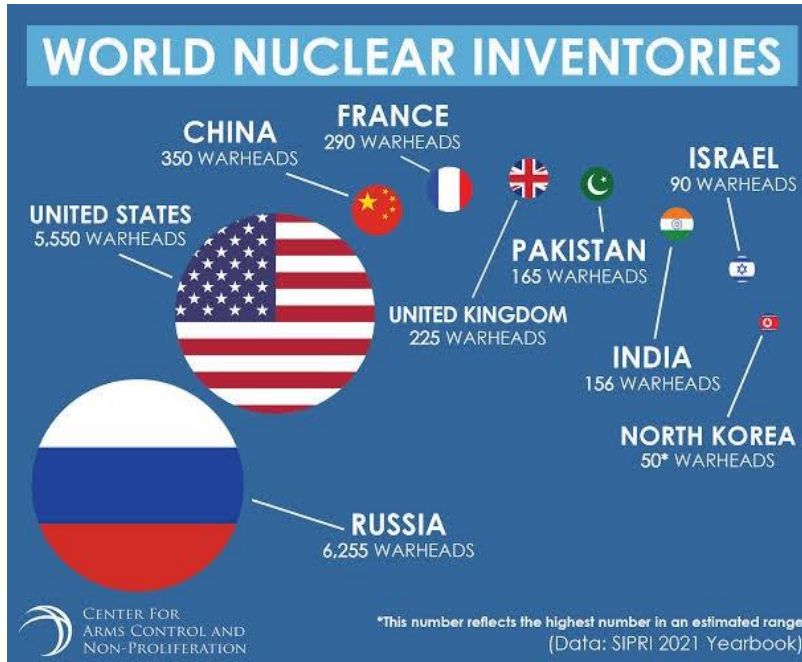


## 1. Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT

Topic: International Relations



**In News:** The Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT ended without an outcome document because Russia objected to text about its control over Ukrainian nuclear facilities.

### More on the Topic:

- The NPT, which entered into force in March 1970, is the **only binding commitment** to the goal of disarmament by States which officially stockpile nuclear weapons.
- It is **organized around three pillars – disarmament, non-proliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy** – and 191 countries have joined the Treaty.
- **Review conferences are held every five years.** The 2015 session also ended without an outcome document while the 2020 Conference was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **India is not a party to it as it considers NPT as discriminatory.**

### Mandates:

- The Treaty defines **nuclear weapon states (NWS)** as those that had **manufactured and detonated a nuclear explosive device prior to 1 January 1967**. All the other states are therefore considered non-nuclear weapon states (NNWS).
- The five nuclear weapon states are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- The Treaty does not affect the right of state parties to develop, produce, and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

### Objectives of the Treaty:

- States without nuclear weapons **will not acquire them**.
- States with nuclear weapons **will pursue disarmament**.

- All states **can access nuclear technology for peaceful purposes**, under safeguards.
- **Nuclear weapon states are not to transfer to any recipient** whatsoever nuclear weapons and not to assist, encourage, or induce any NNWS to manufacture or otherwise acquire them.
- Non-nuclear weapons states **are not to receive nuclear weapons from any transferor, and are not to manufacture or acquire them.**
- NNWS must accept the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards** on all nuclear materials on their territories or under their control.

Source: Indian Express

## 2. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)

Topic: Economy



**In News:** Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana is celebrating its 8th Anniversary.

**More on the Topic:**

- The Jan Dhan Yojana, which launched on August 2014.
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is **National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to financial services**, namely, Banking/ Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, Pension in an affordable manner.
- Under the scheme, **a basic savings bank deposit (BSBD) account can be opened in any bank branch or Business Correspondent (Bank Mitra) outlet**, by persons not having any other account. The basic financial services under the scheme include Banking/ Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, Pension in an affordable manner.

**Achievements by the Scheme:**

- More than 46.25 crore beneficiaries banked under PMJDY since inception, amounting to Rs. 1,73,954 crore.
- **56% Jan-Dhan account holders are women and 67% Jan Dhan accounts in rural and semi-urban areas.**

- **31.94 crore RuPay cards** issued to PMJDY accountholders.
- The **JAM (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile) pipeline** created through account holders consent based linking of bank accounts with Aadhar and mobile numbers of the account holders, which is one of the important pillars of the financial inclusion ecosystem, has enabled **instant DBT under various government welfare schemes to the eligible beneficiaries.**
- **About 5.4 crore PMJDY account holders received direct benefit transfer (DBT)** from the Government under various schemes in June, 2022.
- The advantage of the architecture created under FI ecosystem came handy during the **COVID-19 pandemic when it facilitated direct income support to farmers under PM-KISAN and transfer of ex-gratia payment to women PMJDY account holders under PM Garib Kalyan Package** in a seamless and time-bound manner,

Source: Indian Express

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### 3. Artemis Program

**Topic: Science and Technology**



**In News:** NASA has informed that a fuel leak 'at an acceptable level' had interrupted the launch countdown for its new moon rocket Artemis.

#### **More on the Topic:**

- Artemis is a human and robotic Moon exploration program. If successful, the Artemis program will re-establish human presence on the Moon for the first time since the Apollo 17 mission in 1972.
- With the Artemis program, NASA will land the first woman and next man on the Moon by 2024.

#### **Mission Objectives:**

- Artemis intends to measure **what happens when the Sun's radiation hits our rocky moon, where there is no magnetic field to protect it.**
- It also will **find and use water and other critical resources needed for long-term exploration.**

- Investigate the Moon's mysteries and learn more about our home planet and the universe.
- Learn **how to live and operate on the surface of another celestial body** where astronauts are just three days from home.
- **Prove the technologies we need before sending astronauts on missions to Mars**, which can take up to three years' roundtrip.

Source: Hindu

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## 4.Dugong

**Topic: Environment and Ecology**



**In News:** Dugongs are now functionally extinct in China's coastal waters due to hunting and habitat degradation.

### More on the Topic:

- Functional extinction means that the number of dugongs is too small to maintain a viable population.
- These docile creatures are often caught in fishing nets and the seagrass they eat in the South China Sea's northern reaches has degraded over the years.
- Australia currently has the world's largest dugong population today due to the abundance of seagrass on its coasts.
- Although seagrass restoration and recovery efforts are considered a priority in China, the process can be lengthy and it may be already too late for the dugongs in the area.

### About Dugongs:

- Also called the Sea Cow. It is an herbivorous mammal.
- They are found in over 30 countries.
- In India, they are seen in the Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kutch, Palk Bay, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Australia has the highest Dugong population due to coral reefs.

### Threats:

- Loss of seagrass habitats
- Water pollution

- Degradation of the coastal ecosystem due to developmental activities.
- Accidental entanglement in fishing nets and collision with boats, trawlers.
- Poached for meat

**Conservation Status:**

- IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: Vulnerable
- Cites: Appendix 1
- Wildlife Protection Act: Schedule 1

**Source: Indian Express**

## 5. PEN Plus strategy

**Topic: International Affairs**



**In News:** Africa has adopted pen-plus strategy to deal with Non communicable Diseases.

**More on the Topic:**

- PEN-Plus is **an integrated strategy that builds on the World Health Organization's Package of Essential Non communicable Disease Interventions (WHO PEN)** in order to increase the quality of services for severe chronic NCDs at primary referral facilities (e.g. district hospitals).
- **This strategy supports capacity building of district hospitals and other first class referral facilities for early diagnosis and management of serious non-communicable diseases**, resulting in reduction in mortality.
- The strategy urges countries to establish standardized programs to combat chronic and serious non-communicable diseases to ensure that essential medicines, technologies and diagnostics are available and accessible in district hospitals.

**Non Communicable Diseases:**

- The term NCDs refers to a group of conditions that are not mainly caused by an acute infection, result in long-term health consequences and often create a need for long-term treatment and care.

- These conditions include **cancers, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic lung illnesses.**
- Many NCDs can be **prevented by reducing common risk factors such as tobacco use, harmful alcohol use, physical inactivity and eating unhealthy diets.**
- Many other important conditions are also considered NCDs, including injuries and mental health disorders.

Source: Hindu

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## 6. 'Atal Bridge' over the Sabarmati River

**Topic: Infrastructure Development**



**In News:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated Atal Bridge at Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad.

**More on the Topic:**

- The bridge will provide connectivity to various public developments on the East and West Bank, from multi-level car parking and plazas, to the proposed arts, cultural and exhibition center between the Flower Park on the East Coast and the West Bank's Event Ground.
- The Sabarmati river is one of the **major west-flowing rivers in India.**
- **It originates in the Aravalli Range of Rajasthan** and meets the Gulf of Khambhat of Arabian Sea after travelling south-westerly direction across Rajasthan and Gujarat.

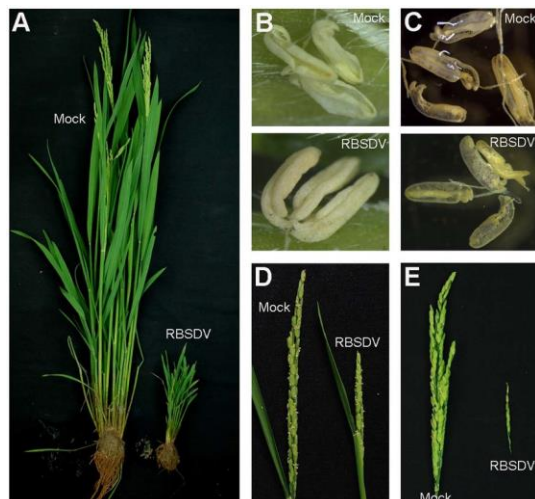
Source: Business Standard

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## 7. Southern Rice Black-Streaked Dwarf Virus (SRBSDV)

### Topic: Science and Technology



**In News:** The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) has confirmed that the mysterious disease resulting in “dwarfing” of rice plants, reported mainly from Punjab and Haryana, has been caused by the Southern Rice Black-Streaked Dwarf Virus (SRBSDV).

#### More on the Topic:

- The virus is spread by **the white-backed plant hopper, an insect pest**, which injects it while sucking the sap from mostly young plants.
- Southern rice black-streaked dwarf virus (SRBSDV), sometimes known as rice black-streaked dwarf virus 2 (RBSDV-2), is a novel virus threatening crop production in eastern Asia.
- It naturally infects rice, maize, sorghum and other grassy weeds
- It causes a striking disease on rice and maize that leads to serious yield losses in several East Asian countries, such as China, Vietnam and Japan. Now, it has been observed in India as well.

**Source: Business Standard**