

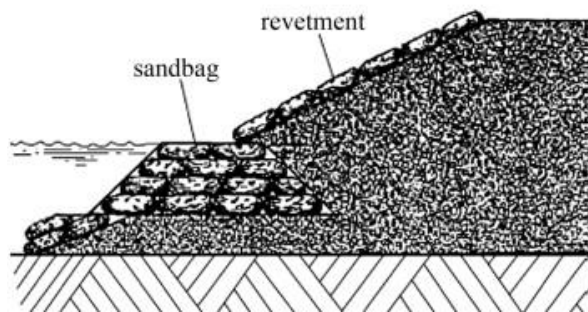
June - 17

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Motilal Oswal Mutual Fund launched the first passive fund in the defence theme in India named Nifty India Defence Index Fund.
- ❖ The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet approved Ajit Doval's Reappointment as National Security Advisor.
 - The Centre also reappointed P.K. Mishra as Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister.
- ❖ Indian bowler Ravichandran Ashwin revealed his autobiography titled "I Have the Streets: A Kutti Cricket Story".
- ❖ The 92-year-old veteran Indian classical musician, Sarod maestro Pandit Rajeev Taranath passed away.
- ❖ The NCRB has launched the "NCRB Sankalan of Criminal Laws" mobile app to provide comprehensive information on new criminal laws, effective from July 1.
- ❖ Apple introduced an AI platform, called Apple Intelligence in its annual Worldwide Developers Conference.
- ❖ Apple firm has surpassed Microsoft to become the world's most valuable company again with \$3.3 trillion.
- ❖ Wuhan city in China has started the world's biggest test of self-driving cars with 500 driverless cars.

TAMIL NADU

Artificial islands - Tamilnadu



- ❖ The Work of forming artificial islands at Kavinadu Kanmoi, one of the biggest irrigation tanks in Pudukkottai district, has been started.

- ❖ The silt would be removed before the formation of 10 artificial islands in the irrigation tank.
- ❖ The plan was to plant seedlings of various fruit-bearing trees and local species atop the artificial mounds which would be created on man-made islands to attract birds.
- ❖ The project was being implemented with technical guidance from the Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company.

INTERNATIONAL

Collective Security Treaty Organization - Armenia



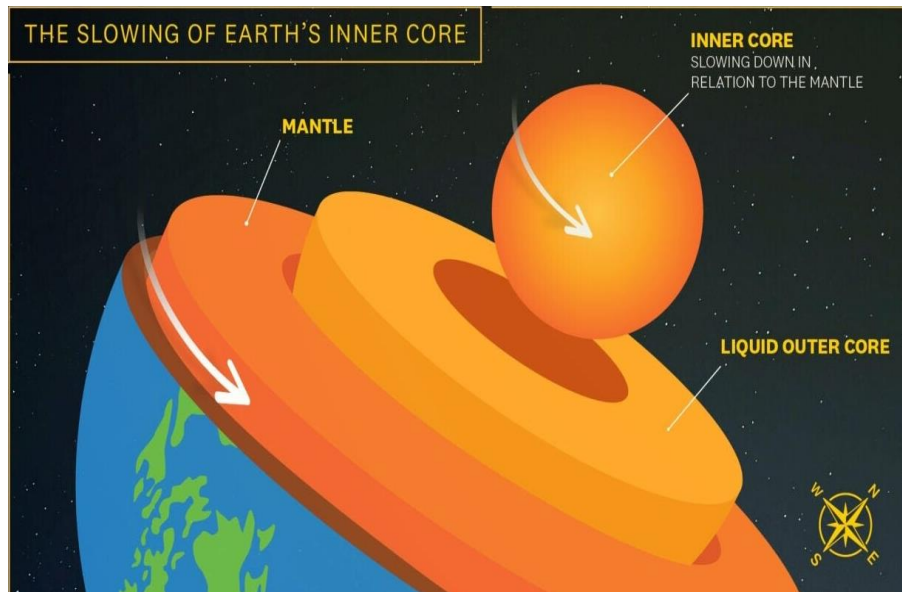
- ❖ Armenia's Prime Minister has confirmed that his country would pull out of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).
- ❖ The CSTO is a Russia-dominated alliance of former Soviet states that have pledged to protect one another in the event of an attack.
- ❖ Armenia's ties with Russia have become strained since Moscow refused to intervene in Nagorno-Karabakh.
- ❖ In February, Armenia joined the International Criminal Court (ICC) which has issued an arrest warrant for Russian President.

- ❖ CSTO is an intergovernmental military alliance (six countries) that came into effect in 2002.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Earth's Inner Core – Slow Down

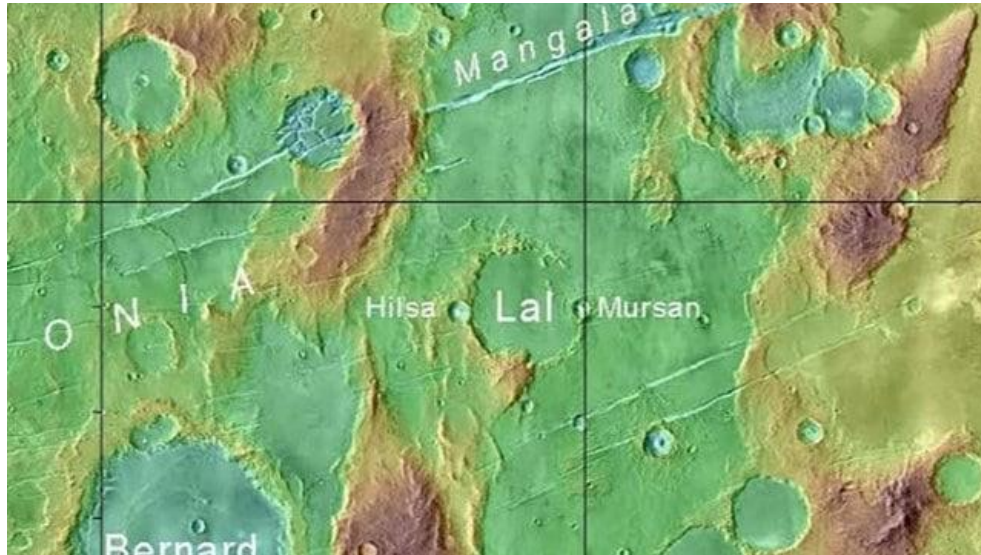
- ❖ The recent studies revealed that, the Earth's inner core began to slow down its rotation since 2010, compared to the planet's surface.
- ❖ The slowing down could change the length of one day on the Earth by fractions of a second.
- ❖ The Earth's inner core, a solid sphere made of iron and nickel, is suspended within the liquid outer core (made of molten metals) and anchored in its place by gravity.



Naming of Craters on Mars

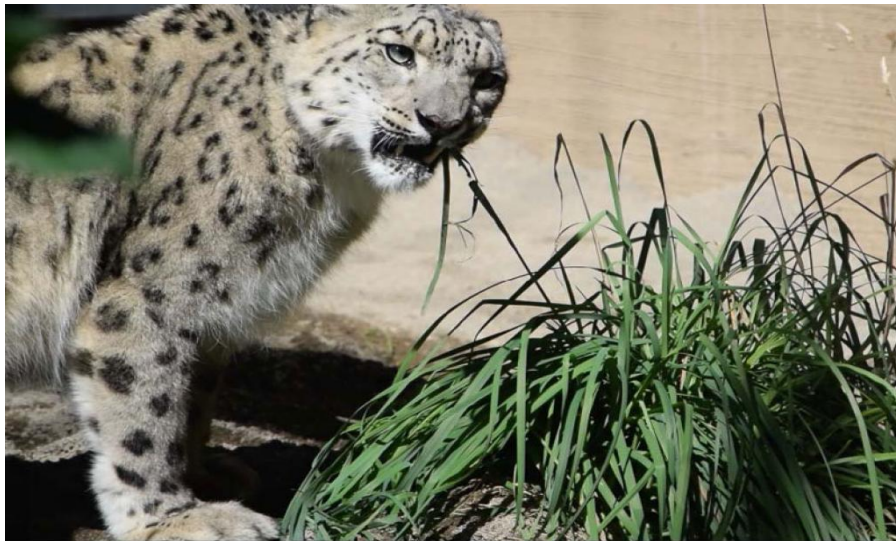
- ❖ The scientists of Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) have discovered three new craters on Mars.
- ❖ These Three craters have been named for renowned cosmic ray physicist late Devendra Lal and the towns of Mursan and Hilsa in northern India.
- ❖ Mursan and Hilsa are the names of towns located in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, respectively.
- ❖ The three craters are situated in the Tharsis volcanic region of the Red Planet.

- ❖ Tharsis is a vast volcanic plateau centered near the equator in the western hemisphere of Mars.
- ❖ The region is home to the largest volcanoes in the Solar System.



ENVIRONMENT

Plant eating Snow leopards



- ❖ Japanese scientists have found that, the snow leopard, the iconic predator of the snows of High Mountain Asia does eat plants.
- ❖ The furry felid particularly eats plants of the Myricaria genus.
- ❖ These plants are mostly shrubs and are found across the temperate parts of Europe and Asia.

- ❖ The snow leopard is not the first cat to be found consuming plants.
- ❖ There are 41 species of living felids or cats in the world.
- ❖ Researchers have previously found plants in the faeces of 24 species.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Peace Index 2024

- ❖ The Institute for Economics and Peace released its annual Global Peace Index.
- ❖ It assesses the level of peacefulness in 163 countries and territories around the world.
- ❖ In total, the level of global peacefulness decreased this year by 0.56%.
- ❖ On the whole, last year saw 162,000 deaths due to conflict, marking the second-highest toll in three decades.
- ❖ The global economic impact of violence increased to \$19.1 trillion last year, representing 13.5 per cent of worldwide GDP.
- ❖ Iceland remains the most peaceful country, a position it has held since 2008.
- ❖ It is followed by Ireland, Austria, New Zealand, and Singapore.
- ❖ Yemen has replaced Afghanistan as the world's least peaceful country.
- ❖ It is followed by Sudan, South Sudan, Afghanistan and Ukraine.
- ❖ India was ranked at 116th by improving by 5 places.

Regional Rank	Country	Overall Score	Score Change	Overall Rank
1	Bhutan	1.564	-0.042	21
2	Nepal	2.069	0.051	81
3	Bangladesh	2.126	0.033	93
4	Sri Lanka	2.195	0.029	100
5	India	2.319	-0.039	116
6	Pakistan	2.783	-0.025	140
7	Afghanistan	3.294	0.007	160

Global Economic Prospects Report 2024

- ❖ The Global Economic Prospects Report was recently released by World Bank.

- ❖ India is predicted to remain the fastest-growing major economy globally, with a projected GDP growth rate of 6.6% for FY25.
- ❖ In the South Asia region, GDP growth is projected to decrease from 6.6 % in 2023 to 6.2 % in 2024.
- ❖ For the first time in three years, the global economy is showing the signs of stabilisation in 2024.
- ❖ The report noted that the per capita income growth in the South Asian region is expected to decrease from 5.6% in 2023 to 5.1% in 2024-25.

TABLE 2.5.2 South Asia country forecasts
(Real GDP growth at market prices in percent, unless indicated otherwise)

	2021	2022	2023e	2024f	2025f	2026f	Percentage point differences from January 2024 projections	
							2024f	2025f
Calendar year basis								
Afghanistan ¹	-20.7	-6.2
Maldives	37.7	13.9	4.0	4.7	5.2	4.1	-0.5	-0.3
Sri Lanka	4.2	-7.3	-2.3	2.2	2.5	3.0	0.5	0.1
Fiscal year basis²								
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24e	2024/25f	2025/26f	2026/27f	2024/25f	2025/26f
India	9.7	7.0	8.2	6.6	6.7	6.8	0.2	0.2
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24e	2024/25f	2025/26f	2023/24e	2024/25f
Bangladesh	6.9	7.1	5.8	5.6	5.7	5.9	0.0	-0.1
Bhutan	-3.3	4.8	4.6	4.9	5.7	6.0	0.9	1.1
Nepal	4.8	5.6	1.9	3.3	4.6	5.3	-0.6	-0.4
Pakistan ³	5.8	6.2	-0.2	1.8	2.3	2.7	0.1	-0.1

STATES

Renaming of sites in Uttarakhand



- ❖ The Centre has approved the Uttarakhand government's proposal to rename of some sites.

- ❖ They are: Joshimath tehsil in Chamoli district as Jyotirmath, and Kosiyakutoli tehsil in Nainital district as Pargana Shri Kainchi Dham.
- ❖ It is believed that the area was originally called Jyotirmath after Adi Guru Shankaracharya visited it in the 8th century.
- ❖ Kainchi Dham was renamed after Baba Neem Karoli Maharaj's ashram.

MISCELLANEOUS

Minoan civilization – Greece

- ❖ Archaeologists in Crete Island have discovered a 4,000-year-old structure that the Minoans may have used for rituals.
- ❖ The circular monument structure dates back to the Bronze Age Minoan Civilization.
- ❖ It was a civilization that developed on the island of Crete during the Bronze Age and lasted from 3000 BC to 1450 BC.
- ❖ The Minoans were a highly advanced society in seafaring, trade, and the arts.
- ❖ The civilization was named after the mythological king Minos.

