

Statue of Equality

❖ Context

- The Prime Minister is all set to unveil the **world's second-largest statue (Statue of Equality)** in Hyderabad on February 5.

❖ Key Highlights

- The Statue of Equality is a **216-foot** statue of the **11th-century saint and social reformer Sri Ramanujacharya**.
- The statue will be in a **sitting position**.
- It is a 1000 crores project **funded entirely by donations** from devotees globally.
- The inner **sanctorum deity of Sri Ramanujacharya is built of 120 kilos of gold**. This commemorates the 120 years the saint spent on earth.
- It is **made of 'panchaloha'**, a mix of five metals – gold, silver, copper, brass, and zinc.
- The Statue of Equality complex has **identical recreations of 108 Divya Desams, the 108 ornately carved Vishnu temples** mentioned in the works of the Alvars, mystic Tamil saints.



❖ About Sri Ramanujacharya

- Sri Ramanujacharya was **born in 1017** in SriPerumbudur, Tamil Nadu.
- He was one of the most **important exponents of the Sri Vaishnavism tradition** within Hinduism.
- He is famous as the **chief proponent of Vishishtadvaita**, a subschool of Vedanta.
- He was also referred to as **Ilaya Perumal**, which means the radiant one.
- He **wrote influential texts, such as bhāṣya on the Brahma Sutras and the Bhagavad Gita**, all in Sanskrit.
- **Bhakti movement was greatly influenced by Sri Ramanujacharya's philosophical teachings** of devotionism.
- He worked **against casteism and social hierarchies**.

5G & Aviation Safety

❖ Context

- Flights to the United States from India were briefly suspended after the US's Federal Aviation Administration warned that the rollout of new 5G technology could potentially lead to interference with onboard instruments.

❖ Key Highlights

❖ Why?

- FAA warned that the rollout of **new 5G technology** by AT&T and Verizon in the **allotted 3.7-3.98 GHz** (gigahertz) band could potentially lead to **interference with onboard instruments** such as radar altimeters
- **The radio or radar altimeter** is a **very small, low-power** radar system that operates in the **4.2-4.4 GHz** frequency **microwave C-band**. The **high frequency** of these altimeters **enable** aircraft makers to **install small antennae** that produce **powerful signals** that can be relayed quickly and accurately.

❖ Role of Radio Altimeters

- **For all airborne vehicles** — an aircraft, spacecraft, or even a missile — an altimeter is crucial to **gauge the altitude and the distance covered**.
- Altimeters are of three main kinds: **barometric, laser, and radio or radar altimeters**.
- Most commercial passenger and cargo aircraft use a combination of all these altimeters along with the global positioning system (GPS) to determine their path, as well as factors such as **height above sea level, presence of highrises, mountains, and other obstacles, and the likely flying time**.

❖ Situation in India

- In India, where **5G is yet to be rolled out**, the frequency range for 5G telecoms operations is pegged around **3.3-3.68 GHz**.
- The Federation of Indian Pilots has expressed concern about the frequencies being close together.
- According to the DoT there would be no interference as the frequencies for commercial 5G services were at least 530 MHz away from those used by altimeters.

❖ 5G

- It is **next generation wireless standard** defined by the **3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP)**, the industry organization that defines the global specifications for 3G UMTS (including HSPA), 4G LTE
- 5G is based on **OFDM (Orthogonal frequency-division multiplexing)**, a method of modulating a digital signal across several different channels to reduce interference.
- 5G will bring **wider bandwidths** by expanding the usage of spectrum resources, **from sub-3 GHz used in 4G to 100 GHz and beyond**. 5G can operate in both **lower bands** (e.g., sub-6 GHz) **as well as mmWave** (e.g., 24 GHz and up), which will bring extreme capacity, multi-Gbps throughput, and **low latency (delay)**.



News in Between the Lines

Miss Kerala



❖ Context

- Recently, **Denison barb (Miss Kerala)**, a fish species, has been included in **Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021**.
- However, aquarists and ornamental fish breeders have issues with this inclusion.

❖ Key Highlights

- **Scientific name-** Sahyadria denisonii (Puntius denisonii)
- **IUCN Red List Status- Endangered**
- The fish is **featured with red and black stripes on its body** and it is found in the **States of Kerala and Karnataka**.
- This species is **known to inhabit fast-flowing hill streams** and is often found in rocky pools with thick vegetation along river banks.

❖ Reasons for including in Schedule I of WPA

- Ironically, its beauty is the biggest threat to its survival, as it is highly sought-after in the **international aquarium trade, constituting 60 – 65% of the total live ornamental fish exported from India**.
- Its numbers are also decreasing **owing to habitat degradation** due to deforestation, mining, agriculture, urban expansion and hydro-electric projects.

Justice Clock

HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT		
DURATION	LAST WEEK	LAST MONTH
INSTITUTION	2200	7366
DISPOSAL	1104	6064
CASE CLEARANCE RATE(%)	50%	82%

❖ Context

- Recently, **Supreme Court e-Committee** chairperson and SC judge Justice DY Chandrachud inaugurated two digital services for Gujarat High Court — a **Justice Clock**, and **electronic payment of court fee**.

❖ About Justice Clock

- The 'justice clock' will be an outdoor display LED wall within the court premises to **display disposal and pendency of cases**.
- The physical 'justice clock' will also have a **virtual format** and has been **designed and developed in-house**.
- It will **display data from the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)** in real-time.
- It is aimed at **greater accessibility and transparency**.
- A justice clock is **also present in Odisha and Calcutta's HC** and were inaugurated in 2019 and January 2020 respectively.

District Good Governance Index



❖ Context

- The Union Minister of Home and Cooperation has virtually released India's First **"District Good Governance Index" for 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir**.

❖ Key Highlights

- This index has been **prepared by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)** in collaboration with the **Government of Jammu & Kashmir**.
- The **index covered 10 sectors and 58 indicators**.
- Under the index, **the policies, schemes and programs** of the central as well as the state governments have been monitored at the district level.
- The **top 5 districts** in the District Good Governance Index are (1) Jammu, (2) Doda, (3) Samba, (4) Pulwama and (5) Srinagar.

Gherkins

❖ Context

- Recently, India has become the **largest exporter of gherkins** in the world.

❖ Key Highlights

- **India has crossed the USD 200 million mark** of export of agricultural

Face to Face Centres



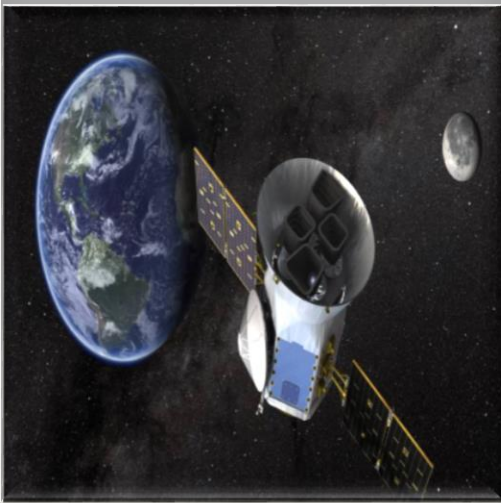
processed product, - pickling cucumber, which is globally referred as gherkins or cornichons, in the last financial year.

- In 2020-21, **India had shipped 2,23,515 Metric Tonnes of cucumber and gherkins** with a value of USD 223 million.

❖ About Gherkins

- **Gherkin** is a term generally used to refer to a savoury pickled cucumber.
- Gherkins and commercial cucumbers **belong to the same species** (*Cucumis sativus*), but are from different cultivar groups.
- It's a little cucumber that's been **pickled in a brine, vinegar, or other solution** and left to ferment for a period of time.
- Gherkin has a **90-day crop and the farmers take two crops annually**.
- Gherkins are **exported under two categories-** cucumbers and gherkins,
- Gherkin cultivation, processing and exports **started in India during the early 1990s** with a modest **beginning in Karnataka** and later extended to the neighboring states of Tamil Nad, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- Nearly **15% production of the world's gherkin requirement is grown in India**.
- Gherkins is **currently exported to more than 20 countries**, with major destinations being North America, European countries and Oceanic countries
- On an average, a **gherkin farmer produces 4 metric tonne per acre per crop** and earns about Rs 80,000 with a net income of Rs 40,000.

Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS)



❖ Context

- NASA's TESS (Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite) Mission **spotted three exoplanets**, named TOI-2337b, TOI-4329b and TOI-2669b.

❖ Key Highlights

- Three giant planets are **orbiting dangerously close to their stars** and will be **consumed by their stars**.
- The host stars are also **nearing the end of their lives**.

❖ About TESS

- The Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) is a **NASA mission that will look for planets orbiting the brightest stars in Earth's sky**.
- It was **led by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology** with seed funding from Google. The TESS has **identified 2,601 exoplanets as of 2021 data**.
- TESS is **capable of studying mass, size, orbit range and density of planets**.
- This **includes small planets and rocky planets** in the habitable zones of their stars.
- Prime mission (a two-year survey of the solar neighborhood) **ended in July 2020** and TESS is now in an extended mission.

Abide with Me

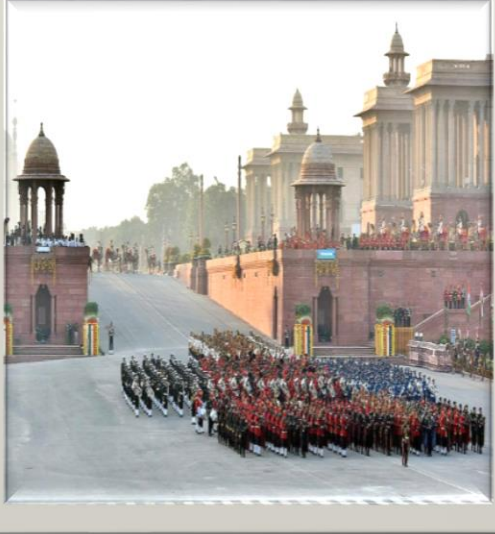
❖ Context

- The Government has decided to replace the song with '**Aye Mere ke Watan Ke Logon**' for playing by bands in Beating Retreat Ceremony

❖ Key Highlights

- The hymn was **penned in 1820 by Henry Francis Lite**, a Scottish Anglican Minister, and had **been played** in the ceremony **since 1950** as the last piece by the brass bands **before the troops recede up Raisina Hill** & the retreat buglers bring down the Indian flag in the dusk.
- Beating Retreat is a **military ceremony dating to 17th-century England** and





was first used to recall nearby patrolling units to their castle.

- The hymn, which is popular across Christian denominations, was also played at the **wedding of Queen Elizabeth II**. It was played by musicians as the **Titanic** went down.
- It is still sung during various military services in **Australia and New Zealand**.
- It was also one of the **Mahatma Gandhi's personal favourites**. He **first heard the piece played by Mysore Palace Band**, and could not forget its tenderness and serenity.
- It was also included in Sabarmati Ashram's **Bhajnavali** - the first and probably the only cross religion hymnal anywhere, under his watch
- **Aye Mere Watan Ke Logon**, was written by **Kavi Pradeep** in the wake of the **Sino-Indian War**
- The song was **first sung on January 27, 1963** at **Delhi's National Stadium** in a fundraiser organized by the film industry for Indian war widows.

The Climate Hazard & Vulnerability Atlas of India



❖ Context

- Developed by IMD Scientists

❖ Key Highlights

- It is the **first climate vulnerability atlas**, based on **14 extreme weather events** and the risks they pose to the local population, livelihoods and economy of **each district**. Each weather phenomenon's **month-wise hazard levels** posed to the respective district has been enlisted in the atlas.
- The atlas provides a **range of vulnerability with risks ranging from nil, low, moderate, high and very high** categories for every Indian district.
- The atlas features extreme rainfall, drought, coldwave, heatwave, dust storms, hail storm, thunderstorm, cyclones, snowfall, lightning, winds and fog.
- While **lightning causes the highest casualty**, floods, cyclones and fog cause huge economic and livelihood losses.
- Around **25 districts in the east coast** — 10 in Tamil Nadu, seven in Andhra Pradesh, six in Odisha and two in West Bengal — are **vulnerable to cyclonic storms**
- **Purba Medinipur** in West Bengal had the **highest** cyclone vulnerability in the country for cyclones of all intensities. Baleswar in Orissa topped the list in terms of vulnerability to severe cyclonic storms.

Frontrunning



❖ Context

- In December, 2021, SEBI conducted multiple raids in Gujarat and caught those running Telegram channel 'Bull-run 2017' which had 52,000 subscribers

❖ Key Highlights

- SEBI found that the **operators** who were running this channel **first took positions** in the stocks in respect of which they were advising the subscribers
- Also, the founders were not registered with SEBI, which is necessary for investment advisors.
- Frontrunning is when a **person, mainly a broker or an advisor, takes a buy or sell position in any stock** based on exclusive knowledge that the **recommendations being issued by them will certainly lead to price variation in the particular stock** in the near future.
- Most of such recommendations are given on stocks where the liquidity is less and even a small amount of buying or selling can impact share prices. Rule prohibit people from giving specific stock tips in 'closed groups' which are accessible to limited members and work on subscription basis

