

Indian Space Association, NASSCOM and Deloitte India, published report ‘Exploring opportunities for Indian downstream Spacetech’

- As per report, the current size of the **global Space economy** is \$ 546 billion and India’s share is **only 2%**.
 - India has a vision of increasing its share to **10%**.
- In the absence of global consensus, report adopted **OECD’s framework for segmenting space value chain into upstream, downstream and Auxiliary categories.**
- Key highlights**

Specification	Upstream	Downstream	Auxiliary segment
Description	All activities, products and infrastructure that ensure development, testing, launching, operations and monitoring of space assets.	All applications, services and devices relying on satellites to create business value including Earth Observation, Satellite, SATCOM , etc.	Additional space-related activities such as space insurance, awareness, education and training.
Keydrivers	Miniaturization of avionics and reduction in launch-costs, Commercialization and increased investments by private players , etc.	Leveraging software industry, AI , increasing data processing/computing power and reducing storage costs , etc.	Increasing interest on space-based education, research , and a surge in use of space-based assets calls for insurance schemes, etc.
Projected impact	~\$ 100 billion by 2031.	~\$610 billion by 2031	Space insurance services, commercialisation of spin-off products , etc.

- Spin-off products** are spacebased innovations and technologies that find application in other sectors like **use of:**
 - space-derived data processing algorithm for **environmental monitoring or**
 - advanced materials** developed for spacecraft for **aerospace, automotive, and construction,**

WHO calls for establishing Mental Health as a Universal Human Right (UHR)

- On account of **World Mental Health Day (Oct 10)**, WHO has asked its members to accelerate efforts in mental health in a human-rights-based approach.
- Recognizing mental health as a fundamental human right **acknowledges its profound influence on overall quality of life.**
 - A person’s mental well-being impacts **their ability to exercise other rights, such as the right to education and the right to work.**
- Measures required to recognize Mental health as UHR**
 - Transformation** of societal attitudes and government policies.
 - Awareness and education** to destigmatize mental health issues.
 - Provide Accessible** mental health services to all.
 - Shifting from psychiatric hospitals and **focusing on mental health treatment at community level.**
- Initiatives taken**
 - Adoption of **Paro Declaration**, which aims **to provide universal access to People-centred Mental Health Care** and Services.
 - Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele MANAS)** has been launched.
 - More than **3.5 lakh people were counselled** through this initiative.
 - National Mental Health Programme** was launched (1982) to ensure the availability and accessibility of minimum mental healthcare for all.

- According to WHO, **Mental Health is not merely the absence of mental disorders** but a positive state of **mental and emotional well-being.**
- State of Mental Health:**
 - 1/7 people** are living with mental health conditions in the South-East Asia Region.
 - 50%** of the mental disorders are due to anxiety and depression in both men and women in the WHO South-East Asia Region.

A standardised 'Protocol for Identification and Management of Malnutrition in Children' launched

- Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) launched the protocol in collaboration with the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** and the **Ministry of Ayush**.
- The protocol provides detailed **guidelines** for the **identification** and **management** of **malnourished** children at the **Anganwadi level**.
 - ⊕ The identification of malnourished children and their treatment is an integral aspect of **Mission Poshan 2.0**
- **Key Components of the Protocol:**
 - ⊕ **Growth monitoring, appetite testing, nutritional management** of malnourished children.
 - ◆ In **Appetite Test** children offered food according to body weight. If the child does not consume three-fourths of the food, they are transferred to a **Nutritional Rehabilitation Centre (NRC)**.
 - ⊕ **Follow-up care of children** who manage to achieve requisite growth parameters after intervention.
 - ⊕ **'Buddy Mother'** initiative where the mother of a healthy baby guides the mother of a malnourished child at an Angandwadi centre every week.
 - ◆ The 'Buddy mother' concept was first used in Assam.
 - ⊕ **Encourages diet diversity**, and has recommended **micronutrients in food**.
- There are **7.7 per cent** of **Children under 5 years** who are **severely wasted**.



RBI to extend PCA supervisory norms to government-owned NBFCs from October 2024

- The objective of the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework is to **enable supervisory intervention at the appropriate time** and requires the supervised entities to initiate and **implement remedial measures in a timely manner** so as to restore their financial health.
- **Corrective actions include**
 - ⊕ **Restriction on dividend distribution/** remittance of profit;
 - ⊕ Restriction on **branch expansion**;
 - ⊕ **Discretionary actions** related to governance, capital, profitability and business.
- The PCA Framework for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) was introduced on December 14, 2021.
- The **Framework has since been reviewed and it has been decided to extend the same to Government NBFCs** (except those in Base Layer) with effect from October 1, 2024, based on the audited financials of the NBFC as on March 31, 2024, or thereafter.
 - ⊕ **The base layer is categorised** as those Non-deposit-taking NBFCs, below the asset size of ₹1000.
 - ⊕ The other 3 layers are the **Middle Layer, Upper Layer and Top Layer**.
 - ⊕ Some of the major government NBFCs include PFC, REC, IRFC and IFCI.
- PCA Framework was introduced for NBFCs as these **lenders have grown in size and become systemically important due to interconnectedness** with other segments of the financial system.



Collegium's proposals can't remain in limbo: Supreme Court to Government

- SC said that government must **either notify those appointments or send them back citing specific objections.**
 - ⊖ The remarks were made while hearing a **contempt case against inordinate delay by the Centre** in appointment of judges.
- **Appointment of judges in higher judiciary**
 - ⊖ Judges are appointed **through a Collegium (Article 124 and 217 governs the appointment of Judges in SC and HC respectively)**
 - ⊖ It has **evolved through judgments of the Supreme Court** (referred to as 3 Judges Cases and pronounced in 1981, 1993, and 1998).
 - ◆ **Supreme Court Collegium** includes **CJI and four other senior-most judges** of the court at that time.
 - ◆ **A High Court collegium** is led by **CJI and two other senior-most judges** of the Supreme court.
- **Role of government in appointment of judges**
 - ⊖ Under **Memorandum of Procedure**, Government can get an **inquiry conducted** by Intelligence Bureau for candidates recommended.
 - ⊖ Government can also **raise objections and seek clarifications** regarding collegium's choice.
 - ◆ However, if **the collegium reiterates same names, government is bound, to appoint them as judges.**



Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) becomes a member of Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group (PDG)

- **IPC is an Autonomous Institution of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** formed in 2009.
- It publishes the **Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP)** and **regularly updates the standards of drugs** imported, manufactured stocked or exhibited for sale or distributed in India.
 - ⊖ **Pharmacopoeia** refers to **book/monograph** published by a government, or recognised organisation **to provide standards of strength and purity for therapeutic drugs.**
 - ⊖ In IP standards for drugs are in terms of **Second Schedule to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules 1945** thereunder.
- **About PDG**
 - ⊖ It was formed by the **US, EU and Japan in 1989** and **World Health Organization** joined an **observer** in 2001.
 - ⊖ It works to harmonize pharmacopoeial standards in the member countries/regions.
 - ◆ Harmonization reduces **manufacturers' burden** of having to **perform analytical procedures in different ways**, using different acceptance criteria, to **satisfy pharmacopoeial requirements that vary across regions.**
- **Benefits to IPC of joining PDG**
 - ⊖ **International Recognition** of the **standards** set by the IPC.
 - ⊖ Enhanced acceptance of **Indian pharmaceutical products** in global markets.
 - ⊖ **Better public health worldwide**, as it helps to prevent the circulation of substandard or counterfeit drugs.

Also in News



'A-HELP' (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production) Programme

- Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Government of India launched the 'A-HELP' programme at Jharkhand.
- MoU was signed between DAHD and **National Rural Livelihoods Mission** under the Ministry of Rural Development to launch the programme.
- **'A-HELP' programme**
 - ⊖ Aims to **empower women by engaging them as trained agents** who contribute significantly to disease control, animal tagging, and livestock insurance.
 - ⊖ It enhances **access to veterinary services at the farmer's doorstep** and empowers Pashu Sakhis.



IRDAI issued Bima Vahak guidelines (BHG)

- The guidelines **aims to establish women centric distribution channel** that focuses on enhancing insurance inclusion and awareness in every village.
 - ⊖ It also **aims to improve the accessibility and availability of insurance** in every nook and corner of the country.
- The scope of work of Bima Vahaks, besides creating awareness of insurance in villages, is likely to range from filling proposal forms, facilitating KYC process for customers, issuance of insurance policies, etc.
- It is a **part of IRDAI's strategy** to achieve its '**Insurance for All goal**'.



UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

- **Russia fails to rejoin UNHRC** and **15 new countries** including Albania, Brazil, China, , France, Japan, **were elected to serve**.
- **UNHRC was created in 2006** as an intergovernmental body within the UN, **responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights** around the globe.
- It is **made up of 47 Members**, elected by the **UN General Assembly** through direct and secret ballot.
- The **Membership is based on equitable geographical distribution** and Seats are distributed among 5 regions.
- **Selected Members serve for a period of three years** and are **not eligible for immediate re-election** after serving **two consecutive terms**.
- **India is currently a council member**.



Petroleum coke or pet coke

- Supreme Court has asked **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)** to consider issues related to distribution of highly polluting pet coke
- Pet coke is a **carbon-rich solid material** derived from **final cracking process of crude-oil refining**.
- It is used as a replacement of coal due to its higher calorific value
- It is **hydrophobic, less volatile and produces low ash residue**,
- It is used in **Cement manufacturing, lime kilns, industrial boilers, Aluminum Anodes**, etc.



Kamlang Tiger Reserve (KTR)

- KTR is located in **Lohit District of Arunachal Pradesh**.
- Reserve is named after **Kamlang River** that **joins Brahmaputra**.
- It lies between the **Lang River to the north and Namdapha National Park to the south**.
- **Fauna**: Tiger, Hollock gibbon, Elephant, Stump-tailed macaque, Hornbills and flying squirrels etc.
- **Flora**: Canarium resiniferum, Amoora wallichii, Gmelina arborea and Terminalia chebula, etc.



Natural Gas demand on the rise

- According to the International Energy Agency report, **India's natural gas demand is to rise by 4% in 2023** and rise at an average annual rate of over 8 per cent till 2026.
- The growth in demand will be primarily supported by the **power, petrochemical and fertiliser sectors**.
 - ⊕ The government aims to raise the share of gas in its **energy consumption mix to 15 per cent by 2030**.
- The country currently imports about **50 per cent** of its gas requirements.



Dancing frogs

- **Dancing frogs of Western Ghats** are considered one of the **most threatened amphibian genera** as per **second Global Amphibian Assessment** of IUCN
 - ⊕ **Nilgiri Dancing Frog** are listed as **Vulnerable** under and **White-Cheeked Dancing Frog** is listed as **Endangered** on IUCN List.
- They are **threatened by invasive species, land use change, extreme weather**, etc
 - ⊕ Named so as they perform **"foot flagging"** in which males **stretch up their hind legs** one at a time and wave their webbed toes in air in a rapid motion akin to a dance.



Leo Tolstoy and Gandhiji

- A **statue of Mahatma Gandhi** was unveiled at **Tolstoy Farm in Johannesburg (South Africa)**.
- **Tolstoy was a Russian author** who is also known for moralistic and ascetic values.
 - ⊕ His **'War and Peace'** and **Anna Karenina**, are among the most famous novels in the world.
- **Gandhij and Tolstoy**:
 - ⊕ Gandhij was influenced by Tolstoy's ideas about **renouncing force as a means of opposition**.
 - ⊕ Tolstoy's **'The Kingdom of God is Within You'** stimulated Gandhij's search for **truth and non-violence**.
 - ⊕ Gandhiji translated Tolstoy's **'Letter to a Hindoo'** in Gujarati.

Personality in News



Dr Sambhu Nath De (1915 – 1985)

- Dr Sambhu was **nominated** a couple of times for **Nobel Prize in Medicine**.
- He played a **fundamental role in discovering the cholera toxin (CTX)**.
 - ⊕ **CTX, a complex of six proteins** released by **V. cholerae** (a bacteria causing Cholera) into the **small intestine**.
 - ⊕ **CTX enters the intestinal cells**, it triggers a **cascade of intracellular reactions**.
- He also **hypothesised that cholera bacillus's main target** was the cells lining the small intestine.
 - ⊕ Previously, **Robert Koch wrongly concluded that V. cholerae** primarily attacked **circulatory system of patient**.



AHMEDABAD



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI



SIKAR