26th & 27th MAR, 2023



NEWS TODAY

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (MOEF&CC) LAUNCHED ARAVALLI GREEN WALL PROJECT

- Aravalli Green Wall Project is inspired by Africa's Great Green Wall (GGW) programme, an initiative launched in 2007 in Sahel region bordering Africa's Sahara Desert, to combat desertification and land degradation.
 - ➤ GGW project aims to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.
- Green Wall Project is a major initiative to create green corridors in 5 km buffer area around Aravalli Hill Range in four states - Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi.
 - It'll involve planting native species of trees and shrubs on scrubland, wasteland and degraded forest land, along with rejuvenating and restoring surface water-bodies such as ponds, lakes and streams.
- Objectives of Aravalli Green Wall Project
 - > Improving **ecological health** of Aravalli range.
 - > Prevent eastward expansion of Thar Desert and reduce land degradation.
 - > Enhancing India's image as a global leader in environmental protection and green development.
 - Promote sustainable development and livelihood opportunities by involving local communities.
 - > Contribute to India's commitments under various international conventions such as UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification) etc.



- UK-based startup claims to have developed a **biotransformation technology that could alter the state of plastics and make them biodegradable.**
- Biotransformation technology ensures biodegradation of plastic waste without leaving behind any micro-plastics.
 - > Plastics made using this technology are just like conventional plastics but on expiry, they self-destruct and bio-transforms into bioavailable wax. This wax is then consumed by microorganisms, converting waste into water, CO2, and biomass.
- > Food packaging and health care industries are two prime sectors that could use this technology to reduce waste.

Need for biodegradable solutions

- > India is generating **3.5 billion kg of plastic waste annually and per capita plastic waste generation has also doubled** from 2017-2022. Of this, a third comes from packaging waste.
- > According to 'Plastics: The Potential and Possibilities' report 2023, India recycles only 30% of its plastic waste.

• Initiatives to tackle plastic waste by India

- **Ban on single-use plastics** and National Dashboard on Elimination of Single Use Plastic.
- > Plastic waste management Rules 2016.
- > Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic packaging.



- Aravalli range extends from Gujarat to Delhi passing through Rajasthan and Haryana in a southwestnortheast direction.
- > Highest peak Guru Shikhar on Mount Abu.
- > It is considered the oldest range of fold- mountains in India.
- It gives rise to several rivers, including the Banas, Luni and Sabarmati.
 - Additionally, Uttarakhand is implementing a QR code-based project to prevent littering Char Dham route with plastic bottles and packets.
 - Visitors will scan a QR code on each plastic bottle and multi-layer plastic bag and pay a deposit over MRP.
 - > They can claim this amount back as a refund when they deposit waste at a point at the end of yatra.

SUPREME COURT GIVES STATES, UNION TERRITORIES (UTS) AND HIGH COURTS THREE Months to set up online RTI Portals

- The direction was given while hearing a plea highlighting that **online web portal for Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005** are still to be operationalised by some of the High Courts.
 - Section 6(1) of RTI, 2005 stipulated that an information seeker had a statutory right to move an application through electronic means. However, several High Courts and most district courts entertain only physical RTI applications.
 - > Recently, Supreme Court and some HCs in Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Delhi have set up an online portal facilitating requests for supply of information.
- RTI Act, 2005 empowers citizens to seek information from public authorities and the authority is under liability to respond to such a request within a period of 30 day. It replaced the Freedom of Information Act, 2002.
 - > Section 8(1) of RTI Act lists types of information which are exempt from disclosure.
 - > If the information sought is denied then RTI applicant can file an appeal against decision of Public Information Officers (PIOs).
- > Central or State (C/S) Information Commission are Final Appellate Authority under RTI and have power of civil court.
- Issues with RTI: Reluctance to impose penalties, Opaque functioning, Pendency of cases, Vacancies in information commissions and absence of PIOs etc.

ISRO'S HEAVIEST LAUNCH VEHICLE MARK 3 (LVM-3) SUCCESSFULLY PLACES 36 ONEWEB SATELLITES IN ORBIT

- LVM3 in its sixth consecutive successful flight placed 36 satellites of OneWeb into Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
 - With this, NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) has successfully executed its contract to launch 72 satellites of OneWeb to LEO, 36 of which were placed in October, 2022.
 - > NSIL is under Department of Space and commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- Mission establishes ISRO's growing capabilities to undertake mega missions and fill a vacant niche in global market by launching a constellation of satellites (see image on competing launch vehicles).
- About LVM3 (earlier called Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle Mark III or GSLV-MK3)



- OneWeb is a joint venture between India's Bharti Enterprises and U.K. government to deliver high-speed, low-latency connectivity worldwide.
 - > OneWeb satellites **operate in LEO** at an altitude of 1,200 kilometers.
- > LVM3 is a three-stage rocket with the first stage fired with liquid fuel, the two strap-on motors powered by solid fuel, the second by liquid fuel and the third is the cryogenic engine.
- > It has a carrying capacity of 8 tonnes to LEO and 4 tonnes to Geo Transfer Orbit (GTO).
- > It is ISRO's second rocket for global commercial market, after its Polar Satellite Launch vehicle (PSLV).
- Its key missions include Chandrayaan-2, Gaganyaan (Human Space Flight), Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya L1 (mission to study sun).

CENTRE TO REDUCE 'DISTURBED AREAS' TAG UNDER AFSPA FROM MANY NORTHEAST DISTRICTS

- Starting from April 1, Ministry of Home Affairs has decided to further decrease the jurisdiction of "disturbed areas" under Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), 1958 in Nagaland, Assam and Manipur.
 - > Earlier, AFSPA was **completely withdrawn** from Meghalaya in 2018, **Tripura** in 2015 and **Mizoram** in 1980s.
 - > Currently, AFSPA is in effect in Nagaland, Assam, Manipur and parts of Arunachal Pradesh.
- AFSPA grants special powers to armed forces to maintain public order in "disturbed areas".
 - Disturbed areas are declared under Section 3 of AFSPA Act, 1958 when a part or whole state/UT is in such a condition that the use of armed forces in aid of civil power is necessary.
 - Disturbed areas are declared by Governor of state or administrator of Union Territory or by Central government.
 - Under section 4 of Act, Armed forces can fire upon or arrest anyone who is acting against law & order in disturbed area after giving warning.
 - **> Section 6** of the Act gives legal immunity to persons acting under Act.





ALSO IN NEWS	
Operation Interflex	 Operation Interflex is a part of United Kingdom's (UK) commitment of £2.3 billion for military aid and support to Ukraine. Under it, UK and other countries including Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Lithuania, and Netherlands are training Ukraine's military.
Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP)	 Government has extended export benefits under RoDTEP scheme to 18 items related to the textiles sector. RoDTEP is a flagship export promotion scheme of Ministry of Commerce. It aims to reimburse the taxes and duties incurred by exporters such as local taxes, coal cess, mandi tax etc., which are not getting exempted or refunded under any other existing scheme. It ensures zero rating of exports i.e. taxes and duties should not be exported. It replaces earlier Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS). MEIS violated the provisions of WTO by giving export subsidies for a wide range of goods.
()) Bauxite	 National Aluminium Company Limited has successfully developed a Bauxite Certified Reference Material (CRM) i.e., BARC B1201 in joint collaboration with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC). It will help in evaluating analytical methods, performance of Instruments, and data quality control in routine analysis of bauxite. Bauxite is an ore that is used in production of aluminium. It is a rock largely composed of a mixture of hydrous aluminum oxides. World's bauxite reserves are estimated to be 28 billion tonnes and are primarily found in Guinea (26%), Australia (22%), Brazil (9%) etc. India's bauxite reserves total of 3896 million tonnes, Odisha has the highest reserve of it.
Chenab railway bridge	 Chenab Railway Bridge, being claimed as world's highest railway bridge by India, is expected to become operational by 2024. Chenab River originates from Lahaul valley of Himachal Pradesh and is a tributary of Indus River. Bridge will allow trains to run along Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, and will connect Jammu & Kashmir with the rest of India. It'll be 35 meters higher than Eiffel Tower in Paris (France). Bridge designed to withstand high wind speed up to 266 Km/Hour, bear earthquake forces of highest intensity zone-V in India. In related development, India's first cable-stayed rail bridge - Anji Khad Bridge - over Anji River (tributary of Chenab) is nearing completion.
Earth Hour	 Earth Hour was witnessed on March 25. Earth Hour, organized by World Wildlife Fund (WWF), is a global grassroots movement uniting people to take action on environmental issues and protect the planet. It was started as a lights out event in Sydney, Australia in 2007. It is held annually worldwide to encourage individuals, households, communities and businesses to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour as a symbol for their commitment to the planet.
Pellet-beam propulsion	 A newly proposed 'pellet-beam' propulsion system could theoretically beam a heavy spacecraft to outside the confines of our Solar System in less than 5 years. Pellet-beam concept was partly inspired by Breakthrough Starshot initiative, which is working on a 'light-sail' propulsion system. To work, conceptual propulsion system requires two spacecraft – one that sets off for interstellar space, and one that goes into orbit around Earth. Spacecraft orbiting Earth would shoot a beam of tiny microscopic particles at interstellar spacecraft. Those particles would be heated up by lasers, causing part of them to melt into plasma that accelerates the pellets further, a process known as laser ablation. Those pellets could reach 120 km/second.





 Marine biologists during routine montoring of marine litter stumbled upon plastiglomerate (plastic rock) from a basch on Aves island of Andama and Nicobar Islands. This is the first such find from India. According to 2011 Census, there are just two people (both male) on Aves island. Plastiglomerate is a rock composed of sand, rock fragments, shells and other materials held together by plastic. It is a new form of plastic pollution, which scientists described in 2014. In 1965, Gordon Moore posited that roughly every two years, the number of transistors on microchips will double. Commonly referred to as Moore's Law, this phenomenon suggests that computational progress will become significantly faster, smaller, and more efficient over time. Law practically defined expectations even as it aged with world. However, some experts believe that part of this growth owed itself to many people and industries being guided by Moore's law instead of prediction naturally coming true. Lord Basaveshwara (1105-1167) Lord Basave Brann, written by Palkuriki Somanathalin 13th-century, holds full account of Basava Panes of finican, and common and animal factifices. He rejected gender and caste discrimination, superstitions and rituals. A strong pro		
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Geographical features Highest Peak: Mount Kebne. GERMARY POLAND		Skagerrak straits (southwest), and Norway (west).
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Longest river: Klar-Gota River.		> Highest Peak: Mount Kebne.
I ➤ Lakes: Lake Vaner, Lake Vatter, Lake Malar.		 > Highest Peak: Mount Kebne. > Longest river: Klar-Gota River. > Longest John Varianti John Mala

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