

## Taiwan and One China Policy

### ❖ Context

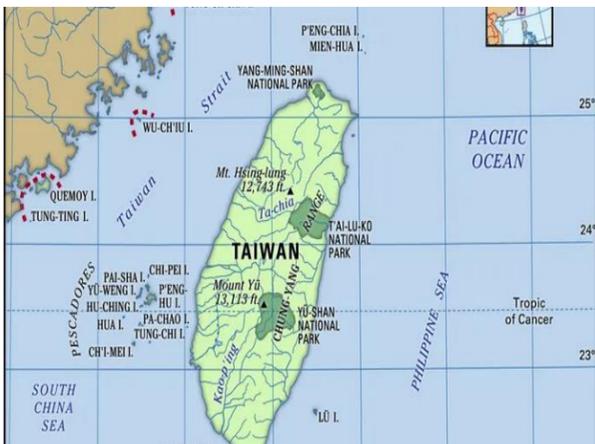
- The Speaker of the US House became the highest-ranking elected U.S. official to visit Taiwan since 1997. China views the presence as provocative, and the U.S.-China tensions have escalated as a result of the visit.

### ❖ About Taiwan



- It is an island of **23 MN** people separated from China by the **Taiwan strait (Formosa strait)** 80 miles off the Chinese mainland.

- **Bashi channel** separates Taiwan from the Philippines to the south.
- The **Tropic of Cancer** passes through the island.



- It is bounded by the Philippines sea and Pacific Ocean to the east.
- It is officially known as Republic of China (ROC).
- It is a **self governing democracy**.

### • Brief Political History of Taiwan

- Mid-17th century - A colony of the **Netherlands** for 40 years.
- **China** gained control in the late 17th century and ruled Taiwan for 200 years.
- **Japan** acquired it in 1895 following the first Sino-Japanese war and made it a colony.

- It was returned to Nationalist Chinese control in **1945** following Japan's defeat in World War II.
- In **1949** Chinese communist armies defeated Nationalist forces on the mainland and established the People's Republic of China there.
- The Nationalist government and armies fled to Taiwan, again resulting in the separation of Taiwan from China. This has resulted in Taiwan's **ambiguous political status** ever since.
- In **Oct 1971**, it was expelled from the membership of the UN.

### ❖ One China Policy

- China (People's Republic of China, PRC) holds that **Taiwan is an inseparable and inalienable part of China**.
- It refuses diplomatic relations with any country that recognizes the ROC.
- In **1979**, the USA recognised the PRC. The USA acknowledges One China policy but does not endorse the Chinese position that Taiwan is part of China.
- **India does not have formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan yet.**
- India has an office in Taipei, Taiwan's capital, for diplomatic functions - **India-Taipei Association (ITA)**.
- Taiwan has the **Taipei Economic & Cultural Centre** in New Delhi. Both were established in **1995**.

## Linking Textile With Tourism

### ❖ Context

- 8 Craft Villages to Join 'Linking Textile with Tourism' Initiative.



### ❖ Key Highlights

- Craft Village will promote handicrafts as a viable and remunerative livelihood option for artisans in the clusters, thereby safeguarding the country's rich artisanal heritage.
- Approximately 1000 artisans will benefit directly from this programme across the country.
- Under the "Linking Textile with Tourism" initiative, major tourist destinations are being linked with handicraft clusters, and infrastructure supports combined with soft interventions are being proposed.
- This programme has also increased tourist traffic across these Craft Villages
- The craft villages are located at Raghurajpur (Odisha), Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Vadaj (Gujarat), Naini (Uttar Pradesh), Anegundi (Karnataka), Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu), Taj Ganj (Uttar Pradesh), Amer (Rajasthan).

### ❖ About Craft Villages

- Crafts are an important part of Indian culture.
- The concept of a crafts village emerged to serve the purpose of gathering most of the craft specimens and craftsmen under one roof.
- At a craft village, you can get up close and personal with the artisans as they create their wares right in front of your eyes.
- The infrastructure and atmosphere of a crafts village are also designed in the style of a village to give visitors a sense of rural life in India.
- Crafts village also functions as a market, as you can purchase artefacts at lower prices than in the general market.
- As a result, these craft huts serve multiple functions from a single platform.

## Face to Face Centres



**Agriculture Weather Forecasting Services**

**Context**

India Meteorological Department (IMD) runs an operational Agrometeorological Advisory Services (AAS) viz., Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS) scheme for the benefit of farming community in the country.

**Key Highlights**

Under the scheme, medium range weather forecasts at district and block level is generated.



SMS-based alerts & warnings for extreme weather events along with suitable remedial measures are issued to take timely operations by the farmers.

- Such alerts and warnings are also shared with State Department of Agriculture for the effective management of calamity.
- Farmers access the weather information including alerts & related agrometeorological advisories specific to their districts through the mobile App viz., 'Meghdoot'.
- IMD is also taking continuous efforts to popularize the services among the farming community by organising **Farmers' Awareness Programmes (FAPs)**.

**India-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting**

**Context**

Indian External Affairs Minister recently reached Cambodia for the India-ASEAN Ministerial meeting.

**ASEAN Ministerial Meeting(AMM)**

The AMM, established by the **Bangkok Declaration** in 1967, is responsible for ASEAN's political-security cooperation as well as ASEAN's relations with external parties in ASEAN.

ASEAN Member Countries



The AMM meets at least **four times** a year and may convene special meetings as and when necessary to discuss issues that require immediate attention of ASEAN.

- The AMM regularly reviews and discusses ASEAN Community-building efforts, its strategic future directions, as well as the conduct of ASEAN's external relations.
- The motto of ASEAN(Association of southeast Asian Nations) is **"One Vision, One Identity, One Community"**.
- ASEAN Secretariat:** Indonesia, Jakarta.
- Member Nations:** Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia

**Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar**

**Context**

The "Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar/Clean Coast Safe Sea "campaign is a 75-day citizen-led campaign for improving ocean health through collective action.



**Key Highlights**

- The three underlying goals of the campaign are to :
  - Consume Responsibly
  - Segregate waste at home and
  - Dispose Responsibly.
- The campaign will culminate with the largest beach cleaning event on Sept 17, 2022 (International Coastal Cleanup Day) covering 75 beaches across India's 7500+km coastline.

- It is the first-of-its-kind and longest running coastal cleanup campaign in the world with highest number of people participating in it.
- Through this campaign, a mass behavioural change among the masses is intended by raising awareness about how plastic usage is destroying our marine life.
- A mobile app **"Eco Mitram"** has been launched to spread awareness about the campaign.

**News in Between the Lines**

**Pitch Black**

**Context**

The Indian Air Force (IAF) will join 16 other nations of the Indo-Pacific region, including Quad partners, later this month for Exercise Pitch Black.

**Key Highlights**

- It is the biennial exercise hosted by the **Australian Air Force**.



**Face to Face Centres**



## Financial Inclusion Index



### ❖ Context

- India's financial inclusion index (FI-Index) for the year ended March 31, 2022 **improved** to 56.4 from 53.9 in the previous year.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The **RBI** developed the index to capture the extent of financial inclusion across the country by including details of banking, investments, insurance, postal as well as the pension sector.
- There are three broad parameters with certain assigned weights - **access (35 %), usage (45 %) and quality (20 %)** comprising 97 indicators.
- The value of 0 represents complete financial exclusion and 100 indicates full financial inclusion.
- The index **doesn't have a base year** and reflects cumulative efforts of all stakeholders over the years towards financial inclusion.
- The index is **published every July**. It was first released by the RBI in Aug-2021.
- The concept of **financial inclusion was first introduced in India in 2005 by the RBI**.

## T.Maxima



### ❖ Context

- Researchers at the **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP), Dehradun**, have identified a fungus capable of removing polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) from the environment.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- A white-rot fungus, **Trametesmaxima IIPLC-32**, has the potential to cause microbial degradation of pyrene.
- The PAHs are ubiquitous, toxic environmental pollutants originating from multiple sources, including combustion of petrogenic fossil fuels, and incomplete incineration of municipal wastes and biomass.
- **Pyrene, possessing four benzene rings**, belongs to the highly toxic class of PAHs, with carcinogenic and mutagenic properties.

## Hellfire R9X Missile



### ❖ Context

- The missile was recently used by the USA to kill the chief of an international terrorist organisation.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The weapon was **launched from a drone**. The missile is 5 feet long and weighs 45 kg.
- It is also known as **AGM-114 R9X or Ninja missile or Flying ginsu**. It is a **variant of Hellfire missiles** which is actually an acronym for Heliborne, Laser, Fire and Forget Missile.
- It was **developed after 2011** born out of emphasis on avoiding civilian deaths during US airstrikes.
- It is known to cause minimum collateral damage while engaging individual targets. This weapon **does not carry a warhead**.
- It deploys **razor sharp blades** at the terminal stage of its attack trajectory.
- This helps it to break through even thick steel sheets and cut down the targets using the kinetic energy of its propulsion without causing any damage to the persons in the general vicinity or to the structure of the building.

## Negative Leap Seconds



### ❖ Context

- Earth has recorded its shortest day since scientists began using atomic clocks to measure its rotational speed. On June 29, 2022, Earth completed one spin in 1.59 milliseconds less than 24 hours.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- A negative leap second is a second that is subtracted from our clocks to keep them in sync with the Earth's rotation.

## Face to Face Centres



It is the opposite of a positive leap second, which is a one-second addition to our clocks.

The system of leap seconds was introduced in the early 1970s. So far, there have been **27 positive leap seconds**.

## Deep Sea Biodiversity



### Context

The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), is establishing an Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion plant with a capacity of 65kW in **Kavaratti Lakshadweep**.

### Key Highlights

**DEEP OCEAN MISSION**

Six Components

1. Development of Technologies for Deep Sea Mining, Underwater Vehicles and Underwater Robotics
2. Technological innovations for exploration and conservation of Deep Sea biodiversity.
3. Deep Ocean Survey and Exploration
4. Advanced Marine station for Ocean Biology
5. Energy and Freshwater from Ocean
6. Development of Ocean Climate Change Advisory Services.

Total Budget Outlay: Rs 4077 Crore for 5 years, 2021-26

Our oceans are a storehouse of living and non-living resources.

There was a need to initiate Mission Mode program on Deep Ocean. 99% of Deep Ocean is unexplored.

Exploration of deep oceans can bring the country prosperity and will significantly contribute to Blue Economy initiatives which the government has taken up now.

Ministry of Earth Sciences will lead this ambitious mission with the support from other ministries and Indian industries.

Indigenous Development of Manned Submersible and Deep Sea Mining System for Deep Sea Exploration

Exploration of Deep Sea Minerals Polymetallic Nodules, Estimated Economic Benefits: 110 Billion US Dollars

- This plant will power the **Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD)** based desalination plant for conversion of Sea water into Potable water.
- The capacity of this LTTD plant is 1 lakh litre of potable water per day.

## Official Visit of President of Maldives to India



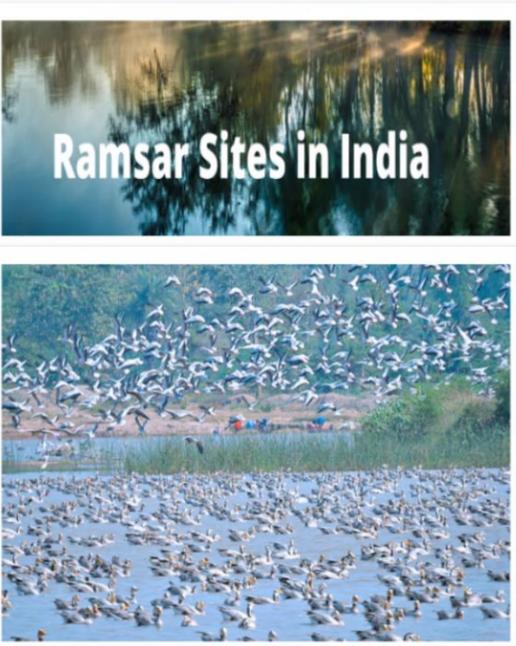
### Context

Recently The President of the Republic of Maldives, was on an Official Visit to India.

### Key Highlights

- India-Maldives Trade Relationship:** For the first time in 2021, India-Maldives bilateral trade crossed the \$ 300 mn mark, reaching an impressive \$ 323.29 mn.
- Apart from trade ties, India remains the largest tourist source market for the Maldives.
- In 2022, India with 132,151 (till 20 July'22) tourist arrivals ranks 1st as the tourist market with 14.7% market share.
- Significance:** The visit has provided an opportunity to review the progress made in wide ranging partnership and lend further momentum to it.

## 10 More Wetlands Designated as Ramsar Sites



### Context

India adds **10** more wetlands designated as Ramsar sites to make total **64** sites covering an area of **12,50,361 ha** in the country.

### Key Highlights

- The **10 new sites** include: **Six (6) sites in Tamil Nadu** and **One (1) each in Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha**.

| NEED FOR CONSERVATION   | PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES WITHIN WETLANDS  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>WHAT IS WETLAND</b></p> <p>Land area covered by water, either temporarily/seasonally or permanently (marsh, fen and peatland come under this category)</p> <p>It has characteristics of a distinct ecosystem</p>  | <p>Any kind of encroachment</p> <p>setting up of any industry</p> <p>Expansion of existing industries</p> <p>Solid waste dumping</p> <p>Discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements</p> <p>Poaching</p> <p>Any construction of a permanent nature except for boat jetties within 50 metres from the mean high flood level observed in the past 10 years</p> |
| <p><b>WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT</b></p> <p>Play a key role in hydrological cycle and flood control, water supply, providing food, fibre and raw materials</p> <p>Wetlands support lakhs of migratory birds from colder regions of the world in summers, apart from mangroves that protect coastlines and filter pollutants</p> |  |
| <p><b>WETLANDS IN NUMBERS</b></p> <p>Isro had in 2011 prepared a national wetlands atlas on the basis of satellite images</p> <p>They comprise around <b>2,01,503</b> wetlands</p> <p>4.63% of the geographic area of India</p> <p>No. of wetland sites in India under Ramsar Convention <b>64</b></p>                      |  |
| <p><b>INDIA'S PROMINENT WETLANDS</b></p> <p>Chilika lake areas (Odisha)   Wular lake (J&amp;K)   Renuka (Himachal Pradesh)   Sambhar lake (Rajasthan)   Deepor Beel (Assam)   East Kolkata wetlands (West Bengal)   Nal Sarovar (Gujarat)   Harike (Punjab)   Rudra Sagar (Tripura) and Bhoj wetland (Madhya Pradesh)</p>   |  |

| 10 wetlands designated as Ramsar sites   |   |             |                |
|--|---|-------------|----------------|
| S.No   | Name of wetland                         | Area in Ha  | State          |
| 1.   | Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary            | 72.04       | Tamil Nadu     |
| 2.   | Satkosia Gorge                          | 98196.72    | Odisha         |
| 3.   | Nanda Lake                              | 42.01       | Goa            |
| 4.   | Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve | 52671.88    | Tamil Nadu     |
| 5.   | Ranganathituu BS                        | 517.70      | Karnataka      |
| 6.   | Vembannur Wetland Complex               | 19.75       | Tamil Nadu     |
| 7.   | Vellode Bird Sanctuary                  | 77.19       | Tamil Nadu     |
| 8.   | Sirpur wetland                          | 161         | Madhya Pradesh |
| 9.   | Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary             | 40.35       | Tamil Nadu     |
| 10.  | Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary     | 43.77       | Tamil Nadu     |
| Total area of 10 wetlands  |   | 1,51,842.41 |                |
| TOTAL area of 64 Ramsar Sites in India (After designation of 10 more sites as above) |   | 12,50,361   |                |

- Designation of these sites would help in conservation and management of wetlands and wise use of their resources.
- India is one of the Contracting Parties to Ramsar Convention, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971.
- India signed it on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 1982.