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## Prelim Bits 26-08-2023 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

### Tiger Census

*During the 50th anniversary celebrations of Project Tiger, Prime Minister announced that the animal's population in India had increased to 3,167.*

- The 5<sup>th</sup> cycle of India's Tiger Census report has revealed the Tiger numbers in the country has once again increased as of 2022.
- The National assessment for the Status of Tigers, co-predators, Prey and their Habitat is conducted by the:
  1. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NCTA)
  2. The State Forest Departments
  3. Conservation NGOs
  4. The Wildlife Institute of India (WII)
- The survey is being conducted for every four years once since the year 2006.
- The main objective of reviewing the status of Tigers in the country every four years was to ensure that the balance between forest and wildlife is not disrupted.
- If Tigers were to extinguish it would severely affect the forest and cycle of nature.
- **Latest Survey** - Among the country's 53 reserves, Corbett, in Uttarakhand had the highest number at 260.
- Madhya Pradesh's forests continued to account for the largest population for any state at 785.

### References

1. [Down To Earth - How robust is India's tiger census?](#)
2. [Hindustan Times - India's tiger count tops 3,600](#)

### Northern Sea Route (NSR)

*Russia in talks with India to develop Northern Sea shipping route.*

- The Northern Sea Route (NSR), the shortest shipping route for freight transportation between Europe and countries of the Asia-Pacific region, straddles four seas of the Arctic Ocean.
- The NSR route between Europe and Asia is just 13,000 km long, compared to the 21,000 km covered by the Suez Canal route.
- Running to 5,600 km, the Route begins at the boundary between the Barents and the Kara seas (Kara Strait) and ends in the Bering Strait.

- This reduces the travel duration from one month to less than two weeks.
- The whole path, which has been dubbed the Northeast Passage and is comparable to Canada's Northwest Passage, is located in the Arctic seas and within Russia's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

*Distance savings along the NSR can be as high as 50% compared to the currently used shipping lanes via Suez or Panama.*

- **Russia** - As the seas of the Arctic Ocean remain icebound during most of the year, the icebreaking assistance is organized to ensure safe navigation along the NSR.
- Russia is the only country in the world with a nuclear-powered icebreaker fleet, according to Rosatom State Nuclear Energy Corporation, the NSR infrastructure operator.



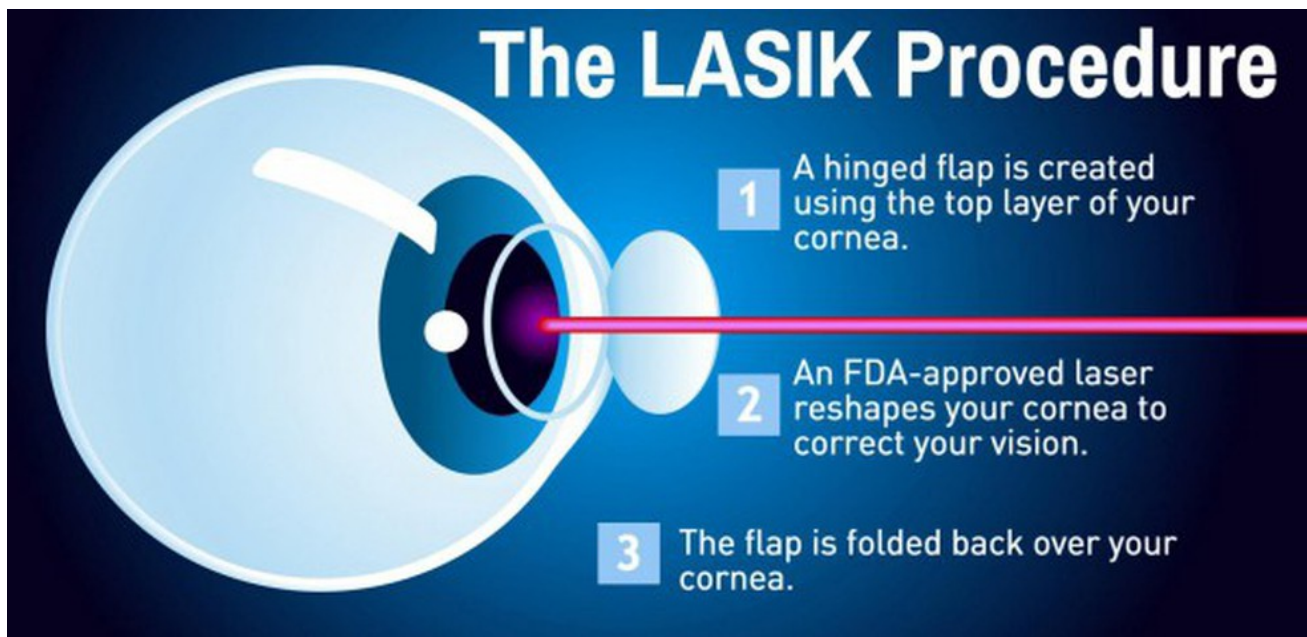
## Reference

1. [The Hindu - India and the Northern Sea Route](#)

## Laser-Assisted In Situ Keratomileusis (LASIK) Surgery

*Most insurance products in the market cover for LASIK surgeries when the refractory error power is => 7.5 dioptr.*

- The surgical procedures aimed at improving the focusing power of the eyes are called refractive surgery.
- In LASIK surgery, precise and controlled removal of corneal tissue by a special laser reshapes the cornea changing its focusing power.
- When performed on both eyes, the entire procedure of LASIK surgery takes about 20 minutes.
- It helps the patients to get rid of the need to wear glasses or contact lenses.
- In order to undergo the LASIK procedure, one should be at least 18 years old.
- This is because the vision of people younger than 18 usually continues to change.
- The procedure helps to treat conditions such as myopia, hyperopia, and astigmatism.



## Reference

1. [Business Standard - Do health policies cover LASIK surgeries?](#)

## UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

*India and Iran drop foreign arbitration clause in Chabahar port issue.*

- The UNCITRAL was established by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in 1966.
- The UNCITRAL is the core legal body of the United Nations system in the field of international trade law.
- It works with a mandate to further the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade.
- UNCITRAL conducts its business at yearly sessions that alternate between Vienna, where it is headquartered, and New York City, New York, USA.
- UNCITRAL has 60 members who are chosen to serve terms of six years.
- The members are 14 from Asia, 14 from Africa, 10 from Latin America and the Caribbean, 8 from Eastern Europe, and 14 from Western Europe and other countries.
- India - India is a founding member of UNCITRAL and is the only country which have been a member of UNCITRAL since its inception.

## International Trade Law

- The country's government uses international trade law as a tool to regulate and impose trade sanctions.
- International trade law is focused on adapting domestic laws to international trade laws and on implementing international trade law that is based on treaties.

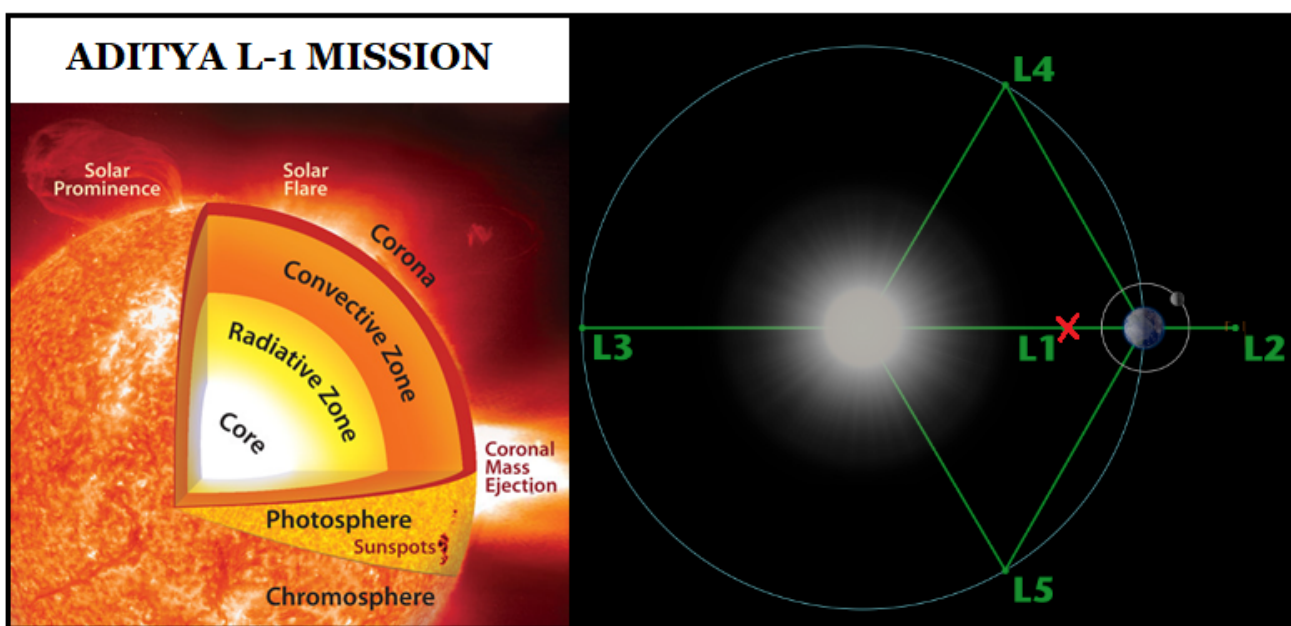
## References

1. [Hindu - India-Iran drop foreign arbitration clause in Chabahar port](#)
2. [UN Web TV - UNCITRAL](#)

## Aditya L1 Mission

*Following lunar successes, the upcoming Aditya L1 will portray ISRO not as a rising Sun, but as a Sun that has already risen high.*

- **Aim** - To observe the Sun from a close distance, and try to obtain information about its atmosphere and magnetic field.
- **Payloads** - It is equipped with seven payloads on board to study the Photosphere, Chromosphere, Sun's corona, solar emissions, solar winds and flares, Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs).
- **Detectors** - It will carry out round-the-clock imaging of the Sun using electromagnetic and particle and magnetic field detectors.
- **Halo orbit** - The spacecraft shall be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system, which is about 1.5 million km from the Earth.
- Aditya L1 will perform continuous observations looking directly at the Sun.
- **Study** - Solar upper atmospheric (chromosphere and corona) dynamics.
- Chromospheric and coronal heating, physics of the partially ionized plasma, initiation of the coronal mass ejections, and flares.



## References

1. [Business Standard - ISRO's solar odyssey](#)
2. [WION - India's Sun mission Aditya-L1 to be launched in two weeks](#)



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