

January - 16

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ UK Prince Harry's biography 'Spare' has become the 'fastest-selling' non-fiction book ever after it was released on January 10.

TAMIL NADU

'Saarang 2023'



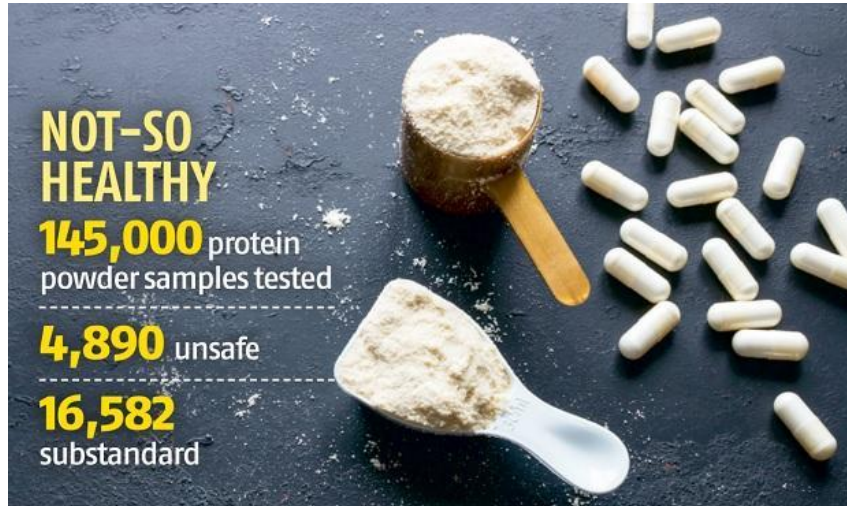
- ❖ Country's largest student-run festival Saarang 2023 was held at Chennai.
- ❖ This year was the 28th Edition of the Saarang.
- ❖ The theme for Saarang 2023 is 'Mystic Hues'
- ❖ This is held in physical mode after a gap of three years due to Covid.
- ❖ Students from more than 500 colleges from all over the Country participated in the event

NATIONAL

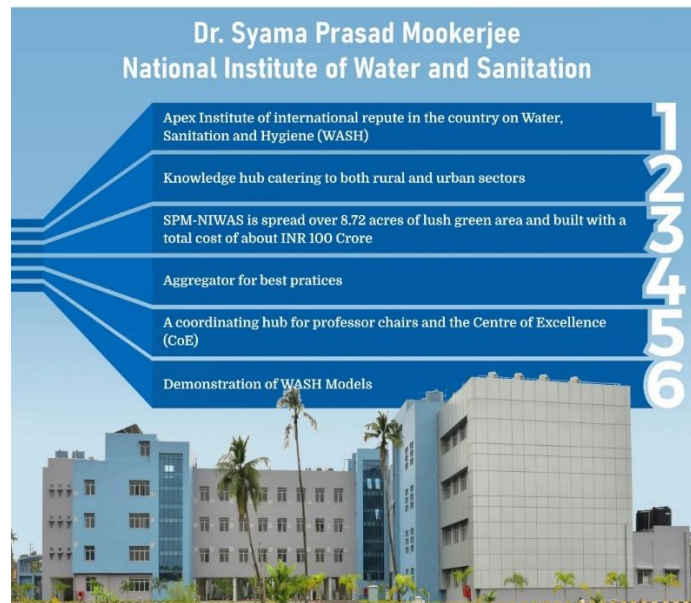
FSSAI Survey on Dietary Supplements

- ❖ Food Safety Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) has released a survey report on dietary supplements 2021-22.

- ❖ It found that 15% of food items including protein powders and dietary supplements used by athletes and bodybuilders in India are unsafe for consumption or substandard.
- ❖ FSSAI has notified specific rules to regulate the production and sale of protein powders and other dietary supplements in India.



National Centre for Drinking Water, Sanitation and Quality



- ❖ Union Cabinet has given approval for renaming the National Centre for Drinking Water, Sanitation and Quality to the “Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation” (SPM-NIWAS).
- ❖ The Institute has been set up at Joka, Kolkata, West Bengal.

- ❖ This institute was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December 2022.
- ❖ Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee front-runner in national integration, inspiration for industrialization.
- ❖ He was also an eminent scholar and academician and the youngest Vice Chancellor of the University of Calcutta.

INTERNATIONAL

Veer Guardian 2023 exercise



- ❖ A joint exercise between the Air Force of India and Japan - 'Veer Guardian 2023' is going to be held.
- ❖ This is the first time that the Indian Air Force and Japan Air Self-Defense Force are conducting this joint exercise between the two countries.
- ❖ This exercise will deepen relations between the two countries and prove to be an important step in defence cooperation.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Global award for Bio-insecticide

- ❖ A research intern from ICRISAT, Sarvesh Prabhu, from Hyderabad, won third prize at the International Science and Engineering Fair in Atlanta, US.
- ❖ He was awarded in the biochemistry category for developing cost-effective bio-insecticide.
- ❖ This insecticide is made from leaves of Ramphal or 'Bullock's Heart'.
- ❖ Traditionally, extracts of this plant have been used to treat dysentery.

- ❖ Bio-insecticide on the other hand cost between Rs.750 to 1,000 and are eco-friendly.



Commercial Hyperloop tech



- ❖ Tata Steel and TuTr Hyperloop have signed a memorandum of agreement at IIT Madras, to jointly work on the development and deployment of hyperloop technology at scale.
- ❖ The main research areas will focus on key challenges of design and materials selection.
- ❖ Globally, hyperloop holds huge potential for high-speed sustainable transportation of future.
- ❖ The hyperloop is a future option for high-speed, low cost, sustainable transport system for both passengers and cargo.

India's first 5G-enabled drone



- ❖ India's first 5G-enabled drone, Skyhawk, has been developed by Noida-based IG Drones.
- ❖ It is capable of vertical take-off and landing.
- ❖ Skyhawk can carry a 10-kilogramme payload.
- ❖ It can be used in defence and medical applications, among other sectors.
- ❖ It has an endurance of around five hours and can operate through satellites in case an internet link is unavailable.

New material removes pollutants from water

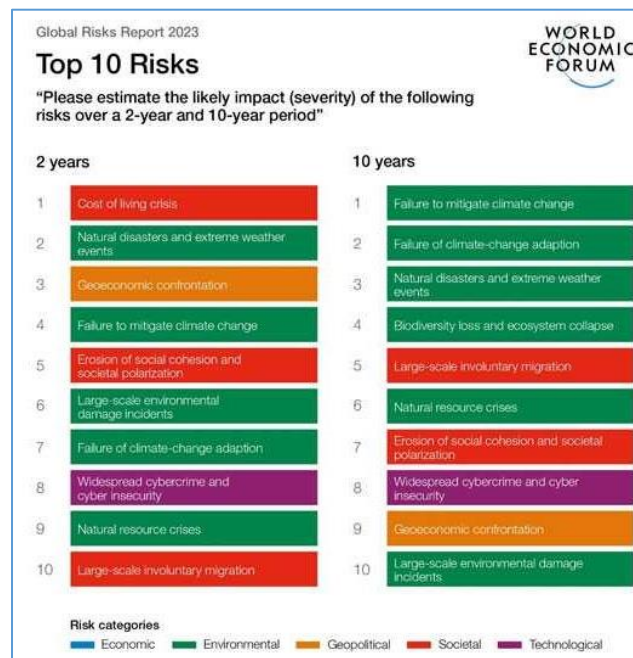
- ❖ IISER, Pune have developed a unique molecular sponge-like material that can effectively clean polluted water.
- ❖ The material is called a macro/microporous ionic organic framework.
- ❖ It is able to absorb and remove a wide range of toxic contaminants, including organic dyes, antibiotics, pesticides, iodides, and oxo-pollutants such as perrhenate.

- ❖ These contaminants can pose a direct threat to human health and the environment, and are commonly found in freshwater sources.



REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Risks Report 2023



- ❖ World Economic Forum released the 18th edition of the Global Risk Report 2023 based on the 2022-2023 Global Risks Perception Survey
- ❖ The cost-of-living crisis, food supply crisis, energy supply crisis, rising inflation and cyberattacks on critical infrastructure are the major risks, the world is witnessing currently.
- ❖ 2025 will be dominated by a social and environmental risk which is driven by underlying geopolitical and economic trends



- ❖ The Report ranked the 'cost of living crisis' in first place among all the global risks.
- ❖ The report also mentioned that due to the increase in fuel prices, protests broke out in nearly 92 countries.

Global Economic Prospects

- ❖ The World Bank released its latest Global Economic Prospects report.
- ❖ The global economy is projected to grow by 1.7% in 2023 and 2.7% in 2024.
- ❖ Over the next two years, per-capita income growth in emerging market and developing economies is projected to average 2.8%.
- ❖ In Sub-Saharan Africa growth in per capita income over 2023-24 is expected to average just 1.2%.
- ❖ Growth in advanced economies is projected to slow from 2.5% in 2022 to 0.5% in 2023.
- ❖ By the end of 2024, GDP levels in emerging and developing economies will be roughly 6% below levels expected before the pandemic.

South Asia Country Forecasts					
(Annual percent change unless indicated otherwise)					
	2020	2021	2022e	2023f	2024f
GDP at market prices (average 2010-19 US\$)					
Calendar Year Basis ^a					
Afghanistan ^b	-2.4	-20.7
Maldives	-33.5	41.7	12.4	8.2	8.1
Sri Lanka	-3.5	3.3	-9.2	-4.2	1.0
	2019/2	2020/2	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Fiscal Year Basis ^a					
	0	1	e	f	f
Bangladesh	3.4	6.9	7.2	5.2	6.2
Bhutan	-2.3	-3.3	4.6	4.1	3.7
India	3.7	-6.6	8.7	6.9	6.6
Nepal	-2.4	4.2	5.8	5.1	4.9
Pakistan (factor cost)	-0.9	5.7	6.0	2.0	3.2

STATES

Cherchera Festival

- ❖ Chhattisgarh celebrated the Cherchera festival at the Dudhadhari Math in Raipur.
- ❖ It is a celebration of the happiness and joy brought about by the cultivation and harvesting of crops.

- ❖ The festival is celebrated to mark the end of the crop cultivation season and the beginning of the harvest.

SPORTS

4500 penalty kicks in 12 hours

- ❖ Kerala entered into the Guinness Book of World Records by taking 4,500 penalty kicks in 12 hours.
- ❖ There was no break since former Indian player U. Sharafali took the inaugural kick at 7.38 a.m. and netted the ball.
- ❖ Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs V. Abdurahiman of Kerala took the last penalty kick at 7.38 p.m.
- ❖ The Malappuram event obliterated the previous record of 2500 penalty kicks held by Germany.



MISCELLANEOUS

Hockey India enters the world of Metaverse





- ❖ Hockey India launched the 'Hockeyverse' on their social media platforms.
- ❖ It becomes the first National Sports Federation to enter the world of metaverse.
- ❖ 'Hockeyverse' will provide a new virtual experience where global hockey fans can visit and experience their favourite sport from the comfort of their home.

