

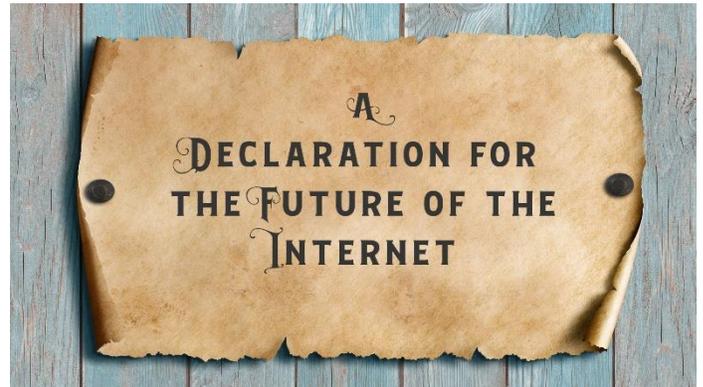
1. The Declaration For The Future Of The Internet

Topic: International Relations

In News: India has not signed The Global Declaration For The Future Of The Internet.

More on the Topic:

- The declaration intends to **keep the Internet open, free, and neutral**.
- The document is considered as an agreement to **prevent digital authoritarianism**.
- The countries that have signed the declaration include **the US, European Union, United Kingdom, Canada and France**.
- **India, China and Russia are among the large nations that are not part of this declaration.**



Principles of the Declaration:

- The Declaration's principles include commitments to **protecting human rights** and fundamental freedoms of all people and promote a global Internet that advances the free flow of information.
- It also includes advancing **"inclusive and affordable" connectivity**, promote trust in the global digital ecosystem and protecting and **strengthening the multi stakeholder approach to governance** that keeps the Internet running for the benefit of all.

Digital rights advocacy group Access Now Report – Observations:

- **India is the top country to impose internet shutdowns in 2021** for the fourth consecutive year.
- **A total of 182 internet crackdowns were reported globally in 2021.** Out of 106 shutdowns in India, 85 were reported in Jammu and Kashmir. India was one of among 18 countries that blocked mobile internet during protests.
- The number of countries that shut down the internet in 2021 **has increased to 34 from 29 in 2020.**

Source: Indian Express

2. India's first greenfield grain-based ethanol plant

Topic: Economy

In News: Bihar has the distinction of being the first state in the country to set up a greenfield grain-based ethanol production plant.

More on the Topic:

- It would buy 130 tons of rice husk and around 145-150 tons of maize or rice from farmers every day.

Ethanol blending programme in India:

- The Centre had “launched pilot projects in 2001 wherein 5 percent ethanol blended petrol was supplied to retail outlets”.
- Success of field trials eventually paved the way for the launching of the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme in January, 2003 for sale of 5 percent ethanol blended petrol in nine States and four UTs.
- The central government has also released an expert committee report on the Roadmap for Ethanol Blending in India by 2025.
- The roadmap proposes a gradual rollout of ethanol-blended fuel to achieve E10 fuel supply by April 2022 and phased rollout of E20 from April 2023 to April 2025.
- The government of India has **advanced the target for 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol (also called E20) to 2025 from 2030**. E20 will be rolled out from April 2023.

Significance of Ethanol Blending (EB):

- It can potentially reduce the auto fuel import bill by a yearly \$4 billion, or Rs 30,000 crore.
- EB will provides for farmers to earn extra income if they grow produce that helps in ethanol production.
- Ethanol is less polluting than other fuels and, per the NITI Aayog paper, “offers equivalent efficiency at lower cost than petrol”.
- Use of ethanol-blended petrol decreases emissions such as carbon monoxide (CO), hydrocarbons (HC) and nitrogen oxides (NOx).

Source: Indian Express



3. Anang Tal Lake - Delhi

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: Process for declaring Anang Tal lake as National Monument has initiated recently.

More on the Topic:

- Anang Tal is situated “to the north of **Jog Maya temple** and approximately 500 metres to the **Qutub Complex**”.
- It have been a place of a general resort but now it is dried up and used for cultivation.
- Alauddin Khalji, in 1296-1316 AD, utilised the water of this tank when he built (Qutub) minar and extended the Qutub-ul-Islam mosque.
- **It dates back to 1,060 AD.**
- Tradition ascribes this tank to a **Tomar King, Anangpal II, the builder of Lal Kot.**
- He is known to have established and populated Delhi in the 11th century. **Lal Kot** ("Red Fort") or Qila Rai Pithora is a fortified complex in present-day Delhi, which includes the Qutb Minar complex.

Source: Indian Express

4. Anchor investors

Topic: Economy

In News: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has notified the relaxed norms for anchor investors.

More on the Topic:

- Anchor investor is a concept launched by Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in 2009.
- Anchor investors are institutional investors who are invited to subscribe the shares before the Initial Public Offers (IPOs) open so that it increases the popularity of the issue.
- As the name denotes, the anchor investors are required to **take up the share at a fixed price to make other investors confident** and improve the demand of the share.
- This process also helps to improve the investment opportunity for retail investors with the company.



- Each anchor investor needs to invest a minimum of Rs 10 crore in the issue.

Source: Down to Earth

5. Gene Bank Project

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: To conserve native and endangered animals, crops, marine and biological species, Maharashtra has decided to set up a gene bank project.

More on the Topic:

- The 'Maharashtra Gene Bank Project' will work on seven themes -- marine, crop, veterinary, freshwater, grassland biodiversity, protection and management of forest right areas, and regeneration of forests.
- Apart from protecting biodiversity, the project will focus on mitigating the impact on the food chain due to climate change.
- It will tap into indigenous knowledge resources, work on documenting these species and the knowledge of local communities and preserve these genetic and molecular samples.



About Gene:

- Genes are **functional units of heredity** as they are made of DNA.
- **The chromosome is made of DNA containing many genes.**
- **Every gene comprises of the particular set of instructions for a particular function or protein-coding.** Speaking in usual terms, genes are responsible for heredity.
- **Genes control the functions of DNA and RNA.**
- There are about 30000 genes in each cell of the human body. DNA present in the gene comprises only 2 percent of the genome. Many studies have been made on the same that found the location of nearly 13000 genes on each of the chromosomes.
- **William Bateson** introduced the term genetics in the year 1905.

About Gene Banks:

- Gene banks are **a type of biorepository that preserves genetic material.**
- For plants, this is done by in vitro storage, freezing cuttings from the plant, or stocking the seeds (e.g. in a seedbank). For animals, this is done by the freezing of sperm and eggs in zoological freezers until further need.

Source: Business Standard

6. India Nordic Summit

Topic: International Relations

In News: Indian Prime Minister will take part in the 2nd India-Nordic Summit.

More on the Topic:

- The Summit will focus on subjects like post-pandemic economic recovery, climate change, innovation and technology, renewable energy, the evolving global security scenario and India-Nordic cooperation in the Arctic region.
- The Nordic countries are a geographical and cultural region in Northern Europe and the North Atlantic.
- It includes the sovereign states of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden; the autonomous territories of the Faroe Islands and Greenland; and the autonomous region of Åland.



Source: Hindu

7. UN Peace Keeping Mission

Topic: International Relations

In News: Over 1,100 Indian peacekeepers serving with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) were awarded UN medals, honouring them for their exceptional service in the strife-torn East African country.

More on the Topic:

- United Nations Peacekeeping is a joint effort between **the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support.**
- **Every peacekeeping mission is authorized by the Security Council.**





- UN peacekeepers (often referred to as Blue Berets or Blue Helmets because of their light blue berets or helmets) **can include soldiers, police officers, and civilian personnel.**
- Peacekeeping forces are **contributed by member states on a voluntary basis.**
- Civilian staff of peace operations are **international civil servants, recruited and deployed by the UN Secretariat.**
- While decisions about establishing, maintaining or expanding a peacekeeping operation are taken by the Security Council, **the financing of UN Peacekeeping operations is the collective responsibility of all UN Member States.**
- Every Member State is legally obligated to pay their respective share towards peacekeeping. This is in accordance with the provisions of Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Source: Hindu
