

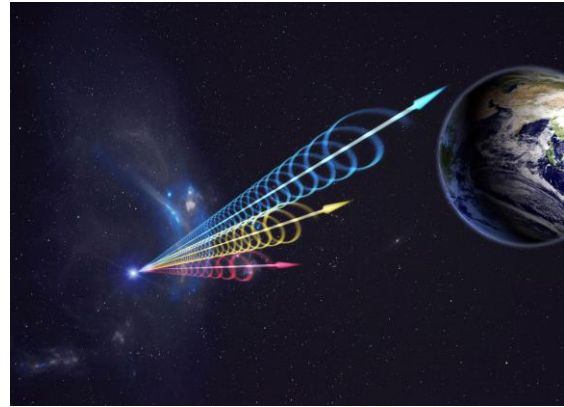
## City region

- The engines of India's growth are the economies of mega-city regions.
- While national and State level policies are vital to the country's economic development, they are not enough to meet the needs of such city regions.
- In Delhi- NCR, as elsewhere, spatio-economic assessments can help target infrastructure investments and foreign direct investments to economically dynamic locations, to ensure better returns and job growth
- Delhi-NCR's challenges include increasing land and infrastructure costs, growing income inequality, poor air quality, land and water pollution, the lack of natural resources, and institutional coordination barriers

## THE HINDU

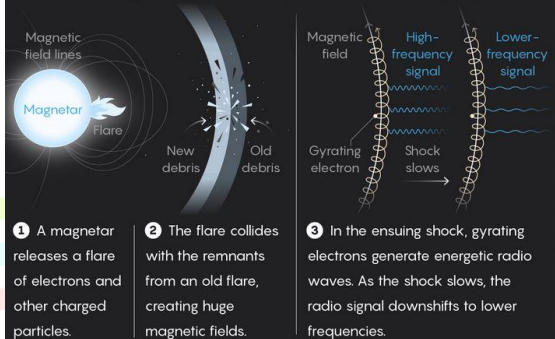
### Fast radio burst

- FRBs are mysterious, intense, bursts of radio waves coming from outside the galaxy.
- What produces these bursts has remained unclear since they were first discovered in 2007. Yet it is thought that over 10,000 FRBs reach the Earth every day.



### How Fast Radio Bursts Work

Fast radio bursts are brief, energetic blips of radio waves that originate far across the universe. At least one repeats, which has added to the challenge of explaining what might be creating them. A new model accounts for past observations and predicts specific features that should be seen going forward.



- A magnetar is a type of neutron star with an extremely powerful magnetic field.
- The magnetic field decay powers the emission of high-energy electromagnetic radiation, particularly X-rays and gamma rays.
- The existence of magnetars was proposed in 1992 by Robert Duncan and Christopher Thompson

## THE HINDU

### Debt to GDP

- The statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) stipulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) requires the banking system to hold 18% of its demand

and time liabilities in government securities.

- Besides, the RBI intervenes in the market through open market operations around the time when government borrowing is taken up to keep the interest rates on government borrowing repressed.
- When the interest rate on government debt is lower than the growth of GDP, the debt may decline but the financial market gets distorted.
- Thus, even when the sustainability of debt may not be threatened in the medium term, the costs of carrying high deficits and debt to the economy are heavy
- Large interest payments crowd out the much-needed expenditures on physical infrastructure and human development and emerging priorities to make the green transition
- It is clear that in the present fiscal environment, even achieving a consolidated debt -to- GDP ratio of 58.2 recommended by the 14th Finance Commission for 2019--20 would be unfeasible in the medium term.
- The Finance Commission had recommended that the Union government bring down its deficit relative to GDP from 43.6% in 2015-16 to 36.3%, and the States

maintain their deficit at about 22%

- The technology has helped to improve tax administration and improved compliance. With the cross-matching of GST returns with income tax returns, income tax compliance too is expected to improve.
- In terms of policy interventions, this is the time to rethink the role of the state and vacate activities that should really belong to the market rather than competing with it.
- At the central level, even after much talk about disinvestment, progress has been slow.
- Rather than dispensing with activities such as telecom to the private sector, the government continues to pour money into Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

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## THE HINDU

### SCO

- On July 4, 2023, India successfully hosted the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).
- The world witnessed another “SCO moment”. Leaders of the SCO member- states signed the New Delhi Declaration and issued statements on countering radicalization and exploring

cooperation in digital transformation.

- The summit granted Iran full SCO membership, signed the memorandum of obligations of Belarus to join the SCO as a member state, and adopted the SCO's economic development strategy for the period until 2030.
- The world is grappling with geopolitical tensions, an economic slowdown, energy crises, food shortage and climate change.
- These challenges require the joint response of all countries.
- The major risks to world peace and development are power politics, economic coercion, technology decoupling and ideological contest
- The SCO's leading and exemplary role can help strengthen unity and cooperation, seize development opportunities, and address risks and challenges.
- Pursue cooperation in digital, biological and outer space security, and facilitate political settlement when it comes to international and regional hot-spot issues
- The SCO needs more engagements with its observer states, dialogue partners and other regional and international organisations such as the United Nations, to uphold the unmeted international system and

the international order based on international law.

- Together, we are united in promoting world peace, driving global development and safeguarding the international order

## THE HINDU

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### Forest conservation bill

1. The Bill amends the short title of the Act to be called the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

2. It clarifies the scope of applicability of the Act upon various lands.

3. The Bill extends the applicability of the Act to certain types of land. These include land notified as a forest under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or in government records after the 1980 Act came into effect.

4. It exempt certain categories of lands from the purview of the Act which includes the following:

4.1 Such forest land situated alongside a rail line or a public road maintained by the Government, which provides access to a habitation, or to a rail, and roadside amenity up to a maximum size of 0.10 hectare.

4.2 The forest land which is situated within a distance of one hundred kilometers along international borders or Line of Control or Line of Actual Control, as the case may be, proposed to be used for construction of strategic linear project of national importance and concerning national security.

4.3 Land up to ten hectares, proposed to be used for construction of security related infrastructure.

4.4 Land as is proposed to be used for construction of defence related project or a camp for paramilitary forces or public utility projects, as may be specified by the Central Government, the extent of which does not exceed five hectares in a Left Wing Extremism affected area as may be notified by the Central Government.

4.5 Such tree, tree plantation or reforestation raised on lands that are not declared or notified as a forest in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under any other law for the time being in force or has been recorded in Government record as forest, as on or after the 25th October, 1980.

## THE HINDU

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