



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

JULY, 2024

Week-4

22-31 July, 2024

★★ Useful for ★★

**CSE, ESE, PSUs, State Services Exams,
SSC and Banking Exams**

22nd JULY 2024

Global Gender Gap Report 2024

- **Context:** The World Economic Forum (WEF) report of 2024 on global gender gaps ranked India at 129 out of 146 economies, with a decline in the education sector being one of the reasons for India's poor rank.

Key Highlights

- The report indicates that, despite high enrolment rates for women in primary, secondary, and tertiary education, progress has been sluggish.
- The literacy gap between men and women remains substantial at 17.2 percentage points. Consequently, India ranks 124th in this indicator, scoring 0.964 in education, a decline from the score of 1.000 achieved in 2023.
- In higher education, the AISHE report for 2021-22 indicates that the gross enrolment ratio (GER) for women is marginally higher than that for men, with women achieving a GER of 28.5 compared to 28.3 for men. This marks a 32 per cent increase in female enrolment since 2014-15. However, women students make up only 42.5% of those enrolled in STEM subjects from undergraduate to PhD levels.
- According to the Census data from 2011, adult literacy is a matter of concern, with only 64.63% of women who are literate, in comparison to 80.88% of men.

Sindhu-Sarasvati Civilisation

- **Context:** The new NCERT Class 6 Social Science textbook has incorporated numerous new elements.

Key highlights

- In the new edition, the Harappan civilisation is referred to as the 'Indus-Sarasvati' or 'Sindhu-Sarasvati' civilisation. It states that the Sarasvati basin included major cities of the civilisation, such as Rakhigarhi and Ganweriwala, along with smaller cities and towns.

- The river, now known as Ghaggar in India and Hakra in Pakistan, is described as seasonal.
- It attributes the decline of the Harappan civilisation to climate change, leading to reduced rainfall and the drying up of the Sarasvati River in its central basin.
- It states that India had its prime meridian, the "Madhya rekha," passing through Ujjain. This "Ujjayini meridian" served as a reference for calculations in Indian astronomical texts long before the establishment of the Greenwich Meridian.
- Also references to the Iron pillar at the Qutub Minar site, which dates back to the Gupta dynasty era, along with mentions of the Sanchi Stupa, the monolithic temples of Mahabalipuram and the paintings in the Ajanta caves have been dropped.

National Flag Day

- **Context:** India's National Flag Day commemorates the adoption of the Indian national flag on July 22, 1947, by the Constituent Assembly.

Key Facts:

- It was designed by Pingali Venkayya.
- The Indian national flag, known as the "Tiranga", features three horizontal stripes of equal width.
- The top stripe is saffron (kesaria), representing courage and sacrifice.
- The middle stripe is white, symbolising peace and truth, with a navy-blue Ashoka Chakra (wheel) at its centre, which signifies the eternal wheel of law.
- The bottom stripe is green, denoting growth and auspiciousness.
- The flag's proportions are in the ratio of 2:3 and the Ashoka Chakra has 24 spokes, representing continuous progress.
- **Historical context:** The Ashoka Chakra replaced the spinning wheel, or "Charkha," which was a symbol of self-reliance and resistance during the freedom struggle.
 - This change was suggested by Badr-ud-Din Tyabji and endorsed by Mahatma Gandhi.

- Ashoka Chakra is similar to the wheel that can be seen on the abacus of Ashoka's Sarnath Lion Capital, with 24 spokes and its diameter is about equal to the width of the white band.
- The Flag Code of India was modified in 2002, allowing citizens to display and use the national flag on any day and not just National days as was the case earlier, but with respect and dignity.

23rd JULY 2024

Union Budget 2024-25

- **Context:** The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2024-25 in Parliament.

Key Highlights

- **Budget Estimates of 2024-25 are:**
 - **Total receipts other than borrowings:** Rs. 32.07 lakh crore.
 - **Total expenditure:** Rs. 48.21 lakh crore.
 - **Net tax receipt:** Rs. 25.83 lakh crore.
 - **Fiscal deficit:** 4.9 percent of GDP.
- Government aims to reach a deficit below 4.5 percent next year.
- Inflation continues to be low, stable and moving towards the 4% target; Core inflation (non-food, non-fuel) at 3.1%.
- The focus of the budget is on Employment, Skilling, MSMEs, and the Middle Class.
- **Nine Budget Priorities in pursuit of 'Viksit Bharat'**
 - Productivity and resilience in Agriculture
 - Employment & Skilling
 - Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice
 - Manufacturing & Services
 - Urban Development
 - Energy Security
 - Infrastructure
 - Innovation, Research & Development and
 - Next Generation Reforms

Economic Survey 2023-24

- **Context:** The Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Economy survey in the Parliament, a day ahead of the Budget presentation.

About Economic Survey

- It is prepared by the Economic Division of the Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance. It is formulated under the supervision of the Chief Economic Adviser.
- The Economic Survey was first introduced in 1950-51 as part of the Budget documents. It was separated in the 1960s and is now presented a day before the Union Budget.
- **The Economic Survey comprises two parts.**
 - The document's first part includes the country's economic developments and challenges.
 - It also offers an overall review on the economy. The second part is focused on the past financial year.

Key Highlights of the Economic Survey 2023-24

- The economy grew over 7 percent for a third consecutive year.
 - Gross value added (GVA) at 2011-12 prices grew by 7.2 percent in FY24.
 - India's real GDP in FY24 was 20 percent higher than in FY20, a notable achievement among major economies, and suggested strong potential for continued robust growth in FY 2024-25 and beyond.
 - India's CAD (current account deficit) for the last financial year stood at 0.7 percent of the GDP during FY24, an improvement from the deficit of 2.0 percent of GDP in FY23.
 - India's external debt has been sustainable over the years, with the external debt-to-GDP ratio standing at 18.7 percent at the end of March 2024.
- Bank credit growth was broad-based and double-digit. Gross and net non-performing assets (NPAs) reached multi-year lows.

- Inflation at 5.4 percent – the lowest level since the pandemic, driven by a fall in core inflation – both goods and services. Core services inflation eased to a nine-year low in FY24; at the same time, core goods inflation also declined to a four-year low.
- Food inflation stood at 6.6 percent in FY23 and increased to 7.5 percent in FY24. Due to extreme weather events, depleted reservoirs, and crop damage, India's agriculture sector faced challenges, giving rise to food inflation.
- Net FDI inflows to India declined from \$42 billion during FY23 to \$26.5 billion in FY24. However, gross FDI inflows moderated only by 0.6 per cent from \$71.4 billion in FY23 to just under \$71 billion in FY24.

Nine Dash Line

- **Context:** China's claim over almost the entire South China Sea through the nine-dash line has been at the source of conflict with other island nations in the region.

About Nine Dash Line

- A nine-dash line is a disputed boundary claimed by China in the South China Sea. The line is composed of nine dashes, which were first drawn on a 1947 Chinese map.
- The line is claimed to coincide with China's historical maritime claims, but its precise definition and extent are unclear.
- The line is surrounded by several countries, including the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Taiwan, which reject China's claims and assert their own territorial rights over the disputed waters.
- The line has been a major source of tension and conflict in the region.

24th JULY 2024

Olympic Order

- **Context:** Abhinav Bindra has been honoured with the Olympic Order for his outstanding contributions to the Olympic movement. He is the first Indian to receive this prestigious award.

About the Olympic Order

- It is the highest award presented by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- Established in 1975, it is awarded to individuals who have rendered distinguished service to the Olympic Movement.
- It can be bestowed upon IOC members, athletes, and other individuals who have made significant contributions to the development and promotion of the Olympic Games and its ideals.
- **The award comes in three grades:** gold, silver, and bronze, with the gold medal being the most prestigious.
- The recipients of the Olympic Order are chosen by the IOC's Executive Board.
- The award symbolizes the recipient's dedication to the Olympic spirit and their contributions to promoting the values of excellence, friendship, and respect in sports.

Corridor Projects for Vishnupad and Mahabodhi Temples

- **Context:** The Union Finance Minister announced corridor projects for Bihar's Vishnupad and Mahabodhi temples during her Union Budget speech.

Key highlights

- These will be modelled on the successful Kashi Vishwanath Temple Corridor, to transform them into world-class pilgrim and tourist destinations.
- **The Vishnupad Temple at Gaya:** The Hindu temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. Architecturally, the temple is around 100 feet tall and has 44 pillars. It is located on the banks of the Falgu River and was built in 1787 on the orders of Queen Ahilyabai Holkar.
- **Mahabodhi Temple at Bodh Gaya:** The Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The temple stands to the east of the Mahabodhi Tree, where Gautam Buddha is believed to have attained nirvana. The temple has a unique

shape and a height of 170 feet. The Mahabodhi Temple Complex is the first temple built by Emperor Asoka in the 3rd century B.C., and the present temple dates from the 5th–6th centuries.

Capital Gains Tax

- **Context:** The Union Budget 2024-25 has raised taxation on income on short-term and long-term capital gains and also doubled the Securities Transaction Tax (STT) on futures & options (F&O) of securities.

Key highlights

- Long-term capital gains (LTCG) on all financial and non-financial assets were increased to 12.5 percent, from 10 percent. However, the exemption limit of Rs 1 lakh for LTCG on these assets has also increased to Rs 1.25 lakh.
- The rate on short-term capital gains (STCG) has been hiked to 20 per cent from 15 per cent.

About Capital Gains Tax

- It is a form of direct tax that is paid due to the income that is earned from the sale of assets or investments.
- Investments in farms, bonds, shares, businesses, art, and home come under capital assets.
- Long-term gains are levied on profits of investments held for more than a year.
- Short-term gains are taxed at an individual's regular income tax rate, which is higher than the tax on long-term gains.

25 JULY 2024

Air Breathing Propulsion Technology

- **Context:** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully completed the second experimental flight demonstrating Air Breathing Propulsion Technology.

About Air Breathing Propulsion Technology

- Air Breathing Propulsion Technology utilizes atmospheric oxygen for combustion, eliminating the need to carry oxidizer.
- The absence of an on-board oxidiser in the atmospheric phase significantly reduces the rocket's weight. For example, ISRO's largest rocket, LVM3, carries 555 tonnes of propellant, of which 385 tonnes is oxidiser.
- This technology has the potential to revolutionize space travel by allowing vehicles to use atmospheric oxygen as an oxidizer, potentially reducing the overall weight of the propulsion system and increasing payload capacity.
- **Types of Air-Breathing Engines:** Ramjet, Scramjet, and Dual Mode Ramjet (DMRJ). Ramjets operate at supersonic speeds, Scramjets at hypersonic speeds, and DMRJ's can transition between subsonic and supersonic combustion modes.

Henley Passport Index 2024

- **Context:** According to the latest ranking of the Henley Passport Index, India's passport now ranks at the 82nd spot, allowing Indians visa-free entry to 58 countries.

Key findings

- Singapore occupied the top spot in the Index with its citizens having visa-free entry to 195 countries. It dethroned Japan from the first place, which is now at the second place along with Spain, France, Germany and Italy. The passports of all five countries allow visa-free access to 192 destinations.
- Afghanistan's passport at the 103rd spot, remains the world's weakest, allowing visa-free entry to only 26 destinations.

About Henley Passport Index

- The Henley Passport Index is the original, authoritative ranking of all the world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa.

- The Index is an annual list put together by Henley & Partners, a London-based global citizenship and residence advisory firm.
- It is based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- The index covers 227 destinations and 199 passports.

26th JULY 2024

Charaideo Moidams

- **Context:** Assam's Charaideo Moidams burial sites have been added to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World Heritage Sites list. It is India's 43rd UNESCO World Heritage Site.

About Charaideo Moidams

- The Charaideo moidams represents the late medieval (13th-19th century CE) mound burial tradition of the Tai Ahom community in Assam.
- Charaideo, more than 400 km east of Guwahati, was the first capital of the Ahom dynasty founded by Chao Lung Sukaphaa in 1253.
- The Ahoms preferred to place the deceased family members at Charaideo where the first king Sukapha was laid to rest.
- The historical chronicles inform that wives, attendants, pet animals and huge quantity of valuables were buried with the departed kings.
- After 18th century, the Ahom rulers adopted the Hindu method of cremation and began entombing the cremated bones and ashes in a Maidam at Charaideo.
- Out of 386 Maidams explored so far, 90 royal burials at Charaideo are the best preserved, representative of and the most complete examples of mound burial tradition of the Ahoms.

Climate Finance Action Fund

- **Context:** Azerbaijan, which will host the 29th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, announced the Climate Finance Action Fund to help developing countries fight climate change.

About Climate Finance Action Fund

- The fund will receive annual contributions from fossil fuel-producing countries and companies. Initial fundraising aims for \$1 billion.
- The fund will target climate projects in developing countries, meeting the next generation of national climate plans to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and addressing the consequences of climate change-fuelled disasters.

Dark Oxygen

- **Context:** Scientists have discovered "dark oxygen" being produced in the deep ocean.

Key highlights

- A study found that oxygen is being produced in complete darkness nearly 4,000 meters below the ocean surface.
- According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), around half of the Earth's oxygen comes from the ocean.
- The production of oxygen at such depths is thought to be impossible because there isn't enough sunlight for plants to do photosynthesis.
- The study explains that in this case oxygen is not produced by the plants, instead it comes out of metallic "nodules" that are similar in resemblance to lumps of coal. They are splitting H₂O molecules into hydrogen and oxygen.

Ex Khaan Quest 2024

- **Context:** Indian Army contingent departed for the Multinational Military Exercise 'Khaan Quest' at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Key facts

- The exercise first started as a bilateral event between USA and Mongolian Armed Forces in the year 2003.
- Subsequently, from the year 2006 onwards the exercise graduated to a Multinational Peacekeeping Exercise with the current year being the 21st iteration.
- Exercise KHAAN QUEST will enable the participating countries to share their best practices in Tactics, Techniques and Procedures for conduct of joint operations.
- The exercise will also facilitate developing interoperability, bonhomie and camaraderie between soldiers of the participating countries.

27th JULY 2024

Cultural Property Agreement

- **Context:** India and the United States of America signed the first ever 'Cultural Property Agreement' to prevent and curb the illicit trafficking of antiquities from India to the USA.

About Cultural Property Agreement (CPA)

- It was Initiated in 2022 and formalized through diplomatic notes and discussions, with support from the NGO 'Antiquity Coalition.'
- It is aligned with the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, to which both countries are States party.
- It restricts the importation into the United States of certain archaeological material ranging in date from 1.7 million years ago through 1770 CE and certain ethnological material, which may include categories of civic, religious, and royal architectural material, religious material and ceremonial items, and manuscripts ranging in date from 2nd century BCE to 1947 CE. The USA will return any forfeited objects from the Designate List to India.

- The Illicit trafficking of cultural property is a longstanding issue that has affected many cultures and countries throughout history. Therefore, the CPA is crucial for protecting India's cultural heritage and artifacts. It aims to prevent the illegal trafficking of antiquities from India to the USA.

NISAR Mission

- **Context:** The NISAR space mission, a groundbreaking collaboration between the space agencies of India and the United States, appears to be postponed until next year.

NISAR Satellite

- NISAR is an Earth-observation satellite that stands for (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar).
- It is Jointly developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Indian Space Research Organisation under a partnership agreement signed in 2014.
- It will be launched into a polar Sun-synchronous dawn-dusk orbit.
- NISAR is the first satellite mission to collect radar data in two microwave bandwidth regions, called the L-band and the S-band. The S-band payload has been made by the ISRO and the L-band payload by the U.S.

Objectives of the Mission

- NISAR can measure tectonic plate movements accurately. So, a lot of geological, agricultural and water-related observations can be obtained from this satellite.
- It can study the water-stressing, climate change-related issues, agricultural changes through patterns, yield, desertification and continental movements precisely with respect to annual water cycle movements.
- NISAR's data can help people worldwide better manage natural resources and hazards, as well as providing information for scientists to better understand the effects and pace of climate change.

28th JULY 2024

Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)

- **Context:** Recently, in a significant development, India has taken over as the Chair of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) for the period 2024-25, marking India's commitment to disaster risk reduction and climate resilience in the Asia-Pacific region.

About the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)

- It is an autonomous international organisation dedicated to cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and the enhancement of climate resilience across Asia and the Pacific.
- ADPC's founding members include India, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. These countries collaborate to strengthen disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts across the region.
- ADPC's mission revolves around building robust systems, institutional mechanisms, and capacities to withstand various hazards—ranging from floods and landslides to earthquakes and cyclones.

Leadership Transition

- As China's tenure came to an end, India stepped up to lead ADPC. It reflects India's proactive stance in disaster risk reduction.
- Notably, India championed the establishment of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), emphasising the importance of resilient infrastructure in mitigating the impact of disasters.

Supreme Court upholds states' power to tax minerals

- **Context:** A nine-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in, Mineral Area Development Authority v M/s Steel Authority of India, held that states have the power to levy tax on mines and minerals.

Key facts about Supreme Court's verdict

- The Supreme Court held that the "royalty" collected by state governments under Section 9 of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDRA) is not a tax.
- The obligation to pay royalty arises from contractual agreements between the lessor and lessee and is not intended for public purposes; rather, it serves as compensation for the exclusive use of mineral resources.
- Contractual payments made to the government cannot be equated to taxes.
- The judgment overruled the decision of the case in India Cement Ltd. v State of Tamil Nadu (1989), which had declared that royalty is a tax.

Background

- The dispute originated from the enactment of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, also known as MMDR Act by the Union Government in 1957, which brought the control of mines and minerals under the Union government's jurisdiction.
- Section 9 of the Act, requires those who obtain leases to conduct mining activities to "pay royalty in respect of any mineral removed" to the individual or corporation who leased the land to them.

About Royalties

- Royalties refer to the fees paid to the owner of a product in exchange for the right to use that product.
- For example, if a movie studio wants to use an existing piece of music by a specific artist in their new film, they will have to pay a royalty fee that goes to the artist.

29th JULY 2024

NIPUN Bharat Mission

- **Context:** Recently, the union government launched the NIPUN (National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy) Bharat Mission.

About NIPUN Bharat Mission

- It is launched by the Ministry of Education, a crucial step toward ensuring that every child in India acquires foundational literacy —such as reading, writing, and numeracy skills that are essential for a child's overall development and future success.
- The mission's primary goal is to achieve universal Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) among children in the age group of 3 to 9 years.
- By the end of Grade 3 (approximately age 8-9), every child should possess the necessary competencies in reading, writing, and basic maths.

Significance

- **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 Emphasis:** NEP places foundational literacy and numeracy as the highest priority. It recognises that without these fundamental skills, further learning becomes challenging.
- **Universal Access:** NIPUN Bharat aims to ensure that no child is left behind. Regardless of socio-economic background or geographical location, every young learner should have access to quality education.
- **Holistic Development:** Strong foundational skills not only enable academic success but also contribute to a child's overall cognitive, emotional, and social development.

Implementation and Key Components

- **National Steering Committee:** It was set up by the Ministry of Education to oversee the progress of NIPUN Bharat. It includes education secretaries from various states and other key stakeholders.
- **Monitoring and Tracking:** State and union territories are preparing implementation plans to achieve universal FLN in primary schools. Regular monitoring ensures progress toward the 2026-27 goal.

Collaborative Efforts

- **NCERT:** It plays a pivotal role in designing curriculum frameworks, teacher training, and assessment tools for NIPUN Bharat.

- **CBSE:** It actively supports the mission by integrating FLN competencies into its curriculum.

Cheyava Falls of Mars

- **Context:** NASA's Perseverance rover found a rock named Cheyava Falls on Mars.

About Cheyava Falls of Mars

- Cheyava Falls measures 3.2 feet by 2 feet (1 metre by 0.6 metres).
- It is named after a waterfall in the Grand Canyon.
- It is situated at the northern edge of Neretva Vallis, an ancient river valley that is 400 metres wide, formed by ancient water flow into Jezero Crater.
- It shows signs of organic material and evidence of past water flow.
- It contains organic compounds, which are the building blocks of life, though these can also form through non-biological processes.
- It has large white veins of calcium phosphate and reddish bands of haematite.

National Metallurgist Awards -2024

- **Context:** The Ministry of Steel, Government of India has conferred National Metallurgist Awards.

Key facts

- It recognizes the contributions in the metallurgical field, covering Operations, Research & Development, Waste Management and Energy Conservation.
- Applications are invited from Individuals from Industry, Research & Academia.
- **The Awards are given in the following four categories:**
 - Lifetime Achievement Award
 - National Metallurgist Award
 - Young Metallurgist Award
 - ♦ Environment
 - ♦ Metal Science
 - Award for R&D in Iron & Steel Sector.

30th JULY 2024

India Employment Report 2024

- **Context:** Recently, India, a founding member of the International Labour Organization (ILO), raised concerns about the ILO's India Employment Report 2024.

About ILO Report: Key Findings

- The India Employment Report 2024, jointly prepared by the ILO and the Institute of Human Development (IHD), paints a vivid picture of the labour market.
- The report sheds light on the employment scenario in India, but the Indian government contends that the model used by the ILO does not accurately reflect the Indian context.
- **Youth Unemployment:** The report highlights that India's youth constitute nearly 83% of the unemployed workforce.
 - Moreover, the share of young people with secondary or higher education among the total unemployed youth has nearly doubled from 35.2% in 2000 to 65.7% in 2022.
- **Changing Employment Landscape:** The concept of employment in India has been evolving. On one hand, more people are venturing into entrepreneurship, while on the other, formal employment is gaining momentum.
 - Subscriptions to schemes like the Employees Provident Fund Organization and the Employees State Insurance Corporation reflect this trend.
- **Data Discrepancies:** The crux of the issue lies in data disparities. The ILO's data diverges from the data used within India.
 - The Union Labour Ministry contends that the Periodic Labour Force Surveys provide a more accurate picture of the employment situation in the country.

Humayun's Tomb: World Heritage Site Museum

- **Context:** Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, inaugurated the Humayun's Tomb World Heritage Site Museum at the Humayun's Tomb, a UNESCO World Heritage site in New Delhi.

Key facts

- It is the country's first sunken museum that displays over 500 never-before-seen artefacts.
- The layout is inspired by the medieval 'baolis', or traditional water tanks, showcases the legacy of Mughal emperor Humayun.
- It is an UNESCO recommendation that interpretation centres/site museums be provided at the entrance zone of significant World Heritage Sites to provide the cultural context of the heritage site and thus significantly enhance the visitor experience. The Museum is designed to be underground so as to retain the visual integrity of the monuments located in the complex.

About Humayun's Tomb

- The tomb of Humayun, second Mughal Emperor of India, was built by his widow, Biga Begum (Hajji Begum), in 1569-70, 14 years after his death.
- The architect was Mirak Mirza Ghiyath.
- Humayun's garden-tomb is also called the 'dormitory of the Mughals' as in the cells are buried over 150 Mughal family members.
- The tomb stands in an extremely significant archaeological setting, centred at the Shrine of the 14th century Sufi Saint, Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya.
- It was the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent.
- It inspired several major architectural innovations, culminating in the construction of the Taj Mahal.

31st JULY 2024

State of the World's Mangroves, 2024 Report

- **Context:** The Global Mangrove Alliance (GMA) has released a report titled 'The State of the World's Mangroves, 2024' on World Mangrove Day (26 July).

Key Highlights of the Report

- **Distribution:** Southeast Asia accounts for 33.6 percent of global mangrove cover with Indonesia alone having 21 percent of the world's mangroves.
- **Area under threat:**
 - Mangrove areas of Indonesia, northeast Brazil and northwest Mexico are experiencing significant losses.
 - Mangroves in Lakshadweep archipelago and on the coast of Tamil Nadu are critically endangered.
- **Reasons for Loss:**
 - Conversion to aquaculture, oil palm plantations and rice cultivation together accounts for 43 percent of mangrove losses between 2000 and 2020.

- Shrimp farms that are mostly constructed within the vital intertidal zones, resulting in the total removal of mangroves

e-SeHAT

- **Context:** The Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) has launched the Electronic Services e-Health Assistance and Tele-consultation (E-SeHAT) module.

Key highlights

- The E-SeHAT Tele-consultancy would enable ECHS beneficiaries in obtaining online Tele-consultation for medical treatment from their homes without visiting the ECHS Polyclinic.
- The module aims to provide health care services through safe and structured video based clinical consultations.
- The E-SeHAT initiative aligns with the Digital India vision of the Government of India aimed at promoting digital inclusivity and efficiency in public services.

