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Together We Can

Weekly Current Affairs

Sources: The Hindu+IndianExpress+PIB

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Hunger Hotspots Report

In news

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and World Food Program(WFP) has released a new report titled “Hunger Hotspots”.

About Hunger Hotspots Report:

The Hunger Hotspots Report is an early-warning analysis of countries and situations called hotspots where acute food insecurity is likely to deteriorate over the coming months.

Key takeaways:

- Hunger is expected to rise in 23 global hotspot countries in the next three months.
- The highest alerts for “catastrophic” situations are in Ethiopia’s Tigray region, southern Madagascar, Yemen, South Sudan and northern Nigeria.
- Overall, over 41 million people worldwide are at risk of falling into famine or famine-like conditions unless they receive immediate life and livelihood-saving assistance.
- The primary reasons for an increase in hunger are conflict dynamics, economic shocks, the socio-economic impacts of COVID- 19, weather extremes and the diffusion of plant pests and animal diseases.

Note:

- The Global Food Crises Report released in May 2021 has already warned that 40.5 million people in 17 countries are facing acute food insecurity because of “economic shocks”.
- India is not one of the Hotspot countries

Source: [The Hindu](#)

e-RUPI

In news

The Prime Minister has launched a digital Initiative named “e-RUPI”.

About e-RUPI:

- e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment. It is founded on the Unified Payment Interface(UPI) platform.
- developed by: NPCI, the Department of Financial Services, the National Health Authority and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare .
- It is said to be ‘leak proof ’ and offers nontransferable monetary service to citizens.
- Accessible to anyone with a mobile phone, even if the recipient does not have a bank account .
- It comes in the form of one time use e-vouchers to access government health services.
- The e-vouchers can be issued by the government or private entities to the beneficiaries through QR codes or long string SMS.
- . The beneficiary, then, can redeem this e-voucher at the service provider without the need for any card, digital payment app, or internet banking access.

Source: [PIB](#) , [TheHindu](#)



Ashwagandha

In news

The Ministry of Ayush has collaborated with the U.K.'s London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) to conduct a study on 'Ashwagandha' for promoting recovery from COVID-19.

Key takeaways:

- All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Ayush. Under this collaboration, the LSHTM will conduct clinical trials of 'Ashwagandha' on 2,000 participants in three U.K. cities.
- The study will be conducted for a period of three months. Under this, one group of 1,000 participants will be administered 'Ashwagandha' [AG] tablets, while the second group of 1,000 participants will be assigned a placebo which is indistinguishable from AG in looks and taste.
- These patients will then be observed to understand the effects of Ashwagandha' in promoting recovery from COVID-19.

About 'Ashwagandha':

- Ashwagandha' (Withania somnifera) is commonly known as 'Indian winter cherry'.
- It is a traditional Indian herb that boosts energy, reduces stress, and makes the immune system stronger.
- Ashwagandha has also shown success in treating both acute and chronic rheumatoid arthritis.
- Rheumatoid arthritis(RA) is an autoimmune disease that can cause joint pain and damage throughout your body.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Operation Blue Freedom:

In news

The government of India has accorded sanction to Team CLAW to lead a team of people with disabilities to scale Siachen Glacier. It will be a new world record for the largest team of people with disabilities. This expedition is being undertaken as part of 'Operation Blue Freedom'.

About Operation Blue Freedom:

- launched in 2019 by CLAW Global, a team of former Special Forces Operatives of the Indian Army and the Indian Navy.
- It aims to shatter the common perception of pity, charity, and inability associated with people with disabilities and recreate it to one of dignity, freedom, and ability.
- focus is also to 'design and implement sustainable large-scale employment solutions' for people with disabilities, especially in the 'Environment conservation and Sustainability' space.

About Siachen Glacier:

- Siachen Glacier is the longest glacier in the Karakoram and the second-longest in the world's non-polar areas.



- The glacier is located in the Eastern Karakoram range in the Himalayas. It lies just northeast of Point NJ9842, where the Line of Control between India and Pakistan ends.
- The glacier's melting waters are the main source of the Nubra River in the Indian region of Ladakh which drains into the Shyok River. The Shyok in turn joins the Indus River, which flows through Pakistan.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Retractable Roof Polyhouse Technology

In news

CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur has inaugurated a “Naturally Ventilated Polyhouse Facility” and laid the foundation stone of “Retractable Roof Polyhouse” at Ludhiana in Punjab.

Key takeaways:

- Farmers face a number of problems such as excessive or insufficient cold, heat, rain, wind, and other factors associated with insufficient transpiration.
- Crop loss, in the country due to insects and pests, is about 15% at present-> may increase as climate change lowers the plant defence system against insects and pests.
- To some extent, these problems can be overcome by a conventional polyhouse.

About Conventional Polyhouse:

- It has a stationary roof to reduce the effect of weather anomalies and pests. However, roof covering leads to excessive heat and insufficient light (early morning) to the crops.
- They are also prone to insufficient levels of CO₂, transpiration, and water stress.
- Hence, a combination of open-field conditions and conventional polyhouse conditions is a more effective.

About Retractable Roof Polyhouse Technology:

- Retractable Roof Polyhouse Technology is an all-weather structure.
- It has an automatic retractable roof that will be operated based on weather conditions and crop requirements from the conditional database using a PLC software.
- This development will help farmers cultivate both seasonal and off-season crops.
- Higher yield and high shelf-life can be produced by creating optimal indoor microclimate conditions compared to conventional open field tunnels and naturally-ventilated polyhouses.

Note- Transpiration is the biological process by which water is lost in the form of water vapour from the aerial parts of the plants.

Source: [PIB](#)

SAFAL and Vidya Pravesh Scheme

In news

The Prime Minister has launched the SAFAL assessment framework and Vidya Pravesh Scheme on the first anniversary of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.



About SAFAL:

- SAFAL stands for Structured Assessment For Analysing Learning.
- It is a competency-based assessment for grades 3, 5 and 8 introduced by CBSE.
- It will be used to assess the progress of foundational skills and basic learning outcomes among students.
- It will provide developmental feedback to schools and teachers to improve teaching-learning without additional examination pressure on students.
- It has also been designed to help students, parents, and teachers to track learning progress throughout the school years and not just in Grades 10 and 12.

About Vidya Pravesh scheme:

- It is a preschool preparation programme for young children.
- It will prepare young students for school and help them learn basics like numbers, colours and alphabets.

Source: **HindustanTimes**

AI For All initiative

In news

The Prime Minister has launched the “AI For All’ initiative.

About AI For All Initiative:

- AI For All' is a 4-hour, self-paced learning programme that demystifies AI in an inclusive manner.
- Launched by the CBSE in collaboration with Intel.
- Aim: to make India AI-ready by building awareness and appreciation of AI among everyone.
- The four-hour open content resource, which is available in 11 vernacular languages, is divided into two sections
 - AI Awareness (1.5 hours)
 - AI Appreciation (2.5 hours).
 - The segment on AI Awareness provides an elementary understanding of AI, misconceptions around AI, and its application potential.
 - The AI Appreciation segment helps learners understand the key domains of AI, its impact across industries, and gets them started on building personal learning plans.
- The program can be used by a student, a stay-at-home parent, professional in any field or even a senior citizen.
- The initiative aims to introduce AI to 1 million citizens in its first year.
- The content is also compatible with various talkback applications to make it accessible for visually impaired people.

Source: [Livemint](#), [The Hindu](#)



Ozone levels exceeding permitted levels: study

In news

A Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) study has found that ozone levels are exceeding the permitted levels even during winter in Delhi-NCR. It is making the smog more “toxic”.

Key takeaways:

- Ozone is becoming more widespread in Delhi and the NCR across all seasons. It is contrary to the notion that ozone is a summer phenomenon and is produced photochemically from the interaction between gases in the presence of sunlight.
- The number of days not meeting the ozone standards has begun to increase.
- Despite the pandemic and lockdowns, more days and locations witnessed a higher and longer duration of ozone spells.
- Ozone generally disintegrates after sunset. It is because, in the absence of sunlight, NOx further reacts with ozone to neutralize it. But elevated ozone levels have been noticed during nighttime.

About Ozone:

- Ozone occurs both in the Earth’s upper atmosphere and at ground level. It can be good or bad, depending on where it is found.
- The stratospheric ozone also called Good Ozone occurs naturally in the upper atmosphere. There, it forms a protective layer that shields us from the sun’s harmful ultraviolet rays.
- On the other hand, Ozone at ground level is a harmful air pollutant, because of its effects on people and the environment, and it is the main ingredient in “smog”.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Minervarya Pentali

In news

A team of Delhi University researchers has discovered a new frog species in the Western Ghats and has named it “Minervarya Pentali”.

About Minervarya Pentali:

- It is a new frog species from the genus Minervarya-> among the smallest known Minervarya frogs.
- The species was discovered from the Western Ghats. The species is endemic to the southern Western Ghats.
- The species has been named after former DU Vice-Chancellor and plant geneticist Deepak Pental.

About Minervarya:

- Minervarya is a genus of frogs in the family Dicroglossidae. The identity and taxonomic status of all known members of this genus are from Peninsular India.

Source: [Indian Express](#)





Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa(GKMS) scheme

In news

According to The Union Minister of Earth Science 200 Agro-Automatic Weather Stations(AWS) are being installed under Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa(GKMS) scheme.

About Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa(GKMS) Scheme:

- It is an initiative of the Ministry of Earth Science.
- Under the scheme, the India Meteorological Department(IMD) in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities/Indian Council of Agricultural Research are issuing crop and location-specific weather based agro advisories to the farmers.
- These Agromet Advisories are prepared and communicated by the Agromet Field Units(AMFUs) located in the Krishi Vigyan Kendras(KVKs) to the farmers on every Tuesday and Friday.
- As part of the scheme, IMD also analyses rainfall patterns and meteorological anomalies, and offers alerts and warnings to farmers as needed.
- Agromet advisories help farmers to make decisions on day-to-day agricultural operations.This can help further optimize the application of input resources at the farm level during deficient rainfall situations and extreme weather events to reduce monetary loss and maximize crop yield.

About Meghdoot App:

- Meghdoot is a mobile app launched by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India.
- It aims to help the farmers to get the weather information including alerts and related agromet advisories specific to their districts.

Note: Agriculture meteorology (Agromet) is a branch of meteorology that examines the effects and impacts of weather and climate on crops, rangeland, livestock, and various agricultural operations.

Source: [PIB](#)

Governor's pardon power overrides 433A: SC

In news

Recently, the Supreme Court has observed that the power of the Governor under Article 161 of the Constitution to commute a sentence or to pardon will override the restrictions imposed under Section 433-A of the Criminal Procedure Code(CrPC)

Supreme Court on Governor's Pardoning Powers:

- State Government has no power under the CrPC to release a person sentenced to life imprisonment prior to undergoing a minimum 14 years jail term.
- However, the Governor using his powers under Article 161 of the Constitution can remit the sentence of life imprisonment even prior to serving 14 years in prison.
- Moreover, the Governor's power to pardon overrides a provision in Section 433A of the CrPC.
- But the Governor could exercise his remission powers under Article 161 only on the aid and advice of the council of ministers headed by the chief minister.

Pardoning Power of Governor:



- Under Article 161, the Governor shall have the power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites, or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person. But the person should be convicted of any offence against any law which is under the executive power of the State.

Exceptions:

- The Governor cannot pardon the death sentence (the President has the power to do so). But the Governor can suspend, remit or commute the death sentence.
- The Governor cannot grant pardon, reprieve, respite, suspension, remission, or commutation in respect to punishment or sentence by a court-martial. However, the President can do so.

Note: Section 433A mandates that a prisoner's sentence can be remitted only after 14 years of jail.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Skyglow- Light pollution

In news

Increasing urbanisation and the installation of new streetlights, security floodlights and outdoor ornamental lighting have all contributed to sky glow, a type of light pollution.

About Skyglow

- Skyglow is an omnipresent sheet of light across the night sky in and around cities that can block all but the very brightest stars from view. It is a commonly noticed aspect of light pollution.
- **The natural component of sky glow has five sources:**
 - Sunlight reflected off the moon and earth.
 - Faint air glows in the upper atmosphere (a permanent, low-grade aurora).
 - Sunlight reflected off interplanetary dust (zodiacal light).
 - Starlight scattered in the atmosphere and background light from faint.
 - Unresolved stars and nebulae (celestial objects or diffuse masses of interstellar dust and gas that appear as hazy smudges of light).
- **Human-made sources of sky-glow**
 - Electric lighting
 - Light that is either emitted directly upward by luminaires or reflected from the ground is scattered by dust and gas molecules in the atmosphere, producing a luminous background

Impacts of Skyglow and Night pollution on ecosystem

- Recent study findings confirm that beetles exposed to light pollution both directly and indirectly via skyglow, abandoned their sky compass and rely instead on earthbound artificial lights as beacons.
- Nocturnal ants use landmarks for outbound journeys, but need their sky compass when returning home.
- Migratory birds have a magnetic compass, with which they check latitude and magnetic North, but use their sky compass to calibrate their magnetic compass to geographic North.



- In the worst case, animals that need the stars to find their home or breeding site may never make it.

Source: [DTE](#)

MPLADS

In news

The Standing Committee on Finance has pointed out the problems under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme(MPLADS).

Standing Committee on Finance on MPLADS:

- Half of the funds allotted for completing the ongoing MPLADS projects in 2020-21 simply lapsed.
- The resultant funding crunch would have hit several local area development projects under implementation across the country, especially in the five States that went to polls this year as no funds were released for these States citing the model code of conduct (MCC).
- Moreover, spending under the MPLADS had already halved before the government suspended the scheme for two years in April 2020 and diverted the funds for managing the COVID-19 pandemic.

About MPLADS or Sansad Nidhi Yojana

- central sector scheme for MPs to recommend works of developmental nature in their constituencies
- Launched in December, 1993
- The emphasis is on creating durable community assets based on locally felt needs.
- Parent Body: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)
- The funds – Rs. 5 crore/annum/MP – under the scheme are non-lapsable.
- Funds are released in the form of grants in-aid directly to the district authorities.
- MPs have only recommendatory role and the district authority is empowered to examine the eligibility of works, select the implementing agencies and monitor it.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Project Himank

In news

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed and completed black topping of the world's highest motorable road at Umling La Pass in Eastern Ladakh. The road was built under the 'Project Himank'.

About Project Himank:

Dire straits

Spending under MPLADS had already halved before the government suspended the scheme for two years on April 6, 2020 and diverted the funds to manage COVID-19

■ On March 16, 2021, the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) seeks funds to finish ongoing MPLADS projects. Department of Expenditure allots ₹2,200 crore on the same day

■ On March 22, the amount was transferred to Statistics Ministry with a caveat that it be exhausted by March 31

■ ₹1,107.5 crore utilised till March 31; balance of ₹1,092.5 crore lapses

Unable to comprehend why ₹2,200 crore was allotted barely one week before the end of FY 2020-21
SCF REPORT



- It is a project of the Border Roads Organisation(BRO) in the Ladakh region of northernmost India that started in 1985.
- Under the project, BRO is responsible for the construction and maintenance of roads and related infrastructure in Ladakh along the Line of Actual Control(LAC).
- the project also ensures access to sensitive military areas including the world's highest battleground at the Siachen Glacier and Pangong Tso Lake whose waters span the de facto India-China border.

About Umling La Pass:

- Umling La is located in the Eastern Ladakh region. The world's highest motorable road is now situated at the height of 19,300 feet at Umling La Pass.
- The road at the Umlingla Pass connects the important towns in the Chumar sector of Eastern Ladakh.
- The road is close to the Line of Actual Control(LAC) and will allow quick movement of troops and equipment.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

DSR technique

- It is direct seeding of rice in which seeds are sown in the field rather than by transplanting seedlings from the nursery. It aims to sow short duration and high yield varieties.
- Introduced by Ludhiana based University in 2020, an improved version of earlier DSR (dry) technique.
- In the new technique, pre sowing irrigation is applied in a levelled field and the primed seed is sown immediately.
- The DSR method saves a lot of groundwater because the crop does not need frequent irrigation as in the case of a puddled paddy field.
- The method is also pocket friendly as manual transplanting is getting costlier with each passing season.
- This method also addresses the shortage of farm labour.

Source: [TheHindu](#)

Anaimalai flying frog

In news

Frog enthusiast in Kerala has constructed two ponds at Windermere Estate to restore the habitat for the Anaimalai flying frog.

About Anaimalai flying frog:

- Anaimalai flying frog (*Racophorus pseudomalabaricus*) is also known as the False Malabar Gliding Frog.
- The frog is endemic to the southern part of the Western Ghats.
- The frog is usually larger than bush frogs. Bush Frog is a species of Frog belonging to the family Rhacophoridae.





- The female creates foam nests on leaves, into which the eggs are laid and the male fertilises them. The outer layer of foam protects the eggs from bacteria, predators and weather changes.
- Conservation Status:
 - IUCN Status: Critically Endangered

Threats:

- This species is known from at least two protected areas, Indra Gandhi National Park and Parambikulam Tiger Reserve.
- Outside the protected areas, it is threatened habitat loss caused by the conversion of forests to other uses as well as by timber extraction

Source: [The Hindu](#)

ReCAAP

In News

India gave a major defeat to China when the Director-General of Coast Guard, K Natarajan, was elected as the next executive director of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP).

About ReCAAP:

- It is the first regional government-to-government agreement to promote and enhance cooperation against piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.
- Launched in: in 2006 with 14 Asian Contracting Parties including North, Southeast, and South Asian countries.
- Currently, it has 20 Contracting Parties including Europe (Norway, the Netherlands, Denmark, and the United Kingdom), Australia, and the United States.
- Other Members include India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, China, Japan, South Korea, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Philippines, Brunei, Vietnam, Cambodia and Singapore.
- three pillars of cooperation under the ReCAAP agreement.
- Information sharing, capacity building and mutual legal assistance
- Headquarters: Singapore

Note: The government of India has designated Indian Coast Guard (ICG) as the focal point within India for ReCAAP

Source: [Hindustan Times](#)

India, Sri Lanka and Maldives to collaborate on security

In news

India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives have agreed to work on “four pillars” of security cooperation, in a recent virtual meeting of top security officials of the three countries.

Key takeaways

- The recent meeting identified “four pillars” of cooperation in
 - Marine Safety and Security
 - Terrorism and Radicalization
 - Trafficking and Organized Crime
 - Cybersecurity



- **Colombo Security Conclave:** The ‘Colombo Security Conclave’ among the three neighboring countries seeks to “further promote” maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.
 - Established in November 2020 at the NSA-level meeting of India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives to forge closer cooperation on maritime and security matters among the three Indian Ocean countries.
 - The initiative, related to military and security collaboration, assumes significance in the region, in the wake of the current geostrategic dynamic that India shares with Sri Lanka and the Maldives.
 - Earlier this year, India aired security concerns over China being awarded development projects on an island off Sri Lanka’s northern province, close to India’s southern border.
- **Maldives:** Maldives’s engagement with members of the ‘Quad’, has been growing over the last year, especially in the area of defence cooperation. The Ibrahim Mohamed Solih government signed a ‘Framework for a Defence and Security Relationship’ agreement with the United States in 2020, an initiative that India welcomed.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Right to Education Act

Key takeaways

- The Centre plans to pay students their Right to Education (RTE) entitlements in the form of cash transfers as part of a revamp and extension of its flagship school education scheme.
- In order to enhance the direct outreach of the scheme, all child-centric interventions will be provided directly to the students through DBT [or direct benefit transfer] mode on an IT-based platform over a period of time
- The Samagra Shiksha scheme, which has been extended till March 2026, will have a financial outlay of Rs. 2.94 lakh crore, and several new initiatives on early childhood education, foundational literacy, and numeracy and language education.
 - It involves a 60:40 split in funding between the Centre and most States.

About Right to Education

- Right to Education Act (RTE) provides free and compulsory education to children in and was enforced as a fundamental right under Article 21-A in 2009.
- The RTE Act aims to provide primary education to all children aged 6 to 14 years.
- The act mandates 25% reservation for disadvantaged sections of the society in Private schools
- It had a clause for “No Detention Policy” which has been removed under The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Act, 2019.

Source: [TH](#)



The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2021

In news

Recently, the Lok Sabha has passed the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2021 without any discussion.

About the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2021

- The Bill intends to establish a new Central University in Ladakh to ensure an increase in accessibility and quality of higher education and research for the people of Ladakh.
- At present, there is no Central University in Ladakh
- The new University will be named as Sindhu Central University.
- The government has allocated 750 crore rupees for the development of this University in which 2500 students will be benefited.

Source: [TH](#)

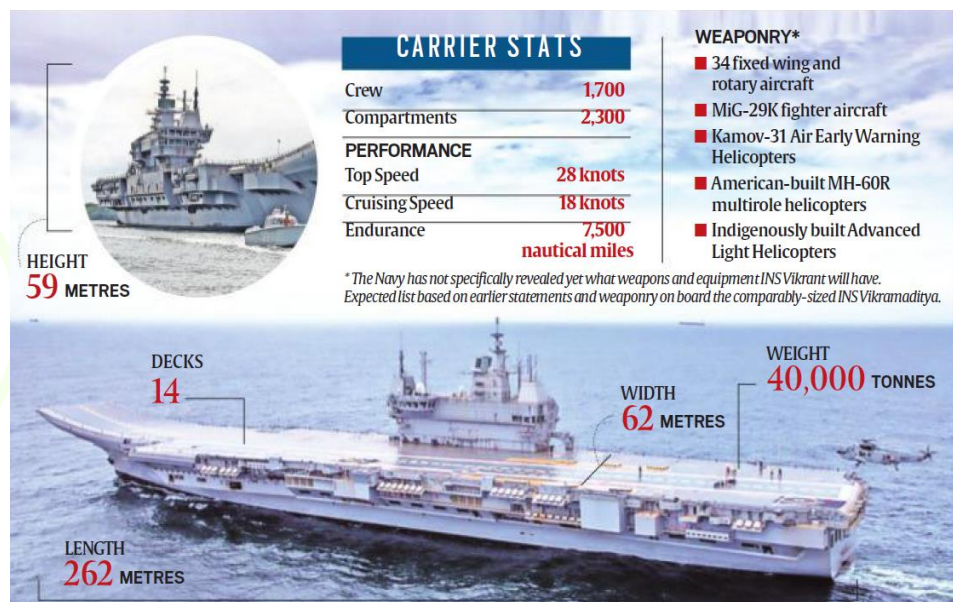
INS Vikrant

In news

The much-awaited sea trials of India's maiden indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC-1) 'Vikrant' have begun.

About Indigenous Aircraft Carrier(IAC) 'Vikrant':

- This is the first aircraft carrier designed and built in India. It has over 76 percent of the material and equipment which is indigenous.
- IAC-1 has been designed by the Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design (DND), and is being built at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), a public sector shipyard under the Ministry of Shipping.
- It is named after the Majestic-class aircraft carrier, which was operated by the Indian Navy from 1961 to 1997.
- The ship is 262 m long, It has over 2,300 compartments designed for a crew of around 1700 people including specialised cabins to accommodate women officers.
- The ship can carry up to 30 aircraft, fighter jets and helicopters, and is capable of cruising at 18 knots speed with an endurance of about 7,500 nautical miles.
- It has a very high degree of automation for machinery operation, ship navigation and survivability





- Only five or six nations, US, UK, Spain, Russia, France, China, currently have the capability of manufacturing an aircraft carrier. India joins this elite club now.
- India's earlier aircraft carriers were either built by the British or the Russians.
- The INS Vikramaditya, currently the Navy's only aircraft carrier that was commissioned in 2013, started out as the Soviet-Russian Admiral Gorshkov.
- The country's two earlier carriers, INS Vikrant and INS Viraat were originally the British-built HMS Hercules and HMS Hermes before being commissioned into the Navy in 1961 and 1987 respectively.

Source: [Indian Express](#), [The Hindu](#), [The Business Standard](#) and [PIB](#)

Abanindranath Tagore

In news

Victoria Memorial Hall and DAG have collaborated to commemorate the 150th year birth anniversary of the prominent artist of Bengal school of Art – Abanindranath Tagore.

About Abanindranath Tagore:

- Abanindranath Tagore, the nephew of Rabindranath Tagore, was one of the most prominent artists of the Bengal school of art in India.
- He was the first major supporter of swadeshi values in Indian art.
- He first created the 'Indian Society of Oriental Art' and later went on to establish the Bengal school of art.
- To counter the western influence of art, he modernized Mughal & Rajput styles to give rise to modern Indian painting.
- He shaped modern Indian art by giving a unique shape to Swadeshi themes and created a new awakening.
- "Bharat Mata" painting was one of the most iconic works of Abanindranath Tagore.
- His other famous paintings include The Passing of Shah Jahan (1900), My Mother (1912–13), Fairyland illustration (1913), Journey's End (circa 1913).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Plastic-Mixed Handmade Paper

In news

KVIC has secured Patent registration for its innovative Plastic-mixed Handmade Paper developed to reduce plastic menace from nature.

About Plastic Mixed Handmade Paper:

- Developed by a team of scientists of KVIC's Kumarappa National Handmade Paper Institute (KNHPI).
- The paper was developed under Project REPLAN (REducing PLastic from Nature) of KVIC.
 - This is the first of its kind project in India where plastic waste is destructured, degraded, diluted and used with paper pulp while making handmade paper. This helps in reducing plastic waste from nature.

Significance:



- The production of waste-plastic mixed handmade paper is likely to serve the twin objectives of protecting the environment alongside creating sustainable employment.
- Nearly 2640 handmade paper making units in the country under KVIC and State Khadi Boards have the potential of clearing approx 3000 MT of waste plastic from nature every year.
- It can also create thousands of new jobs like the collection of waste plastic, cleaning and processing, etc.

Source: [PIB](#)

Terms in News

Island of Agalega: Located about 1,000 km north of the archipelago's main island.

K-shaped recovery: happens when different sections of an economy recover at starkly different rates.

Horizontal reservation: It refers to the equal opportunity provided to other categories of beneficiaries, such as women, veterans, the transgender community, and individuals with disabilities, cutting through the vertical categories.

Minsky moment: coined by the economist Hyman Minsky. It marks the decline of asset prices, causing mass panic and the inability of debtors to pay their interest and principal. India has reached its Minsky moment.

PANGO: It is a system of assigning names to different lineages of SARS-CoV-2 genomes. It was developed by virologists in the UK and Australia early in 2020.

Chagos island:

- In 1965 Britain separated the Chagos Islands from Mauritius and set up a joint military base with the United States on Diego Garcia, the largest of the isles.
- Diego Garcia played a strategic role during the Cold War, and then as an airbase, including during the war in Afghanistan.
- Britain insists the islands belong to London and has renewed a lease agreement with the United States to use Diego Garcia until 2036.