

Raja Ravi Varma

❖ Context

- The erstwhile royal family of Kilimanoor has urged the Union government to posthumously confer the Bharat Ratna, on the legendary artist.



❖ About Raja Ravi Varma

- He is often referred to as the **father of modern Indian art**. He combined **European realism** with Indian sensibilities.
- He was born in April 1848 in **Kilimanoor, Kerala**, to a family which was very close to the royals of Travancore.
- Patronised by the then ruler of Travancore, he learnt watercolour painting from the royal painter **Ramaswamy Naidu**, and later trained in oil painting from **Dutch artist Theodore Jensen**.
- While he travelled to find his subjects, painting the **Indian royals and aristocrats**, his inspiration came from **varied sources** - from Indian literature to dance drama.

- Some of his popular works include **'Lady in the Moonlight', 'Nair Lady Adorning Her Hair', 'Malabar Lady with Violin', 'Lady with Swarbat', and 'Maharashtrian Lady with Fruits'**.
- He is often credited with defining the **images of Indian gods and goddesses** through his relatable and more **realistic portrayals** often painted with humans as models.
- He took his art to the masses with his prints and oleographs. he opened a **Lithographic Press in Bombay in 1894** for the purpose.
- The first picture printed at Varma's press was reportedly **The Birth of Shakuntala**.
- In 1901, Ravi Varma sold the printing press to a German lithographer, **Fritz Schleicher**.
- Believed to have made more than 7,000 paintings he died at the age of 58 in **1906**.

Gold Coins as Legal Tender in Zimbabwe

❖ Context

- Zimbabwe's central bank has launched 2000 gold coins, called **Mosi-oa-Tunya**, to be sold to the public to tame **runaway inflation** and restore public's confidence in the Zimbabwe dollar.



❖ Key Highlights

- The price of the coins will be determined by the international market rate for an ounce of gold, plus 5 % for the cost of producing the coin.
- Zimbabwe has substantial **gold deposits** and exports of the precious metal is one of the country's major foreign currency earners.
- Trust in Zimbabwe's currency is low after people saw their savings wiped out by **hyperinflation in 2008** which reached 5 billion, according to the IMF.
- Faith in Zimbabwe's currency is already so low that many retailers don't accept it.
- Many Zimbabweans today prefer to scramble on the illegal market for scarce US dollars to keep at home as savings.
- The common man is not going to get directly benefited with the move.
- It is expected that there will be moderation in terms of the depreciation of the local currency, which would stabilise pricing of goods and thus indirectly benefit people.

❖ What is Runaway Inflation or Hyperinflation ?

- Hyperinflation is a term to describe **rapid, excessive, and out-of-control general price increases** in an economy, typically measuring **more than 50% per month**. While hyperinflations are typically rare, once they begin, they can **spiral out of control**.

- American economics professor **Phillip Cagan** first studied the economic concept in his book, "The Monetary Dynamics of Hyperinflation."

❖ Why does it Occur ?

- Hyperinflation has occurred in times of severe **economic turmoil and depression**.
- The response to a depression is usually an **increase in the money supply** by the central bank.
- The extra money is designed to encourage banks to lend to consumers and businesses to create **spending and investment**.
- However, if the increase in money supply is not supported by **economic growth**, the result can lead to hyperinflation.

❖ Consequences

- People may **hoard goods**, including perishables such as food, because of rising prices, which, in turn, can create food supply shortages.
- **Cash, or savings** deposited in banks, decreases in value or becomes **worthless**.
- Consumers' financial situation deteriorates and can lead to **bankruptcy**.
- Also, people might not deposit their money in financial institutions, leading **banks and lenders to go out of business**. Tax revenues may also fall if consumers and businesses can't pay, which could result in **governments failing to provide basic services**.

India Data Management Office

❖ Context

- The draft **National Data Governance Framework** proposes setting up of India Data Management Office (IDMO).

Face to Face Centres



❖ Key Highlights

- It will act as a **regulator of non-personal data**.
- It will be in charge of designing and managing the **platform** that will process requests and provide access to non-personal datasets for Indian researchers and startups.
- It will encourage **innovation** and ensure **national security**.
- Once established, the government will share non-personal data, in its possession, with the office and request private companies to do the same.
- In case they refuse, the government can get into **defining ownership** of such data, and how private companies can claim exclusive ownership over it.

❖ Background

- Non-personal data is any dataset that does not contain personally identifiable information.
- It generally includes **aggregated information derived after processing personal data** and collected by the government and private companies.
- Private companies earn profits by monetising them as the data is used to train algorithms.
- The idea of harnessing economic benefits from aggregated non-personal data was proposed by the MEITY appointed **committee headed by Kris Gopalakrishnan**.

ZSI Study on Snow Leopard

❖ Context

- A recent study by the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** on **snow leopard (Panthera uncia)** has thrown up interesting insights on the elusive mountain cat and its prey species.



❖ Key Highlights

- The study highlights a strong link between habitat use by Snow Leopard and its prey species like **blue sheep and Siberian ibex**.
- According to the study, the chances of detecting a snow leopard was high if that site was used by its prey species.

BASIC FACTS

- STATUS: Vulnerable
- POPULATION: 3,920-6,390 worldwide
- SCIENTIFIC NAME: Panthera uncia
- RANGE: Spread over 2 mn. sq km
- HABITATS: Cold high mountains
- LIFE EXPECTANCY: 20+yr (in captivity); 10-12 yrs (in wild)
- PREY: Blue sheep, Asiatic ibex, argali

PHYSICAL FEATURES

HEIGHT	LENGTH	TAIL
55-65cm	90-115cm	80-100cm

FOUND IN 12 COUNTRIES

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, China, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Russia

CONSERVATION OF SNOW LEOPARD

At a meeting of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program in Delhi, India calls for doubling the population of snow leopards in next 10 years

- **Location:** Snow leopards have a vast but fragmented distribution across the mountainous landscape of central Asia, which covers different parts of the Himalayas such as **Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Sikkim**.

- **Key Concern:** This charismatic species is largely threatened because of the loss of natural prey species, retaliatory killing due to conflict with humans and illegal trade of its **fur and bones**.
- **Significance of snow leopards:** It regulates the populations of herbivores such as the blue sheep and Siberian ibex, thereby safeguarding the health of grasslands and a long-term absence of snow leopards could cause **trophic cascades** as ungulate populations would likely increase, leading to **depletion of vegetation cover**.
- **Significance of the study:** Maintenance of areas having potential habitat for top predators in and outside the protected areas can serve as a useful tool for conservation and management planning.
- The knowledge about the relationships among the species will be useful for developing better conservation and management strategies for the long-term viability of snow leopard and its prey species in the landscape of **Spiti Valley**.
- **IUCN Status:** Vulnerable

The World Bank

❖ Context

- Recently World Bank has appointed Indian national **Indermit Gill** as its Chief Economist and Senior Vice President for Development Economics.



THE WORLD BANK
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❖ About World Bank

- **The World Bank** is an international financial institution that provides loans and grants to the governments of low- and middle-income countries for the purpose of pursuing capital projects.
- It was established along with the International Monetary Fund at the **1944 Bretton Woods Conference**.
- The World Bank has created new organizations within itself that specialize in different activities. They are :
 - **IBRD** lends to low- and middle-income countries.

- **International Development Association (IDA)** lends to low-income countries.
- **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** lends to the private sector.
- **Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)** encourages private companies to invest in foreign countries.
- **International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)** helps private investors and foreign countries work out differences when they don't agree.

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India 5G Auction

❖ Context

➤ The auction of 5G spectrum has commenced on 26th July 2022.

❖ Key Highlights

• The spectrum will be assigned to the successful bidders for providing 5G services to public and enterprises.

India will be an early adopter of 5G



• A total of over **72 thousand Mega Hertz** of spectrum with a validity period of 20 years is being put to auction.

• The auction is being held for spectrum in various **Low** (600 MHz, 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz), **Medium** (3300 MHz) and **High** (26 GHz) frequency bands.

• **Significance:** The upcoming 5G services have the potential to create:

- New age businesses,
- Generate additional revenue for enterprises,

▪ Provide employment arising from the deployment of innovative use-cases and technologies.

5G will play a crucial role in Future Digital & Connected India

5G enables these use cases based on its superiority	High Speed	Low Latency	Connection Density	Reliability	Energy Savings
SMART AGRICULTURE			✓	✓	✓
SMART MANUFACTURING	✓	✓	✓	✓	
SMART CARE, TELEHEALTH	✓	✓		✓	
SMART ENERGY & UTILITIES			✓	✓	✓
SMART CITY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SMART EDUCATION	✓	✓		✓	

▪ **Higher Speed:** The spectrum will be utilised by Telecom Service Providers to roll-out of 5G technology-based services capable of providing speed and capacities which would be about **10 times higher** than the current 4G services.

▪ **Enhance digital connectivity:** Digital connectivity has been an important part of policy initiatives of government through its flagship programmes such as Digital India, Start-up India and Make in India.

News in Between the Lines

Virunga National Park



❖ Context

➤ **Congo** is auctioning oil and gas blocks in the Congo basin covering tropical rainforest and peatlands. The land that is going to be auctioned extends to the Virunga national park.

❖ Key Highlights

- The park is a **UNESCO world heritage site** and the **world's most important gorilla sanctuary**.
- It is located in the **Albertine Rift Valley** in the eastern part of the country. Two active volcanoes, **Mount Nyiragongo & Nyamuragira**, are located in the park.
- It has been listed in the UNESCO's **List of World Heritage in Danger** since 1994 because of civil unrest and the increase of human presence in the region.

NDDB MRIDA Ltd.



❖ Context

➤ Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying launched NDDB MRIDA Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary company of **National Dairy Development Board**.

❖ Key Highlights

- It has been established as an **unlisted Public Limited Company** that will work in manure management initiatives across the country.
- Besides promoting usage of **dung-based manure**, it will also open avenues of additional **income to dairy farmers** from sale of slurry/dung.
- The manure management initiatives have potential to generate biogas equivalent to 50 % of India's present LPG consumption and to produce bio slurry equivalent to 44 % of India's NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus and potash) requirement.

Agumbe



❖ Context

➤ The place has been in the news as a famous tourist destination.

❖ Key Highlights

- It is a village located in **Shivamogga district** of Karnataka.
- As part of the Western Ghats mountain range, it lies in a **UNESCO World Heritage site**. It is known as the '**Cherrapunji of the South**' owing to the high rainfall it receives.
- **King Cobra** is the village's flagship species.

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Lumpy Skin Disease



❖ Context

- Over 40,000 cattle got infected with Lumpy Skin Disease in 15 districts of Gujarat.

❖ Key Highlights

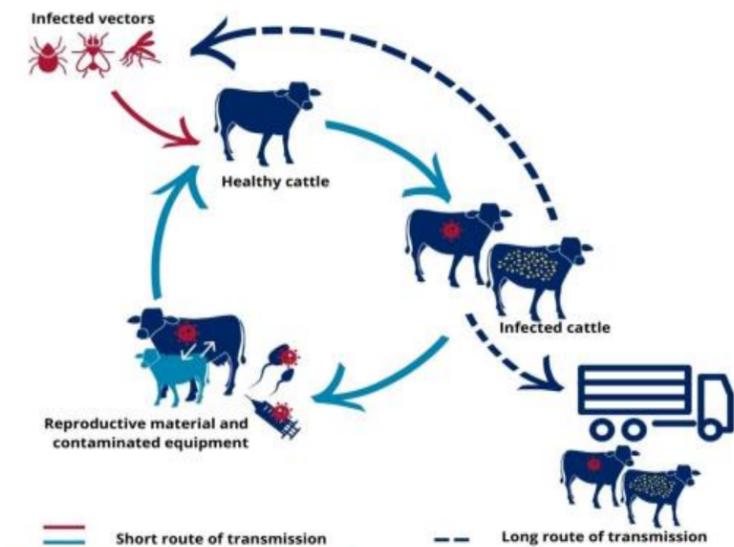


Figure 1. Viral pathway of lumpy skin disease

- The skin infection, causes fever, formation of lumps on the skin of the animal, reduced milk production and even death in extreme cases.
- LSD is a dreaded disease caused by **Capripox virus**, which is closely related to the **goat pox virus**.
- LSD is believed to be spread by **blood feeding insects** such as mosquito, bees/flies etc.
- There is currently **no treatment** and, hence, prevention by vaccination of the cattle is the only effective , .means to control the spread.

Family Doctor Concept



❖ Context

- **Padmanabham mandal** in Visakhapatnam district was selected by Andhra Pradesh government to implement the family doctor concept on a pilot basis.

❖ Key Highlights

- The Primary Health Centre (PHC) will be made available for the people in Ward and Village Sachivalayam.
- Before the day of the doctor's programme in the ward Sachivalayam limits, the ANMs, ASHA workers and **Mid-Level Health Providers (MLHPs)** will conduct door-to-door visit, identify people who need doctor's service and submit the list to the doctor.
- The doctor would deliver out-patient services for the ward residents from 9 a.m. to 12 .30 p.m.
- There will be a lunch break from 12.30 p.m. to 1.30 p.m.
- Again from 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., the same doctor would visit the houses of those patients, who are severely sick, need of **antenatal and postnatal** care in the ward.
- **Significance:** It will improve health services, especially among the rural population.

CRPF Raising Day



❖ Context

- Every year, July 27 is commemorated as **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** foundation day as India's largest central armed police force came into existence on this day in 1939.

❖ About CRPF

- CRPF officially works under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- It essentially function for all states and union territories alike.
- The forces job is to :
 - **maintain law** and order in the subcontinent
 - combat against insurgencies,
 - act as rescue forces whenever required, etc.
- These forces were there since the imperial rule of the Britishers and were known as **Crown Representative's Police**.
- Soon after India's independence from the shackle of the colonial raj, it got its name, Central Reserve Police Force with the enactment of the **CRPF Act on 28th December in 1949**.
- One of the foremost central police forces in India CRPF is amongst the most gallant security forces we have seen.

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