

Digital Services Act (DSA)

❖ Context

- The European Union (EU) has given **final approval to online safety-focused legislation**, which is an overhaul of the region's **social media and e-commerce rules**.

❖ Key Highlights

- The law known as the **Digital Services Act (DSA)**.
- The regulation will be published in the EU's Official Journal on October 13, 2022.
- The majority of its provisions will begin to apply 15 months after the DSA's entry into force.

❖ About DSA

- It **tightly regulates** the way intermediaries function in terms of moderating user content.
- **Intermediaries** - Large platforms such as Google, Meta, Twitter, and YouTube.

❖ Features :

- New procedures for **faster removal of content** deemed illegal or harmful.
- Users can **challenge takedown decisions taken by platforms** and seek out-of-court settlements.
- **Very Large Online Platforms' (VLOPs)** and **'Very Large Online Search Engines' (VLOSEs)**, that is platforms, having more than **45 million users** in the EU, will have more stringent requirements.
- **Direct supervision** by European Commission.
- **More transparency** on how algorithms work.
- **Clearer identifiers** for ads and who's paying for them.

• Significance :

- It will give **better protection** to users and to fundamental rights online.
- It will establish a **powerful transparency and accountability** framework for online platform.
- It will provide a **single, uniform framework across the EU**.

❖ India's Online Laws

- In February 2021, India had notified extensive changes to its social media regulations in the form of the **Information Technology Rules, 2021 (IT Rules)**.

• Features :

- **Appointing key personnel** to handle law enforcement requests and user grievances.
- **Enabling identification of the first originator of the information** on its platform under certain conditions.
- **Deploying technology-based measures** on a best-effort basis to identify certain types of content.

OPEC and OPEC+

❖ Context

- Recently, **The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** and its allies, together known as **OPEC+**, decided to cut oil production by 2 million barrels per day (bpd).

❖ Key Highlights

- This is the **largest cut since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic**.
- OPEC+ members are concerned that a faltering global economy would reduce the demand for oil.
- The cuts are seen as a way to **protect profits**.

❖ OPEC

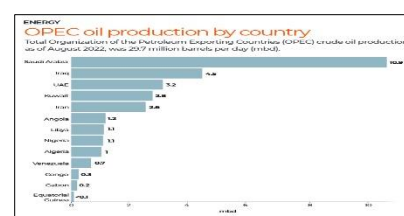
- Established in **1960**.
- OPEC is a **permanent, intergovernmental organization**.
- **Founding members :**
 - Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- OPEC has since expanded and now has **13 member states**.
- Other OPEC Members are :
 - The UAE, Algeria, Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Libya, Nigeria, and the Republic of the Congo.
- **Headquarter** - Vienna (Austria).
- The 13 member countries accounted for an estimated **44 percent of global oil production** and **81.5 percent of the world's proven oil reserves**.
- **OPEC membership is open to any country** that is a **substantial exporter of oil** and which shares the ideals of the organization.

• Objectives :

- **Coordinate and unify the petroleum policies** of its Member Countries.
- Ensure the **stabilisation of oil markets** in order to secure an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consumers.
- A **steady income to producers** and a fair return on capital for those investing in the petroleum industry.

❖ OPEC+

- OPEC Plus was **created in 2016** when OPEC countries decided to ally with other oil-producing countries outside the group to cut down the global output of oil.



- The **non-OPEC countries** which export crude oil along with the 13 OPECs are termed as OPEC plus countries.

• OPEC plus countries include :

- Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan and Sudan.

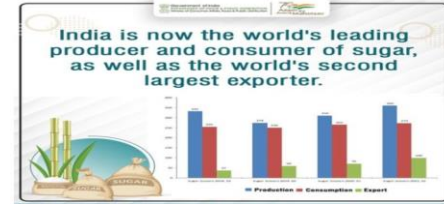
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World's Largest Producer and Consumer of Sugar

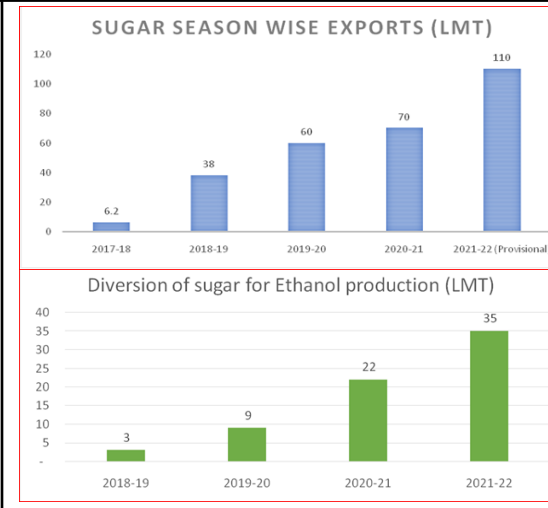
❖ Context

- India emerges as the world's largest producer and consumer of sugar and world's 2nd largest exporter of sugar.



❖ Key Highlights

- In Sugar Season (Oct-Sep) 2021-22, a record of more than 5000 Lakh Metric Tons (LMT) sugarcane was produced in the country out of which about 3574 LMT of sugarcane was crushed by sugar mills to produce about 394 LMT of sugar (Sucrose).
- Out of this, 35 LMT sugar was diverted to ethanol production and 359 LMT sugar was produced by sugar mills.
- With this, India has emerged as the world's largest producer and consumer of sugar as well as the world's 2nd largest exporter of sugar.
- The success story of sugar industry is the outcome of synchronous and collaborative efforts of Central and State Governments, farmers, sugar mills, ethanol distilleries with very supportive overall ecosystem for business in the country.



International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)

❖ Context

- A 'Committee of Experts on Sustainable Finance', constituted by International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) submitted its final report to Chairperson recently.



❖ Key Highlights

- The main focus areas of the committee were directed towards aligning the IFSC regulations with the international best practices, exploring ways in which capital flows through IFSC can be enhanced.
- Some important recommendations include :
 - developing a voluntary carbon market,
 - framework for transition bonds,
 - enabling de-risking mechanisms,
 - promoting regulatory sandbox for green fintech and facilitating the creation of a global climate alliance among others.
 - the committee also proposes setting up of a dedicated MSME platform for sustainable lending.

❖ About IFSCA

- It has been established on April 27, 2020 under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019.
- It is headquartered at GIFT City, Gandhinagar in Gujarat.
- **The main objective** of the IFSCA is to develop a strong global connect and focus on the needs of the Indian economy as well as to serve as an international financial platform for the entire region and the global economy as a whole.

A Drug Delivery Solution

❖ Context

- Researchers at Amity University Rajasthan, Jaipur have developed therapeutic agents with the help of nano-biotechnological approaches that helps in improving the site-specific drug delivery for cancer disease management and its effective treatment.



❖ Key Highlights

- Scientist have formulated 'gold nanoparticles' solution with a distinctive functional surface containing biomolecules and antibiotics for improved anticancer activity through selective generation of reactive oxygen species (ROS).
- The results have revealed that the appropriate surface corona on the gold nanoparticles was essential for effective cancer treatment in a selective manner.
- The study will open new opportunities for better cancer management and treatment, and pave a way for future nanomedicine even beyond cancer.
- A novel site-specific drug delivery method using gold nanoparticles can improve management and treatment of cancer.
- There are more than 200 different types of cancers known which are currently being treated through surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy.
- Many of these cancers can be cured if detected early and treated effectively.

Sarthak

❖ Context

- National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS) to train 10,000 mental health workers to help senior citizens.



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❖ Key Highlights

- Through 'Sarhath', a community-based initiative for the mental well-being of the elderly, training will be imparted to nurses, healthcare workers and volunteers on geriatric mental health.
- Awareness and education about mental health are the key mechanisms through which mental health concerns can be identified and appropriate measures be taken.
- The role of community-based systems is vital in addressing the issue.

- This collaboration will help impart training to various categories of non-specialised health workers and community caregivers through a customised module for each category.
- It will be an online course where training will be given to various categories of non-specialised health workers and community care givers through customised modules for each specified category, such as the Non-Specialist health work force, Informal Caregivers and Institutional Caregivers.

Indian Government has Invoked a 1939 Order

❖ Context

- The Indian government has invoked a 1939 order as a solution to clear shipments of rice that have the presence of certain content of broken rice.



❖ Key Highlights

- The **European Commission (EC)**, in its classification in 1967 regulation, said a "broken rice" is from which a part of the volume greater than the end has been removed.
- Broken grains include large broken grains (pieces of grains of a length not less than half that of grain, but not constituting a complete grain).
- The grain is damaged during processing or transportation or in the field, the length does not exceed three-quarters (75 per cent) of the average length of the whole kernel.

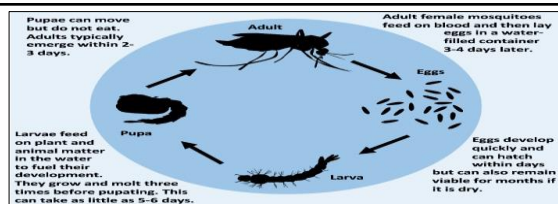
❖ Key Issues

- Thousands of parboiled containers have been held at **Nhava Sheva and Mundra ports** since the broken percentage has been mentioned.
- The hold-up has led to exporters paying demurrage and rent charges, apart from container cancellation fees. "This is causing losses to exporters."
- The 1939 law does not deal with the export of rice in polypropylene bags, including in bulk. "It talks of exports in jute bags only."

Genetically Modified Mosquitoes

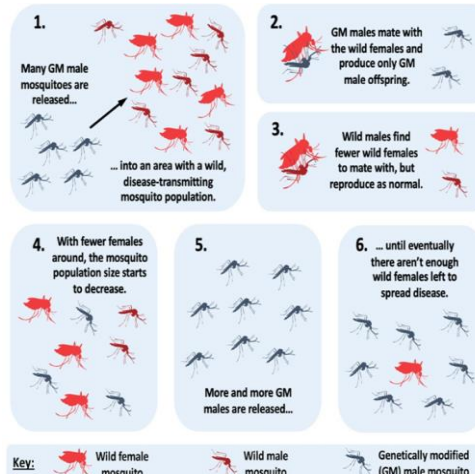
❖ Context

- Recently, Scientists engineered mosquitoes that can not spread malaria.



❖ Key Highlights

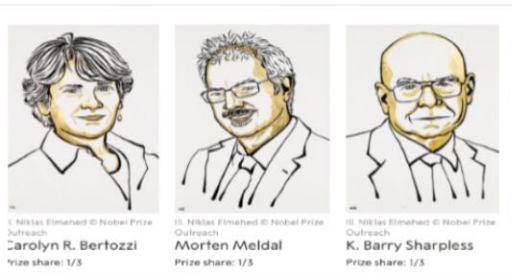
- Scientists have genetically modified mosquitoes to **slow the growth of malaria-causing parasites in their guts.**
- Mechanism :**
 - The **peptides impair the malarial parasite's development** and also cause the mosquitoes to have a **shorter life span.**
 - To prevent malaria spread via genetic modification, **the change needs to be spread from lab-bred mosquitoes to wild ones.**
 - The innovation is so designed that **it can be coupled with existing 'gene drive' technology.**



- Gene Drive :** Gene drive is one such powerful weapon that in **combination with drugs, vaccines and mosquito control** can help stop the spread of malaria and save human lives.
- Significance :** It is an advancement that can help prevent transmission of the disease to humans.
- Side Note :** In 2021, Malaria infected 241 million people & killed 627,000 people.

News in Between the Lines

Nobel Prize in Chemistry



❖ Context

- Recently, **The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences** announced the winner of the 2022 Nobel Prize for Chemistry.

❖ Key Highlights

- The coveted prize went to **Carolyn R. Bertozzi, Morten Meldal, and Karl Barry Sharpless.**
- It was awarded for the **development of click chemistry and bio-orthogonal chemistry.**
- They laid the **foundation for a functional form of chemistry, click chemistry, and utilising it in living organisms.**

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- Around the year 2000, **Sharpless coined the concept of click chemistry.**
 - It is a form of simple and reliable chemistry, where reactions occur quickly and unwanted by-products are avoided.
- Using **bioorthogonal reactions**, researchers have improved the targeting of cancer drugs, which are now being tested in clinical trials.

eChhawani Portal



❖ Context

- Recently, Government has approved the **extension of Online Building Plan Approval System (OBPAS) under eChhawani portal** to five more Cantonment Boards, namely Agra, Ranikhet, Babina, Jammu and Cannanore.

❖ Key Highlights

- eChhawani is a **Citizen Centric project of Directorate General of Defence Estates, Ministry of Defence.**
- **Objective :**
 - To provide **online services across 62 Cantonment Boards** through a common web portal in **paperless, faceless and cashless manner.**
 - Online Building Plan Approval System (OBPAS) module under eChhawani was initially rolled out to enable **‘Ease of Living’ and ‘Ease of Doing Business’** for residents in 17 Cantonment Boards.
- **Significance :** It enables citizens to **avail the various services online rendered by the Cantonment Boards** through Cantonment Board websites.

Trade and Development Report 2022



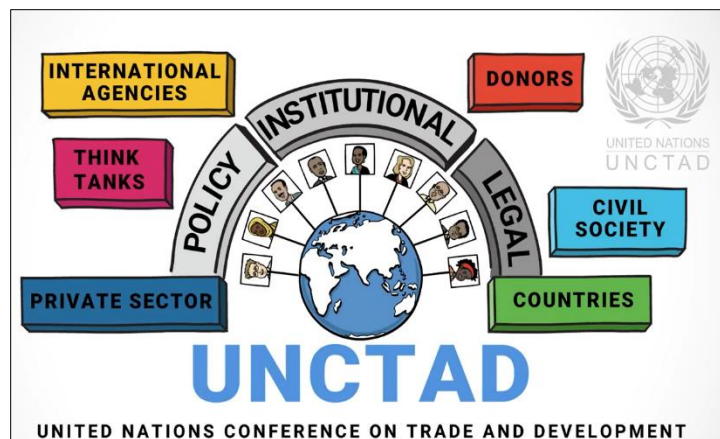
❖ Context

- As per the **UNCTAD Trade and Development Report 2022** project India's economic growth is expected to **decline to 5.7% this year from 8.2% in 2021.**

❖ Key Highlights

- The UN report expects the **world economy to grow 2.6% in 2022.**
- This is **0.9 percentage points below last year's projected rate.**
- It warns that the **rapidly increasing interest rates and fiscal tightening in the advanced economies**, along with the Russia-Ukraine War, have already exacerbated the global slowdown into a global economic downturn.

❖ UNCTAD Trade and Development Report



- The **Geneva-based UN body** has been releasing this **report since 1981.**
- This annual report provides comprehensive and authoritative analysis of economic trends and policy issues of international concern.
- It provides **recommendations to boost the global economy** so that lives of people are improved and the future of the planet is secure.

Nansen Award



❖ Context

- Former German chancellor **Angela Merkel** recently won the United Nations refugee agency's prestigious Nansen award for her leadership, courage and compassion.

❖ Key Highlights

- She was key in expanding Germany's resettlement programme, which helped protect tens of thousands of vulnerable refugees.



- Named after the Norwegian explorer, scientist, diplomat & humanitarian Fridtjof Nansen, the award is given each year to an individual, group or organization who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to protect refugees, internally displaced or stateless people.

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