

## National Air Sports Policy

### ❖ Context

- The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** launched National Air Sport Policy 2022 (NASP 2022) to help India become the global capital for air sports.

### ❖ Vision and Objective



- The policy lays out the vision of **making India as one of the top sports nations by 2030**, by providing a safe, affordable, accessible, enjoyable and sustainable air sports ecosystem in India.

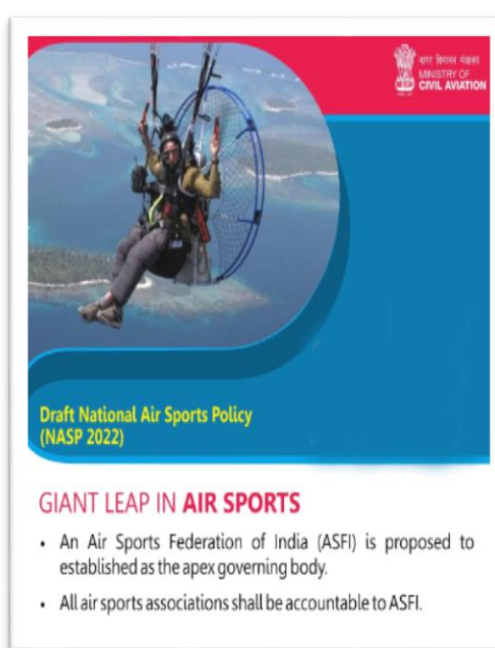
### ❖ Advantages with India

- **Large geographical expanse, diverse topography, and fair-weather conditions** provide the ability to have the widest diversity of air sports.
- This will serve to attract air sports enthusiasts from all over the world, especially those who live in harsh winter areas. Air sports enthusiasts from Europe, North America, and Australia would flock to India to practice in winters.
- It has a large population, especially the **youth (below 35) which constitutes 70% of the population**, larger than the total population of air sports Europe and three times that of the USA.

### ❖ Benefits

- The current Rs. 80-100 crores of annual revenue may reach upto **Rs. 8,000 - Rs. 10,000 crores of annual revenue**.
- Generation of **1,00,000 direct jobs**.
- The **economic multiplier benefits** in terms of travel, tourism, support services and local infrastructure development will be **over three times**.

### ❖ Air Sports Covered



- Aerobatics.
  - Aero modelling and model rocketry.
  - Amateur-built and experimental aircraft.
  - Ballooning.
  - Drones.
  - Gliding and powered gliding.
  - Hang gliding and powered hang gliding.
  - Parachuting (including skydiving, BASE jumping and wing suits etc.).
  - Paragliding and paramotoring (including powered parachute trikes etc.).
  - Powered aircraft (including ultra light, micro light and light sports aircraft etc.).
  - Rotorcraft (including autogyro).
- ### ❖ Four Tier Governance Structure
- Air Sports Federation of India (ASFI) as the apex governing body.
  - National associations for individual air sports or a set of air sports, as appropriate.
  - Regional (e.g. West/ South/ North East etc.) or State and Union Territory level units of the national air sports associations, as appropriate; and
  - District-level air sports associations, as appropriate.

## 4th State Food Safety Index

### ❖ Context

- On the occasion of **World Food Safety Day i.e 07th June**, the **Minister Of Health And Family Welfare** released the index developed by FSSAI for the year 2021-22.



### ❖ Key Highlights of the Index

- Among the larger states, **Tamil Nadu** was the top ranking state, followed by Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- Among the smaller states, **Goa** stood first followed by Manipur and Sikkim.
- Among UTs, **Jammu & Kashmir**, Delhi and Chandigarh secured first, second and third ranks.
- SFSI was **started from 2018-19** with the aim of creating a competitive and positive change in the food safety ecosystem in the country.
- The states were judged on five parameters of food safety: **human resources and institutional data, compliance, food testing facility, training and capacity building and consumer empowerment**.

### ❖ Eat Smart Cities Challenge

- **FSSAI** had launched the challenge last year in association with the **Smart Cities Mission** under the aegis of **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**.
- The purpose is to motivate smart cities to develop and execute a plan that supports a healthy, safe and sustainable food environment through adoption of various Eat Right India initiatives.
- The 11 winning smart cities of the EatSmart Cities Challenge were also felicitated at the event. The 11 winning cities are **Chandigarh, Indore, Jabalpur, Jammu, Panaji, Rajkot, Rourkela, Surat, Sagar, Tumkuru and Ujjain**.

## Face to Face Centres



## Geospatial Self Certification Portal



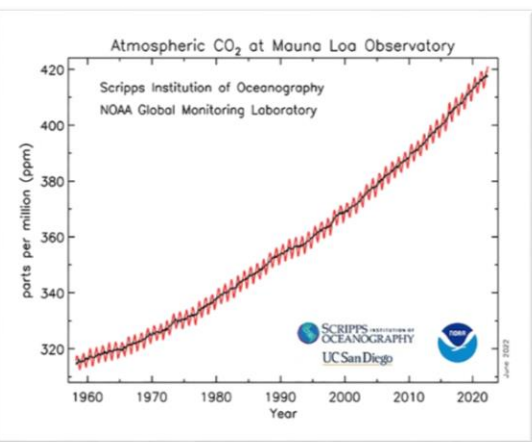
### ❖ Context

➤ The Department of Science & Technology (DST) launched a Geospatial Self Certification Portal aimed at liberalisation of the geospatial industry in India.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- Individuals, companies, organisations, and Government agencies can convey adherence to the provisions of Geospatial Data Guidelines released by DST on February 15, 2021.
- As per the guidelines, there shall be no requirement for prior approval, security clearance, licence or any other restrictions on the collection, generation, preparation, dissemination, storage, publication, updating and/or digitization of Geospatial Data and Maps within the territory of India.
- Any entity shall be free to process the acquired geospatial Data, build applications and develop solutions and use such data products by way of selling, distributing, sharing, swapping, disseminating, publishing, deprecating and destructing.
- The Portal has been developed in collaboration with NIC.

## Historic Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) Levels



### ❖ Context

➤ According to the US climate agency NOAA, concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere in May 2022 were 50% higher than during the pre-industrial era.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- In May 2022, the threshold of 420 parts per million (ppm) was crossed.
- May is usually the month with the highest carbon dioxide levels each year.
- Before the Industrial Revolution, levels of CO<sub>2</sub> held steady at around 280 ppm. The level was maintained for approximately 6,000 years of human civilization that preceded industrialization.
- The measurements are taken at the Mauna Loa observatory in Hawaii, ideally located high on a volcano, which allows it to escape the possible influence of local pollution.
- The level now is comparable to what it was between 4.1 and 4.5 million years ago, when CO<sub>2</sub> levels were near or above 400 ppm.
- At that time, sea levels were between 5 and 25 metres higher than now, high enough to submerge many of today's major cities. Large forests also occupied parts of the Arctic.

## Green Energy Open Access Rules



### ❖ Context

➤ The Government notified the Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2022.

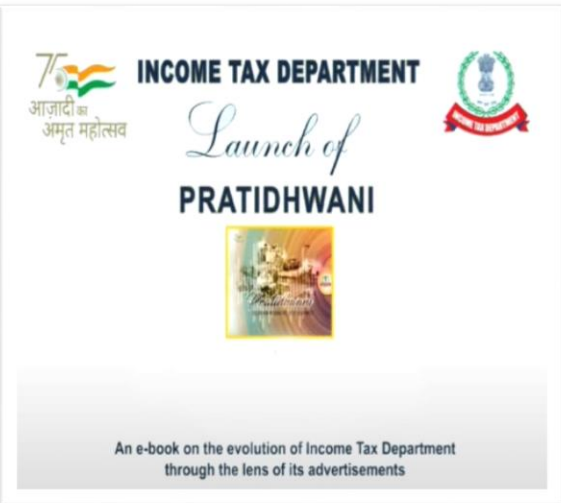
### ❖ Key Highlights

- The rules have been notified for promoting generation, purchase and consumption of green energy including the energy from Waste-to-Energy plants.
- Now it is not necessary that a consumer has to set up a capacity itself.
- One can ask the developer to set up capacity or it can hold a bid for the lowest tariff. The rules allow consumers with a sanctioned load of 100 kilowatt (kW) to purchase power directly from renewable energy (RE) producers. Earlier the minimum limit was 1 MW.
- There will be no load limitation for captive consumers. Also no surcharge will be levied for them.
- The tariff for green energy will be determined separately by the appropriate Commission. Consumers will be given the green certificates if they consume green power.
- Green Hydrogen/Green Ammonia has been included for fulfilment of Renewable Purchase Obligation.
- It is estimated that all captive power plants (CPPs) can gradually shift to green energy, because RE will be cheaper. Commercial and Industries segment accounts for almost 50 per cent of India's power consumption.

## Face to Face Centres



## Pratidhwani



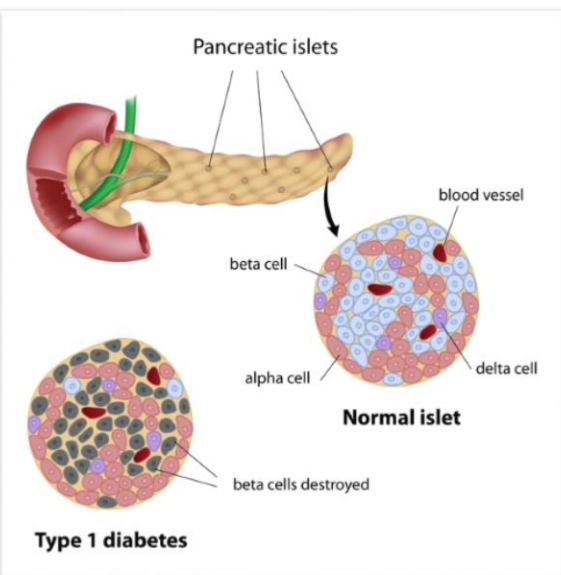
### ❖ Context

➤ Recently **Union Minister of State (MoS)** for Finance released an e-book titled “**Pratidhwani**” at an event organized by the Income Tax Department.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- “**Pratidhwani**”, which translates to ‘**resonance**’, it denotes the movement, reflection and multiplication of sounds, ideas and communication.
- The e-book “**Pratidhwani**” showcases policy initiatives and **changes in the Income Tax Department** and the growth of the nation through the lens of the Department’s outreach programmes during the period 2000 to 2022.
- These outreach programmes, carried out through **various advertisements** in print and social media platforms, reflect the ideas and practices which have contributed to revenue collection, thereby playing a **key role in the development of the nation**.
- The book highlights the importance of awareness campaigns & communication strategy to the overall success of tax administration.

## Type -1 Diabetes in Children



### ❖ Context

➤ **ICMR** released guidelines for management of type 1 diabetes providing advice on care of diabetes in children, adolescents and adults.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- **The guidelines for management of type-1 diabetes in children has been released for the first time.**
- According to ICMR, **around 95,600 children are suffering from type-1 diabetes below the age of 14 years** in India with nearly 16,000 new cases diagnosed each year in the age- group.
- **The total prevalence of type-1 diabetes in India is over 2.5 lakh in all age groups.** Type-1 diabetes is an **autoimmune disease** characterised by **insulin deficiency and hyperglycemia** in people with underlying genetic susceptibility. In it, the body's immune system destroys insulin producing cells, Beta cells, in pancreas.
- Due to the absence of insulin, blood sugar level rises. At the same time, there will be utilisation of other sources of energy like fat and protein which eventually **changes body metabolism and causes acid production** inside the body. The acute metabolism complication can lead to death.
- In type-1 diabetes, **injecting insulin is the only treatment of choice.**
- Type-2 diabetes is emerging as a new childhood disease in India due to an increase in obesity. However, it can be controlled with lifestyle changes and a healthy diet.

## Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM)- Agni-4



### ❖ Context

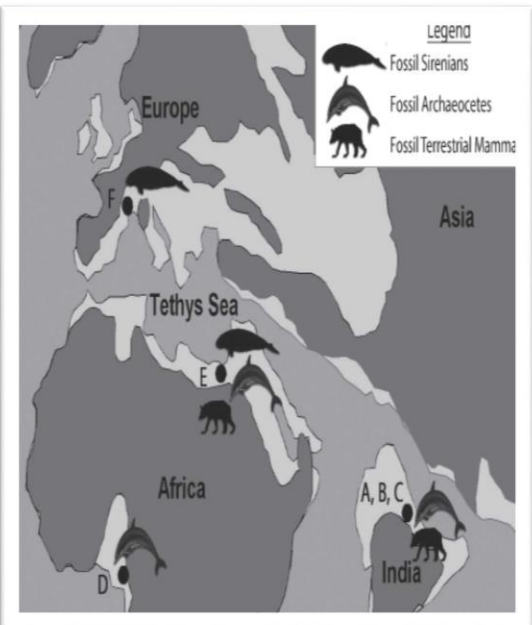
➤ India successfully carried out a training launch of nuclear-capable Agni-4 **IRBM from APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha recently.**

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The successful test was part of routine user training launches carried out under the aegis of the **Strategic Forces Command**.
- The launch validated all operational parameters as also the reliability of the system. The successful test reaffirms India's policy of having a '**Credible Minimum Deterrence**' Capability.
- The missile, one of many in the Agni series of strategic missiles, has a range of over 3,500 km.
- **Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM):** An **IRBM** is a ballistic missile with a range of **3,000–5,500 km** (1,864–3,418 miles).
- **Credible minimum deterrence:** Credible minimum deterrence is the principle on which India's nuclear strategy is based. It underlines **no first use** (NFU) with an assured second strike capability and falls under minimal deterrence, as opposed to mutually assured destruction.

## Face to Face Centres

## Destroying The Fossil Treasures



### ❖ Context

➤ **Khonmoh**, a village in Kashmir, is a **treasure trove** of fossils from the **Tethys sea**. But these fossils are at a risk of getting lost. **Quarrying** is erasing this invaluable geological heritage.

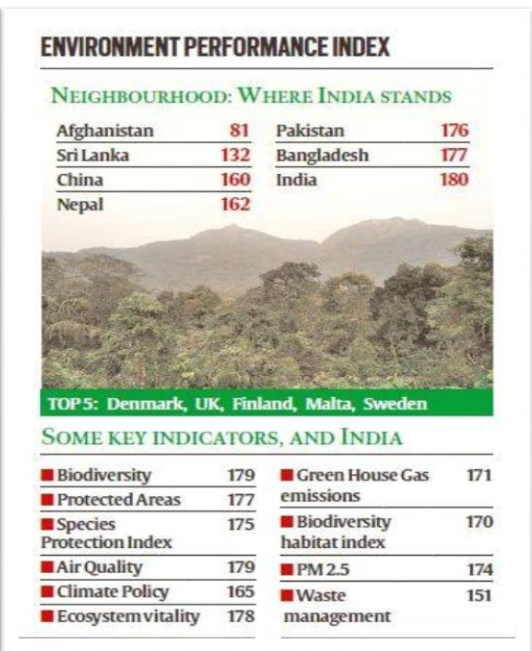
### ❖ Key Highlights

- The Khonmoh range is a **stone's throw away** from the **Zabarwan hills** which can be seen from Srinagar.
- Since the first discovery of specimens from the **Triassic period** in the late 1800s, this place has been a hotspot for experts and students alike.
- These are fossils of **marine life**, millions of years old have witnessed **one of the largest mass extinction events 252 million years ago**.
- The fossil beds of the **Zeewan-Khonmoh** belt were formed when Kashmir was still **submerged under the Tethys Sea**. The Himalayas were also born out of this sea. There are Geological records from the **Permian period** which was millions of years even before Dinosaurs existed.
- The site also bears evidence of the **Permian-Triassic extinction event**, also known as the **Great Dying**.
- Primordial corals, small invertebrates, plants and a group of mammal-like reptiles known as **therapsids were prominent during this period**.
- 70-90% of these species were wiped out. Research suggests that it was as a result of global warming and **lack of oxygen**.

### ❖ Key Concerns:

- Preservation of this region is crucial to understand **evolution, extinction, geology, geochemistry and more**.
- Researchers have warned that Kashmir's expanding cement industry in the last two decades has crushed fossils to cement.

## Environment Performance Index



### ❖ Context

➤ The recently released **Environment Performance Index-2022**, has ranked India last among **180 countries**.

### ❖ About Environment Performance Index

- The EPI, a **biennial index**, was started in 2002 as Environmental Sustainability Index by the **World Economic Forum in collaboration with the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy** and the Columbia University Center for International Earth Science Information Network.
- Using **40 performance indicators** across 11 issue categories, EPI ranks 180 countries on climate change performance, environmental health, and ecosystem vitality.

### ❖ Key Highlights of Report:

- With a paltry score of **18.9**, **India's 180th** ranking comes after Pakistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Myanmar - the bottom five together make up the **poorest performing countries for environmental health**.
- India has also scored low **on rule of law**, control of corruption and government effectiveness, according to EPI.
- **Denmark, UK and Finland** are the top three performers.
- The report says that **top-performing countries** have paid attention to all areas of sustainability, while their lagging peers tend to have uneven performance.
- In general, high scorers exhibit **long-standing policies** and programs to protect public health, preserve natural resources, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions.
- Their low EPI scores indicate the need for greater attention to the spectrum of **sustainability requirements, with a high-priority focus** on critical issues such as air and water quality, biodiversity, and climate change.
- Some of the other laggards, including **Nepal and Afghanistan**, face broader challenges such as **civil unrest, and their low scores can almost all be attributed to weak governance**.

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## Face to Face Centres

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