

## Prayers at Archaeological Sites

### ❖ Context

- ASI expressed concern to the district administration when prayers were held at the ruins of 8th century Martand Sun Temple in J&K, which is the protected monument.

### ❖ Rules With Respect To Prayers

- ASI, under the Ministry of Culture, is the custodian of the protected monuments.
- **Prayers are allowed at protected sites, only when they were functioning places of worship at the time ASI took charge of them.**
- No religious rituals can be conducted at non-living monuments where there has been no continuity of worship when it became an ASI-protected site.

### ❖ Living Monuments

- Of the 3,691 centrally-protected monuments and archaeological sites maintained by ASI, **820 (about one-fourth) have a place of worship.**

- The highest number of such monuments are in **Vadodara (77)**, **Chennai (75)**, **Dharwad (73)** and **Bengaluru (69)**.
- Some of the best known examples of such monuments are:
  - **Taj Mahal** - Namaz is being offered on every friday for last 400 years.
  - Old hindu temple inside **Dayaram Fort**, Hathras.
  - **Three mosques** in Kannauj.
  - **Roman catholic church** in Meerut.
  - **Nila mosque** in Delhi's Hauz Khas.
  - **Brajeshwari devi temple** in Chamba, HP.
  - **Buddhist monasteries** in Ladakh.

### ❖ About Martand Sun Temple

- Commissioned by **Lalitdadya Muktapida**, powerful ruler of Karkota dynasty.
- Destroyed by **Sikandar Shah Miri** in the 14th century. He was the ruler of the **Shah Miri** dynasty.

## News in Between the Lines

### Mission Amrit Sarovar



### ❖ Context

- With a view to conserve water for the future, the Prime Minister launched a new Mission on Amrit Sarovar on **National Panchayati Raj Day** recently.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The Mission is aimed at **developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of the country by 15th Aug 2023**, as a part of celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- In total, it would lead to creation of **50,000 water bodies** of a **size of about an acre or more**, with a **water holding capacity of 10,000 cubic metre**.
- This Mission has been launched with a whole Government Approach in which 6 Ministries/Department namely Dept of Rural Development , Department of land resources, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Department of Water resources, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate changes are involved. To be **administered by the Ministry of Rural Development**. Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Application and Geo-informatics (**BISAG-N**) has been engaged as **technical partner**.
- It refocuses on various schemes such as MGNREGS, XV Finance Commission Grants, PMKSY sub schemes such as Watershed Development Component, Har Khet Ko Pani besides States' own schemes.
- The **first Amrit Sarovar** was established at **Patwai, Rampur, UP**.

### India's First Centre Of Excellence For Khadi (CoEK)



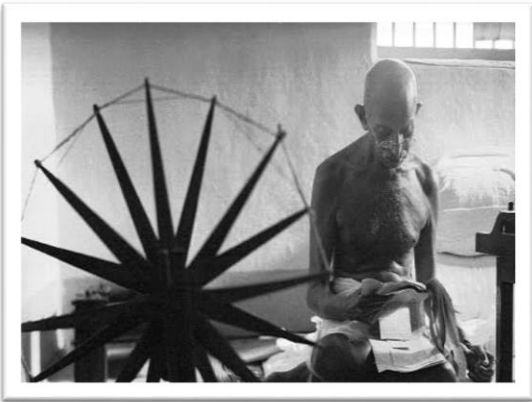
### ❖ Context

- Union Minister for **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** has inaugurated the **Centre for Excellence for Khadi** recently in New Delhi.
- The Minister of State MSME, Minister of State for Textiles, Ministry of Textiles and Secretary will also attend the event.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The **Ministry of MSME** has created a Centre for Experimentation, Innovation, and Design for the **Khadi Village and Industries Commission (KVIC)** with the goal of empowering Khadi Institutions across the country.
- The Center's mission is to create clothing, home goods, and fashion accessories that appeal to individuals of all ages. The goal of the **Khadi Centre of Excellence** is to make Khadi a worldwide, classic, and value-driven brand.

## Face to Face Centres



- This Centre will be set up at the **National Institute of Fashion Technology** as a hub in Delhi and will have its **branches across Bengaluru, Gandhinagar, Kolkata, and Shillong**. They are also developing a knowledge portal for Khadi to disseminate design directions to reach out to all the **Khadi institutions**.
- This portal will contain **design directions on** - colour, silhouettes, weave, surface, textures, prints, closures, size chart, and trims and finishes.
- The word '**Khadi**' is derived from '**Khadder**' which is used for hand-spun fabric in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. In order to promote Khadi production and development of its industry, the Indian government launched the **All India Khadi and Village Industries Board in 1957** which later came to be known as Khadi Village and Industries Commission.

### ❖ The Historical Relevance Of Khadi

- "Khadi spirit means the fellow-feeling with every human being on earth, these were the lines of the Father of the Nation" - **Mahatma Gandhi**.
- Handspun and hand-woven, Khadi fabric became a tool to unify people; and at the behest of Mahatma Gandhi, thousands of people formed collectives to create Khadi fabric and dress in comfortable cloth. Interestingly, many such collectives formalized into institutions that went on to be certified by **Khadi Village and Industries Commission (KVIC)** from 1957 onwards. These Khadi Institutions are the custodians of the legacy of Khadi.

### Chess Grandmaster Yuri Averbakh



### ❖ Context

- **World's oldest Chess grandmaster, Yuri Averbakh**, dies at 100. His death was announced on the site of the **International Chess Federation**, the game's governing body. No cause was given.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- Russian chess grandmaster, **Yuri Averbakh** who was among the world's best players for a decade, trained world champions and was the last surviving participant in one of the greatest competitions in history, has died in **Moscow**.
- Yuri Lvovich Averbakh was born on Feb. 8, 1922, in **Kaluga**, a small town about 100 miles **southwest of Moscow**.
- He won the **Moscow Championship** in 1949 and earned the Grandmaster title in 1952.
- In 1954, he became the champion of the **USSR**. He also chaired the Chess Federation of the **USSR from 1972 to 1977**.

### Anti-dumping Probe



### ❖ Context

- India has initiated an **anti-dumping probe against imports** of a certain type of optical fibre from China, Indonesia and South Korea following a complaint by a domestic player.
- The duty is aimed at **protecting domestic industry from cheap imports**.

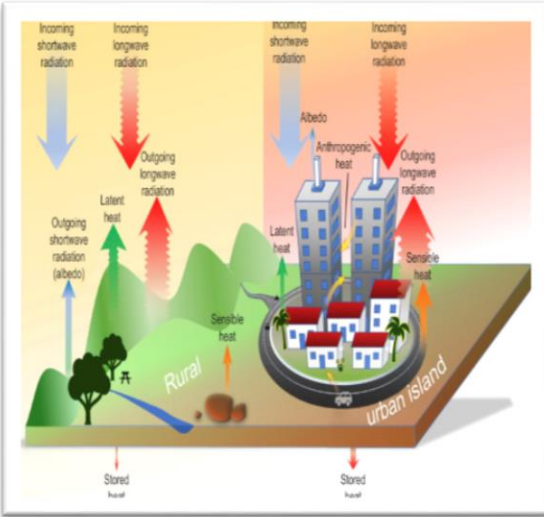
### ❖ Anti-dumping' Duty?

- Countries start **anti-dumping probes** to determine whether their domestic industries have been hurt because of a surge in cheap imports.
- As a countermeasure, they impose these duties under the multilateral regime of the **Geneva-based World Trade Organisation (WTO)**.
- India is a member of the Geneva-based World Trade Organisation (WTO).
- The duty is aimed at ensuring fair trading practices and creating a level-playing field for domestic producers vis-a-vis foreign producers and exporters.
- India has already imposed anti-dumping duty on several products to tackle cheap imports from various countries, including **China**.
- Dumping is said to occur when the goods are exported by a country to another country at a price lower than its normal value. This is an unfair trade practice which can have a distortive effect on international trade.
- The commerce ministry's investigation arm **Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)** is probing the alleged dumping of 'Dispersion Unshifted Single-mode Optical Fibre' originating in or exported from these three nations.

### Face to Face Centres



## Urban Heat Islands



- The product is used for the manufacturing of different kinds of cables, including optical fibre, tight buffer cables, armoured and un-armoured cables.
- Single-mode optical fibre is mainly applied to high-data-rate, long distance and access network transportation.

### ❖ Context

- The only reason April 2022 was not the hottest April on record in the country is because **northeast India had heavy rainfall**, an occurrence so unexpected that even the **Indian Meteorology Department (IMD)**, which now prides itself on accurate forecasts, said it had gone wrong.
- In **northwest and central India**, April broke all heat records - the 'urban heat island'.

### ❖ Urban Heat Island?

- An **urban heat island**, or **UHI**, is a **metropolitan area** that's a lot warmer than the rural areas surrounding it.
- Heat is created by energy from all the people, cars, buses, and trains in big cities.
- There are many reasons for UHIs. When houses, shops, and industrial buildings are constructed close together, it can create a UHI.
- Building materials are usually very good at insulating, or holding in heat.
- This insulation makes the areas around buildings warmer.
- The early heat could have **cascading effects**. The **Himalayan ice melt** could start early, not just further affecting the glaciers, but also bringing gallons of melt rushing down the mountain rivers in quantities that could cause **flooding and calamitous events**. A very fine **climatic balance, perfected over millennia**, is poised to crash.
- Memories of 2015 have not gone, when the country registered over 2,100 deaths due to **heat waves**, the highest since **1971**.
- The unofficial toll must be several times higher. In 2015, the country declared heat wave as a "**disaster**" under the **National Disaster Management Act**, given its impact on human life and loss of productivity.

## Tomato Flu



### ❖ Context

- Kerala has recently detected cases of the flu in the wake of which Tamil Nadu has ramped up surveillance at its borders.

### ❖ What is it?

- The flu that gets its name because of the **red blister** it causes.
- Affects **children below five years of age**.
- The **symptoms** of this flu, also called **Tomato fever**, include rashes, skin irritation and dehydration.
- It may also **cause tiredness, joint pain, stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, coughing, sneezing, runny nose, high fever, and body ache**. In some cases, it may also **change the colour of the legs and the hands**.
- This flu is **self-limiting** i.e. that the symptoms will resolve overtime on their own if supportive care is given. There is no specific drug for it. Like other cases of flu, tomato fever is also **contagious**. It can spread rapidly from one person to another. If someone is infected with this flu, they need to be kept in isolation.

## Marsquake

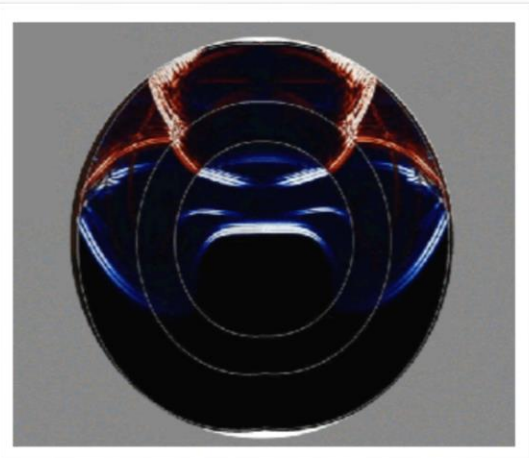
### ❖ Context

- Recently, **NASA's InSight lander** detected a quake on Mars, the **largest ever observed on another planet**. Since the rover landed on Mars in November 2018, it has heard 1,313 quakes.

### ❖ About Marsquakes

- On Earth, quakes are caused by shifts in tectonic plates. **Mars, however, does not have tectonic plates, and its crust is a giant plate**.
- Therefore, NASA notes, 'marsquakes' are caused due to **stresses that cause rock fractures or faults in its crust**.





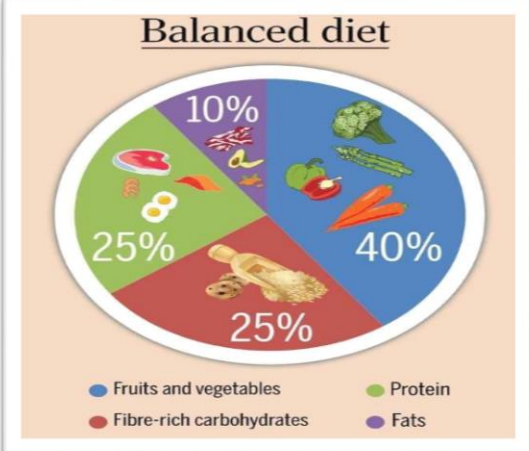
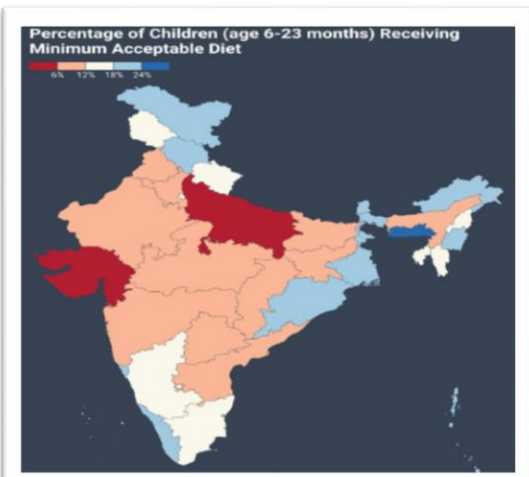
### ❖ Mandate of Insight

- InSight is not looking for life on Mars, but is studying **what Mars is made of, how its material is layered, and how much heat seeps out of it.**

### ❖ Why Do Scientists Believe There Is A Possibility Of Life On Mars?

- Some missions studying the possibility of life on Mars include **UAE's Hope, China's Tianwen-1, and NASA's Perseverance.**
- **Earth and Mars** used to be similar - warm, wet and shrouded in thick atmospheres - before they took different paths 3-4 billion years ago. Mars stopped changing, while Earth continued to evolve.
- It is a possibility that the atmosphere of Mars was once warm enough to allow water to flow through its surface, which could mean life existed there too.
- If Mars harboured a warmer atmosphere enabling water to flow in its ancient past (3.5-3.8 billion years ago), and if microbial life existed on it, it is possible that it exists in "special regions" even today.

## Minimum Acceptable Diet And NFHS



### ❖ Context

- The NFHS-5 report looked at the adequate diet for both breastfeeding and non-breastfeeding children till they reached two years.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- **89 % of children** between the formative ages of **6-23 months do not receive a "minimum acceptable diet"**. This is only marginally better than the 90.4 % recorded in NFHS-4. The **proportion of children aged 6-23 months who received a minimum acceptable diet was highest in Meghalaya (28.5 %), Sikkim (23.8 %), Kerala (23.3 %), Ladakh (23.1 %), Puducherry (22.9 %)** and the **lowest in UP and Gujarat (5.9 % each)**. **67% of children aged 6-59 months have anaemia**, which is **higher than the NFHS-4 estimate of 59 %**.
- **36%** of children under age 5 are **stunted** (short for their age); **19 %** are **wasted** (thin for their height); **32 %** are **underweight** (thin for their age).

### ❖ What Is The Minimum Acceptable Diet?

- The minimum acceptable diet is a composite of two main things: **breastfeeding** and its frequency up to two years, and **dietary diversity**.
- The WHO has defined **ten essential food groups** - cereals and millets, pulses, milk and milk products, roots and tubers, green leafy vegetables, other vegetables, fruits, fat or oil, fish, egg and other meats and sugar.
- A **child needs at least four of the food groups** indicated by the WHO every day to have a minimum acceptable diet. **Only 25 % of children receive this dietary diversity** while 35 % of children receive adequate milk frequency.

### ❖ Effect Of Inadequate Diet

- A deficient diet in the first 1000 days (from conception to 2 years) has huge effects on **cognitive ability, including sensory and language capabilities**.
- **80 % brain growth takes place in two years.**
- **Growth faltering, stunting and increased anaemia.**

## PRAAPTI App



### Daily Current Affairs

### ❖ Context

- According to Portal **PRAAPTI**, Total outstanding dues of electricity distribution companies (**Discoms**) to power producers rose by **4.04 per cent** in May 2022.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The Union Ministry of Power has launched **web portal and app** namely PRAAPTI (Payment Ratification And Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators). The webportal and app aims to bring transparency in power purchase transactions between Generators and Discoms. It will also enable consumers to evaluate financial performance of their Discoms in terms of payments being made to generators. The PRAAPTI portal will also help DISCOMs and GENCOs to reconcile their outstanding payments.
- **Discoms:** These are **distribution companies** that are responsible for the **supply of power to the consumers** like the industries, commercial, agriculture and domestic consumers.

## Face to Face Centres