

NEWS TODAY

GOVT MULLS EASY CREDIT SCHEME FOR FARMER PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS (FPOS)

- Union Agriculture Minister said that Government may help FPOs access **easy credit at subsidised interest rates currently available to farmers.**
- **Challenges faced by FPOs**
 - Lack of technical knowledge & **inadequate professional management.**
 - Inadequate access to credit, infrastructure and market.
 - Lack of **risk mitigation mechanism.**
 - **Cumbersome registrations** and statutory processes compliances.
 - Lack of **skilled human resource.**
 - **Social and economic challenges** in form of entrepreneurial culture, literacy etc.
 - **Competition with rich middlemen** and intermediaries in agricultural supply chain.
- **Initiatives to promote FPOs**
 - NABARD has **created close to 16,000 FPOs since 2010-11.**
 - In 2020 had launched **"Formation and Promotion of FPOs"** under which by 2027-28, about 10,000 new FPOs are to be created.
- **Suggestions**
 - **Restriction of membership to a geographic spread** of 20 kms area to ensure cohesiveness of each FPO.
 - **Training, capacity building, development of professional manpower,** exposure visits, entrepreneurship development programs,
 - **Comprehensive early-stage funding** and flexible products tailored to FPO requirements
 - **Improving market linkages**



○ About FPOs

- It is a type of Producer Organisation (PO) **where members are farmers and incorporated/ registered either under Part IXA of Companies Act 2013 or under Co-operative Societies Act** to provide **collective strength to farmers.**

FALLOUTS OF WESTERN SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA

- Amid Russia-Ukraine crisis western countries including, US, European Union, United Kingdom imposed various sanctions on Russia.
- **Impact of the sanctions**
 - **On Russia**
 - Bank runs, as Russians line up at banks to try to get their ruble deposits and convert it into the safer dollar.
 - **On India**
 - India is not a member of NATO/EU and hence sanctions announced aren't binding on it.
 - However, **India's potash fertiliser requirement is totally met by imports from Belarus and Russia.** This might get disrupted due to supply chain distortion.
 - **On the World**
 - Some 90% **of the world supply of neon**, used for **chip lithography**, comes from Russia and Ukraine.
 - Russia and Ukraine together account for **30% of the global supply of titanium used in aerospace and armament industries.**
- **Possible geopolitical impact of recent developments**
 - Consolidation of West and **rejuvenation of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).**
 - **Cold war of the 1950s could remerge** between an Eastern Bloc consisting of Russia on one side and the Western powers and their allies on the other side.

○ Bank run occurs when large groups of depositors withdraw their money from banks simultaneously based on fears that the institution will become insolvent.

INDIA, SOUTH AFRICA, NAMIBIA OPPOSE TALKS AT WTO ON E-COMMERCE, INVESTMENT, MSMEs

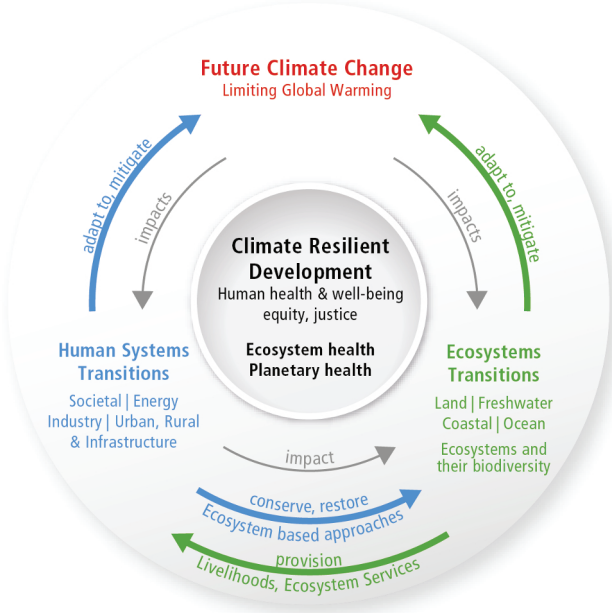
- These countries have jointly **voiced concerns on the plurilateral talks** on e-commerce, investment facilitation etc **gathering pace at the WTO**.
- The proponents of the **plurilateral talks, called the Joint Statement Initiative (JSI)** are trying to look for an **outcome at the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (may take place in June)**.
 - JSIs are broadly defined as a **plurilateral negotiating** tool initiated by a group of WTO members on certain issues **without adhering to the rules on consensus decision-making** of the multilateral body.
- India has **refused to be part of the JSI discussions** as it believes that members need to first **focus on mandated areas** for negotiations, including a **permanent solution** for food procurement subsidies.
 - All members need to follow the **foundational rules** of the rules-based multilateral system, as enshrined in the **Marrakesh Agreement**.
 - **Marrakesh Agreement** (led to the **establishment of the WTO in 1994**) highlighted the concerns over the fragmentation of multilateral rules following the **Tokyo Round** and was in favour of developing an **integrated, more viable and durable multilateral trading system**.
 - Tokyo Round of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) negotiations in 1979 had led to **plurilateral codes**.

IPCC RELEASES SECOND PART OF SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT, CLIMATE CHANGE 2022: IMPACTS, ADAPTATION AND VULNERABILITY

- Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s report reviews **vulnerabilities and the capacities and limits** of the natural world and human societies to adapt.
 - IPCC is a UN body established by UNEP and WMO in 1988.

Key highlights of the Report

- The adverse impacts of climate change are **far greater, more frequent and vastly more disruptive** than previously understood.
- **South Asia, including India, is among the most vulnerable**, with the Ganga basin likely to face severe water shortage by 2050.
- **Mass mortality events on land and ocean**, the first climate-driven extinctions, death and disease due to extreme heat -- the climate crisis has already resulted in some irreversible changes.
- At least **half the world's population** lives in regions vulnerable to the climate crisis.
- Climate crisis has **impacted the physical and mental health of people**.
- Higher temperatures, increased rain and flooding have **increased the occurrence of diarrhoeal diseases**, which the world had once conquered.
- It called for **ecosystem-based adaptation and Nature-based approaches** such as green infrastructure which offer multiple benefits and synergies between adaptation and mitigation.



CHEETAH ACTION PLAN: TRANSLOCATION IN 2022

- In the backdrop of Indian delegation visiting **Namibia, the Cheetah capital of the world**, grounds are being prepared for **appointing Namibian cheetahs as the country's goodwill ambassadors for India's 75th year of Independence**.

Background

- Supreme Court lifted its **seven-year stay on a proposal to introduce African cheetahs** from Namibia into the Indian habitat on an experimental basis.
- In 2013, SC had rejected this owing to **lion translocation in the same Kuno-Palpur sanctuary** and **doubt of lack of prey base** for Cheetah.
- Also, an **'Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India'** was launched to introduce 50 Cheetahs over 5 years.

About Cheetah Reintroduction

- **African Cheetahs (IUCN status: Vulnerable)**, are being considered for reintroduction as **Asiatic Cheetah (IUCN: critically endangered)** are low in numbers which is known to occur only in Iran now.
- Cheetah is a **keystone species** of dry forests, scrub forests, and savannahs.
- It was declared **extinct in India in 1952** due to over-hunting and loss of habitat.
- It is also the **world's fastest land mammal**.
- Part of Appendix 1 of **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**.

ALSO IN NEWS



PM Gati Shakti - National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity

- PM addressed post-budget webinar on vision of 'GatiShakti'.
- It is essentially a **digital platform to bring 16 Ministries** including Railways and Roadways together for **integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure** connectivity projects.
 - > It will **incorporate infrastructure schemes of various Ministries** and State Governments like Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry/land ports, UDAN etc.
 - > It is based on 6 pillars: **Comprehensiveness, Prioritization, Optimization, Synchronization, Analytical and Analytical.**



International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

- IAEA called an emergency meeting to discuss the situation in Ukraine as has four active nuclear power plants, as well as stores of nuclear waste.
- **About IAEA -**
 - > Created in 1957 as **"Atoms for Peace Organisation"**, it is an autonomous international organization within the United Nations system.
 - > **Objective -** works to promote safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.
 - > **India is a founding member.**



Bilateral swap arrangements

- India and Japan renewed (signed in 2020) their bilateral swap arrangements (BSA) to the extent of \$75 billion.
- **About BSA**
 - > BSA is a **two-way arrangement** where both authorities **can swap their local currencies** in exchange for **dollars**.
 - > This means, India can **acquire dollars from Japan** in exchange for rupees. And, conversely, Japan can also seek **dollars from India** in **exchange for yen**.



Mriya

- Amid Russia's assault on Ukraine, the **Antonov AN-225 or 'Mriya'**, was **destroyed by Russian troops**.
- **About Mriya:**
 - > It is the **world's largest cargo aircraft**.
 - > It was designed in **then Ukrainian USSR** during the **1980s** amid a tense **race to space** between the **United States and the Soviet Union**.



INS Visakhapatnam

- It was recently inducted into the Indian Navy.
- It was **indigenously designed by Indian Navy's in-house organisation Directorate of Naval Design** and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai.
 - > It is packed with sophisticated state-of-the-art weapons and sensors such as **Surface-to-Surface missile and Surface-to-Air missiles**. It is **fitted with a modern surveillance radar**.
 - > It is also equipped to fight under **Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) warfare** conditions.
- It is named after the historic city of Andhra Pradesh on the east coast, **Visakhapatnam, the 'City of Destiny'**.







International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) Launched

- It will be **hosted at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)**, Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- It would be fostered under the leadership of **World Climate Research Programme and World Weather Research Programme**.
 - > Both these international Research programmes are **coordinated by World Meteorological Organisation**.
- Setting up the IMPO would expand **integrated scientific approach to solve the seasonal variability of monsoons**, enhancing the prediction skill of monsoons and cyclones, strengthening monsoon research etc.



Periyar Tiger Reserve

- The much-touted airstrip in Kerala's hill district Idukki is likely to affect the wildlife and ecology of **Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR)**.
- **About PTR**
 - > **Location:** It is situated in the **Cardamom Hills and Pandalam Hills** of the Southern Western Ghats of peninsular India.
 - > **Rivers:** Mullayar, Periyar, amba and Azhuta River.
 - > **Highest peak:** Kottamala (2016m).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Forest: Tropical evergreen forests, tropical semi-evergreen forests, moist deciduous forests, grasslands and eucalyptus plantations.
 Watts on the Moon Challenge Phase 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched by NASA it offers up to \$4.5 million in prizes to design, build, and demonstrate a prototype that addresses technology gaps in power transmission and energy storage. • Phase 1 of Watts on the Moon opened in September 2020 and focused on the ideation of energy management, distribution, and storage solutions.
 Electronic Goods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the details shared by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India's export of electronic goods rose from \$6600 million in 2013-14 to \$12,400 million (88%) in 2021-22. • Steps taken by government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > National Policy on Electronics 2019. > Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing. > Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors. > Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters Scheme (EMC 2.0). > Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for IT Hardware.
  Personalities in News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morarji Ranchhodji Desai (29 February 1896 – 10 April 1995) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > India's first non-Congress Prime Minister. > He was a social worker, institution builder and a great reformer. > Contributions > Pre independence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Joined Civil Disobedience Movement in 1930, ➤ Actively participated in the freedom movement. > Post-independence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prominent opposition leaders to be jailed during the Emergency in 1975. ➤ Made serious efforts to improve relations between India and Pakistan. > Awards: Only Indian to receive the highest civilian awards of both Pakistan (Nishan-e-Pakistan) and India (Bharat Ratna). > Values: Strict follower of Mahatma Gandhi's principles, probity in public life. • Samartha Ramdas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Born in Maharashtra in 1608 A.D, he was closely associated with Shivaji and was a contemporary of Sant Tukaram. > He was an Advaitin and a Bhakta and worked towards spreading the Hindu religion throughout India. > He gave the Mantra Sri Ram Jaya Ram Jaya Ram. > His literary works include Dasabodh, Manache Shlok (verse addressed to the mind), Karunashtakas (hymns to God). > Values: Spirituality, devotion to god.



8468022022, 9019066066



www.visionias.in



/c/VisionIASdelhi



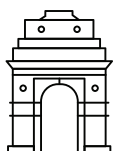
/Vision_IAS



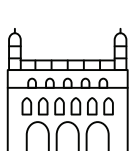
/visionias_upsc



/VisionIAS_UPSC



DELHI



LUCKNOW



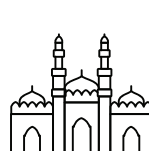
JAIPUR



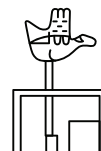
HYDERABAD



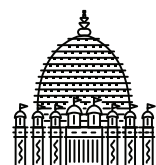
PUNE



AHMEDABAD



CHANDIGARH



GUWAHATI