National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE)

Context: Minister of State for Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri Ramdas Athawale, mentioned NAMASTE Scheme in the reply to Lok Sabha yesterday.
- **Duration**: 01.04.2023 to 31.03.2026
- **Objective**: Tackle hazardous cleaning practices
- **Key Features:**
    - ✓ Sanitation workers collectivized into Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to run sanitation enterprises.
    - ✓ Sewer and septic tank sanitation workers (SSWs) and their dependents get access to livelihoods through capital subsidies for sanitation equipment.
- **Capital Subsidy for Sanitation Projects:**
    - ✓ Projects up to Rs. 5.00 lakh: 50% of project cost
    - ✓ Projects above Rs. 5.00 lakh and up to Rs. 15.00 lakh: Rs. 2.50 lakh + 25% of the remaining cost above Rs. 5.00 lakh
    - ✓ Group projects up to Rs. 50.00 lakh: Each beneficiary's share maximum up to Rs. 10.00 lakh.
    - ✓ Group projects: Maximum per member subsidy of Rs. 3.75 lakh, and maximum group project subsidy of Rs. 18.75 lakh.
- **Subsidy Details**
    - ✓ Capital Subsidy Released under SRMS:
        - ▪ Rs. 22.93 Cr released for 286 units of sanitation-related equipment/projects.
        - ▪ Benefited 641 Safai Karamcharis.
    - ✓ Loans Released under **Swachhta Udyami Yojana (SUY)**:
        - ▪ Rs. 86.84 Cr released to State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs).
        - ▪ Benefited 2509 beneficiaries for procurement of mechanized cleaning equipment/vehicles.

Swachhta Udyami Yojana (SUY)
- Launched on 2nd October 2014 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- **Objectives**: Promote cleanliness and provide livelihoods to Safai Karamcharis and liberated Manual Scavengers under "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan."
- **Components**:
    - ✓ Pay and Use Community Toilets in PPP mode.
    - ✓ Sanitation-related Vehicles procurement and operation.
- **Eligibility**: Individuals, self-help groups, and target group of Manual Scavengers/Safai Karamcharis and their dependents.
- **Loan Amount**: Maximum Rs. 25 lakhs for toilets, Rs. 15 lakhs for vehicles.
- **Subsidy**: Maximum Rs. 3.25 lakh for eligible units under SRMS.
- **Training**: Skill development training provided by NSKFDC with stipend if required..

TransLunar Injection (TLI)
Context: ISRO has successfully executed the TransLunar Injection (TLI) to propel Chandrayaan-3 towards the moon.
- The TransLunar Injection (TLI) is a critical maneuver in space missions.
- It is performed to transfer spacecraft from Earth's orbit to a trajectory aimed at reaching the Moon.
- TLI enables the spacecraft to overcome Earth's gravitational pull and travel towards the Moon.
- TLI is conducted when the spacecraft reaches a specific point in its orbit known as the 'perigee,' which is the closest point to Earth.
- The TransLunar Injection (TLI) is accomplished through the following process:

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- ✓ The spacecraft's propulsion system ignites its engines, leading to an acceleration of the spacecraft.
- ✓ As a result of the acceleration, the spacecraft attains the necessary velocity to escape Earth's gravitational influence and set course towards the moon.
- ✓ The thrust and duration of the TLI burn are determined by factors such as the spacecraft's mass, its velocity in Earth's orbit, and the mission's specific goals.

What next?
- ➤ After a successful TLI, the spacecraft is on a lunar trajectory without further propulsion from Earth.
- ➤ It enters a transfer orbit, intersecting with the Moon's orbit.
- ➤ The spacecraft continues its journey in an eccentric orbit until it reaches the Moon.
- ➤ Additional maneuvers, like lunar orbit insertion (LOI), may be performed for lunar orbit or landing, based on the mission's objectives.
- ➤ TLI has been used in various lunar missions, including Apollo, Chang'e, and Artemis missions.

India Stack

Context: India's Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) and Papua New Guinea's Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) signed an MoU to share India Stack.
- ➤ India Stack comprises a set of Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) offering a unique digital infrastructure for governments, businesses, startups, and developers.
- ➤ The **three layers of open APIs** in India Stack are **identity, payments, and data**.
- ➤ Despite the name, India Stack's vision is not limited to India and can be applied in any country, regardless of its development status.
- ➤ India Stack consists of **four technology layers**:
  - ✓ **Presenceless layer**: Enables universal biometric digital identity for easy access to services across the country.
  - ✓ **Paperless layer**: Allows digital records to replace physical documentation.
  - ✓ **Cashless layer**: Provides a unified interface for all bank accounts and wallets for seamless payments.
  - ✓ **Consent layer**: Facilitates secure data movement to democratize the data market.
- ➤ India Stack includes key APIs like Aadhaar Proof, Aadhaar e-KYC, e-Sign, Digital Locker, and Unified Payment Interface (UPI).
- ➤ The Open API team at iSPIRT has been a pro-bono partner, contributing to the development, evolution, and promotion of these APIs and systems.

What is API?
- ➤ API stands for **Application Programming Interface**. It allows software applications to communicate and interact, enabling developers to access specific features or data from other applications without understanding their internal workings.
- ➤ **Functions:**
  - ✓ **Communication Bridge**: APIs facilitate communication between different software applications.
  - ✓ **Standardized Interfaces**: APIs provide standardized rules and protocols for interaction.
  - ✓ **Data Access**: APIs allow access to specific data or resources from external systems.
  - ✓ **Functionality Extension**: APIs let developers extend app functionality by integrating with third-party services.
  - ✓ **Software Integration**: APIs enable seamless integration between diverse software systems.
- ➤ Examples:
  - ✓ **Twitter API**: Access and interact with Twitter features programmatically.
  - ✓ **Google Maps API:** Integrate Google Maps functionality into applications.
  - ✓ **Spotify API:** Fetch songs and music data from Spotify.
  - ✓ **GitHub API:** Interact with GitHub repositories and manage issues.

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Lokmanya Tilak National Award

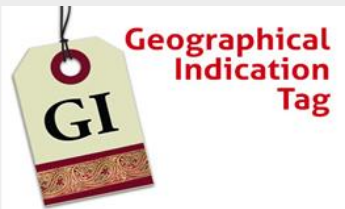**Context:** The Prime Minister was honoured with the Lokmanya Tilak National Award during his visit to Pune.

➢ The Lokmanya Tilak National Award was instituted in 1983 by the Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust.
➢ It is presented every year on 1st August, the death anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak.
➢ The award recognizes individuals who have made remarkable and extraordinary contributions to the progress and development of the nation.

Some facts about Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak

➢ Bal Gangadhar Tilak, known as Lokmanya Tilak, was a prominent Indian nationalist and freedom fighter during the Indian independence movement.
➢ He advocated strongly for Swaraj (Self Rule) for India, famously declaring, "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it."
➢ Tilak joined the Indian National Congress Party in 1890 and helped found the All India Home Rule League in 1916–18 with G. S. Khaparde and Annie Besant.
➢ He was considered a radical nationalist and was termed the "Father of Indian Unrest" by the British Government.
➢ Tilak was a prolific writer and journalist, using newspapers like "Kesari" (in Marathi) and "Maratha" (in English) to promote nationalist ideas.
➢ He established the Deccan Education Society in 1884, founding institutions like Fergusson College and the New English School to promote modern education in Maharashtra.
➢ Tilak advocated for social reform, supporting the eradication of untouchability and child marriage, and promoting education for women.
➢ He was imprisoned for sedition multiple times, and during one incarceration, he wrote the famous book "Gita Rahasya" (The Secret of the Bhagavad Gita).
➢ Tilak, along with Bipin Chandra Pal and Lala Lajpat Rai, formed the 'Lal-Bal-Pal triumvirate' of popular leaders.
➢ In 1916, he concluded the Lucknow Pact with Mohammed Ali Jinnah, promoting Hindu-Muslim unity in the nationalist struggle.

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

India's GI Tagged Crafts 	Recently, the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai granted the GI tag to seven products from different regions of India, with four originating from Rajasthan. **GI Tag:** A Geographical Indication (GI) tag is a form of intellectual property right granted to products with specific geographical origins and distinct qualities, reputation, or characteristics closely linked to that region. **Statewise GI Tagged Products are as follows:** **Rajasthan:** ➢ **Udaipur Koftgari Metal Craft:** Intricate designs, gold-silver wirework on ornamental weaponry. ➢ **Bikaner Kashidakari Craft:** Intricate mirror work on wedding gift items. ➢ **Jodhpur Bandhej Craft:** Traditional tie and dye fabric art. ➢ **Bikaner Usta Kala Craft:** Rich gold nakashi work tradition. **Goa:** ➢ **Goa Mankurad Mango:** Unique mango variety, delightful flavor. ➢ **Goan Bebinca:** Traditional Indo-Portuguese dessert. **Uttar Pradesh:** ➢ **Jalesar Dhatu Shilp (Metal Craft):** Decorative metal craft, brassware production.
State Human Rights Commission	**What is the State Human Right Commission?** The State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) in India is an independent government body established under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. **Jurisdiction:** It can investigate violations of human rights in subjects included in the State List (List-II) and the Concurrent List (List-III) of the Constitution's Seventh Schedule.

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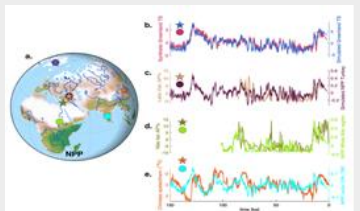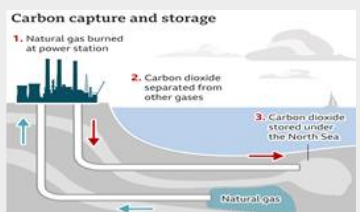|	
Human Rights For All	**Functions:** It addresses human rights breaches, recommends actions and relief and seeks information during inquiries conducted within one year of an alleged violation. **Powers:** The Commission can govern its procedure, seek information and provide recommendations, compensation or relief for victims. **Composition:** Each SHRC includes a Chairperson (retired Chief Justice or High Court Judge) and two Members (retired High Court or District Judges with human rights experience). **Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2019:** The amendment expanded the composition and tenure of the National and State Human Rights Commissions, allowing more flexibility in delegation of tasks.
Pollypill	**What is Pollypill?** Pollypill is a fixed-dose combination of cardiovascular medicines used for primary and secondary prevention of atherosclerotic cardiovascular diseases. **Recent Endorsement:** The World Health Organization (WHO) included three polypills in its revised Model Lists of Essential Medicines 2023. **Evidence-based:** Polypills have shown reduced risks of cardiovascular events, including heart attacks and strokes, based on large randomized-controlled trials. **Contributions:** Dr. Salim Yusuf and co-researchers proposed the concept in early 2000s, demonstrating a 40% to 50% reduction in cardiovascular risks. **Polycap:** One of the included polypills, Polycap, combines four drugs (simvastatin, ramipril, atenolol, hydrochlorothiazide) and aspirin. **Cost-effective Intervention:** Polypills are considered a low-cost public health intervention, enhancing medication adherence and preventing hospitalizations. **Implementation:** Widening polypill prescription through government formulary can increase its usage among private practitioners, leading to a significant reduction in cardiovascular events and deaths.
Paleo Proxy	**What is Paleo Proxy?** A Paleo Proxy is a biological or chemical signature used to estimate historical temperatures before thermometers were invented. **Measurement Basis:** Proxy indicates past temperatures as deviations from a modern baseline value, but it does not directly measure temperatures. **Dating Method:** Scientists use isotopes with steady radioactive decay rates (e.g., carbon or lead) to estimate the age of proxies and determine historical temperature variations. **Time and Spatial Scales:** Paleo Proxies provide temperature anomaly estimates over long timescales (centuries to thousands of years) and at local or regional levels. **Limitation:** They cannot estimate daily temperatures or short-term changes, and global estimates based on averaging local proxies have higher uncertainties. **Climate Change Study:** Paleo Proxies offer valuable insights into climate responses over longer timescales, like the Holocene epoch. **Scientific Caution:** Making record-breaking warm day claims from paleo proxies lacks accuracy and may jeopardize scientific credibility and climate action efforts.
Carbon Capture Storage	**What is Carbon Capture Storage?** Carbon Capture Storage (CCS) is a technology that captures carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions produced at the source (point-source CCS) or removes CO_2 already released into the atmosphere (direct air capture). **Types of CCS:** CCS includes point-source CCS (captures CO_2 at the source like smokestacks) and direct air capture (removes CO_2 from the atmosphere). **CCS Process:** CO_2 is separated from industrial gases, compressed and transported via pipelines to be injected deep underground into rock formations for long-term storage. **Role in Climate Targets:** CCS can aid in reaching global climate targets set under the Paris Agreement, but focus should remain on preventing emissions in the first place. **UK Government Support:** The UK government is investing $25.7 billion over 20 years in CCS projects to achieve net zero goals.

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	Project Objectives: The new British CCS projects aim to capture emissions from heavy-emitting sectors (e.g., oil and gas refining, steel manufacturing) and store them underground in depleted oil and gas fields off the coast of Britain. **Proven Technology:** CCS has been operational since the 1970s, with over 200 million tonnes of CO_2 captured and stored globally.
Pingali Venkayya 	**About Pingali Venkayya:** ➢ Pingali Venkayya (August 2, 1876 - July 4, 1963) was an Indian freedom fighter, linguist, and geologist. He was born in present-day Andhra Pradesh, India. ➢ Venkayya was proficient in several languages, including Telugu, Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Tamil and English. **Designing the Indian National Flag:** ➢ In 1921, during the All India Congress Committee meeting in Bezwada (present-day Vijayawada), Venkayya proposed the design of the Indian National Flag. ➢ The original design featured three stripes of saffron, white and green, with a spinning wheel in the middle, representing India's rural economy and the Khadi movement. **Recognition and Honors:** ➢ After India gained independence in 1947, the Indian government recognized Venkayya's contributions. ➢ He was awarded the Padma Bhushan, one of India's highest civilian honors, in 1955. **Contributions to the Indian Independence Movement:** ➢ Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's ideals, Venkayya actively participated in the Indian freedom struggle. ➢ He was a member of the Indian National Congress and played a role in various campaigns and agitations for independence.
Place in News Port of Vitoria	Recently, four Nigerian stowaways embarked on a perilous and life-threatening journey across the Atlantic Ocean, which culminated at the Port of Vitoria in southeastern Brazil. **Location:** The Port of Vitoria is a large-sized port located on the East Coast of South America in Brazil. **Type of Port:** Vitoria is a Large-sized Port. **Types of Vessels:** The port regularly receives various types of vessels, including Bulk Carriers (22%), General Cargo (15%), Offshore Supply Ships (11%), Vehicles Carriers (10%), and Pipe Layers (7%).

POINTS TO PONDER

What is the state bird of Himachal Pradesh? - Western horned Tragopan

The iconic bird logo of Twitter has been replaced with a new logo. What is that? – The alphabet X

What river primarily acts as the border between the United States and Mexico? – Rio Grande

What is X-59, also known as the 'Son of Concorde? – USA's Experimental Supersonic Aircraft

Which institution had developed Structured Financial Messaging System (SFMS)? - Indian Financial Technology & Allied Services (IFTAS)

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