

Padma Awards

❖ Context

- Online nominations/recommendations for the Padma Awards 2024 to be announced on the occasion of Republic Day, 2024 have opened on 1st May 2023.



❖ About Padma Award:

- The Padma Awards are India's **highest civilian honours after the Bharat Ratna**.
- It recognizes **achievements in all fields** of activities or disciplines where an element of public service is involved.
- **The History of Padma Awards :**
 - Two awards, the Bharat Ratna and Padma Vibhushan were **first instituted in 1954 as India's highest civilian honours**.
 - **Padma Vibhushan had three classes:**
 - Pahela Varg (1st Class).
 - Dusra Varg (Second Class).
 - Tisra Varg (Third Class).
 - In 1955, these were subsequently named as Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri respectively.
- The Bharat Ratna is treated as an exceptional award with **only 45 Bharat Ratnas being handed over till date**.
- The Padma Awards are annually conferred to deserving civilians.
 - Except for **interruptions in 1978, 1979 and between 1993 and 1997**, every year the names of the recipients are announced on Republic Day eve.
- The first ever Padma Vibhushan awardees in 1954 were scientist Satyendra Nath Bose, artist Nandalal Bose, educationist and politician Zakir Hussain, social worker and politician Balasaheb Gangadhar Kher, and diplomat and academic V.K. Krishna Menon.
- The first ever **non-Indian Padma Vibhushan awardee was Bhutanese king Jigme Dorji Wangchuk**, who also received the award in 1954.
- Satyajit Ray, Bismillah Khan, Bhimsen Joshi and Bhupen Hazarika are 4 Personality who has been conferred with the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan, and Bharat Ratna India's fourth, third, second and first - highest civilian awards.

❖ Padma Awards Entailment:

- The awards are presented by the President of India, typically at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- The awardees **do not get any cash reward**.
- They get a certificate signed by the President apart from a medallion which they can wear at public and government functions. The awards are, however, not a conferment of title and the awardees are expected to **not use them as prefix or suffix to their names**.
- While a Padma awardee can be given a higher award (i.e. a Padma Shri awardee can receive a Padma Bhushan or Vibhushan).
 - This can only happen after five years of the conferment of the previous award.
- ❖ **The Eligibility for Padma Awards:**
 - All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for these awards.
 - Government servants including those working with PSUs, except doctors and scientists, are not eligible for these awards.
 - The award seeks to recognise works of distinction and is given for distinguished and exceptional achievements or service in all fields of activities and disciplines.
- ❖ **Selection Process:**
 - All nominations are to be done online where a form is to be filled along with details of the person or the organisation being nominated.
 - All nominations received for Padma awards are placed before the Padma Awards Committee.
 - The **Padma Awards Committee** is headed by the Cabinet Secretary and includes Home Secretary, Secretary to the President and four to six eminent persons as members.
 - The recommendations of the committee are submitted to the Prime Minister and the President of India for approval.

USCIRF Annual Report

❖ Context

- The External Affairs Ministry has termed the comments on India in (**United States Commission on International Religious Freedom**) USCIRF Annual Report as biased and motivated.



❖ About USCIRF:

- It is an independent, bipartisan federal government commission that monitors religious freedom worldwide and makes **policy recommendations** to the President, Secretary of State, and Congress.
- Each year, the USCIRF releases an **Annual Report that assesses** the state of religious freedom in countries around the world.

- The report provides an overview of the **most significant religious** freedom violations, trends, and developments during the previous year.
- It also identifies countries that are of particular concern and recommends actions that the US government and international community can take to promote religious freedom.
- The USCIRF Annual Report is an essential tool for policymakers, human rights advocates, and religious communities around the world.

Face to Face Centres





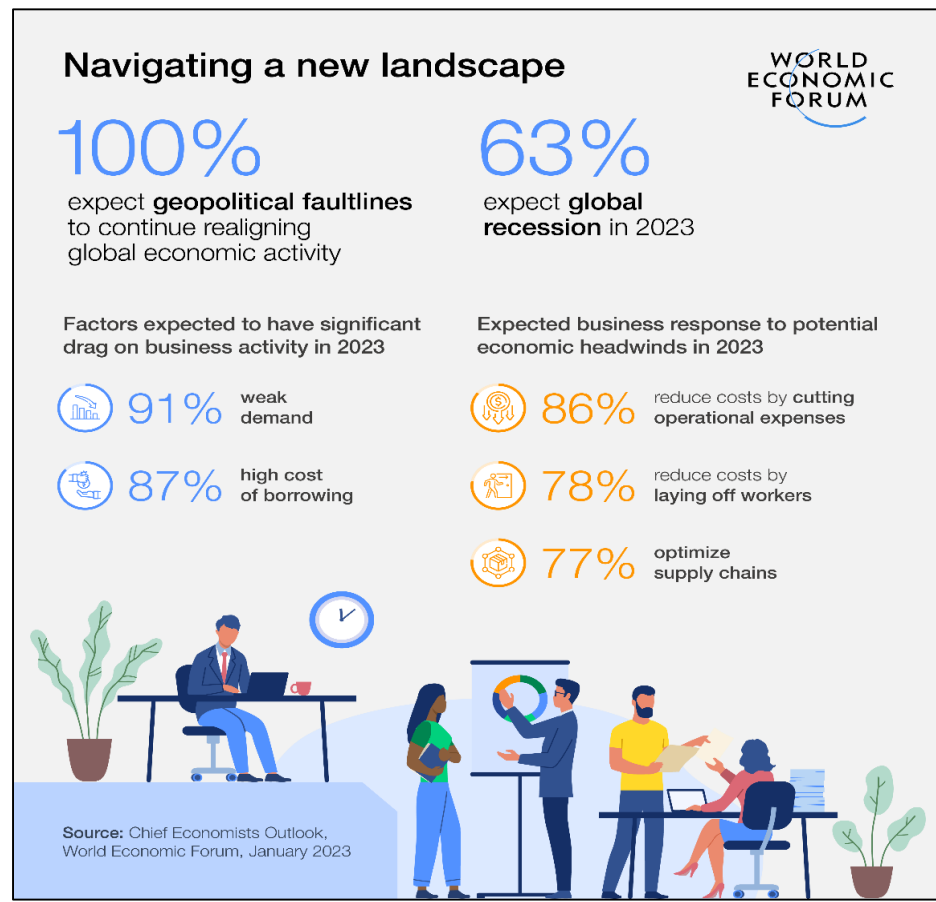
Chief Economists Outlook

❖ Context

- The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** recently conducted a survey to identify the countries that are most likely to benefit from ongoing supply-chain changes.

❖ Key Highlights:

- Countries such as **India, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Mexico, Turkey, and Poland** are likely to experience significant benefits, along with regions like South Asia, East Asia and Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, & the US.
- The economists also predict **significant changes in the supply chain** for several sectors, including **semiconductors, green energy, automobiles, drugs, food, energy, and technology.**
- The survey found that **45% of chief economists** consider a global recession likely in 2023, while an equal percentage considers it unlikely.
- The banking disruption that occurred in March 2023, where **Silicon Valley Bank** collapsed after a run on the bank by depositors, has further shaken the global perspective.
- According to the report, **central banks** are now faced with a trade-off between **controlling inflation** and preserving stability in the financial sector.
- **Around 80% of chief economists** believe that central banks will encounter difficulties in meeting their inflation objectives.



Auroras

❖ Context

- The Indian Astronomical Observatory above **Mount Saraswati** captured a rare phenomenon as a geomagnetic storm struck Earth's magnetic field, creating unique **auroras**.



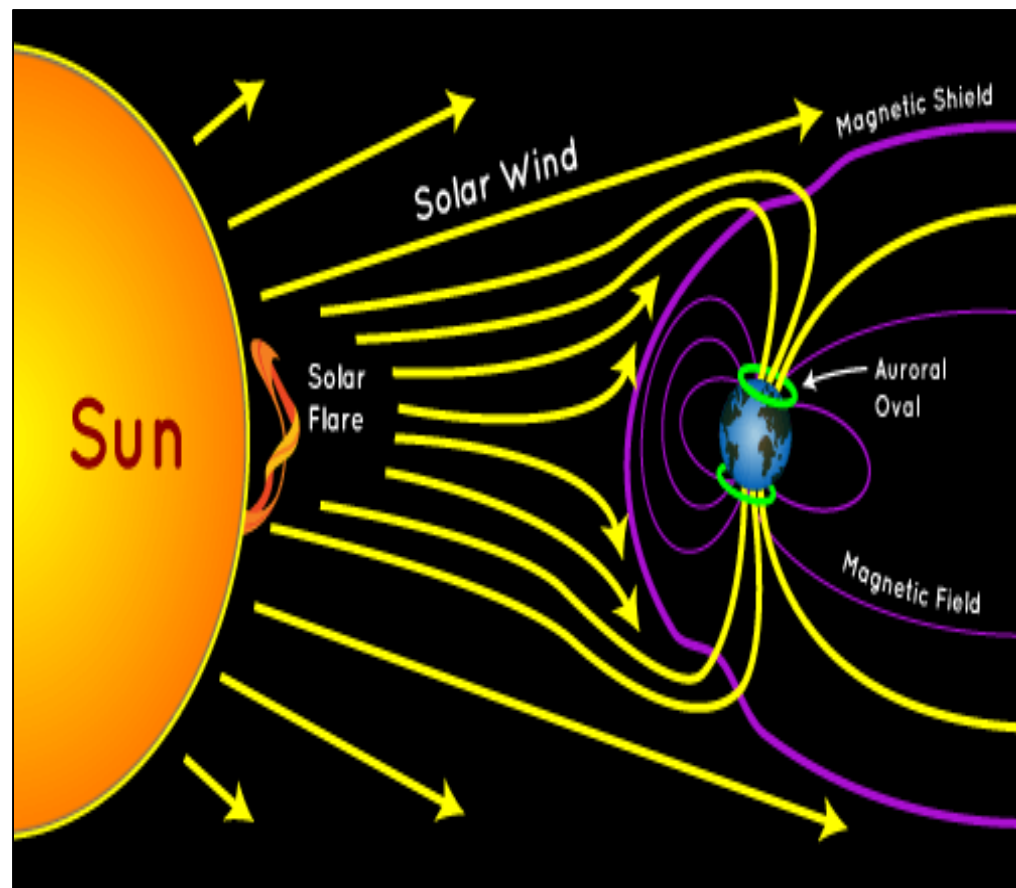
❖ Key Highlights

- The auroras are normally seen at higher altitudes in parts of Alaska, Norway, and other countries.
- This was the first time that the aurora was **captured on camera in India by the Indian Astronomical Observatory in Ladakh.**

❖ Auroras:

- Auroras are natural light displays in the sky, particularly in the high-latitude regions (near the magnetic poles) of the Earth.
- **Types of Auroras** - the **aurora borealis** and **aurora australis** – often called the northern lights and southern lights.
- Auroras are **caused by charged particles** (mostly electrons and protons) from the solar wind interacting with the Earth's magnetic field and upper atmosphere.
- The **interaction causes the particles to collide with atoms** and molecules in the atmosphere, which then release energy in the form of light.
- The **colors of auroras depend on the type of gas** that is being ionized and the **altitude** at which the aurora is occurring.
- The most **common colors are green, pink, and purple.**
- Auroras are most commonly observed in the winter months in the Northern Hemisphere and the summer months in the Southern Hemisphere.

- They are most visible in dark, clear skies away from light pollution, and can last from a few minutes to several hours.
- Auroras can also be observed on other planets with magnetic fields, such as Jupiter and Saturn.
- Auroras affect communication lines, radio lines and power lines.



Face to Face Centres



Windfall Tax

❖ Context

➤ Recently, India slashed windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil to ₹4,100 per tonne from ₹6,400 per tonne.

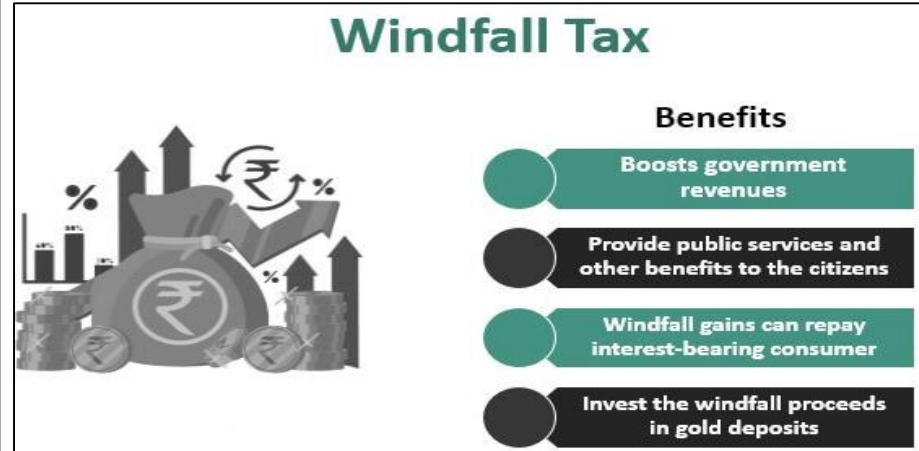
❖ Key Highlights:

- In the previous revision, the government had reimposed the windfall profit tax on domestically produced oil from zero to ₹6,400 per tonne and scrapped export duty on diesel.
- The latest revision comes on the back of softening in oil prices.

❖ About Windfall Profit Tax:

- A windfall tax is a **higher tax rate levied by governments** against certain industries when economic conditions allow those industries to experience above-average profits.
- For instance, the **energy price-rise as a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict**.
- These are profits that cannot be attributed to something the firm actively did, like an investment strategy or an expansion of business. Windfall taxes are **reviewed on a fortnightly basis** and are **subject to** factors such as **international oil prices, exchange rate and quantity of exports**.

- **The B.K. Chaturvedi committee's report on the Financial Position of Oil Companies (2008)-**
- It had stated that taxing of these windfall gains has been seen as a prerogative of governments, in part to meet fiscal needs and in part to pursue redistributive justice.



Future of Jobs Report

❖ Context

➤ According to a recent report by the **World Economic Forum**, India's labor market is expected to see a job churn of **22%**, which is lower than the global average of **23%**.

❖ Key Highlights:

- The churn will be led by **technology-driven sectors** such as AI and machine learning, while **labour-intensive sectors** like accountants and auditors are expected to see the least churn.
- The report also noted that automation of tasks has only increased by **1%** since 2020, with companies revising down their expectations for further automation.
- Indian firms believe that broader **applications of Environmental, social, and governance (ESG)** standards will drive job growth, followed by increased adoption of new technologies, digital access, and investment induced by **climate change**.
- The report also highlights that social jobs in India, such as those in care, education, and healthcare, grew at a slower pace than non-social jobs since the pandemic.
- Indian firms are more positive about talent availability than the global average, and improving promotion processes and talent progression is seen as more effective than providing effective reskilling and upskilling.

- In terms of funding for training, **97%** of respondent Indian firms believe that funding by their own organization is the most effective strategy to fill the gap between workers' skills and future business needs, while only **18%** believe that training should be funded by the government.

Roles	Estimated Churn over 5yrs (%)
AI and machine learning specialists	38
Data analysts and scientists	33
Business development professionals	24
Project managers	22
Accountants & auditors	5
Human resources specialists	15
General and operations managers	14
Assembly and factory workers	18
Accounting, bookkeeping, and payroll clerks	20
Administrative and executive secretaries	25
Data entry clerks	32

News in Between the Lines

Uzbekistan



❖ Context

➤ Uzbekistan held a referendum recently for a new Constitution, which includes human rights reforms and extends the President's term until 2040.

❖ About Uzbekistan:

- Uzbekistan is a country in Central Asia, bordered by **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Turkmenistan**.
- Its capital and largest city is **Tashkent**.
- Uzbekistan was part of the Soviet Union until its collapse in 1991, and it has since undergone political and economic reforms. Its economy is largely based on **natural resources, such as oil, gas, and minerals, and agriculture**.

Face to Face Centres

Vivad Se Vishwas scheme

'Vivad Se Vishwas' Scheme



❖ Context

- The last date for submitting claims under the **Vivad se Vishwas** scheme is 30th of next month i.e in June 2023.

❖ Key Highlights:

- Finance Ministry has launched the scheme, **Vivad se Vishwas I - Relief to MSMEs** for **providing relief to MSMEs for COVID-19 period**.
- Under the scheme, the Ministries have been asked to refund performance security, bid security, and liquidated damages deducted during the **COVID-19 pandemic**.
- The relief provided under this scheme is in continuation of the efforts of the government in **promoting and sustaining the MSME sector**.

Fit for 55



❖ Context

- To address the issue of **global warming and climate change**, the European Union has implemented a comprehensive climate action plan known as the **Fit for 55** package, which aims to **significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions**.

❖ Key Highlights:

- The plan includes measures such as the **EU emissions trading system**, a social climate fund proposal to support vulnerable households and micro-enterprises, and a carbon border adjustment mechanism to prevent the relocation of production to **non-EU countries**.
- The EU has also proposed new rules on methane emissions reduction in the energy sector and the ReFuelEU Aviation proposal to increase the use of sustainable aviation fuels. These measures are aimed at achieving the EU's goal of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least **55% by 2030**, in line with the **Paris Agreement's target** of limiting global temperature rise.

Air Droppable Container



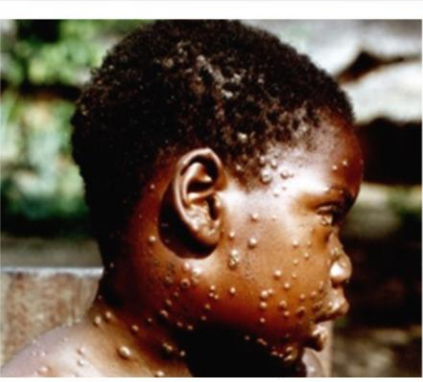
❖ Context

- **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** and Indian Navy conducted the successful maiden test trial of '**Air Droppable Container -150 (ADC)**' from IL 38SD aircraft **off the coast of Goa**.

❖ Key Highlights:

- ADC-150' is an indigenously designed and **developed Air Droppable Container** with 150 kg payload capacity.
- The trial was conducted to enhance the naval **operational logistics capabilities** by providing quick response to meet the requirement of critical engineering stores to ships, which are deployed more than **2,000 kms from the coast**.

Mpox



❖ Context

- Recently, a team from the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry in Prague deciphered the structure of the protein methyltransferase from the monkeypox virus.
- Scientists will soon be able to develop antivirals to manage mpox, formerly known as monkeypox as well as Covid.

❖ About Mpox:

- **Virus** : The monkeypox virus is an **orthopoxvirus**.
 - It is a genus of viruses that also includes the variola virus, which causes smallpox. **Monkeypox causes symptoms similar to smallpox**, although they are less severe.
- **Transmission** : Monkeypox is a **Zoonotic disease**, that is, a disease that is **transmitted from infected animals to humans**.
 - Cases occur close to tropical rainforests inhabited by animals that carry the virus. **Human-to-human transmission is limited**.
- **Symptoms and Treatment** : Monkeypox **begins with a fever, headache, muscle aches, back ache, and exhaustion**.
 - The **incubation period for monkeypox is usually 7-14 days** but can range from 5-21 days.
 - The **patient develops a rash that begins on the face and spreads to other parts of the body**.
 - There is **no safe, proven treatment for monkeypox yet**.

[MCQ Quiz](#)
[Daily Current Affairs](#)
[Daily Pre PARE Daily](#)

Face to Face Centres