant varieties.
- Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act 2001 grants Intellectual Property

INTERNATIONAL

1. Ubinas volcano

Why in news – State of emergency declared in Peru as Ubinas volcano spews ash.

Right to plant breeders, researchers and farmers who have developed any new plant varieties.

SCIENCE – TECH

1. Chandrayaan-3 mission

Why in news – It is set to be launched from Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota on July 14, 2023.

Key Points –

- India's third lunar mission.
- Lander Vikram and rover Pragyaan are likely to land on the Moon on August 23.
- Landing site - south pole of the moon at 70 degrees latitude.
- If successful, it would become the world's first mission to soft-land near the lunar south pole. (Other countries - equatorial region, a few degrees latitude north or south of the lunar equator).
- Permanently Shadowed Regions (PSRs) - Moon's axis tilts only 1.5 degrees (Earth - 23.5 degrees). Therefore, sunlight never shines on the floors of a number of craters near the lunar north and south poles.
- Challenges in the lunar south pole – different and difficult terrain, dark region (sunlight never reaches), extremely low temperatures (below 230°C), large craters etc.
- Benefits of exploring south pole –
 - a) presence of ice molecules in the deep craters,
 - b) extremely cold temperatures - anything trapped would remain frozen in time without undergoing much change.
 - c) can provide clues to the early Solar System.

3. AI news presenter

Why in news – Odisha Television Limited (OTV) has unveiled its AI-powered virtual news anchor named Lisa.

Key Points –

- Lisa is the first AI news anchor in free-to-air regional television broadcasting.
- It is also the first regional (Odia) news anchor.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

1. NATO Vilnius summit 2023

Why in news – The NATO summit in Vilnius held on July 11-12, 2023.

Key Points –

- It is the 4th summit since Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- Vilnius is capital of Lithuania.
- Lithuania shares a border with Russian exclave of Kaliningrad and Belarus.
- It reviewed the first defense plans since the Cold War, outlining NATO's response to a potential Russian attack.
- Bucharest summit 2008 - Ukraine would eventually become a NATO member.



2. 'AI for Good' conference

Why in news – The world's first robot-only press conference was held in Geneva.

Key Points –

- It was held on the sidelines of the United Nations "AI for Good" global summit in Geneva.
- 8 humanoid robots answered questions from journalists on the future of AI and their coexistence with humans.

Value Addition -

- Father of Robotics - Joseph F. Engelberger.
- Father of Artificial Intelligence - John McCarthy.

RANKS & INDICES

1. Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D)

Why in news – Ministry of Education released the PGI-D combined report for 2020-21 & 2021-22.

Key Points –

- It assesses the performance of school education system at the District level.
- Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSE&L) devised Performance Grading Index (PGI).
- 6 categories - Outcomes, Effective Classroom Transaction, Infrastructure Facilities & Student's Entitlements, School Safety & Child Protection, Digital Learning and Governance Process.
- Total weightage - 600 points across 83 indicators.
- PGI-D grades the districts into ten grades.
- Daksh - Highest achievable Grade (scoring >90%).
- Akanshi-3 - Lowest grade (score - upto10%).

Learning outcomes in districts

None of the districts attained the top two grades according to the Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D) combined report for 2020-21 & 2021-22. The table summarises the scores achieved by districts in the two years

Score range (%)	Number of districts in 2020-21	Number of districts in 2021-22
>90	0	0
81 to 90	0	0
71 to 80	124	51
61 to 70	277	271
51 to 60	229	290
41 to 50	86	117
31 to 40	24	18
21 to 30	0	1
11 to 20	2	0
upto 10	0	0

BIHAR

1. Visitor's Award for Innovation 2021

Why in news – Venkatesh Singh has been conferred

with the prestigious award in recognition of his contribution to research in physics.

Key Points –

- He is head of the Department of physics at Central University of South Bihar (CUSB).
- It was conferred to him by President Droupadi Murmu.

2. Menstrual health in Bihar

Why in news – A study conducted by the Population Research Centre (PRC) of Patna University.

Key Points –

- Subject - Menstrual health and hygiene among adolescent girls in climatic vulnerable areas in Bihar.
- The study was carried out primarily in Patna, Darbhanga, Sitamarhi and Banka districts.
- Altogether 430 girls in the 13-19 years age group from different socio-economic strata were interviewed.
- Findings –
 - a) about 40% of the rural adolescent girls in Bihar use cloth instead of sanitary napkins during their menstruation.
 - b) at least 5% of them are not allowed to take bath during the period.
 - c) even among the girls who use sanitary napkins, 90% have not received any government supplied napkin in the recent past.
 - d) 67% of the girls throw the used napkins in open areas.

PERFECTION IAS Patna Centre

NEW BATCH FOR BPSC

STARTING FROM 26 JULY 2023

Hindi medium: 01:00 PM - 4:00 PM

REG. OFFICE: KUMAR TOWER, BORING RD. CROSSING, PATNA.

9031036700 / 9031036701

PERFECTION IAS Patna Centre

NEW BATCH FOR BPSC

Starting from 12 July 2023

ENGLISH MEDIUM TIME: 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

OUR CENTRES: Delhi, Patna, Manipalgarh & Pune

9031036700 / 9031036701

PATNA CENTRE: NEW BATCHES FOR BPSC (HINDI MEDIUM) STARTING FROM 26TH JULY 2023

DELHI CENTRE: NEW BATCHES FOR UPSC STARTING FROM 19TH JULY 2023



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➤ CURRENT AFFAIRS ONE LINERS ◀

- Which Indian actor film *Giddh* won Asia International Competition and qualifies For Oscars - **Sanjay Mishra**.
- Which state has announced the formation of a special task force to tackle the drug menace - **Himachal Pradesh**.
- Which state has announced the establishment of a state-of-the-art milk processing plant in collaboration with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). - **Himachal Pradesh**.
- In which state the first 'Sahiwal calf' has been born through surrogacy- **Andhra Pradesh**.
- Which state government has announced 50% fee waiver for EWS students – **Maharashtra**.
- Which state has launched "Operation Conviction" against cow slaughter - **Uttar Pradesh**.
- Who became the first Indian male archer to win a gold in the recurve category of the Youth World Championships - **Parth Salunkhe**.
- The Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust (Hind Swaraj Sangh) will confer the Lokmanya Tilak National Award to whom - **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.
- US banking giant Goldman Sachs has predicted that India is poised to become the world's second-largest economy by which year – **2075**.
- India and the United States joined which operation aimed at preventing the illegal shipment of pharmaceuticals, devices, and precursor chemicals through the International Mail System (IMS) - **Operation Broader Sword**.

PATNA CENTRE: NEW BATCHES FOR BPSC
(HINDI MEDIUM) STARTING FROM 26TH JULY 2023

DELHI CENTRE: NEW BATCHES FOR UPSC
STARTING FROM 19TH JULY 2023