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News: ExoMars 2022 Mission

- The European Space Agency's ExoMars 2022 mission won't launch in September, 2022 as planned after the agency suspended all cooperation with Russia's space agency Roscosmos.

ExoMars 2022 Mission

- ExoMars 2022 Mission is a two stage mission envisioned by European Space Agency and Roscosmos (Russian Space Agency) to the Mars.
- Its first mission launched atop a Proton-M rocket in 2016 and consisted of the European Trace Gas Orbiter and test lander called Schiaparelli.
- The orbiter was successful while the test lander failed during its descent to Mars.

- **Second part comprises a rover and surface platform.** This second part of the mission was originally planned for July 2020. But it was postponed until this September due to technical issues.
- **ESA and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) were the original ExoMars collaborators, but NASA dropped out in 2012 due to budgeting problems.**
- **Russia took NASA's place** in the project in 2013.

Objective

- The primary aim of the mission is **to check if there has ever been life on Mars and also understand the history of water on the planet.**
- The European rover will **drill to the sub-surface of Mars** to collect samples from about 2 m of depth.
- The **main goal is to land ESA's rover at a site which has high-potential for finding well-preserved organic material**, particularly from the history of the planet.

News: World Water Day

World Water Day

- World Water Day is celebrated every year 22nd of March by UN General Assembly to raise the awareness of 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water & SDG-6: (Water & Sanitation for all). It is implemented by UN-Water.
- The idea for a World Water Day was put forward in 1992, at the Rio de Janeiro United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. It was here that the March 22 date was agreed upon and finalised.
- The first World Water Day was held on the following year and it has continued ever since.
- Theme for the year 2021 was "Valuing Water" and for the year 2022 is "Groundwater: Making the invisible visible".
- International Decade for Action on Water for Sustainable Development is (2018- 2028) is observed.

News: National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

- According to a parliamentary committee's recent report, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes has been dysfunctional for the last four years and has not delivered a single report to Parliament.

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)

- Article 338A of the constitution provides for the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (after the 89th Constitutional Amendment in 2003).
- President appoints by a warrant under his hand and seals the members of NCST.
- NCST consists of 5 members including a Chairman and a Vice-Chairperson of which at least one is a woman.
- Members are appointed for 3 years who are ineligible for appointment for more than 2 terms.

Powers

- To investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the STs under the Constitution or under any other law for the time being in force or under any order of the Government.
- Chairman is given the rank of Union Cabinet Minister.

- The Vice Chairperson has the rank of a Minister of State and other Members have the rank of a Secretary to the Government of India.
- There are over 700 notified tribes, of which 62 communities are found in Odisha, whereas No tribes are identified in Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi & Puducherry.
- To present to the President, annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of the safeguards given to the Scheduled Tribes.