




23 January 2025

National and International News

eSankhyiki Port	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is proud statistical data dissemination, has accumulated 134 million records in June 2024. This achievement underscores India's dedication to using data for informed statistical practices. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It provides real-time inputs for planners, policy-makers, researchers and The objective of this portal is to establish a comprehensive data management official statistics in the country. It has two modules namely: Data Catalogue Module: This module catalogues the major data assets of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The module has seven data products, namely National Accounts Statistics, Annual Survey of Industries, Periodic Labour Force Survey, Household Survey. Macro Indicators Module: This module offers time series data of key macro enabling ease of access for the users. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The module also allows users to download custom datasets, visualizing re-usability of data. The first phase of the module includes four major products of MoSPI: Industrial Production, and Annual Survey of Industries, encompassing the data 1.7 million records. It is a user centric data portal which facilitates use and reuse of information analysis by the users.
Minimum Support	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), headed by Prime Minister, has decided to increase Support Prices (MSP) for Raw Jute for the 2025-26 marketing season. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum support price (MSP) is a "minimum price" for any crop that the Government is deserving of "support". It is also the price that Government agencies pay whenever they procure It is a way of protecting the farmers in India from the uncertainties of the market At present, the Central Government sets MSP for 23 crops. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 cereals (bajra, wheat, maize, paddy, barley, ragi and jowar); 5 pulses (tur, chana, masur, urad and moong); 7 oilseeds (safflower, mustard, niger seed, soyabean, groundnut, sesame and sunflower); 4 commercial crops (raw jute, cotton, copra and sugarcane). The Government announces the MSP at the start of each cropping season (October to March). The MSP is decided after the Government exhaustively studies the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CACP is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.




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	<p>About Jute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jute cultivation is mainly concentrated in 3 Indian states: West Bengal, Assam and Bihar. • Conditions Required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Temperature: 25-35°C ○ Rainfall: 150-250 cm ○ Soil Type: Well-drained alluvial soil • This is due to the rich alluvial soil in the Ganga-Brahmaputra delta. • Jute is versatile and used to produce gunny bags, mats, ropes, yarn, carpets and other jute goods. • Jute seeds are planted between April and May and harvested between July and September.
<p>Species in news</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water hyacinth threatened the livelihoods of fishermen on a Kenyan lake. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a perennial, free-floating aquatic plant native to tropical region except Antarctica. • This plant rapidly increases biomass and forms dense mats in lakes, dams and rivers. • This is not an indigenous species but was introduced to India during British rule from South America. The plant produces beautiful purple flowers that have a strong fragrance. ○ It is rich in fibrous stems that can be processed into a wide array of products like paper, baskets and other products. • Impact on environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This simple, floating aquatic plant is also an obnoxious weed that clogs rivulets, streams, ponds, dams, lakes and bogs, making the water bodies unusable for recreation. • Significance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The plant has been used as a biofertilizer in some organic agriculture. ○ It has been reported that this plant is a good phytoremediation species that can remove toxic metabolites and harmful heavy metals from water.
<p>Reports & Indices</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has released its flagship World Employment Report in Geneva. • It provides a detailed analysis of the state of global labour markets, highlighting key trends and challenges. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Findings of the Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Global unemployment stood steady at 5 percent in 2024. ○ Young people continue to face a much higher unemployment rate than older workers. ○ Key challenges facing the labour market include geopolitical friction, inflation and sovereign debt risks. ○ The report states that low-income countries continue to be vulnerable to economic shocks, with the slowest in these countries. ○ Global unemployment has remained steady, but real wage growth has slowed down over the last decade which adversely affects vulnerable groups and young people. ○ The real wage growth has partly remained weak due to the shift in global economic power. ○ The report has expressed concerns over continued gender gap in employment, as the gender gap in the labour market continues to be significantly lower than men.



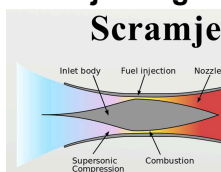
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	<p>○ The labour force participation has increased only in advanced e</p> <p>Growth of Space Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Union Minister of State (independent charge) for Science and Technology expanded to \$8 billion and is expected to reach \$44 billion over the next ● Milestones like the indigenous Gaganyaan Mission, the upcoming Chandrayaan-4 Space Station (2030) showcase India's robust trajectory. <p>Key Points:</p> <p>Gaganyaan Mission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gaganyaan is the 1st human space flight programme of ISRO. ● Objective: To demonstrate indigenous capability of human space flight to lo ● Launch vehicle: GSLV-Mk III, also called the LVM-3 (Launch Vehicle Mark- ● This mission consists of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two unmanned missions (G1 & G2): 2nd uncrewed mission (G developed by ISRO to function on-board the Gaganyaan). ○ One manned mission (G3): The Orbital Module of the crewed miss space for 7 days. It will orbit the Earth at a low-earth-orbit at an altitu <p>Chandrayaan-4 Mission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This ambitious project aims to achieve a soft landing on the Moon, collect ● If successful, India would join the ranks of the United States, Russia, and C ● Key Objectives of the Mission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Achieving a safe and gentle landing on the lunar surface. ○ Collecting and storing lunar samples. ○ Lifting off from the Moon's surface. ○ Docking and undocking in lunar orbit. ○ Transferring samples between spacecraft modules. ○ Returning the collected samples safely to Earth. <p>Shukrayaan (2028) or Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India's first planned mission to Venus, "Shukrayaan-1," will study the using advanced scientific instruments. ● The mission will place an orbiter around Venus to gather data on its clim ● The mission aims to explore signs of active volcanoes and provide insig
<p>Species in news</p> 	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Jharkhand Forest Department has launched a study to rejuvenate th (PTR). ● According to wildlife experts, poaching, infection and habitat disturba vanishing of bison from Jharkhand. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Indian Bison of Gaur is the largest and tallest in the family of wild ca ● Distribution: Gaurs are indigenous to the South and Southeast parts of ● Habitat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gaurs are primarily the denizens of evergreen and semi-evergre grasslands. ○ They prefer hilly-terrains below an altitude of 1,500-1,800 m with larg



- **Conservation Status:**
 - **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable
 - **Wild Life Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I
 - It is listed in **CITES Appendix I.**
- **About Palamu Tiger Reserve:**
 - It is located in the **Chhota Nagpur plateau region of Jharkhand.**
 - The reserve forms a part of the **Betla National Park.**
 - It is one of the **first 9 tiger reserves created in the country at the**
 - It is the first reserve in the world in which a tiger census was conducted under the supervision of J.W. Nicholson
 - Three rivers namely **North Koyal, Auranga and Burha** flow through the reserve.
 - The Reserve is very rich in minerals like **Bauxite and Coal.**
 - **Vegetation:**
 - It is primarily dominated by Northern Tropical Dry Deciduous, and
 - Smaller patches of Northern tropical Moist Deciduous forests

Scramjet Engine



Why in news?

- Recently, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully tested the combustor of a scramjet engine for the first time in the country.
- This is part of the efforts to develop a long-duration supersonic combustion ramjet engine.

Key Points:

- Scramjets are **air-breathing engines capable of sustaining combustion at supersonic speeds (functions without turbines or compressors).**
- The Scramjet engine designed by ISRO uses **Hydrogen as fuel and the Oxygen from the atmosphere.**
- Working:
- A scramjet engine collects oxygen from the atmosphere (rather than carrying liquid oxygen tanks) and hydrogen fuel.
- Combustion occurs at supersonic speed (exceeding Mach 1), needed for hypersonic flight.

What are Hypersonic Missiles?

- Hypersonic Missiles are a class of **advanced weaponry that travel at speeds greater than Mach 5.**
- **Key Features:**
 - **Speed:** Over Mach 5 (five times speed of sound or more than 5,400 km/h)
 - **Manoeuvrability:** Hypersonic missiles can change course mid-air, making them difficult to intercept.
 - **Altitude:** Travels at relatively lower altitudes than a conventional missile.
 - Thus, they have the potential to bypass existing Air Defence systems.
 - **Engine:** The key to hypersonic vehicles is Scramjets engines which



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