

## World Food Programme (WFP)

### ❖ Context

- Recently, The United Nations **World Food Programme (WFP)** said that it is in discussions with India on **procurement of wheat** as several countries face food security challenges amid the Ukraine war.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- There is a **huge surplus of wheat in India**.
- The WFP is putting efforts to **utilize this stockpile with India** as the Russia-Ukraine war exacerbates the global food security situation.
- **India's wheat production stood at 109.59 million tonnes** in the 2020-21 crop year (July-June). Earlier this year, **India began sending shipments of wheat to Afghanistan**.
  - India has committed to supplying 50,000 tonnes of wheat grain to Afghanistan.
  - It **will be delivered through Pakistan's land route**.
  - The grain will be delivered to the UN agency World Food Programme for supply to the Afghan people.

### ❖ About World Food Programme (WFP)

- Founded in **1961**. It is the **food-assistance branch of the United Nations**.

- It is the **world's largest humanitarian organization** focused on hunger and food security, and the largest provider of school meals. It is a **member of the United Nations Development Group** and part of its Executive Committee. It is **headquartered in Rome** and has offices in 80 countries.
- As of 2020, it served 115.5 million people in 80-plus countries, the largest since 2012.
- **Goals: Eradicate hunger** and malnutrition, attain food security and augment nutrition by **2030 (Zero Hunger)**.

### ❖ Functioning

- WFP's operations are **entirely funded through the generous voluntary contributions** of donor governments, institutions, corporations and individuals.
- It is **governed by an Executive Board** which consists of representatives from member states (36 Members).
- It works in close tandem with the Food and Agriculture Organization (**FAO**) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (**IFAD**).
- **Key Reports: Global Report on Food Crisis**.

## Delimitation Commission on Jammu and Kashmir

### ❖ Context

- Recently, The Delimitation Commission on Jammu and Kashmir, **headed by Justice Ranjana Desai (retd)**, signed the **final order** on redrawing the assembly constituencies of the Union Territory.

### ❖ Salient Points of the Report

- **Nine Assembly Constituency (AC) seats reserved for STs** for the first time (six in Jammu and 3 in Kashmir).
- **7 ACs reserved for Scheduled Caste**.
- **One Parliamentary Constituency** has been carved out **combining Anantnag region** in the Valley and **Rajouri & Poonch of Jammu region**. All five Parliamentary Constituencies have an equal number of ACs for the first time – 18 seats each.
- Of the 90 ACs, 43 will be part of Jammu region and 47 of Kashmir region. All ACs will remain within the boundary of the concerned district.
- **Changed nomenclature for 13 assembly seats**; minor boundary changes across 21 ACs. Delimitation panel recommends provision of **at least 2 members (including 1 female) from Kashmiri migrant community in J&K assembly** with the same power as nominated members of Puducherry assembly. It has also sought **representation of displaced persons from Pakistan Occupied Jammu Kashmir**.

### ❖ About Delimitation

- Delimitation is **redrawing of boundaries** of an assembly or Lok Sabha constituency.
- It is done to **reflect the demographic changes** in a state, Union Territory or at the national level. Delimitation is also **responsible for reserving a designated number of seats** in a state assembly or the Lok Sabha for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities.

### ❖ About Delimitation Commission

- **Constitutional Provisions:**
  - **Article 82:** the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census.
  - **Article 170:** States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.
- **Appointment-** Appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.
- **Members:** Serving or retired SC judge, Chief Election Commissioner or an Election commissioner nominated by CEC and Election commissioner of the respective states.
- At the national level, **four Delimitation Commissions** have been constituted till date (1952, 1963, 1972 & 2002).

### ❖ Delimitation Commission For J&K

- The Delimitation Commission was constituted to the Union Territory in **March 2021**.
- It was **headed by Justice (retired) Ranjana Desai**.

## Face to Face Centres



- It has five MPs from J&K as associate members.
- Till 2019, Delimitation exercises in J&K have been **different from those in the rest of the country**.
- While Delimitation of Lok Sabha seats in J&K was governed by Constitution of India, delimitation of state's Assembly seats was governed by the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution.
- Assembly seats in the newly-created Union Territory would be as per the provisions of the Indian Constitution.

## Gas Flaring

### ❖ Context

- The World Bank recently released the **Global Gas Flaring Tracker Report 2022**.

### ❖ Key Highlights Of The Report

- The world in 2021 burnt **144 billion cubic metres (bcm) of natural gas** at oil and gas facilities. This is **more than the EU's 27 member states' gas imports from Russia**.
- It is estimated that it resulted in approximately **400 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (MMtCO<sub>2</sub>e)** equivalent emissions globally last year. **Of this, 361 MMtCO<sub>2</sub>e was in the form of CO<sub>2</sub> and 39 MMtCO<sub>2</sub>e was in the form of methane**.
- The **wasted 144 bcm of natural gas** would have generated 1,800 terawatt hours of energy or nearly two-thirds of the EU's net domestic electricity generation. **It could power whole sub-Saharan Africa**.

### ❖ What Is Gas Flaring?

- It is the burning of natural gas associated with oil extraction. The practice has persisted since the beginning of oil production **over 160 years ago**.

### ❖ Why Is The Gas Flared?

- **Safety:**
  - **Extracting and processing** oil and gas involves dealing with **exceptionally high, and changeable, pressures**. During crude oil extraction, a sudden or dramatic increase in pressure could cause an **explosion and long-lasting fires** that are difficult to contain and control.
  - Gas flaring allows operators to **depressurize their equipment** and manage unpredictable and large pressure variations by burning any excess gas.
- **Economic:** In many cases, oil fields are located in remote and inaccessible places & may not produce consistent or large volumes of associated gas that operators can use.

- This can make it logistically and economically challenging to transport associated gas to where it can be processed and utilised.

### ❖ Concerns About Gas Flaring

- It is considered **both energy waste and global-warming activity**.
- Additionally, it is a **direct source of methane**. Methane is over **80 times more powerful than carbon dioxide** as a warming gas on a 20-year timeframe.

### ❖ Key World Bank's Led Initiatives

- Since 1996, the WB's **Global Gas Flaring Reduction Partnership** has been tracking gas flaring using satellite technology.
- The partnership is a multi-donor trust fund composed of governments, oil companies, and multilateral organisations committed to ending routine gas flaring at oil production sites across the world.
- In 2015, countries and companies committed to end flaring by 2030 under the World Bank-initiated **Zero Routine Flaring initiative**. The latest assessment shows that global gas flaring volumes have remained largely static over the last 10 years, plateauing at around 144 bcm.



## News in Between the Lines

### WTO Agreement On Government Procurement

#### ❖ Context

- FAQs released by the Ministry of Commerce related to India-UAE CEPA have revealed that India has no plan to join the WTO agreement on government procurement.

#### ❖ About The Agreement

- It is a **plurilateral agreement** within the framework of the WTO, meaning that **not all WTO members are parties to the agreement**. At present, the agreement has **21 parties comprising 48 WTO members**. **35 WTO members** participate in the Committee on Government Procurement as **observers**.
- The aim of agreement is to ensure **open, fair and transparent conditions of competition** in the government procurement markets. **India has been an observer to the agreement since 2010**. As a binding international treaty, the GPA is administered by the **Committee on Government Procurement**.

### Face to Face Centres





## ❖ Government Procurement & India-UAE agreement

- It is **the first time** India has included government procurement in a free-trade pact. Under the pact, **only government procurement contracts worth over ₹200 crore** will be allowed for UAE-based companies on the same terms as Indian firms.
- Government procurement is **open to only 34 ministries and departments**, including power and education, **excluding the defence ministry and subordinate entities of the central ministries** including departments and attached bodies, autonomous bodies, government-owned firms, public sector enterprises, regulators or any other entity, wholly or partially, under the central government.
- It has been **one of the key bottlenecks in several key FTA negotiations**, including the one with the EU. The chapter on government procurement in India-UAE pact may serve as the template for the future bilateral FTAs.

## Revenue Deficit Grant



## ❖ Context

- The **Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance** has recently released the 2nd monthly instalment of Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) grant of Rs. 7,183.42 crore to 14 States.

## ❖ Key Highlights

- The Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grants are provided to the States under **Article 275 of the Constitution**.
- The grants are released to the States **as per the recommendations of the successive Finance Commissions** to meet the gap in Revenue Accounts of the States post devolution.
- The states which have been recommended Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant by the Fifteenth Finance Commission during 2022-23 are: **Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal**.

## PM MITRA



## ❖ Context

- The Textiles ministry holds a national conference on **PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel Park (PM MITRA)** parks scheme.

## ❖ Background

- Over the years, **India's share of exports of ready-made garments has declined significantly**. It slipped from 6% in FY2010 to 4.2% in FY2021, as **Bangladesh and Vietnam emerged as large textile exporters**.
- The **Indian textile value addition chain is highly fragmented**. Activities like spinning, weaving, processing and garmenting happen at different places which increases the **logistic cost** substantially. The textile sector has been among the **top focus areas** of the government in the **free trade agreements (FTA)** that India is negotiating with various countries. India has **negotiated zero duty access for textile exports** in the trade deals with the **UAE and Australia**. Similar negotiations are going on with large markets such as the UK & the EU.

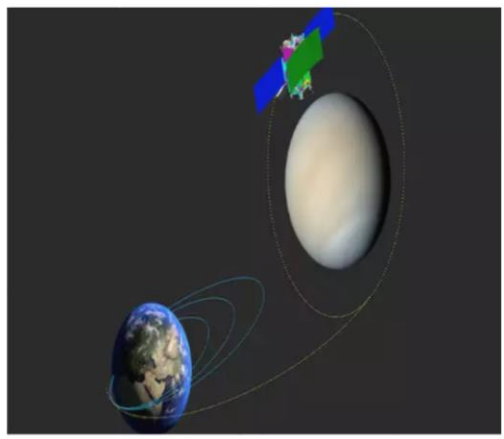
## ❖ About The Scheme

- The scheme was first announced in **Union Budget 2021** with the aim to create **world-class infrastructure with plug-and-play facilities** and spawn global champions in exports.
- The park will have an **integrated textiles value chain** right from spinning, weaving, processing/dyeing and printing to garment manufacturing etc. at one location and will reduce logistics cost of Industry.
- The scheme has been allocated **₹4,445 crore for seven years up to 2027-28**. **Only seven states will be selected for the scheme**. The government has received proposals from 17 states. The availability of a **real estate master developer**, rather than a textile player, would be a key condition for clearing proposals by the ministry.

## Face to Face Centres



## Shukrayaan-I



- Private master developers will need to foot **70% of the cost** incurred in developing the park. The other **30% will be given by the union government**.

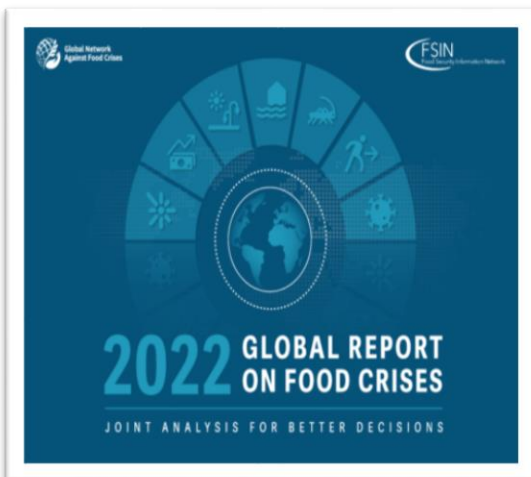
### ❖ Context

- ISRO is planning to launch Shukrayaan-I, which will be the country's first orbiter mission to Venus.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The **project is ready** and the budget has also been identified for it.
- The idea to take India's Mission to Venus was **first put into the public domain at Tirupati Space Meet in 2012**. **Launch Vehicle:** 'Shukrayaan-I' will most likely be launched on **GSLV (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle) Mk II**.
- Launch Window:** The mission is **likely to be launched in December 2024** and the orbital maneuvers are planned for about a year later in mid-2026 (Earth & Venus will align). The next similar window would be available in 2031.
- Key Planned Experiments:** **Investigation of the surface processes and shallow subsurface stratigraphy**, including active volcanic hotspots and lava flows. **Studying the structure, composition, and dynamics of the atmosphere.** **Investigation of solar wind interaction with the Venusian Ionosphere.**
  - A **Swedish-Indian instrument**, a Venusian Neutrals Analyser will be deployed with the orbiter: It will help us understand **how charged particles from the Sun interact with the atmosphere of Venus**.

## Global Report on Food Crises 2022



### ❖ Context

- Recently, The **Global Report on Food Crises 2022** has been released.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- Published by:** This annual report was launched by the **Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC)**. GNAFC is an **international alliance of the UN, the EU, governmental and non-governmental agencies** working to tackle food crises together.
- Key Findings of the Report:** The report gave a **bleak picture of the global food situation** warning that about **193 million people in 53 countries or territories are facing an acute problem and need urgent assistance**.
  - This represents an **increase of nearly 40 million people** compared with the already record numbers of 2020. Among these 53 countries facing the problem, **the most affected include the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Yemen and Afghanistan**.
  - Around **6 lakh people in Ethiopia, southern Madagascar, South Sudan, and Yemen** were classified in the **most severe phase of acute food insecurity**.

## World Food Prize 2022



### ❖ Context

- Recently, a **NASA climate research scientist, Cynthia Rosenzweig**, was awarded the World Food prize.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- She has spent much of her career **explaining how global food production must adapt to a changing climate**.
- She was **awarded the \$250,000 prize** in recognition of her **innovative modeling of the impact of climate change on food production**.

### ❖ About World Food Prize

- It is an **international award given to the individuals who have contributed to human development by improving the quantity, availability and quality of food in the world**.
- In the **field of food and agriculture**, the world food prize is the **highest honor**. It was **established in the year 1986** by Norman Borlaug with the support of general foods and from 1987 the price has been awarded and given to the deserving individuals. It is **administered by the World Food Prize Foundation** with support from numerous sponsors.

[Daily Current Affairs](#)

[Daily Pre PARE](#) [Daily MCQ Quiz](#)

## Face to Face Centres

DELHI MUKHERJEE NAGAR: 9205274741, 42 | LAXMI NAGAR : 9205212500, 9205962002 | RAJENDRA NAGAR: 9205274743 | UTTAR PRADESH PRAYAGRAJ: 0532-2260189, 8853467068 | LUCKNOW (ALIGANJ): 0522-4025825, 9506256789 | LUCKNOW (GOMTI NAGAR): 7234000501, 7234000502 | GREATER NOIDA: 9205336037, 38 | KANPUR: 7887003962, 7897003962 | GORAKHPUR : 7080847474, 9161947474 | ODISHA BHUBANESWAR: 9818244644/7656949029

