

Ransomware

❖ Context

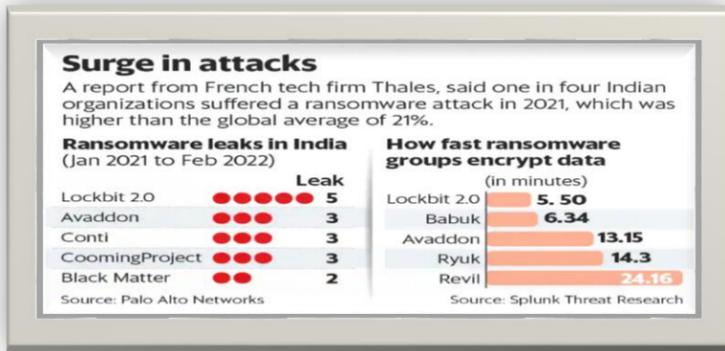
- According to a report by American cybersecurity firm Palo Alto Networks, ransomware attacks on organisations in India increased by 218% in 2021.

❖ Key Highlights

- Maharashtra was the most targeted state, accounting for 42% of all attacks in India.
- Software and services (26%), capital goods (14%) and the public sector (9%) were among the most targeted sectors.
- India is now the tenth most targeted country globally and second after Australia in the APAC (Asia-Pacific) region.
- The average ransom demand climbed by 144% to \$2.2 million in 2021 from \$900,000 a year ago, while the average payment rose 78% to \$541,000 globally in 2021.

❖ Loss of Data Even After Payment

- Only 8% of organisations manage to recover all of their data.
- 20% of companies surveyed never got back their entire data even after repeated payments.



❖ What is Ransomware?

- Ransomware is a type of malware that encrypts data and holds it hostage. The attackers ask companies and individuals to pay a ransom, usually using cryptocurrencies, in order to regain access to the data.

❖ Evolution of Tactics

- **Single extortion** - Paralysing a victim's operation; a victim faced a ransom demand in return for the decryption key to unlock their systems and data.
- **Double extortion** - System is locked down and data is exfiltrated (transferred before being locked) simultaneously. Victim is now threatened with publishing the confidential data - copyrights, trade secrets, etc. online.
- **Triple extortion** - In addition to the two above layers, victims associates, suppliers, clients or customer, whose data is being managed by the victim, are directly threatened to leak or publish exfiltrated data online or on media.

❖ How to Deal With

- Detection and response is ineffective against ransomware as they wait until they reach the domain controller to deploy.
- Thus, prevention is the best option. Plugging the security lapses, auditing security systems and raising education and awareness of the users,

Tele Law App

❖ Context

- Ministry of Law and Justice informed Parliament about the digital measures the government has taken to provide equitable access to free legal aid.

❖ Key Highlights

- **Tele Law Mobile App:**
 - Enables the individual beneficiary to access pre-litigation advice and hold consultation directly with the Panel Lawyer, free of cost.
 - This App is available in 6 languages viz English, Hindi, Marathi, Punjabi, Tamil and Telugu on both Android and iOS platform.
 - **Legal Services Mobile App** - Launched by National Legal Services Authorities (NALSA) to enable easy access to legal aid to common citizens.
- **Tele law at Common Service Centres at Panchayat Level:**
 - connects individual beneficiaries with Panel Lawyers via telephonic and video conferencing facilities, available at these CSCs.

❖ What are Legal Services?

- Legal Services includes providing free Legal Aid to those weaker sections of the society who fall within the purview of Section 12 of the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987.
- It also entails creating legal awareness & organising Lok Adalats for the amicable settlement of disputes which are either pending or which are yet to be filed, by way of compromise.

❖ Who is Entitled to Free legal service u/s 12 of Act

- A member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe;
- A victim of trafficking in human beings or begar as referred to in Article 23 of the Constitution;
- A woman or a child;
- A mentally ill or otherwise disabled person;
- A person being a victim of a mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster; or

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- Tele-Law is presently operating in 669 Districts across 36 States/UTs covering 75,000 Gram Panchayats.
- The service at CSCs is **free for persons entitled under Section 12** of the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 and for others at Rs.30/- per consultation.
- **Nyaya Bandhu (Pro-bono Legal Services) programme** - link the persons eligible to avail free legal aid under Section 12 of LSA Act, 1987 with the pro-bono lawyers.

- An industrial **workman**; or
- In **custody**, including custody in a **protective home** within the meaning of clause (g) of Section 2 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956; or in a **juvenile home** within the meaning of clause(j) of Section 2 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 ; or in a **psychiatric hospital or psychiatric nursing home** within the meaning of clause (g) of Section 2 of the Mental Health Act, 1987.
- a person in receipt of **annual income less than the amount prescribed by the State Governments**, if the case is before a Court other than the Supreme Court, and **less than Rs 5 Lakh, if the case is before the Supreme Court.**

India to be TB-Free by 2025 and Dare2eraD TB

❖ Context

- On the **World Tuberculosis Day** on Thursday, 24 March the Health Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to **making India tuberculosis-free by 2025.**
- He said this will be achieved by **ensuring access to quality healthcare and advanced treatment.**

❖ Key Findings of India TB Report 2022

- A **19% increase** was witnessed in 2021 from the previous year in TB patients' notification.
- The **number of incident TB patients** (new and relapse) notified during 2021 was 19,33,381 against the 16,28,161 in 2020, noted India TB Report 2022.
- It said **18 States have committed to ending TB by 2025** by formally implementing State-specific Strategic Plans.
 - They have gone a step ahead to devise a district-specific strategic plan.

❖ Key Findings of National TB Prevalence Survey Report

- The survey was carried out between **2019 and 2021.**
- There has been an **increase in the mortality** rate due to all forms of TB between 2019 and 2020 **by 11%.**
- The **highest pulmonary TB prevalence (PTB)** of **534/lakh in Delhi** and the lowest pulmonary TB Prevalence of 115/lakh in Kerala.
- Higher PTB Prevalence was **observed in older age groups, males, malnourished, smokers, alcoholics and known diabetics.**
- There is a need to prioritize the interventions in high prevalent States and plan for elimination in low prevalent States.



❖ About Tuberculosis Disease

- TB is an **infectious disease** caused by the **bacillus Mycobacterium tuberculosis.**
- It typically **affects the lungs (pulmonary TB)** but can also affect other sites like the brain, eyes and spine.
- The disease is spread when people who are sick with pulmonary TB **expel bacteria into the air, for example by coughing.**
- **Directly observed treatment (DOTs)**
 - **Short-course** (DOTS, also known as TB-DOTS) is the name given to tuberculosis (TB) control strategy recommended by the World Health Organization.
 - It was also deployed by India to curb the menace of TB.

❖ Dare2eraD TB

- The government announced the launch of **Data-Driven Research to Eradicate TB-“Dare2eraD TB”** by the Department of Biotechnology, M/o Science & Technology, on the occasion of World TB Day.
- Dare2eraD TB will be the **umbrella TB program of DBT** comprising of following key initiatives:
 - **InTGS-** Indian Tuberculosis Genomic Surveillance Consortium.
 - **InTBK Hub-** Indian TB Knowledge Hub-Webinar Series.
 - **Host Directed therapies against TB** and developing an evidence-based regimen for treating extra-pulmonary Tuberculosis.
- Indian Tuberculosis Genomic Surveillance Consortium (InTGS) is proposed on lines of the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Consortia (INSACOG) for Whole Genome Sequencing, (WSG) TB surveillance.

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GSAT 7B

❖ Context

- The **Defense Acquisition Council (DAC)** at its March 22 meeting **cleared the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** for procurement of a **GSAT 7B satellite**, along with equipment like Night Sight (image intensifier), 4X4 light vehicles, and Air Defense Fire Control Radar (light).

❖ About GSAT 7 Series Satellites

- GSAT 7 satellites are **advanced satellites developed by the ISRO**.
- The GSAT 7 satellite was launched in August 2013 from an Ariane 5 ECA rocket from Kourou in French Guiana.
- The satellite was **injected into a geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO)** of 249 km perigee (nearest point to earth), 35,929 km apogee (farthest point to earth) and an inclination of 3.5 degree with respect to the equator.
- **Features:**
 - **Low bit voice rate to high bit rate data facilities**, including multi-band communications.
 - Named **Rukmini**, the satellite carries payloads in UHF, C-band and Ku-band, and helps the Navy to have a **secure, real time communication link between its land establishments, surface ships, submarines and aircraft**.
- **Significance:**
 - It was developed to meet the **communication needs of the defense services**.
 - This satellite is **mainly used by the Indian Navy** for its communication needs.

❖ Role of the GSAT7A and GSAT 7B

- Currently, the **Army is using 30 percent of the communication capabilities** of the GSAT 7A satellite, which has been designed for the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- GSAT7A has boosted the connectivity between the **ground radar stations, airbases and the airborne early warning and control aircraft (AEW&C)** of the IAF.
- GSAT7A **also helps in satellite controlled operations** of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).
- The **GSAT 7B** will primarily fulfill the **communication needs of the Army**.
- **GSAT7B** will also help the Army enhance its **surveillance in border areas**.
- A **GSAT 7C** satellite is on the cards for the IAF.
 - This satellite would facilitate real time communication with IAF's software defined radio communication sets.
 - It will increase the capability of the IAF to communicate beyond the line of sight in a secure mode.

❖ Other Military Satellites

- **EMISAT:**
 - Developed by ISRO.
 - Launched through a **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C45)**.
 - Helpful in **gathering information from radars of countries that have borders with India**.
- **RISAT 2BR1:**
 - Capable of **operating in different modes including very high resolution imaging modes** of 1×0.5 metre resolution and 0.5×0.3 m resolution with a swath of 5-10 km.

News in Between the Lines

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)



❖ Context

- Recently, **India abstained on a resolution at the UNGA** adopted by a majority that criticized Russia for creating a "dire" humanitarian situation by its military invasion of Ukraine.

❖ About UNGA

- UNGA is **one of the six major agencies** of the United Nations.
- **Established in 1945** under the Charter of the United Nations.
- It occupies a central position as the **chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations**.
- **Composition:**
 - It has **193 members**, with the addition of the Holy See and Palestine as observer states.
- **Meetings:**
 - The UNGA **meets from September to December each year** (main part), and thereafter, from **January to September** (resumed part) in New York.

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UN main organs

The UN has 6 main organs – all were established in 1945 when the UN was founded.



General Assembly Security Council Economic and Social Council Trusteeship Council International Court of Justice Secretariat

- **Functions:**
 - The UNGA is empowered to make **recommendations to States on international issues within its competence.**
 - It has also initiated actions like political, economic, humanitarian, social and legal, which have benefited the lives of millions of people throughout the world.
- **Voting:**
 - **Decisions on important questions**, such as those on peace and security, admission of new members and budgetary matters, require a **two-thirds majority** of the General Assembly.
 - **Decisions on other questions** are taken by simple majority.
- **Presidential Election:**
 - The President of the General Assembly is elected each year by assembly to serve a one-year term of office.

Abel Prize 2022



- ❖ **Context**
 - Recently, The **Abel prize for the year 2022** was given to American Mathematician **Dennis Parnell Sullivan**.
- ❖ **Key Highlights**
 - The award has been given, “For his groundbreaking contributions to topology in its broadest sense, and in particular its algebraic, geometric and dynamical aspects.
- ❖ **About Abel Prize**
 - The Abel Prize is a **scientific prize, awarded annually** within the discipline of mathematics.
 - The Abel Prize is named in honor of the **Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel (1802 – 1829)**.
 - It was **established by the Norwegian Government in 2002** and is managed by The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters.
 - The **first Abel Prize**, awarded in 2003, went to French mathematician **Jean- Pierre Serre**.
 - The only **person of Indian** origin to have won this prize is **Srinivasa S.R. Varadhan**. He is at the Courant Institute, New York University, and won it in 2007.
 - So far, the prize has gone to only **one woman mathematician, Karen Keskulla Uhlenbeck** of University of Texas, U.S.A.

Solomon Islands



- ❖ **Context**
 - Recently, a leaked document indicates that **China could boost its military presence in the Solomon Islands** - including with ship visits.
 - The Solomon Islands revealed on March 25 that it had signed a policing cooperation agreement with China.
- ❖ **About Solomon Island**
 - Solomon Islands is a **sovereign country consisting of six major islands** and over 900 smaller islands in Oceania, to the **east of Papua New Guinea and northwest of Vanuatu**.
 - Its **capital, Honiara**, is located on the **largest island, Guadalcanal**.
 - The **country takes its name from the Solomon Islands archipelago**, which is a collection of Melanesian islands that also includes the North Solomon Islands (a part of Papua New Guinea).
 - It excludes outlying islands, such as the Santa Cruz Islands and Rennell and Bellona.

Export Preparedness Index

- ❖ **Context**
 - **NITI Aayog**, in partnership with the **Institute of Competitiveness**, released the **Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2021**.





❖ Key Highlights

- **Gujarat ranked No. 1 for the second time in a row.**
- Most of the **Coastal States** are the best performers.
- The index can be used by states and union territories (UTs) to benchmark their performance against their peers and analyse potential challenges to develop better policy mechanisms to foster export-led growth at the subnational level.
- EPI 2021 brings out **three major challenges to India's export promotion.** These are **intra- and inter-regional differences in export infrastructure; weak trade support and growth orientation across states; and lack of R&D infrastructure to promote complex and unique exports.**

mRUBE



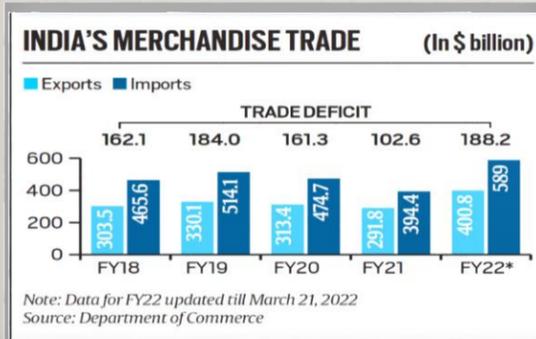
❖ Context

- Rubber Board is in the final phase of rolling out the **electronic market "mRube"** for natural rubber by next month.

❖ Key Highlights

- It is envisaged that electronic trading would enhance the market visibility and bargaining capacity of buyers and sellers.
- **Kenya** has plans to replicate the e-market concept of the Rubber Board of India and set up an electronic procurement system for different commodities.

India's Goods Exports



❖ Context

- India's goods exports crossed the **\$400 billion target** set for fiscal year 2021-22, nine days ahead of schedule, touching a new peak.

❖ Key Highlights

- It has registered **37% increase** as compared to \$292 BN in previous year.
- **Import of goods also touched peak of \$ 589 BN** taking India's trade deficit to record high of \$188 BN. **Engineering goods were the largest contributors** to the growth in exports, growing at 50%.
- Measures that contributed to the increase includes:
 - Boost in domestic manufacturing due to **PLI scheme.**
 - Implementation of some of **interim trade pacts.**
 - Introduction of Refund of duties and taxes on Exported products (**RoDTEP**).
 - Introduction of Rebate of State and Central levies and taxes (**RoSCTL**).
 - Launch of **Common Digital platform for certificate of origin certificates.**
 - Promoting **districts as export hub** by identifying products with export potential in each district.
 - Special emphasis on low hanging fruits.

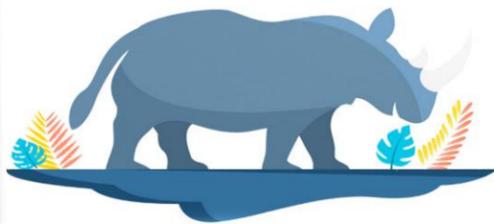
Top 5 commodities & countries

The table shows top products that are exported from India and countries they are exported to.

Commodities	Countries exported to
Engineering goods	USA
Petroleum products	UAE
Gems & jewellery	China
Organic & inorganic chemical	Bangladesh
Drugs & pharmaceuticals	Netherlands

Wildlife Bonds

World Rhino Day



❖ Context

- The **World Bank** has issued the **world's first wildlife bond**, the money from which will be used to **resuscitate the population of rhinoceros in South Africa.**

❖ Key Highlights

- Rhinos once covered an expansive habitat that stretched from Europe, Asia, to Africa. Today, due to habitat loss and excessive poaching, only five species exist that are found in **South Africa, Borneo and Sumatra, Namibia, Eastern Himalayas, and Coastal East Africa.**
- Issued by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the **Wildlife Conservation Bond (WCB)** was issued to support South Africa's conservation efforts to save critically endangered species like the black rhino.

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