



CURRENT AFFAIRS

04 FEBRUARY, 2022

1. CHANDRAYAN-3

Union minister Jitendra Singh said the Chandrayaan 3 mission of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is scheduled for launch in August 2022.

About :-

- Chandrayaan-3 is a planned third lunar exploration mission by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- Following Chandrayaan-2, where a last-minute glitch in the soft landing guidance software led to the failure of the lander's soft landing attempt after a successful orbital insertion, another lunar mission for demonstrating soft landing was proposed.
- Chandrayaan-3 will be a mission repeat of Chandrayaan-2 but will only include a lander and rover similar to that of Chandrayaan-2. It will not have an orbiter.
- The spacecraft is planned to be launched in August 2022.

2. RIVER CITIES ALLIANCE

Minister for Jal Shakti informed Lok Sabha about the River Cities Alliance.

About :-

- The River Cities Alliance (RCA) has been launched with the objective to provide the member cities with a platform to discuss and exchange information on aspects that are vital for sustainable management of urban rivers, sharing best practices and supporting innovation.
- The alliance has been launched initially with 30 cities namely Dehradun, Rishikesh, Haridwar, Srinagar, Varanasi, Kanpur, Prayagraj, Farrukhabad, Mirzapur, Mathura, Bijnor, Ayodhya, Patna, Bhagalpur, Begusarai, Munger,

Sahibganj, Rajmahal, Howrah, Jangipur, Hugli-Chinsurah, Behrampore, Maheshtala, Aurangabad, Chennai, Bhubaneshwar, Hyderabad, Pune, Udaipur and Vijaywada.

- The Alliance is open to all river cities of India. Any river city can join the Alliance at any time.
- State Governments are implementing Action Plans for restoration of water quality of the identified polluted river stretches.
- The implementation is being monitored regularly at State level by Chief Secretary of the respective State/UT and at Central level by the Central Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti.

3. DEFINITION OF FOREST

Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change informed Rajya Sabha about the Definition under State of Forest Report.

About :-

- India's definition of forest has been taken on the basis of above three criteria only and very well accepted by United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for their reporting/communications.
- The forest cover is defined as 'all land, more than one hectare in area, with a tree canopy density of more than 10 percent irrespective of ownership and legal status. Such land may not necessarily be a recorded forest area. It also includes orchards, bamboo and palm'.
- The definition of forest cover has clearly been defined in all the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) and in all the International communications of India.
- In ISFR 2021 recently published by the Ministry on 13th January, 2022, the forest cover figures are divided as 'Inside Recorded Forest Area' and 'Outside Recorded Forest Area'.
- At present, there is no plan to change the definition of forest cover and very dense forest. The definition of forest cover in ISFR represents true picture as described.

4. INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION (ISS)

NASA has announced that the International Space Station (ISS) will cease operations in 2031, after which it will fall out of orbit and plunge into the waters of the South Pacific Ocean.

About :-

Point Nemo

- According to NASA's budget estimates, the ISS' re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere will take place in January 2031.
- Mission control will first lower its altitude, before the spacecraft begins its descent into the "South Pacific Oceanic Uninhabited Area (SPOUA)," in an area known as Point Nemo.
- Point Nemo has grown to become a sort of space cemetery, where decommissioned space debris is often brought to rest. Located about 2,700 km away from any land, it is named after a character in Jules Verne's novel "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea."

Achievements of ISS

- Several landmark firsts were recorded onboard the ISS in the last two decades.
- For instance, in 2018, NASA's Cold Atom Lab became the first facility to produce the fifth state of matter, called a Bose-Einstein condensate, in space. In 2016, a NASA astronaut was able to sequence DNA in space for the first time.

5. NORTH KOREA MISSILE TEST

North Korea has conducted its biggest missile launch since 2017. North Korea has claimed the missile which it test fired recently is extremely powerful and can travel hundreds of miles, It also has the ability to strike the US Northern Pacific command Guam.

About:-

- The test was an intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM), which would be the biggest missile tested since November 2017.

- The missile reached an altitude of 2,000km and flew for 30 minutes to a distance of 800km. Finally, it landed in the Sea of Japan.
- North Korea has conducted a record number of seven missile launches in the month of January 2022 alone - which was strongly condemned by the US, South Korea, Japan, and other nations.
- The UN prohibits North Korea from ballistic and nuclear weapons tests, and has imposed strict sanctions, but the East Asian state regularly defies the ban.
- Guam is an organized, unincorporated territory of the United States in the Micronesia subregion of the western Pacific Ocean.

6. SHILLONG TECHNOLOGY PARK

- The Meghalaya Chief Minister Shri Conrad Sangma recently inaugurated the Shillong Technology Park.
- The main objective is to bring back the Meghalayans who left the state in search of job opportunities. Also, the park will create new job opportunities for the youths in the state.
- The park will support incubation centres. These centres will work in collaboration with the government and industries.
- The state government has sent invitations to companies in different parts of the country and also to companies in other countries to open their facilities at the park.
- The first phase of construction is to be funded by the Meghalaya State Government.
- The park will then adopt Public private partnership method for subsequent phases.

7. INDIA PRESS FREEDOM REPORT, 2021

- The India Press Freedom Report, 2021 was recently released by the Rights and Risks Analysis Group.
- According to the report, 13 media houses and newspapers were targeted in the country, 108 journalists were attacked, and 6 journalists were killed.

- The highest number of journalist attack was in Jammu and Kashmir. J&K faced more than 25 attacks. The second highest was in Uttar Pradesh with 23. UP was followed by Madhya Pradesh (16), Tripura (15), Delhi (8), Bihar (6), Assam (5), Haryana(4) and Maharashtra (4), Goa (3), Manipur (3), Karnataka (2), West Bengal (2), Tamil Nadu (2), Andhra Pradesh (1), Kerala (1), Chhattisgarh (1).
- Jammu and Kashmir had maximum number of attacks. On the other hand, Tripura had maximum number of attacks by non - state actors.
- Eight women journalists faced summons, FIR and arrest.
- 24 journalists were attacked physically, obstructed, threatened, and harassed for doing their works. All these attacks were made by public officials. This includes police attacks as well. 17 of these attacks were police attacks.
- 44 FIRs were registered against journalists in 2021. Of this 21 were registered under Section 153 of IPC.

