

Heat Wave

❖ Context

- Recently India Meteorological Department, **IMD** has issued an orange alert for some of the Northern parts of the country over the heatwave condition.

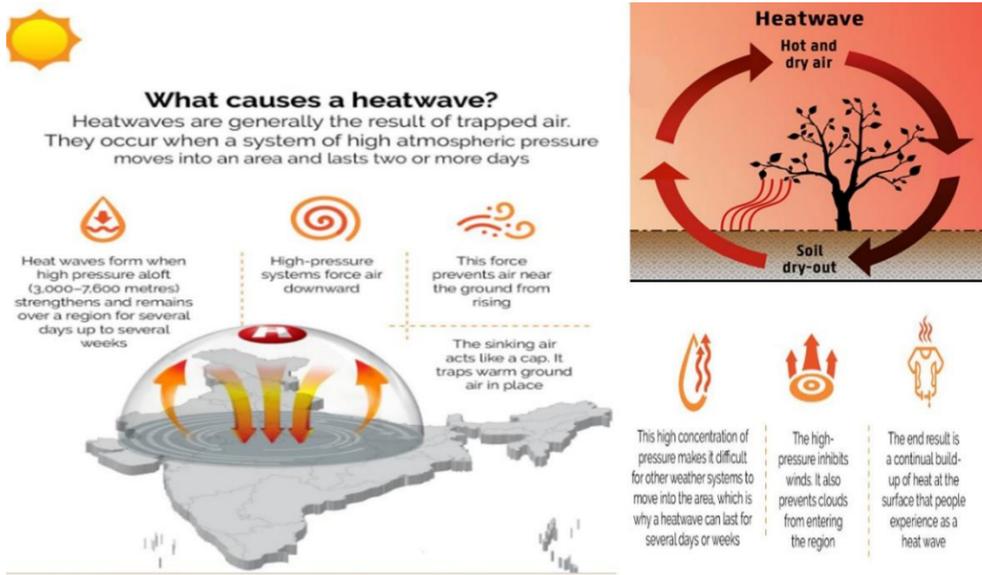
❖ Key Highlights

- North **Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Delhi** and **Bundelkhand region** will experience heatwave conditions.

❖ Color Coding

- The IMD uses four color codes for weather warnings.
 - Green means no action is needed.
 - Yellow refers to watching and staying updated.
 - Orange means be prepared.
 - Red alert means take action.

❖ About Heatwave



- Qualitatively, a heat wave is a **condition of air temperature which becomes fatal to the human body** when exposed.
- Quantitatively, it is **defined based on the temperature thresholds over a region** in terms of actual temperature or its departure from normal.

❖ Criterion for Declaring Heat Wave

- Heat wave is considered if the **maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40 degree Celsius** or more for **Plains** and at least **30 degree Celsius** or more for **Hilly regions**.
- **Criterion Based on Departure from Normal:**
 - **Heat Wave-** Departure from normal is 4.50 degree Celsius to 6.40 degree Celsius.
 - **Severe Heat Wave-** Departure from normal is > 6.40 degree Celsius.
- **Criterion Based on Actual Maximum Temperature:**
 - Heat Wave- When actual maximum temperature ≥ 45 degree Celsius.
 - Severe Heat Wave- When actual maximum temperature ≥ 47 degree Celsius.
- If the **above criteria met at least in 2 stations** in a Meteorological subdivision for at least **two consecutive days** and it declared on the second day.

TN Sculptures Recovered From Australia & US

❖ Context

- 10 sculptures retrieved from Australia and USA were handed over to the government of TN by the centre recently.

❖ Key Antiquities

- **Dvarapala:**
 - Stone sculpture retrieved from **Australia** belongs to the **Vijayanagar dynasty (15th - 16th century)**.
 - He is holding *gada* in one hand and has another leg raised upto the level of his knee.
 - Stolen from **Moondreeswaramudayar temple, Tirunelveli in 1994**.
- **Nataraja:**
 - Retrieved from **USA**.
 - stolen from **Punnainallur Arulmigu Mariyamman temple, Thanjavur in 2018**.
 - Depiction of Shiva in *tribhanga* posture, possibly portraying *ananda tandava* or *dance of bliss*.
 - Dateable to **11th - 12th century**.
- **Kankalamurti:**
 - Retrieved from the **USA**. Depicted as a fearsome aspect of Lord Shiva and Bhairava.
 - Four armed, holding *ayudhas* such as *damaru* and *trishula* in upper hands and a bowl and a trefoil shaped object in lower hands. Dateable to **12th-13th century**, stolen from **Narasinganadhar Swamy temple, Tirunelveli in 1985**.

• Nandikeshvara:

- Retrieved from the **US**.
- Bronze image of Nandikeshvara standing in *tribhanga* posture with his forearms in *namaskar mudra*. Stolen from **Narasinganadhar Swamy temple, Tirunelveli in 1985**.

• Four armed Vishnu & Goddess Parvati:

- Retrieved from the **USA**.
- Dateable to the **11th century**, belonging to the later **Chola period**.
- Stolen from **Arulmigu Varadharaja Perumal temple, Ariyalur, in 2008**.

• Standing child Sambandar:

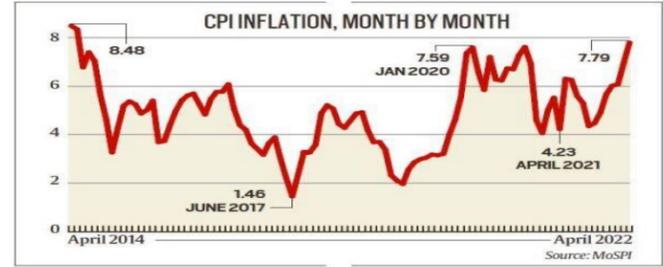
- Retrieved from **Australia**. Sambandar was a popular 7th century child saint.
- He was one of the **Muvar**, the three principal saints of South India.
- Legend goes that after receiving a bowl of milk from Goddess Uma, the infant Sambandar devoted his life to composing hymns in praise of Lord Shiva. Stolen from **Sayavaneeswarar Temple, Nagapattinam, between 1965 & 1975**.



Repo Rate Hike and its Impact

❖ Context

- Recently, the **RBI hiked the repo rate** by another 50 basis points.
- This move, and the RBI's focus on the withdrawal of its accommodative policy, both **in response to rising inflation**, are expected to lead to a **further rise in interest rates in the banking system**.



❖ Key Highlights

- The two hikes in repo rates over the last five weeks, totalling 90 bps, **takes the rate to 4.9%**.
- RBI's **concerns around inflation** have been the primary factor in raising the rates:
 - The RBI had **pumped huge liquidity into the system in 2020** to counter the impact of the pandemic.
 - While this did **support economic recovery**, it has also been the **main reason for the rise in inflation**.
- **Impacts:**
 - Both **borrowers and depositors are expected to see a hike** in lending rates and offering on deposit rates, respectively.
 - Borrowers are likely to be impacted earlier.
 - Equated monthly installments (EMIs) on home, vehicle and other **personal and corporate loans are likely to go up**.
 - Repo rate hikes are **expected to impact consumption and demand** in the economy.

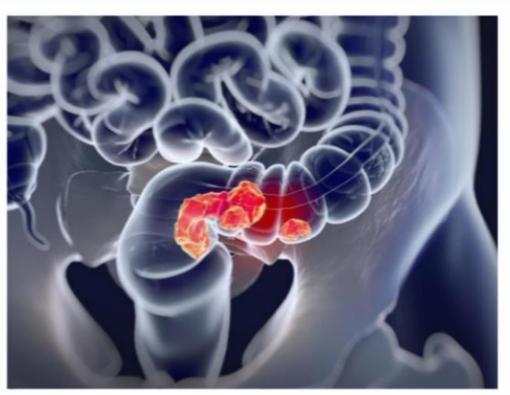
❖ About Repo Rate

- Repo rate is the rate of **interest at which commercial banks borrow money from the central bank** i.e. Reserve bank of India (RBI).

- **In the case of inflation, RBI increases the repo rate**, and in the case of deflation decreases it.
- **RBI increases the repo rate to remove the excess supply of the money** out of the market.
- **Reverse Repo Rate:** Reverse repo rate is the rate of interest at which commercial banks keep their deposit with the central bank.
- ❖ **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)**
 - Under Section 45ZB of the amended **RBI Act, 1934**, the central government is empowered to constitute a six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).
 - The **first such MPC was constituted on September 29, 2016**.
 - **Functions:**
 - It **determines the policy interest rate** required to achieve the inflation target.
 - **Decisions are taken by majority** with the Governor having the casting vote in case of a tie.
 - The decision of the Monetary Policy Committee shall be **binding on the Bank**.
 - **Composition: Six members (including the Chairman)-**
 - RBI Governor As Its Exofficio Chairperson.
 - The Deputy Governor Incharge Of Monetary Policy.
 - An officer of the Bank to be nominated by the Central Board. Three Persons to be appointed by the central government.

News in Between the Lines

Rectal Cancer Treated For The First Time With Drug



❖ Context

- For the first time in history, a small clinical trial has found that the rectal cancer of every single patient who had received the drug had vanished.

❖ Key Highlights of the Index

- The study was published in the **New England Journal of Medicine**.
- **18 patients** took a drug called **Dostarlimab** for around **six months**.
- These rectal cancer patients had faced grueling treatments - chemotherapy, radiation and, most likely, life-altering surgery that could result in bowel, urinary and sexual dysfunction.
- According to experts, Dostarlimab is a drug with laboratory-produced molecules and it acts as substitute antibodies in the human body. It **unmasks cancer cells, allowing the immune system to identify and destroy them**.
- On average, one in five patients have some sort of adverse reaction, such as muscle weakness and difficulty swallowing and chewing, to drugs like dostarlimab, known as checkpoint inhibitors.
- But, **none of the patients had clinically significant complications**.

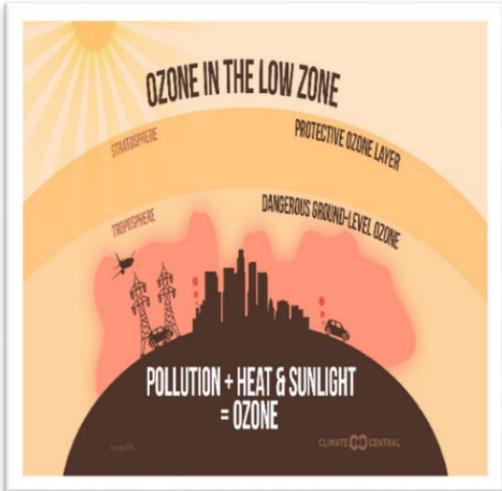
Ozone Pollution

❖ Context

- Over the past week, the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** has identified ozone as a prominent pollutant in Delhi.

Face to Face Centres





❖ Key Highlights

- Data from the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) for May 2022 indicates that ozone levels were well above **National Ambient Air Quality Standards** - the **8-hour standard of 100 µg/m³** and **hourly standard of 180 µg/m³**.
- A recent analysis by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) noted that **spatial spread of ozone in Delhi-NCR began in March this year with early heatwaves.**
- At some places, the concentration has been recorded at more than 300 µg/m³.

❖ About Ozone as Pollutant

- Ozone is a **secondary pollutant**. It forms due to **atmospheric reaction among nitrogen oxides and VOCs (volatile organic compounds) in the presence of UV rays.**
- Nitrogen oxides are emitted from vehicles. VOCs are present in the atmosphere because of unburnt hydrocarbons. The VOCs energise nitrogen oxides in the presence of sunlight to convert into ozone. Sunlight and high temperatures in summer contribute to an increase in ozone formation.
- Controlling vehicular pollution could be key to reducing the surge in ozone level.
- Even though the emission sources that contribute to ground-level ozone are typically found in urban areas, strong winds can also move it into rural areas, causing them to have high amounts of ground-level ozone.
- People with respiratory conditions such as asthma, or those who are active outside on days when ozone amounts are high can feel shortness of breath, wheezing, and coughing.

Right Of Prisoners To Vote



❖ Context

- The **Enforcement Directorate** has opposed the plea of two MLAs of Maharashtra, currently in judicial custody to vote in Rajya Sabha polls.

❖ Key Highlights

- The agency has argued that **prisoners do not have voting rights under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.**
- The right to vote is a statutory right created under Section 62 of the Act and is subject to the restrictions prescribed in the Act.
- The **Supreme Court** in its **1997 judgement** held that the effect of **sub-section (5) of section 62** of the act is that any person who is confined in prison while serving a sentence of imprisonment on his conviction for any offence or is under lawful confinement in a prison or in a police custody for any reason is not entitled to vote in an election. But this restriction **does not apply to a person subjected to any kind of preventive detention.**

Carbon Bombs



❖ Context

- A group of environmentalists, lawyers, and activists have come together to identify and 'defuse carbon bombs'- coal, oil and gas projects that have the potential to contribute significantly to global warming.

❖ What is Carbon Bomb?

- It is an **oil or gas project** that will result in **at least a billion tonnes of CO₂ emissions over its lifetime.**
- The term has been defined in a report published by a prominent newspaper. In total, **around 195 such projects** have been identified **world over, including in the US, Russia, West Asia, Australia and India.**
- More than **60%** of these carbon bomb projects **are already underway**, according to the investigation.

❖ Plan for 'Defusing' Bombs

- The network working towards this goal is called **Leave It In the Ground Initiative (LINGO).**
- Its mission is to "leave fossil fuels in the ground and learn to live without them."
- It believes the root of climate change is the burning of fossil fuels, and the 100% use of renewable energy sources is the solution.

Face to Face Centres



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On its website, it has listed carbon bomb projects from all over the world. This includes the Carmichael Coal Project owned by the Adani Group, Gevra Coal Mines in Chhattisgarh owned by Coal India, and Rajmahal Coal Mines in eastern Jharkhand owned by Eastern Coalfields. LINGO aims to organise ground support for protesting such projects, challenge them through litigation, and conduct analysis and studies for the same.
<p>Jan Samarth Portal</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recently, Prime Minister launched a “National portal for credit-linked government schemes” called Jan Samarth Portal. ❖ Key Highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portal was launched during the ‘Iconic Week Celebrations’ of the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Corporate Affairs at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. ❖ Jan Samarthan Portal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About: It is a one-stop digital portal linking government credit schemes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is a first-of-its-kind platform that will directly connect the beneficiaries to the lenders. ▪ It will link 13 Credit Linked Government schemes on a single platform. • Objective: To encourage the inclusive growth and the development of various sectors by guiding and providing them with the right type of government benefits through simple and easy digital processes. • Digital Exhibition: The PM also inaugurated a Digital Exhibition which traces the journey of two ministries (Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Corporate Affairs) over the past eight years.
<p>Chief of Defense Staff CDS Eligibility</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recently, the Ministry of Defense has issued three separate notifications amending the rules of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force for the appointment of the next Chief of Defense Staff CDS. ❖ Key Highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CDS post has been lying vacant since the passing away of General Bipin Rawat who lost his life in a chopper crash in Tamil Nadu in December 2021. ❖ Eligibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serving Three-star officers Lieutenant General in Army, Air Marshal in Air Force and Vice-Admiral in Navy or retired Service Chiefs or three-star officers can be appointed Chief of Defense Staff if considered necessary in the public interest. The Officers should not have attained the age of 62 years. • The central government has reserved the right to extend the tenure of the CDS to a maximum of 65 years.
<p>Ream Naval Base</p>  <p>Daily Current Affairs Daily Pre PARE Daily MCQ Quiz</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recently, Chinese and Cambodian officials attended a ceremony for controversial Ream Naval Base expansion. ➤ China will help Cambodia expand and upgrade this naval base in the Southeast Asian country. ❖ Key Highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has prompted global concern that it will be used by Beijing as a naval outpost on the Gulf of Thailand. Reportedly, this new facility was being built for the “exclusive” use of the Chinese navy. ❖ Ream Naval Base <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ream Naval Base is a facility operated by the Royal Cambodian Navy on the coast of the Gulf of Thailand in the province of Sihanoukville, Cambodia. • It is located on a peninsula just southeast of the provincial capital, Krong Preah Sihanouk. • Significance: China has only one other foreign naval base, in the east African country of Djibouti, and a presence in Cambodia would mark a significant expansion of its military influence in the Indo-Pacific.