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National and International News

<p>Odd-even vehicle rotation scheme to return in Delhi</p> 	<p>Context As air pollution in Delhi touched about 18 times the limit set by the World Health Organization, the Environment Minister announced that the government would implement an odd-even vehicle rotation scheme in the city to reduce air pollution.</p> <p>About Scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The odd-even scheme entails allowing vehicles whose registration number ends in even digits to ply on even dates and those with odd digits to ply only on odd dates. • On odd days, only vehicles with license plates ending in one, three, five, seven, and nine will be allowed, while on even days, vehicles with numbers ending with zero, two, four, six, and eight will be allowed to operate.
<p>Come out with policy for providing sanitary napkins at schools: SC</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Supreme Court gave the Centre four weeks to finalize and place on record an “optimum” menstrual hygiene policy with focus on the distribution of sanitary napkins. • It would serve as a “catalyst to raise awareness, challenge societal norms and foster a society that embraces menstrual hygiene as a natural and normal part of life”. <p>Key data The latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) found a significant improvement in the percentage of women aged 15-24 who use a hygienic method of protection during their menstrual cycle, rising from 58% in NFHS-4 to 78%</p>
<p>Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) initiative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPMDA seeks to establish a comprehensive system for monitoring and securing maritime activities in the Indo-Pacific, ensuring the safety of critical sea lines of communication, and promoting cooperation among like-minded nations in the region • The IPMDA was announced by the Quad grouping, comprising India, Australia, Japan and U.S., at the Tokyo summit in early 2022 It was to track “dark shipping” and build a “faster, wider, and more accurate maritime picture of near-real-time activities in partners’ waters”, integrating three critical regions in the Indo-Pacific — the Pacific Islands, Southeast Asia, and the IOR.
<p>World Tsunami Awareness Day</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Tsunami Awareness Day is an annual event held on 5 November • It is to raise awareness of the dangerous effects of tsunamis and the importance of tsunami preparedness and early warning of



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	<p>tsunamis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2023 World Tsunami Awareness Day theme is "Fighting Inequality for a Resilient Future," which mirrors the subject highlighted during the International Day for Disaster Reduction. • The observance encourages all sectors of society to engage and collaborate on disaster risk reduction.
<p>International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of Environment in War and Armed Conflict</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of Environment in War and Armed Conflict is celebrated on November 6th each year • It is to raise awareness about the devastating impact of war and armed conflict on the environment. • The theme for International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict 2023 is "Together for a more sustainable and peaceful future."
<p>Status of India's Economy post-COVID-19 years</p> <p>According to NITI Aayog report -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multidimensional poverty in India declined: 13.5 crore Indians are estimated to have escaped multidimensional poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21. • India witnessed tangible progress in rural living standards. <p>According to National Family Health Survey for 2019-21</p> <p>India witnessed a significant improvement in an array of indicators concerning -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the quality of rural lives - access to electricity - improved drinking water sources - coverage under health insurance schemes - institutional births - immunization - health insurance coverage 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indian economy has increased in the post-COVID-19 years. • In FY2023, it grew at YoY at 7.2%, the fastest among major economies. <p>Key Points:</p> <p>According to IMF,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India's YoY growth to be 6.3% for FY2024 • India is currently the 5th largest economy in the world in U.S. dollar terms • India to become the third largest by 2027 <p>Reasons for India's high growth rates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was propelled by strong growth in world trade - domestic credit boom - Government's measures since 2014 <p>Government's measures since 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calibrated liberalization of the economy - led to high foreign direct investment inflows • Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) introduced in 2015 - Lowered non-performing assets in the banking sector • Policies to increase private corporate investment • 2016 demonetisation drive - improved tax compliance • Goods and Services Taxes (GST) rolled out in 2017 - increased revenues • reduction in the corporate tax rate in 2019 increased corporate reserves and private capital investments • large Capex programmes by both Centre and State Governments • containing the fiscal deficit • Focus on improving physical infrastructure



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Government support to Agriculture has led to-

- Improved growth of dairy, fisheries and livestock products sector
- Share of fruits and vegetables in the food basket has increased to **19.4% in 2021**
- Country's food basket is more nutritious today than ever

- Focus on **inclusive growth** - Commitment to **Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas**
- various steps to lift people above the poverty line, livelihood enhancement, skill development, women's empowerment, and infrastructure development

Way ahead:

India aims to achieve the following for a majority of its citizens

- high-income status
- high quality of life
- Realizing high aspirations of its citizens
- To address weak domestic demand.



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