

## Jal Jeevan Mission

### ❖ Context

- Around **62% of rural households** in India had **fully functional tap water** connections within their premises, according to a **survey commissioned by the Union Ministry of Water Resources**.
- The survey was conducted to assess the functioning of the government's marquee **Jal Jeevan Mission**.



### ❖ Key Highlights

- Centre in June, 2022 reported **52% rural households** as having tap water connections.
- **Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, and Puducherry** reported more than 80% of households with fully functional connections.
- Less than **half the households** in Rajasthan, Kerala, Manipur, Tripura, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram and Sikkim had such connections.
- Goa, Telangana and Haryana have achieved **100% tap connectivity** to all households.
- **Union Territories like** Puducherry, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu, have also provided **100%** of their households with tap water connections.
- **Fully functional tap water connection :**
  - It is defined as a household **getting at least 55 litres of per capita per day** of potable water all through the year.

### ❖ About Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

- It was **launched in 2019**.
- It is under the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- **Objectives :**
  - To **provide safe and adequate drinking water** through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India.
  - It **focuses on integrated demand and supply-side** management of water at the local level.
- **Significance :**
  - It ensures **drinking water security**.
  - The Mission is **based on a community approach** to water.
  - It looks to **create a jan andolan for water**, thereby making it everyone's priority.
  - It promotes and **ensures voluntary ownership** among local communities by way of contribution in cash, kind and/ or labor and voluntary labor.
- **Fund Sharing Between the Centre and States:**
  - **For Himalayan and North-Eastern States - 90:10**
  - **Rest of states - 50:50**
  - **100% for Union Territories.**

## Professor of Practice

### ❖ Context

- The higher education regulator **University Grants Commission (UGC)** has issued new guidelines under which higher education institutes can create a new teaching position called Professor of Practice to hire experts from various sectors.



### ❖ Key Highlights

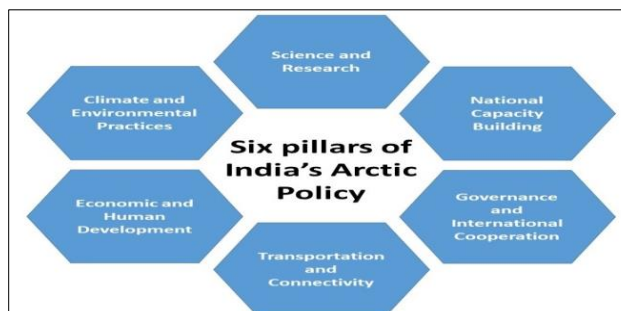
- To be eligible for appointment, an individual will have to be a **"distinguished expert"** who has "made remarkable contributions in their professions", and has at least 15 years of service or experience.
- It is open to the institutions themselves to decide the sector from which they want to rope in professionals.
- A professor of practice can be anyone with a background in a diverse range of areas from technology, science, social sciences, media, literature, armed forces, law, fine arts, etc.
- However, the position is not open for those in the **teaching profession** - either serving or retired.

- No formal academic qualification is necessary in order to be considered for this position if a person has been an **"exemplary"** professional in their field of work.
- The maximum duration of service of Professor of Practice at a given institution should not **exceed three years** and is extendable by one year in exceptional cases and the total service should not exceed four years under any circumstances.
- **Significance**
  - Recruiting industry experts and professionals will help **"augment faculty resources"** in universities and colleges.
  - It is aimed at addressing concerns about the quality of graduates being produced by Indian colleges and universities.

## Fast - Melting of Arctic Ice

### ❖ Context

- A team of researchers has flagged the changing chemistry of the western region of the Arctic Ocean after discovering acidity levels increasing three to four times faster than ocean waters elsewhere.

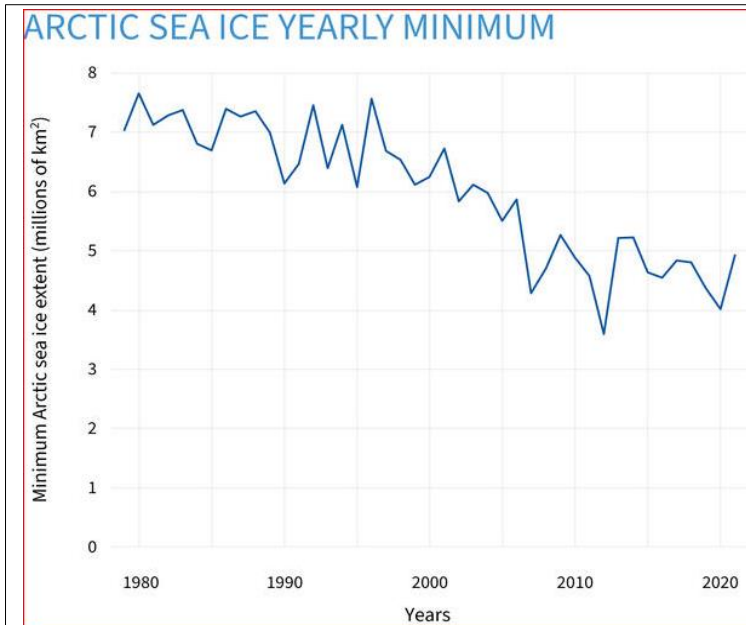


### Face to Face Centres



### ❖ Key Highlights

- The ocean's chemistry growing more acidic creates life-threatening problems for the diverse population of sea creatures, plants and other living things that depend on a healthy ocean.
- The team also identified a strong correlation between the accelerated rate of melting ice and the rate of ocean acidification.
- Scientists have predicted that by 2050, Arctic sea ice in this region will no longer survive the increasingly warm summers.



- Crabs, for example, live in a crusty shell built from the calcium carbonate prevalent in ocean water.
- Polar bears rely on healthy fish populations for food, fish and sea birds rely on plankton and plants, and seafood is a key element of many humans' diets.
- Seawater is normally alkaline, with a pH value of around 8.1.

## AVGAS 100 LL

### ❖ Context

- The Centre recently launched indigenously-developed AVGAS 100 LL, a special aviation fuel meant for piston engine aircraft and unmanned ariel vehicles.



### ❖ Key Highlights

- AVGAS 100 LL produced by Indian Oil's flagship refinery at Vadodara has been tested and certified by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- The indigenously fuel is superior compared to imported grades.
- It is a higher-octane Aviation fuel meeting the product specifications with superior performance quality standards, as compared to imported grades.
- It will reduce dependence on imported fuels by promoting biofuel blending, green hydrogen and introduction of electric vehicles.

- The launch of indigenous AV GAS 100 LL is important to serve the needs of a thriving aviation industry with increase in footfall on airports, rise in number of aircraft and **Flying Training Organisations** (FTOs) in trainee aircraft for pilot training in future.
- As demand for air transport in India is expected to increase manifolds in the future, there is going to be a huge demand for trained pilots also.
- Currently, India is importing this product from European countries.
- AV Gas market is expected to grow from the current \$1.92 billion to \$2.71 billion by 2029.

## Light Combat Helicopters

### ❖ Context

- Defence Minister recently inducted first indigenously developed Light Combat Helicopters into Indian Air Force in Rajasthan.



### ❖ Key Highlights

- LCH would be inducted into the 143 Helicopter Unit.
- Induction of LCH not only adds to the combat capability of the Air Force but is also a great leap towards the goal of **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.
- LCH has been developed by **Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)**.
- It is a state-of-the-art modern combat helicopter, primarily designed for deployment in high-altitude regions.
- LCH is the only attack helicopter in the world which can land and take-off at an altitude of 5,000 m with a considerable load of weapons and fuel.
- This helicopter is powered by two Shakti engines and is equipped with stealth features, all-weather combat capability, armour protection, night attack capability, and crash-worthy landing gear.

**Major boost to Aatmanirbharta in Defence**

**CCS nod for 15 new Light Combat Helicopters**

10 for Indian Air Force & 05 for Indian Army

**Equipped with cutting edge technologies**

Agile, Maneuverable, Extended Range, High Altitude Performance, All Weather Combat Capabilities

**Stealth features for better survivability**

Reduced Visual, Aural, Radar & IR signatures

- Stealth features like low radar cross section and minimal infrared signature allow it to go behind enemy lines undetected and attack with precision.
- LCH has a range of 550 km and an operational ceiling of 6500 m.
- It is armed with air-to-air and air-to-ground missiles, 70 mm rockets and a 20 mm gun.

- LCH can perform a range of roles, including combat search and rescue, destruction of enemy air defence and counter-insurgency operations in the jungle and urban environments.

## Face to Face Centres



## Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, AFSPA

### ❖ Context

- The central government has extended for another six months the application of the disturbed area under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, AFSPA in 12 districts of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.

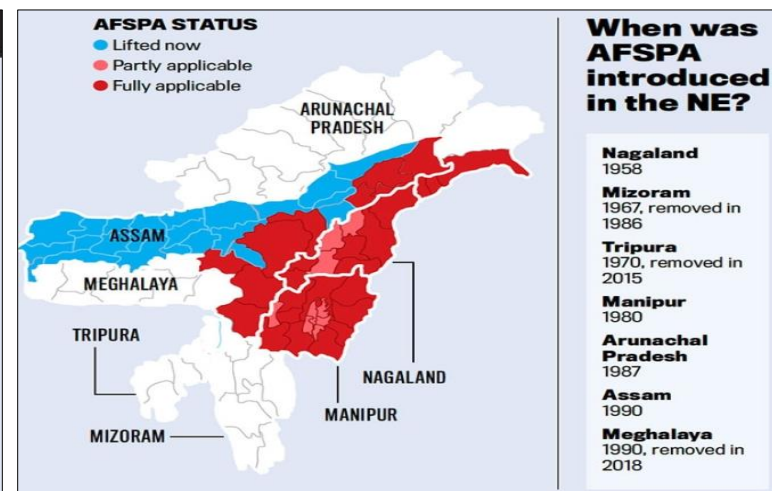


### ❖ Key Highlights

- It has also been extended in certain parts of five other districts of the two northeastern states to facilitate the armed forces to continue the anti-insurgency operations.
- Nagaland has 16 districts while Arunachal Pradesh has 26 districts.

### ABOUT AFSPA

- Armed Forces Special Powers Act was passed by Parliament in Sept 1958
- It was first invoked in the north-east
- In areas declared "disturbed", officers of the armed forces have the power to open fire and even kill people acting in "contravention of the law"
- It is controversial because it grants security personnel blanket immunity from prosecution for their acts of omission and commission (referred to above)
- The Act also bars the judiciary from questioning or reviewing the government's decision to declare an area, state or region "disturbed"



## News in Between the Lines

### Adultery & Armed Personnel



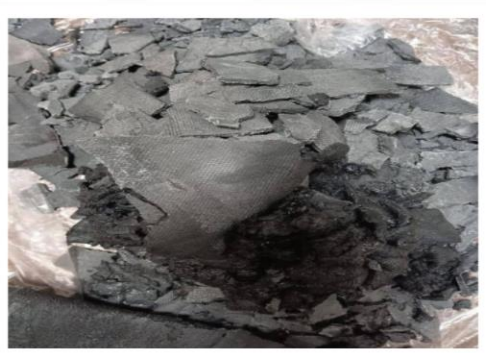
### ❖ Context

- The SC said that armed forces should have a mechanism for action against personnel for adultery.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The Army had taken disciplinary action against some personnel for adultery but the Armed Forces Tribunal, citing the 2018 SC judgement, had quashed the proceedings in many of those cases.
- The bench was hearing a plea by the Union government urging the court to clarify that Army personnel can be proceeded under the Army Act for acts of adultery, notwithstanding the 2018 judgement.
- The apex court had in **2018 (Joseph Shine vs Union Of India)** struck down **Section 497 of the IPC** which **criminalised adultery**.

### Black Cocaine



### ❖ Context

- The **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** arrested a Bolivian woman from Mumbai airport for allegedly carrying black cocaine.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- Black cocaine is a **mixture of regular cocaine base with various substances** to
  - Camouflage typical appearance (e.g. charcoal).
  - Interfere with colour-based drug tests (cobalt salts form deep red complexes in solution).
  - Make the mixture undetectable by drug-sniffing dogs as activated carbon may sufficiently absorb trace odours.
- The pure cocaine base is then recovered from the mixture by extraction using common organic solvents such as methylene chloride or acetone. South American countries where coca plants grow are major suppliers of cocaine to India.

### 'herSTART'



### ❖ Context

- President has launched **'herSTART'** - a start-up platform of Gujarat University for women entrepreneurs.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- HerSTART is one of the flagship programmes of **Gujarat University Startup and Entrepreneurship Council (GUSEC)** which seeks to support women entrepreneurs during their entrepreneurial endeavours.
- The program is open to all women who have innovative ideas, prototypes or existing business ventures and want to take their efforts to the next stage.
- Shortlisted innovations shall be eligible to leverage benefits to further empower their ideas.

## Face to Face Centres

## Svante Paabo



### ❖ Context

➤ Recently, **Svante Paabo** was awarded the **2022 Nobel Prize in Medicine**.

### ❖ About Svante Paabo

- Born in **Stockholm, Sweden** in 1955.
- He is currently the **director of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig**.
- Svante Paabo is the **son of Sune Bergstrom**, who won the Nobel prize in medicine in 1982.
- **Discovery :**
  - It was awarded for his extraordinary discovery which proved **modern humans share DNA with extinct relatives Neanderthals and Denisovans**.
  - The scientist **sequenced the genome of the Neanderthal** and made the sensational discovery of a previously unknown hominin, Denisova.
    - Neanderthal is an extinct relative of present-day humans,
  - The Swedish scientist **provided key insights into our immune system** and what makes us unique compared with our extinct cousins.

## Windfall Tax



### ❖ Context

➤ Recently, the **government cut the windfall profit tax** on locally produced crude oil and diesel, in line with a fall in international rates.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The government reduced the tax on domestically produced crude oil to **Rs 8,000 per tonne from Rs 10,500 per tonne**.
- The **taxes were introduced on July 1, 2022** as the Centre felt that elevated crude prices were allowing oil companies to make windfall profits

### ❖ About Windfall 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.

## Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)



### ❖ Context

➤ The **Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index** fell to **55.1** in **September** from **56.2** in **August, 2022**.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The latest set of PMI data show us that the **Indian manufacturing industry remains in good shape**, despite considerable global headwinds and recession fears elsewhere.
- India's manufacturing sector experienced its slowest expansion in September 2022 since June, 2022.

### ❖ Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)

- **About :**
  - The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) **measures survey responses from businesses** and is used to gauge economic activity.
  - It is an **indicator of the economic health** of the manufacturing and services sector.
- The PMI is a **number from 0 to 100**.
  - A print **above 50 means expansion**, while a score **below that denotes contraction**.
  - A reading at **50 indicates no change**.
- It is usually **released at the start of every month**. It is, therefore, considered a good leading indicator of economic activity.
  - **S&P Global** compiles the **PMI index**.

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