

June - 23

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu constituted a one-man commission headed by Justice B. Gokuldas, former High Court judge, to conduct a thorough inquiry into the hooch incident in Kallakurichi.
- ❖ Former Chief Justice of Kerala high court justice S Manikumar, has been appointed chairperson of State Human Rights Commission (SHRC), Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has recently issued a critical advice circular to improve gender equality in Indian civil aviation
 - It aims to make sure that by 2023, at least 25% of women are working in different aviation jobs.
- ❖ Every year, World Music Day is observed on June 21.
- ❖ Every year on June 21, World Humanist Day is celebrated to spread awareness of Humanism as a philosophical life stance and means to effect change in the world.

TAMIL NADU

New mangrove forest



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has planted around 37,500 mangrove propagules over an extent of 25 hectares at Kudikadu village in Cuddalore district.

- ❖ This will be carried out under the Green Tamil Nadu Mission.
- ❖ For the first time, away from the existing mangrove area was identified as the favourable for mangrove plantation.
- ❖ The Rehabilitation of Coastal Habitats scheme is being implemented for another three years from 2023-24 to 2025-26 covering ten districts.

NATIONAL

Increase in MSP of 14 kharif crops

HARVEST REWARDS		
Crop	New MSP*	% (Absolute*) hike over 2023-24
Niger seed	8,717	12.7% (983)
Ragi	4,290	11.5% (444)
Tur/Arhar	7,550	7.8% (550)
Sunflower seed	7,280	7.7% (520)
Cotton	7,121	7.5% (501)
Sesamum	9,267	7.3% (632)
Urad	7,400	6.5% (450)
Groundnut	6,783	6.4% (406)
Maize	2,225	6.4% (135)
Soybean	4,892	6.3% (292)
Jowar	3,371	6% (191)
Paddy	2,300	5.3% (117)
Bajra	2,625	5% (125)

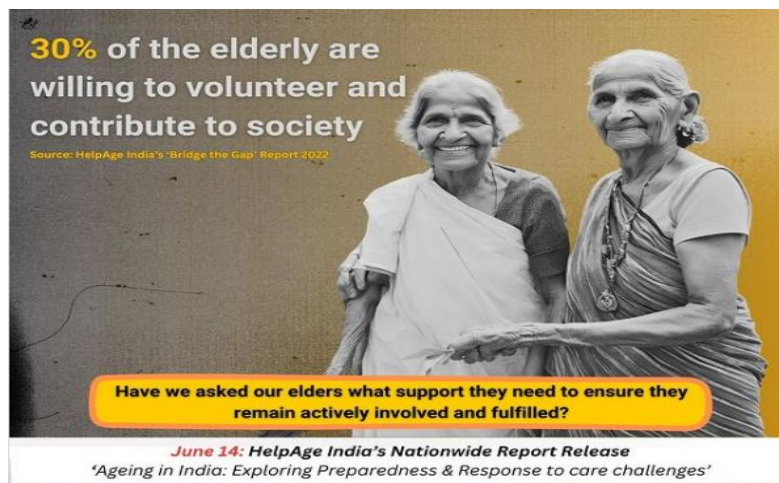
*₹per quintal **Paddy** (Common); **Jowar** (Hybrid); **Cotton** (Medium Staple)

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved an increase in the minimum support prices (MSP) for all 14 kharif crops for the 2024-25 crop season that runs from July to June.
- ❖ The highest increase came for oilseeds Niger seed and sesamum.
- ❖ The hike was by ₹983 and ₹632 and was fixed at ₹8,717 and at ₹9,267 per quintal, respectively.
- ❖ Pulses like tur or arhar (pigeon pea) also benefited from a big MSP hike by about ₹550 from last year to stand at ₹7,550 per quintal.
- ❖ In the case of oilseeds, groundnut, sunflower seed and yellow soy bean attracted a hike of ₹406, ₹520 and ₹292.

- ❖ The expected margin to farmers over their cost of production is estimated to be the highest for bajra (77%) followed by tur (59%), maize (54%) and urad (52%).

2023 India Ageing Report

- ❖ The report titled 'Ageing in India - Exploring Preparedness & Response to Care Challenges - A Help Age India Report' was released recently.
- ❖ Around 29% of senior citizens receive financial support from family members, with older women slightly more likely to receive aid than men.
- ❖ The projected magnitude of the elderly population is estimated at 319 million by mid-century, growing by around 3% a year.
- ❖ This group will be feminine with a sex ratio of 1,065 females per thousand males; further, 54% of elderly women will be widows.
- ❖ While 6% of the elderly men live alone against 9% of their female counterparts, 70% of them are to be found in rural areas.
- ❖ Food insecurity among India's elderly where 6% of those above 45 years of age ate smaller portions or skipped meals.
- ❖ 5.3% of them did not eat despite being hungry.
- ❖ 75% of the elderly population are victims of one or more chronic diseases and 40% of those aged 45 and above have one or the other disability.

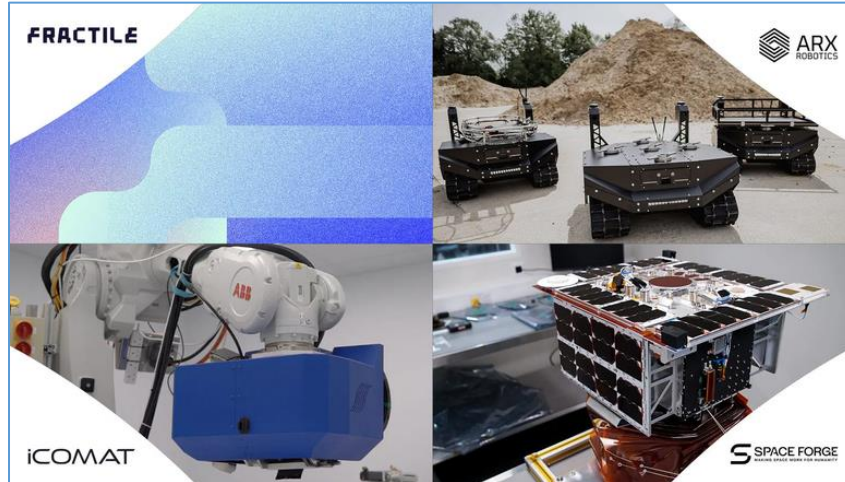


INTERNATIONAL

NATO funds to AI

- ❖ A consortium of NATO allies confirmed the first set of companies that will receive funding from the group's one-billion-euro innovation fund.

- ❖ The fund is backed by 24 of NATO's 32 member states, including Finland and Sweden, which joined the alliance earlier this year.
- ❖ It would help to address challenges in defence, security, and resilience by developing AI, robots and space technologies.



REPORTS AND INDICES

Sustainable Development Report 2024

104	Cambodia	64.90	
107	Bangladesh	64.35	
109	India	63.99	
119	Lao PDR	62.95	
120	Myanmar	62.82	
137	Pakistan	57.02	

- ❖ Recently, the 9th edition of the Sustainable Development Report was released by UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).
- ❖ Only 16% of SDG targets are on track to be achieved by 2030, with 84% showing limited or reversed progress.
- ❖ Nordic countries lead in SDG achievement, with Finland (score 86.4) ranked first, followed by Sweden (85.7), Denmark (85.0), Germany (83.4), and France.
- ❖ BRICS and BRICS+ countries have shown faster-than-average SDG progress since 2015.

- ❖ East and South Asia are the regions with the most SDG progress since 2015.
- ❖ Bottom 3 Countries are South Sudan, Central African Republic and Chad.
- ❖ India secured 109th rank with the overall score of 64.0.
- ❖ Only around 30% of SDG targets are on track or have been achieved by India.

SIPRI Yearbook 2024

- ❖ The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has launched its annual assessment of the state of armaments, disarmament and international security.
- ❖ The nine nuclear-armed states continued to modernize their nuclear arsenals and several deployed new nuclear-armed or nuclear-capable weapon systems in 2023.
- ❖ They are the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea) and Israel.
- ❖ There was a total global inventory of an estimated 12,121 warheads in January 2024, about 9585 of which were in military stockpiles for potential use.
- ❖ Russia and the USA together possess almost 90 per cent of all nuclear weapons.
- ❖ China’s nuclear arsenal increased from 410 warheads in January 2023 to 500 in January 2024.

Country	Deployed warheads ^a	Stored warheads ^b	Military stockpile		Retired ^d warheads		Total inventory ^e	
	2024	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
United States	1 770	1 938	3 708	3 708	1 536	1 336	5 244	5 044
Russia	1 710	2 670	4 489 ^f	4 380	1 400	1 200	5 889 ^f	5 580
United Kingdom	120	105	225	225 ^g	-	-	225	225 ^g
France	280	10	290	290	-	-	290	290
China	24 ^h	476	410	500	-	-	410	500
India	-	172	164	172	-	-	164	172
Pakistan	-	170	170	170	-	-	170	170
North Korea	-	50	30	50 ⁱ	-	-	30	50 ⁱ
Israel	-	90	90	90	-	-	90	90
Total	3 904	5 681	9 576^f	9 585	2 936	2 536	12 512^f	12 121

IMPORTANT DAYS

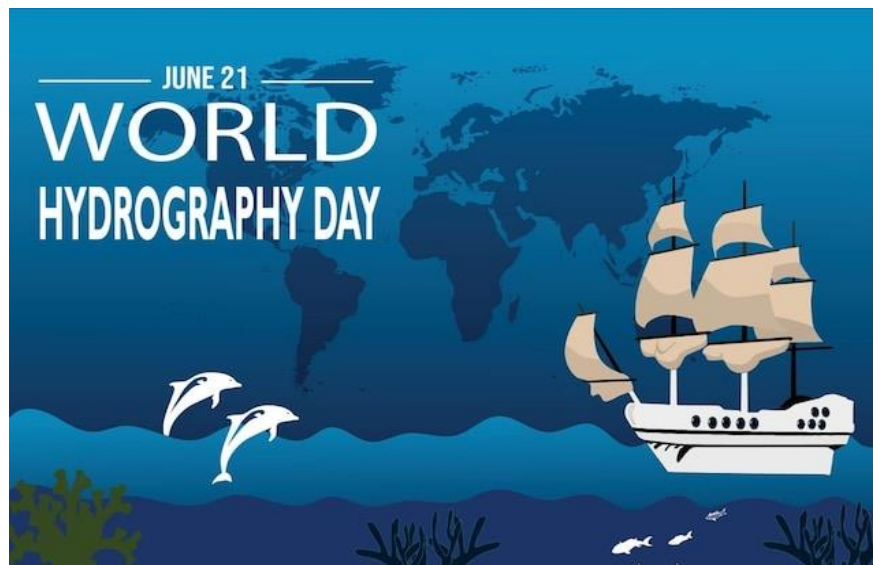
World Refugee Day 2024 - June 20

- ❖ This day is dedicated to the millions of people who have been forced to escape their homes due to war, persecution, or natural catastrophes.

- ❖ After the UN (United Nations) defined refugee rights in 1951, Africa established a day to honour them in 1970.
- ❖ The theme of 2024 is 'For a World Where Refugees Are Welcomed.'



World Hydrography Day 2024 - June 21

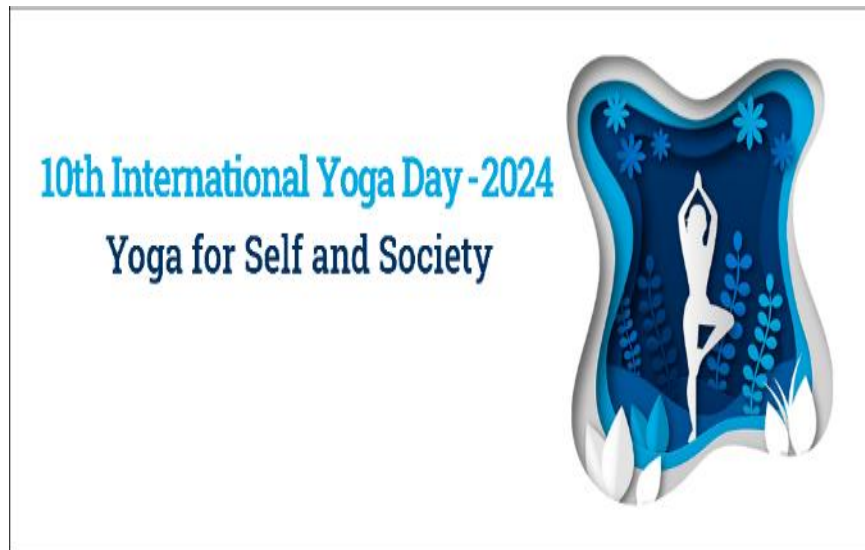


- ❖ Hydrography is the science of describing the physical features of Earth's water bodies.



- ❖ It aims to generate awareness of the importance of hydrography as well as the work of hydrographers.
- ❖ It was launched by the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) and was first celebrated in 2006.
- ❖ The day marks the anniversary of the founding of the IHO in 1921.
- ❖ The theme this year is “Hydrographic Information – Enhancing Safety, Efficiency and Sustainability in Marine Activities”.

International Yoga Day 2024 - June 21



- ❖ This date June 21 is coincidence with the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.
- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about the numerous benefits of yoga, right from physical, mental, and spiritual.
- ❖ The UNGA on 11 December 2014, proclaimed this day.
- ❖ The theme for this year's is 'Yoga for Self and Society'.

The Summer Solstice 2024 - June 21

- ❖ The summer solstice is occurring between June 20 and June 22 in the Northern Hemisphere.
- ❖ On the solstice, the Northern Hemisphere experiences the maximum duration of daylight.
- ❖ It is the shortest day of the year in the Southern Hemisphere because of the Earth's tilt.

- ❖ The June solstice is famous because it marks the astronomical first day of summer in the Northern Hemisphere.
- ❖ On the day of the June solstice, the Northern Hemisphere receives sunlight at the most direct angle of the year.

