

Global Liveability Index

❖ Context

- Recently, **The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)** revealed its **Global Liveability Index for 2022**.
- It shows some notable changes from the Global Liveability Index for the previous year.

❖ Key Highlights

- The **top ten Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)** rankings continue to be dominated by **Western European cities**.
- **Top Five Liveable Cities:** Vienna (Austria), Copenhagen (Denmark), Zurich (Switzerland), Calgary (Canada) Vancouver (Canada).
- **Top Five Least Liveable Cities:** Tehran (Iran), Douala (Cameroon), Harare (Zimbabwe), Dhaka (Bangladesh), Port Moresby (PNG).
- **Findings about India:**
 - The cities in India have **fares poorly** in the list of the world's most liveable cities.
 - India's **national capital New Delhi has been ranked 112th** in the list of most liveable cities.
 - India's **financial capital Mumbai** is ranked at **117th position**.

❖ About Global Liveability Index

- This year the Global Liveability Index **surveyed over 173 cities across the globe**.
- Previously, the index ranked 140 global cities.
- **Significance:**
 - It **quantifies the challenges** that might be presented to an individual's lifestyle in 173 cities worldwide.
 - It assesses which locations **provide the best living conditions**.
- The survey rates cities worldwide based on **30 qualitative and quantitative criteria**, which fall into five general categories:
 - Stability, Health care, Culture and environment, Education, Infrastructure.
- ❖ **About EIU**
 - It is an organization that **provides forecasting and advisory services** to assist entrepreneurs, financiers, and government officials.
 - It operates as an **independent research and analysis business** within the London-based Economist Group.

Roe v. Wade

❖ Context

- Recently the landmark **1973 Roe v. Wade judgment** in the US has been struck down by the Supreme Court's conservative majority.

❖ Key Highlights

- Roe v. Wade judgment **legalised abortion** in the US.
- This made abortion a **constitutional right**.
- It **established a benchmark for abortion laws** across the world.
- It had been ruled that **abortion would be allowed up to the point of foetal viability**.
 - **Foetal viability** - the time after which a foetus can survive outside the womb.
 - **Foetal viability** is often seen as the **point at which the rights of the woman can be separated** from the rights of the unborn foetus.
- Foetal viability was **around 28 weeks (7 months)** at the time of the Roe judgment.
- Experts now agree that advances in medicine have brought the threshold down to 23 or 24 weeks (6 months or a little less).

- **Abortion laws across the world rely on this metric** but those opposing abortions argue that this is an arbitrary timeframe that legislation and the court in 'Roe' adopted.
- In **approximately 16 countries** around the world, **abortion is entirely prohibited** and even criminalised.
- ❖ **Position on Abortion in India**
 - India's **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971** allows abortion until **20 weeks of pregnancy**.
 - **MTP Amendment Act, 2021:**
 - The ceiling for abortions was **raised to 24 weeks**.
 - However it was raised **only for special categories of pregnant women** such as rape or incest survivors.
 - It requires the **approval of two registered doctors**.
 - **Case of Foetal Disability:**
 - There is **no limit to the timeline for abortion**.
 - However, it is allowed by a medical board of specialist doctors set up by the governments of states and union territories.

VL-SRSAM

❖ Context

- The **Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM)** was successfully flight-tested off the Odisha coast.



Face to Face Centres



❖ Design & Development

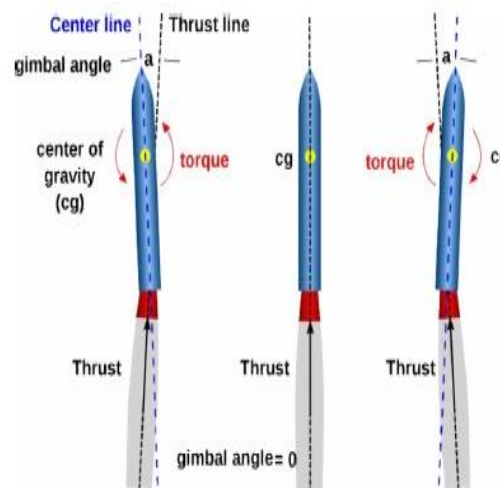
- It has been designed and developed jointly by **three facilities** of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO):
 - Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad.
 - Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad.
 - Research & Development Establishment (Engineers), Pune.
- Its design is based on **Astra missile** which is a Beyond Visual Range Air to Air missile.

❖ Capabilities

- It will be deployed in Indian Naval warships.
- It can strike at the high-speed airborne targets at the **range of 40km to 50km** and at an **altitude** of around **15km**.
- It can be used to neutralise **sea-skimming targets**.
- The tactic of sea skimming is used by various anti-ship missiles and some fighter jets to avoid being detected by the radars onboard warships.

❖ Key Features

- Cruciform wings** - Four small wings arranged like a cross on four sides which give the projective a stable aerodynamic posture.
- Thrust vectoring** - An ability to change the direction of the thrust from its engine to control the angular velocity and the altitude of the missile.



- Canisterised system** - Stored and operated from specially designed compartments. In the canister, the inside environment is controlled, thus making its transport and storage easier and improving the shelf life of weapons.

HERMIT

❖ Context

- A cloud based security company has recently discovered a **new spyware**, called "Hermit", that is capable of affecting both Android and iOS devices.



❖ About Hermit

- It is a **commercial spyware** reported to be used by the governments.
- It has been reported to have targeted high profile victims located in **Italy, Syria and Kazakhstan**.

❖ Modus Operandi

- A **unique link** sent to the target. Once clicked, the page attempts to get the user to download and install a malicious application on either Android or iOS.
- In some cases, it masquerades as **mobile carrier (ISP) applications**. For this, first, target's mobile data connectivity is disabled.

- Once disabled, the attacker would send a malicious link via SMS asking the target to install an application to recover their data connectivity.
- When ISP involvement is not possible, applications are masqueraded as **manufacturer's applications**.
- The malicious apps can be **sideloaded** on any device and **don't need to be even installed via the App Store**.

❖ What can it do?

- It can exploit a rooted device, record audio and even make and redirect phone calls.
- The spyware can also collect data such as call logs, contacts, photos, device location and SMS messages.

News in Between the Lines

Climate Club



❖ Context

- The German government plans to get the G-7 to commit to **collective progress on curbing global warming**.

❖ Key Highlights

- One of the ideas being discussed is the **creation of a climate club** for countries that want to **speed ahead when it comes to tackling the issue**.
- Germany is hosting this year's meeting of G7 in the Bavarian resort of Elmau.

❖ About Climate Club

- The **idea was first floated by Yale economist** and Nobel Prize winner **William Nordhaus**.
- He observed that the voluntary nature of existing climate agreements hasn't resulted in sufficient progress.

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One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)



- He proposed that **countries which were serious about reducing their emissions could come together and form a club.**
- It would **jointly set ambitious targets** and exempt each other from climate-related trade tariffs that non-members would be subject to.
- The exact details of how the club's rules would work are still sketchy.

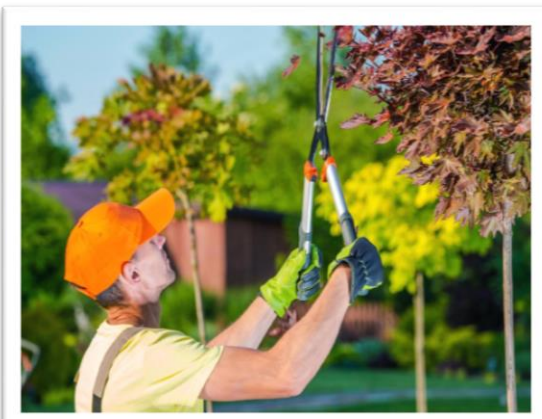
❖ Context

- **Assam has become the 36th State/UT to implement One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC).**
- With this, the ONORC plan is **successfully implemented in all the 36 states/UTs.**

❖ About ONORC

- The Union Government launched the '**One Nation, One Ration Card**' scheme on a pilot basis in four states in 2019.
- **Nodal Ministry** : Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- **Aims:**
 - To ensure all beneficiaries, especially **migrants get ration (wheat, rice and other food grains) across the nation** from any **Public Distribution System (PDS)** shop of their own choice.
 - **No poor person should be deprived of getting subsidised food grains** under the food security scheme when they shift from one place to another.
 - To **reduce instances of corruption** by middlemen and fraudulence in ration cards to avail benefits from different states.
- **Process:**
 - ONORC is based on technology that involves **details of beneficiaries' ration card, Aadhaar number, and electronic Points of Sale (ePoS).**
 - The system **identifies a beneficiary through biometric authentication** on ePos devices at fair price shops.
 - The system runs with the support of two portals - Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS) and Annavitran, which host all the relevant data.
- **'MERA RATION' Mobile App:**
 - It is another dimension under the ONORC plan.
 - It has been rolled out to take maximum advantage of the ONORC plan.
 - The mobile app is providing a host of useful real time information to the beneficiaries and is **available in 13 languages.**
- **Previous System:** A ration cardholder could buy food grains only from the PDS in the locality where he or she lives.

Tree Pruning



[Daily Current Affairs](#)

❖ Context

- Recently, **New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC)** launched a campaign to scientifically **prune overgrown and dead branches of old trees** in Connaught Place.

❖ Tree Pruning

- **About:** Pruning is when **selectively branches are removed from a tree.**
 - The goal is to remove unwanted branches, improve the tree's structure, and direct new, healthy growth.
- **Benefits of Pruning:**
 - Each cut can **potentially change the growth of the tree.**
 - Some common reasons for pruning include, removal of dead branches to **improve form and increase safety**, to **increase light and air penetration** for plants below the tree's crown, or corrective and preventative measures.
 - A **clean, polished look** that elevates the whole landscape.
 - Set the tree up with a **good foundation for long-term health.**

Face to Face Centres



Bharat NCAP (New Car Assessment Programme)



❖ Context

- The government has recently approved the draft notification to introduce Bharat NCAP (New Car Assessment Programme).

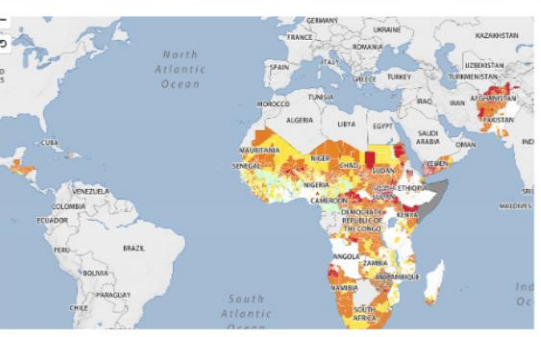
❖ Key Highlights

- For this, a new rule 126E in CMVR (Central Motor Vehicles Rules), 1989 will be inserted.
- It will provide **star ratings** to vehicles based on their performance in crash tests.
- It will evaluate the vehicle in the areas of :
 - Adult Occupant Protection (AOP).
 - Child Occupant Protection (COP).
 - Safety Assist Technologies (SAT).
- It will allow customers to opt for safer cars based upon their star-ratings and thus promote healthy competition among original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to manufacture safer vehicles. It will be applicable from **1st April, 2023**.

❖ Background

- India is the **fifth biggest car market** in the world.
- Indian agencies such as the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) and the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) do not provide star ratings or certifications on crash tests.
- So, manufacturers conducted crash tests on a voluntary basis at their research labs or would send the cars to independent agencies (third party) like Global NCAP in the UK to get the star ratings.

Global Hunger Crisis



	Acute Food Insecurity	Chronic Food Insecurity	Acute Malnutrition
PC definitions of food insecurity and malnutrition	Food insecurity found at a specific point in time and of a severity that threatens lives or livelihoods, or both, regardless of the causes, context or duration.	Food insecurity that persists over time mainly due to structural causes, including intra-annual seasonal food insecurity.	Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) as expressed by thinness of individuals or presence of oedema.
Forms action with specific strategic objectives	Short-term objectives to prevent or decrease acute food insecurity that threatens lives or livelihoods.	Medium- and long-term improvement of the quality and quantity of food consumption for an active and healthy life.	Short- and long-term objectives to prevent or decrease high levels of acute malnutrition.
Severity categories	Five Severity Phases: 1. Minimal/None 2. Stressed 3. Crisis 4. Emergency 5. Catastrophe/Famine	Four Severity Levels: 1. Minimal/None 2. Mild 3. Moderate 4. Severe	Five Severity Phases: 1. Acceptable 2. Alert 3. Serious 4. Critical 5. Extremely Critical
Analytical focus	Identifying areas with a large proportion of households with significant food energy gaps or livelihood change strategies that can endanger lives or livelihoods.	Identifying areas with a large proportion of households that have long-term inability to acquire adequate food requirements both in terms of macro- and micronutrients.	Identifying areas with a large proportion of children wasted or with oedema.

❖ Context

- The Secretary General, United Nations, has warned that the world faces a "catastrophe" because of the growing shortage of food around the globe.
- More than **4,60,000 people in Somalia, Yemen and South Sudan** are in famine conditions under IPC.
- There is a real risk that **multiple famines will be declared in 2022 and 2023** could be even worse.

❖ Causes

- Main causes are the **war in Ukraine, climate change, the coronavirus pandemic and inequality**.
- Ukraine and Russia produce about **29%** of the global wheat export.
- Shipments from Ukrainian ports have been halted by Russia's invasion. Russia wants certain western sanctions lifted in order to resume its grain and fertiliser export.
- Consequently, farmers around the world are struggling to cope with rising fertiliser and energy prices which will in turn affect harvests across the world.

❖ Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)

- It is a scale used by UN agencies, regional bodies and aid groups to determine food insecurity.
- It was originally developed in **2004** for use in Somalia by the **United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation's Food Security Analysis Unit (FSAU)**.
- It has **three scales**.

Personal Rapid Transit System



❖ Context

- The **Telangana government** has asked the centre to finalise standards, specifications and a regulatory framework to establish a **Personal Rapid Transit System (PRTS)**.

❖ Key Highlights

- The state government is planning to build a 10-km PRTS corridor to serve as **feeder services** for Metro and local train services.
- PRTS is a transport mode with **small and automated vehicles** carrying people on an **elevated platform** to make it convenient for accessing the mass transport systems, thereby reducing travel time significantly.

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