



Klobuchar Bill

❖ Context

- A group of 13 companies, recently, urged the US Congress to approve a bill designed to rein in Big Tech firms.

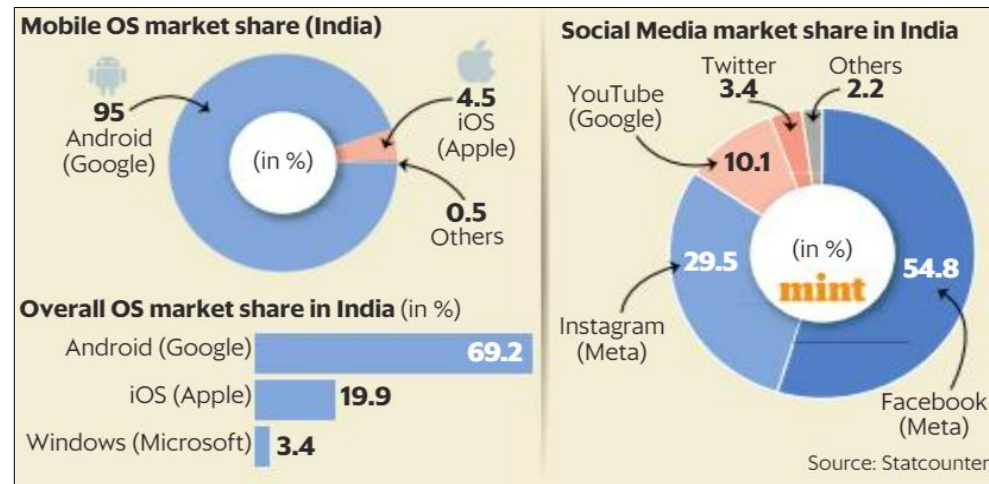
❖ Key Highlights

- **The American Innovation and Choice Online (AICO) Act** is being co-sponsored by Democrat Amy Klobuchar and Republican Chuck Grassley.
- It will apply to online platforms with **over 50 million monthly active users**, or **annual market capitalization or US net sales of over \$550 BN**.
- It is an **anti-trust legislation** whose purpose is to :
 - Provide that certain discriminatory conduct by covered platforms will be unlawful.
 - Bar Big Tech firms from promoting their own products, services or line of business over rivals.
 - Biasing results in their favour.
 - Limiting rivals' access to platforms.
 - Specify how app stores, social media and e-commerce platforms operated by Big tech firms operate.

- Empower US antitrust authorities to impose penalties.

❖ Global Impact

- It will set precedents for regulators globally.
- Big tech firms have often argued with Indian authorities that they are not just governed by Indian law but also those in the US.



King Island

❖ Context

- 14 young sperm whales were found dead on the beach of the island.



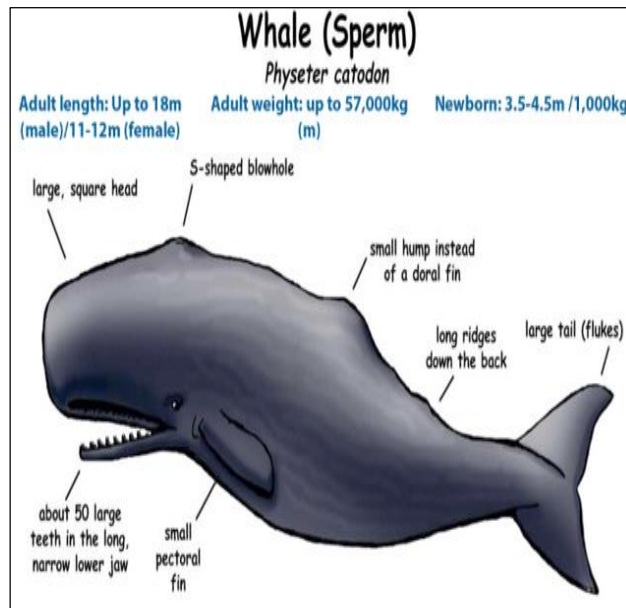
❖ About King Island

- It is the **2nd largest island in the Bass Strait (after Flinders Island)**, belonging to the Australian state of Tasmania.
- **Bass Strait separates Australia mainland from Tasmania.**
- King Island was first visited by Europeans in the late 18th century. It was named after **Philip Gidley King**, Colonial Governor of New South Wales, a state on the east coast of Australia.



❖ About Sperm whales

- Also called **Cachalot**, they are the **largest of the toothed whales** and the **largest toothed predator**.



- They are easily recognized by its **enormous square head** (constitutes one-third of the total body length) and narrow lower jaw.
- Their heads are filled with a mysterious substance called **spermaceti** (sperm oil) with a volume as large as 2,000 litres.
- Scientists have yet to understand its function, but believe it may help the animal regulate its buoyancy.

- They were hunted commercially for the sperm oil for use in oil lamps, lubricants, and candles.
- **Ambergris**, a solid waxy waste product sometimes present in its digestive system, is still highly valued as a fixative in perfumes
- Their current IUCN status is **Vulnerable**.

PM Modi Chairs Meeting of Board of Trustees of PM CARES Fund

❖ Context

- Prime Minister recently chaired a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the PM CARES Fund.

❖ Key Highlights

- A presentation was made on the various initiatives undertaken with the help of the PM CARES Fund, including the PM CARES for **Children scheme** which is supporting four thousand three hundred 45 children.

Face to Face Centres



- **PM-CARES for Children Scheme:** It was introduced with the intention of assisting children who had lost both biological parents, living parents, legal guardians, adoptive parents, or a single adoptive parent to Covid-19.



PM CARES Fund provides relief in emergency situations like COVID-19 pandemic



Strengthens disaster management capacities & encourages research for public welfare



The Fund accepts **micro-donations** for wider contribution



Citizens & organisations can visit pmindia.gov.in to donate through **Debit Cards, Credit Cards, Internet Banking, UPI, RTGS/NEFT**

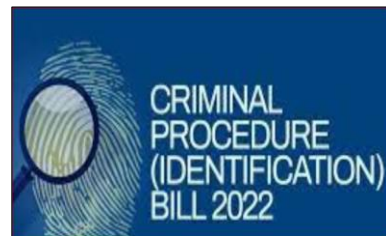
❖ **About PM CARES Fund**

- The **Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES Fund)** was created in 2020, following the COVID-19 pandemic in India.



- The stated purpose of the fund is for combating, and containment and relief efforts against the coronavirus outbreak and similar pandemic like situations in the future.
- The fund does not get any budgetary support and consists entirely of voluntary contributions from individuals or organizations.
- Donations to PM CARES Fund by the individuals would qualify for 100% tax exemption under 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022



❖ **Context**

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has notified the rules governing The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022

❖ **Key Highlights**

- The Act will enable police and central investigating agencies to collect, store and analyse physical and biological samples including retina and iris scans of arrested persons.

Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill empowers police to collect ...

- Fingerprints
- Palm prints and footprints
- Photos
- Iris and retina scans
- Analysis of physical and biological samples
- Behavioural attributes
- Signature and handwriting



- The rules do not mention the procedure to be adopted for convicted persons.
- The measurements of persons detained under various preventive detention laws shall not be taken unless clubbed with a serious offence or ordered by a court.

- **“Measurements” includes** finger-impressions, palm-print, foot-print, photographs, iris and retina scan, physical, biological samples and their analysis, behavioural attributes including signatures, handwriting or any other examination referred to in section 53 or section 53A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974).
- The **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** under the MHA will direct States on how to collect and store the information.
- The record of measurements shall be stored and preserved in a secure and encrypted format as specified in the Standard Operating Procedures by the NCRB from “time to time.”
- Any act of unauthorised access, distribution or sharing of data collected under the Act shall be **punishable as per the provisions of the Indian Penal Code, 1860** and the Information Technology Act, 2000.”.

India's Presidency of AIBD Extended for One More Year



❖ **Context**

- India's Presidency of the prestigious **Asia-Pacific Institute of Broadcasting Development, (AIBD)** has been extended for one more year.

❖ **Key Highlights**

- This was unanimously decided by the AIBD member countries at the two-day General Conference held in New Delhi.
- Currently, Chief Executive Officer of Prasar Bharati and Director General of Doordarshan Mayank Kumar Agrawal is the President of AIBD.

- The AIBD, established in 1977.
- It is a unique regional inter-governmental organisation of the **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP)** in the field of electronic media development.
- AIBD currently has 26 countries as full members represented by 43 organizations and 52 affiliate members.

Face to Face Centres



Chhello Show

❖ Context

➤ The Gujarati film **Chhello Show** has been announced as India's official entry to the Oscars 2023.



❖ Key Highlights

- The Film Federation of India has announced India's official entry to the 95th Academy Awards.
- It has been selected in the Best International Feature Film category.
- Chhello Show is a coming-of-age drama, which revolves around a 9-year-old boy who resides in a remote village in India and his love affair with cinema.
- The film shows how the little boy spends a summer watching films from the projection booth.

❖ About Oscars

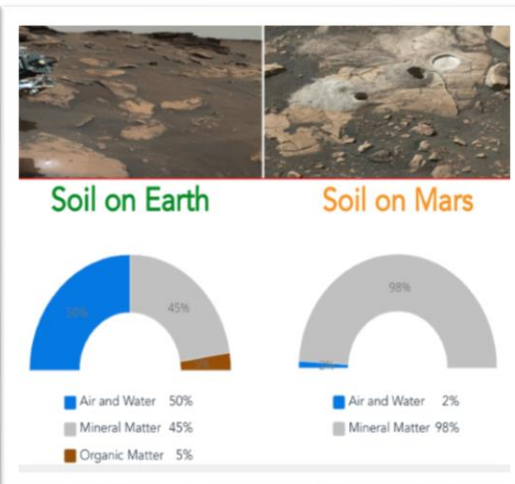
- The **Academy Awards**, better known as the **Oscars**, are awards for artistic and technical merit for the American and international film industry.

Recipients	Category
Bhanu Athaiya	Best Costume Design
Satyajit Ray	Honorary Award
Resul Pookutty	Best Sound Mixing
Gulzar	Best Original Song
A R Rahman	Best Original Score and Best Original Song

- The awards are regarded by many as the most prestigious, significant awards in the entertainment industry worldwide.
- Given annually by the **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS)**, the awards are an international recognition of excellence in cinematic achievements, as assessed by the Academy's voting membership.

News in Between the Lines

Organic Matter Found on Mars

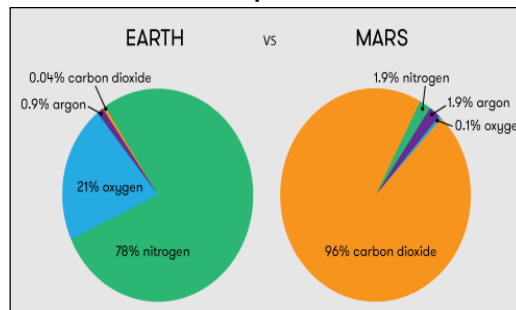


❖ Context

➤ Recently NASA's Perseverance rover found organic matter in rock samples.

❖ Key Highlights

- According to NASA, several rock samples containing organic matter were found in **Jezero Crater**, a 28-mile wide crater home to what scientists believe was once a river delta that formed about 3.5 billion years ago.
- Jezero was selected for this mission because it allowed scientists to explore an ancient habitable environment, and to seek evidence of possible Martian life in rocks deposited at that time, about 3½ billion years ago.



- With the help of an instrument called **Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman & Luminescence for Organics & Chemicals**, or **SHERLOC**, organic molecules were found in **"Wildcat Ridge,"** a 3 foot-wide rock believed to have been formed by mud and fine sand in an evaporating saltwater lake billions of years ago.

Hybrid Propulsion System



❖ Context

➤ The Indian Space Research Organisation recently has successfully demonstrated a hybrid propulsion system that uses a solid fuel and liquid oxidiser.

❖ Key Highlights

- The test was supported by ISRO's **Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)**.
- The motor used **Hydroxyl-terminated polybutadiene (HTPB)** as fuel and liquid oxygen (LOX) as the oxidiser. Unlike solid-solid or liquid-liquid combinations, a hybrid motor uses solid fuel and liquid oxidizer.
- The use of liquids facilitates throttling, and the control over the flow rate of LOX enables the re-start capability.
- While both HTPB and LOX are green, LOX is safer to handle.
- The hybrid motor tested is scalable and stackable, potentially paving the way for a new propulsion system for the forthcoming launch vehicles.

Daily Fantasy Sports (DFS)

❖ Context

➤ An online gaming company has sued Google over its discriminatory practices in relation to a recent pilot project.

❖ Key Highlights

- Google, which earlier removed fantasy gaming apps and rummy games from Play Store, will allow select apps to operate on its platform under the project for a year.

Face to Face Centres



- DFS games are those where **contestants use their knowledge of athletic events and athletes** to select or manage rosters of **simulated athletes** whose performance directly corresponds with the actual performance of human athletes on sports teams or in sports events.
- The fantasy sports market in India has a **user base of around 13 crore** - the **highest** anywhere in the world.
- Even amid regulatory uncertainty, the **sector has seen 3-startups turn unicorn**.

Severe Ageing Phase



- ❖ **Context**
 - China will enter into the phase of “**severe ageing**” with its rapidly ageing **population crossing 400 million by 2035**.
- ❖ **Key Highlights**
 - The number of **people aged 60 years and above** reached **267 million** by the end of last year accounting for **18.9 %** of the population.
 - The size of China’s senior population and its proportion of the total population is expected to peak around 2050, posing huge challenges to the provision of public services and to the national social security system.
 - The demographic crisis is attributed to **China’s one-child policy, introduced in 1979 and scrapped in 2016**. Last year, China passed a revised law allowing Chinese couples to have **three children** and announced a number of incentives.

Dharamshala Declaration 2022



- ❖ **Context**
 - The ‘**Dharamshala Declaration 2022**’ was released at the end of the **three-day national conference on tourism** attended by ministers from 12 states, besides Governors, UT administrators and central government officials.
- ❖ **Key Highlights**
 - As per the declaration, the country's tourism sector will strive to recover to the pre-pandemic level by mid-2024 and contribute **USD 250 billion to the country's GDP by 2030**.
 - The objective is to achieve a **long-term revenue goal of \$1 trillion by 2047**.
 - The Union Tourism and Culture Minister urged to establish **Youva Tourism clubs** at district and mandal levels on the lines of NCC and NSS.

Carbon Neutral Airports



- ❖ **Context**
 - The Union Civil Aviation Minister has said that **over 90 airports** in the country will be **carbon-neutral by 2024**.
- ❖ **Key Highlights**
 - **Two airports, Delhi and Kochi, are already carbon-neutral**.
 - In the last eight years, the number of airports in the country has increased from 74 to **141**, handling over **200 million domestic and international passengers**.
 - The aviation sector contributes **2% of the world's carbon emissions**.

Kugrang Valley



- ❖ **Context**
 - A village head of one of the last settlements of LAC in Ladakh’s Chushul claimed that at least three large grazing areas near the village have been turned into “**no-man’s land**” or “**buffer zones**”, in past one year, after Indian troops pulled back from patrolling points in the **Kugrang Valley**.
- ❖ **Key Highlights**
 - It is a **branch valley of Chang Chenmo Valley**. The **Changchenmo River is a tributary of the Shyok River** which joins the Indus on the right bank.
 - Changlun River flows into Kugrang River at Gogra which is one of the disputed points between India and China.
 - The LAC, as accepted by China itself in 1960, is supposed to be on the watershed between the Kugrang river and its tributary, the Changlun Nala.
 - Chinese forces, however, came down 2 to 4 km to the valley & blocked access to PP 15 & PP 16 and massed opposite Hot Springs and the other posts in the area.

[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

