



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

OCTOBER, 2022

Week-3

15-21 Oct., 2022

★★ Useful for ★★

**CSE, ESE, PSUs, State Services Exams,
SSC and Banking Exams**

15th OCTOBER, 2022

Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2022

India ranks 107 out of 121 countries on the Global Hunger Index jointly published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe.

Key Highlights

- India was ranked behind its neighbors Nepal (81), Pakistan (99), Sri Lanka (64), and Bangladesh (84).
- India's GHI score has decreased from a 2000 GHI score of 38.8 points, considered alarming, to a 2022 GHI score of 29.1, considered serious.
- Yemen has ranked in the lowest position at 121, while the top of the list is dominated by European nations including Croatia, Estonia and Montenegro.
- Among Asian nations, China and Kuwait have ranked the highest.
- As the world is facing tremendous challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, conflicts, including the war in Ukraine, and climate change, there has been an increase in undernourishment in India and other South Asian nations.
- Malnutrition in India has increased by 2.9% between 2019–2021 and 2018–2020.
- While India has been consistently recording lower values for the four indicators, it started going up in 2014 for undernourishment and the prevalence of wasting in children. The proportion of undernourishment in the population went from 14.8 in 2014 to 16.3 in 2022, and the prevalence of wasting in children under five years jumped from 15.1 in 2014 to 19.3 in 2022.
- India's proportion of undernourished in the population is considered to be at a medium level, and its under-five child mortality rate is considered low.
- While child stunting has seen a significant decrease from 54.2 percent in 1998–1999 to 35.5 percent in 2019–2021 it is still considered very high.
- At 19.3 percent according to the latest data, India has the highest child wasting rate of all countries covered in the GHI. This rate is higher than it was in 1998–1999, when it was 17.1 percent.

About GHI

- The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a tool for comprehensively measuring and tracking hunger at global, regional, and national levels.
- Each country's data is standardized on a 100-point scale. Countries scoring less than or equal to 9.9 are slotted in the "low" category of hunger, while those scoring between 20 and 34.9 are in the "serious" category and those scoring above 50 are in the "extremely alarming" category.
- **GHI scores are based on the values of four component indicators - Undernourishment (which reflects inadequate food availability):** calculated by the share of the population that is undernourished (that is, whose caloric intake is insufficient);
- **Child Wasting (which reflects acute undernutrition):** calculated by the share of children under the age of five who are wasted (that is, those who have low weight for their height);
- **Child Stunting (which reflects chronic undernutrition):** calculated by the share of children under the age of five who are stunted (that is, those who have low height for their age);
- **Child Mortality (which reflects both inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environment):** calculated by the mortality rate of children under the age of five (in part, a reflection of the fatal mix of inadequate nutrition.

Basij has been deployed by the Iranian Government

The Basij has been deployed by the Iranian Government to respond to the protests that have erupted following the death of a woman after her arrest by the morality police for "improperly" wearing her headscarf.

Key Highlights

- The Basij (Organization for the Mobilization of the Oppressed) was established by the former Supreme Leader of Iran Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini shortly after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

- During the initial days after it was established, the Basij led the infamous “human wave” attacks against Saddam Hussein’s army. Many of the members of the Basij were teenagers and were poorly armed. They died while racing across mine fields and into the artillery fire.
- The Basij took on the domestic role to respond to the student revolts of the late 1990s.
- It comes under the aegis of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard and is highly loyal to the Supreme Leader.
- It consists of numerous branches operating across Iran as well as student organization, trade guilds and medical facilities.
- The security arm of the Basij has armed brigades, anti-riot forces and a vast network for informers involved in spying of individuals and local communities.
- Currently, there are an estimated 1 million individuals in the Basij and they are recognized by the Iranian government as pro-regime supporters.
- Many join the Basij because of economic opportunities provided by the Iranian government.
- It expands avenues in university admissions and public sector employment.
- Nearly all government institution in Iran has a member of the Basij, involved in spying of Iranian citizens.
- The Basij has a cyber-division that is involved in the hacking of suspected dissidents.
- When protests erupt in Iran, members of this group ride motorcycles that sometimes charge directly into the demonstrators to disperse them.
- They are known to forcefully take protestors to the detention centres.
- They also take part in the protests to find the identity of the instigators.

Official Language Committee submitted its 11th report

The Committee of Parliament on Official Language headed by Union home minister Amit Shah presented the 11th volume of the report to President Droupadi Murmu.

Key Recommendations

- The report of the committee, headed by Union home minister Amit Shah, has recommended that India’s scheduled languages, including Hindi, get priority in public offices, higher education institutions such as IITs and IIMs, and in local courts (but not high courts).
- The panel has also noted that in most public institutions, the use of Indian languages is unsatisfactory.
- The committee’s report paves the way for wider use of Indian languages as medium of education, for office work and proceedings of lower courts.
- This means higher education institutions will have to mandatorily offer courses in Hindi or the local language (as the case may be). They can also offer them in English.
- According to the report, the use of Hindi will be compulsory in Region A, as defined in the Official Languages Act of 1963.
- Under the law, states have been divided into three categories depending on the number of people who speak Hindi. Region A includes Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh and the Union Territories of Delhi and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- The mandatory use of Hindi, however, doesn’t cover the Category B and C states where it is not the staple language in everyday lives.
- Region B comprises Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab and the Union Territory of Chandigarh, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli; Region C comprises states and Union Territories other than those included in categories A and B.
- Region B is defined as states with up to 80% use of Hindi and Region C are those with up to 65% use of Hindi. In these states, public offices, institutes of higher education and local courts should use either Hindi or the regional language.
- The committee, however, maintained that high court proceedings and judgments can be done in English as their verdicts have larger ramifications across the country.

- The committee is the only parliamentary panel that is headed by the Union home minister, and unlike all House committees that submit reports to Parliament, it presents its report directly to the President.
- The New Education Policy, approved by the Center in 2020, puts focus on students' mother tongue as the medium of instruction even as it sticks to the so-called "three-language formula", while emphasizing that no language will be imposed on anyone. The three languages are English, Hindi, and the local language of the region.

16th OCTOBER, 2022

Ethiopian delegation visit Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs)

An Ethiopian delegation led by the Agricultural Minister DrMeles Mekonen Yimer visited Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs) to gain their operational know-how.

Key Highlights

- RythuBharosaKendras are first-of-its-kind seeds-to-sales, single-window service centres set up by the state government of Andhra Pradesh.
- These multi-functional kiosks with digital Aadhar authentication equipment act as a one-stop solution for all requirements and grievances of farmers in the state.
- These centres sell pre-tested quality seeds, certified fertilizers and livestock feed.
- They also provide farm equipment and enable farmers to sell their produce at the prevailing minimum support price (MSP) via supporting systems of e-cropping, geo-tagging and CM App.
- They provide services like soil testing and consultancy regarding what crops to sow and quality and type of fertilizer to be used.
- This has helped farmers change their cropping patterns and increase profits. RBKs are responsible

for the elimination of unproductive seeds and uncertified and dangerous fertilizers from the market. This has minimized crop damage and failures significantly.

- Manned by agriculture and horticulture officials, RythuBharosaKendras are used to promote interactions between farmers, agriculture extension officers and agriculture scientists at the grassroot levels.
- They are used for the promotion of new farm equipment and provide training for farmers.
- The RBKs were recently nominated for UN Food and Agriculture Organization's Champion Awards (CCA), which recognizes contributions of governments in boosting food security.
- The Ethiopian delegations visited several RBKs to understand how they operate.
- They will also ink a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the state and central governments to transfer the know-how.
- The foreign delegates will receive training from Andhra Pradesh officials on how to operate the RBKs and gain knowledge about the farming systems in the state.
- The Ethiopian delegations also visited the Integrated Call Center, which connects farmers to experts in various fields to address their grievances.

Global Status of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems

The United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) released the report titled "Global Status of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems — Target G" on the occasion of International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction.

Key Highlights

- The analysis was made with data from the Sendai Framework Monitor (SFM), an online tool where member countries report their progress on the targets outlined in The Sendai Framework (2015-2030).

- Of the seven targets in the framework, Target G aims to “substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS) and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030”.
- The number of countries that have MHEWS vary from region to region. However, on average, at least 40 percent of countries in every region reported that they operate a MHEWS.
- Specifically, less than 50 per cent of Least Developing Countries (LDC) and only 33 percent of Small Island Developing Countries (SIDS) were equipped with MHEWS.
- Most of the WMO member countries, for instance, reported not having evaluated their MHEWS performance. Only a third of WMO members said they have conducted a systematic evaluation.
- Around 48 per cent of countries said they followed the protocol, which involves emergency messaging on internet, broadcast and cellular services, according to the findings of the survey.
- Among the people living in least developed and landlocked developing countries, 17 per cent lack access to mobile internet, the report said. This prevented community outreach for early warning systems.

There are four items on the UNDRR checklist to ensure that an early warning system is up to the mark:

1. Risk knowledge;
2. Technical monitoring and warning service;
3. Communication and dissemination of warnings;
4. Community response capability

Considerable progress has been made in all four areas, but “to advance the MHEWS across all the countries, considerable investments are still needed in all its interrelated elements”, the report noted.

LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) 2022

The ranking of states based on their performance in the logistics index chart 2022 was released, which is a part of the Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2022 report.

Key Highlights

- Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and 12 other states and Union territories (UTs) have emerged as “achievers” in ensuring the ease of logistics services.
- According to the LEADS report, the other states and Union territories that are in the “achievers” category are Assam, Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- According to the LEADS report, the other states and Union territories that are in the “achievers” category are Assam, Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- Importantly, in a break from the past, states are not ranked in any particular order this time but are clubbed into categories such as achievers, fast movers and aspirers.
- The logistics index is an indicator of the efficiency of such services that are necessary to boost trade competitiveness and economic growth. The report ranks the states on the basis of their logistics ecosystem.
- It also brings to light key logistics-related challenges faced by various stakeholders and offers recommendations to remove these bottlenecks.
- The PM GatiShakti national master plan mandates that different departments join hands for a coordinated development of infrastructure projects, especially to address first and last-mile connectivity issues and reduce logistics costs.
- The government is already aiming to reduce the country’s logistics costs to 8% of its GDP in the next five years from 13-14% now.

17th OCTOBER, 2022

PM Bhartiya Jan Urvarak Pariyojana – One Nation One Fertilizer scheme launched

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'One Nation, One Fertiliser' scheme.

Key Highlights:

- The prime minister also released PM-KISAN funds worth Rs 16,000 crore through Direct Benefit Transfer, as well as inaugurated the PM Kisan Samman Sammelan 2022 at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. An e-magazine on fertilisers, called Indian Edge was launched by the prime minister, while 600 Pradan Mantri Sammriddhi Kendra were inaugurated.
- This scheme will result in reduction of the cost of fertilisers and increase their availability.
- Under this scheme, the all type of fertilisers, whether it is DAP, NPK or urea will be sold under the brand name of 'Bharat'. This will standardise fertiliser brands across the nation irrespective of the company that manufactures it, said Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar.
- The Prime Minister said that the 'One Nation, One Fertiliser' scheme will ensure affordable quality fertiliser of Bharat brand to the farmers.
- PM Modi said that with the 'One Nation, One Fertiliser' scheme, the farmer will get rid of all kinds of confusion about the quality of the fertilisers and its availability.
- Now the urea sold in the country will be of the same name, same brand and same quality and this brand is Bharat! Now urea will be available only under 'Bharat' brand name in the entire country.
- During the event the prime minister also inaugurated 600 'PM-Kisan Samruddhi Kendras (PM-KSK) which are expected to act as one-stop-shop providing multiple services to farmers.
- PM-KSK will supply agri-inputs like seeds, fertilisers and farm implements, along with providing testing facilities for soil, seeds and fertilisers, besides information about government schemes. PM Modi said about 3.25 lakh fertiliser retail shops will be converted into PM-KSKs across the country.

5th Assembly of International Solar Alliance begin in New Delhi under India's presidentship

The 5th Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA) held in New Delhi under India's presidentship. Participants from 109 countries shared their experiences towards a low-carbon economy through promotion of solar energy .

Key Highlights:

- The Assembly is the apex decision-making body of International Solar Alliance makes decisions concerning the implementation of the ISA's Framework Agreement. The Assembly meets annually at the ministerial level at the ISA's seat.
- Key focus areas of the meeting was streamlining the solar sector investments in the countries where investments are not flowing at present. The assembly will also deliberate on creating a Risk Mitigation Facility for solar projects with a Payment Guarantee Mechanism.
- The International Solar Alliance is an international organisation with 110 Member and Signatory countries. It works with governments to improve energy access and security worldwide and promote solar power as a sustainable way to transition to a carbon-neutral future.
- ISA's mission is to unlock US\$ 1 trillion of investments in solar by 2030 while reducing the cost of the technology and its financing. It promotes the use of solar energy in the Agriculture, Health, Transport and Power Generation sectors.

NATO announced its annual nuclear exercise "Steadfast Noon"

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), also called the North Atlantic Alliance announced had started its annual nuclear exercise code-named "Steadfast Noon". The week-long exercise is taking place over Southern Europe and involves aircraft and personnel from 14 NATO countries.

Key Highlights:

- Steadfast Noon involves training flights with dual-capable fighter jets, as well as conventional jets, backed by surveillance and refuelling aircraft. No live weapons are used. This exercise helps to ensure that NATO's nuclear deterrent remains safe, secure and effective.
- The North Atlantic Treaty, which was signed in Washington, D.C., on April 4, 1949, is implemented by the organisation, which was founded during World War II.
- As a collective security structure, NATO's autonomous member nations have agreed to defend one another from outside threats. NATO functioned as a check on the imagined Soviet Union threat during the Cold War. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg.

18th OCTOBER, 2022

Living Planet Report 2022

The biennial report "Living Planet Report" was published by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) recently.

Key Highlights

- According to report, in just over 50 years, there has been a 69% drop in the wildlife population globally, the Living Planet Report 2022 has flagged, with Latin America and the Caribbean being the worst hit (94% loss since 1970).
- Among species, freshwater ones have seen the most decline in this period (83%). The Asia-Pacific region that includes India has seen a 55% loss.
- India is also extremely vulnerable to massive biodiversity loss: over 12% of wild mammal species in India are facing extinction; more than 40% honey bees have disappeared in the past 25 years; over 50% of 867 bird species will see population declines in the long term while 146 are at great risk even in the short term; and nearly 150 species of amphibians are under threat.

- In 2019, 205 species from India were in the 'endangered', 81 in the 'critically endangered' and 394 in the 'vulnerable' category on the 'red list' of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- Globally, only 37% of the rivers longer than 1000 km remain free flowing over the entire length. When some fish species migrate along these swim-ways, the presence of dams and reservoirs pose a threat to their survival.
- The report has used the Living Planet Index (LPI), a global dataset featuring 32,000 populations of 5,230 species provided by the Zoological Society of London to arrive at findings. The data shows that in tropical regions vertebrate wildlife populations are declining at a staggering rate.
- The report indicates that the main drivers of wildlife population decline are habitat degradation and loss, exploitation, the introduction of invasive species, pollution, climate change and disease.

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2022

The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was recently released jointly by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human development Initiative (OPHI) at the University of Oxford.

Key Highlights

- The number of people living below the poverty line in India decreased by 415 million between 2005-06 and 2019-21, according to the new Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).
- However, the index has stated that India still has the world's highest number of poor at 228.9 million, followed by Nigeria (96.7 million projected in 2020).
- The report found that across 111 countries which were assessed using the most recent comparable data available, 1.2 billion people (19.1 per cent) live in acute poverty and almost half of these people (593 million) are children under the age of 18 years.

- The developing region with the largest number of poor people is Sub-Saharan Africa (nearly 579 million), followed by South Asia (385 million), the report highlighted.
- The MPI highlighted that the Covid-19 pandemic had set the global progress in reducing poverty back by 3–10 years.
- According to the report, India had 97 million poor children in 2019-21. This translates into more than one in five children (21.8 per cent)--more than the total number of poor people in any other country covered by MPI.
- According to the report, India is the only country in South Asia where female-headed households are poorer than male-headed households.
- Ninety per cent of India's poor people live in rural areas and 10 per cent in urban areas.
- Bihar continues to be the poorest state in the country. Others among the top 10 poorest states were Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Arunachal Pradesh and Rajasthan. West Bengal was the only state among the top-10 poorest in India in 2015-16, and not in 2019-21.
- The poor in India remain vulnerable amid rising food and fuel prices, the report said.
- About 18.7 percent of people in India were found to be vulnerable to poverty because their deprivation score ranges from 20 per cent to 33 per cent. A person with a deprivation score of 50 is considered to be poor.
- In the recently released Global Hunger Index, India ranked 107th out of 121 countries, with worrying figures in child malnutrition and child stunting.
- However, the report also commended India's performance in lifting the poor out of poverty. In the last 15 years, it lifted over 41.5 crore people out of poverty.
- The report said that India is an important case study for the Sustainable Development Goals, the first of which is to end poverty in all its forms and to reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women

and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions by 2030, all while leaving no one behind.

About Global Multidimensional Poverty Index

- Global Multidimensional Poverty Index is an international measure published annually by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the Human Development Report Office of the UNDP & it was first published in 2010.
- It reflects the multiple deprivations that poor people face in the areas of education, health, and living standards.
- MPI considers that poverty is not unidimensional (not just depends on income and one individual may lack several basic needs like education, health etc.), rather it is multidimensional.
- The MPI monitors deprivations in 10 indicators spanning health, education and standard of living and includes both incidence as well as intensity of poverty.

Booker Prize, 2022

Sri Lankan author Shehan Karunatilaka has been named the winner of the prestigious Booker Prize for fiction for his second book "The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida".

Key Highlights

- Karunatilaka received a trophy from Queen Consort Camilla at a ceremony night in London. He also got a 50,000 pound (\$56,700) prize.
- It was the English language literary award's first in-person ceremony since 2019.
- Set in the Sri Lanka of 1990, Seven Moons follows gay war photographer and gambler Maali Almeida after he wakes up dead and decides to find out who was responsible.
- Karunatilaka is the second Sri Lankan to win the award, following Michael Ondaatje's victory in 1992 for The English Patient, which was later turned into a blockbuster film.

- The Booker was first awarded in 1969 and initially rewarded authors who belonged to the Commonwealth only, the scope of the prize now spans the entire world.
- Every year, the award is presented to the best work of fiction written in English and published in the UK and Ireland. The prize is one of the two literary awards – the Booker Prize and the International Booker Prize – and is given out annually by the Booker Prize Foundation.

19th OCTOBER, 2022

Prime Minister unveils Mission DefSpace

The Prime Minister launched Mission DefSpace to develop innovative solutions for the Armed Forces in the space domain through industry and start-ups. He also laid the foundation stone of the Deesa airfield in Gujarat.

Key Highlights:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the defence expo, DefExpo 2022, at the Mahatma Mandir Convention and Exhibition Centre in Gujarat's Gandhinagar.
- Apart from launching the Mission DefSpace, and laying foundation of the Deesa airfield, PM Modi also unveiled the HTT-40 indigenous trainer aircraft designed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. He said that the defence expo is a symbol of the global trust in India.
- This is the first defence expo where only Indian companies are participating and it features only Made in India equipment. PM Modi said that DefExpo 2022 paints a picture of "New India" and its capabilities.
- The expo is being attended by 53 friendly countries from Africa. The second India-Africa Defence Dialogue, and the 2nd Indian Ocean Region+ (IOR+) Conclave. The Indian Ocean Region conclave will

provide a stage to promote defence cooperation between these nations and foster peace, growth, stability and prosperity.

'SARANG – The Festival of India in Republic of Korea'

Indian Embassy in Seoul, South Korea organized its much sought-after annual flagship cultural program 'SARANG – The Festival of India in Republic of Korea'

Key Highlights:

- The 8th edition of annual flagship cultural program of Embassy of India, Seoul 'SARANG– The Festival of India in Republic of Korea' was held from Sept. 30 through Oct. 14, 2022 in offline mode at various locations across the country after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Starting in 2015, SARANG has emerged as a prominent Indian cultural festival, introducing India's colorful and diverse heritage and has, since then, grown in size, scale and popularity, promoting India's soft power in its truest sense and contributing to its rich civilizational legacy and cultural vibrancy.
- The word SARANG has a very meaningful interpretation for both Koreans and Indians. SARANG in Korean means 'love' and for Indians it refers to 'diversity representing different colors of India'.
- As a part of this festival, it is our endeavor to showcase the rich cultural diversity of India represented through various art forms including dance, drama, music, films and cuisine. This depiction of India in its entirety captures the hearts and minds of the local community in Korea and strengthens the love and friendship between the people of the two countries.

ICAS Bharati Das named as the new Controller General of Accounts

The government of India has appointed Bharati Das, an officer of the Indian Civil Accounts Service of the 1988 batch, as the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

Key Highlights:

- She is the 27th Controller General of Accounts, Ministry of Finance.
- She has served as the Principal Chief Controller of Accounts at the Central Board of Direct Taxes, at the Ministry of External Affairs and at the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- She has also served as the CCA at the Ministry of Health and Family welfare, Director at the Ministry of Civil Aviation, and Deputy Secretary at the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and Ministry of Port, Shipping and Waterways.

20th OCTOBER, 2022

India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD)

The India-Africa Defense Dialogue (IADD) was held on the sidelines of DefExpo 2022 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Key Highlights

- The Gandhinagar Declaration, adopted as the outcome document of the second edition of the IADD, charted out new areas for enhancing the India-Africa defence and security partnership.
- During the IADD, in keeping with the new proposals of the Gandhinagar Declaration, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the 'India-Africa Security Fellowship Programme.
- It released its brochure by handing it over to Director General, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA). MP-IDSA, the knowledge partner for the IADD, will host the Fellowship Programm
- The fellowship will give an opportunity to African scholars to pursue research on defense and security issues in India.
- The fellows would be attached with the MP-IDSA for a period of 1-3 months. A stipend would also be provided to the scholar.

Government plans to set up Bhasha Kendras

The government has decided to set up language centres called "Bhasha Kendras" to prepare study material and courses for each of the 22 languages in the eighth schedule of the Constitution.

Key Highlights

- The centers, called bhasha kendras, will be established under the Union ministry of education's Indian Knowledge System (IKS) initiative.
- According to official, these language centers will be in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- These will emphasize on promoting regional languages and promote national integration.

The centers will be given three broad responsibilities:

- First, they will prepare small booklets of 100-200 pages of the IKS-related literature and manuscripts available in their designated languages.
- The centers will also be translating these works into Sanskrit and English.
- The second task of these centers will be to enrich their designated Indian languages with modern science and social models. They will be asked to translate 1,000 pages of material in other languages into their designated language.
- The third task will be to develop courses at the undergraduate level.
- IKS has already invited applications from education institutions, both private and government, NGOs, trusts and foundations for setting up the centers.

Iranian-made kamikaze drones used by Russia in Ukraine

Russia has hit Ukraine with a wave of attacks, dive-bombing the capital, Kyiv, with what appear to be Iranian-made "kamikaze" drones.

Key Highlights

- Recently, as per the claims made by Ukrainian officials, the capital region of Ukraine was struck by Iranian-made kamikaze drones.

- Ukraine says Russia imported the drones from Iran, where they are known as Shahed-136. For their part, officials in Tehran deny supplying Russia with the weapons.
- These are small unmanned aircraft packed with explosives that can be flown directly at a tank or a group of troops that are destroyed when it hits the target and explodes.
- Unlike drones that return to base once missiles are launched, kamikaze or suicide drones are destroyed in an attack.
- The name comes from the World War 2 era's feared Japanese kamikaze pilots.
- The pilots conducted suicide attacks by intentionally crashing their explosive filled aircraft into enemy targets.
- The modern drone versions have the capability of surpassing traditional defences to strike their targets and are also cheaper than their larger counterparts.
- The small lethal drones are difficult to detect on radar, and through the use of facial recognition, can be programmed to hit targets without human intervention.
- These are also called loitering munition, as they can hover around the target area for some time (much longer than a cruise missile) and attack only once a target is located.
- Reaffirming India's commitment towards tackling the menace of climate change, PM said Reduce, reuse, recycle and a circular economy have been an integral part of Indian culture for thousands of years. Recalling Mahatma Gandhi's concept of Trusteeship, PM said the Mission LiFE encourages us to be a trustee of the environment.
- Mr. Modi stressed that climate change is not just a policy-related issue to be taken care of by the governments. He stressed joint efforts from people to combat climate change.
- Addressing the gathering, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged developed countries to fulfill their climate commitments and provide meaningful financial & technological support to countries like India.

CII and Indian Oil Corporation launched project 'Vayu Amrit'

Indian Oil has recently partnered with the CII and is supporting the programme in 9 villages of Sangrur covering 7,000 acres of farmland through its Project Vayu.

Key highlights:

- Stubble burning is a major cause of air pollution in the northwest, especially Delhi-NCR during winters.
- Under the multi-stakeholder programme, a range of activities are being undertaken to promote viable and environmentally friendly alternatives to stubble burning.
- These include creating awareness about the harmful effects of stubble burning, providing farmers with appropriate machinery and technical training to manage stubble, and facilitating the adoption of environmentally friendly ways of crop residue management
- The farmers at the event shared their experiences and issues and welcomed the effort to help them find viable alternatives to stubble burning.

21st OCTOBER, 2022

PM Modi launched Mission LiFE movement at Kevadiya in Gujarat

Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a clarion call for lifestyle change in order to protect the environment.

Key Highlights:

- Addressing the gathering after the global launch of Mission LiFE at the Statue of Unity in Gujarat in the presence of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, PM said climate change mitigation is possible through lifestyle changes.

ISRO to launch Chandrayaan-3, its third mission to moon, in June 2023

With a more robust lunar rover onboard, the Indian Space Research Organisation planned to launch its third mission to the moon, Chandrayaan-3, in June of next year.

Key Highlights:

- ISRO plans to launch Chandrayaan-3, its third mission to the moon, in June next year with a more robust lunar rover onboard which is crucial for future inter-planetary explorations. The space agency has also lined up the first test flight of the 'abort mission' for Gaganyaan, the country's first human spaceflight, early next year.
- Chandrayaan-3 (C-3) launch will be in June next year onboard the Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3).
- ISRO has decided to fly Indian astronauts into orbit by the end of 2024 after carrying out successful abort missions and uncrewed test flights.

