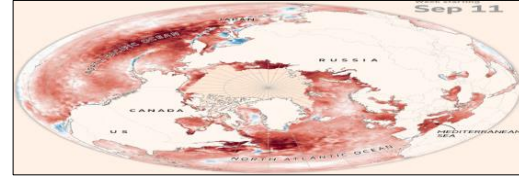


## Triple dip La Nina

### ❖ Context

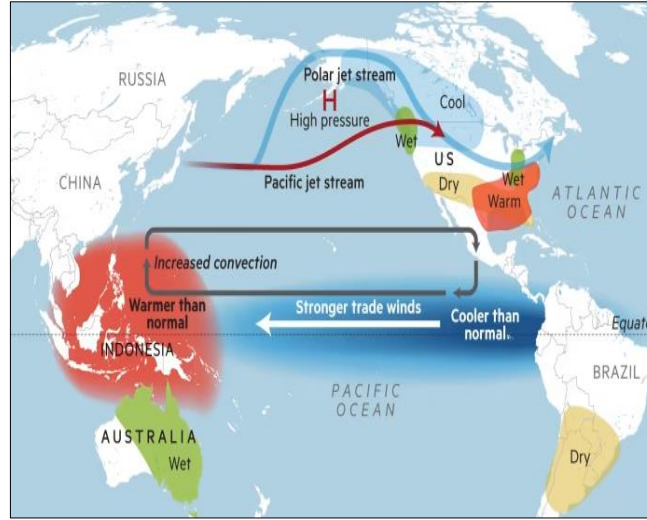
- A day after the IMD announced the withdrawal of the monsoon, torrential rains began in several parts of north India in the month of September.



### ❖ What is Monsoon Withdrawal?

- The monsoon begins its withdrawal from the last state it reaches, which is **Rajasthan**. Withdrawal does not mean monsoon ceases to rain.
- Around September 15, **cyclonic systems** from the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal that fuel the monsoon from June-September are **replaced by an 'anticyclone' circulation** which means dry, windless conditions start to prevail over western & northern India.
- Technically, withdrawal is a :
  - Cessation of rainfall activity over northwest India for five straight days.
  - An anticyclone establishing itself in the lower troposphere.
  - A marked reduction in moisture content.
- The **IMD only counts the rainfall between June 1 and September 30 as monsoon rainfall.**

### ❖ How was this Year's Monsoon?



- Monsoon rainfall in India has been **surplus by around 7% this year** though with extreme inequity.
- **Central and southern India saw surplus** by 20% and 25% respectively.
- On the other hand, large parts of the **east and northeast** of India have reported a 17% **shortfall** and the **northwest** 2%.

### ❖ Reasons

- India is seeing an extended spell of the La Nina, called a **'triple dip' La Nina** which is characterised by cooler than normal sea surface temperatures in the central Pacific.
- It is a phenomenon lasting across **three winter seasons in the northern hemisphere.**
- This is **only the third time since 1950** that a triple dip La Nina has been observed.



## Mesolithic Findings at Natham Medu

### ❖ Context

- Many artefacts have been found by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** at Natham Medu, 40 km from Chennai.



### ❖ Findings

- **12,000 years old** hand axes, scrapers, cleavers and choppers.
- **Sangam era** artefacts and rouletted ceramics.
- **Roman** amphora sherds and glass beads.
- Floor tiles similar to roof tiles found from Keeladi.

### ❖ Significance of the Findings

- They suggest that Natham Medu was likely a place where stone tools were produced for hunting.
- They indicate the presence of a **Mesolithic culture** that subsequently developed into a civilization.
- According to an expert, the sculptures date from the **Pallava era (275 CE) to the late Pallavas on the surface (897 CE).**
- The majority of the stone shards were discovered 75 cm below the surface.

### ❖ About the Natham Medu

- Discovered in **1922**, also known as **Guruvan Medu.**

### ❖ About Keeladi Excavations

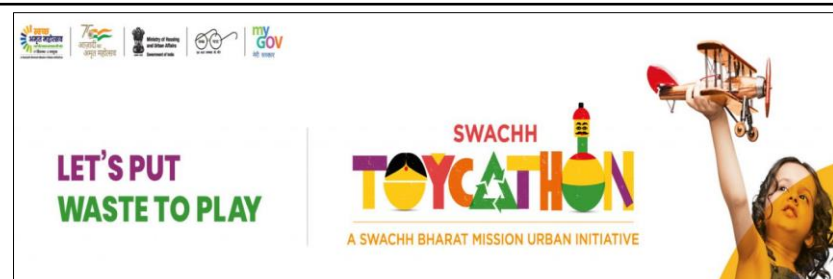
- In September 2019, excavations from Keeladi, near Madurai indicated an **urban settlement of Sangam Age** on the banks of **River Vaigai.**
- The findings had also pushed the **origin of Tamil Brahmi scripts in south India to 600 BCE** from 300



## Swachh Toycathon

### ❖ Context

- **Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry** has launched **Swachh Toycathon** recently, a unique **competition to make toys from waste.**



### Face to Face Centres



### ❖ Key Highlights

- The competition is opened to individuals and groups to bring forth innovation in toy designs using dry waste.
- It will focus on efficient designs that can be replicated at a larger scale, and toys that comply with minimum safety standards.
- The competition will be hosted on MyGov's innovate India portal.
- Center for Creative Learning, IIT Gandhinagar is the knowledge partner for the initiative.
- The demand for toys in the country is increasing due to strong economic growth, rising disposable incomes, and several innovations for the junior population.

- **National Action Plan for Toys 2020** was introduced to promote the Indian toy industry including traditional handicrafts and handmade toys with the objective of establishing India as a global Toy hub.



- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade along with 14 Ministries of Central Government is currently implementing various aspects of the National Action Plan for Toys.

## Asian Palm Oil Alliance

### ❖ Context

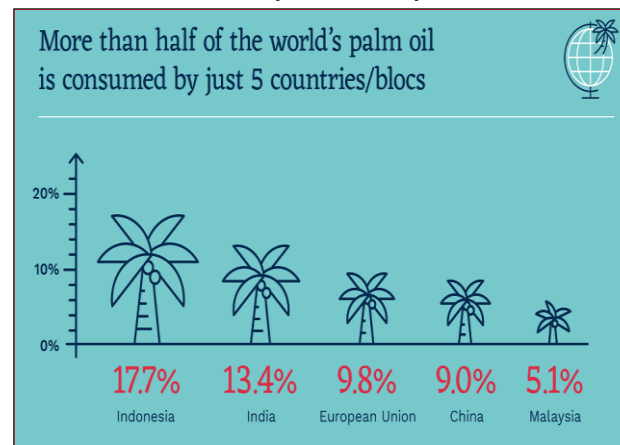
- India's Atul Chaturvedi has been elected chairman of the Asia Palm Oil Alliance.



### ❖ Key Highlights

- The apex edible oil industry associations from five major palm oil importing countries of Asia -- India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal -- have come together to form the Asian Palm Oil Alliance (APOA), at the instance of Solidaridad Network, a specialist in sustainable agriculture.
- The APOA secretariat would initially be managed by the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA).
- APOA is expected to safeguard the economic and business interests of the palm-oil consuming countries and create a level-playing field for all fats and oils used in food, feed and oleo-chemicals in Asia.
- It will further work towards increasing the consumption of sustainable palm oil in member countries.
- India is the largest importer of palm oil in the Asian region and accounts for 15 per cent of global imports.

- China with 9%, Pakistan with 4%, and Bangladesh with 2% of global imports are the other significant countries with a stake in palm oil production and trade.



- The creation of APOA will support & accelerate the transition towards a sustainable & inclusive palm oil industry in Asia.

- This would foster Asia's position as sustainability leader. "We are pleased to have the opportunity to support this initiative & look forward to achieving many milestones together."

## Change Site-(Y)

### ❖ Context

- Researchers in China have discovered a new type of crystal nestled among the volcanic debris of the near side of the moon, as well as a potential fuel source that could help revolutionize the production of clean and efficient energy on Earth.



### ❖ Key Highlights

- The Changesite-(Y) crystal's discovery marks the sixth new mineral to be identified on the moon, and the first identified by China; the five previous discoveries were made by either the United States or Russia.
- Among the roughly 140,000 lunar particles analyzed, scientists also found traces of helium-3 - a version of the element helium that is exceptionally rare on Earth but is believed to be abundant on the moon.

- **Helium-3** is a particularly promising fuel source for fusion as it produces significantly less radiation and nuclear waste than other elements do, according to the European Space Agency (ESA).
- The element does exist on Earth in relatively small quantities, but helium-3 is thought to be much more abundant on the moon, where it has been deposited directly onto the lunar soil for billions of years by solar wind.
- Chang'e-5's discovery of a new helium-3 deposit on the near side of the moon could further stoke the global race to plunder the moon's mineral resources.

### Face to Face Centres





## Make in India

### ❖ Context

➤ The Government's flagship programme 'Make in India' recently completed eight-years.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- **Make in India initiative** which was launched in 2014 by Prime Minister aspires to **facilitate investment, foster innovation, enhance skill development, and build best-in-class manufacturing infrastructure.**
- **Make India Programme** is transforming the country into a **leading global manufacturing and investment destination.**
- The initiative is an open invitation to potential investors and partners across the globe to participate in the growth story of '**New India**'. To attract foreign investments, the Government has put in place a liberal and transparent policy wherein most sectors are **open to Foreign Direct Investment under the automatic route.**
- FDI inflows in India which stood at **45.15 billion US dollar** in 2014-2015 reached record FDI inflows for eight years.



- The year 2021-22 recorded the highest ever FDI of 83.6 billion US dollar.
- The Production Linked Incentive scheme launched across 14 key manufacturing sectors is also giving a boost to Make in India initiative.

• With this initiative at the forefront, the businesses in India are aiming that the products that are 'Made in India' are also 'Made for the World,' adhering to global standards of quality.

## News in Between the Lines

### Farzad-B



### ❖ Context

➤ Citing the **Exploration Service Contract**, Iran asked the Indian consortium led by OVL to exercise its rights to participate in the **development contract** up to a **minimum 30 % stake.**

### ❖ Key Highlights

- Farzad-B is a **giant off-shore natural gas field** (3500 sq km) in the **Persian Gulf**, 20 kilometres off **Farsi Island** in Iran.
- It was discovered in **2008** by a **consortium** of three Indian companies, **led by** the state-owned **ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL)** with a 40% stake; the other companies were Indian Oil Corporation (40%) and Oil India (20%).
- The discovery was named Farzad-B, for production, However, negotiations stalled as international sanctions were slapped on Iran over its nuclear plans.
- In **February 2020**, the Iranian government decided to award the contract to develop the field to a local firm.

### Surjapuri & Bajjika



### ❖ Context

➤ The **Bihar government** has decided to set up two new academies to promote local dialects - Surjapuri and Bajjika.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- **Surjapuri**, a mix of **Hindi, Maithili and Bangla**, is spoken in the **Seemanchal region** comprising Purnia, Katihar, Kishanganj and Araria districts.
- **Bajjika**, similar to Maithili, is the language of the people living in the **Bajjikanchal region** of Muzaffarpur, Vaishali, West Champaran and Sheohar.
- The eight already existing language academies in Bihar are Bihar Hindi Granth Academy, Maithili Academy, Magahi Academy, Bangla Academy, Sanskrit Academy, Bhojpuri Academy, Angika Academy and South Indian Languages Organisation.
- While Maithili and Bhojpuri have made progress in fields of art, culture, and literature, **Magahi, Angika, Bajjika and Surjapuri remain less-developed.**

### Parens Patriae Doctrine

### ❖ Context

➤ The Union government did not clearly stand its position on the curative petition in the Bhopal gas tragedy case.

## Face to Face Centres





### ❖ Key Highlights

- In the **curative plea** filed by the Union government in 2010 to enhance the compensation awarded to the victims, it had clearly declared itself as “the *parens patriae* (protector)” of the victims.
- Parliament had cast the government in the role of the protector of the victims by enacting the **Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Act, 1985**.

### ❖ About the Doctrine

- It is in which a **state has third-party standing** to bring a lawsuit on behalf of a citizen when the suit implicates a **state’s quasi-sovereign interests** for the **well-being** of its citizens. It is also the doctrine in which all **orphans, dependent children, and persons deemed incompetent** are within the **special protection**, and under the control of the state.
- This doctrine also finds use during natural calamities, widespread environmental pollution and health emergencies.

## Bhagat Singh Airport



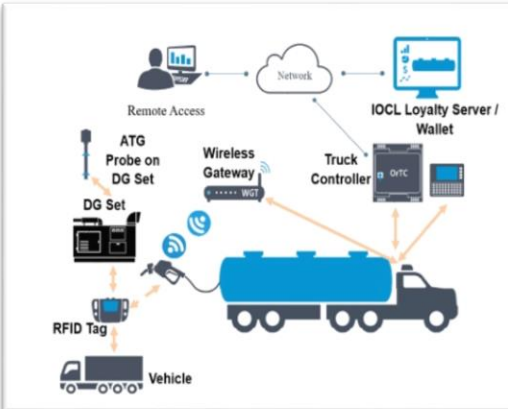
### ❖ Context

- The Prime Minister announced that the **Chandigarh airport will be renamed after Bhagat Singh** as a tribute to the freedom fighter.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The ₹485-crore Chandigarh Airport is a joint venture of the **Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the governments of Punjab and Haryana**. Punjab and Haryana have 24.5% share each, while the AAI has 51% share.
- To change the name of an airport a **resolution** has to be first passed by the **state assembly**. Then it has to be passed by the **Union cabinet** and **finally notified in the Gazette of India**.

## Mobile Browsers



### ❖ Context

- According to Indian Oil Corporation, Northeast India has more diesel-vending ‘mobile browsers’ than most parts of the country.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- A mobile dispenser or a browser is an **automatic fuel dispenser** in a moving vehicle used to serve fuel on-demand.
- **IOC in March 2018**, launched the door-to-door diesel delivery service in **Pune**.
- The diesel-dispensing trucks are approved by the **Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)**. **PESO**, formerly known as Department of Explosives, since its inception in **1898**, is a nodal agency for regulating safety of hazardous substances such as explosives, compressed gas and petroleum, **under the administrative control of DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce**.

## Supertyphoon Noru



### ❖ Context

- The tropical cyclonic storm, locally known as **Karding**, hit the Philippines.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The storm originated from a disturbance over the **Philippine Sea**.
- The Philippines, an archipelago of more than 7,600 islands, sees an average of 20 tropical storms yearly.

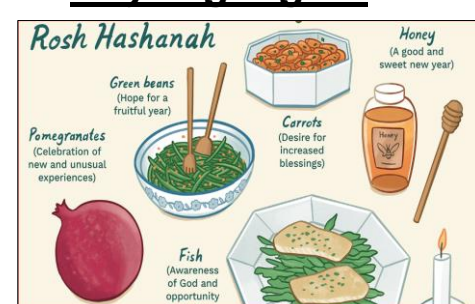
## Rosh Hashanah



### ❖ Context

- Prime Minister has extended his greetings to the Prime Minister of Israel, people of Israel, and the Jewish people around the world on the occasion of Rosh Hashanah.

### ❖ Key Highlights



- “Rosh Hashanah” means “head of the year” in Hebrew, and the two-day holiday is considered a time to reflect and repent in anticipation of the coming year.
- It is also referred to as the “day of judgment.” The holiday traditionally calls on people to consider how they might have failed or fallen short in the past year – and how to improve and grow in the coming year.

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## Face to Face Centres

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