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1. African swine fever confirmed in Kannur, Kerala (Aug. 3, 2022)

Recently, African Swine Fever has been confirmed for the first time in a private pig farm in Kerala, in the last ten days more than 15 pigs died on the farm due to the disease.

About African Swine Fever

- African swine fever is a highly contagious hemorrhagic viral disease of domestic and wild boars.
- It was first found in Africa in the 1920s.
- Historically, infections have been reported in Africa and parts of Europe, South America, and the Caribbean.
- However, since the year 2007, the disease has been reported in domestic and wild pigs in several countries in Africa, Asia and Europe.
- It has a mortality rate of around 95-100% and there is no cure for this fever, so the only way to stop its spread is to kill animals.
- African swine fever does not pose a threat to humans, as it only spreads from animal to animal.
- African swine fever is a disease listed in the Animal Health Code of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

World animal health organisation

- It is an intergovernmental organisation responsible for improving the health of animals around the world.
- It currently has a total of 182 countries as its members. India is one of its member countries.
- It develops standard documents relating to the rules by which member states can protect themselves from diseases and pathogens. One of these is the Regional Animal Health Code.
- Its standards are recognized by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as reference to the organisation's International Sanitation Rules.
- Its headquarter is located in Paris (France).

2. India ranks 135 out of 146 in Global Gender Gap Index (July 14, 2022)

The World Economic Forum's (WEF) Annual Gender Gap Report 2022 was released on 13 July in Geneva. India is ranked 135th out of 146 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index, 2022.

India's position

- India is the worst performing country in the world in the "Health and Survival" sub-index, where it ranks 146th.
- India ranks worse than its neighbours and is behind Bangladesh (71), Nepal (96), Sri Lanka (110), Maldives (117) and Bhutan (126).
- In South Asia, only Iran (143), Pakistan (145) and Afghanistan (146) performed worse than India.
- In 2021, India was ranked 140 out of a total of 156 countries in the index.

The top 10 Countries

- Iceland (90.8%) leads the global ranking.
- Other Scandinavian countries such as Finland (86%, second), Norway (84.5%, third) and Sweden (82.2%) figure in the top five.
- Sub-Saharan African countries Rwanda (81.1%, 6th) and Namibia (80.7%, 8th), a Latin American country, Nicaragua (81%, 7th), and a country from East Asia and the Pacific, New Zealand (84.1%, 4th) ranked in the top 10.
- Other European countries such as Ireland (80.4%) and Germany (80.1%) are ranked ninth and tenth.

4 key dimensions

1. Political Empowerment

This includes metrics such as the percentage of women in Parliament.

1. Economic Participation and Opportunity

The metrics involved are, percentage of women who are part of the labor force, pay parity for equal work, earned income, etc.

1. Educational Attainment

It includes metrics such as literacy rate and enrollment rate in primary, secondary and tertiary education.

1. Health and Survival

This includes two metrics: the sex ratio at birth (in %) and healthy life expectancy (in years).

About Global Gender Gap Index

- It is annually published by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- It was first introduced in 2006 to benchmark progress towards gender equality.
- It is the 16th edition of the Global Gender Gap Report.

It tracks the progress of bridging the gender gap over time.

3. Defence Ministry launches 75 newly Artificial Intelligence products in New Delhi (July 11, 2022)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the first-ever 'Artificial Intelligence in Defence' (AIDef) symposium and exhibition, organised by the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, at **Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi** on 11 July.

• Important facts

- The event featured an exhibition showcasing the latest AI-enabled solutions developed by research organisations, industry and start-ups and innovators and the launch of AI products for the market.
- This is a major event where 75 newly developed AI products/technologies in Defence were launched as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- These products will promote the 'Aatmanirbharta' initiative in Defence.
- These products are being tested and will soon be deployed in the security of the nation.
- Apart from the 75 products being launched, another 100 are in various stages of development.
- Panel discussions on 'Deploying AI in Defence', 'GenNext AI Solutions' and 'AI in Defence - Industry Perspective' were also held at the event.

• Products are in the following domains-

1. Automation/unmanned/robotics systems
2. Cyber security and human behaviour analysis
3. Intelligent monitoring system
4. Logistics and supply chain management
5. Control, Communication, Computer and Intelligence
6. Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) systems
7. Operational data analytics

• Artificial Intelligence in defence

- The AI Task Force on Defence was set up in 2018 to provide a road map for promoting AI in defence.
- A Defence AI Council, headed by the Defence Minister, is working in this direction.
- The Defence Minister had announced that "25 defence-specific AI products" would be developed by 2024.

- A Defence AI Project Agency (DAIPA) has also been created under the defence production secretary for AI-enabled projects.
- The Navy is also building an AI Centre of Excellence at INS Valsura in Jamnagar, which already has a modern laboratory on AI and Big Data analysis.
- **What is Artificial Intelligence?**
- It is a broad branch of computer science that deals with the creation of smart machines capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence.

4. Sunil Chhetri becomes joint 5th highest goalscorer in international football history (June 22, 2022)

Indian men's football team captain Sunil Chhetri has become the joint fifth highest goalscorer in international football history.

- Sunil Chhetri scored his 84th international goal against Hong Kong during the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Asian Cup 2023 Qualifier and achieved the feat by equaling the record held by Real Madrid and Hungarian football legend Ferenc Puskas.
- He is now behind only Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo and Argentina's Lionel Messi among active footballers.
- He is at number three after Ronaldo and Messi in the list of active footballers with international goals.
- Cristiano Ronaldo tops the list of highest goalscorers in international football.

• Top 5 International Goal Scorers in the World

- Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal) - 117 goals
- Ali Dei (Iran) - 109 goals
- Mokhtar Dahari (Malaysia) - 89 goals
- Lionel Messi (Argentina) - 86 goals
- Sunil Chhetri (India) and Ferenc Puskas (Hungary) - 84 goals

5. YSR Yantra Seva Scheme launched by Andhra Pradesh (June 16, 2022)

YSR Yantra Seva Scheme has been launched by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.

• About the Scheme

- Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy started this scheme from the village of Chuttugunta.
- Under this scheme, tractors and combine harvesters will be provided to the farmers at low rates.

- The total cost of this scheme is 2016 crores.
- The government will give a 40 percent subsidy on all machinery and loans will also be provided to the farmers.
- Apart from this, it was also decided by the state government to set up custom hiring centres in the entire state.
- In this program, an amount of Rs 175 crore was sent to the accounts of 5260 farmers under the Ritu Bharosa scheme.
- The Andhra Pradesh government aims to set up a total of 10,750 YSR Yantra Seva Kendras (CHCs).

- **About Andhra Pradesh State**

- Historically, Andhra Pradesh has been called the "Rice Bowl of India".
- Andhra Pradesh was formed on 1 November 1956.
- Kuchipudi is the most famous classical dance form of the state.
- Capital- Amravati
- Official language - Telugu
- Governor- Biswa Bhushan Harichandan
- Chief Minister- Jagan Mohan Reddy (Congress)
- Legislative Assembly seats- 176
- Rajya Sabha Seats - 11
- Lok Sabha seats - 25

6. Ministry of Textile inaugurated the 'Lota Shop' at National Crafts Museum, New Delhi (June 16, 2022)

The Ministry of Textile inaugurated the 'Lota Shop' at National Crafts Museum, New Delhi on 14 June.

- Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited (CCIC), popularly known as Central Cottage Industries Emporium, has opened 'Lota Shop'.
- It displays the finest handicrafts, souvenirs, handicrafts and textiles based on the traditional craft forms of India.
- It has immense potential to attract foreign tourists and buyers.
- It will give a new direction to the handicrafts sector as well as the artisans in the light of the 'One Nation One Product' initiative launched by the Centre.
- The centre is also working towards one district one product which will give impetus to the handicrafts sector as well as the artisans.

- The museum provides accommodation facilities and also provides audio-visual facilities for the visitors.

- **What is One District One Product scheme?**

- It aims to realize the true potential of a district, promote economic development and generate employment and rural entrepreneurship.
- The Ministry of Food Processing had entered into an agreement with NAFED to develop 10 brands into one district one product brand.
- Of this, six brands have been launched till now.
- All products will be available across NAFED markets, e-commerce platforms and leading retail stores across India.
- It was launched by the Uttar Pradesh government in January, 2018, and was later adopted by the central government after seeing its success.
- Its aim is to identify, promote and brand a product from one district.

7. BJP wins eight out of 16 Rajya Sabha seats while Congress bags five seats (June 11, 2022)

The BJP won eight of the 16 Rajya Sabha seats in four states, while the Congress won five in a tight contest.

- Biennial elections to the Upper House of Parliament were held on June 10 for six seats in Maharashtra, four each in Karnataka and Rajasthan and two in Haryana.
- Winners from BJP include Union Minister Piyush Goyal, former state minister Anil Bonde and party leader Dhananjay Mahadik.
- NCP's Praful Patel, Congress' Imran Pratapgadi and Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut were also elected to Rajya Sabha.
- In Haryana, BJP candidate Krishan Lal Panwar and Independent candidate Kartikeya Sharma, have won the two Rajya Sabha seats.
- BJP got three seats and Congress got one seat from Karnataka.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, actor Jaggesh and MLC Lehar Singh Siroya have been elected to Rajya Sabha from BJP.
- Jairam Ramesh of Congress won the remaining one seat.
- The Congress won three of the four Rajya Sabha seats while one seat was won by the BJP In Rajasthan.
- Randeep Singh Surjewala, Mukul Wasnik and Pramod Tiwari are the winners from Congress.
- Ghanshyam Tiwari won a seat for the BJP in Rajasthan.

- **Important facts about Rajya Sabha**

- Article 80 of the Constitution provides provisions for members of the Rajya Sabha.
- Members - 245 - including 233 elected members and 12 nominated members
- Upper House of parliament strength cannot exceed 250
- Nominated members - nominated by the President of India in the field of art, literature, science and social service
- Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha - Vice-President
- Tenure of members - six years
- Elections to one-third seats are held every two years
- Process of election - members are elected indirectly by the people, that is, by the MLAs.
- Voting is by single transferable vote
- NOTA button is available in the Upper House polls

8. Global Travel and Tourism Development Index (May 25, 2022)

India has slipped to the 54th position this year in the Global Travel and Tourism Development Index as compared to the 46th position in the year 2019.

- India topped the list of South Asian countries.
- Japan tops the global list. It was followed by the USA, Spain, France, Switzerland, Australia, UK, Singapore and Italy respectively.
- 117 economies have been included in the Travel and Tourism Development Index.
- This index is released every two years by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- According to the data between January 2021 and January 2022, the number of international tourists has increased in 2022 instead of 2021.
- **About World Economic Forum (WEF)**
- The World Economic Forum is a non-profit organisation based in Switzerland.
- It aims to set a global, regional and industrial direction by bringing together leaders in the world's business, political, educational and other fields.
- Establishment- 1971
- Headquarters- Cologny, Switzerland
- CEO- Klaus M. Schwab

9. World Economic Forum launches alliance to supercharge India's climate action (May 24, 2022)

The World Economic Forum (WEF) on 23 May announced a new 'Alliance of CEO Climate Action Leaders India'. It will work towards fast-tracking India's net-zero carbon journey as well as decarbonisation.

- The coalition will strive to achieve the goals set out in the White Paper Mission 2070, released last year, as part of the World Economic Forum's Climate Task Force.
- It will bring together the government, corporations and other key players to help Prime Minister Narendra Modi meet his ambitious 'Panchamrut' target, which includes a net-zero target for the country by 2070.
- The alliance is a collaboration between management consulting firm Kearney and Indian think tank Observer Research Foundation.
- It will serve as a high-level platform to assist business leaders in developing and implementing plans and programs to meet climate goals, including net-zero economic growth.

- **About World Economic Forum (WEF)**

- Founded - 24 January, 1971 by German engineer and economist Klaus Schwab.
- Headquarters - Cologny, Switzerland
- Chairperson - Borge Brende
- Purpose of Formation - International Organisation for Public-Private Cooperation

10. Piyush Goyal to lead India at WEF's Davos meeting (May 23, 2022)

The Indian delegation will be led by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal at the World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting in Davos from May 22 to 26.

- During this meeting, many big issues affecting the whole world like the Ukraine crisis, climate change, and the Corona epidemic will be discussed.
- The meeting will be addressed by several world leaders including Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, European Union President Ursula von der Leyen and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.
- In this conference, more than 2500 leaders, officials and experts, including heads of 50 countries and states from around the world, will give their views on various issues.
- From India, a large team led by Union Minister Piyush Goyal is going there, including Union Health Minister Mansukh Lal Mandaviya and Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, besides two Chief Ministers Basavaraj Bommai and Jaganmohan Reddy.
- Aaditya Thackeray from Maharashtra, KT Rama Rao from Telangana etc. Many big leaders and CEOs will also participate in this meeting.
- The theme of the conference will be 'History at a turning point'.

Key points of discussion during the meeting -

- This conference will mainly focus on six issues
- These include promoting global and regional cooperation, restoring stability to a new era of geopolitical conflict and tension, as well as advancing trade, prosperity and partnership, achieving economic recovery and shaping a new era of development.
- In the conference, it will also be discussed how to strengthen health services in view of future diseases, moving from the health emergency to the corona epidemic.
- During this time the focus will be on suggesting ways to accelerate the global economy, promoting the Fourth Industrial Revolution and finding ways to face the biggest challenge to humanity like climate change.

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