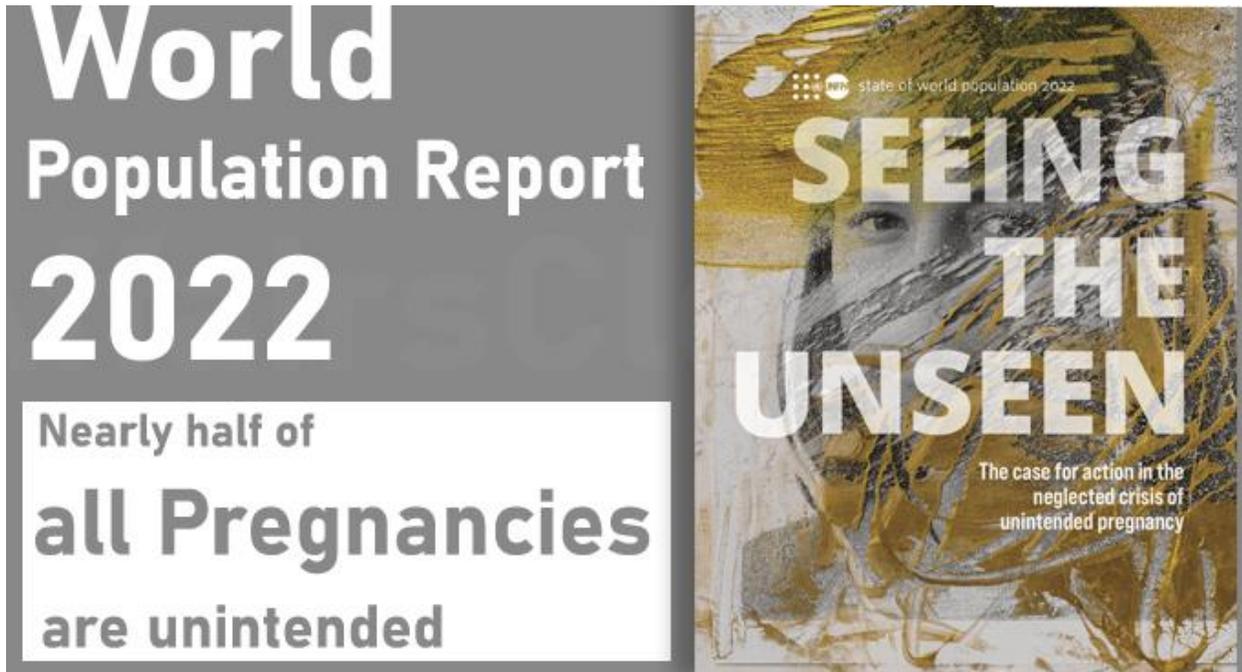


1. State of World Population Report

Topic: Reports and Indices



In News: The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has published The State of World Population Report.

More on the Topic:

- Theme of the 2022 report is **“Seeing the Unseen: The case for action in the neglected crisis of unintended pregnancy”**.
- Between the years 2015 to 2019, **there was a rise in unintended pregnancies.**
- There are around 121 million or **12.1 crore unintended (unplanned or unwanted) pregnancies across the world every year, and one in every seven of these occur in India.**
- The number of unintended pregnancies around the world accounted for **48 % of all pregnancies.**
- 61 % of the unplanned pregnancies ended in abortion. In Other words, **“almost 30% of all pregnancies, end in abortion”**
- This is a concerning data as **these abortions are unsafe, putting women and young girls at unnecessary risk.**

Teen Age Pregnancies:

- Not all teenage deliveries across the globe result from unintended pregnancies.
- **Majority of births by girls aged under 18 years took place within marriage,** suggesting that many of those pregnancies could be classified as intended.

Lack of Contraception:



- There was a lack of modern and safe methods of contraception and across the globe, around 257 million women are not using such methods of contraception to avoid pregnancies.
- During the first 12 months of the Covid-19 pandemic, there was a disruption in contraceptive supplies due to which around 1.4 million unintended pregnancies were reported.

Rape-related pregnancies:

- There has been a rise in rape-related pregnancies. Among women who have experienced partner violence contraceptive use is 53 percent lower. There is more chance of pregnancies occurring due to rape than consensual sex.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA):

- UNFPA is the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency. It became operational in the year 1969.
- UNFPA works as a **subsidiary organ under the umbrella of the UN General Assembly** which is one of the Principal Organs of the United Nations.
- According to the UNFPA reports, **India will be the most populous country by the year 2028**, although its fertility rate has declined from about 3.6 to 2.4 children in the last three decades.

Source: Indian Express

2. BIMSTEC Summit

Topic: International Affairs

In News: Fifth summit of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) was hosted virtually by Sri Lanka in its capacity as the current chair of the regional grouping.

More on the Topic:

- The summit adopted the “BIMSTEC charter”, which will give the grouping an international identity and formally state its purposes and principles.
- With 21.7 per cent of the world’s population and a combined GDP of \$3.8 trillion, BIMSTEC has emerged as an influential engine of economic growth.
- In the absence of a dedicated charter BIMSTEC was functioning under Bangkok declaration.

BIMSTEC Grouping:

- The grouping was formed in 1997, originally with Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand, and later included Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan.
- The aim of the formation was to integrate the region.

Why BIMSTEC is important for India?

- For India, it is a platform to **leverage economic and political developments through its ‘Act East’ policy.**
- This can be achieved with **increased interconnections with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)** through priority areas like connectivity for a conducive, sustainable, peaceful and prosperous Bay of Bengal region.

BIMSTEC

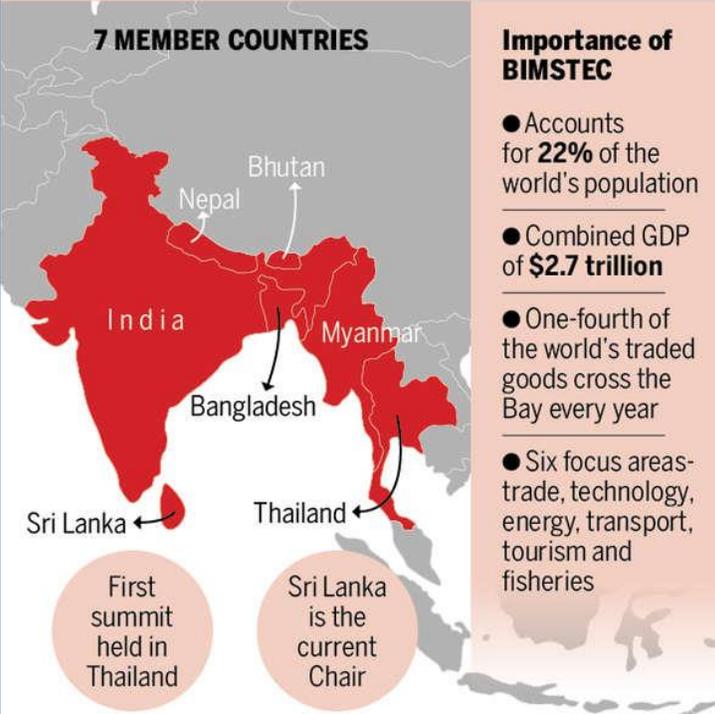
WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW



Stands for The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation

Founded in 1997 through Bangkok Declaration

7 MEMBER COUNTRIES



First summit held in Thailand

Sri Lanka is the current Chair

Importance of BIMSTEC

- Accounts for **22%** of the world’s population
- Combined GDP of **\$2.7 trillion**
- One-fourth of the world’s traded goods cross the Bay every year
- Six focus areas—trade, technology, energy, transport, tourism and fisheries

- Two crucial developments on this front are the **India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway (potentially extendable to Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam)** and the **Kaladan Multimodal Project**.
- From the **strategic perspective, the Bay of Bengal, a funnel to the Malacca straits**, has emerged a key theatre for an increasingly assertive China in maintaining its access route to the Indian Ocean.
- **As China mounts assertive activities in the Bay of Bengal region**, with increased submarine movement and ship visits in the Indian Ocean, **it is in India's interest to consolidate its internal engagement among the BIMSTEC countries**.

Source: Indian Express

3. "Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance"

Topic: Economy

In News: Cabinet has approved USD 808 million for "Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance" scheme.

More on the Topic:

- "Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance" (RAMP) is a **World Bank assisted Central Sector Scheme**, supporting various Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID) Resilience and Recovery Interventions of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME).
- The programme **aims at improving access to market and credit**, strengthening institutions and governance at the Centre and State, improving Centre-State linkages and partnerships, addressing issues of delayed payments and greening of MSMEs.
- In addition to building the MoMSME's capacity at the national level, the RAMP program will seek to scale up implementation capacity and MSME coverage in States.
- The programme will bolster the **inadequately addressed blocks of capacity building, handholding, skill development, quality enrichment, technological upgradation, digitization, outreach and marketing promotion, amongst other things**.
- RAMP programme, through enhanced collaboration with States, will be a **job-enabler, market promoter, finance facilitator, and will support vulnerable sections and greening initiatives**.

Source: PIB



4. Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)

Topic: Art and Culture

In News: The premier forum Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) held its maiden Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22).

More on the Topic:

- The participation included warships, Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft and helicopters from the Navies of Bangladesh, France, India and Iran.
- 22 Observers from 15 IONS member navies participated in the exercise.
- The exercise is seen as a **significant stepping stone for regional navies to collaborate and respond collectively to natural disasters in the region** and paves way for further strengthening regional cooperation.



About Indian Ocean Naval Symposium:

- IONS, conceived by the Indian Navy in 2008, **seeks to enhance maritime cooperation among Navies of the littoral states of the IOR** by providing an open and inclusive forum for discussion of regionally relevant maritime issues that would lead to common understanding on the way ahead.
- It also serves to develop an effective response mechanism and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) against natural disasters.
- IONS includes 24 member nations that touch or lie within the IOR, and 8 observer nations.

The members have been geographically grouped into the following four sub-regions:

- **South Asian Littorals:** Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and United Kingdom (British Indian Ocean Territory)
- **West Asian Littorals:** Iran, Oman, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates
- **East African Littorals:** France (Reunion), Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, and Tanzania.
- **South East Asian and Australian Littorals:** Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Timor-Leste.

Significance of IONS:

- It helps India in Strengthening and deepening the relations with the Indian Ocean littoral states,

- IONS also aides in establishing its leadership potential and aspirations of being a net-security provider, and
- Fulfilling India’s vision of a rules-based and stable maritime order in the IOR.
- It will help India **to consolidate its sphere of influence from the Straits of Malacca to Hormuz.**
- IONS can be used to counterbalance **the increasing presence of China in the region.**

Source: Indian Express

5. Digital Sansad App

Topic: e-Governance

In News: The Lok Sabha secretariat has launched a new app, Digital Sansad, that will make it easier for people to follow proceedings in Parliament, and also their own lawmakers.

More on the Topic:

- In addition, it will also help members of parliament access services such as checking personal updates like status of their notices, House bulletins, etc.
- As MPs are barred from using laptops inside the House, the app comes handy for parliamentary information for MPs during a debate in the House.
- In future, the MPs can log in for attendance, give questions for the Question Hour or submit notices for debates or adjournment motions.
- In addition to proceedings in the current House, people will also be able to access archival data related to all Lok Sabhas . They will be able to access speeches, debates, etc.

Source: Hindu



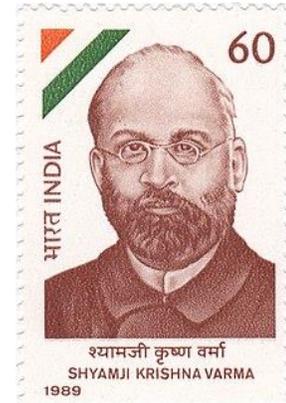
6. Freedom fighter Shyamji Krishna Varma

Topic: Personalities in news

In News: Prime Minister has paid tributes to Shyamji Krishna Varma.

More on the Topic:

- Shyamji Krishna Varma (4 October 1857 – 30 March 1930) was an Indian revolutionary fighter, an Indian patriot, lawyer and journalist
- He has founded the **Indian Home Rule Society, India House and The Indian Sociologist in London.**
- Indian Home Rule Society and the India House worked towards inspiring youngsters in Britain to take up revolutionary activities against their own representatives in India.
- The monthly Indian Sociologist became an outlet for nationalist ideas and through the Indian Home Rule Society, he criticised the British rule in India.



Source: Hindu

7. Atree rajathae Wasp

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: A new genus of Braconid wasp has been named 'Atree', after the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), a leading research institution and environmental think tank.

More on the Topic:

- It is a parasitoid wasp.
- Parasitoids are the most important natural enemies of other insects, and humans exploit this behaviour for the biological control of crop pests.



Source: Hindu



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RV Training Academy
(Sardar Vallabh Bhai Academy)

No 18, B.B.M.P Building
Kanakapura road,
Tata Silk Farm, Jayanagar,
Bengaluru, Karnataka-560028

+91 89710 43904

rvta@rvei.edu.in

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