

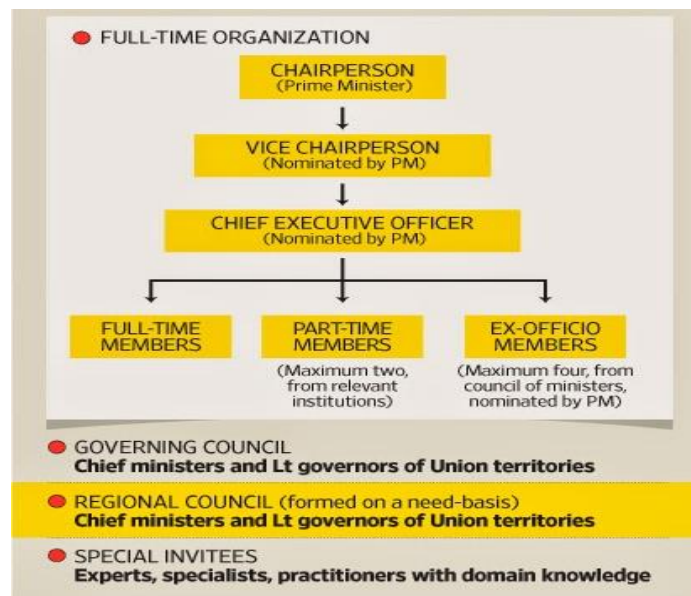
July - 21

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Supreme Court is attaining its full strength (34) with the recent appointment of Justices N. Kotiswar Singh and R. Mahadevan.
- ❖ Tim Walker published his second book titled 'The Prisoner of Bhopal', a historical fiction novel based on the real incident.
- ❖ Subhash Dandekar, the founder of stationery brand Camlin, has passed away recently.
- ❖ The North East Region Agri Commodity E-Connect (NERACE) web portal and mobile app was launched to integrate farmers and sellers, enhancing agricultural connectivity in the North Eastern Region.
- ❖ The NLCIL had emerged as the successful bidder for Machhakata (Revised) coal block in Angul district of Odisha under the commercial coal block e-auction
- ❖ In the series of its publication on Responsible Artificial Intelligence (RAI), NITI Aayog brings the third paper titled "Responsible AI for All: Adopting the Framework – A use case approach on Facial Recognition Technology".

NATIONAL

NITI Aayog reconstitution 2024



- ❖ Union government reconstituted the NITI Aayog, with four full-time members and 15 Union Ministers, as either ex-officio members or special invitees.

- ❖ Prime Minister remains the chairperson and economist Suman K. Bery will continue to be the vice-chairperson of NITI Aayog.
- ❖ Scientist V.K. Saraswat, agricultural economist Ramesh Chand, paediatrician V.K. Paul and macro-economist Arvind Virmani will also continue to be full-time members.
- ❖ The four ex-officio members will be the Union Ministers of Defence, Home, Agriculture and Finance.
- ❖ The National Institution for Transforming India, known as 'NITI Aayog', was constituted in 2015 by scrapping the 65-year-old Planning Commission.

UGC's ASMITA Project

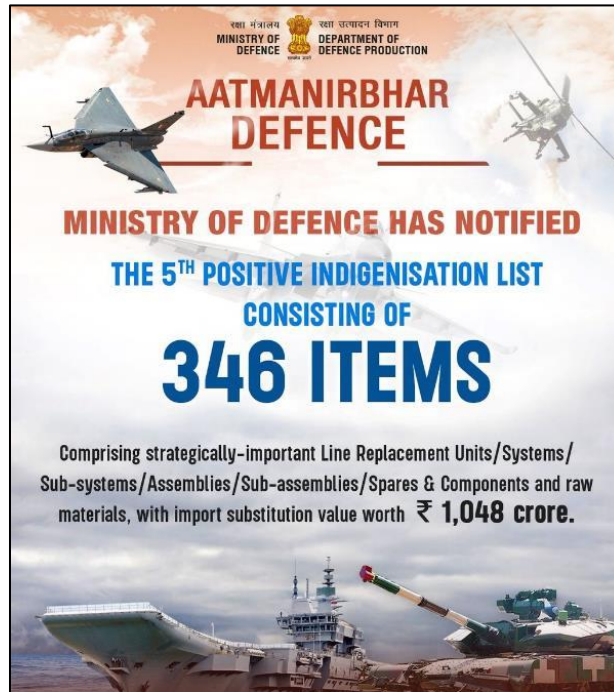


- ❖ The Ministry of Education and the UGC launched a project 16 to develop 22,000 books in Indian languages in the next five years.
- ❖ The project is titled ASMITA (Augmenting Study Materials in Indian Languages through Translation and Academic Writing).
- ❖ The UGC has also created a standard operating procedure (SOP) for the book-writing process in each assigned language.

India's 5th Indigenization List

- ❖ The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has notified a fifth positive indigenisation list (PIL) comprising 346 defence items.
- ❖ It aims to boosting Aatma nirbharta (self-reliance) in defence production and minimising imports by defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs).

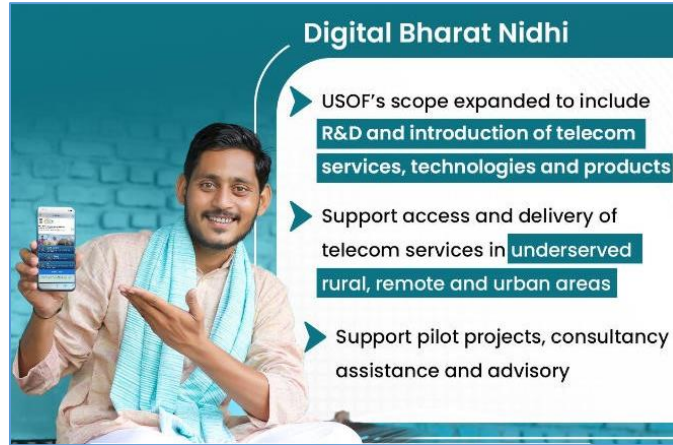
- ❖ The MoD had launched the Srijan portal in 2020.
- ❖ It provides a forum for DPSUs and service headquarters (SHQs) to offer defence items for indigenisation to private industries.
- ❖ They include micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and startups.
- ❖ Till June 2024, over 36,000 defence items were offered to the industry for indigenisation by the DPSUs and SHQs.
- ❖ Of them, more than 12,300 items have been indigenised in the last three years.



Digital Bharat Nidhi

- ❖ The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has released the draft rules to operationalise the Digital Bharat Nidhi, to increasing the telecom connectivity in rural areas.
- ❖ It would replace the erstwhile Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).
- ❖ USOF is a pool of funds generated by a 5 per cent Universal Service Levy charged upon all the telecom fund operators on their Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR).
- ❖ Contributions made by telecom companies towards the Digital Bharat Nidhi will first be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI).
- ❖ Between 2017 and 2022, the government had collected Rs 41,740 crore towards the USOF, of which it had utilised Rs 30,213 crore – about 72 per cent.

- ❖ Most notably, in 2019-20, the collection was Rs 7,962 crore, of which the utilised amount was just Rs 2,926 crore.



Project PARI



- ❖ On the occasion of 46th World Heritage Committee Meeting, the Ministry of Culture has initiated Project PARI (Public Art of India).
- ❖ The aim of this project is to stimulate a dialogue, reflection, and inspiration, contributing to the dynamic cultural fabric of the nation.
- ❖ The 46th session of the World Heritage Committee is scheduled in New Delhi, India from 21st -31st July 2024.
- ❖ More than 150 visual artists from all over the country have come together to create the various traditional artforms, wall paintings, murals, sculptures and installations under this project.

Annual Survey of Unincorporated Enterprises 2022-23

- ❖ The total number of establishments in the sector increased from 5.97 crore in 2021-22 to 6.50 crore in 2022-23, representing a 5.88% annual growth.



- ❖ The Gross Value Added (GVA), which is a key indicator of economic performance of the sector, witnessed an annual growth of 9.83%.
- ❖ The unincorporated non-agricultural sector employed about 11 crore workers from October 2022 to September 2023, up from 9.8 crore in ASUSE 2021-22.
- ❖ The Fixed assets owned by an unincorporated non-agricultural establishment on average, has risen from Rs. 2,81,013 in ASUSE 2021-22 to Rs. 3,18,144 in ASUSE 2022-23.
- ❖ The use of internet for entrepreneurial purpose has increased by 7.2% indicating a rapid rate of digitization taking place in the sector.
- ❖ About 54% of the proprietary establishments in the manufacturing sector were run by women entrepreneur.

Table1: Percentage share of establishments and workers in respect of top 3 activity categories				
Activity Category	Number of Establishments		Number of Workers	
	ASUSE 21-22	ASUSE 22-23	ASUSE 21-22	ASUSE 22-23
Other Retail Trade	33.40	30.38	31.54	29.80
Manufacture of Wearing Apparel	10.74	11.27	8.26	8.39
Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities	8.48	9.47	7.26	8.19

INTERNATIONAL

MV Sea Change

- ❖ The world's first commercial passenger ferry powered by 100% hydrogen fuel, the MV Sea Change, was launched in San Francisco, USA.
- ❖ Hydrogen-powered Sea Change produces only heat and water vapor as the byproducts.

- ❖ The Sea Change can travel about 300 nautical miles and operate for 16 hours before needing to refuel.
- ❖ The hydrogen fuel cells produce electricity by combining oxygen and hydrogen in an electrochemical reaction.



NATO's Eastern Flank Mobility



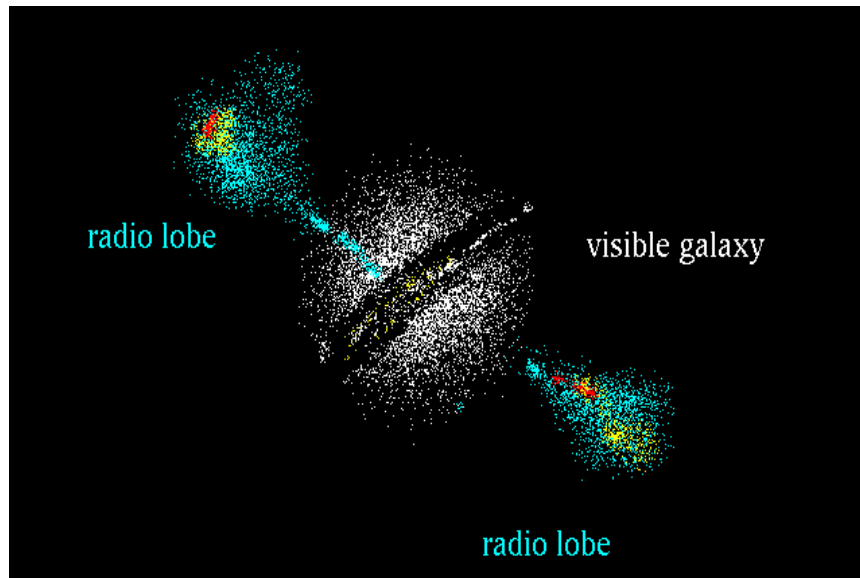
- ❖ Romania, Bulgaria and Greece have signed a deal to enable swift cross-border movement of troops and weapons to NATO's eastern flank.
- ❖ The three states could also connect their ports in the Aegean and Black seas.

- ❖ Romania and Bulgaria are already a part of a joint effort with Turkey to defuse stray mines in the Black Sea.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

LOW-FREQUENCY ARRAY

- ❖ Astronomers have discovered a new radio galaxy using the LOW-FREQUENCY ARRAY (LOFAR).
- ❖ It has been designated J0011+3217.
- ❖ The huge amount of radio waves is emitted from the centre cores of radio galaxies.
- ❖ In the core of these galaxies, black holes accrete gas and dust, producing radio-visible high-energy jets that propel electrically charged particles to very high velocities.

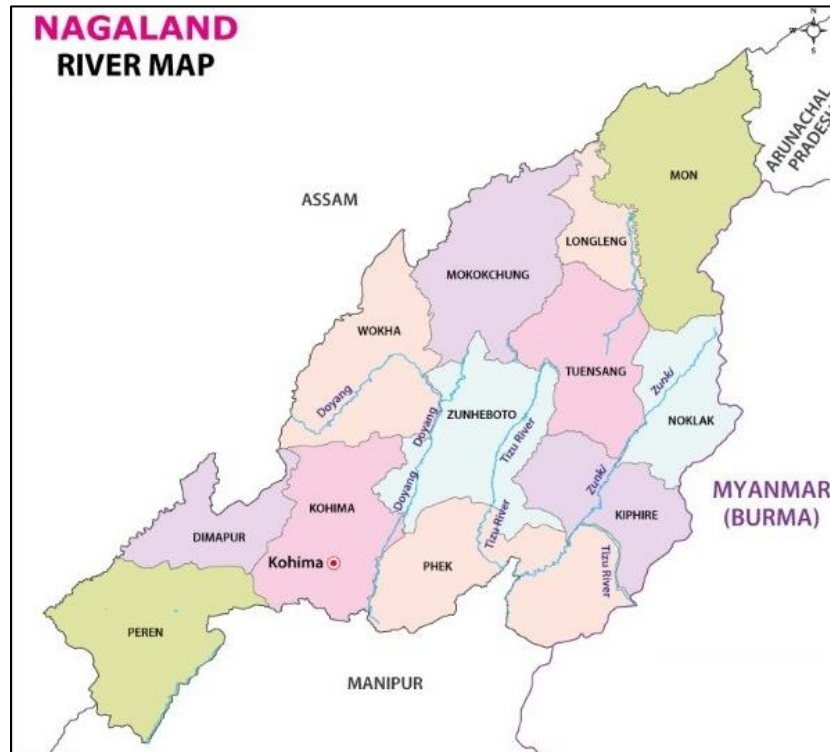


STATES

Tizu and Zungki River - Nagaland

- ❖ The Union shipping ministry has decided to carry out feasibility studies to use the National Waterways-101 on the Tizu Zunki River for the transportation of cargo and passengers.
- ❖ Tizu-Zungki is an important waterway starting from Kiphire district of Nagaland and ending in Chindwin.
- ❖ In Nagaland, the NW 101 flows from Longmatra (Nagaland) towards Avangkhu.

- ❖ Nagaland has four main rivers, namely, Doyang, Dhansiri, Dhiku and Tizu.
- ❖ The main tributaries of the River Tizu are river Zungki, Lanye, and Likimro.



Harela festival – Uttarakhand



- ❖ Sawan event begins, marked by the Harela festival in Uttarakhand.
- ❖ This traditional Hindu festival, also celebrated in parts of Himachal Pradesh.



- ❖ Harela symbolizes peace, prosperity, and the celebration of nature.
- ❖ Harela, translates to "day of greenery," in the fifth month of the lunar calendar.

