MADE EASY

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

MARCH, 2023

Week-4

22-31 March, 2023

★★ *Useful for* ★★

CSE, ESE, PSUs, State Services Exams, SSC and Banking Exams

22nd MARCH, 2023

G7 Hiroshima Summit

- **Context:** The Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for G7 Hiroshima Summit when they met for the Annual India-Japan Summit.

Key Highlights:

- The two Prime ministers largely focused on significantly boosting cooperation in areas of clean energy, semiconductors and co-development of military hardware besides exploring ways to deal with regional security challenges amidst the increasing assertiveness of China.

- Both nations vowed to work together to deal with pressing global challenges under India's presidency of the G20 and Japan's chairmanship of the G7 grouping.

- 2023 has been announced as the India-Japan year of tourism.

- The Japanese PM formally invited the Indian PM to the G7 Hiroshima Summit which was accepted.

OneWeb India-2 Mission

- **Context:** ISRO to launch OneWeb India-2 mission from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota

Key Highlights:

- The Indian Space Research Organisation ISRO will launch OneWeb India-2 mission from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. Under a commercial agreement with NewSpace India Limited, ISRO will launch 72 satellites of the UK-based Network Access Associates Limited and place them in low Earth orbits.

- NewSpace is the commercial wing of ISRO. The first set of 36 satellites was launched on October 23 last year by the LVM3 M2 launch vehicle.

- In the second mission, the remaining 36 satellites weighing about 5805 kgs will be placed in 450 km circular low Earth orbit by LVM3 M3 launch vehicle.

- The LVM3 had five consecutive successful missions, including the Chandrayaan 2 mission. The satellites offer space based broadband internet services to the corners of the world. After the launch, Access Associates Limited will have over 600 satellites in space offering internet from space services in various countries.

Zealandia

- **Context:** After 375 years of speculation and exploration, scientists have finally confirmed the existence of a "missing" continent known as Zealandia.

Key Highlights:

- The existence of Zealandia was first recorded in 1642 by Dutch businessman and sailor Abel Tasman, who was on a mission to find the "great Southern Continent," or Terra Australis.

- It is a long, narrow microcontinent that is mostly submerged in the South Pacific Ocean. It is 1.89 million square miles land, about half the size of Australia.

- It was once part of an ancient supercontinent called Gondwana. The vast majority of this "new" continent is located underwater, lying beneath 6,560 feet (2km) of water.

- Zealandia began to "pull away" from Gondwana roughly 105 million years ago. As Zealandia started pulling away, it began to sink beneath the waves, with over 94 percent remaining underwater for millennia.

- Zealandia is now recognized as the world's eighth continent.

- The part of Zealandia which is above water forms the foundation of New Zealand's north and south islands as well as the island of New Caledonia.

- The discovery will shed light on the earth's geological history and the forces that shaped the planet.

23rd MARCH, 2023

Extended Fund Facility (EFF)

- **Context:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cleared a $3-billion-Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Sri Lanka.

Key Highlights:

- The EFF-supported program aims to restore Sri Lanka's macroeconomic stability and debt sustainability.
- To mitigate the economic impact on the poor and vulnerable.
- To safeguard financial sector stability
- To strengthen governance and growth potential.
- Sri Lanka's top three bilateral creditors India, Japan and China have played a crucial role in unlocking IMF assistance to the island, by providing financing assurances to the Fund.
- EFF provides assistance to countries experiencing serious payment imbalances because of structural impediments or slow growth and an inherently weak balance-of-payments position and to support comprehensive programs with a focus on policies needed to correct structural imbalances over an extended period.

Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC)

- **Context:** The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has released 14 guidelines to address Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC).

Key Highlights:

- The guidelines have been developed under the Indo-German cooperation project on HWC Mitigation.
- The guidelines are advisory in nature. A review of these guidelines is planned to take place every five years from 2023 onwards.
- To facilitate a common understanding of effective and efficient mitigation of HWC among key stakeholders,

- To facilitate the development of site-specific HWC mitigation measures.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has released 14 guidelines.
- 10 are species-specific guidelines for Mitigating Human-Elephant, -Gaur, -Leopard, -Snake, -Crocodile, -Rhesus Macaque, -Wild Pig, -Bear, -Blue Bull and -Blackbuck Conflict and
- 4 are guidelines on cross-cutting issues for Cooperation between the Forest and Media sector in India, Occupational Health and Safety in the Context of Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation, Crowd Management in Human-Wildlife Conflict-Related Situations and Addressing Health Emergencies and Potential Health Risks Arising Out of Human—Wildlife Conflict Situations that is taking a One Health Approach.

Off-grid Solar PV Applications' Programme

- **Context:** The government is likely to extend the scope of its 'Off-grid Solar PV Applications' programme to encourage small businesses in semi-urban and rural areas to go solar.

Key Highlights:

- 'Off-grid' refers to using solar power from sources other than the power grid.
- The scheme is aimed at providing solar PV-based applications in areas where grid power is either not available or is unreliable.
- Under the programme, the Centre provides financial support to help set up solar-powered street lights, study lamps and water pumps among others.
- Under the Off-grid Solar PV Applications' programme, applications such as home lighting, street lighting, power plants, water pumps, lanterns and study lamps are currently covered.
- Government is now likely to extend the scope of this programme to encourage small businesses in semi-urban and rural areas to go solar. It is looking to include solar looms, solar dryers and solar 'charkha' (spinning wheel) under the programme.

24th MARCH, 2023

6G Technology

- **Context:** The Prime Minister launched the Bharat 6G vision document and the 6G Testbed as part of its 6G mission.

Key Highlights:

- The 6G Testbed will provide academic institutions, industries, start-ups, and MSMEs, and industry, among others, a platform to test and validate evolving ICT technologies.
- Bharat 6G vision document is prepared by the Technology Innovation Group on 6G (TIG-6G) to develop a roadmap and action plans for 6G in India.
- The 6G (sixth-generation wireless) has been conceived as a far superior technology promising internet speeds up to 100 times faster than 5G.
- As opposed to 5G, which at its peak can offer internet speeds up to 10 gigabits per second, 6G promises to offer ultra-low latency with speeds up to 1 terabit per second.
- Use cases of 6G include remote-controlled factories, constantly communicating self-driven cars and smart wearables taking inputs directly from human senses.
- The Government has appointed an apex council to oversee the 6G project and focus on issues such as standardisation, identification of the spectrum for 6G usage, ecosystem for devices and systems, and figuring out finances for research and development.
- To fund research and innovation on 6G, the government plans creation of a corpus of Rs 10,000 crore to facilitate various funding instruments such as grants, loans, VC fund, fund of funds, etc. for the next 10 years.

Abel Prize, 2023

- **Context:** The Abel Prize for mathematics was awarded to Argentine-American Luis Caffarelli.

Key Highlights:

- Caffarelli is a professor at the University of Texas and was honoured for his seminal contributions to regularity theory for nonlinear partial differential equations.
- He is the first person born in South America to win the award.
- Differential equations are tools scientists use to predict the behaviour of the physical world. These equations play a prominent role in many disciplines including engineering, physics, economics, and biology.
- Partial differential equations arise naturally as laws of nature, to describe phenomena as different as the flow of water or the growth of populations.
- These equations have been a constant source of intense study since the days of Isaac Newton and Gottfried Leibniz. Yet, despite substantial efforts by numerous mathematicians over centuries, fundamental questions concerning the existence, uniqueness, regularity, and stability of solutions of some of the key equations remain unresolved.

About the Abel Prize:

- It is named after the Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel (1802-1829) and is one of the most coveted awards in mathematics.
- The Abel Prize is funded by the Norwegian government and amounts to NOK 7.5 million ($710,000).
- The prize is awarded by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters and presented by His Majesty King Harald.
- The choice of the Abel laureate is based on the recommendation by the Abel Committee, which is composed of five internationally recognised mathematicians.

Konkan, 2023

- **Context:** Konkan 2023, the annual bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy, was held on the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea.

Key Highlights:

- The exercises covered all domains of maritime operations, air, surface and sub-surface, and included gunnery shoots on surface inflatable target 'Killer Tomato', helicopter operations, anti-air and anti-submarine warfare drills, Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS), ship manoeuvres and exchange of personnel.

- The exercise yielded excellent training value to personnel of both navies. A high level of professionalism and enthusiasm was also evident during its conduct.

- The focus personnel exhibited on op-readiness, enhancing interoperability and improving the ability to conduct joint operations will go a long way in bolstering the combined efforts of the IN and RN to strengthen maritime security and uphold a rules-based order in the region.

- The exercise involved INS Trishul, a guided missile frigate, and HMS Lancaster, a Type 23 guided missile frigate, and aimed to improve cooperation and learn best practices through various maritime drills.

25th MARCH, 2023

AIS for Taxpayer

- **Context:** The Income Tax Department has released a mobile app named "AIS for Taxpayer" to make it easier for taxpayers to obtain their information as it is available in the Annual Information Statement (AIS)/ Taxpayer Information Summary (TIS).

Key Highlights:

- The mobile app allows taxpayers to examine information from AIS/TIS that is available on TDS/ TCS, interest, dividends, share transactions, tax payments, income tax refunds, and other information (GST Data, Foreign Remittances, etc.). Also, the taxpayer has the option to provide feedback on the data shown by the app.

- The taxpayer must register on the app by entering their PAN number and authenticate using the OTP issued to their registered email and cellphone number on the e-filing portal in order to access this mobile app. Once the authentication is complete, the taxpayer can easily create a 4-digit PIN to use the mobile app.

- According to the Income tax website, "From AY 2023-24 onwards, Form 26 AS display only TDS/TCS data. Other taxes like advance tax, Self-assessment tax, refund etc., would be available in AIS (Annual information statement)."

About Annual Information Statement (AIS):

The Annual Information Statement (AIS) is a complete view of a taxpayer's information provided in Form 26AS. Taxpayers can submit feedback on AIS information. For each section, AIS displays both the reported value and the updated value (i.e. value after considering taxpayer feedback) under each section (i.e. TDS, SFT, Other information).

Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Context:** The government of Tamil Nadu has decided to declare Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary as the 18th wildlife sanctuary in the state.

Key Highlights:

- This sanctuary covers an area of 80,567 hectares in the forest regions of Anthiyur and Gobichettipalayam taluks in Erode district, and includes reserve forest areas in Anthiyur, Bargur, Thattakarai, and Chennampatti.

- It is home to a variety of wild animals such as tigers, elephants, leopards, wild boars, gaurs, and deer.

- This wildlife sanctuary is located in close proximity to other sanctuaries such as Malai Mahadeshwara wildlife sanctuary, BRT Wildlife Sanctuary, Cauvery wildlife sanctuary in Karnataka, and it serves as a connecting point between Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve and Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary.

One World TB Summit

- **Context:** During the One World TB Summit arranged on World Tuberculosis Day, PM Narendra Modi highlighted India's powerful pharmaceutical industry as a significant advantage in the global battle against TB.

Key Highlights:

- On the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day, Prime Minister addressed the One World TB Summit. This summit is being organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the Stop TB Partnership. Founded in 2001,
- The Stop TB Partnership is an organisation hosted by the United Nations that amplifies the voices of the people, communities, and countries affected by TB.
- During the event, the Prime Minister launched various initiatives including the TB-Mukt Panchayat initiative; the official pan-India rollout of a shorter TB Preventive Treatment (TPT); the Family-centric care model for TB and the release of India's Annual TB Report 2023. The Prime Minister also awarded select States/UTs and districts for their progress towards ending TB.
- One World TB Summit will provide an opportunity to further deliberate upon the targets as the country moves forward to meet its TB elimination objectives and it will also be an opportunity to showcase learnings from National TB Elimination Programmes.

26th MARCH, 2023

Technology and Innovation Report, 2023

- **Context:** The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has released the Technology and Innovation Report 2023.

Key Highlights:

- The report highlights the opportunities that green innovation, goods and services with smaller carbon footprints, offer developing countries to spur economic growth and enhance technological capacities.
- It analyzes the market size of 17 green and frontier technologies such as artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things and electric vehicles, and their potential to create jobs.
- The 17 frontier technologies covered in the report such as artificial intelligence, Internet of Things and green hydrogen already represent a $1.5 trillion market, which could grow to over $9.5 trillion by 2030, about three times the current size of the Indian economy.
- But so far, developed economies are seizing most of the opportunities, leaving developing economies further behind.
- The total exports of green technologies from developed countries jumped from around $60 billion in 2018 to over $156 billion in 2021.
- In the same period, exports from developing nations rose from a similar starting line of $57 billion to only about $75 billion. In three years, developing countries' share of global exports has fallen from over 48% to under 33%.
- The index shows that countries in Latin America, the Caribbean and sub-Saharan Africa are the least ready to use, adopt or adapt to frontier technologies and are at risk of missing current technological opportunities.
- In general, those most ready are high-income economies, notably the United States, Sweden, Singapore, Switzerland and the Netherlands.
- China, the most-ready developing country, ranked 35, followed by Brazil (40), India (46) and South Africa (56).
- The readiness index shows that some developing countries in Asia are performing better than expected.
- Their overperformance is measured as the difference between the actual index rankings and the projected rankings based on per capita income. In general, it results from increased investment in infrastructure, enhanced technical skills and a conducive business climate.

- India remains the greatest overperformer ranking at 67 positions better than expected, followed by the Philippines (54 positions better) and Vietnam (44 better).

"Call Before u Dig" App

- **Context:** Prime Minister Modi has recently launched an app called "Call Before You Dig" to prevent uncoordinated digging.

Key Highlights:

- "Call Before You Dig" app prevent uncoordinated digging that can cause damage to underground utility assets, such as optical fibre cables.
- The app has been developed jointly by the Department of Telecommunications and the Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics, which operates under the Gujarat government.
- Its primary aim is to protect the country's underground public infrastructure.
- The "Call Before You Dig" app will facilitate coordination between excavators and asset owners through SMS/email notifications and click-to-call options.
- This will help in executing planned excavations and ensure that the concerned authorities are informed before any digging takes place.
- By using the app, excavators can get information about the location of underground utility assets and their depth, which will help them plan their work accordingly and avoid any damage to these assets.
- This kind of damage can cost the government thousands of crores each year. The app is designed to help avoid these costly accidents by allowing people to get in touch with the concerned authorities before starting any excavation work.
- It is expected that this app will help reduce the cost of damages caused by uncoordinated digging, and ensure that the country's underground utility assets are better protected.

Biotransformation Technology

- **Context:** A UK-based startup claims to have developed a technology that could alter the state of plastics and make them biodegradable. The company calls the process "biotransformation".

Key Highlights:

- Biotransformation technology is a novel technology that would digest plastic waste naturally with the help of microbes and biodegrade the waste without leaving behind any microplastics.
- This technology ensures plastics that escape refuse streams are processed efficiently and broken down
- As per the government, India is generating 3.5 billion kgs of plastic waste annually. The per capita plastic waste generation in India has also doubled in the past five years. Of this, a third comes from packaging waste.
- Also, as per one estimate, E-commerce giant Amazon generated an estimated 321 million kilograms (709 million pounds) of plastic from packaging waste in 2021 alone. These plastic packaging often ends up in the world's freshwater and marine ecosystems as pollution.
- Food packaging and healthcare industries are the two prime sectors that could use this technology to reduce waste.

IBA Women's World Boxing Championships

- **Context:** India wrapped up the Women's World Boxing Championships in New Delhi with four gold medals.

Key Highlights:

- India emerged as a dominant force at the 13th edition of the IBA Women's World Boxing Championship 2023, held in New Delhi.

- India wrapped up the Women's World Boxing Championships in New Delhi with four gold medals. Tokyo Olympic bronze medalist Lovlina Borgohain added fourth gold to India's tally by defeating Caitlin Parker of Australia in the final of the middleweight 75-kilogram category.
- This is Lovlina's maiden gold medal at the World Championships.
- Saweety Boora, Nitu Ghanghas, Nikhat Zareen, and Lovlina Borgohain were the top performers in their respective categories, contributing to India's historic success in the competition.
- This was the second time India achieved such a remarkable feat, the first being in the 2006 event.
- The 26-year-old created history by becoming World Champion for the second successive time. She has become only the second Indian woman boxer after Mary Kom to bag more than one world titles.

Aravalli Green Wall Project

- **Context:** The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched the Aravalli Green Wall Project.

Key Highlights:

- The Aravalli Green Wall Project is part of the Union Environment Ministry's vision to create green corridors across the country to combat land degradation and desertification.
- The project covers the states of Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi – where the Aravalli hills landscape span over 6 million hectares of land.
- Its Objective is to improve the ecological health of the Aravalli range and to prevent the eastward expansion of the Thar Desert and to reduce land degradation by creating green barriers that will prevent soil erosion, desertification and dust storms
- The project will involve planting native species of trees and shrubs on scrubland, wasteland and degraded forest land, along with rejuvenating and restoring surface water bodies such as ponds, lakes and streams.

- The project will also focus on agroforestry and pasture development to enhance the livelihoods of local communities.
- The project will help in promoting sustainable development and livelihood opportunities by involving local communities in afforestation, agroforestry and water conservation activities that will generate income, employment, food security and social benefits.

28th MARCH, 2023

Groundwater Crisis in India

- **Context:** Four more states – Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have been found to be water-stressed. These states have more than 3% of their 'assessment areas' falling in the over-exploited category. These states will now be brought under the Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal) along with seven other states which are already under the scheme.

Key Highlights:

- Groundwater plays an important role in increasing food and agricultural production, providing safe drinking water and facilitating industrial development in India.
- It contributes fresh water to meet the requirements of nearly 65% of irrigated area, which caters to nearly 85% of rural drinking water and 50% of urban drinking water needs.
- According to the Dynamic Ground Water Resources Assessment Report by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), the groundwater extracted in 1,186 blocks, mandals and taluks is more than what is replenished annually through rainfall and other sources.
- Nearly 61% of the observation wells in the country show a long-term declining trend in groundwater levels.
- Experts say poor land use policies in India have resulted in the loss of smaller wetlands and the degradation of most wetlands that ultimately pushed

groundwater levels very low. Most of the wetlands are treated as wastelands by local administrations and encroached on for other land-use purposes that need to be immediately stopped.

About Atal Bhujal Yojana:

- Atal Bhujal Yojana is a central sector scheme under the ministry of Jal Shakti. The scheme was announced in the 2016-17 Union Budget.
- It aims to recharge groundwater sources and ensure the efficient use of water by involving people at the local level.
- The funding pattern of the scheme is 50:50 between the Government of India and the World Bank.
- The scheme will seek to strengthen the institutional framework and bring about behavioural changes at community level for sustainable groundwater resource management. It envisages community-led Water Security Plans.
- The scheme will be implemented in water-stressed areas of Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.

IOE Scheme

- **Context:** Private campuses get no money under IOE scheme but are promised significant autonomy and that's only on paper according to the report.

Key Highlights:

- The institutes of eminence scheme under the Union human resource ministry aims to project Indian institutes to global recognition.
- The selected institutes under the scheme enjoy complete academic and administrative autonomy.
- Higher education institutions currently placed in the top 500 of global rankings or top 50 of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) are eligible to apply for the eminence tag.
- The private Institutions of Eminence can also come up as greenfield ventures-provided the sponsoring organisation submits a convincing perspective plan for 15 years.

- The selection is made through challenge method mode by the Empowered Expert Committee constituted for the purpose.
- The Report Finds that UGC still interferes in issues ranging from Naming of departments to fixing of fees.
- The IOE institutes find the 2-year visa given to foreign faculty very short and a bottle neck in attracting best of faculties from around the world.

Great Indian Bustard

- **Context:** The Environment Ministry has taken various measures for the Conservation of Great Indian Bustards.

Key Highlights:

- The Great Indian Bustard is One of the heaviest flying birds endemic to the Indian subcontinent. It is a state bird of Rajasthan and its scientific name is Ardeotis nigriceps.
- The Great Indian Bustard is listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Important habitats of Great Indian Bustards are designated as National Parks/ sanctuaries.
- The species has been identified for conservation efforts under the component 'Species Recovery Programme' of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme-Development of Wildlife Habitats.
- Sites for establishment of a conservation breeding centres for the Great Indian Bustard and Lesser Florican birds have been identified in consultation with the Forest Departments of Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- In-situ Conservation Proposal by Rajasthan government

29th MARCH, 2023

TB burden mathematical model

- **Context:** India become the first country in the world to have developed a country-level mathematical model that estimate the prevalence of TB cases.

Key Highlights:

- India has become the first country to develop a country-level mathematical model to estimate the prevalence of tuberculosis (TB) cases in the country.

- India's own mathematical model to estimate TB cases is based on the natural history of the disease, individual status of infection, health care, missed or correct diagnosis, treatment coverage and outcomes including cure and death.

- The model used data from several sources including the first TB prevalence survey, Nikshay portal, and the sub-national certification system where the TB-free status of various states is estimated and ranked.

- According to WHO estimates, the TB incidence rate (per 10,000) in India in 2021 was 210. Using the Indian mathematical model, it was estimated to be 196 in 2022. The WHO estimated the TB incidence absolute number to be 29.50 lakh in 2021 while the Indian model suggested it was 27.70 lakh in 2022.

- According to the WHO, the TB mortality rate (per 10,000) in 2021 was estimated to be 35, which decreased to 23 in 2022 as per the Indian model. WHO's TB mortality absolute numbers were estimated to be 4.94 lakh in 2021. The Indian model suggested it was 3.20 lakh in 2022.

- As per reports, a total of 21.5 lakh cases were notified on the Nikshay portal last year, and 93,000 deaths were reported.

- Listing the efforts taken over the last 9-10 years to increase the National TB Elimination Program coverage, find missing cases, and generate more evidence, health officials said laboratory services have been decentralised and scaled up with high quality rapid diagnostic tests such as the Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT).

G20 Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG)

- **Context:** The first G20 Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG) meeting has been conducted. In this, India highlighted the widening trade finance gap. As estimated by ADB, the Trade finance gap was $1.5 trillion in 2018 and has now increased to $2 trillion.

Key Highlights:

- G20 Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG) aims to build a shared understanding of the challenges faced in global trade and investment, and utilise existing opportunities for the benefit of humanity and find common solutions.

- Over 100 delegates from G20 member countries, invitee countries, regional groupings and international organisations.

The key solutions discussed in the G20 TIWG meeting on the Trade finance gap:

- The role banks, financial institutions, development finance institutions, and export credit agencies can play to identify the gaps and also address the challenges in the trade finance arena amidst the uncertain global trade landscape.

- There is a need to accelerate digitalisation as well as the adoption of fintech solutions for improving access to trade finance.

- International cooperation in harmonising definitions, standards and data sharing across borders digitally is required.

- All nations should endeavour to adopt enabling legislation in the next few years to achieve paperless international trade.

30th MARCH, 2023

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Kaushalya Yojana

- **Context:** Union Minister for Rural Development initiates 'Captive Employment' initiative under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY).

Key Highlights:

- Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) is a placement linked skilling program of the Ministry of Rural Development under the aegis of National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).

- This program caters to the rural poor youth. It was launched on 25 September 2014 and is funded by MoRG, Govt of India.
- The program is currently being implemented in 27 States and 4 UTs for rural poor youth with an emphasis on placements.
- Demand-led skill training aimed at rural poor youth between 15 and 35 years of age is provided. Mandatory coverage of socially disadvantaged groups (SC/ST 50%; Minority 15%; Women 33%). The emphasis is on Career Progression rather than just training.
- 'Captive Employment', is a first of its kind initiative aimed at addressing the vision of a dynamic and demand-based skilling ecosystem catering to the requirements of industry partners ensuring sustainable placements for rural poor youth.
- The initiative is a shot in the arm for the DDU-GKY programme, assuring post-training placement of candidates for a minimum of six months with a minimum CTC of Rs 10,000/-.
- This program will be a big boon for rural poor to augment their job needs and improve their standard of living. This program shall also contribute to sustainable development goals.

Gymnothorax tamilnaduensis

- **Context:** Researchers have discovered a new species of Moray eel off the Cuddalore coast (Tamil Nadu). It has been named as Gymnothorax tamilnaduensis.

Key Highlights:

- Moray eels, or Muraenidae are a family of eels found worldwide
- They have small Eyes and they rely mostly on their highly developed sense of smell, lying in wait to ambush prey. Their body is generally patterned.
- Moray Eels occur in all tropical and subtropical seas, they live in shallow water among reefs and rocks.
- Moray eels can be found in both freshwater habitats and saltwater habitats.

- They are known for two types of jaws: one is regular (oral) jaws with big teeth and the second jaw is called the pharyngeal jaw (which drags prey inside the eel's stomach).

Anji Bridge: The first cable-stayed railway bridge

- **Context:** Anji Bridge, the first cable-stayed railway bridge in the country, is a major step in the Indian Railways' ambitious plan to seamlessly connect Kashmir to Jammu, and the rest of India.

Key Highlights:

- Anji Bridge, the first cable-stayed railway bridge in the country and is part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project.
- The project is expected to bring about socio-economic development of the State of Jammu and Kashmir through enhanced connectivity within the region and with the rest of the country.
- Anji River is a tributary of Chenab River between Katra and Reasi district of Jammu.
- The Anji bridge forms an important link in Indian Railways' aim to connect J&K to the rest of India with all-weather rail connectivity.
- A large number of sensors have been placed on the Anji bridge so that the structural health can be monitored regularly.
- The project was envisaged to provide an efficient all weather transportation channel that could function in adverse weather conditions and reduce the travel time to various destinations in and outside the valley considerably

31st MARCH, 2023

One-China Policy

- **Context:** Recently an agreement was signed between China and the Central American country of Honduras to establish diplomatic ties, after Honduras ended its diplomatic ties with Taiwan.

Key Highlights:

- The "One China" policy refers to the idea that China is one country, consisting of mainland China and Taiwan.

- It dates back to the origins of the country in 1949 when the Mao Zedong-led Communist Party won the Chinese civil war and the nationalist Kuomintang fled to Taiwan and set up the government of the Republic of China.

- Both sides claimed to be the legitimate government of China, and for many years Taiwan was recognized as such by much of the international community.

- China asserts that Taiwan is a province of China and therefore part of "One China," while Taiwan maintains its own government and claims to be an independent country.

- China has never recognized Taiwan as an independent political entity, arguing that it was always a Chinese province under its "One China" policy.

- Despite the policy being a contentious issue between China and Taiwan for decades, Taiwan has been engaging in separatist activities for independence.

- Currently, only 13 countries recognize Taiwan, including Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Tuvalu, Eswatini, Vatican City, Belize, Guatemala, Haiti, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Marburg Virus

- **Context:** The World Health Organization (WHO) said around 161 people in Tanzania have been infected with highly infectious Marburg virus disease.

Key Highlights:

- According to the WHO, marburg virus disease (MVD), earlier known as Marburg hemorrhagic fever, is a severe, often fatal hemorrhagic fever.
- MVD can manifest itself in the form of high fever, muscle aches and severe headache.
- Around the third day, patients report abdominal pain, vomiting, severe watery diarrhoea and cramping. In this phase, the WHO says, the appearance of patients has been often described as "ghost-like" with deep-set eyes, expressionless faces, and extreme lethargy.
- Between days five and seven, patients report bleeding from the nose, and gums and blood appearing in vomit and faeces. Severe blood loss leads to death, often between eight to nine days after symptoms begin.
- It is difficult to clinically distinguish MVD from diseases such as malaria, typhoid fever and other viral haemorrhagic fevers.
- The disease has an average fatality rate of around 50%. However, it can be as low as 24% or as high as 88% depending on virus strain and case management. There is no specific treatment for Marburg virus disease.
- Supportive therapy, such as intravenous fluids, electrolyte replacement, supplemental oxygen, as well as blood and blood products replacement, improves survival.