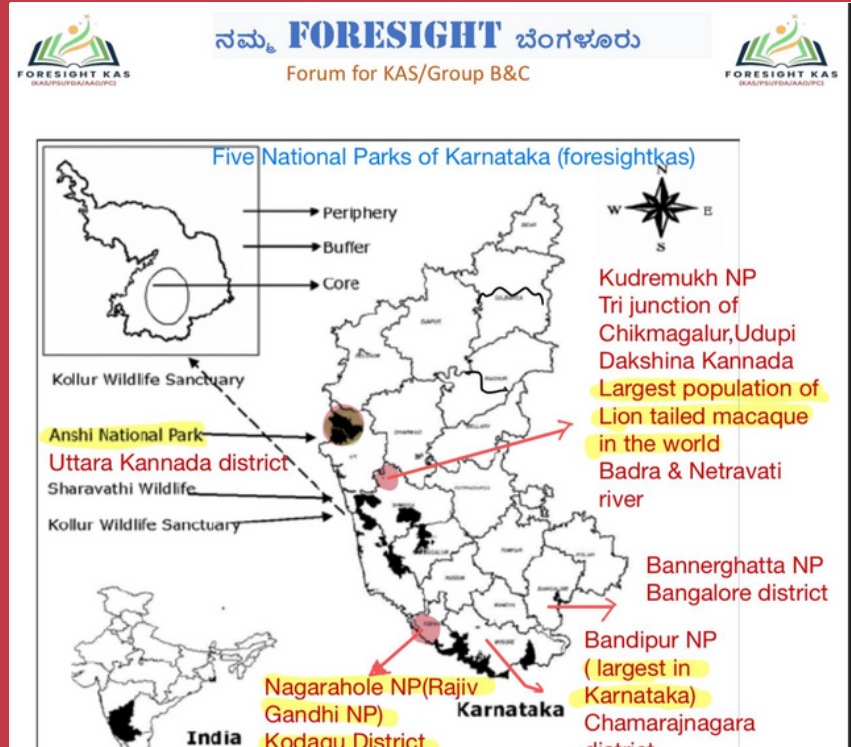


NEWS-INSHORTS

- Mahajan committee on border dispute settlement between Karnataka and Maharashtra
- Tamil nadu is set to become the first state to launch its own climate change mission
- Vanikaran project: Afforestation project –Kerala
- worlds first Vedic clock is being constructed in Ujjain (MP)
- Nilgiri Tahr Aka Nilgiri Ibex, a State animal of Tamil Nadu
- Kadlekai Parishe' is a popular groundnut fair in Bengaluru's
- PT Usha becomes first woman IOA president



KARNATAKA/INDIA/INTERNATIONAL-CURRENT AFFAIRS

Current affairs- National, International & Karnataka

(January, February, March-2023)

JANUARY-2023

- Mahajan committee on border dispute settlement between Karnataka and Maharashtra
- FIFA world cup-2022 Argentina, Lionel messi was the captain place: Qatar Runner up –France
 - For the best player- golden ball award was given to messi and the golden boot those who score more goals. Once in 4 year the game is held
- Karnataka startup policy-(2022-27), to add 10,000 startups to the business ecosystem in the next 5 years , it will create 100cr venture capital fund , it add NAIN(new age innovation network) centres- 35 IT/ electronics and 15 Biotechnology institutions outside Bangalore
- state government have set up two sports centers one in Udupi and Bengaluru
- Tamil nadu is set to become the first state to launch its own climate change mission
- friends of library project was launched – by Tamil Nadu
- Vanikaran project: Afforestation project –Kerala
- UAE to host WTO ministerial meet 2024
- International thermonuclear Experimental reactor, The reactor built in France for carrying nuclear fusion research, India joined in 2005 the Indian institute for Plasma research (Ahmadabad) and Department of Atomic energy is the lead institute participating ,
- Sahitya Akademi award in 24 Languages (Rajathani & English), for Karnataka Bahutattvada Bhaarat mattu by M.Chinnaswamy, Sahitya academy 12thmarch 1954
- Canara bank win the award for the banker bank award
- Avani Lekhara receives person of the year award- Rifle shooter
- Ajay Kumar Reddy is an Indian blind cricketer classified under B2 category who is also the current captain of the India national blind cricket team , the Indian national blind cricket team won the T20 world cup for the blind for the third time in row
- worlds first Vedic clock is being constructed in Ujjain (MP)
- Government of Karnataka notified Bankapura wolf wildlife sanctuary. It is Karnataka's first wolf sanctuary. It is located in Koppal district, Kalyana -Karnataka region of Karnataka.
- The Indian Army has ordered additional 155 mm/52 calibre self-propelled howitzers (SPHs) known as K9 Vajra-T designed by South Korea's Hanwha Aerospace,

- Mitochondrial replacement therapy (MRT), sometimes called mitochondrial donation, is the replacement of mitochondria in one or more cells to prevent or ameliorate disease.
- Fame India Scheme is the second phase of the National Mission on Electric Mobility Plan. The Main purpose of the scheme is to advance in the eco-friendly vehicle Industry and reduce the pollution caused by fuel burning.
- Under the initiative, Sustainable Aquaculture In Mangrove Ecosystem (SAIME), farmers have taken up cultivation of shrimp on 20 hectares at Chaital in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas, and 10 hectares at Madhabpur in adjoining South 24 Parganas.
- Nilgiri Tahr Aka Nilgiri Ibex, a State animal of Tamil Nadu
- Sammed Shikharji in Parasnath Hills in Giridih district, home to the highest peak in the state some 160 km from Ranchi, is also the biggest pilgrimage destination for people of Jainism faith
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme. Its objective is to improve the quality of life of people living in border villages- Vibrant village scheme
- Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) is an initiative toward the provision and enrichment of rural India by involving higher education institutes to bring development and change
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will address the 108th Indian Science Congress (ISC) on 3rd January. The focal theme of this year's ISC is "Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment". It will witness discussions on issues of sustainable development, women empowerment and the role of science & technology in achieving this. the event was held in Nagpur Maharashtra
- Central Horticultural Experiment Station (CHES) in Kodagu have developed a new variety called 'Arka Coorg Ravi', which will further improve coffee-based avocado cultivation in the district.
- Among southern States, Karnataka tops in distribution of Kisan Credit Cards
- Koustav Chatterjee has become the 78th Grandmaster of the country.
- World's longest river cruise from Varanasi to Assam via Bangladesh to start from January 2023 Known as Ganga Vilas Cruise, this cruise will connect Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh to Dibrugarh in Assam
- Kalasa-Banduri Nala Project The project is undertaken by the Government of Karnataka to improve drinking water supply to the three districts of Belagavi, Dharwad, and Gadag It involves building across Kalasa and Banduri, two tributaries of the Mahadayi river to divert water to the Malaprabha, a tributary of Krishna River.
- 'Kadlekai Parishe' is a popular groundnut fair in Bengaluru's Basavanagudi The festival was organised in the lane opposite the famous Bull Temple of Basavanagudi. During the fair, groundnut farmers from all over the state bring bags of groundnuts to sell them at the fair.
- PT Usha becomes first woman IOA president

- Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium, Rourkela, Odisha- World's largest Hockey Stadium
- The BIND scheme, a vehicle of the Information & Broadcasting Ministry, provides financial support to Prasar Bharati for expansion and upgradation of its broadcast infrastructure and content development
- A bird survey conducted at the Silent Valley National Park in the last week of December identified 141 species, of which 17 were new. So far, 175 species of birds have been spotted in Silent Valley
- Karnataka is set to get its first wildlife forensic sciences laboratory in Bengaluru
- India's 26th National Youth Festival will take place at Hubballi-Dharwad in Karnataka from 12th to 16th January 2023.
- A moment of pride for Karnataka as Hampi & Mysuru are enlisted in the Swadesh Darshan Scheme
- Ameenpur is a small lake in Sangareddy District in the Indian state of Telangana and on the edge of the city of Hyderabad. It is the first body of water in India to be recognized as a Biodiversity Heritage Site and is the first biodiversity site to be approved in an urban area
- Parvatmala : National Ropeways Development Program
- FOR THE first time in the country, Kerala government has launched a welfare fund board for the workers registered for the MGNREGS and the state's urban job guarantee scheme Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme.
- Mandya district to host 87th Kannada Sahitya Sammelana. Sahitya Sammelana place decided in the meeting of the last day of 86th Sahitya Sammelana at Haveri.
- In a first, Haryana school installs system generating drinking water from air
- Kerala declared first State to enable digital banking in all eligible accounts
- India, Japan to hold joint air exercise Veer Guardian 2023
- Kashmir's first Jnanpith awardee, Rehman Rahi passes away at 98.
- Village Defence Guards Scheme 2022 (VDGS-2022), is a programme with a defence component that was only recently introduced for the state of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).
- President Droupadi Murmu confers Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award on Ms. Reena Vinod Pushkarna (Israel) Popularly known as "Curry Queen" in Israel, Ms. Pushkarna, a celebrity Indian chef, is furthering India-Israel relations through Culinary Diplomacy
- Ms. Aboobacker shot to fame with her first novel Chandragiri Teeradalli in 1981, Among her other important works are Sahana, Vajragalu, and Panjara.
- President Droupadi Murmu confers Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award on Sivakumar Nadesan (Sri Lanka) for his contribution in Community Welfare. He has been relentlessly working for the welfare of Indian origin people in Sri Lanka.
- Kerala Tourism Department is likely to highlight Beypore 'Uru', the wooden dhows handcrafted by artisans and carpenters, and the water sports there in the detailed project report (DPR) to be submitted to the Centre for the Swadesh Darshan project.

- Impressed with Karnataka's performance in the implementation of the Rejuvenating Watershed for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development (REWARD) scheme, the World Bank has decided to get agricultural officers from Sub-Saharan countries to visit the State to learn from its experience
- West Bengal | ICGS Kamla Devi, the Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV), was commissioned in Kolkata today. Indian Coast Guard DG V S Pathania was present as Chief Guest during the ceremony that took place at GRSE's (Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers).
- According to the first-ever synchronised all-India Elephant Population Estimation, Karnataka(6049) has the highest number of elephants, followed by Assam and Kerala.
- Sudeep is the brand ambassador of "Punyakoti scheme
- Kollam will be officially declared India's first Constitution literate district by Chief Minister of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan.
- PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) is a Special Micro-Credit Facility launched by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, for providing affordable loans to street vendors.
- Rajnath Singh launches 'Soul of Steel' Alpine Challenge to promote tourism in border areas
- Right to Sight: Rajasthan first state to implement blindness control policy
- PM Modi announces 'Aarogya Maitri' for medical supplies to developing nations
- The Ganga Sagar Mela is a religious festival celebrated on Sagardwip (Sagar Island) in the West Bengal state of India.
- The Ganga Sagar Mela is the second biggest fair in India after Kumbha Mela of India.
- US approves world's first vaccine for declining honey bees The vaccine targets a disease known to weaken colonies by attacking bee larvae.
- India's maiden human space flight - Gaganyaan project - with the first uncrewed mission expected in the last quarter of 2023 aimed at validating the performance of the human-rated launch vehicle, orbital module propulsion system and recovery operation
- separate clinic in the name of 'Ayushmati' for women while clinic health system has been implemented in the state (Ayushmati Clinic)
- Under Nkar Samman Yojan through DBT, s. 5,000 transte to the bank account of each labourer engaged in weaving and pre-loom activities. The scheme has benefitted 1 lakh labourers
- Sthree Samarthya Scheme implemented in State for the first time - under Sthree Samarthya Scheme to make SHG members successful entrepreneur
- China has the world's largest reserves of Rare metals...
- Hyderabad to host India's first Fourth Industrial Revolution centre on healthcare, life sciences
- India Post on Monday started an evening post of-fice in Bengaluru, which is the second such post office in Karnataka after the first one opened in Dharwad

- **Note:India's first 3D printed post office is slated to come up in Karnataka**
- **The first inter-city operation of a zero emission bus by the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) appears unlikely by this year-end as the prototype of the vehicle is yet to arrive from Hyderabad for the inaugural run.**
- **ISRO's Venus mission, called Shukrayaan I, was expected to be launched in December 2024. The idea was born in 2012.**
- **U.S. and the European space agencies have Venus missions planned for 2031-referring to VERITAS and EnVision, respectively-while "China might go anytime: 2026, 2027.**
- **For the first time in country, Rajasthan government implemented the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) to secure the future of employees.**
- **The Rajasthan government launched the Indira Mahila Shakti Udaan Scheme which drew the attention of the entire country.**
- **India and Russia, Indo- Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL), has started producing AK-203 Kalashnikov assault rifles at Korwa in Uttar Pradesh.**
- **Bengaluru-based technology-driven mining services company, Squadrone, has become the first Indian firm to fly autonomous drones in underground mines in the country. Squadrone successfully completed a Proof of Concept at Hindustan Zinc Ltd.'s (Vedanta) underground mines in Udaipur.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the State government's ambitious programme of upgrading tandas, hattis, and palyas (human settlements or hamlets of the oppressed Banjara community) into revenue villages by distributing land rights documents to the dwellers at a public meeting on the outskirts of Malkhed in Kalaburagi district.**
- **The first ever joint exercise between the special forces of the Indian Army and the Egyptian Army named "Exercise Cyclone-I" is in progress at Jaisalmer in Rajasthan since 14 January 2023.**
- **bal adhar cards under the age of 5 year**
- **ESA's JUICE mission clicks first photo of Jupiter and its moons even before its launch**

- Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA)
- Cane toad dubbed 'Toadzilla' and believed by Australian park rangers to be the world's biggest toad is held by Queensland Department of Environment and Science Ranger Kylee Gray, in Conway National Park, Queensland, Australia.
- Vagir is among the six submarines being built in India by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, in collaboration with the French M/s Naval Group under the over Rs23,000 crore Project -75.
- Wayanad becomes the first district in the country to provide basic documents and facilities such as Aadhaar card, ration card, birth/death certificates, election ID card, bank account and health insurance to all tribespeople.
- UNESCO has decided to dedicate the International Day of Education on the 24th of January, 2024 to Afghan girls and women. Director general Audrey Azoulay said that no country in the world should bar women and girls from receiving an education and it is a universal human right that must be respected
- Papilio buddha, the Malabar banded peacock, is a species of swallowtail butterfly found in the Western Ghats of India. The Government of Kerala declared it as the official Kerala state butterfly.
- Centre has decided to nominate Assam's Charaideo Maidams the Ahom equivalent of the ancient Egyptian pyramids for the UNESCO World Heritage Site status this year.
- Bharat Biotech will launch its intranasal COVID-19 vaccine iNCOVACC, the first of its kind in India.
- Madagascar is home to a unique set of animal species, including the ring-tailed lemur, and the world's smallest chameleon. Many species may face extinction, owing to human influences.
- Pokhri Sanrakshan Samiti is a community movement to preserve Lake Tsomgo located at an altitude of 12,310 ft. in East Sikkim
- Tsomgo Pokhri Sanrakshan Samiti (TPSS), is the first lake conservation committee formed in Sikkim.
- PARIVESH is a web based, role based workflow application which has been developed for online submission and monitoring of the proposals submitted by the

proponents for seeking Environment, Forest, Wildlife and CRZ Clearances from Central, State and district level authorities.

- he tableau from Karnataka 'Nari Shakti' on display during the rehearsal for the Republic Day Parade in New Delhi on Monday. Representations of Padma awardees Sulagitti Narasamma, Tulasi Gowda, and Saalumara Thimmakka are seen on the tableau.
- The Leopard 2 is a third generation German main battle tank (MBT).
- Tri-Services Amphibious Exercise, AMPHEX 2023 was conducted at Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh from 17 to 22 January 23.
- More than 90 fossil nests of India's largest dinosaurs discovered in Narmada Valley
- The Shuchi Scheme, an initiative of the government of Karnataka in India, will once again provide schoolgirls with sanitary napkins
- Mr. Doshi was the first architect from India to be awarded the Pritzker Prize. He was also awarded the Royal Institute of British Architects' Royal Gold Medal in 2022.
- Jacinda Ardern replaced by Chris Hipkins as New Zealand PM
- Monument Mitra scheme, which entails adopting a heritage site and maintaining it
- EPFO launches "Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0"- A District Outreach Program for expanding its presence in more than 685 districts of the country
- The cheetahs will be transported to India by February-end and reintroduced at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh, where eight such cats were brought from Namibia in September last year under a similar agreement.
- The Rashtrapati Bhavan gardens, popularly known as the Mughal Gardens, was renamed Amrit Udyan.
- Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) has commissioned its first floating solar power plant with 5 megawatt capacity taking the total solar power generation capacity of the company to 224 MW at nine locations.
- Researchers have found the oldest-known fossil of a worm-like amphibian known as a caecilian (Nature). The findings extend the caecilian fossil record by 35 million years. The creature combines features found in the common ancestor of living

caecilians with those of an extinct group of amphibians called the dissorophoid temnospondyls.

- Uttarakhand selected as best state tableau of Republic Day parade
- The nine Judge Constitutional Bench of Supreme Court in Justice K. S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) vs Union of India case, unanimously reaffirmed the right to privacy as a fundamental right under the Constitution of India.
- National Judicial Commission (NJC) Bill 2022: Recently, private member bill National Judicial Commission (NJC) Bill 2022 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha. NJC Bill 2022 aims to regulate the appointment of judges to the High Courts and the Supreme Court through the National Judicial Commission.
- Recently, Election Commission of India (ECI) hosted the 2nd International Conference on the theme 'Use of Technology and Elections Integrity' at New Delhi.
- ASPIRATIONAL BLOCK PROGRAMME (ABP): Prime Minister launched the government's Aspirational Block Programme (ABP), which is aimed at improving performance of blocks lagging on various development parameters.
- In India, Block based development was introduced in 1952 under the Community Development Programme for holistic development of blocks.
- RULE OF LAW INDEX: Index is published by the World Justice Project (WJP), a US based civil society group. In 2022, India was ranked 77th out of 140 countries.
- ELECTRONIC SUPREME COURT REPORTS (E-SCR) PROJECT: Chief Justice of India announced the launch of e-SCR project to provide access to judgements to common public.
- E-SCR is an initiative to provide digital version of apex court's judgments in manner as they are reported in official law report 'Supreme Court Reports'.
- These judgments will be accessible on Supreme Court's website, mobile app and on National Judicial Data Grid's judgment portal.
- South-South Cooperation: South-South Cooperation is a broad framework for collaboration and exchange among countries of the South in the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental, and technical domains.
- The Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (BAPA) was adopted by 138 UN Member States in Argentina, in, 1978.
 - Triangular cooperation: It involves Southern-driven partnerships between two or more developing countries supported by a

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developed country(ies)/or multilateral organization(s) to implement development cooperation programmes and projects. India can play significant in linking North and South.

- **Bhopal Declaration:**
 - It was released after Think20 (T20) meeting, official engagement group of G20 bringing together leading think tanks and research centers worldwide.
 - Egyptian President was on a visit to India from 24 to 26 January 2023 as he was 'chief guest' for the 74th Republic Day celebrations held in New Delhi.
 - Commemorative Postal Stamps to mark 75 years of establishment of India-Egypt relations were also exchanged between the two sides.
 - As the President of G20, India has invited Egypt as a guest country for the summit to be held in 2023.
 - India's trade deficit with China has crossed the \$100 billion mark for the first time ever in the history of India-China bilateral trade relations.
 - **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas:**
 - The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is observed on 9th January.
 - It commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India on 9th January, 1915.
 - 1st PBD Convention was organised on 9 January 2003
 - Since 2015, PBD Convention has been organised once every 2 years.
 - India hosted the 17th PBD Convention in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
 - The theme of the 17th PBD was "Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in Amrit Kaal".
 - In the Convention, Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards were also conferred.
 - India deployed a women-only platoon of peacekeepers to the UN Mission in Abyei on the border of Sudan and South Sudan as part of the Indian Battalion in the United Nations Interim Security Force, Abyei (UNISFA).(2011)
 - **ASIAN PACIFIC POSTAL UNION (APPU):**
 - India will take over the charge of Secretary General of APPU for a tenure of 4 years.
 - APPU is an intergovernmental organization of 32-member countries of the Asian-Pacific region.
 - Goal of APPU is to extend, facilitate and improve postal relations between member countries and to promote cooperation in the field of postal services.
 - It is the only Restricted Union of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in the region, which is a specialized agency of UN.
 - Headquarter: Bangkok, Thailand.
- Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET):**
- Recently, inaugural dialogue of iCET was held.
 - ICET is a unique initiative led by the Indian National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and the U.S. National Security Council (NSC). It aims to expand partnership in critical and emerging technologies.

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- **Significance of iCET:** Vital for India's growing role as a trusted supply chain partner and contributor in the global technology value chain. Deals directly with disruptive domains which are central to the next Industrial Revolution and future warfare. Open new markets for India's deep technology players. Since most critical and emerging technologies today are dualuse, it can give a fillip to the two countries' innovation ecosystem. o Potentially opens the door for the US to lift existing export control restrictions.

WTO: NEW AGREEMENT ON FISHERIES SUBSIDIES:

- Switzerland became the first WTO member to formally submit its acceptance of the WTO's new Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.
- Switzerland gave instrument of acceptance to Director-General of WTO at the informal WTO ministerial meeting held on the side lines of the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland. Agreement was adopted during the 12th Ministerial Conference of WTO in 2022 held in Geneva, Switzerland under 'Geneva Package'
- Acceptances from two-thirds of WTO members are needed for the Agreement to come into effect.
- "Survival of the Richest: The India story" report recently released by Oxfam India, highlighted that India is not only one of the fastest growing economies in the world but also one of the most unequal countries.
- **Income inequality:** The most widely cited measure of inequality of outcomes - is typically measured by Gini coefficient. Distribution of inequality in economy represented by Lorenz curve and degree of income inequality measured through Gini Coefficient.
- Gini coefficient is a measure of inequality where a rating of 0 represents total equality, with everyone taking an equal share, and a rating of 1 (or sometimes 100) would mean that one person has everything.
- **SCHEME FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO DIGITAL PAYMENTS:**
- Recently cabinet approved an incentive scheme for promotion of RuPay Debit Cards and low-value BHIM-UPI transactions (person-to-merchant or P2M) for Financial Year 2022-23. Features of Scheme Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is implementing this scheme. Approved scheme has a financial outlay of ₹ 2,600 crore. Banks will be provided financial incentive, for promoting Point-of-Sale (PoS) and ecommerce transactions using RuPay Debit Cards and low-value BHIM-UPI transactions (P2M). The scheme will also promote UPI LITE and UPI 123PAY as economical and user-friendly digital payments solutions and enable penetration of digital payments across all sectors and segments of the population.
- **MULTI-STATE COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES (MSCS) ACT, 2002:**
- Cabinet has approved three national level Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) under MSCS Act, 2002. Setting up of three national level MSCS will help in achieving the goal of 'Sahakar-se-Samridhi' (Prosperity through Cooperation) through inclusive growth model of cooperatives.

- Though 'Cooperative Societies' is a State Subject, MSCS is regulated by Centre under MSCS, Act 2002. o MSCS are cooperative societies whose activities are not confined to one state and serve interests of individuals in more than one state. In related development, Ministry of cooperation is planning to set up world's largest university for cooperative sector for promoting cooperative education, training, research and development.
- **GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROSPECTS REPORT BY WORLD BANK**
WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION AND PROSPECTS 2023 REPORT:
- It is produced by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), in partnership with UN Conference on Trade and Development and five UN regional economic commissions.
WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM (WEF) RELEASES GLOBAL RISK REPORT 2023
- **UTKARSH 2.0:**
- Reserve Bank of India's Medium-term Strategy Framework – Utkarsh 2.0- for period 2023- 2025 was launched.
- First strategy framework (Utkarsh 2022) covered period 2019-2022.
- Vision in Utkarsh 2.0 that will guide RBI are Excellence in performance of its functions; Strengthened trust of citizens and Institutions in RBI;
- Enhanced relevance and significance in national and global roles; Transparent, accountable and ethics-driven internal governance; o Best-in-class and environment-friendly digital and physical infrastructure; o Innovative, dynamic and skilled human resources.
- After China, India became second country in world to start 'trade-plus-one' (T+1) settlement cycle in top listed securities.
WORLD EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL OUTLOOK: It is an annual report of International Labour Organisation (ILO) that provides labour market projections for 2023 and 2024 and presents trends in labour productivity growth. Global employment will grow by just 1 percent in 2023, and global unemployment rate has been pegged at 5.8 percent.
PRAJJWALA CHALLENGE:
- It was launched, by Ministry of Rural Development, to invite ideas, solutions and actions that can transform rural economy.
- It is launched under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
Defence systems against drones
- **Naval Anti Drone System (NADS):** First indigenously developed comprehensive anti-drone system developed by DRDO. It has capabilities for both hard kill (attacking vital drone components) and soft kill (misguiding, signal jamming etc.). DRDO's D-4 Drone System: Acquired by all three forces, it can detect, identify, and neutralize different types of drones within a 4 km radius. Indrajaal: Indigenous autonomous drone defence dome developed by a private Indian firm Grene Robotics. Israel's SMASH 2000 Plus system: Being used by Indian Navy, this system is installed mainly on assault rifles providing hard kill option.
WASSENAAR ARRANGEMENT:

- At the 26th annual Plenary of the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA), India assumed the chairmanship for one year. About Wassenaar Arrangement
- It is a multilateral export control regime which aims to promote regional and international security and stability by controlling the export of conventional weapons and dual-use goods and technologies. o WA members agree to exchange information on sensitive dual-use goods and technologies and report on such transfers and denials of controlled items to non-participants.
- It was formally established in 1996. It has has 42 members.

INS Submarine:

- Fifth Scorpene-class submarine INS Vagir was commissioned into Indian Navy. INS Vagir, launched in 2020, is among the six submarines being built in India under Indian Navy's Project-75 at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai under collaboration with Naval Group, France. Also called 'Sand Shark', INS Vagir represents 'Stealth and Fearlessness'. Vagir can undertake multifarious types of missions i.e., anti-surface, anti-submarine, intelligence gathering, mine laying, area surveillance, etc.
- Project-75, signed in 2005, includes indigenous construction of six submarines of Scorpene (dieselelectric) design. Four of them, Kalvari, Khanderi, Karanj, and Vela have already been delivered to Navy and commissioned. INS Vagsheer will be commissioned in late 2023. P-75I, succeeds P75, is part of 30-year submarine building plan that ends in 2030. P-75I envisages construction of six conventional submarines with better sensors and weapons and Air Independent Propulsion System (AIP).

PRITHVI-II:

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) carried out a successful test launch of tactical ballistic missile Prithvi-II. Missile, which is powered by light propulsion twin engines, has a range of around 350 km and can carry 500-1,000 kg of warheads. It uses an advanced inertial navigation system to strike the set target. Prithvi was developed by DRDO under Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (conceived by Dr A P J Abdul Kalam).
- Other missiles under this program: Agni, Trishul, Akash, Nag

EXERCISE IN NEWS:

- **Veer Guardian 2023:** It is bilateral Air exercise between Indian Air Force (IAF) and Japan Air Self Defence Force (JASDF).
- **Varuna:** It is a Bilateral Naval Exercise between India and France.
- **Cyclone – I:** It is the first joint exercise between the special forces of the Indian Army and the Egyptian Army.
- **TROPEX:** It is Indian Navy's major maritime exercise that is conducted biennially and also witnesses
- participation of Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Coast Guard assets.
 - **AMPHEX 2023:** It is a biennial Tri-Services Exercise aimed at joint training of elements of all three services.

- **Tarkash 2023:** It is the 6th Edition of Counter Terrorism Exercise between India's NSG (National Security Guard) and US Special Operations Forces (SOF).
- **Topchi 2023:** Indian army carried out the annual exercise named 'Exercise Topchi'. Focus of the exercise was to showcase indigenous capabilities and strides made in achieving self-reliance in defense sector.
- **THE WILDLIFE (PROTECTION) AMENDMENT ACT, 2022:**
- The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides a legal framework for the protection of various species of wild animals and plants, management of their habitats, regulation and control of trade in wild animals, plants and products made from them.
- The act also lists schedules of plants and animals that are afforded various degrees of protection and monitoring by the government.
- What is the CITES?
- The CITES is an international agreement to which States and regional economic integration organizations adhere voluntarily.
- CITES was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- CITES entered into force in July 1975.
- The CITES Secretariat is administered by UNEP (The United Nations Environment Programme) and is located at Geneva, Switzerland.
- India is a signatory to the CITES.
- What are the Constitutional Provisions for Wildlife Conservation?
- The 42nd Amendment Act, 1976, Forests and Protection of Wild Animals and Birds was transferred from State to Concurrent List.
- Article 51A(g) of the Constitution states that it shall be the fundamental duty of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment including forests and Wildlife.
- Article 48 A in the Directive Principles of State policy, mandates that the State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.
- Reduces the number of schedules to Four
- Schedule I
 - Animal species that will enjoy the highest level of protection
- Schedule II
 - Animal species that will be subject to a lesser degree of protection
- Schedule III
 - Protected Plant species
- Schedule IV
 - Specimens listed in the Appendices under CITES (scheduled specimens)
- Trade in elephants: Prior to 2022 act , the only way to acquire a captive elephant was through inheritance, now amended act may provide an open

sale and purchase of elephants thereby defeating the whole purpose of the Wildlife Protection Act.

- **FOREST (CONSERVATION) RULES, 2022:**
- The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) reiterated that Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022 are violative of the Forest Rights Act, 2006.
- Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022 have been promulgated solely to implement the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- The Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022 will replace the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003.
- **Establishment of Committees:** Rules provides for constitution of advisory committee and Regional Empowered Committee by central government and Project Screening Committee by State Government and Union territory Administration.
- These committees will advise union and state governments/UT administration in matters involving use of forest land for non-forest purposes.
 - **Prior Approval of the Central Government:** The approval shall be accorded by the Central Government in two stages:
- 'In- Principle' approval, after considering the recommendation of the Advisory Committee subject to fulfilment
- of stipulated conditions.
- 'Final' approval after having received compliance report and ensuring its completeness.
 - **Compensatory Afforestation (CA):** Rules aims to make land availability for compensatory afforestation easier.
- The Rules have allowed CA to be undertaken in states/UTs other than one in which forest land is being diverted, de-reserved or leased.
 - **Accredited compensatory afforestation:** The purpose is to encourage people to raise vegetation on its land and sell it to persons who need to meet compensatory afforestation targets under the Act.
 - **Creation of Land Bank:** State/UT, may for purpose of Compensatory Afforestation create a Land bank under the administrative control of the Department of Forest.
- **Fly ash:**
 - Fly ash is a particulate material produced from the combustion of coal in thermal power plants.
 - It is created when the mineral impurities in the coal fuse together as they come out of the combustion chamber, then cool down and harden.
 - **Chemical composition:** Composed of silica, aluminum, iron, calcium, and oxygen. Plus, arsenic and lead can be found at trace levels.
 - 2 common types of Fly Ash

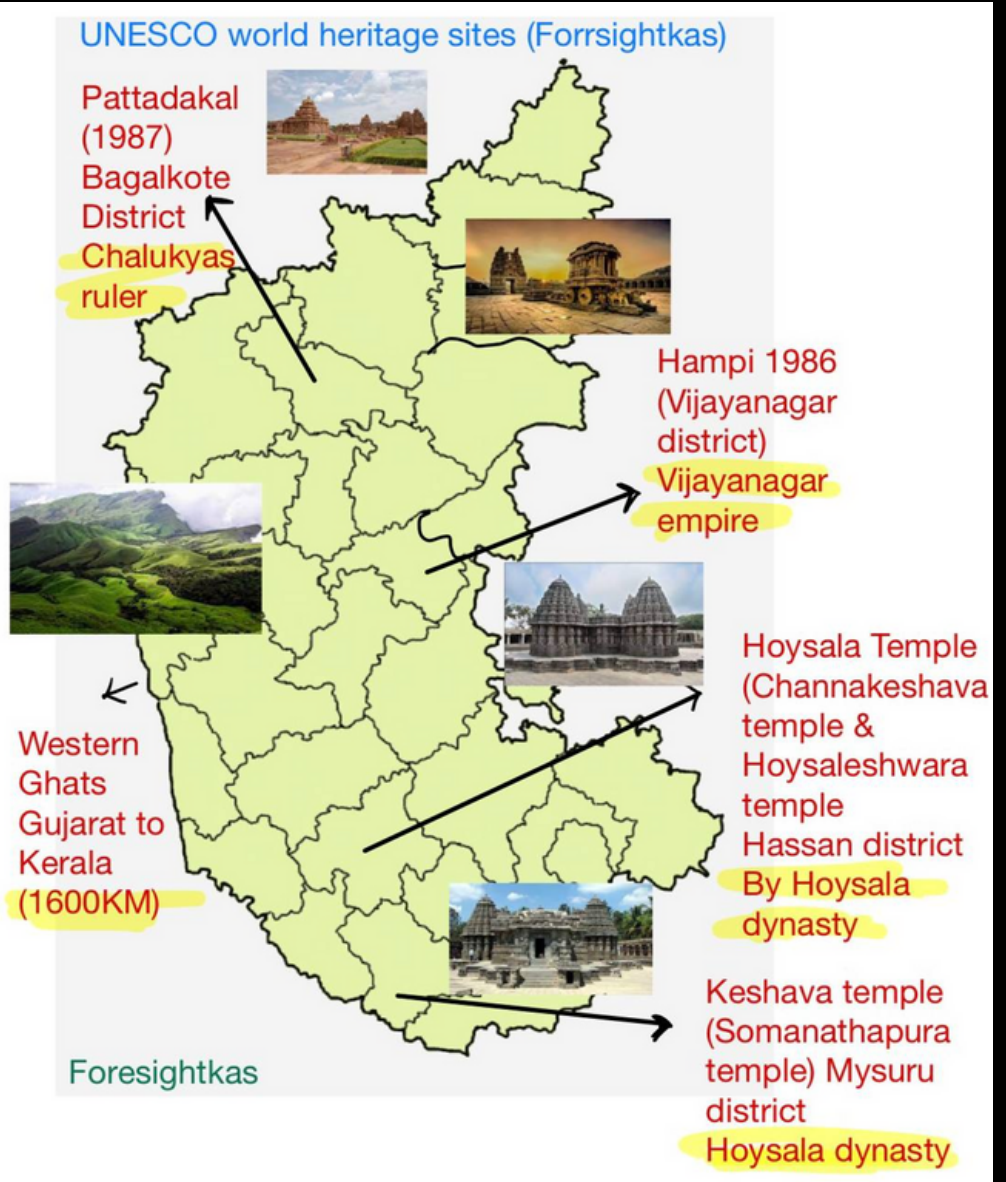
- oClass F: Low-calcium and carbon content less than 5 percent.
- Class C: High-calcium and carbon content of less than 2 percent.
- **SAMUDRAYAAN MISSION:**
- Samudrayaan Mission is aimed to develop a self-propelled manned submersible (MATSYA 6000) to carry three human beings to a water depth of 6,000 meters for deep ocean exploration.
- MATSYA 6000 is being developed by National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai.
- It has developed 6000m depth rated Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) and various other underwater instruments such as Autonomous Coring System (ACS), Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) and Deep Sea Mining System (DSM) for the exploration of deep sea.
- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways has invited bids for the ₹41,000-crore mega International Container Transshipment Port (ICTP) at Great Nicobar. It is being planned for the Galathea Bay of Great Nicobar Island.
- **URBAN FORESTRY AND URBAN GREENING IN DRYLANDS REPORT:** BY Report was produced in framework of Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Green Urban Oases Programme, launched to improve resilience of dryland cities by tackling climate, health, food and economic challenges.
- **1ST ALL INDIA ANNUAL STATES' MINISTERS CONFERENCE:**
- 1st All India Annual States' Ministers Conference on "Water Vision@2047" was recently held in Bhopal.
- 'Water Vision Park' was proposed to be established to promote idea of afforestation to achieve goal of water conservation.
- **NATURE RISK PROFILE (NRP):** UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and S&P Global has launched Nature Risk Profile.
- NRP is aimed at enabling financial sector to measure and address nature-related risk by providing scientifically robust and actionable analytics on nature impacts and dependencies.
- Its methodology is based on Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), adopted in December 2022.
- **WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOND (WCB):**
- Also Known as Rhino Bond, WCB is a five-year \$150m sustainable development bond, to protect and increase black rhino populations in two protected areas in South Africa.
 - WCB is an outcome-based World Bank structured bond that channels private capital to finance conservation activities.
- **ASIAN WATERBIRD CENSUS (AWC):**
- AWC is part of global International Waterbird Census (IWC) coordinated by Wetland

- International (WI). It was initiated in 1987 in Indian subcontinent.
 - In India, AWC is jointly coordinated by Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and WI (global not-forprofit organisation)
- White tufted royal butterfly: It is a rare butterfly species that was spotted recently at Kalliyad (Kerala).
- NEELAKURINJI (STROBILANTHES KUNTHIANA): Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (MoEF) has listed Neelakurinji under Schedule III of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, including it on list of protected plants.
 - About Neelakurinji
- It is a shrub that grows in the shola forests of Western Ghats in South India.
- Neelakurinji flowers bloom once every 12 years.
- Plant is named after the famous Kunthi River which flows through Kerala's Silent Valley
- National Park, where plant occurs abundantly.✓ Eravikulam National Park, near Munnar, is known for widespread blooming of kurinji.
- Blue colour of Kurinji has given Nilgiri hills its name, literally meaning Blue Mountains.
- MUNROE THURUTHU ISLAND:
- Study by National Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS) revealed anthropogenic interventions as main reason for sinking of Munroe Thuruthu Island.
- Almost 39% of its land area has been lost in past 2 decades.
- Island is in confluence of Ashtamudi Lake and Kallada River in Kerala.
- Island's subsidence began with construction of Thenmala dam under Kallada Irrigation Project.
- DARK SKY RESERVE:
- Talacauvery in Kodagu District, Karnataka has emerged as South India's Hanle.
- Hanle (in Ladakh) is India's first Dark Sky Reserve.
- India's first Fourth Industrial Revolution Centre on healthcare, life sciences will be set up in Hyderabad.
- BharOS is an AOSP (Android Open-Source Project) based operating system with no Google apps or services.
- It is developed by JandK Operations Private Limited, a non-profit organization incubated at IIT Madras.
 - Major difference between BharOS and Google's .Android OS is that BharOS does not ship with Google services.
- 46. Khelo India Youth Games is being held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.



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