

UDAN 4.2

❖ Context

- The Minister of Civil Aviation had given some highlights about the new Udan scheme which is being formulated by the ministry.

❖ Key Highlights

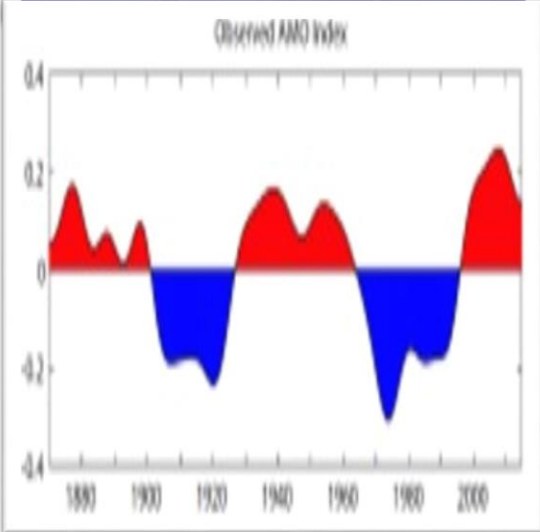
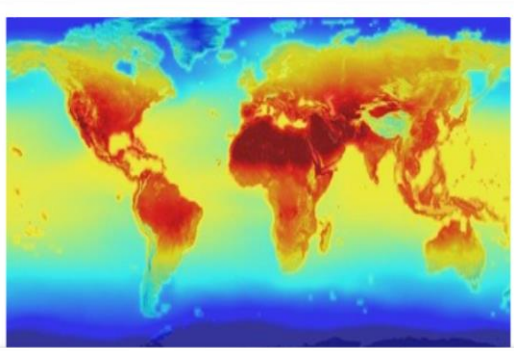
- **UDAN 4.2** will be based on all the routes that “either were not executed in the earlier rounds” or on the **small aircraft scheme** routes.
- It will look at “last mile connectivity” in **Tier-II and Tier-III towns** through smaller aircraft that include **sub-20 seaters**. Scheme proposals are also being formulated exclusively around **sea-planes**.
- Seaplanes never took off in India because the capital cost or leasing cost of an aircraft cannot be defrayed across the number of seats.

❖ Financial Viability

- Three options have been included in the small aircraft scheme to make offerings financially viable for operators.
 - **Fixed fare** will be charged for the full plane (based on which operators apply for viability gap funding).
 - **Variable option** where the airline operators bid for the route in the form of VGF per seat, with the VGF being capped for a particular number of seats and the other seats are priced according to market dynamics.
 - **Primarily for seaplanes**, where the leasing cost of the plane will also be taken into account at the time of bidding.
- The award of regional connectivity routes is done through a market-determined, competitive bidding mechanism where the airline operators bid for the route in the form of VGF per seat. The **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** is a form of monetary assistance that is provided by MoCA to the airline operator to enable them to successfully run the uneconomic routes.

News in Between the Lines

Global Annual To Decadal Climate Update Report



❖ Context

- **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)** recently released the Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update 2022 report.

❖ Key Highlights Of the Report

- **2022 will be cooler (compared to the 1991 – 2020 average) over India, along with Alaska and Canada.** One of the primary reasons for lowering of temperatures over India from next year is the **possible increase in rainfall activity** in this decade. However, the WMO has warned with high certainty that during **any one year between 2022 and 2026**, the global near-surface temperature could **exceed 1.5° Celsius of pre-industrial levels**.
- There is a **93 % chance** that at least **one year between 2022 and 26 will replace 2016 as the warmest year on record**.

❖ Multi-decadal Oscillations

- Recently, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) had said that the Indian monsoon will soon enter the **positive epoch** after remaining under a negative epoch since 1971.
- It has been well proven by scientific studies that Monsoon also has a large multi-decadal oscillation like Atlantic multidecadal oscillation, with **periods between 50 years and 80 years** that change in time in episodic manner.
- The Atlantic Multi-decadal Oscillation (AMO) has been identified as a coherent mode of natural variability occurring in the North Atlantic Ocean with an estimated period of 60-80 years. It is based upon the **average anomalies of sea surface temperatures (SST) in the North Atlantic basin, typically over 0-80N**.

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- Some studies have shown **significant positive correlation between the Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation (AMO) and the Indian Summer Monsoon (ISM)** over the past 100 years.
- With exact reasons unknown, it is being speculated that such a multi-decadal mode of variability may arise from **ocean-atmosphere-land interactions**.

Protected Mobility Vehicle



❖ Context

- The Army has floated a Request for Information to purchase Protected Mobility Vehicles (PMV) for **high-altitude areas (above 4000 m) and for deserts and plains**.

❖ About PMV

- It is essentially a **wheeled armoured personnel carrier**.
- It provides **protection to the soldiers** travelling **inside** the vehicle from mine blasts and sudden attack by small arms.
- The troops in these vehicles could be members of any quick reaction team heading to a point of conflict, or members of patrolling parties heading to border areas.
- They could also be members of a reconnaissance squad operating behind enemy lines or in forward positions of their own troops.

❖ Production Capability In India

- In April this year, the **Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)** handed over the first of such Infantry Protected Mobility Vehicles (IPMVs) to the Indian Army.
- The **Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. (TASL)** is now the first private sector company in the country to produce such wheeled armoured personnel carriers and has developed the Infantry PMV (IPMV) **in collaboration with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.

India International Skill Centers (IISCs)




❖ Context

- A **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was exchanged between **NSDC International (NSDCI)** and the Indian unit of DP World, Hindustan Ports Private Limited, to develop a Skill India International Centre **at Varanasi** to prepare a **skilled workforce for mobility to the UAE** in logistics, port operations and allied areas.

❖ About the IISC

- The **first IISC was recently launched in Bhubaneshwar**.
- The centres will impart skills as per **international standards**, preparing the candidates for pursuing **employment opportunities in global markets**.
- The skill will be provided **as per demands of international employers** in countries like **UAE, Canada, Australia and other GCC regions**.
- The centres will also have a wide network of **partnering organisations and overseas recruiters** to facilitate supply of skilled and certified workforce in other countries.
- These partnering organisations will work with NSDCI for aggregating demand from overseas markets.
- The centres will have services such as **mobilisation, counselling, skill training, pre-departure orientation, foreign language training, placement and immigration and post-placement support**.

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<h2>Bharat Tap</h2> 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ About NSDCI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSDC International Ltd. is a subsidiary of National Skill Development Corporation. • It is driving the Skill India International Mission of making India the Skill Capital of the World. • The vision is to transform India as a preferred partner country for sourcing skilled and certified workforce across the globe.
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<h2>Shiv kumar Sharma</h2> 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Launched at 'PlumbEx India', a three-day exhibition on plumbing, water, and sanitation products, organised by Indian Plumbing Association (IPA). ❖ What is it? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is an initiative of Indian Plumbing Association (IPA). • The concept is to use low flow taps and fixtures which aims to reduce water consumption at source considerably.
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<h2>Kerala on Alert Against Nipah</h2> 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Santoor maestro Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma was cremated with full state honours in Mumbai on Wednesday afternoon. ❖ About Shiv Kumar Sharma: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born on 13th January 1938, Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma started learning santoor at the age of 13. He gave his first performance in Mumbai in 1955. A year later, he composed the background music for one of the scenes in 'Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baje'. He recorded his first solo album in 1960. • Pandit Sharma collaborated with Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia and guitarist Brij Bhushan Kabra for one of the greatest hits in Indian classical music, 'Call of the Valley' in 1967. In the 1980s, Pandit Sharma's collaboration with Pandit Chaurasia, prominently known as 'Shiv-Hari' duo gave the Hindi film industry memorable gems from films like 'Silsila', 'Lamhe', 'Chandni' and 'Darr'. • Pandit Sharma had also been honoured with Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1986, followed by the Padma Shri in 1991 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2001. The 84-year-old musician passed away at his Pali Hill residence on Tuesday morning following a heart attack.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Health department has issued an alert to all districts to be on guard against Nipah-like illnesses and to strengthen disease surveillance and monitoring as the breeding season of bats have just started. ❖ About Nipah Virus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nipah virus (NiV) is a zoonotic virus, meaning that it can spread between animals and people. Fruit bats, also called flying foxes, are the animal reservoir for NiV in nature. Nipah virus is also known to cause illness in pigs and people. Infection with NiV is associated with encephalitis (swelling of the brain) and can cause mild to severe illness and even death. Outbreaks occur almost annually in parts of Asia, primarily Bangladesh and India. • Nipah virus infection can be prevented by avoiding exposure to sick pigs and bats in areas where the virus is present, and not drinking raw date palm sap which can be contaminated by an infected bat. • During an outbreak, standard infection control practices can help prevent person-to-person spread in hospital settings. ❖ Symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symptoms include fever, altered mental status, severe weakness, headache, respiratory distress, cough, vomiting, muscle pain, convulsions and diarrhoea.
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UK-India Business Commission



❖ Context:

- The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** and Britain's biggest business organisation **CBI** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** to set up a new joint commission called **UK-India Business Commission**, to increase **cross industry collaboration** and push the **UK-India free trade agreement (FTA)** over the line.

❖ Key Highlights:

- The Commission will provide a critical forum for discussion to ensure an FTA works to the benefit of businesses in both countries.
- The group will provide continual oversight and meet ahead of key milestones to **take views on trade-offs, breakdown barriers to market access** and help feed in on-the-ground business intelligence at a ministerial level in India and UK.
- With negotiations between India and the UK underway, a focus on reducing the barriers to trade, cutting tariffs, and supporting firms to export, will help consumers and businesses alike particularly in the face of cost-of-living crisis.
- "This partnership is an opportunity to address shared concerns, identify common interests and **foster greater understanding and to develop capacity** to address the issues of **economic and global concerns**,".
- **CII said the UK's renewable sector** could play an **integral** role in India's transition to clean energy, and reducing tariffs on green exports such as solar, onshore, and offshore wind could open new opportunities for firms in India.
- More broadly, securing this **free trade agreement** could almost double UK exports to India, boost Britain's total trade by as much as **£28 billion a year by 2035 and increase wages across the UK regions by £3 billion**.
- A **deal will improve the ability to move** talent across borders as well as data, will unlock plenty of prizes across a host of sectors from services and **life sciences** to tech and innovation.

New Catfish



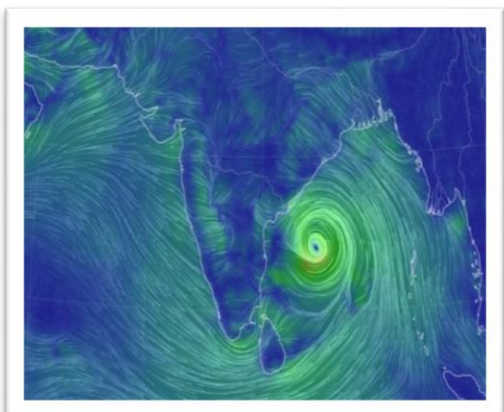
❖ Context:

- The **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** has recently discovered a new species of catfish in Myanmar.

❖ Key Highlights:

- The new species have been named as '**Glyptothoraxyuensis**'.
- They belong to '**Genus Glyptothorax**'. It is a **food fish**.
- **Habitat:** It inhabits in fast flowing hill streams.
- **Mechanism:** They live by using the adhesive apparatus on their underside to attach themselves to rocks and prevent being washed away.
- **Distribution:** Turkey, China, Indian subcontinent & the Greater Sunda Islands.

Tropical Cyclone Asani



❖ Context

- Severe **cyclonic storm 'Asani'**, packing winds above 105 kmph and setting off heavy rain, is likely to make landfall on the **eastern coast of India**.

❖ Tropical Cyclones?

- A tropical cyclone is an **intense circular storm** that originates over warm tropical oceans and is characterized by **low atmospheric pressure, high winds, and heavy rain**. Cyclones are formed over slightly **warm ocean waters**.
- The temperature of the top layer of the sea, up to a depth of **about 60 meters, need to be at least 28°C** to support the formation of a cyclone.
- This explains why the **April-May** and **October-December** periods are conducive for cyclones. Then, the low level of air above the waters needs to have an 'anticlockwise' rotation (in the northern hemisphere; clockwise in the southern hemisphere).
- During these periods, there is an **ITCZ** in the Bay of Bengal whose southern boundary experiences winds from west to east, while the northern boundary has winds flowing east to west. Once formed, cyclones in this area usually move northwest. As it travels over the sea, the cyclone gathers more moist air from the warm sea which adds to its heft.

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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

