

National Youth Day

❖ Context

- National Youth Day, also known as **Yuva Diwas**, is celebrated on **12 January** every year in India.

❖ Key Highlights

- The day marks the **birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda**, one of the most popular **philosophers and thinkers** of India, and is celebrated as the Yuva Diwas to recognise his contributions to Indian society.
- In **1999**, the **United Nations** decided to **commemorate International Youth Day** every year on 12th August.
- **Theme 2022: It's all in the mind.**
- The Prime Minister inaugurated the **25th National Youth Festival** which is a **five-day festival**.



❖ About Swami Vivekananda

- The great-born Indian Swami Vivekananda took birth as **Narendra Nath Datta**, on **January 12th, 1863**.
- He was one of the **monks and the chief disciple of Sri Ramakrishna Paramhansa**.
- He introduced to the whole world the **Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga** and this is credited with the interfaith raising awareness, which is bringing the religion of Hinduism to the world stage during the late 19th century.
- He **preached 'neo-Vedanta'**, an interpretation of Hinduism through a Western lens, and believed in combining spirituality with material progress.
- In **1987** he established **Ramakrishna Mission** which was named after his Guru Swami Ramakrishna Paramhansa. This particular institution did extensive educational as well as philanthropic work in India.
- In the country of India, he also **represented the first Parliament of Religion** held in Chicago which is in the US in 1893.
- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had called Vivekananda the **"maker of modern India."**
- In 1893, he took the name **'Vivekananda'** after **Maharaja Ajit Singh of the Khetri State** requested him to do so, changing from 'Sachidananda' that he used before.
- **'Raja Yoga', 'Jnana Yoga', 'Karma Yoga'** are some of the books he wrote.

Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF)

❖ Context

- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) committee's chairman highlighted that **ZBNF would result in tremendous reduction in production of agricultural crops** thus compromising India's food security.

❖ Key Highlights

- Alternative to ZBNF, it also **recommended adoption of an integrated production system** through usage of farm practices such as conservation agriculture through usage of farmyard manure, inter-cropping, crop diversification and integrated nutrient management for improving soil health.

❖ About ZBNF

- ZBNF technology **uses locally available resources** to manage soil nutrition, fertility, pests, and weeds.
- The **technology completely avoids the use of inorganic fertilisers, pesticides, and herbicides**.
- It **emphasises the effective utilisation of water** through specified methods and recommends **less tilling**, to produce higher yields.
- This farming practice asserts that ZBNF is **resilient to climate change**, **reduces the cost of cultivation**, and **increases farmers' income**.

❖ Four Wheels of ZBNF

• Jiwamrita:

- It is a **mixture of fresh cow dung and aged cow urine, jaggery, pulse flour, water and soil**. This is a fermented microbial culture that adds nutrients to the soil and acts as a catalytic agent to promote the activity of microorganisms and earthworms in the soil

• Bijamrita:

- It is a **mix of desi cow dung and urine, water, bund soil and lime** that is used as a seed treatment solution prior to sowing.

• Mulching:

- It is **covering the plants with a layer of dried straw or fallen leaves**, is meant to **conserve soil moisture** and keep the temperature around the roots at 25-32 degrees Celsius, which allows the microorganisms to do their job

• Waaphasa:

- It is **providing water to maintain the required moisture-air balance**, and also achieves the same objective.

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Kala-Azar

❖ Context

- For the first time in eight years, Jharkhand reported a death due to Kala-Azar even as the total cases in a year declined from 752 (2015) to 242 (2021). The disease is endemic in four districts of Jharkhand.

❖ Key Highlights

❖ About the disease

- Also known as **Black death** or **Visceral leishmaniasis**
- **Parasitic disease** spread by female **sandfly** bites.
- In India **Leishmania donovani** is the only parasite that causes this disease.
- The **female sandflies** feed on human blood to produce eggs
- The vector is known to **live in cracks and crevices of muddy houses**, especially in **dark and humid** corners.

❖ Symptoms

- Kala-azar is characterized by irregular bouts of fever, weight loss, enlargement of the spleen and liver, and anaemia.
- If not treated the disease is almost always fatal

❖ Post Kala-Azar Dermal Leishmaniasis

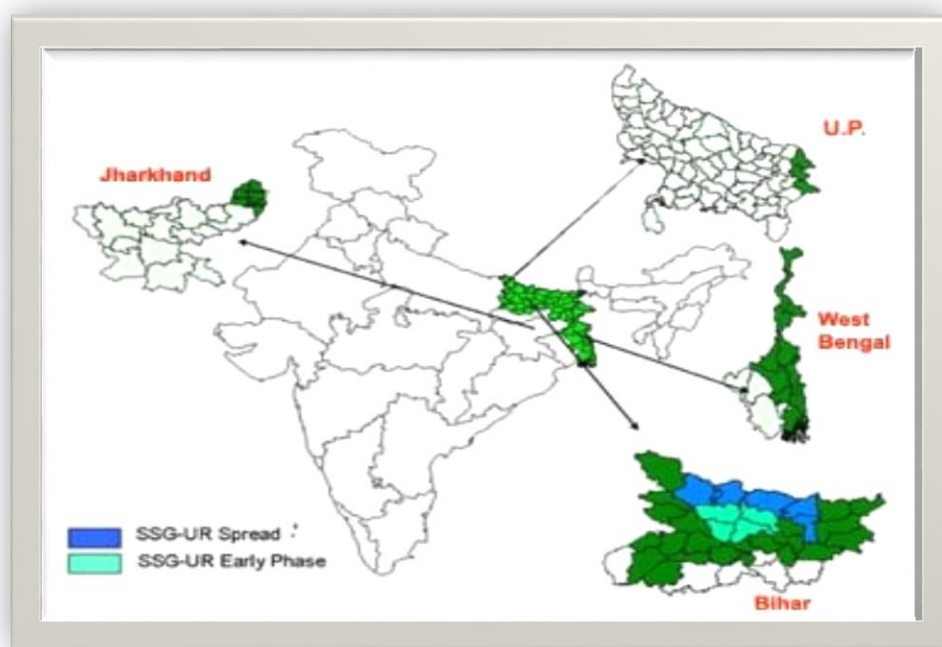
- It is a condition in which **Leishmania donovani** parasites invades in skin cells.
- The parasite resides and develops there and manifests as **dermal lesions**.
- PKDL develops in some of the Indian Kala-Azar patients **usually 1-2 years or more following recovery** of Kala-Azar

❖ Extent of spread

- An estimated **50 000 to 90 000 new cases** occur **worldwide annually**, with only 25% to 45% reported.
- **Most cases** occur in **Brazil, East Africa and India**.
- **Poverty** is an **increased risk factor** as is **poor housing** and **domestic sanitary conditions** (such as a lack of waste management or open sewerage).

❖ Situation in India

- The disease is endemic in **Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Westbengal** in India
- **Bengal is the oldest known Kala-azar endemic area of the world.**
- The disease is considered endemic if there is more than **1 case per 10,000 population**



❖ Government measures

- The **National Health Policy-2002** set the goal of Kala-azar elimination in India by the year 2010 which was revised to **2015**.
- Elimination means **reducing the annual incidence to less than 1 case per 10,000 population at block PHC level**
- Presently **National Kala-Azar elimination Programme** being implemented through the **National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP)** which is an umbrella programme for prevention & control of vector borne diseases and is subsumed under **National Health Mission (NHM)**.
- **Insecticide spraying** helps in tackling the vector

Integrated Ombudsman Scheme

❖ Context

- The RBI released its annual Ombudsman report for the nine-month period from July 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021

❖ Key Highlights

- The **volume of complaints** received **increased** by 22.27 per cent.
- **Chandigarh, Kanpur and Delhi** got the **maximum** number of complaints
- The **banking ombudsman scheme** accounted for **90.13 per cent** of the total complaints (2,73,204) received under the three ombudsman schemes.
- The **disposal rate** has **improved** significantly to 96.67 per cent during the July-March 2020-21 period, a five-year high.
- **Complaints related to ATM-debit card transactions, mobile and electronic banking and credit cards maximum**
- The **scheme for NBFCs** saw an approx. **39% jump**. The major areas of complaints were **non-adherence to Fair Practices Code, non-observance to RBI directions and levy of charges without prior notice**, accounting for 75.32 per cent of the complaints
- Around **74% of the complaints** were settled through **mutual settlement** or through **ombudsman mediation process**

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❖ About the scheme

- RBI in Nov-21 integrated the three schemes:
- In addition **Non-Scheduled Primary Co-operative Banks** with a **deposit size of $\geq ₹50$ crore** are also covered.
- '**One Nation One Ombudsman**' approach
- RBI Ombudsman mechanism jurisdiction neutral.**
- Scheme has done away with the jurisdiction of each ombudsman office.
- The **Regulated Entity** will be **represented by** the Principal Nodal **Officer** in the rank of a **General Manager** in a Public Sector Bank or equivalent.
- A **Centralised Receipt and Processing Centre** has been set up at **RBI, Chandigarh** for receipt and initial processing of physical and email complaints in any language.
- It will provide **cost-free redress** of customer **complaints** involving deficiency in services rendered by entities regulated by RBI, **if not resolved to the satisfaction of the customers or not replied within a period of 30 days by the regulated entity.**
- The **Executive Director**-in charge of Consumer Education and Protection Department of RBI would be the **Appellate Authority** under the Scheme.

Banking Ombudsman Scheme 2006	Framed under Banking Regulation Act
Ombudsman scheme for NBFCs 2018	RBI Act 1934
Ombudsman scheme for Digital Transactions 2019	Payment & Settlement Systems Act 2007

News in Between the Lines

Global Risks Report 2022



❖ Context

- Recently the **World Economic Forum** released the Global Risks Report 2022.

❖ Key Highlights

- Cybersecurity, pandemic, climate change and space advancements** are the emerging risks to the global economy.

❖ About Global Risk Report

- The Global Risks Report series **tracks global risks perceptions among risk experts and world leaders in business, government, and civil society.**
- It examines risks across five categories:
 - economic, environmental, geopolitical, societal, and technological.
- Every year the report **also analyses key risks to explore further in deep-dive chapters**—these could be risks that feature prominently on our survey, those for which warning signs are beginning to surface, or potential blind spots in risk perceptions.



❖ Other Important Reports Published by WEF

- Energy Transition Index, Global Competitiveness Report, Global IT Report** WEF along with INSEAD, and Cornell University publishes this report, **Global Gender Gap Report, Global Risk Report, Global Travel and Tourism Report.**

New Chairman of ISRO



❖ Context

- Eminent rocket scientist **S. Somanath** has been appointed **Chairman** of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and **Space Secretary.**
- **In 2019 Somnath was nominated based on his seniority.** However, the term of Sivan was extended for one year.

❖ About Chairman of ISRO

- The chairman of ISRO is the **secretary to the Government of India.**
- He is an **executive of the Department of Space.**
- The **Department reports to the prime minister directly.**
- Vikram Sarabhai is the longest serving chairman** of ISRO. He served for 12 years. In 1962, he urged Nehru to establish **INCOSPAR** (Indian National Committee for Space Research) under the Department of Atomic Energy.
- INCOSPAR became ISRO in 1969.

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Water Purification



❖ Context

- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launched **Artificial Intelligence (AI)- driven Start-Up** by IIT alumni for **water purification** through innovative technology.

❖ Key Highlights

- A MoU was also signed between **Technology Development Board (TDB)**, a statutory body of Department of Science & Technology, Government of India and M/s **Swajal Water Private Limited**, a tech Start Up company founded by ex-IITians based in Gurugram.
- The facility aims to **provide clean drinking water at a price much lesser than the market price.**
- **Water ATMS-** It combines **Internet of Things technology** with **solar energy** to **provide clean drinking water.** It uses solar energy to pump water from rivers, wells, ponds or groundwater depending upon the location.
- The water will then be treated with appropriate technology to make it healthy & pure for drinking. With this innovation, the **cost of purified water can be brought down to as low as 25 paise per liter.**
- **Clairvoyant-** It uses AI to optimize water purification systems and predict future breakdowns. Thus, it allows remotely managing, updating and repairing each system in real-time.

Water Metro city



❖ Context

- **Kochi** becomes the **first city** with the **water metro project** with the launch of electric boats. It is the commercial capital of Kerala

❖ Key Highlights

- The new project by the **Kochi Metro Rail Ltd** will likely have an integrated water transport system with 15 identified routes.
- It will **connect 10 islands** along a network of routes that span 76 km with a fleet of 78 fast, electrically propelled hybrid ferries plying to 38 jetties.
- It is expected to **reduce pollution and traffic congestions** in the city and ease access to business areas on the mainland for urban households situated along the Kochi lakeshore.
- **Constructed at Cochin Shipyard Ltd**, the **fully air-conditioned boats** with wide windows offer comfortable travel, with exotic view of the banks and backwaters, **financed under Indo-German Financial Cooperation**
- This project has a total **cost of Rs 819 crore.** It uses **LTO batteries**, which is the latest in battery technology with a capability for fast charging.

❖ LTO batteries

- The lithium-titanate or **lithium-titanium-oxide (LTO)** battery is a type of rechargeable battery which has the **advantage of being faster** to charge than other lithium-ion batteries, but the **disadvantage of having a much lower energy density.**
- A lithium-titanate battery is a modified lithium-ion battery that uses **lithium-titanate nanocrystals instead of carbon**, on the surface of its anode. This gives the anode a surface area of about 100 square meters per gram, compared with 3 square meters per gram for carbon, allowing electrons to enter and leave the anode quickly.

India's oldest sloth bear, "Gulabo"



❖ Context

- India's oldest sloth bear, named Gulabo, died at the age of 40 at the Van Vihar National Park and Zoo in Bhopal.

❖ Key Highlights

- "The female sloth bear died on the age of 40. she was one of the star attractions in the park. She was the oldest sloth bear in the country,"
- The female bear was rescued from a Madaari or street performer in May 2006 at the age of 25 years. An autopsy determined the cause of death as a failure of internal organs due to old age. Wild Life (SOS) Institute takes care of the health and upkeep of sloth bears at Van Vihar,

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