

Eco-Sensitive Zones

❖ Context

- Recently, the Supreme Court has ordered the **establishment of 1-km Eco-Sensitive Zones** around all protected areas, wildlife sanctuaries and national parks.

❖ Key Highlights

- **Farmers in Kerala continue to protest** across several high ranges of the state **against the Supreme Court's recent order.**
- The widespread unrest is borne out of the **fear of farmers losing their livelihood.**

❖ Supreme Court Directions

- In case any national park or protected forest already has a **buffer zone extending beyond one km**, that would prevail.
- **Mining** within the national parks and wildlife sanctuaries shall **not be permitted.**
- The **Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Home Secretaries of States** responsible for the compliance of the judgment.

❖ About Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ)

- As per the **National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016)**, land within 10 km of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries is to be **notified as eco-fragile zones or Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ).**
- While the 10-km rule is implemented as a general principle, the **extent of its application can vary.**
- Areas beyond 10-km can also be notified by the Union government as ESZs, if they hold larger ecologically important "sensitive corridors."

- The **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** does **not mention the word "Eco-Sensitive Zones".**

❖ Significance of ESZ

- ESZs are created as **"shock absorbers"** for the protected areas.
- They help **minimize the negative impact** on the "fragile ecosystems" by certain human activities taking place nearby.
- These zones would act as a **transition zone** from areas of high protection to those involving lesser protection.
- ESZs are **not meant to hamper the daily activities of people** living in the vicinity.
- They are meant to guard the protected areas and "refine the environment around them".
- **Prohibited Activities:**
 - Commercial mining, saw mills, commercial use of wood, etc.
- **Regulated Activities:**
 - Felling of trees etc.
- **Permitted Activities:**
 - Ongoing agricultural or horticultural practices, rainwater harvesting, organic farming, among others.

Monkeypox

❖ Context

- Recently, the **World Health Network (WHN)** has announced that they are declaring the **current monkeypox outbreak a pandemic.**

❖ Key Highlights

- There are **3,417 confirmed monkeypox cases** reported across **58 countries.**
- The outbreak is **rapidly expanding** across multiple continents.
- The WHN announcement comes ahead of WHO meeting which was held on 23 June 2022 to decide on their monkeypox outbreak designation.

❖ About WHN

- The World Health Network (WHN) is a **coalition of citizens and experts.**
- It is committed to global action to protect public health through progressive elimination of COVID-19.

❖ Monkeypox

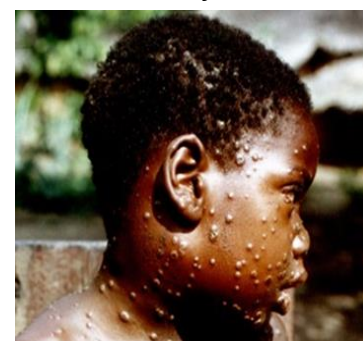
- **Virus:**
 - The monkeypox virus is an **orthopoxvirus.**
 - It is a genus of viruses that also includes the variola virus, which causes smallpox.
 - **Monkeypox causes symptoms similar to smallpox,** although they are less severe.

• Transmission:

- Monkeypox is a **Zoonotic disease**, that is, a disease that is **transmitted from infected animals to humans.**
- Cases occur close to tropical rainforests inhabited by animals that carry the virus.
- **Human-to-human transmission is limited.**

• Symptoms and Treatment:

- Monkeypox **begins with a fever, headache, muscle aches, back ache, and exhaustion.**
- The **incubation period for monkeypox is usually 7-14 days** but can range from 5-21 days.



- The patient develops a **rash that begins on the face and spreads to other parts of the body.**
- There is **no safe, proven treatment for monkeypox yet.**

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Action Agenda on Internally Displaced Persons

❖ Context

- The United Nations Secretary General unveiled the action agenda to better resolve, prevent and address internal displacement crises.

❖ Crisis

- Currently, **59 million people** are internally displaced around the world – the highest number ever recorded.
- Over half of all IDPs are women and children.
- Number of IDPs has **doubled** over the last 10 years, with women, children and marginalised groups often facing the greatest impacts.
- According to the World Bank, some **216 million people** could be forced to move internally by **2050** in just six regions due to climate change.
- The **Russian invasion** of Ukraine has driven **13 million** people out of their homes and communities.

❖ Situation in India

- According to a UN report based on data provided by the Switzerland-based non-profit Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, **India saw 4.9 million internal displacements last year**.
- It ranked **third** in terms of most internal displacements due to disasters **after China (6 million) and the Philippines (5.7 million)**.
- Though India has a policy in place for dam-displaced people, it does not have one for those displaced by political conflict or environmental reasons.

❖ About the Agenda

- The Action Agenda has three overarching goals:



- **Five organisations to serve as a Steering Group on Solutions to Internal Displacement.**
 - UN Development Coordination Office.
 - UN International Organisation for Migration.
 - United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.
 - United Nations Development Programme.
 - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- The Steering Group will work with the **Special Adviser** (newly appointed) to support implementation of the Action Agenda at all levels.

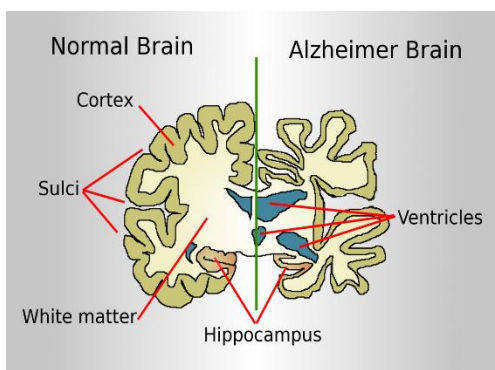
Alzheimer's Disease

❖ Context

- Recently, an **experimental Alzheimer's drug** aimed at slowing or preventing cognitive decline in people at risk of developing the disease early **has failed in clinical trials**.

❖ Alzheimer's Disease

- Alzheimer's is a **degenerative brain disorder** that slowly robs people of their memory and thinking abilities.
- Worldwide, it is the **most common form of dementia** or loss of cognitive functioning - thinking, remembering, and reasoning - contributing 60%-70% cases.



- It is **progressive and irreversible**.
- It usually begins with mild memory loss, and as symptoms grow severe, patients lose the ability to perform even simple tasks.

- Pathology of the disease is **deposition of an abnormal protein called beta-amyloid in the brain**.

❖ Indian Scenario

- In India, **only 1 in 10 people with dementia receive any diagnosis, treatment or care** for the disease.
- **Lack of awareness** is a major problem in battling the disease. Most of the Indian population accepts it as normal aging, which is incorrect.
- An increasing **prevalence of diabetes, hypertension, and obesity** is expected to **drive up the incidence of dementia** in India in the coming decades.
- India could see a 197% jump in dementia, including Alzheimer's, from 3.84 million cases in 2019 to 11.44 million cases by 2050.

News in Between the Lines

Title IX

❖ Context

- **Title IX**, the law best known for its role in gender equity in athletics and preventing sexual harassment on campuses, is turning 50.

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❖ **Key Highlights**

- It was **signed into law by President Richard Nixon on June 23, 1972**, after being shepherded through Congress in part by Rep.
- Patsy Mink, a Democrat from Hawaii who was the first woman of color elected to the U.S. House.

❖ **About the Law**

- The law is meant to **ensure equity between men and women in education**, and it's broad, covering most K-12 schools and colleges and universities, as well as vocational schools, libraries and museums.
- That means it **applies to tens of millions of students**, as well as **educators**.
- The law **applies to following areas of education**: Athletics, the classroom, sexual assault and violence on campus, employment, discrimination, admissions, retaliation and even financial assistance with tuition.

Padma Bridge Project



❖ **Context**

- The Prime Minister of Bangladesh is set to inaugurate the **Padma Bridge** on 25 June, 2022.

❖ **About Padma Bridge Project**

- The Padma Bridge is a **multipurpose road-rail bridge across the Padma River**. This bridge would connect Bangladesh's southwestern region with the capital Dhaka and other parts of the country.
- The 6.15 KM long Padma Bridge is the **largest bridge in Bangladesh**.
- The estimated cost of the project is over **USD 3.8 billion**.
- The work on the bridge **started in 2014**.
- The upper deck of the bridge has a **4 lane road** while the lower deck has a single track dual gauge rail line which is under completion.
- The government estimates **GDP to increase by 1.23 per cent** - and the southwestern regional GDP by 2.3 % - **as the bridge begins to give returns**.

GSAT 24



❖ **Context**

- The Indian satellite was successfully placed into geostationary orbit by the **Ariane 5 rocket**, operated by French company Arianespace, from Kourou in French Guiana (South America).

❖ **About the Satellite**

- A **24-Ku band communication satellite** weighing **4180 kg** with pan-India coverage for meeting Direct-to-Home (DTH) application needs has a **mission life of 15 years**. Built by **Indian Space Research Organisation for New Space India Limited (NSIL)**.
- It is NSIL's **first "demand-driven" communication satellite** mission post space sector reforms.
- Earlier, the model was more supply-driven, with capacity being leased after the launch with largely no firm commitment by customers beforehand.
- The entire capacity on board has been leased to a DTH service provider.
- The entire mission is fully funded by NSIL - satellite, launch, launch campaign, insurance, transportation, in-orbit maintenance and support. The satellite will be **fully owned and operated by NSIL**.

❖ **About the NSIL**

- Incorporated in March 2019, is a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE), under Department of Space (DOS) and is the commercial arm of ISRO.

OMRedox

❖ **Context**

- A startup in West Bengal has come out with a device that produces oxygen from water.

❖ **Key Highlights**

- The oxygen generated is **3.5 times purer** than that one normally gets from a concentrator. It has a **battery back-up of 3.5 hours**.
- The innovative method is called **pneumatically coupled water oxidation by electrocatalytic reaction (Power)**.

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- It is different from traditional methods which are: Pressure swing adsorption method which involves liquefaction of air.
 - Concentration of air by a compressor & then passing it through a catalyst.
- The technology is patented, and approved by the World Health Organisation and European Conformity.
- The device was selected by the Department of Biotechnology for showcasing and launch on its 10th foundation day and at the 1st Bio-Tech Expo 2022.

NICRA



- ❖ **Context**
 - Solutions advised by NICRA helped some of the Punjab farmers to minimise the impact of heat stress on their wheat yield.
- ❖ **About NICRA**
 - **National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)** is a network project of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) launched in February, 2011.
 - The project aims to enhance resilience of Indian agriculture to climate change and climate vulnerability through strategic research and technology demonstration.
 - The research on adaptation and mitigation covers crops, livestock, fisheries and natural resource management.
 - The project consists of four components viz. **Strategic Research, Technology Demonstration, Capacity Building and Sponsored/Competitive Grants.**
- ❖ **Solutions and Impact**
 - **Farmers who provided irrigation** during the heat stress managed to harvest 98 % of the normal yield while conforming to other prescribed practices.
 - Those who missed out on irrigation but grew **PBW-803, DBW-187 and DBW-222 varieties**, had 97 % of the normal yield.
 - **Quick sowing** of wheat seeds with the help of a happy seeder or super seeder with rice residue management have realised wheat yields up to 97 % of the normal. Heat stress in March had reduced the wheat yield by 15-20% for most of the Punjab farmers.

NIRYAT portal



- ❖ **Context**
 - PM launched **Vaniya Bhawan** and **The National Import-Export for Yearly Analysis of Trade (NIRYAT)** information portal to support importers, exporters.
- ❖ **Key Highlights**
 - Important information related to more than **30 commodity groups** exported to more than **200 countries** will be available on the portal.
 - It will provide **real time data** to all stakeholders.
 - Information related to **district-wise exports** will also be available. This will strengthen the efforts to develop the districts as important centres of exports.

MO Bus



- ❖ **Context**
 - **Odisha's bus service**, MO Bus, has been recognised by the **UN** as one of the 10 global recipients of its annual **Public service awards for 2022**.
- ❖ **Key Highlights**
 - It is run by **Odisha's Capital Regional Urban Transport (CRUT) authority.**
 - It has been recognised for its role in promoting **gender responsive public services to achieve SDGs.** The bus service has incorporated real time technologies like live tracking, travel planner & e-ticketing.
 - It also has an e-rickshaw system, **MoE-Ride**, which works as a feeder service.
- ❖ **Impact**
 - 57% of the commuters of the city use the bus service.
 - Estimated to **reduce pollution by 35-40%.**
 - **40% of bus conductors are women.**
 - **100% of Mo E-Ride drivers are women, transgender people and people from disadvantaged communities.**

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