

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) released “2023 Global Survey Report on Persons with Disabilities and Disasters”

- Survey aimed to **understand the progress made in disability inclusion in DRR**. It is **follow-up to the 2013 Global Survey**.
 - ⊕ It shows **limited progress in disability inclusion over past 10 years**, with no significant differences across the regions.
 - ⊕ It was released ahead of **International Day for DRR** (observed on **October 13 every year**). Its theme “**Fighting inequality for a resilient future**” is aligned with **Sendai Framework**.
- **Sendai Framework for DRR 2015–2030** was first of the major 2015 development frameworks.
 - ⊕ It **recognizes Person with Disabilities (PwDs) as contributing stakeholders**, and emphasizing the need for their inclusion in all DRR policies and practices.
- DRR is the concept and **practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts** to analyse and reduce causal factors of disasters.
- **Key findings**
 - ⊕ **84% of PwDs reported do not have a personal preparedness plan** for disasters. This was **less than in 2013 survey**.
 - ⊕ Even with sufficient advance warning, **17% PwDs face a lot of difficulties in evacuating**.
 - ⊕ **86% PwDs reported no participation in community level DRR decision-making and planning**.
- UNDRR (HQ: **Geneva, Switzerland**) was established in 1999 to **support the implementation of Sendai Framework**.

Recommendations

- **Equity between persons with and without disabilities in all measures to reduce and prevent disaster risk.**
- **Include PwDs in disaster planning, effective early warning systems and evacuation plans.**
- **Dedicated leadership roles for disability experts in decision-making.**





State of Global Water Resources 2022 report released by WMO

- The report offers an **overview of water resources worldwide**.
- **Key Highlights:**
 - ⊕ **River discharge:** Over 50% of global **catchments and reservoirs showed deviations**, mostly **drier than usual**.
 - ⊕ **Soil moisture and evapotranspiration:** Anomalies in soil moisture and evapotranspiration also matched the deviations noted in river discharge conditions.
 - ◆ **Soil moisture:** it influences exchange of water and energy fluxes at land surface/atmosphere interface and impacts streamflow generation.
 - ◆ **Evapotranspiration:** process by which **water is evaporated**, from soil or vegetation surface.
 - ⊕ **Snow cover and glaciers:**
 - ◆ **Asian Water Tower (AWT):** From 2000 to 2018, total glacier mass in region decreased by approximately 4.3%.
 - » **AWT includes Tibetan Plateau, Himalayas, Karakorum, Hindu Kush, the Pamirs, and Tien Shan Mountains - collectively called the Third Pole.**
 - ◆ **During 1980–2018**, annual **river run-off** across most of AWT **showed a significant increase in river** such as the upper Indus.
- **Recommendations:** **enhanced data sharing** to enable **early warnings** and more **coordinated water management policies** that are integral to climate action.



World Meteorological Organization (WMO)



-  **About:** An intergovernmental organization. A specialised agency of the United Nations.
-  **Genesis:** Established by WMO Convention in 1950.
-  **Mandate:** International cooperation **for Earth’s atmosphere**, its interaction with the land and oceans, the weather and climate it produces, and resulting distribution of water resources.
-  **Members:** **187 Member States and 6 Member Territories** (including India).

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) notifies two green initiatives ahead of COP28 of UNFCCC

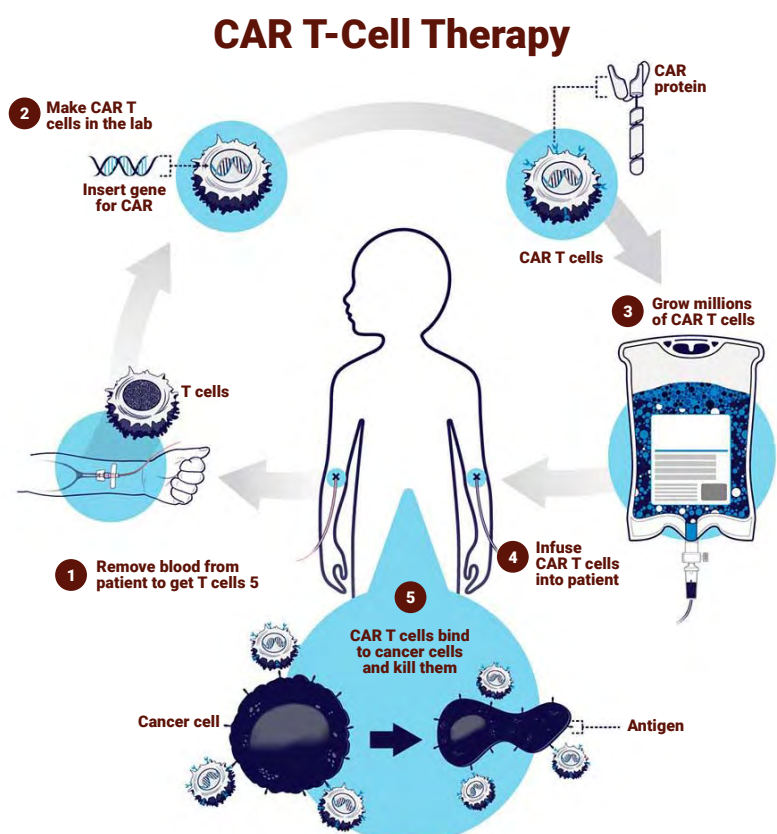
- **Green Credit Program (GCP)** and **Ecomark Scheme** were notified under **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** and reflect the ideas of **LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)** mission to promote sustainable lifestyle and environmental conservation.
- GCP aims to **incentivise environmental positive actions** across diverse sectors by various stakeholders like communities through **market-based mechanism** and **generate Green Credit (GC)**.
 - ⊕ GC is **tradable and made available for trading** on a domestic market platform.
 - ⊕ In its **initial phase**, GCP focuses on **water conservation and afforestation**.
 - ⊕ **Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)** serves as **GCP Administrator**, responsible for program implementation, management, monitoring, and operation.
 - ⊕ GCP is **independent of carbon credit programme** under Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023 made under Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- **Ecomark Scheme** replaces the previous Notification of 1991.
 - ⊕ It provides **accreditation and labelling for household and consumer products** that meet specific environmental criteria while **maintaining quality standards** as per Indian norms.
 - ⊕ It is **administered by Central Pollution Control Board** in **partnership with Bureau of Indian Standards** (national body for standards and certification).
 - ⊕ **Ecomark Portal and Knowledge and Database Platform** shall be developed to promote adoption of eco-labelling.

Sectors identified for Green Credit Program

- Tree Plantation
- Water Conservation
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Water Management
- Air Pollution Reduction
- Mangrove Conservation and Reduction
- Ecomark label development
- Sustainable building and infrastructure

Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) approves India's first Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR)-T cell therapy to treat blood cancer

- Therapy, called **NexCAR19 (Actalycabtagene autoleucel)** is the **first humanized CD19-targeted CAR-T cell therapy**.
 - ⊕ This therapy is **intended for patients with CD19 biomarker in B cells**, a protein used to diagnose cancers stemming from **B cells**, such as acute and chronic lymphoblastic leukaemia (blood cancer).
 - ⊕ It is **developed by Immunoadoptive Cell Therapy (ImmunoACT)**, an IIT Bombay incubated company.
 - ⊕ This CAR-T cell therapy will **put India on global advanced cell-and -gene therapies map**.
- CAR T cell therapy is a type of **cellular immunotherapy treatment** that **uses T cells** that are **genetically altered in a lab** to enable them in locating in destroying cancer cells more effectively.
 - ⊕ **T cells are immune cells** that **attack infection-causing pathogens** (viruses, bacteria, fungi and parasites) and harmful cells, like cancer cells.
- **Significance of CAR-T Cell Therapy**
 - ⊕ **Short treatment time** needed because aggressive chemotherapy is not used.
 - ⊕ **Prolonged durability**, since T cells can persist in body for long-term, they may recognize and attack cancer cells.
- CDSCO (under **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**) is the **Central Drug Authority** for discharging functions assigned to Central Government under Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
 - ⊕ **Major functions:** Regulatory control over import of drugs, approval of new drugs and clinical trials etc.



"The Impact of Disasters on Agriculture and Food Security" report released by FAO

- It is the **first-ever global estimation** of impact of disasters on agricultural production.
- Key Highlights:**
 - Climate change-induced **disasters** trigger **long-lasting effects** on the food **supply chain** and threaten food security.
 - Crops and livestock:** Over the last 30 years, approx. USD 3.8 trillion **worth of crops and livestock production** lost due to disaster events.
 - Heatwave and drought impact** on crop production **roughly tripled over the last 25 years.**
 - Forestry:** Every year, about **340 million–370 million ha** of the **Earth's surface** are burnt by wildfire.
 - Forest insect pests** damage about 35 million ha of forests annually.
 - Fisheries and aquaculture:** By 2100, **fishable biomass** in ocean could drop by up to 40 % in some tropical areas.
- Report** also highlights the **cascading impacts** of climate change, **pandemics, epidemics, and armed conflicts**, on agricultural production and food security.
- Suggestions:**
 - Focus on **farm-level disaster risk reduction** practices.
 - Mainstream **multisectoral disaster risk reduction** approaches into policy.
 - For **every \$1 invested in anticipatory action**, rural families can gain up to \$7 in benefits and avoid agricultural losses.



Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

HQ: Rome



About: A specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.

Membership: 195 members - 194 countries and the European Union. (including India).

Also in News

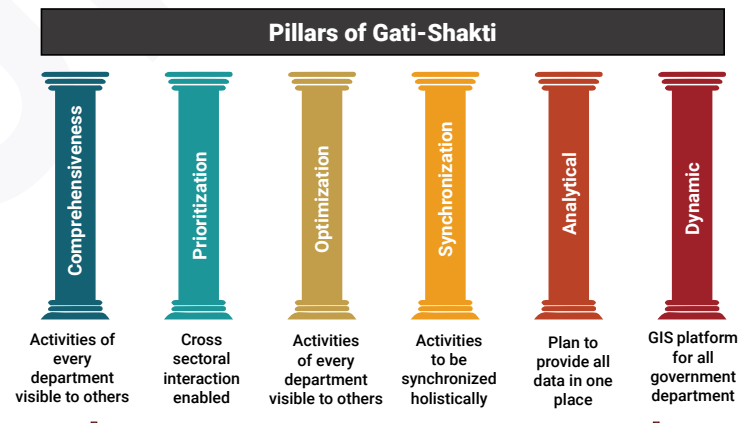


Dampa Tiger Reserve

- A new species of toad (Frog) - Bufoides bhupathyi found in **Dampa tiger reserve.**
- About reserve**
 - Location:** western flank (Lushai Hills) of Mizoram.
 - On the West, it is **bound by the Chittagong hill tracts** (Sazek hill range) of Bangladesh.
 - In **1994**, it was **declared a tiger reserve under the Project Tiger initiative.**
 - River:** drained by the **River Khawthlangtuipui** in the West and the **Teirei River to the East.**
 - Flora:** ranges from tropical evergreen to semi-evergreen forests.
 - Fauna:** Hoolock Gibbon, Tiger, Leopard, Clouded Leopard, Golden Cat, Himalayan Black Bear etc.

PM GATI SHAKTI marks 2-year milestone

- PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP)** was launched in 2021 to provide multimodal connectivity infrastructure to **various economic zones.**
- Key achievements:**
 - India's rank improved to **22 from 44** in the **international shipment ranking.**
 - Facilitated **more than 300 central** and state projects worth **₹11.58 lakh crore** in two years.
 - Reduced project pre-alignment finalization** time from 3 - 4 months to 1 month, thus **improving ease of doing business.**
 - Over **100 critical infrastructure projects** recommended for approval this fiscal year.
- PM Gati Shakti:**
 - Aims for **enhanced multimodal connectivity, improved logistics efficiency, and seamless movement of people, goods, and services.**
 - Goal of **achieving self-reliance** and a **\$5 trillion economy by 2025.**
 - Focusses on economic growth driven by **7 engines namely:**
 - Railways, Roads, Ports, Waterways, Airports, Mass Transport, and Logistics Infrastructure.
 - It has **6 pillars (refer to infographic).**
 - It **incorporates various infrastructure schemes** like Bharatmala, Sagarmala, dry/land ports, UDAN, etc.
 - It lays out a **centralized portal to unite the infrastructural initiatives** of 16 central ministries and departments i.e., **Gati Shakti portal.**



Vizhinjam port

- The under-construction **Vizhinjam International Seaport** receives its **first ship.**
- About Port**
 - It will be **country's first deepwater container transshipment terminal.**
 - Location** near Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala.
 - It is being **built on a public-private-partnership (PPP)** mode set to be completed in **2024.**
 - Significance**
 - Proximity to international shipping** routes connecting Europe, the Gulf and East Asia.
 - Located on minimal littoral drift resulting in limited maintenance dredging.
 - Ideal location for fuel bunkering.



Inter-Parliamentary Forum (IPU)

- Ninth P20 Summit hosted by the Parliament of India in cooperation with IPU in New Delhi.
 - ⊕ P20 Summit is an annual gathering of G20 Parliament Speakers discussing global issues.
- IPU



Inter-Parliamentary Forum (IPU)



- Genesis:** Established in 1889 as a small group of parliamentarians.
- About:** the global organization of national parliaments, that facilitates parliamentary diplomacy.
- Objective:** Parliamentary ecosystems for Democracy, for everyone:
 - ⊕ Building effective, inclusive, resilient and innovative parliaments.
- Membership:** 179 Members (Including India) and 14 Associate Members.



Psyche Mission

- NASA has sent a spacecraft named 'Psyche' on a six-year journey towards a unique metal-rich asteroid Psyche, orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter.
- Psyche Mission Goals
 - ⊕ Understand a previously unexplored building block of planet formation: iron cores.
 - ⊕ For the first time, examine a world made not of rock and ice, but metal.
 - ⊕ Look inside terrestrial planets, including Earth, by directly examining the interior of a differentiated body, which otherwise could not be seen.



Kanwar lake (also called Kabartal Wetland), Bihar

- Kanwar Lake is facing threat of running dry.
- Kanwar Lake is a freshwater natural wetland. It draws water from confluence of the Gandak, Bia and Kareh river.
 - ⊕ It is an important stopover along the Central Asian Flyway, with 58 migratory waterbirds using it to rest and refuel.
 - ⊕ It is an ox-bow lake. Oxbow lake is lake located in an abandoned meander loop of a river channel.
 - ⊕ In 2020, it was designated as Ramsar wetland site.



Navratna status

- Ircon International Limited (IRCON) and RITES Ltd, both are Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Railways, have been granted Navratna Status.
- 'Navratna' company has the authority to invest up to Rs 1,000 crore without explicit government approval.
- Status of Navratna is granted based on various parameters, such as:
 - ⊕ CPSEs which are Miniratna I, and
 - ⊕ have obtained 'excellent' or 'very good' MoU rating in three of the last five years and
 - ⊕ having composite score of 60 or above in selected performance indicators.
- The status is conferred by Ministry of Finance.



Nilgiri Tahr

- Tamil Nadu government launched Project Nilgiri Tahr.
- The project aims to restore the original habitat, address proximate threats, and increase public awareness of species.
- Nilgiri tahr is the only mountain ungulate (animal with hooves) in southern India amongst the 12 species present in India.
 - ⊕ It is the state animal of Tamil Nadu.
 - ⊕ Endemic: Western Ghats and locally known as Varaiaadu.
 - ⊕ Two epics - Silappathikaram and Sivakasindamani - mention descriptions of the Nilgiri Tahr.
- Conservation Status: IUCN Status- Endangered and Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972- Schedule 1



SEBI tweaks anti-money laundering guidelines

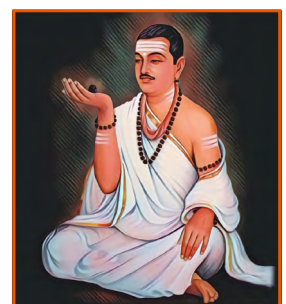
- Under new guidelines,
 - ⊕ Partners holding a 10% stake in a firm will come under the definition of beneficial owners. Earlier, the requirement was 15%.
 - ⊕ Principal Officer would act as a central reference point in facilitating reporting of suspicious transactions to the authorities.
 - ⊕ Names, designation, and addresses of 'Principal Officer' shall be intimated to Financial Intelligence Unit – India (FIU-IND).
- FIU-IND is responsible for coordinating efforts of intelligence, investigation and enforcement agencies in efforts against money laundering and terror financing.
 - ⊕ It comes under Ministry of Finance.

Personality in News



Jagadguru Basaveshwara

- 12th century poet, Born in Karnataka.
- Known for Socio-Religious Reforms, Vachana Literature and Lingayat Movement in south India.
- Established Anubhava Mantapa which laid down the foundation of social democracy.
- Basava Purana: Written by Palkuriki Somanatha (13th century), holds account of Basavanna's life.
- Rejected gender and caste discrimination, superstitions and rituals.
- Promoter of non-violence.
- Condemned human and animal sacrifices.
- Taught people how to live happily in a rational social order which later came to be known as Sharana movement.
- Philosophy based on: Arivu (true knowledge), Ethos (right conduct), and Anubhava (divine experience).
- Ethical Values: Compassionate, Egalitarian, selflessness etc.



Jagadguru Basaveshwara