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Russia has rejoined the Black Sea Grain deal. "The Russian Federation believes that the guarantees it has received currently appear sufficient, and resumes the implementation of the agreement," the Russian Defence Ministry stated. It added that the mediation of the UN and Turkey had secured the continued cooperation.

The Black Sea Grain deal endeavours to tackle escalating food prices emanating from supply chain because of Russia's disruptions actions in the world's 'breadbasket'. Ukraine is among the largest exporters of wheat, maize, rapeseed, sunflower seeds and sunflower oil, globally. As per the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, approximately 10.1 million tonnes of grains have been shipped since the initiative commenced. The deal has also been credited for having made a "huge difference" to the global cost of living crisis.

Twitter's new CEO Elon Musk's plans for the social media app have raised a series of concerns about paid verified accounts, increased spread of misinformation, and advertising on the platform for its users. As they search for alternatives, Mastodon, which claims to be the "largest decentralised social network on the Internet," stands out. Mastodon's main appeal was that it was decentralised and open source. Rather than being controlled by a centralised moderation team. Mastodon users pick "servers" which host their data and let them access the same platform. Indian migration from Twitter to Mastodon has not been impactful.

A constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on Monday, in a 3:2 majority decision, upheld the validity of the 103rd Constitutional Amendment, which provides 10% reservation in government jobs and educational institutions to the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of society but excludes the "poorest of poor" Scheduled Castes (SC), among Scheduled Tribes (ST), Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) from its scope.

\$ 100 million, the amount to be invested in India by UAE based bank Emirates NBD. The bank added two more branches in Chennai and Gurugram. The lender, which has the largest presence in West Asia, has invested \$300 million in the last five years. The bank is planning to add 2-

## CENTRAL BANKS STOCK UP ON GOLD ON ECONOMY WORRIES

- **1.**According to the World Gold Council, central banks across the globe are on a gold buying spree purchasing record levels of Gold in the third quarter of 2022. Reserve Bank of India was the third largest among the known buyers in Q3 of 2022 as it added 17.5 tonnes to the reserves.
- **2.**Reasons for the trend-Economic Uncertainty: Under prevailing high inflationary pressure and global growth uncertainties gold can be used as a tool to hedge against inflation with no risk of default. Historically Gold has always been a critical component of a country's reserves.
- **3.**Due to appreciation of dollar its weightage in the country's overall reserves would have gone up. Gold could rebalance the reserves to their preferred strategic level. Central banks of authoritarian governments relying on gold to counter the hegemony of US and Western Europe.
- **4.**Impacts of gold imports-Leads to High Current Account deficit. Often used in illegal activities such as Hawala operations, narcotics trade etc.

# SIX YEARS SINCE DEMONETISATION, CASH WITH PUBLIC AT RECORD HIGH OF Rs.30.88 LAKH CRORE

- **1.**Since demonetisation, currency with public is 71.84% higher than the level for November 2016. Demonetisation is the act of stripping the legal tender status of a currency unit.
- **2.**Reasons for Rising currency in circulation (CIC): People's preference for Cash, especially in small cities. No bank account of 15 crore people. Privacy and autonomy offered by cash payments, i.e. no third-party involvement. Simple, Fast and Reliable mode of payment etc.
- **3.**Benefits to less cash economy or digital transition-Increase transparency, tax base and curb corruption. Curb circulation of fake currency. Regulators will have more control over the economy. Greater financial inclusion. FinTech not only facilitate payment, purchase and transfer but also help people invest, borrow, and track their expenses.
- 4.Initiatives for less cash economy-Digital Financial Awareness and Literacy through campaigns like 'RBI Kehta Hai' and 'e-BAAT', etc. Prepaid payment instruments like Mobile wallets, Unstructured Supplementary Service Data, Unified Payment Interface, Micro ATMs, Aadhaar Enabled Payment System.
- **5.**Budget 2022 announced launch of e rupee or Central Bank Digital Currency.

Currency with public is arrived at after deducting cash with banks from total currency in circulation (CIC). CIC includes notes in circulation, rupee coins and small coins.

#### NITI AAYOG SEEKS CLARITY FROM CENTRE ON DIGI YATRA'S DATA PRIVACY AMID GROWING CONCERNS ABOUT FRT

- **1.**DigiYatra' is a Biometric Enabled Seamless Travel experience based on Facial Recognition Technology (FRT). It is an industry-led initiative co-ordinated by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. It will facilitate paperless travel and avoid multiple identity checks at the airport enabling seamless and hassle-free travel. Using DigiYatra is purely voluntary.
- **2.**Concerns raised-Transferred or storage of data outside India for Passenger Identification at the Destination. Security or government agency can be given access to the passenger data. NITI Aayog has recommended for performing algorithmic audits, cyber security audits, prior to system deployment.
- **3.**About FRT-FRT essentially maps, analyses and confirms the identity of a face in a photograph or video, typically using computer-generated filters to transform images into numerical expressions that can be compared. The key parameters include distance between the eyes and that from forehead to chin. It is being used for submission of Digital Life Certificate (Jeevan Pramaan) by pensioners, tracing missing children by the Delhi police, etc.

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3 more branches, including one in Kolkata, over the next 18 months.

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan on Monday unleashed a full-State attack the blown on government, alleging that "they have initiated the process of of constitutional machinery" by threatening him with consequences and Vice-Chancellors permitting the appointed by him to perform their duties.

A United Kingdom Magistrate court on Monday cleared the request for extradition of Sanjay Bhandari to India — in connection with money laundering and tax evasion charges — for a final decision by the Secretary of State. He may challenge the verdict in a higher court of appeal. Mr. Bhandari is being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate and the Income Tax Department.

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres told countries gathered at the start of the COP27 summit in Egypt on Monday that they face a stark choice: work together now to cut emissions or condemn future generations to climate catastrophe. Mr. Guterres's comments come at a time when the world is distracted by Russia's war in Ukraine, rampant consumer inflation and energy shortages. "Humanity has a choice: cooperate or perish," Mr. Guterres told delegates gathered in the seaside resort town of Sharmel-Sheikh.

\$ 1 billion, the amount pledged by The Bezos Earth Fund — set up by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos help protect carbon reserves and according biodiversity, to statement by the office of French Emmanuel President Macron. Bezos's philanthropic organisation has so far pledged 30% of its \$10fund toward nature conservation, restoration and foodsystems transformation.

There is a need to update the National Population Register (NPR) again to incorporate the changes due to birth, death and migration for which demographic and other particulars of each family and individual are to be collected, the Union Home Ministry said in its 2021-22 annual report, which was published on Monday. The NPR, first

# COP27 CLIMATE SUMMIT PUTS CLIMATE COMPENSATION ON AGENDA FOR FIRST TIME

1.Reflecting a new sense of solidarity for the victims of climate disasters, delegates at the Conference of the Parties (COP27) in Egypt's Sharm el-Sheikh agreed to discuss Climate Compensation. Climate Compensation refers to the funds provided by wealthy nations to vulnerable lower-income countries that bear little responsibility for climate-warming emissions.

**2.**COP is the supreme decision-making body of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Last year, high-income nations blocked the proposal for a loss and damage financing body at COP26 (Glasgow) while supporting a new three-year dialogue for funding discussions.

**3.**The discussion will not involve liability or binding compensation, but they are intended to lead to a conclusive decision "no later than 2024". It becomes significant in face of rising extreme climate events, leading to significant economic and non-economic losses. Earlier, COP19 established the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) for Loss and Damage (See image).

4. Challenges: Establishing the extent to which climate change had contributed to a natural disaster; and compensation claims for disaster which can spiral into billions.

# UNESCO AND IUCN RELEASE A JOINT REPORT TITLED 'WORLD HERITAGE GLACIERS (WHG) SENTINELS OF CLIMATE CHANGE'

**1.**Report outlines the threat to glaciers in 50 World Heritage sites and provides suggestions for the protection of the same. Glaciers are bodies of moving ice that develop as snow accumulated in cold places compacts and recrystallizes.

**2.**Key observations WHGs retreating at an accelerating rate since 2000 and contributing to almost 5% of global observed sea-level rise. Glaciers in 1/3rd of WHG will disappear by 2050 and glaciers in around half of all sites could almost entirely disappear by 2100.

**3.**Increase in melting may result in glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). GLOFS occurs due to collapse of banks of glacial lakes leading to sudden and violent flooding in downstream valleys. Limiting global warming to 1.5°C could save 2/3 of WHGs.

**4.**Recommendations -Identify knowledge gaps and improving monitoring networks. Design and implement early warning and disaster risk reduction measures. International fund for glaciers to support comprehensive research and develop effective response measures.

### ANTHROPOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA(ASI)

**1.**AnSI has built tribal hut replicas to promote unique heritage. AnSI is a premier institute for anthropological research in biocultural studies. It is the only institute of its kind anywhere in the world to pursue Anthropological research in a Governmental setup.

2.Key objectives-Study the tribes and other communities that form the population of India Study and preserve the human skeletal remains, Collect samples of arts and crafts of the tribes of India. To function as a training centre Administrated under Ministry of culture.

#### APIS KARINJODIAN

**1.**Apis karinjodian or Indian black honeybee has been discovered in the Western Ghats. The research team also restored the status of Apis indica as a valid species.

**2.** Apis Indica was discovered in India in 1798. Indian black honeybee has ability to produce higher quantities of honey, which is thicker in consistency.

**3.**Distribution: Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and parts of Tamil Nadu. The new find has increased the species of honeybees in the world to 11.

#### FALCON HEAVY ROCKET

**1.**Recently, SpaceX launched the Falcon Heavy Rocket into a geosynchronous Earth orbit. Falcon Heavy Rocket is hailed as

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prepared in 2010 and updated in 2015 by collecting information of all usual residents of the country, has been opposed by many States ruled by opposition as the register, according to the Citizenship Rules, 2003, is the first step towards compilation of a National Register of Citizens (NRC).

most powerful operational rocket of the world with lifting capacity of: Around 64 metric tonnes into Low Earth Orbit. **2.**Around 27 metric tonnes into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO), i.e. a highly elliptical orbit with apogee of 35,786 km.