

July - 12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister released two coffee table books titled – ‘Folk Deities of Tamil Nadu: Worship, Tradition and Custom’ and ‘Forts of Tamil Nadu: A Walk-Through’.
- ❖ Maharashtra has been honoured with the Best Agriculture State Award for 2024 by the 15th Agriculture Leadership Awards Committee.
- ❖ Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Chairperson of HCL Tech, has been awarded the “Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur” (Knight of the Legion of Honour) by France.
- ❖ Indian Prime Minister was officially awarded the 'Order of St. Andrew the Apostle' by Russian President in recognition of his exceptional contributions to enhancing bilateral relations between India and Russia.
- ❖ Ahom era 'Moidams' in Assam's Charaideo district have been recommended for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List by its international advisory body ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites).
- ❖ Former Indian Cricket opener Gautam Gambhir has been appointed as Team India head coach, by succeeding Rahul Dravid.
- ❖ Elisa de Anda Madrazo of Mexico has assumed the presidency of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for a two-year term from July 2024 to June 2026.
- ❖ Rajasthan is set to become the first State in the country to adopt an action plan for road safety for the next 10 years.
 - The action plan will be aimed at reducing road accidents in the State by 50% till 2030.

NATIONAL

NQAS Assessment

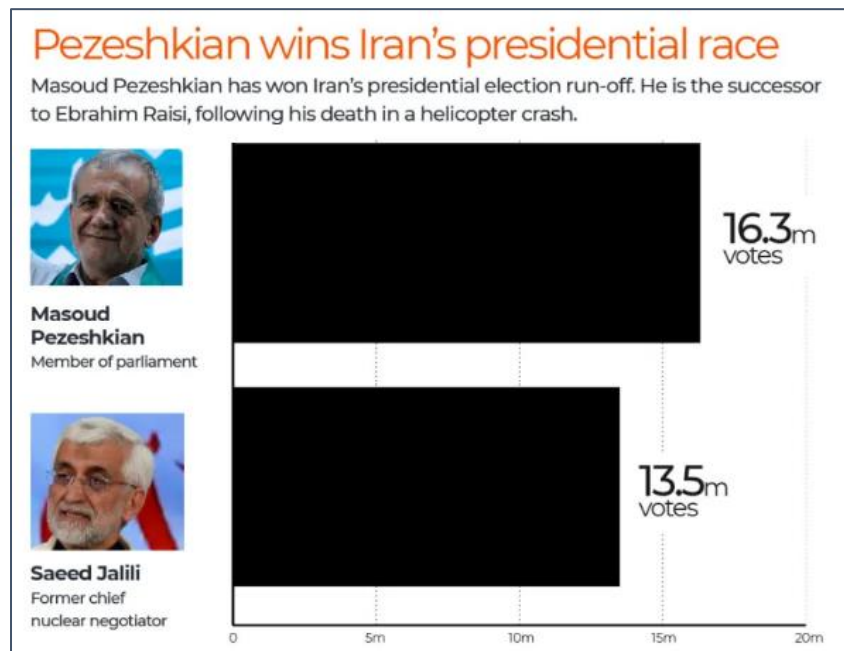
- ❖ The Union government has launched a virtual NQAS assessment for Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAM) Sub-centres.
- ❖ This will represent a significant innovation in the quality assurance framework for public health facilities as a time and cost-saving measure.
- ❖ Through this system, the virtually assessed health AAM-SC will be conferred with the NQAS (National Quality Assurance Standards) certificate.
- ❖ The Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) guidelines, introduced in 2007 and updated periodically with the latest update in 2022.

- ❖ It set quality benchmarks for public health facilities from primary to secondary level health care facilities.



INTERNATIONAL

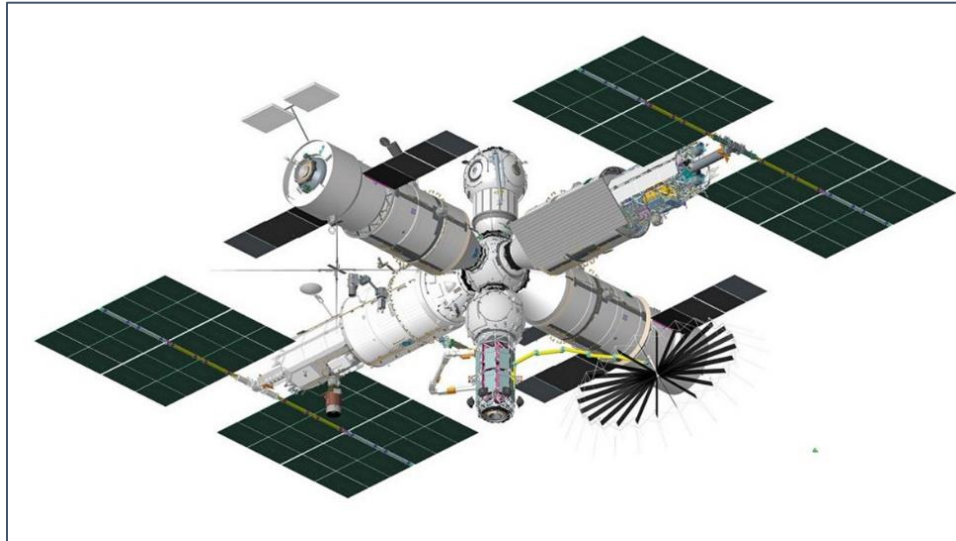
Iran's next president



- ❖ Masoud Pezeshkian, a 69-year-old former heart surgeon, won Iran's presidential election.
- ❖ He will emphasise on civil liberties, greater gender equality, and socio-economic development, as well as increased engagement with the international community.
- ❖ Iran has been seeing high rates of inflation and unemployment, due to sanctions and worsened by years of mismanagement.

- ❖ Iran has been under US economic and military sanctions since 1979.
- ❖ In 2015, Iran signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), popularly known as the “Iran nuclear deal”, with the P5+1 (the US, the UK, Russia, France, China and Germany) and the European Union.

Russian orbital station



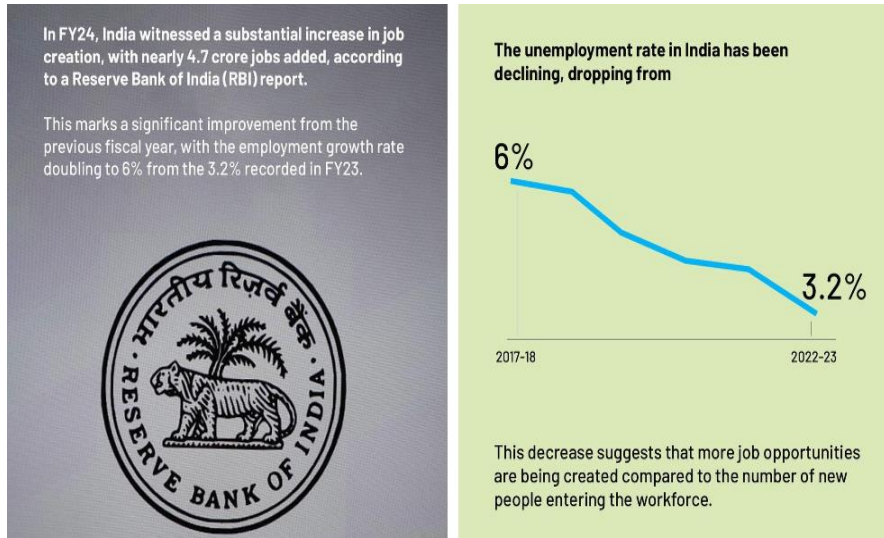
- ❖ Russia has approved the schedule for the creation of a Russian orbital station by 2033.
- ❖ The scientific and energy modules will be launched first in 2027.
- ❖ Three other core modules, namely the universal nodal, gateway, and base modules, will be launched by 2030.
- ❖ Two other target modules are scheduled to be launched by 2033.
- ❖ Currently there are two fully operational space stations – the International Space Station (ISS) and China's Tiangong Space Station (TSS).

ECONOMY

Job Creation in Fiscal 2023-24

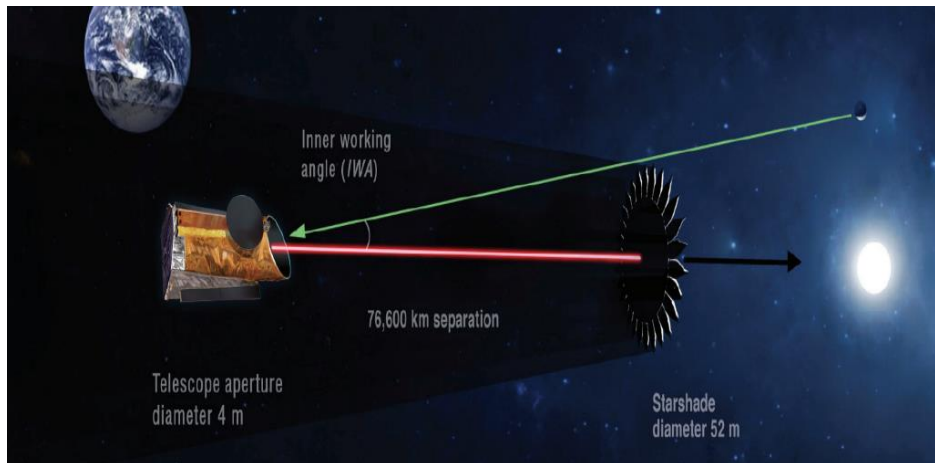
- ❖ India provisionally created 46.7 million jobs in the financial year ended March 2024, taking the country's total employment to 643.3 million.
- ❖ The country's employment growth rate stood at 6 per cent in that fiscal year.
- ❖ This was 3.2 per cent in the previous fiscal year.

- ❖ But, just 20.9 per cent of India's overall workforce earned regular wages in the form of salary, as of 2022-23.
- ❖ 7 per cent GDP growth will only create 8 million to 9 million jobs in India, short of the 11 million to 12 million needed.
- ❖ An average of over 20 million employment opportunities per year were created between 2017-18 to 2021-22.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Habitable Worlds Observatory



- ❖ NASA is getting ready to launch the cutting-edge Habitable Worlds Observatory (HWO).
- ❖ It aims to detect signs of extraterrestrial life on Earth-like planets by 2050, with a focus on identifying various biosignatures.

- ❖ HWO will detect signals from planets in the habitable zones of sun-like stars within our lifetime.

Anti-Insecticide Fabric

- ❖ Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (inStem), in Bengaluru have developed an anti-insecticide fabric.
- ❖ It effectively neutralises organophosphate-based pesticides.
- ❖ The fabric retains the anti-insecticide property even after washing 150 times.
- ❖ Farmers get repeatedly exposed to the insecticide due to frequent usage, and this can cause chronic toxicity and severe adverse health effects.
- ❖ The fabric containing the small molecules can prevent chronic toxicity in farmers.

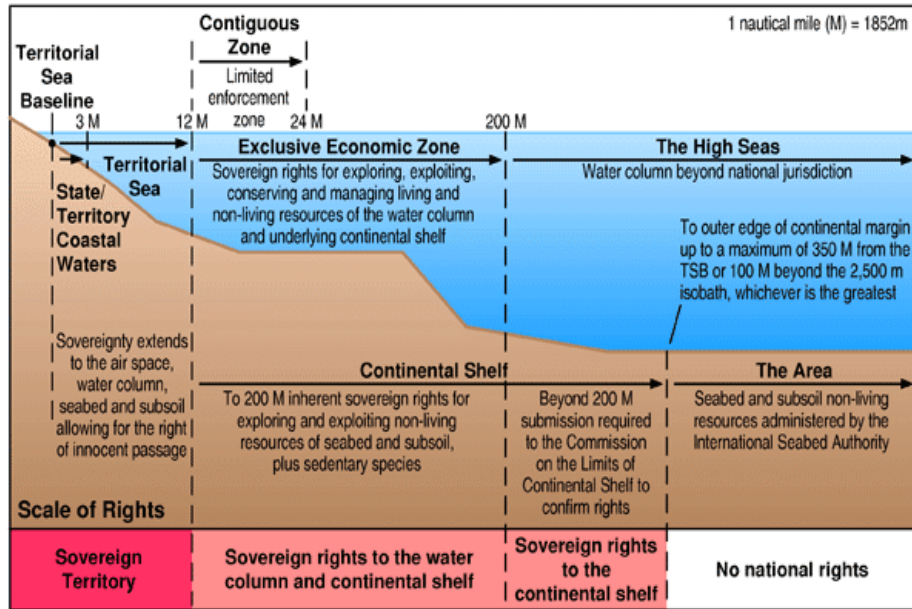


ENVIRONMENT

Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement - India

- ❖ The Indian government would soon sign and ratify the High Seas Treaty.
- ❖ It is a new international legal architecture for maintaining the ecological health of the oceans.
- ❖ It is meant for reducing pollution, and for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and other marine resources in ocean waters.
- ❖ This treaty is also known as the agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdictions (BBNJ).

- ❖ It is formally called the Agreement on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.
- ❖ Ninety-one countries have already signed the treaty, while eight of them have also ratified it.



11 New Biosphere Reserves - 2024



- ❖ The UNESCO has approved the designation of 11 new biosphere reserves in 11 countries.
- ❖ Belgium and Gambia got listed for the first time.

- ❖ Two transboundary biosphere reserves also announced.
 - Kempen-Broek Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Belgium, Kingdom of the Netherlands)
 - Julian Alps Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Italy, Slovenia)
- ❖ With these new biosphere reserves covering a total area of 37 400 km², equivalent to the size of the Netherlands.
- ❖ There are a total 12 Biosphere Reserves of India recognized internationally.

STATES

Karnataka Social Security and Welfare Bill

Karnataka publishes the **draft Karnataka Platform Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill 2024**

Karnataka publishes the **draft Karnataka Platform Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill 2024** to regulate the social security and welfare of platform-based gig economy workers in the state through the creation of a board, welfare fund, and grievance cell among the mechanisms.

- ❖ The Karnataka government published the draft of the Karnataka Platform-based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill.
- ❖ This was making it the second Indian State to initiate such a move, the first being Rajasthan.
- ❖ The Bill seeks to regulate the social security and welfare of platform-based gig workers in the State.
- ❖ The new draft also seeks to establish a welfare board and a social security and welfare fund for gig workers.
- ❖ 2022 NITI Aayog report estimates that India will have 23.5 million gig workers by 2029-30.

- ❖ Around 2 lakh gig workers work with platforms such as Swiggy, Zomato, Uber, Ola, and so on in Bengaluru alone.

Vizhinjam Port 2024

- ❖ The first phase of the country's first exclusive trans-shipment port, Kerala is all set to receive its first mothership on July 12.
- ❖ It is also making history as the first semi-automated container terminal in the country.
- ❖ Vizhinjam will soon see the docking of some of the largest container ships in the world.
- ❖ The port is also strategically located as it is just 10 nautical miles from the International Shipping Route connecting Europe, the Persian Gulf, and the Far East.

