

1. Uniform Testing Standards for Electric Vehicles

Topic: Science and Technology



In News: To set uniform safety standards, testing of electric vehicles will begun from April 1st.

More on the Topic:

- This comes amid concerns over multiple instances of fires in electric two-wheelers and four-wheelers in recent months.
- Currently, there are no centralised testing facilities for EVs in India and manufacturers have their own benchmarks.
- Recently the Bureau of Indian Standards issued performance norms for lithium-ion battery packs and traction systems in line with broader ISO norms.
- Also, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways released additional safety requirements for EV batteries under Central Motor Vehicles Rules of 1989 based on expert committee recommendations.

What will be included in the testing Standards?

- Pune-based **Automotive Research Association of India will set up the requisite infrastructure** for testing, certification, and development of electric and hybrid vehicles.
- The proposed testing infrastructure at ARAI is likely to cover **battery cells, battery management systems, on-board chargers, battery pack designs and screen for thermal propagation linked to internal cell short circuits** that could potentially lead to fires in EVs.

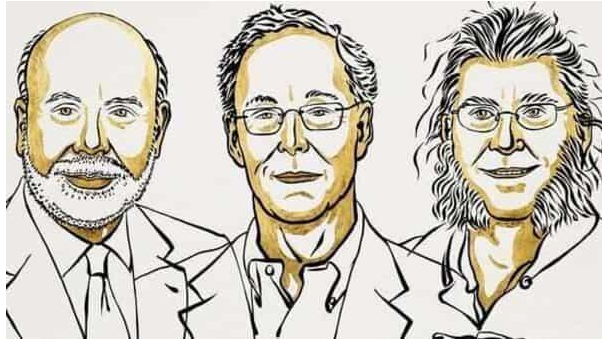
About Electric Vehicles:

- An electric vehicle (EV) operates on an electric motor, instead of an internal-combustion engine that generates power by burning a mix of fuel and gases.
- Though the concept of electric vehicles has been around for a long time, it has drawn a considerable amount of interest in the past decade amid a rising carbon footprint and other environmental impacts of fuel-based vehicles.
- Usually, it uses Lithium-ion batteries. Nickel-Metal Hydride and Solid State are other main battery types.

Source: Indian Express

2.Nobel Prize in Economics

Topic: Economy



In News: The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences for 2022 was awarded to three American economists: Ben S Bernanke, Douglas W Diamond and Philip H Dybvi.

More on the Topic:

- The researchers have been awarded for their role in research related to how banks function.
- The foundations of research in this subject was laid by Ben Bernanke, Douglas Diamond and Philip Dybvig in the early 1980s.
- **Their analyses have been of great practical importance in regulating financial markets and dealing with financial crises.**
- Later, when the pandemic hit in 2020, significant measures were taken to avoid a global financial crisis. **The laureates' insights have played an important role in ensuring these latter crises** did not develop into new depressions with devastating consequences for society.

The Contributions:

- Through statistical analysis and historical source research, **Bernanke demonstrated how failing banks played a decisive role in the global depression of the 1930s**, the worst economic crisis in modern history.
- The collapse of the banking system explains why the downturn was not only deep, but also long-lasting.
- It added the importance of well-functioning bank regulation is also understood thanks to this research.
- Both **Diamond and Dybvig worked together to develop theoretical models explaining why banks exist, how their role in society makes them vulnerable to rumours about their impending collapse, and how society can lessen this vulnerability.**
- These insights “form the foundation of modern bank regulation.

Source: DTE

3. 24x7 Tele-mental Health Service

Topic: Government Schemes



In News: The Union Health Ministry has launched a 24x7 tele-mental health service called Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) initiative on the occasion of World Mental Health Day.

More on the Topic:

- The service will start with 20 states and UTs and will subsequently be expanded to the entire country.
- Tele-MANAS aims to increase access to mental healthcare across the country, including the hard-to-reach areas.
- The country-wide network will **provide counselling, consultation with a specialist, and e-prescriptions.**

How the Service will Work?

- The service can be **accessed by calling the helpline number 14416 and 1-800-91-4416.** Callers will first reach an IVRS and then be transferred to a trained counsellor in their areas. If needed, they will be connected online to mental health specialists such as clinical psychologists, psychiatric social workers, a psychiatric nurse, or a psychiatrist.

- In case the caller needs **in-person services**, they will be referred to a **health and wellness centre or primary health centre, or a tertiary care centre.**
- The nodal centre for Tele MANAS, which will be the digital arm of the National Mental Health Programme, will be **National Institute of Mental Health and Neuroscience (NIMHANS) with technological support from IIT-Bombay.**
- There will be **five regional coordination centres and 23 mentoring institutes** such as various AIIMS, PGIMER, Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences-Delhi.

Source: PIB

4. UN World Geospatial Information Congress

Topic: International Affairs



In News: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the United Nations World Geospatial Congress (UNWGIC) 2022 in Hyderabad.

More on the Topic:

- **The United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) convened the conference on UNWGIC 2022** and was organised by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
- **It was hosted by the ministry of science and technology of the government of India.**
- The goal of this year's UNWGIC is **to promote a broad dialogue on global geospatial information management** with all relevant governments, non-governmental organisations, academia, and the private sector.
- **The theme of UNWGIC 2022 is 'Geo-Enabling the Global Village: No one should be left behind'**, which focuses on building a community for human data and geography against the three pillars of sustainable development for a shared future and a better world, leaving no one behind within an inclusive and equitable global society.

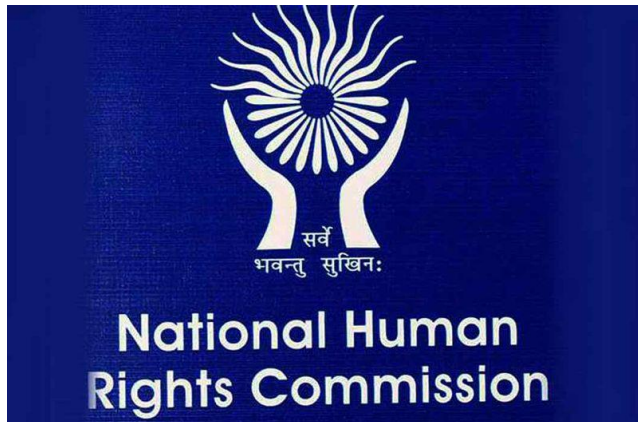
Significance of Geospatial Technology and the congress:

- Geospatial technology can be used to create intelligent maps and models which help to collect geographically referenced data.
- Decisions based on the value and importance of resources, most of which are limited, can become easy through geospatial technology.
- The congress will provide **high-quality and trustworthy geospatial data to support global and national policy agendas.**
- It also stresses international cooperation and coordination in the development of human data linked to geography.

Source: Hindu

5. NHRC on Ocular Trauma

Topic: Governance



In News: The National Human Rights Commission issued an advisory to the Union and State Governments to prevent and minimise the impact of ocular trauma, which it said causes 5% of permanent blindness.

More on the Topic:

- The NHRC asked the government to identify the industries that have a high potential of ocular trauma and make it mandatory for such units with 50 workers or more to have **accident cover of ₹15 lakhs for each worker.**
- The commission also asked the government to **set up an online portal to record details of each case of ocular trauma** and make it mandatory for hospitals and medical practitioners to upload details of such cases onto the portal.

Suggestions by NHRC:

- Ocular Trauma is a broad term used to describe a physical or chemical wound to the eye or eye socket.

- The suggestions include **public awareness campaign** as well as an examination of the existing laws for mandatory use of eye safety gear worn by workers involved in hazardous activities.
- Ban on sale of fire-crackers that have the potential to cause eye trauma; ban on sale of bows, arrows, pellet guns and toys that have sharp edges;
- Introduction of technology to reduce eye injuries due to road accidents; and mandatory safe packaging and labelling of chemicals for domestic use.

Source: Hindu

6. Global Lighthouse Network

Topic: Economy



In News: The World Economic Forum announced the addition of 11 factories and industrial sites, including three from India, to its Global Lighthouse Network.

More on the Topic:

- The GLN is a community of manufacturers who are applying **Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies to increase efficiency and productivity, along with environmental stewardship.**
- The GLN is a **platform to develop, replicate and scale innovations, creating opportunities for cross-company learning and collaboration.**
- It sets new benchmarks for the global manufacturing community.
- The Global Lighthouse Network (GLN) **was pioneered by the World Economic Forum in 2018.**
- **Lighthouses are industries which use Industry 4.0 or 4IR technologies** to transform factories, value chains and business models, for compelling financial and operational returns.

Source: IE

7. Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework of OECD

Topic: Economy



In News: OECD has Released New Global Tax Reporting Framework for Crypto Assets.

More on the Topic:

- The framework ensures **the collection and automatic exchange of information on transactions for relevant crypto.**
- The definition of crypto assets **"includes assets that can be held and transferred in a decentralised manner, without the intervention of traditional financial intermediaries, including stablecoins, derivatives issued in the form of a crypto-asset and certain non-fungible tokens."**
- Intermediaries and other service providers facilitating exchanges between relevant crypto assets, such as exchanges, brokers and ATM operators, will also be included in the scope.
- **The CARF sets rules that crypto asset firms must report in the country that they conduct business in.**
- Exchanges between relevant crypto assets and fiat currencies, along with exchanges between one or more type of crypto and transfers of crypto (including retail payment transactions), will need to be reported.

Source: Hindu
