

Transgender Prisoners

❖ Context

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has written to all **States** to ensure separate accommodation for transgender persons in prisons.

❖ Key Highlights

- Advised the States and the Union Territories that the **prison admission register may be suitably revised to include “transgender” as a category** other than male and female gender.
- Also said that **similar provision may be made in the Prison Management System** in maintaining electronic records.
- The government enacted the **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act in 2019** and the advisory was sent to ensure their safety and to protect them against any form of exploitation in the context of prisons and correctional facilities.
- There should also be **adequate preservation of the right to privacy and dignity** in regard to **separate toilets for transmen and transwomen** as well as shower facilities.
- Physical search of a **transgender person may be conducted by a person of their preferred gender** or by a trained medical professional or a paramedic.
- At the stage where the search procedure requires **stripping**, **it must be done in a private room or partition**

❖ The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019

- The Bill defines a **transgender person as one whose gender does not match the gender assigned at birth.**
- **District Magistrate can award a certificate of identity**, indicating the gender as ‘transgender’.
- The Bill **prohibits discrimination against a transgender person**, including denial of service or unfair treatment in relation to education, employment, public facilities etc
- It **provide rights of health facilities** to transgender persons including separate HIV surveillance centres, and sex reassignment surgeries.
- It calls for establishing a **National Council for Transgender persons (NCT).**
- **Punishment-** Imprisonment between six months and two years, in addition to a fine.

Light Combat Aircraft Programme

❖ Context

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**, expects to deliver all **Final Operational Clearance (FOC)** variant aircraft to the Indian Air Force (IAF) in 2022, while the **LCA-MK1A is expected to take flight in June 2022.**

❖ About the Programme

- In February 2021, the Defence Ministry signed a ₹48,000 crore deal with HAL to supply 83 LCAMk-1A to the IAF.
- This **includes 73 LCA Tejas Mk-1A** fighter aircraft and 10 LCA-Mk1 trainer aircraft at the cost of ₹45,696 crore.
- The MK1A will have over **40 modifications over the MK1 variant.**
 - It includes some major ones like a new Electronic Warfare system, Advanced Electronically Scanning Array (AESA) radar, Beyond Visual Range (BVR) missiles and network warfare system including Software Defined Radio (SDR).

❖ Objective-

- To develop **LCA for the IAF** and
- To **reduce the gap in the field of aeronautical technology available in India** and the advanced nations of the West.
- The first **LCA squadron No. 45 ‘Flying Daggers’** formed in 2016.
- 2nd **LCA squadron No. 18 ‘Flying Bullets’** was operationalised in 2020.

❖ Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)

- LCA-Tejas was **conceptualized in 1984.**
- It **replaced the old Mig 21** fighter planes.
- **Designed by:** Aeronautical Development Agency under the Department of Defence Research and Development.



- **Manufactured by:** State-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- It is the **lightest, smallest and tailless multi-role supersonic fighter aircraft in its class.**
- It is designed to **carry a range of air-to-air, air-to-surface, precision-guided, weapons.**
- It is equipped with **Air to air refueling capability.**
- Maximum payload capacity can reach up to **4000 kg with range of 3,000km**
- It can attend the **maximum speed of Mach 1.8.**

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ESMA

❖ Context

- The **Haryana government invoked** the Essential Services Maintenance Act after the Outdoor Patient Department services across the State were crippled due to a **day-long strike by the doctors** in support of their demands.

❖ About the Act

- Essential Services Maintenance Act 1968 was **enacted by the Parliament under Entry no. 3** of the **Concurrent list** of the Constitution
- Any service with respect to which the Parliament has power to make laws or government feels that its discontinuation would affect the maintenance of supplies and services necessary for sustaining life is considered essential service under the Act
- It **can be invoked by both the Centre and state government** and prohibit, in public interest, any strike in essential service specified in the order. Any **strike becomes illegal** after passing of the order
- The order remains **in force for 6 months extendable further by 6 months**
- The **employees can't refuse to work overtime** if their work is considered necessary for the maintenance of any of the essential services
- Persons who commences or instigates the strike are liable to disciplinary action, including dismissal. Legal action can also be taken. **A police officer can arrest the striking persons without a warrant**

❖ Some of the essential services

- Public conservancy
- Sanitation
- Water supply
- Hospitals
- Services related with defence of the country
- Production, supply, distribution of petroleum, coal, power, steel and fertilizers.
- Service in connection with banking
- Communication and transport services
- Purchase and distribution of foodgrains

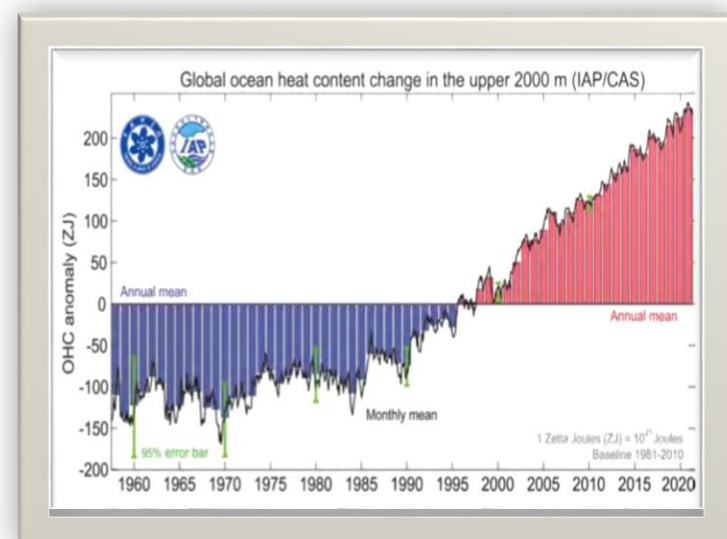
Ocean Warming

❖ Context

- A study published in **Advances in Atmospheric Sciences Journal** finds that world's oceans underwent **record warming in 2021**

❖ Key Highlights

- **Oceans** have been experiencing an unambiguous **increase in heat** since the **late 1980s**.
- The **warming rates in 1986-2021** represents a maximum **eight-fold increase** compared to 1958–85.
- The **upper 2,000 metres** of the ocean absorbed **235 zettajoules (ZJ)** of heat in 2021 relative to the 1981-2010 average (**1 ZJ = 10^{21} Joules**)
- Last year, the oceans soaked up 14 ZJ more heat than in 2020
- **The sum of the energy used by humans across the world in a single year is about half a ZJ**
- **Warmer oceans also supercharge weather systems**, creating more powerful storms and hurricanes, as well as increasing precipitation and flood risk
- Warming oceans could result in **increased ocean stratification or separation**, causing **less mixing of the ocean layers**.
- Increased stratification means **heat, oxygen and carbon dioxide are not transported** from the surface to the oceanic depths.
- This has big effects on marine life
- **Oceans stabilise Earth's climate** by absorbing large amounts of heat from sunlight, water vapour and other greenhouse gases.
- This heat can find its way back into the atmosphere through melting ice shelves, evaporating water or directly reheating the atmosphere.
- If the ocean absorbs more heat than it releases, its heat content rises.



- **During El Niño**, the oceans release some amount of heat, contributing to a mini global warming. So, the warmest years in terms of surface temperature are El Niño years.
- **During La Niña**, oceans take up heat and bury it at depths away from the surface.

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News in Between the Lines

IEPFA



❖ Context

- **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)** signs MoU with **IGNOU** for promoting Investor Education and Financial Literacy among youth through Gyan Darshan channel

❖ About IEPFA

- It is **established under section 125 of Companies Act 2013** for administration of IEPF funds as per section 125(3) of Companies Act 2013
- It works under the **administrative control of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. Secretary, Corporate Affairs Ministry is its ex-officio chairperson**
- Its main objective is to promote Investor education, awareness & protection, refund unclaimed shares, dividends and other amounts transferred to it under sections 124 & 125 of companies Act to rightful claimants

❖ About Gyan Darshan channel

- **Launched in 2000 by MHRD, I & B Ministry, Prasar Bharti, IGNOU jointly**
- 24-hour education channel to cater to all - school, college students, homemakers, working professionals
- As per Government notification, a must carry channel for private DTH/cable operators
- Also available on webcast and also part of SWAYAM Prabha
- The **SWAYAM PRABHA** is a **group of 34 DTH channels** devoted to telecasting of high-quality educational programmes on 24X7 basis using the **GSAT-15 satellite**

Global Economic Prospects Report



❖ Context

- Released by World Bank

❖ Key Highlights

➤ World's GDP growth

2021	2022	2023
5.5%	4.1%	3.2%

➤ India's GDP growth

FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24
8.3%	8.7%	6.8%

➤ **Global economy** is headed towards a **"pronounced"** slowdown because of

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New variants of COVID-19 • Quickening of inflation • Debt & income inequality • Winding down of fiscal and monetary support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fading of demand • Deceleration in major economies - US, China - weighing on external demand in Emerging and Developing economies • Lack of policy space with Governments of Developing countries to support activity |
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India - South Korea CEPA



❖ Context

- India - South Korea Trade Ministerstalk

❖ Key Highlights

- Both sides agreed to try to **achieve the target of \$50BN by 2030**
- India stressed the need for fast-tracking upgradation of CEPA and raised issues of concern such as large trade deficit, greater market access & lower non-tariff barriers. India's exports to South Korea in 2020-21 were \$4.2 BN and imports were \$9.5 BN leading to **huge trade gap** in favor of South Korea
- **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** is a free trade agreement between the two countries signed in 2009 and in effect **since 1 Jan 2010**.

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‘Sea to Sea’ Variant of Brahmos Missile



❖ Context

- Recently, an extended range sea to sea variant of the **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile** was tested from the recently commissioned stealth guided missile destroyer **INS Visakhapatnam**.

❖ Key Highlights

- The successful **test firing certifies the accuracy of the ship’s combat system and armament complex**.
- It also **validates a new capability** the missile provides the Navy and the nation.

❖ About Brahmos Missile

- The name BrahMos is a portmanteau formed from the **names of two rivers**, the **Brahmaputra of India and the Moskva of Russia** (A joint collaboration between India and Russia)
- It is capable of being **launched from land, sea, sub-sea and air against surface- and sea-based targets**.
- The missile flies at a **speed of 2.8 Mach** or almost three times the speed of sound.
- It can **carry both conventional and nuclear warheads** of 300 kilograms.
- The range of the missile was originally capped at **290 km** as per obligations of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).
- Following India’s entry into the club in June 2016, the range would be extended to **450 km and to 600 km at a later stage**. An extended range missile had been tested earlier.
- Last December the air version of BrahMos was test fired from the Indian Air Force’s Sukhoi 30 MK-I aircraft.
- Several Asian countries have shown a keen interest in BrahMos.

Petta Thullal



❖ Context

- Recently, **Petta Thullal** marking the last leg of the annual Sabarimala pilgrimage season, was held at Erumely.

❖ Key Highlights

- Teams of Ayyappa devotees** from Ambalappuzha and Alangad performed the ceremonial **mass dance** as hundreds thronged the streets of the temple town here to **witness the unique celebration of communal harmony**.
- Petta Thullal is the **ritualistic sacred dance to celebrate the victory of good over evil** in the legend of Lord Ayyappa.
- It also denotes the beginning of the **last leg of the annual Sabarimala pilgrimage season** in Kerala.

Indian Passport Ranking 2022



❖ Context

- As per the latest report by Henley for the first quarter of 2022, **India has improved its passport power**.

❖ Key Highlights

- India now **ranks at 83rd**, climbing seven places from 90th rank last year.
- Japan and Singapore** passports have again emerged as the most powerful passports in the world while **Afghanistan, Pakistan** have been ranked as the weakest passports in 2022.
- Released by- The Henley Passport Index**
 - HPI is a global ranking of the countries around the world according to the **travel freedom of holders** of their ordinary passport holders.
 - It **provides a ranking for 199 passports** of the world according to the **number of countries their holders can travel visa-free**.
 - The stronger the ranking, the **more visa-free visits** to various countries will be permitted.
 - Since 2005, HPI has ranked the world’s passports as per the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa.
 - The ranking is based on the data from the **International Air Transport Association**.

