

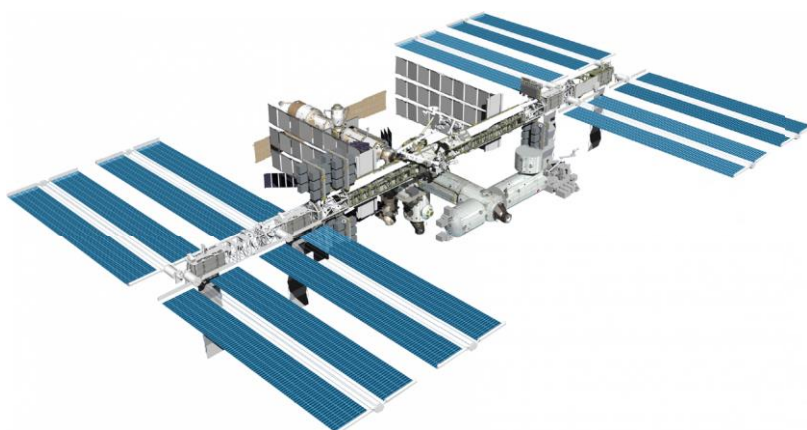
- Bill aims to repeal the Pharmacy Act, 1948 and setting up National Pharmacy Commission (NPC) with head office at New Delhi.
- Key provisions
  - ⊖ NPC: Consist of a Chairperson (appointed by central government), thirteen ex-officio Members and fourteen part-time Members. Chairperson shall be a
    - ◆ pharmacy academician and registered pharmacist having proven administrative capacity,
    - ◆ possessing postgraduate degree in pharmacy profession from any University with experience of not less than fifteen years in pharmacy field, out of which
    - ◆ at least ten years shall be as a pharmacy leader in pharmacy education.
  - ⊖ Boards: Central Government shall constitute three boards namely Pharmacy Education Board; Pharmacy Assessment and Rating Board; and Pharmacy Ethics and Registration Board, which will function under NPC.
  - ⊖ Pharmacy Advisory Council: It shall be constituted by Central Government to advise Commission on measures to enhance equitable access to pharmacy education, training and research.
- Significance of Bill
  - ⊖ Improve access to quality and affordable pharmaceutical education.
  - ⊖ Ensures availability of adequate and high-quality pharmacy professionals.
  - ⊖ Promotes equitable healthcare by making pharmacy services accessible to all citizens.
  - ⊖ Transparent assessment of pharmacy institutions and facilitating maintenance of a pharmacy register for India.

## 25 years of International Space Station (ISS)

- On November 20, 1998, Zarya (translates to "sunrise") module launched aboard Russian Proton rocket from Kazakhstan to form the cornerstone of ISS.
- ISS is a large spacecraft in orbit around Earth. It serves as a home where crews of astronauts and cosmonauts live. Space station is also a unique science laboratory
  - ⊖ It is a partnership between European countries (represented by ESA), United States (NASA), Japan (JAXA), Canada (CSA) and Russia (Roscosmos).
  - ⊖ It orbits Earth at an average altitude of approximately 250 miles in every 90 minutes.
  - ⊖ It has been continuously occupied since November 2000.
- ISS weighs almost 400 tonnes and covers an area as big as a football pitch. It would have been impossible to build the Space Station on Earth and then launch it into space in one go.
  - ⊖ So, ISS was taken into space piece-by-piece and gradually built in orbit. This assembly required more than 40 missions.
- Significance of ISS
  - ⊖ Allow crew members to do research that could not be done anywhere else.
  - ⊖ Allow for critical research in fluids, combustion, life support systems and radiation environment, which is needed for future human space exploration.

### India's space station plans

- ⊖ As per ISRO's chairman, India's proposed space station is envisaged to weigh 20 tonnes and serve as a facility where astronauts can stay for 15-20 days, and would be placed in an orbit 400 km above earth.
- ⊖ Prime Minister of India directed that India should now aim for setting up 'Bharatiya Antariksha Station' (Indian Space Station) by 2035.



## 40 workers trapped in a Tunnel Collapse in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi

- Incident happened in the under-construction **Silkyara-Barkot tunnel** in Uttarakhand due to a landslide that demolished its entrance.
  - ⊖ **Silkyara-Barkot tunnel** will connect **Yamunotri** on the south end to **Dharasu** on the north end.
  - ⊖ It is part of **Char-Dham** all-weather road project.
  - ⊖ Tunnel is being built in an area comprising **limestone** and **other soft rocks** that have a tendency to collapse.
- **Why are Himalayas more prone to landslides?**
  - ⊖ **Natural reasons**
    - ◆ Earthquakes resulting from tectonic activity can trigger landslides
    - ◆ Heavy rainfall can saturate the soil and weaken rock formations.
    - ◆ Climate change-induced warming can lead to permafrost thawing.
  - ⊖ **Anthropogenic**
    - ◆ Construction of dams, roads, and other significant infrastructure changes the natural stability of slopes.
    - ◆ Deforestation, Irrigation, Mining activities etc.

Comparison between Himalayas and Alps		
Features	Himalayas	Alps
Age	Relatively young (formed 40-50 million years ago)	Older (formed around 65 million years ago)
Formation	Result of the collision between Indian and Eurasian plates	Result of the collision between African and Eurasian plates
Tectonic Activity	Ongoing tectonic activity, seismic region	Tectonically active, but less seismic activity
Geological Features	Young, rugged terrain with deep valleys and high peaks	Older, more rounded mountains with U-shaped valleys

## Impact of Social Media on Consumer Behavior

- A recent report titled “**Meta GWI Beauty Report 2023**” highlighted that Facebook, Instagram reels influenced 80% of Indians to purchase beauty products.
- **How Social Media influence consumer behavior?**
  - ⊖ **Discovery of new products:** 47% of surveyed consumers discovered new products through social media reels.
  - ⊖ **Shift in consumer preferences:** 15% increase in online purchases post-pandemic by beauty buyers which currently stands at 68%.
  - ⊖ **Evaluation of alternatives:** Virtual try-outs through Augmented Reality and other related technologies.
  - ⊖ **Buyer socialization:** Consumer interactions shape their psychological, emotional, and behavioral outlooks, ultimately influencing their purchasing behaviors.
  - ⊖ **Electronic word of mouth:** Customer reviews help consumers in their purchasing decisions.
- **Associated Concerns:** Impulsive buying behavior, targeted advertisements, **increased debt** and financial stress, **environmental degradation** due to excessive consumerism, **violation of privacy** through consumer profiling, etc.
- **Way forward**
  - ⊖ **Transparency:** Social Media platforms should **provide clear information on content curation**, moderation, and algorithms.
  - ⊖ **Strengthen anti-trust rules:** For both platform providers and Social Media influencers.
  - ⊖ **Disclosure of material interests by Social Media influencers:** In January 2023, Department of Consumer Affairs released endorsement guidelines for celebrities and Social Media influencers.

## Oxfam released a report titled “Climate Equality: A Planet for the 99%”

- The report **emphasizes on the Climate Breakdown and Extreme Inequality** as twin challenges facing humanity.
  - **Key findings**
    - ⊖ In 2019, **super-rich 1% were responsible for 16% of global carbon emissions**, equivalent to emissions of the **poorest 66% of humanity**.
    - ⊖ Since the 1990s, **super-rich 1% burned through twice as much of the carbon budget as the poorest half of humanity combined**.
    - ⊖ **The emissions of the 1% are set to be over 22 times more than the safe limit** (the emissions allowed to stay below 1.5°C global warming) in 2030.
    - ⊖ **The emissions of the super-rich 1% in 2019 are enough to cause 1.3 million deaths due to heat.**
  - **Policy recommendations**
    - ⊖ **Radical increase in equality:** Governments must implement proven policies to dramatically drive down the gap between the richest and the rest.
    - ⊖ **Fast and just transition away from fossil fuels:** Implement a new wave of taxes on the corporations and billionaires to drive down emissions dramatically and fund transition.
    - ⊖ **New purpose for a new age:** Prioritize human and planetary well-being over endless profit, extraction and consumption.
- **Climate Inequality:** Some communities experience **disproportionate impact of climate change because of existing vulnerabilities**, historical patterns of inequity, socioeconomic disparities, and systemic environmental injustices, etc.
  - **Climate Equality:** It ensures **just distribution of the benefits of climate protection efforts** and alleviates unequal burdens created by climate change.

## UN Environment Programme (UNEP) releases Emission Gap Report 2023

- This is the **14th Emission Gap Report** which tracks our progress in limiting global warming well below 2°C and pursuing 1.5°C in line with the Paris Agreement.
- **Emissions gap** is the difference between:
  - ⊕ the **estimated global GHG emissions resulting from full implementation of the latest Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** and
  - ⊕ those under **least-cost pathways aligned with the long-term temperature goal** of the Paris Agreement.
- **Key highlights**
  - ⊕ **86 days** have been recorded with temperatures exceeding 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels this year.
  - ⊕ Global GHG emissions increased by **1.2 %** from 2021 to 2022 with fossil fuel combustion and industrial processes being main contributors.
  - ⊕ **Highly unequal distribution of current and historical emissions:** Globally, the 10% of the population with the highest income accounted for 48% of emissions.
  - ⊕ **Global warming is estimated to be limited to 3°C** if the current policies continue.
  - ⊕ **India related findings**
    - ◆ **GHG emissions across the G20 increased by 1.2% in 2022**, with increases in China, India, Indonesia, and the USA but decreases in Brazil, EU and Russia.
    - ◆ India to date has only contributed **5% of warming**.
    - ◆ India has **8% implementation gap between Current Policies and NDC pledges**.



### United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)



**Genesis:** Founded in 1972 under UN General Assembly resolution shortly after Stockholm Conference on Human Environment.

**Objective:** To help humanity foster climate stability, live in harmony with nature, and forge a pollution-free future, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Composition:** UN Environment Assembly is the governing body with **universal membership** encompassing all 193 UN Member States.

India is a member ✓

⊕ It is **part of the UN Secretariat** and responds to the UN General Assembly.

**Other reports released by UNEP:** Adaptation Gap report, Global Environment Outlook, Environmental Rule of Law Report, etc.

## Also in News



### Nitrogen-9

- Scientists have recently discovered **nitrogen-9 nuclei** which contains 7 protons and 2 neutrons.
- It is an **unusually high proton-to-neutron ratio**.
  - ⊕ This disparity has a critical effect on the isotope's stability, influencing its decay processes as well as overall behaviour.
- It only exists for **one billionth of a nanosecond**.
- Nitrogen -9 is an **isotope of nitrogen**.
  - ⊕ **Atoms with the same number of protons** but different numbers of neutrons are called isotopes.
- Scientists are hopeful of **expanding our current understanding of nuclear theory and quantum mechanics** by this study.



### Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs)

President of India inaugurated EMRS in Odisha.

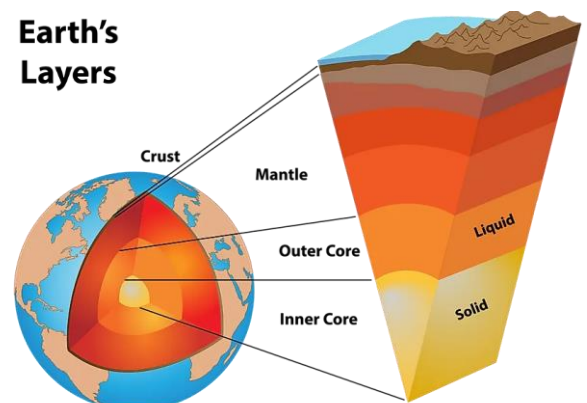
- EMRS started in 1997-98 to **impart quality education to ST children in remote areas** to enable them to avail opportunities in high and professional educational courses and get employment in various sectors.
  - ⊕ Each school has a **capacity of 480 students**, catering to students from **Class VI to XII**.
  - ⊕ EMRSs are set up in States/UTs with grants under **Article 275(1)** of Constitution.
  - ⊕ Its nodal ministry is **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**.
  - ⊕ **Minimum of 15 acres of Land** is required for establishing EMRSs.



### E Prime layer

- As per new study, a new layer called "**E prime layer**" at the **outermost part of Earth's core** is a result of surface water penetrating deep into the planet.
  - ⊕ This **alters the composition of the metallic liquid core's** outermost region proposes.
- This latest research suggests that **tectonic plates carrying surface water** have transported it deep into the Earth over billions of years. This led to the **formation of a hydrogen-rich, silicon-depleted layer** at the outer core.
  - ⊕ **Discovery enhances our comprehension of Earth's internal mechanisms.**

### Earth's Layers





## Cyclone Midhili

- According to recent IMD update, the cyclone storm Midhili, after crossing Bangladesh coast, weakened into a deep depression and later into a depression.
- **Cyclonic storm** is cyclonic disturbance in which the maximum average surface wind speed is in range of **34 to 47 knots (62 to 88 kmph)**.
- In **deep depression**, maximum sustained wind speed lies in the range **28 to 33 knots (50 to 61 kmph)**.
- **Depression** is a cyclonic disturbance in which maximum sustained surface wind speed is between **17 and 33 knots (31 and 61 kmph)**.



## Declaration of the Rights of the Child

- World Children's Day is celebrated every year on November 20 to promote international togetherness, and improving children's welfare.
- ⊕ On this day, UN General Assembly adopted **Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959** and **Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989**.
- Under the declaration, rights of the child are recognized under **10 Principles** i.e.,
  - ⊕ **Right to a name and nationality,**
  - ⊕ **Right to adequate nutrition, housing and medical services,**
  - ⊕ **Right to be among the first to receive relief** in all circumstances, etc.



## International Film Festival of India (IFFI)

- **54th IFFI commenced in Panaji, Goa.**
- Since its **inception in 1952**, it provides a **single platform** for filmmakers and industry professionals to have **access to cinema from across the world**.
  - ⊕ It is jointly **organized each year** by National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**, Government of India and **Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG)**.
  - ⊕ Since 2004, IFFI has moved to its **permanent venue at Goa**.



## Aeronautical Society of India (AeSI)

- International Conference-cum-Exhibition on 'Aerospace & Aviation in 2047' is being organised to **commemorate 75 years of excellence of the AeSI**.
- AeSI is the **principal Society in India** serving the professions in areas of aeronautics, aerospace and aviation.
- It provides **interaction between professionals from all facets of civil and military aviation** as well as the manufacturing/training/maintenance agencies.
- It was inaugurated by **Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru in 1948** and he was also the **first Patron-in-Chief of the Society**.
- It has affiliations with AICTE (All India Council For Technical Education); IITs etc.



## Jamdani sari

- At **42nd edition of India International Trade Fair (IITF) in New Delhi**, **Jamdani sari** has been showcased.
  - ⊕ IITF Theme: "**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - United by Trade**".
- **Jamdani** (Persian origin) is a **vividly patterned, sheer cotton fabric, traditionally woven on a handloom** by craftspeople and apprentices around Dhaka (Bangladesh).
  - ⊕ This weaving technique has **Bengali Roots**.
  - ⊕ In this technique of handloom weaving, **motif appears same on front and reverse side of sari**.
    - ⊕ It is a **hand woven fabric** that is also known as **muslin**.
- **Uppada Jamdani Sarees (Andhra Pradesh)** is a **registered Geographical indication product** under Geographical registry.



## Places in news



## Argentina (Capital: Buenos Aires)

- Javier Milei won the Argentina's Presidential elections.
- **Political Boundaries**
  - ⊕ **Country of South America**, covering most of southern portion of continent.
  - ⊕ **Bounded by Chile** (south and west), **Bolivia** and **Paraguay** (north), and **Brazil, Uruguay, and Atlantic Ocean** (east).
- **Geographical features**
  - ⊕ **Terrain:** Rich plains of **Pampas** in northern half, **flat to rolling plateau of Patagonia** in south, **rugged Andes** along western border.
  - ⊕ **Highest Point:** Cerro Aconcagua
  - ⊕ **Major rivers:** Parana, Paraguay, Uruguay etc.

