

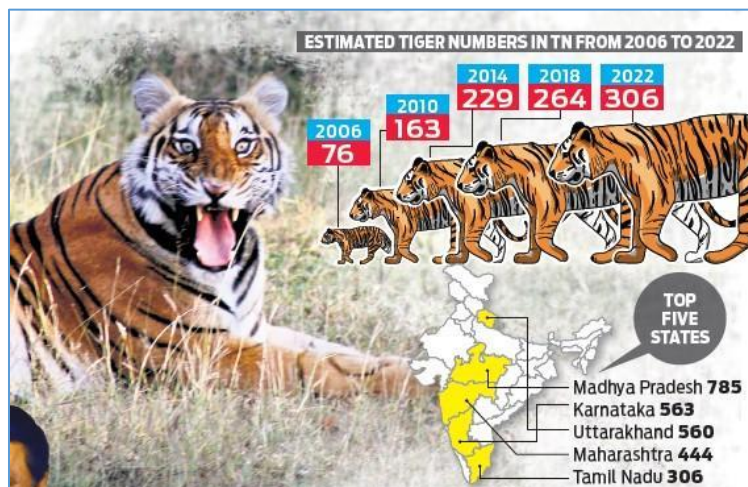
August - 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2024 was passed to remove restrictions on who can file an FIR.
 - It proposes stringent bail conditions similar to those for accused persons in terrorism and money laundering cases, and increases the punishment for unlawful conversion.
- ❖ Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro wins third term as President with 51% vote share.

TAMIL NADU

Tiger conservation in Tamilnadu 2024



- ❖ The Nilgiris landscape has the largest tiger population in the world.
- ❖ The contiguous forests spread between Kerala and Tamil Nadu in Periyar – Meghamalai cluster and Anamalai – Parambikulam complex.
- ❖ 306 tigers were recorded in Tamil Nadu in the nation-wide census by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for 2022.
- ❖ This number was an increase from the 264 big cats found in the 2018 survey.
- ❖ There has been a four-fold increase in the tiger numbers here over the past two decades.
- ❖ The conservation of tigers in India can be divided into two phases.
- ❖ The first phase was starting in the 1970s.

- ❖ It involved the enactment of the Wildlife Protection Act and the establishment of protected areas.
- ❖ The second phase began in 2005-2006.
- ❖ During this period, the government adopting a landscape-level approach and implementing strict monitoring for tiger conservation.
- ❖ In 2018, the tiger population was estimated at 981 and in 2022, 824 unique tigers were recorded.

NATIONAL

First offshore mineral auctions

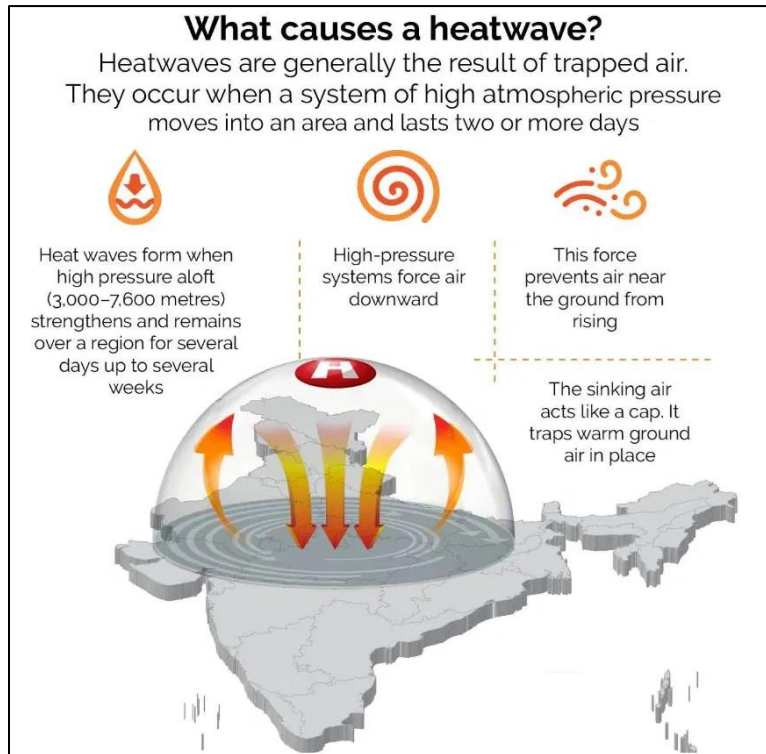


- ❖ 10 blocks located in India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) are available for auction for grant of composite license.
- ❖ Of these, 7 blocks of poly-metallic nodules and crusts are located in Andaman Sea, 3 blocks of lime-mud are located off the Gujarat coast.
- ❖ The auctions will be conducted under the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act (OAMDR), 2002.

Heatwave as 'notified disaster'

- ❖ Union ministry of science and technology announced that, there is currently no plan to classify it as a notified disaster.

- ❖ If it is announced as notified disaster, it will make it eligible for financial assistance under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- ❖ Presently the notified list of disasters eligible for National Disaster Response Fund/State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) assistance includes 12 disasters.
- ❖ They are Cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloud burst, pest attack and frost and cold wave.
- ❖ The country saw 536 heatwave days this summer — the most in 14 years.



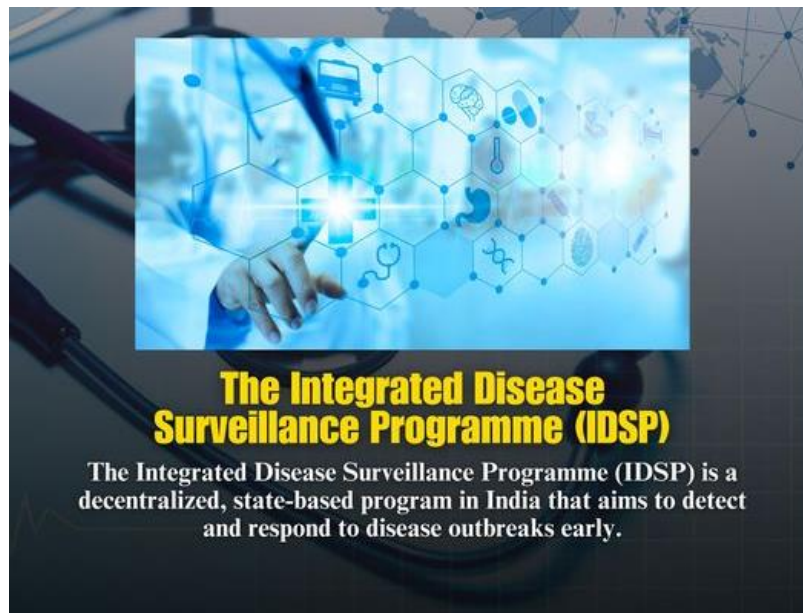
Agarwood - CITES in India

- ❖ India recently increased the quota for exports through the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- ❖ Agarwood is prized for its aromatic and medicinal value.
- ❖ It is used in making incense sticks, essential oils and perfumes.
- ❖ It is listed as Threatened under the IUCN's Red List.
- ❖ The tree has been listed in Appendix II of CITES since 1995.
- ❖ Its export from the country was banned until November 2021, but re-export was permitted.
- ❖ At least 139.89 million (13.989 crore) Agarwood plants under cultivation/ plantation in non-forest areas.

- ❖ As per CITES document, in 2023 the species was put under Review of Significant Trade (RST) for India along with four other Agarwood producing countries.
- ❖ Due to removal of India from the RST in 2024, peoples who are engaged directly or indirectly in Agarwood industry would be benefitted.



Integrated Disease Surveillance Program



The Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)

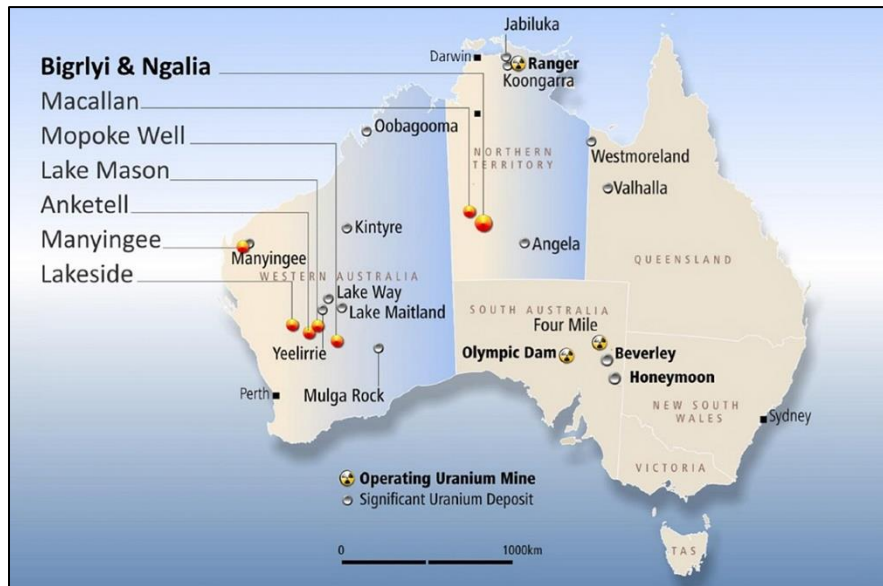
The Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) is a decentralized, state-based program in India that aims to detect and respond to disease outbreaks early.

- ❖ A total of 1,862 disease outbreaks were reported to the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme last year.
- ❖ The highest number is being reported from Kerala.

- ❖ Kerala reported 253 outbreaks followed by Karnataka at 223, Maharashtra at 208 and Madhya Pradesh at 140.
- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the portal of Integrated Health Information Platform on April 5, 2021.

INTERNATIONAL

Jabiluka uranium site – Australia



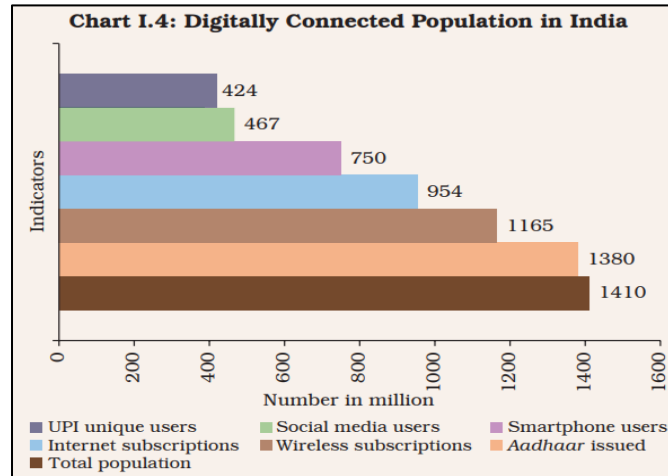
- ❖ Australia took steps to ban mining at an Indigenous site surrounded by Kakadu National Park.
- ❖ It is home to one of the world's largest deposits of high-grade uranium.
- ❖ The uranium deposit was discovered there in the early 1970s.
- ❖ The Jabiluka site became the focus of intense legal wrangling between the Mirarr people and mining companies.

ECONOMY

Report on Currency and Finance 2023/24 – RBI

- ❖ The digital economy currently accounts for 10 per cent of the country's GDP and is expected to double to 20 per cent by 2026.
- ❖ Average cost of a data breach jumped 28 per cent in the last three years.
- ❖ The percentage of young borrowers has risen considerably, with 65 per cent of the total personal loans given to borrowers aged less than 35.

- ❖ India's internet penetration stands at 55.3 per cent, which is below the global average of 67.1 per cent.
- ❖ Internet subscriptions per 100 population in urban areas were more than two times higher compared to rural India with an all-India average of 68.2.
- ❖ Among the rural households, only 9.9 per cent have access to a computer.
- ❖ While the proportion is 32.4 per cent among the urban households.
- ❖ The average data consumption per-user per-month is 24.1 GB in 2023.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

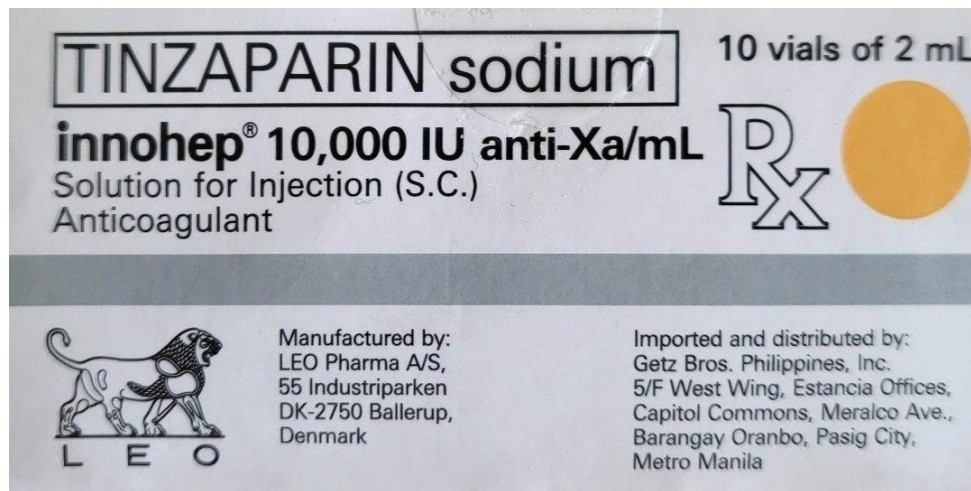
GROWTH-India telescope



- ❖ The GROWTH-India telescope caught the building-sized asteroid on its closest approach to Earth.

- ❖ The telescope is stationed at the Indian Astronomical Observatory site at Hanle, Ladakh.
- ❖ This is 116m, building-sized asteroid on its closest approach to earth at just 10x lunar distance.
- ❖ GROWTH-India is India's first fully robotic optical research telescope.
- ❖ It is one of the world's highest Astronomical observatories at 4,500 meters.

Tinzaparin



- ❖ Researchers found tinzaparin significantly reduced damage to human cells due to spitting cobra venom.
- ❖ The team also found the drug could reduce skin damage in mice injected with the venom.
- ❖ The Tanzania native, *Naja pallida* — the red spitting cobra venom can cause severe pain and permanent disability or fatal.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Adolescents in a Changing World

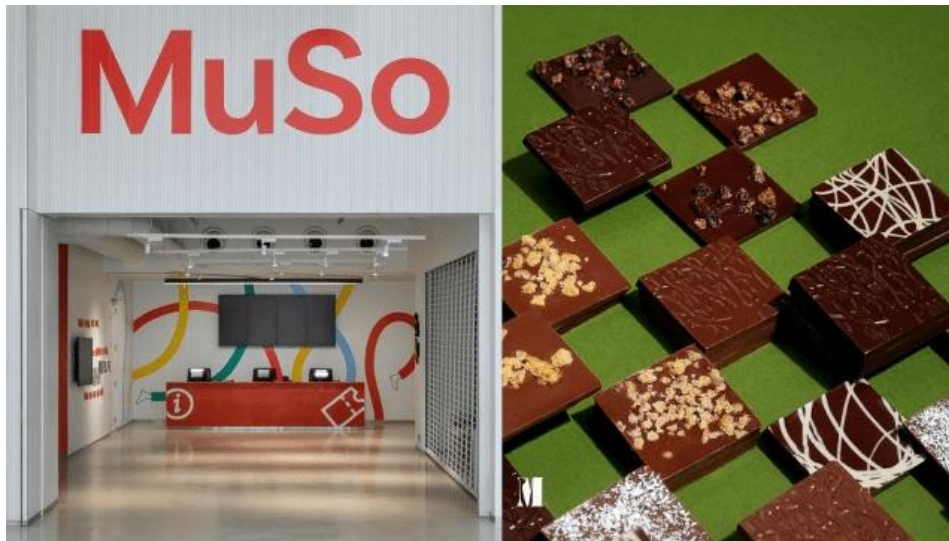
- ❖ The report, released at the 77th World Health Assembly, was commissioned by PMNCH - The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health.
- ❖ The failure by all stakeholders to substantially increase investment in programmes are targeted at improving adolescent well-being would result in a staggering economic cost.
- ❖ It led to global losses amounting to an estimated \$110 trillion (benefits foregone) from 2024 to 2050.

- ❖ This equates to \$4.1 trillion per year, or 7.7 per cent of the GDP of the countries included.
- ❖ This report covers about 80 per cent of the world's population.
- ❖ It is estimated that a broad package of health services for adolescents is likely to yield a return of \$9.6 for every dollar invested.
- ❖ While investing in education and training for adolescents is likely to yield a return of \$28.6 for every dollar invested.

Table 1.1 *The five domains and sub-domains of adolescent well-being*

Good health and optimum nutrition	Connectedness, positive values and contribution to society	Safety and a supportive environment	Learning, competence, education, skills and employability	Agency and resilience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Physical health and capacities > Mental health and capacities > Optimal nutritional status and diet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Connectedness > Values > Attitudes > Interpersonal skills > Activity > Change and development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Safety > Material conditions > Equity > Equality > Non-discrimination > Privacy > Responsive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Learning > Education > Resources, life skills and competencies > Skills > Employability > Confidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Agency > Identity > Purpose > Resilience > Fulfilment

Time's World Greatest Places of 2024

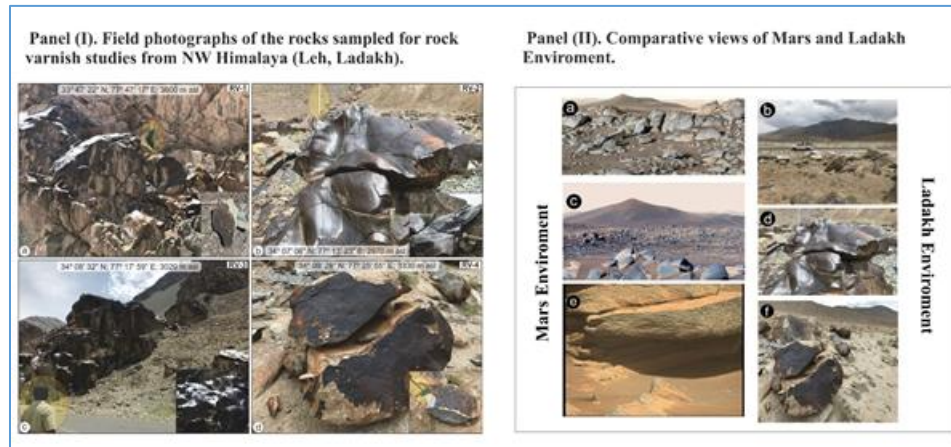


- ❖ The TIME magazine recently published its prestigious list of the 'World's Greatest Places' for 2024.
- ❖ It comprises 100 extraordinary establishments "that stand out in their field and the world."
- ❖ Two Indian destinations have been featured on this list:
 - Manam Chocolate in Hyderabad

- Naar in Himachal Pradesh
- The Museum of Solutions (MuSo) in Mumbai.

STATES

Rock Varnish Layers in Ladakh



- ❖ Researchers have spotted Magnetofossils, in rock varnish layers in India's Ladakh.
- ❖ It is the fossil remains of magnetic particles produced by magneto tactic bacteria.
- ❖ This biotic processes in the formation of rock varnish indicate how life can exist in extreme environments.

