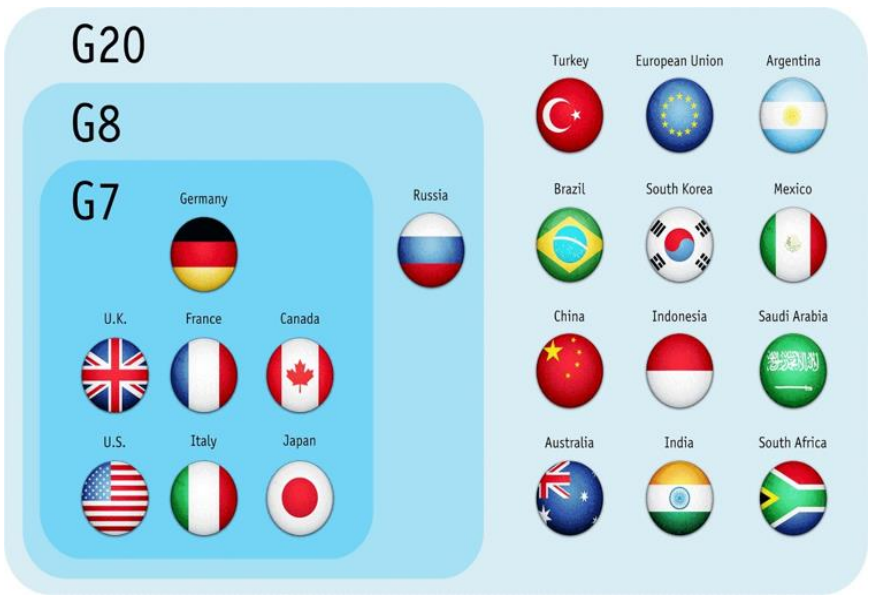
G7

❖ Context

- The PM of India has been invited to attend the G7 Summit ,scheduled to be held in Germany from June 26-27 2022**.**
- It is likely **to be attended by Presidents of US and France and Prime Ministers of Britain and Canada.**

❖ Key Highlights

- The PM is expected to **address issues like climate, energy and food security** against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine.
- The PM is also **expected to have several bilateral meetings** on the sidelines of the G7.



❖ About G7

- The G7 (Group of Seven) is an **organization of the world's seven largest so-called "advanced" economies.**
- They dominate global trade and the international financial system.
- Together the member countries represent **40% of global GDP and 10% of the world's population.**
- They are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the United States.
- **Russia joined in 1998,** creating the G8, but **was excluded in 2014** for its takeover of Crimea.
- The **EU is not a member of the G7** but attends the annual summit.
- The G7 has **no legal existence, permanent secretariat or official members.**
- It also has no binding impact on policy and all decisions and commitments made at G7 meetings need to be ratified independently by governing bodies of member states.

Glischropus Meghalayanus

❖ Context

- Recently, Scientists have **discovered a new species of bamboo-dwelling bat** in Ri Bhoi district of Meghalaya.

❖ Key Highlights

- With this new discovery, the **total number of bat species known from India stands at 131.**
- **Meghalaya,** a State with a small geographical area, **harbors the highest bat diversity in the country** with 67 species, which is about 51% of total bat species in the country.
- The **unique caves in the northeastern State** provided roosting opportunities for a large number of bats.

❖ Glischropus Meghalayanus

- The present discovery is the **first report of a thick-thumbed bat** not only from India but also from South Asia.
- The species, found near the forested patch of **Nongkhyllem Wildlife Sanctuary**, has been named Glischropus meghalayanus.

❖ Bamboo-Dwelling Bats

- Bamboo-dwelling bats are a **particular kind of bats.**
- They live in the **internodes of bamboos** with **specialized morphological characteristics.**
- It helps them to adapt to the life inside a bamboo.

❖ Other Recent Discoveries

- Another species of **disk-footed bat Eudiscopus denticulus** was discovered from the same forested patches outside the Nongkhyllem Wildlife Sanctuary.
  - It was a **new record in India.**
- In the past few years **three bamboo-dwelling bats** have been reported from the area.
- Thick-thumbed bats of the genus Glischropus are currently **composed of four recognised species** from Southeast Asia.
- The newly discovered species is **small in size** and **has a dark brown colour with sulphur yellow belly.**

Pattachitra

❖ Context

- The Odisha CM presented a Pattachitra painting depicting **the tree of life** to the Pope during his meeting in Vatican city.

❖ Origin

- The word evolves from two Sanskrit words - ***Patta*** means a piece of cloth and ***chitra*** means painting. Thus it stands for painting on a piece of cloth.
- Its origin is connected with traditions of **Jagannath temple, Puri**.
- The deities are taken for bath in the Hindu calendar month of ***Jyestha***. It is believed that deities fall sick for a period of 15 days (first fortnight of ***Ashada*** month of Hindu calendar) following the bath and thus devotees can't have *darshan* of their gods.
- So, the pattachitra paintings of deities are made as a substitute for worshipping.
- Traditionally, it is painted by painters of **Raghurajpur**, a heritage village in Puri. Artists trace their origin to the **Savar tribe.**
- **Paralakhemundi, Chikiti, Dana Sahi & Sonepur** are other centres.
- Palm leaf engraving known as **Talapatra Chitra** is a special style of Pattachitra.

❖ Preparation of Patta

- Cotton cloth, usually starch free saris, are arranged in layers on top of another, stuck together by a paste called as **niryas kalpa** which is made from tamarind seeds.
- **Kaitha**, wood apple gum is also mixed into the tamarind paste.
- When the desired thickness is achieved, cloth is sun dried to form patta.
- Nowadays, **tussar silk** is also used as canvas.

❖ Preparation of Colours

- Natural colours are used in the paintings which are locally sourced.
  - **White** - Sea-shells.
  - **Black** - Smoke of burning wick.
  - **Green** - Leaves and green stones.
  - **Red** - *Hingula*, a local stone found in Odisha.
  - **Yellow** - *Harital*, a local stone.
  - **Blue** - *Khandaneela*, a local stone.
- **Kaitha gum & bilwa fruit** are used as adhesives and are mixed with colour powders.

Insurance Plan for Surrogate Mothers

❖ Context

- The Union Health Ministry has notified surrogacy rules.

❖ Insurance Cover

- The intending couples will need to purchase a general health insurance cover in favour of a **surrogate mother.**
- The cover would be for a period of **36 months** from an insurance company or an agent recognized by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai).
- The **amount** should be sufficient to cover all expenses for all complications arising out of pregnancy and also covering postpartum delivery complications.

❖ Other Provisions

- The **number of attempts** of any surrogacy procedure on the surrogate mother shall not be more than three times.
- A surrogate mother may be allowed for **abortion** during the process of surrogacy in accordance with the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 in case of any complication as advised by the doctors.
- Every private surrogacy clinic has to file an application for **registration** with a fee of ₹2 lakh which is non-refundable.
- However, facilities under government-run institutes are **exempt** from such fees.
- Surrogacy clinics shall have at least one gynaecologist, one anaesthetist, one embryologist and one counsellor.
- The couple should be **married** for more than five years.
- Parliament passed the **Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART) Act and the Surrogacy Act** in December 2021. It came into force in January 2022.
- The act permits surrogacy only for altruistic purposes or for couples who suffer proven infertility or disease.
- It is prohibited for commercial purposes including for sale, prostitution or any other forms of exploitation.

News in Between the Lines

Surya Nutan

❖ Context

- **Indian Oil** has developed an indigenous **Solar cooktop** "Surya Nutan".

❖ Key Highlights

- It is a **stationary, rechargeable**, and always **kitchen-connected indoor** solar cooking.
- This is a patented product designed and developed by Indian Oil R&D Centre, Faridabad.

- It offers **online cooking mode** while charging through the Sun which maximises the system efficiency and ensures high utilisation of energy from the Sun.
- It works in a **hybrid mode** (i.e. can work on both solar & auxiliary energy sources simultaneously).
- Its insulation design minimises radiative and conductive heat losses.
- Its premium model (Breakfast + Lunch + Dinner) can cook all the meals for a family of four.
- Though the cost of the product ranges **Rs 12,000 - Rs. 23,000**. Assuming annual consumption of 6-8 LPG cylinders, the product can pay back the buyer in the first 1-2 years itself.
- Further, the cost is expected to reduce substantially with economies of scale.
- It can be used in **all weather and seasons** including when the Sun is not available for long durations or for continuous days, such as monsoons and extreme winters.

Air Suvidha Portal

❖ **Context**
- ➢ A revamped version of the portal has been launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation following complaints of several passengers.

❖ **New Features**
- Now, international passengers need not upload their passport copy on the portal.
- The primary travellers will now be able to enter the information for their entire families when travelling on the same flight to the same destination.

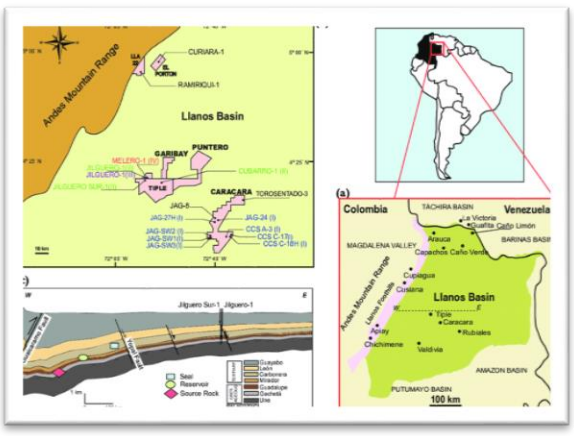
❖ **About the Portal**
- Introduced in August 2020.
- A mandatory self-reporting portal where incoming international passengers have to submit the details of their journey and their vaccination or COVID-19 testing status.
- It enables authorities to ascertain whether a person is arriving from a high risk region.

Digital Museum

❖ **Context**
- ➢ The technology innovation hub of the **Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur**, **iHub Drishti**, is developing two augmented reality **(AR) and virtual reality (VR) platforms** for the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).**

❖ **Key Highlights**
- The services will have a **game-based platform**.
- It will help users learn about historical excavation sites and monuments and generate the younger generation's interest in archaeology.
- In **April 2020**, ASI entered a **partnership with Google's arts and culture division** to offer an immersive VR experience at **five historical sites,** including Taj Mahal in Agra, Humayun's Tomb in Delhi, Maharashtra's Ajanta and Ellora caves, and Sarnath in Uttar Pradesh.

Urraca-IX



❖ **Context**
- ➢ ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) has made an oil discovery in the recently drilled well, Urraca-IX, in CPO-5 block, **Llanos Basin, Colombia**.

❖ **Key Highlights**
- OVL is the wholly owned subsidiary and overseas arm of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC).
- It has earlier discovered commercial oil in the **Lower Sand pay in Mariposa and Indico fields** in the block in 2017 and 2018 respectively, which are currently commercially producing @ 20,000 bbl oil per day.
- It has a significant presence in the oil & gas sector in Colombia, with three other exploratory blocks in the country and joint ownership of the oil producing company Mansarovar Energy Colombia Ltd (MECL).

Azooxanthellate Corals

❖ Context

- Recently, Scientists have recorded **four species of azooxanthellate coral**s for the first time from Indian waters.

❖ Key Highlights

- These new corals were found from the **waters of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.** Azooxanthellate corals are a **group of hard corals** and the four new records are not only solitary but have a **highly compressed skeletal structure.**
- There are about **570 species of hard corals found in India** and almost 90% of them are found in the waters surrounding Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- The pristine and oldest ecosystem of corals **share less than 1% of the earth's surface** but they provide a **home to nearly 25% of marine life.**

❖ About Azooxanthellate Corals

- Azooxanthellate corals are a **group of corals that do not contain zooxanthellae.** They **derive nourishment not from the sun** but from **capturing different forms of plankton.**
- These groups of corals are **deep-sea representatives.**
- The majority of species **report from between 200 m to 1000 m.**
- Their occurrences are also reported from **shallow coastal waters.**
- **Zooxanthellate corals**, meanwhile, are restricted to shallow waters.

Sao Joao

❖ Context

- As in every monsoon, Catholics in Goa will celebrate Sao Joao, the feast of St John the Baptist, on Friday.

❖ About Sao Joao

- Sao Joao festival is **immensely popular in North Goa** and is celebrated with amazing enthusiasm and gusto.
- The festival is **dedicated to St. John the Baptist**, who, according to Christian scriptures, leapt with joy at his mother, Elizabeth's womb, when she was told of the birth of Christ. This festival is marked by **young men in Goa jumping into wells** to retrieve the gifts thrown in by the villagers.
- Held at the beginning of the monsoon season in Goa, it witnesses people of all ages jumping into wells, ponds and streams.
- **Feni (a spirit produced exclusively in Goa)** overflows during the occasion.
- **Colorful boat races are organized** in Soilom, a village in North Goa's Bardez taluka. However, the festival of Sao Joao is not celebrated with the same enthusiasm over all of Goa.
- In the south, the celebrations take a somber tone, while in the North, particularly Siolim, Anjuna, Candolim, Calangute and Assagao, celebrations are accompanied by celebrations and merriment.

India's Permanent Representative to U.N.

❖ Context

- **Ruchira Kamboj,** a senior diplomat currently serving as India's Ambassador to Bhutan, has been appointed as the next **Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations** at New York. Kamboj will **replace TS Tirumurti** in the United States.

❖ Key Highlights

- Kamboj, who joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1987, was the All India women's topper of the 1987 Civil Services batch and the topper of the 1987 Foreign Service batch. Her diplomatic journey began in Paris, France.where she was posted as the 3rd Secretary in the Indian Embassy to France from 1989-91.
- During her career, she has been Permanent Representative of India to **UNESCO** in Paris, **Indian High Commissioner** in South Africa, and Chief of Protocol in New Delhi.
- She dealt with a wide range of political issues, including **UN Peacekeeping, UN Security Council Reform, the Middle East crisis** etc. From 2011-2014, she was India's **Chief of Protocol**, the first and only woman diplomat

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