

TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM CURRENT AFFAIRS SEPTEMBER 2023

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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The President of India unveiled a postage stamp as a tribute to Dadi Prakashmani, the former chief of Brahma Kumari's.
- ❖ Geetika Srivastava will be India's new charge affairs at its High Commission in Islamabad of Pakistan.
 - She is becoming the first woman to hold that post.
- ❖ India defeated Thailand in the final to win the inaugural Women's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier held at Oman.
- ❖ Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana has been appointed as member of the International Mediator Panel of Singapore International Mediation Centre (SIMC).
- ❖ NITI Aayog and UNDP India have signed a MoU to formalise a framework of cooperation on a range of areas, including SDG localisation, data-driven monitoring, Aspirational Districts and Blocks, among others.
- ❖ ACME Group has partnered with Tata Steel Special Economic Zone Ltd to establish a green hydrogen and green ammonia project at the Gopalpur Industrial Park in Odisha.
- ❖ Actor R Madhavan is nominated as the new President of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, and chairman of the governing council.
- ❖ Bheaderwah Rajma and Ramban Sulai Honey from Jammu and Kashmir have earned coveted Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.
- ❖ The state of Georgia in the United States has formally designated October as "Hindu Heritage Month".
 - It aims to recognize and appreciate the valuable contributions made by the vibrant Hindu-American community residing in the state.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) has said only Vinayaka idols made of natural, biodegradable, eco-friendly material such as traditional virtuous clay and mud should be immersed in waterbodies.
- ❖ The International Solar Alliance (ISA) hosted its 5th regional meeting in Kigali, Rwanda.
- ❖ Corning Inc. the leading smartphone glass makers, have decided to set up their first Gorllia Glass factory in Telangana.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister unveiled a statue of P. Subbarayan, former Chief Minister of then Madras Presidency between 1926 and 1930 during the colonial rule at Chennai.

- ❖ American manufacturer of optical materials and semiconductors, Coherent Corp, has entered into a tripartite MoU with Guidance Tamil Nadu and IIT Madras's Research Park (IITMRP), to establish a first-of-its-kind global Centre of Excellence (CoE).
- ❖ Divya Deshmukh won in the women's category of the rapid section at the Tata Steel Chess India tournament held at Kolkata.
- ❖ NASSCOM has announced the appointment of Rajesh Nambiar, Chairman and Managing Director, Cognizant India, as its new Chairperson.
- ❖ Danielle McGahey will become the first transgender cricketer to play an official international match when she represents Canada in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 Americas qualifier.
- ❖ The conference on "Green Hydrogen Pilots in India" was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ International Cruise Terminal at Visakhapatnam Port inaugurated recently.
 - It will serve as a pivotal gateway for both domestic and international cruise tourism along the eastern coast of India.
- ❖ The Technology Development Board (TDB) has joined forces with Aloe Ecell Pvt. Ltd., a Lucknow-based startup, to support the project "Commercialization of Eco-friendly 1.5V AA size Aloe Vera-based batteries.
- ❖ Indian Prime Minister attended the ASEAN-India and the East Asia summit in Indonesia.
- ❖ Ashok Leyland celebrates the 75th anniversary of operations recently.
- ❖ TN Chief Minister unveiled a statue of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore on the campus of the Queen Mary's College, Chennai.
- ❖ Abu Dhabi-based, Tabreed will invest \$200 million to develop cooling infrastructure for the Hyderabad Pharma City.
- ❖ The Finance Ministry notified rules to impose a 28% Goods and Services Tax (GST) on the face value of bets placed in online games and casinos.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government will construct a manimandapam in honour of late freedom fighter Tyagi Immanuel Sekaran, in Paramakudi in Ramanathapuram district.
- ❖ The four-day training camps for cadets of the Indian Naval Academy (INA), named 'Varuna' and 'Samudramanthan' held at Kerala recently.
- ❖ The Governor of Goa officially introduced the Mashaal (torch) to mark the commencement of the 37th National Games.
- ❖ Phase II of the 21st edition of Varuna (Varuna-23), the bilateral exercise between the Indian and French Navies, was successfully conducted in the Arabian Sea.

- ❖ TN State government has reconstituted the Tamil Nadu Street Vending and Shops and Establishments Workers' Welfare Board with the Minister for Labour Welfare and Skill Development as its ex-officio chairperson.
- ❖ Germany have won their first-ever FIBA Basketball World Cup title by beating Serbia.
- ❖ India's U-16 team had secured its status as champion of the SAFF U-16 Championship 2023 by defeating Bangladesh.
- ❖ HSBC India has launched 'ONDC in a Box'.
 - It is making it the first foreign bank in India to offer an Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)-enabled proposition.
- ❖ Dennis Austin, the co-creator of PowerPoint presentation passed away recently.
- ❖ India batter Virat Kohli became the fastest to reach 13,000 ODI runs in just 277 innings.
 - He bettered the record of fellow Indian player Sachin Tendulkar (321 innings).
- ❖ Ian Wilmut of United Kingdom, the cloning pioneer whose work was critical to the creation of Dolly the Sheep in 1996, has passed away.
- ❖ TN Police has implemented TrackKD, an Integrated Data Management System for Criminal profiling and tracking.
 - It has profiles of 30, 000 history sheeters in the State list and 3500 in the city police.
- ❖ Indian badminton player Kiran George Clinches Indonesia Badminton Masters Title 2023 in Medan, North Sumatra.
- ❖ Louisville, Kentucky city of United States has declared September 3 as Sanatana Dharma Day.
- ❖ India has become the Bangladesh's leading export partner by surpassing both Japan and China.
- ❖ Indian Prime Minister inaugurated the first phase of the India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC), named Yasho Bhoomi, in Dwarka, Delhi.
- ❖ India's fashion designer Rahul Mishra was conferred with the insignia of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres of France.
- ❖ President of India inaugurated the First Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights in New Delhi.
- ❖ India hosted the inaugural United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) South Asia conference.
- ❖ The International Day for Interventional Cardiology is celebrated annually on 16th September.
- ❖ International Equal Pay Day is observed on 18 September annually.

- ❖ Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra earned him the second spot with 83.80 meters throw in the Diamond League finals held in Eugene, USA.
- ❖ Telangana Chief Minister inaugurated the Palamuru–Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme at Narlapur in Nagarkurnool district.
- ❖ The fourth and last meeting of the G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group (SFWG) under India’s G20 presidency held in Uttar Pradesh’s Varanasi.
- ❖ The International Coastal Clean-up Day is observed annually worldwide on the third Saturday of September (September 16, 2023) every year.
- ❖ International Talk Like a Pirate Day was observed on September 19 since 1995.
- ❖ An Indian spot-billed duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*) with pale plumage was sighted at Manickapuram tank in Tirupur district recently.
- ❖ Indian shooter Elavenil Valarivan has won the gold medal in the women's 10 metre air rifle event at the ISSF World Cup 2023 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- ❖ The World Water Monitoring Day is observed every year on September 18 to increase public awareness and involvement in water monitoring and protecting water resources around the world.
- ❖ Adidas has revealed Team India’s jersey for the upcoming ICC Cricket World Cup 2023.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh chief minister unveiled the 108-feet tall ‘Statue of Oneness’ of Adi Shankaracharya on the bank of the Narmada River at Omkareshwar.
- ❖ The Indian-Origin Author Chetna Maroo’s Novel ‘Western Lane’ is shortlisted in Booker Prize 2023.
- ❖ The International Conference on Dam Safety (ICDS) was organised by Ministry of Jal Shakti at Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- ❖ Indian wrestler Antim Panghal secured a bronze medal in the women's 53 kg category at the ongoing World Championships in Belgrade, Serbia.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has announced that funerals of brain-dead persons whose organs are donated will be conducted with State honours.
- ❖ World Car-Free Day is observed on September 22nd each year to promote alternative modes of transportation, raise awareness about the environmental impact of car usage.
- ❖ World Rivers Day is observed on the fourth Sunday (September 24) in September each year.
- ❖ India observes National Daughters Day on the fourth Sunday (September 24) of September each year to encourage parents to give their daughters additional attention.
- ❖ The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of an international cricket stadium in his parliamentary constituency Varanasi.

- ❖ The Centre organised India's first lighthouse festival in Goa as part of an effort to promote the country's lighthouses as tourist attractions.
- ❖ France's radiation watchdog has banned sales of Apple's iPhone 12 after test results showed the smartphone breached European radiation exposure limits.
- ❖ The Nobel Foundation to raise the award amount for this year's Nobel Prizes by 1 million kronor (USD 90,000) to 11 million kronor (USD 986,270 which is approximately Rs 8,19,49,519).
- ❖ Erica Robin, a resident of Karachi, Pakistan, has won the title of 'Miss Universe Pakistan 2023', becoming the first woman in the country to achieve this title.
- ❖ The birth anniversary of social reformer 'Periyar' E.V. Ramasamy is observed as 'Day of Social Justice' in Tamil Nadu on September 17 every year.
- ❖ Antyodaya Diwas is celebrated on September 25 annually in India to mark the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh Government has established the "Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve" as the seventh tiger reserve in the state and 54th in the country.

TAMIL NADU

SC on Self Respect Marriage Act

- ❖ The Supreme Court observed that there is no blanket ban on advocates solemnising "self-respect" marriages under Section 7(A) of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.
- ❖ On January 17, 1968, the Hindu Marriage (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act, 1967, received the President's approval and became the law.
- ❖ This amendment modified the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955, by inserting Section 7-A into it.
- ❖ However, it was extended only to the state of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Section 7-A deals with the special provision on "self-respect and secular marriages".
- ❖ It legally recognises "any marriage between any two Hindus".
- ❖ It can be referred to as "suyamariyathai" or "seerthiruththa marriage" or by any other name.

The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955

7 Ceremonies for a Hindu marriage.

(2) (a) Notwithstanding anything contained in section 7, but subject to the other provisions of this Act, all marriages to which the section applies solemnised after the commencement of the Hindu Marriage (Madras Amendment) Act, 1967, shall be good and valid in law.

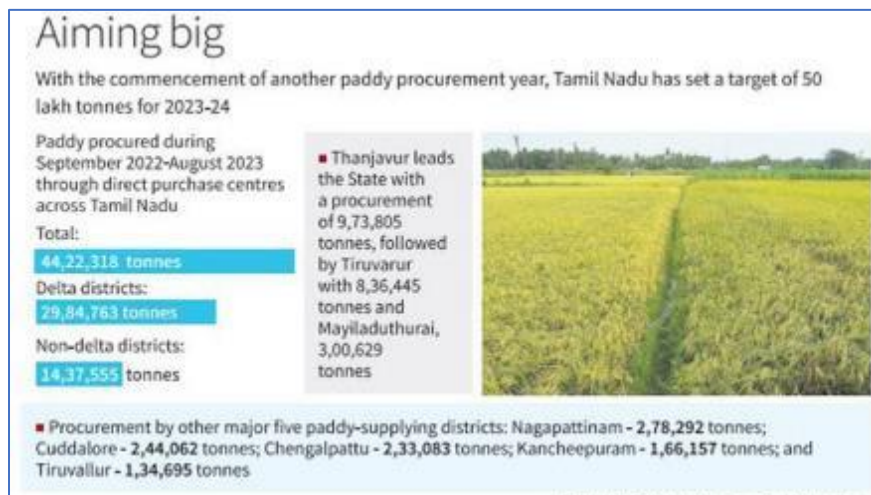
Suyamariyathai (self-respect) and Seerthiruttha (reformist) marriages as legal when solemnised in the presence of friends, relatives or any other person by exchanging garlands or rings or tying of a mangalsutra or by a declaration in language understood by both parties that they accept each other to be their spouse.

C. N. Annadurai enacted "the Hindu Marriages (Madras Amendment) Act, 1967 and the same incorporated as section 7-A in the Hindu Marriage Act - i.e. in Central Act XXV of 1955.

Arvind Subramanian Panel

- ❖ The Tamilnadu State government has formed a five-member committee under the chairmanship of Arvind Subramanian.
- ❖ He is the former Chief Economic Adviser to Government of India.
- ❖ This panel will study the settlement pattern of Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) to Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The IGST is levied and collected by the Centre on inter-State supply of goods and services and settled with the States.

Paddy procurement target



- ❖ Tamil Nadu procured about 44.22 lakh tonnes of paddy during 2022-23.
- ❖ The State has set a target of 50 lakh tonnes for 2023-24.
- ❖ The plan has drawn up by the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC).

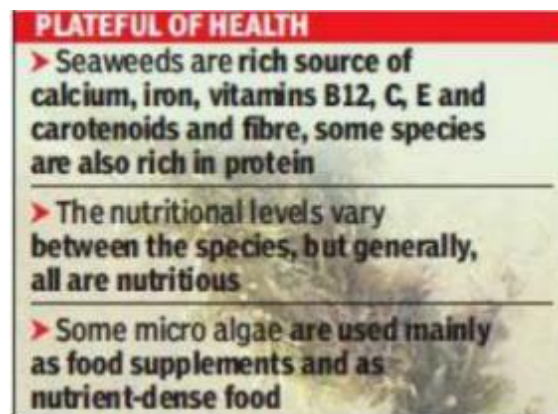
Rice procurement order

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC) has placed an order with the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (NCCF) for the supply of 7 lakh tonnes of rice.
- ❖ It will be used for the public distribution system.
- ❖ The monthly allocation by the Centre to Tamil Nadu is approximately 2.97 lakh tonnes of rice for PDS under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).
- ❖ Over and above this quantity, the State requires, on an average, 50,000 tonnes to 60,000 tonnes per month.

Additional mineral revenue

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government is set to generate an additional revenue of about ₹400 crore a year.
- ❖ It has recently revised the seigniorage fee, area assessment, dead rent and prospecting fee for minor minerals.
- ❖ The revised fee is set to come into force on September 5.
- ❖ An amendment to this effect was made in the Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959 recently.

Sea weed park



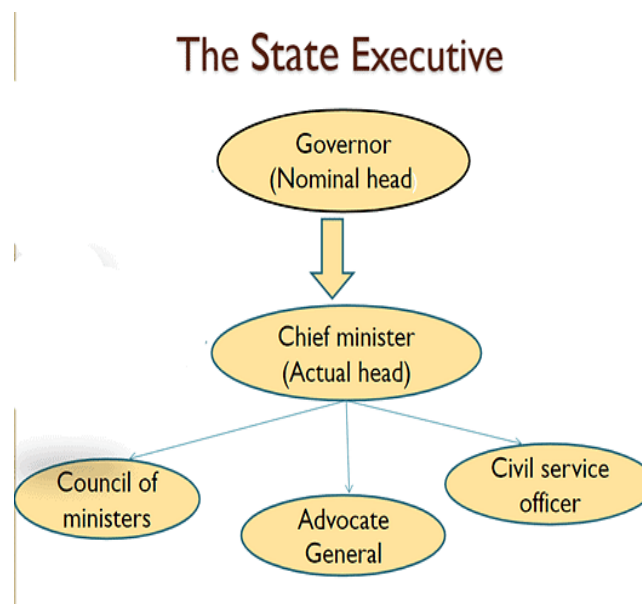
- ❖ Recently, the foundation stone was laid for the first-ever multipurpose seaweed park of the country at Vazhamavur near Rameswaram.

- ❖ The seaweed park will help generate employment opportunities for fisherfolks from six coastal districts.
- ❖ Seaweed would be used in manufacturing medicines and food ingredients.

Kalaignar Semmozhi award

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister handed over the Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi Semmozhi Tamil Award to Tamil scholar K. Ramasamy.
- ❖ He is the former Deputy Director of Central Institute of Indian Languages.
- ❖ The award, given for the best contribution to classical Tamil studies by a researcher or a research institution in specified areas leading to the creation of new knowledge in Ancient Tamil Culture and Civilization

Minister without portfolio



- ❖ A Minister without portfolio is a constitutional travesty, the Madras High Court observed recently.
- ❖ The Chief Minister is an executive head.
- ❖ It is the responsibility of an executive head to assign ministerial responsibilities to an elected representative.
- ❖ However, if he feels that a particular elected representative cannot be assigned the responsibility of a Minister, there cannot be moral or constitutional basis to retain such a Member of the Legislative Assembly as a Minister without portfolio.
- ❖ It would be opposed to the ethos, good governance and constitutional morality or integrity.

GI tag for Salem sago

- ❖ The Salem sago (Javvarisi) received Geographical Indication (GI) tag recently.
- ❖ Sago, derived from raw tapiocas, is in the form of small hard globules or pearls and is pearl white in colour.
- ❖ Tapioca is a major horticulture crop cultivated on nearly 3 lakh hectares in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ In Salem district, in 1943, Manickam Chettiar was the first person to manufacture sago.

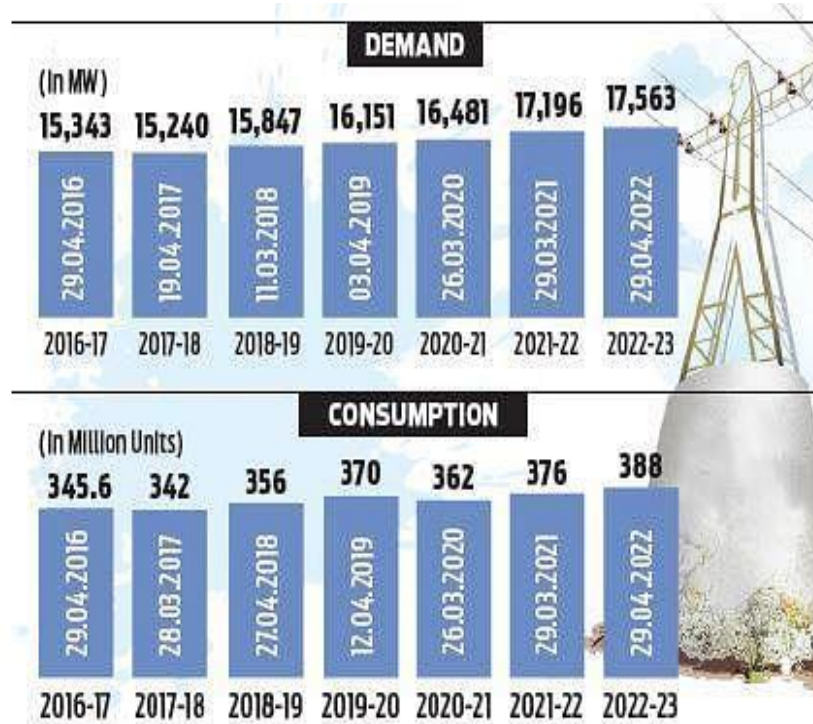
Survey on nomadic tribes

- ❖ This survey conducted on 1,458 families is belonging to four nomadic tribe communities spread across eight districts of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The report was released at the Madras School of Social Work (MSSW) on September 6 to mark the 71st Vimukta Day.
- ❖ It was the day in which criminal tribes were Denotified and observed every year on August 31.
- ❖ The study was conducted in 1485 households of the Narikuravar, Boom Boom Mattukaran - Aadiyan, Lambadas, and Kattunaykars in eight districts of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The communities significantly lacked access to education and government schemes.
- ❖ 7% of the children in these families were not enrolled in schools.
- ❖ Of the remaining, 53% reported facing discrimination in their schools by classmates and teachers.
- ❖ It led to many children dropping out before finishing Class 12.
- ❖ 1,118 families had no one in their families who had completed Class 10, 1,275 had no one who had completed Class 12, and 1,378 had no graduates.
- ❖ A total of 807 families said that they either lacked access to schools or faced discrimination.
- ❖ Similarly, 713 households said that they did not have access to higher education institutions.
- ❖ 267 of the 1,458 families got the issuance of free land pattas.
- ❖ Only 71 families had benefited from MGNREGS, 71 from Jan Dhan, 112 from PMAY, and 201 from CMCHIS.

ISI Mark for reusable water bottles

- ❖ Soon, reusable water bottles and utensils made of various material cannot be sold without the ISI mark in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has made certification mandatory and developed mandatory quality control order for these products to curb sales of substandard products.
- ❖ The widely used insulated flasks and containers in households had been brought under the ambit of mandatory BIS certification.
- ❖ Even the tinsplate packaging used for food and beverages like infant milk food, instant coffee, tea and condensed milk would now need to get compulsory BIS certification.

Tamil Nadu power demand in Aug 2023



- ❖ Tamil Nadu's peak power demand was 18,007 MW in August 2023.
- ❖ It is increased by about 9.72% from 16,411 MW in August 2022.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has the highest energy consumption among the southern States.
- ❖ It saw an all-time high peak demand of 19,387 MW on April 20.
- ❖ On the same day, an all-time high daily consumption of 423.785 million units was recorded.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu had seen a total over-drawl of 9,885 MW in August 2023.

Paraikulam temple



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has declared the early Pandya-era rock-cut cave temple at Paraikulam as a protected monument.
- ❖ It is located in Tiruchuzhi taluk in Virudhunagar district.
- ❖ The government would fence the area and the declaration would also prevent mining of rocks in a 300-metre radius of the monument.
- ❖ The temple at Paraikulam was an Ekathala Kudavarai temple (a single cave temple).
- ❖ The Pandya-era cave temples belong to the 8th Century.

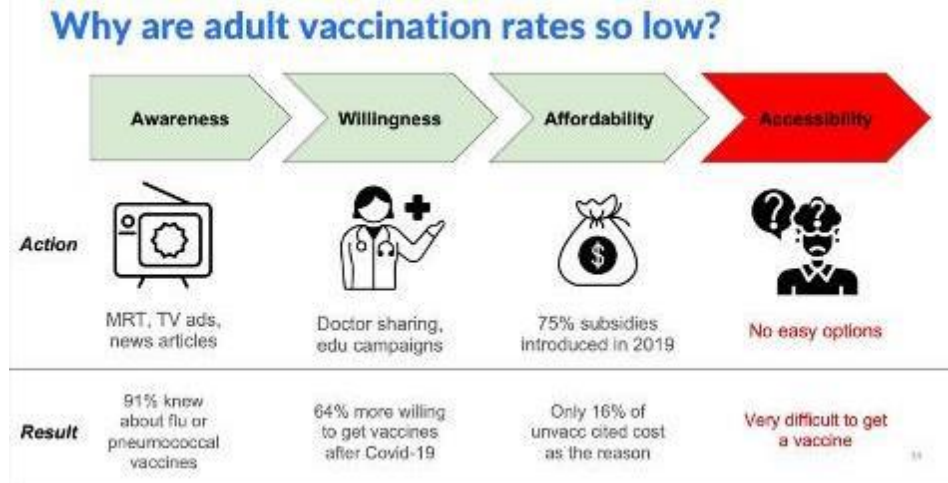
Board for welfare of Adi Dravidar and Tribals

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has reconstituted its State-level Tribal Welfare Board.
- ❖ The Minister for Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare would be the ex-officio chairperson of the Board.
- ❖ The panel has eight official and 17 non-official members.
- ❖ The panel was constituted in 2007 for the overall development of the Scheduled Tribes in the fields of education, economic development and social welfare.

Women's basic income scheme

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has identified 1.06 crore women, as eligible to benefit from the Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai (women's basic income) scheme.
- ❖ The eligible women would have the sum credited into their bank accounts from September 15.
- ❖ The sum will subsequently be credited into the bank accounts of these eligible women every month.

Poor uptake for adult vaccination



- ❖ This survey was conducted by the Association of Physicians of India (API) and Ipsos in 16 cities.
- ❖ Among adults aged 50 years and older revealed that the 71% of adults (50 years and above) surveyed were aware of adult vaccination.
- ❖ But, only 16% had taken any adult vaccines.
- ❖ Many (50%) believe that multiple doses of vaccines can make them dependent on vaccines.
- ❖ 58% of patients and their 62% of their caregivers feel that there are better ways than vaccination to protect themselves or their parents/in-laws from diseases.

Women assistant priests at temples

- ❖ S. Krishnaveni, S. Ramya and Ranjitha will become assistant priests at Sri Vaishnava temples in Tamil Nadu, following the Pancharathra agama.
- ❖ They are the first three women to have undergone training as Bhattars in the State.
- ❖ They have studied at the Archakar Training School run by the Sri Ranganathar Temple in Srirangam.

Rare terracotta pot in Vembakottai

- ❖ The state archaeology department's excavations in Vembakottai, Virudhunagar are in the second phase.
- ❖ A terracotta pot, in which a liquid had been boiled till it overflowed, and a lamp were found in the site.

- ❖ Four burial urns, including two which were intact, were found in a Sivasangupatti village four kilometres from the excavation site.
- ❖ More than 3,000 artefacts were unearthed in the first phase.
- ❖ It was including beads, toys, pots made of terracotta, and thousands of shell bangles.



The Swasth AI

- ❖ Solinas Integrity, a climate tech startup has launched a robot that can check for leaks in sewer and water pipes.
- ❖ The Swasth AI and endobot sewer is aimed at revolutionising the country's urban sewage infrastructure.
- ❖ The endobot is in addition to the existing pipeline inspection robots the company has developed.
- ❖ Swasth AI's cloud-based system helps maintain and manage the entire distribution network in one accessible interface.

'Startup Thamizha' reality show

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (Startup TN) is launching 'Startup Thamizha'- a Tamil startup reality show.
- ❖ It aims to create a culture of entrepreneurship among the state's youth and support innovations on a larger platform.
- ❖ Globally and at the national level, shows like the Shark Tank have raised the awareness around startup ecosystem and brought the concept into popular culture.
- ❖ To be structured as a reality television show, Startup Tamizha will connect selected startups with active investors while creating awareness about startups in the state.

Committee on Vishwakarma scheme

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has constituted a four-member committee to study the Union government's Vishwakarma scheme.
- ❖ It will study, is it would be detrimental to educational and social mobility of artisans and confine them to their traditional caste-based occupations.
- ❖ J. Jeyaranjan, Vice Chairman, State Planning Commission (SPC), will be the Chairman of the committee.

PM Vishwakarma
Central Sector Scheme to support traditional artisans and craftspeople of rural and urban India

Cabinet Decision
18 July 2023

- Financial outlay of **Rs.19,000 crore**
- Eighteen traditional trades** to be covered in the first instance
- Artisans and craftspeople to be provided recognition through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card
- Credit Support upto **Rs.1 lakh (First Tranche)** and **Rs.2 lakh (Second Tranche)** with a concessional interest rate of 5%.
- Scheme to provide **Skill Upgradation, Toolkit Incentive, incentive for Digital Transactions and Marketing Support.**

PM Vishwakarma

Cabinet Decision
18 July 2023

Eighteen traditional trades will be covered in the first instance under PM Vishwakarma

- Carpenter (Buthar)
- Boat Maker
- Armourer
- Blacksmith (Chithar)
- Hammer and Tool Kit Maker
- Locksmith
- Goldsmith (Samar)
- Printer (Kumbhar)
- Sculptor (Mudrakkar, stone carver), Stone breaker
- Cobbler (Chamkai)
- Shoesmith/Leather artisan
- Mason (Rajmistr)
- Basket/Mat/Broom Maker/Dair Weaver
- Coil & amp; Toy Maker (Traditional)
- Barber (Nad)
- Ganai maker (Mudakar)
- Washerman (Dhobi)
- Tailer (Thar)
- Fishing Net Maker

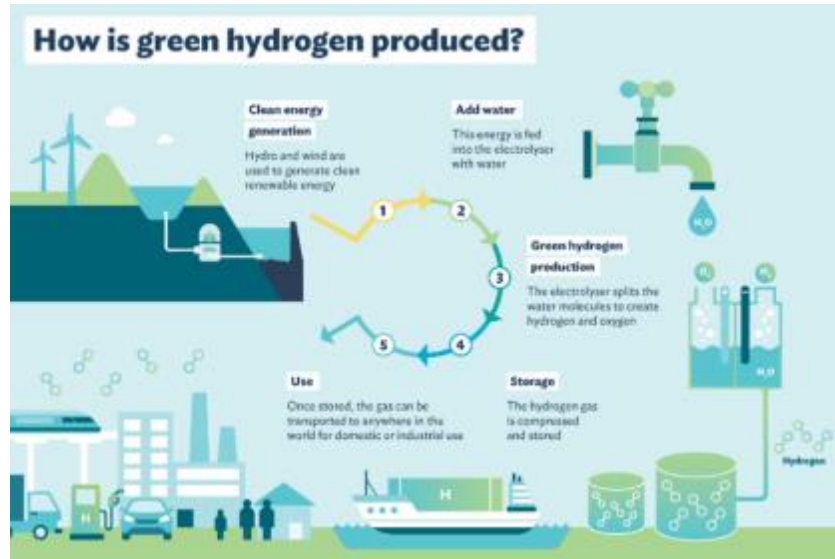
Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thittam

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister on September 15, 2023, launched the Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thittam (Kalaingar Women's Rights Grant Scheme) in Kancheepuram.
- ❖ This was launched on the occasion of the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) founder C.N. Annadurai.
- ❖ Under the scheme, ₹1,000 will be given as rights grant every month to 1.06 crore women heads of family in the State.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government will incur an expenditure of ₹12,000 crore annually, to implement this scheme.

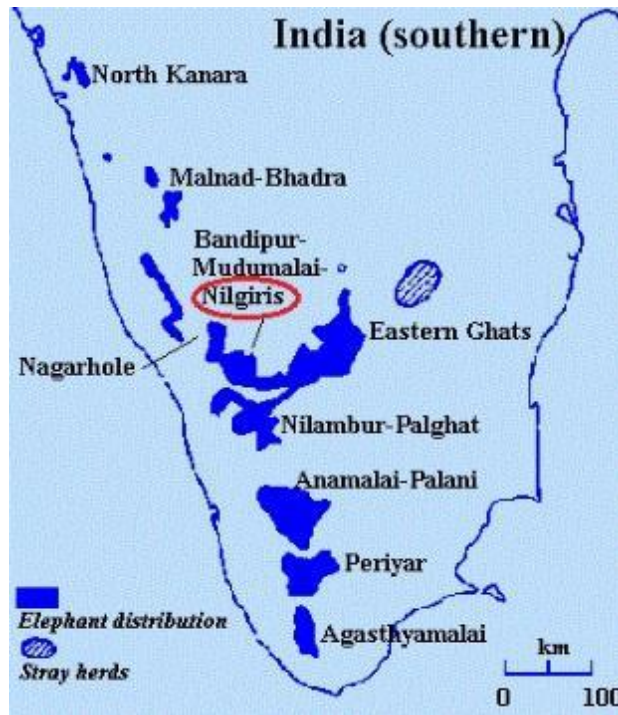
IIT-M green hydrogen initiative

- ❖ IIT Madras will work with industries on R&D and developing testing/validation standards in 'Green Hydrogen'.
- ❖ This is part of the 'Hydrogen Valley Innovation Cluster in Tamil Nadu' (HVIC-TN) initiative.

- ❖ This will comprise nearly 30 companies working in the hydrogen sector.
- ❖ It will be including IIT-M Research Park and Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation.
- ❖ 'Green Hydrogen is the hydrogen which derived from renewable energy sources, either via electrolysis or biomass conversion.



36 elephant corridors in Tamil Nadu



- ❖ Recent studies revealed the preliminary information regarding the existence of as many as 36 corridors in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ This field study is conducted by an elephant corridor identification committee.
- ❖ Of them, 17 have been identified in the south of Palakkad and 19 in the north of Palakkad.
- ❖ A publication brought out by the Wildlife Trust of India had mentioned just 19 elephant corridors in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ However, the recent study has revealed almost double the number, thereby posing several challenges in consolidation.

Kurathiarai rock-cut temple



- ❖ Tamil Nadu government to declare an early Pandya period rock-cut temple in Kurathiarai in Kanniyakumari district as a protected monument.
- ❖ The temple in Kurathiarai would be one among the 10 early Pandya period temples.
- ❖ The locals continue worship the deity as Avvayar Amman, the poet of the Sangam age.
- ❖ But, Kavimani Desikavinayagam Pillai, who was also an epigraphist, had written that it was the image of the Lord Vishnu, carved out of the rock.

Recruitment process for Panchayat Secretaries

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government has revised its recruitment process for Village Panchayat Secretaries for the Rural Development Department.
- ❖ They are to reside in the respective village panchayats.
- ❖ The recruitment is to be made by a district-level committee chaired by the Collector.

- ❖ This will be governed by Tamil Nadu Village Panchayat Secretaries (Conditions of Service) Rules, 2023.

Scholar Tamiloli



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government would install a bust of Tamil scholar Tamiloli on the Tamil University campus in Thanjavur.
- ❖ He was born at Kurinjipadi on September 29, 1924.
- ❖ The Tamil scholar was initially named Visayarangam.
- ❖ He took after Subramania Bharathi and Bharathidasan and went on to pen several works of literature.
- ❖ He also penned against caste discrimination.

Co-creation Fund

- ❖ The government of Tamil Nadu will set up a ₹100 crore 'Co-creation Fund'.
- ❖ It is a unique model designed to participate in private sector venture capital (VC) funds.
- ❖ This fund is to be managed by investors and coordinated by The Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (Startup TN).
- ❖ It is inspired by the Yozma (meaning 'initiative') model, established by the Israeli Government in the 1990s.
- ❖ It aims to kick-start innovative industries by investing in new venture capital funds.
- ❖ The State government will contribute 40% (with a ceiling of ₹10 crore) in regional, rural impact, women and climate action-focused funds.
- ❖ 20% government contribution for (with a ceiling of ₹5 crore) in other thematic funds promoted by the private sector.

Tamil Nadu's peak power demand

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's evening peak power demand is expected to increase to 16,200 MW in October.
- ❖ This was 15,217 MW in the same month last year.
- ❖ The availability during peak hours would be 14,463 MW in October.
- ❖ The overall energy requirement for October would be 10,550 million units and the availability 10,788 million units.
- ❖ As per the Central Electricity Authority, the State's energy requirement was 8,820 million units in October 2022.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has the highest energy consumption among the southern States.
- ❖ It saw an all-time high peak demand of 19,387 MW on April 20.
- ❖ On the same day, an all-time high daily consumption of 423.785 million units was also recorded.

Carnelian beads in Keeladi

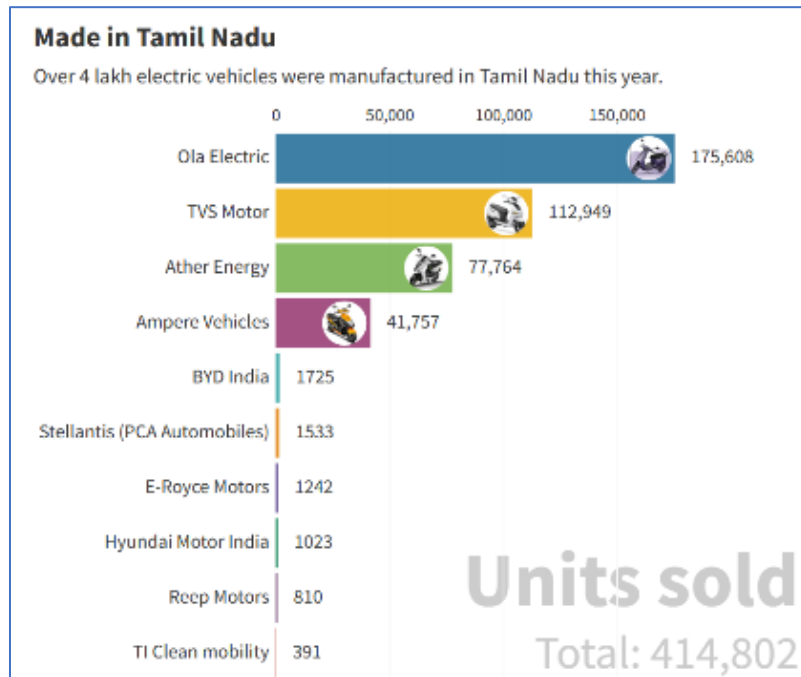
- ❖ Excavation in Keeladi has yielded two carnelian beads.
- ❖ It is reaffirming Tamil country's trade links with the western part of India such as Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- ❖ Last year, they unearthed 74 carnelian beads.
- ❖ Carnelian stones are normally found in Gujarat and Maharashtra.



Tamil Nadu's EV production

- ❖ Of the ten lakh electric vehicles (EVs) sold in India this year, over four lakhs were manufactured in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ 10,44,600 EVs were registered with RTOs till September 20, 2023.
- ❖ Manufacturing facility in Tamil Nadu contribute more than 4,10,000 (0.41 million) units – over 40%.

- ❖ After being called the automobile capital and the Detroit of India, the state is now aiming to create a name is the EV sector too.
- ❖ Six cities – Coimbatore, Tiruchi, Tirunelveli, Madurai, Salem and Chennai – have been identified for developing as EV hubs.
- ❖ Ola Electric has sold 1,75,608 units from its manufacturing plant at Krishnagiri.
- ❖ TVS Motor plant at Krishnagiri, has sold 1,12,949 units.



Tamilnadu Tourism Policy 2023

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister released 'Tourism Policy 2023'.
- ❖ It aims to attract investments of ₹20,000 crore into this sector over the next five years.
- ❖ The comprehensive policy envisions both enhancing and upgrading the existing tourism infrastructure, along with the establishment of new, greenfield projects.
- ❖ This policy will be valid for a period of five years from the date of the policy notification, or till a new policy is announced.
- ❖ This provides for a single-window portal for necessary clearances, concessions in electricity tariff and other incentives for eligible tourism projects.
- ❖ It also envisions a Tourist Security Organisation.
- ❖ The Department has also set targets for the next five years which includes contributing to at least 12% of State Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) annually.

- ❖ Also, tourism and its supporting industries will employ 25 lakh people in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The policy also highlighted that a Tourism Facilitation Cell will be created within the Department to assist Guidance Tamil Nadu to monitor and promote tourism investment.
- ❖ The Department is planning to create one large-format amusement park, similar to global theme parks such as Disney and Universal Studios, with an area of at least 100 acres on the out-skirts of Chennai.
- ❖ Plans are on cards to launch cruise facilities on various stretches on the Chennai – Rameswaram – Kanniyakumari and Chennai – Port Blair route.
- ❖ The policy also mentions that existing towns and cities with good quality urban infrastructure will be developed as Gateway Hubs, from where the visitor to Tamil Nadu can initiate their journey.
- ❖ Chennai, Tiruchi, Madurai, Coimbatore and Kanniyakumari will be developed as gateway hubs.
- ❖ An allocation of 5% from the smart city funds will be dedicated to enhancing tourism infrastructure in primary Gateway Hubs.

Nilgiri Tahr count

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is now working on a standardised protocol to count the endangered population of southern India's only mountain ungulate.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Forest Department will also propose to its Kerala counterpart to conduct a synchronised census.
- ❖ The animal is only found in select habitats in the two States.
- ❖ For the first time, drones may be incorporated in the census.
- ❖ The Nilgiri Tahr prefers montane grasslands, with steep and rocky terrains at an altitude between 300 and 2,600 metres above sea level.
- ❖ There are believed to be a little over 3,100 of the animals living in highly fragmented habitats in the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- ❖ Their habitation ranging is between the Nilgiris in the north and the Kanniyakumari hills in the south.

Vishwakamal apartment and INC

- ❖ To Opposite the Kapaleeswarar Temple tank at Mylapore in Chennai, stands an apartment named 'Vishwakamal'.
- ❖ The place of an epoch-making meeting that led to the formation of the Indian National Congress in 1885.

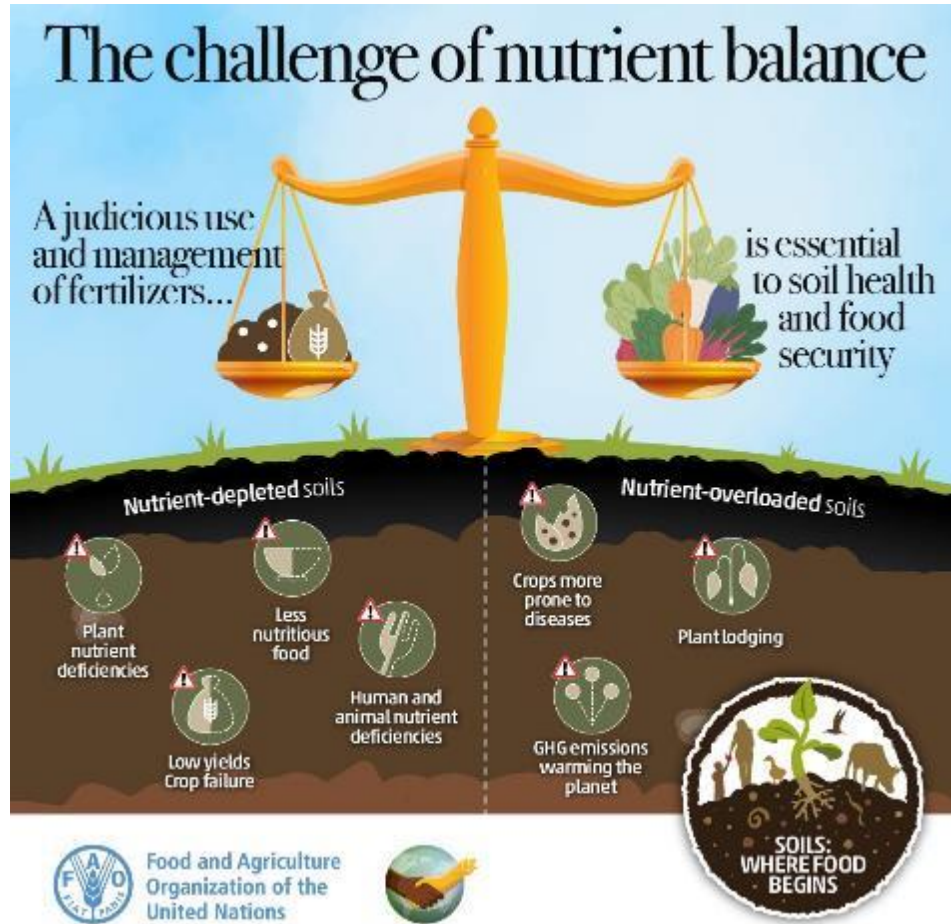
- ❖ Soon after the annual convention of the Theosophical Society at Adyar in December 1884, 17 men from different parts of the country met at this house.
- ❖ Allan Octavian Hume, the 'Father of the Congress', was not among them.
- ❖ But some claims are there as "The Indian National Congress organised here December 1884".
- ❖ In March 1885, it was decided to hold a meeting of representatives from all parts of India at the then coming Christmas without any reference to the 1884 meeting in Madras.



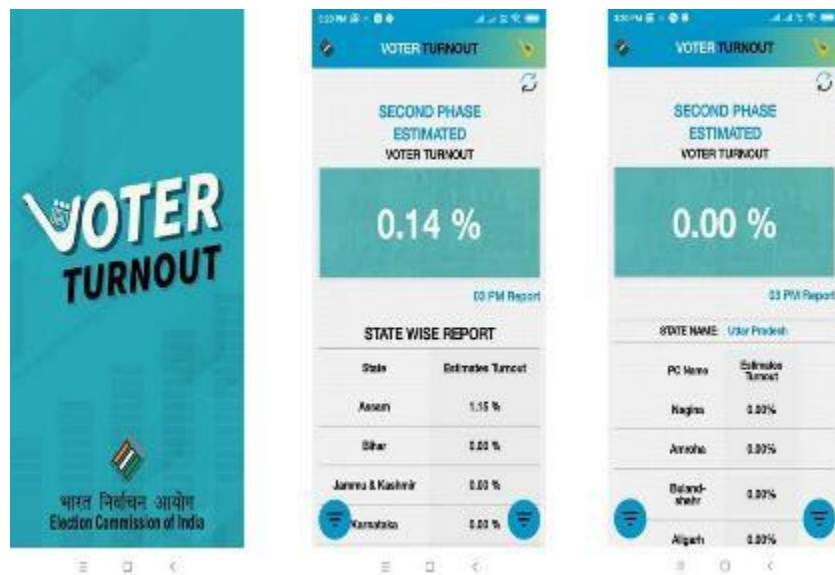
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Soil Micronutrients' Impact on Human Health

- ❖ The paper, titled Soil micronutrients linked to human health in India, was published recently.
- ❖ Over 35 per cent of the soil in the country was estimated to be deficient in zinc.
- ❖ About 11 per cent estimated to be deficient in iron.
- ❖ Higher levels of soil zinc had lower rates of child stunting and underweight.
- ❖ Soil zinc availability is associated with an increase in the height of women.
- ❖ Soil iron availability is correlated with anaemia among women and haemoglobin levels in both children and women.
- ❖ India has roughly a third of the global population suffering from micronutrient deficiency.



ECI's Turnout Implementation Plan



- ❖ In a bid to increase voter turnout in 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Election Commission of India (EC) has tweaked its usual voter outreach.
- ❖ It aims to focus on 10 large states where the turnout was below or slightly higher than the 2019 Lok Sabha election national average.
- ❖ It also focusses on around 250 constituencies where the figures were below their respective state averages.
- ❖ This plan is expected to increase voter participation from the average of 67.4% in 2019.

Air pollution and life

WORST-HIT NATIONS		
Country	PM2.5*	Years lost**
B'desh	74	6.8
India	58.7	5.3
Nepal	51.7	4.6
Pakistan	44.7	3.9
Mongolia	36	3

- ❖ Fine particulate air pollution (PM2.5) is estimated to shorten an average Indian's life expectancy by 5.3 years.
- ❖ All of India's 1.3 billion people live in areas where the annual average particulate pollution level exceeds the WHO guideline.
- ❖ About 67.4 per cent of the population live in areas that exceed the country's own national air quality standard of 40 µg/m³.
- ❖ Delhi resident may loss up to 8.5 years if the country's national ambient air quality standards (40 µg/m³) are not met.
- ❖ From 1998 to 2021, average annual particulate pollution increased by 67.7 per cent.
- ❖ It is further reducing average life expectancy by 2.3 years.
- ❖ In South Asia, particulate pollution has increased 9.7 per cent from 2013 to 2021.
- ❖ In India, PM2.5 levels rose 9.5 per cent; in Pakistan 8.8 per cent; and in Bangladesh, levels rose by 12.4.

“Special Session” of Parliament



- ❖ A session of both Houses of Parliament will be held from September 18-22 without Question Hour or private members’ business.
- ❖ Generally, three parliamentary sessions are held in a year -- Budget, Monsoon and Winter sessions.
- ❖ The Constitution does not use the term “special session”.
- ❖ The term sometimes refers to sessions the government has convened for specific occasions, like commemorating parliamentary or national milestones.
- ❖ However, Article 352 (Proclamation of Emergency) of the Constitution does refer to a “special sitting of the House”.
- ❖ For the two Houses to be in session, the presiding officers should chair their proceedings.

Committee on ‘One Nation, One Election’

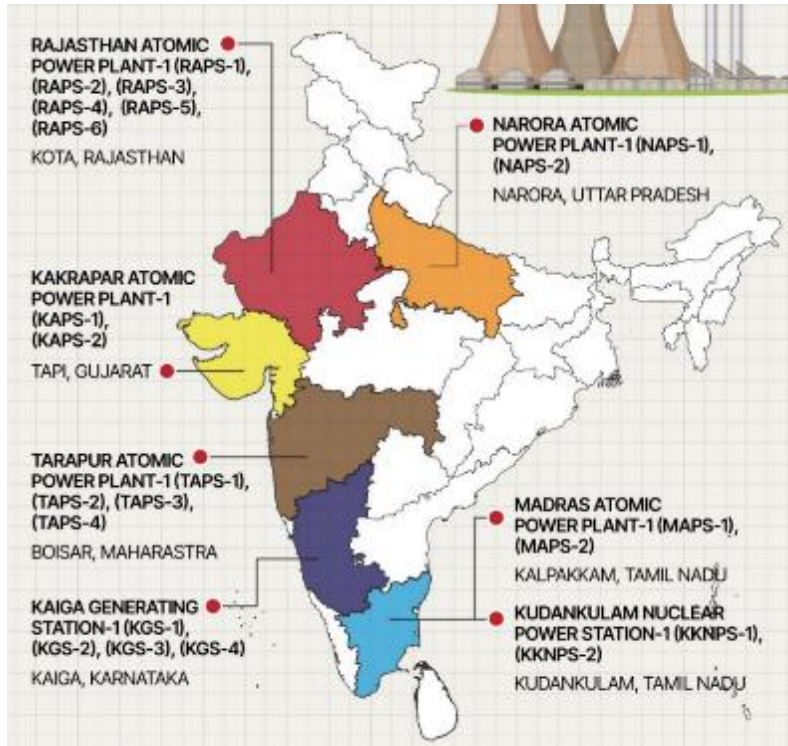
- ❖ The Law Ministry had issued a notification on the ‘One Nation One Election’ committee.
- ❖ The committee has former President of India Ram Nath Kovind as chairman.
- ❖ It has seven other members which includes Home Minister Amit Shah, Senior Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and others.
- ❖ The panel will commence functioning immediately and make recommendations at the earliest.
- ❖ The present committee will be the fourth one to examine the possibility of simultaneous elections.
- ❖ Earlier, the prospect was discussed by the Law Commission, NITI Aayog, and a Parliamentary Standing Committee.

சட்டப்பேரவைகளின் பதவி காலம்

மிசோரம்	டிசம்பர் 2023	கோவா	மார்ச் 2027
சத்தீஸ்கர்	டிசம்பர் 2024	மணிப்பூர்	மார்ச் 2027
மத்திய பிரதேசம்	டிசம்பர் 2024	பஞ்சாப்	மார்ச் 2027
ராஜஸ்தான்	டிசம்பர் 2024	உத்தரகாண்ட்	மார்ச் 2027
தெலங்காணா	டிசம்பர் 2024	உத்தரப் பிரதேசம்	மே 2027
ஆந்திரா	ஜூன் 2024	குஜராத்	டிசம்பர் 2027
அருணாச்சலப் பிரதேசம்	ஜூன் 2024	இமாச்சலப் பிரதேசம்	டிசம்பர் 2027
ஒடிசா	ஜூன் 2024	மேகாலயா	மார்ச் 2028
சிக்கிம்	ஜூன் 2024	நாகாலாந்து	மார்ச் 2028
ஹரியானா	நவம்பர் 2024	திரிபுரா	மார்ச் 2028
மகாராஷ்டிரா	நவம்பர் 2024	கர்நாடகா	மே 2028
ஜார்க்கண்ட்	டிசம்பர் 2024		
புதுடெல்லி	பிப்ரவரி 2025		
பீகார்	நவம்பர் 2025		
ஆசாம்	மே 2026		
கேரளா	மே 2026		
தமிழ்நாடு	மே 2026		
மேற்கு வங்கம்	மே 2026		
புதுச்சேரி	ஜூன் 2026		



India's Largest Home-Built Nuclear Plant



- ❖ India's first indigenously developed 700 MW nuclear power plant in Gujarat's Kakrapar has started operations at full capacity.
- ❖ The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) is building two 700 MW pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs) at Kakrapar.
- ❖ It is also home to two 220 MW power plants.
- ❖ The NPCIL currently operates 23 commercial nuclear power reactors across the country.
- ❖ It has plans to build a total of 16 700 MW PHWRs at various locations in India.

Adopt a Heritage 2.0 scheme



- ❖ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) launched its innovative Adopt a Heritage 2.0 programme.
- ❖ It aims to safeguard India's diverse cultural heritage by inviting corporate stakeholders to enhance the amenities at more than 3,600 monuments spread across the country.
- ❖ ASI will be reaching out to corporate partners to utilise their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds to enhance the amenities at these historical sites.
- ❖ Interested stakeholders will be able to adopt a monument or specific amenities through a dedicated web portal.

Inheritance for Void & Voidable Marriages

- ❖ The Supreme Court held that a child born of a void or voidable marriage can inherit the parent's share in a joint Hindu family property governed by the Mitakshara law.

- ❖ It also clarified that such a child would not be entitled to rights in or to the property of any other person in the family.
- ❖ A voidable marriage is one that is made invalid by the husband or wife through a decree.
- ❖ A void marriage is invalid at the very inception.
- ❖ Mitakshara law of succession governing Hindu Undivided Families applies to the whole of India except West Bengal and Assam.
- ❖ Section 16 of the Hindu Marriage Act has statutorily conferred legitimacy to children born out of void or voidable marriages.

	VOID MARRIAGE.	VOIDABLE MARRIAGE.
1.	In a void marriage, the parties do not acquire any status of husband and wife as such it does not confer any mutual rights and obligations upon the parties.	On the other hand, in a voidable marriage the parties acquire status of husband and wife and it confers mutual rights and obligations upon the parties for all purposes until a decree of court annuls it.
2.	A void marriage is void <i>ab initio</i> . It is void from the very beginning. No decree of Court is required to annul the void marriage. However, if parties so wish, a void marriage is merely declared by the court as void by a decree of annulment.	But a voidable marriage remains perfectly valid unless it is avoided by a decree of court nullifying it.
3.	In a void marriage, either of the parties to the marriage may marry again without getting a decree declaring the marriage void. The offence of bigamy is not attracted.	On the other hand, as the voidable marriage is valid unless avoided, neither of the parties can marry again without obtaining a decree of nullity of marriage or else the offence of bigamy is attracted.
4.	In a void marriage, a wife is not entitled to claim maintenance under section 125 of Cr.P.C as she acquires no status of wife.	But in a voidable marriage, the wife can claim maintenance until the marriage is annulled by a decree of declaration.
5.	In void marriage, neither of the parties acquire right of inheritance on the death of other party when succession opens.	In case of voidable marriage, either of the parties acquire right of inheritance on the death of other party when succession opens, if the marriage is not annulled.

Status of NCERT

- ❖ The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has been granted deemed university status.
- ❖ Deemed-to-be-university is recognition to higher education institutions that excel in specific areas of study.
- ❖ NCERT will now be able to award its own graduate, postgraduate and doctoral degrees.
- ❖ It can apply to UGC for setting up a new institution for undertaking study and research in emerging areas of knowledge that are not offered by any existing institution.
- ❖ Apart from awarding degrees to teachers, it will decide courses it wants to offer.

Tele-Law 2.0

- ❖ The Tele-Law 2.0 initiative was launched by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice.

- ❖ This version entails the fusion of Tele-Law Services with Nyaya Bandhu pro bono legal services.
- ❖ This merger aims to further enhance citizen accessibility to legal aid.
- ❖ The integration of legal guidance, support, and representation through a single registration process stands as a testament to the commitment to nurture a digitally literate and empowered populace.
- ❖ The Tele-Law programme was launched by the Department in 2017.
- ❖ The Advice is free of Cost to those who are eligible for free legal aid under Section 12 of the LSA Act, 1987.

Government of India
भारत सरकार
Ministry of Law and Justice
विधि और न्याय मंत्रालय
Department of Justice
न्याय विभाग

TELE-LAW 2.0
LEGAL ADVICE + LEGAL ASSISTANCE + LEGAL REPRESENTATION
टेली-लॉ 2.0
कानूनी सलाह + कानूनी सहायता + कानूनी प्रतिनिधित्व

Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA) के तहत एक पहल

In the august presence of
SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL
Hon'ble MoS (I/C) for Law and Justice
MoS for Parliamentary Affairs and Culture

श्री अर्जुन राम मेघवाल जी
माननीय विधि एवं न्याय राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)
व संसदीय कार्य और संस्कृति राज्य मंत्री
की गरिमागदी उपस्थिति में

25th August 2023 | 12:00 PM Onwards + 25 अगस्त 2023 | दोपहर 12:00 बजे से


Siri Fort Auditorium, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi + सिरी फोर्ट सभागार, अगस्त क्रांति मार्ग, नई दिल्ली

Maritime Infrastructure Perspective Plan

- ❖ The Maritime Infrastructure Perspective Plan (MIPP) 2023-37 was released recently.
- ❖ This MIPP aims to synchronise and enmesh the infrastructure requirements of the Navy, over the next 15 years.
- ❖ The plan adheres to the broader policy directives of the PM Gati Shakti Project, Disaster Resilience, and Transition to Net Zero, among others.

Stem cell therapy

A NEURO-DEVELOPMENTAL CONDITION

<p>➤ Autism is a neuro-developmental condition affecting social, communication skills and behaviour</p> <p>Prevalence 1-2% of population</p> <p>Controversy Treatment includes counselling, occupational & speech therapy and physiotherapy, but now some doctors offer stem cells (master cells that can give rise to other cell types with specialised func-</p>	
<p>Cost ₹2L+ per stem cell injection/infusion</p>	<p>tions) to 'cure' autism</p> <p>➤ Indian Council of Medical Research holds stem cell therapy as unethical</p>

- ❖ The Delhi High Court permitted two children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) to undergo stem cell therapy for treatment of their condition.
- ❖ The case challenging a recommendation of the Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRB) of the National Medical Commission (NMC).
- ❖ They recommended against the use of stem cell treatment for ASD.
- ❖ Stem cells are cells from which all other cells, with their respective specialised functions, are generated.
- ❖ The regenerative properties of stem cells make them extremely valuable in medicine.
- ❖ This is why stem cell treatments are also termed as regenerative medicine.
- ❖ Autism spectrum disorder is a neurological and developmental disorder that affects how people interact with others, communicate, learn, and behave.

Aarogya Maitri Cube

- ❖ India has built the world's first disaster hospital, that can be airlifted, packed in 72 cubes.
- ❖ It is Known as 'Aarogya Maitri Cube'.
- ❖ India has built the product under project BHISHM – Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri.
- ❖ This includes three frames, each accommodating 12 mini-cubes.
- ❖ The cubes can handle several severe injuries, including 40 bullet injuries, 25 major bleeds, 25 major burns, around 10 head injuries, long limb fractures, spinal injuries, chest injuries and spinal fractures.

- ❖ Each cube has been designed to weigh below 20kg so that it can be easily carried manually up to a kilometre.



Education to Entrepreneurship

- ❖ The Union govt launches 'Education to Entrepreneurship' partnership with Meta to empower India's youth.
- ❖ It aims to democratize digital skills, making them accessible to every corner of the nation.
- ❖ Meta will provide digital marketing skills training to 5 lakh entrepreneurs over the next three years.
- ❖ This training will be conducted in seven regional languages, benefiting both budding and existing entrepreneurs.

Malaviya Mission

- ❖ The Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan launched the Malaviya Mission- Teachers Training Programme.
- ❖ This will provide tailored training programmes for teachers.
- ❖ It will work for the capacity building of faculty members in higher educational institutions (HEI).
- ❖ It ensures continuous professional development and help in building capacities of 15 lakh teachers of HEIs through 111 Malaviya Mission centres across India.
- ❖ It aims to improve the quality of teachers' training, build leadership skills in teachers and help realise the goals of NEP.

IAF's Training Exercise Trishul

- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) launched a major training exercise, codenamed 'Trishul,' along the China-Pakistan border in the north and west part of India.
- ❖ The primary objective of 'Trishul' is to evaluate Western Air Command's overall combat preparedness.
- ❖ However, the high-intensity air exercise would be temporarily paused during the G20 summit in New Delhi.

Justice Amitava Roy Committee report

SOME RECOMMENDATIONS BY PANEL

<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Telemedicine and virtual consultation to address unavailability of women staff or medical wards.■ Vocational training in collaboration with NGOs.■ Community service for those accused of petty offences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Allowing inmates to file complaints, sensitisation training of prison staff■ Women prisoners with psychological or psychosomatic disorders, or victims of sexual abuse, should get proper counselling
--	--

- ❖ The Supreme Court appointed Justice Amitava Roy (retd.) Committee has given recommendations to reform prisons in 2018.
- ❖ It is tasked to examine the various problems plaguing prisons in the country, from overcrowding to lack of legal advice to convicts to issues of remission and parole.

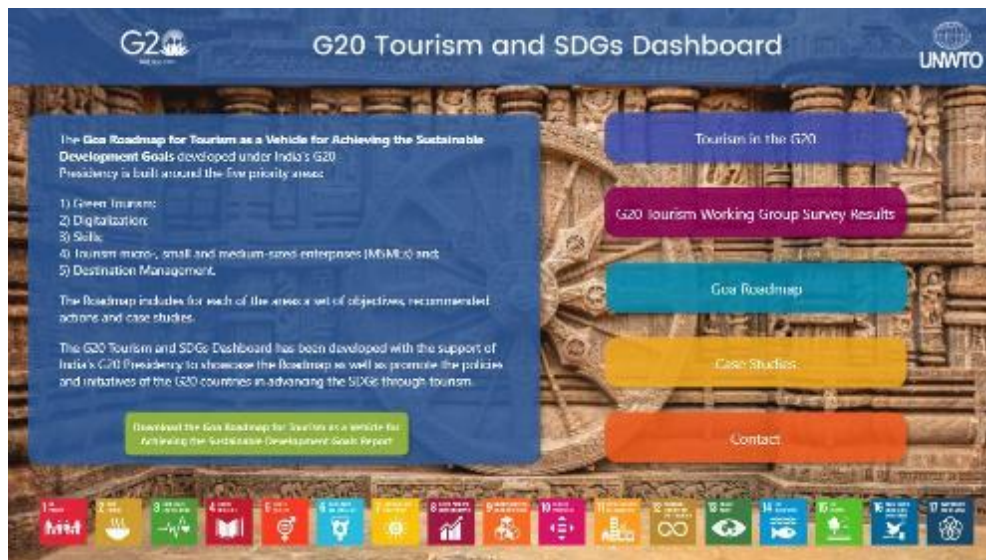
Findings of the committee

- ❖ Only jails in Goa, Delhi, and Puducherry allow female prisoners to meet their children without any bars or glass separation.
- ❖ Only 18% of female prisoners get exclusive women's prison facilities.
- ❖ At the end of 2021, there were 22,918 women prisoners across India, accounting for 4.13% of the total number of inmates.

- ❖ Between 2014 and 2019, Indian prisons witnessed an increase in the population of female prisoners by 11.7%, and by 2019, women accounted for 4.2% of the total prison population.
- ❖ The report points out that only 18% of women prisoners are allotted exclusive women's prison facilities.
- ❖ Only 15 states and UTs have functional women's prisons.
- ❖ Suicide is a major cause of the 817 unnatural deaths reported in jails across the country between 2017 and 2021.
- ❖ Out of the 817 unnatural deaths, 660 were suicides with Uttar Pradesh recording the highest number of suicides at 101 during this period.
- ❖ Globally, one in three prisoners are undertrials.
- ❖ In India, three out of four, or about 77% of the total prison population in 2021, were undertrials.

G20 Tourism and SDG Dashboard

- ❖ The Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), unveiled the G20 Tourism and SDG Dashboard.
- ❖ It showcases best practices, case studies, and insights from G20 countries, all modelled for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ❖ This dashboard is reflecting its dedication to global collaboration and sustainable growth in the global tourism industry.
- ❖ G20 countries represent over 70 per cent of tourism worldwide.



Bharat Drone Shakti 2023

- ❖ The IAF is partnering with the Drone Federation of India to co-host the 'Bharat Drone Shakti 2023'.
- ❖ The event will encompass a wide range of drone applications.
- ❖ This may serve as a testament to India's commitment to becoming a global drone hub by 2030.

World's tallest Nataraja statue

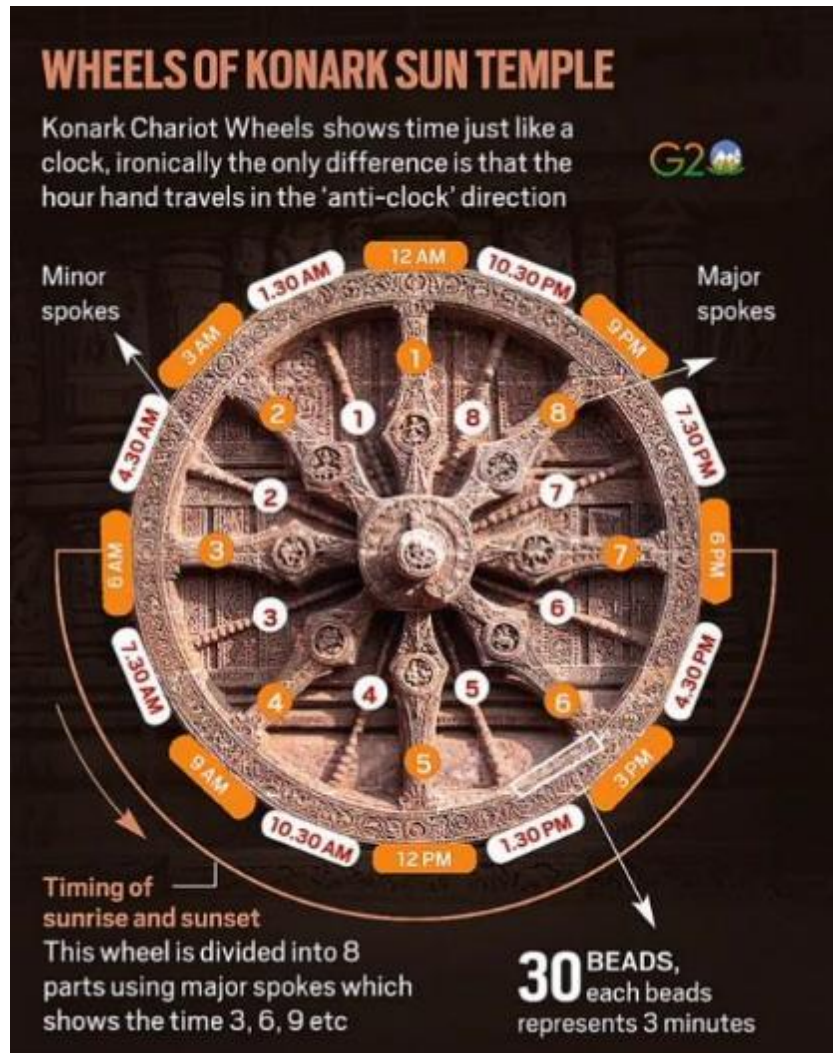
- ❖ The G20 Summit venue, 'Bharat Mandapam,' hosted the world's tallest 'Nataraja' statue, measuring 28 feet in height, including its pedestal.
- ❖ The 'Nataraja' statue was crafted using an ancient Chola casting technique known as the lost-wax process.
- ❖ This technique, which has historical significance, was traditionally used to create the renowned Chola bronzes.
- ❖ This magnificent ashtadhatu (eight-metal alloy) sculpture, was crafted by sculptors from Swamimalai, Tamil Nadu.



Konark wheel in G20

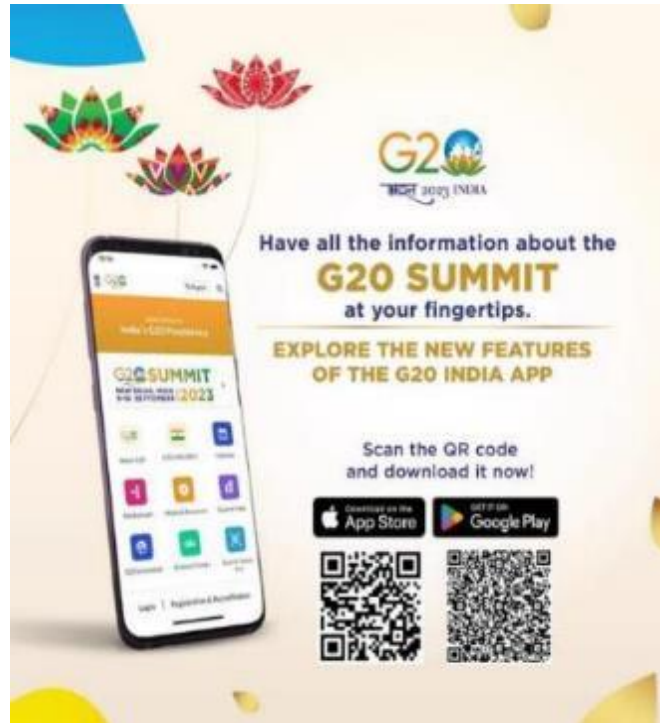
- ❖ The iconic Konark Sun Temple wheel took centre stage at the G20 Summit in Delhi.
- ❖ The Konark Wheel was built during 13th century under the reign of King Narasimha deva-I of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty.
- ❖ The wheel of 24 spokes is also adapted into India's national flag
- ❖ It embodies India's ancient wisdom, advanced civilisation and agricultural excellence.
- ❖ The rotating movement of the Konark Wheel symbolises time as well as progress and continuous change.

- ❖ It serves as a symbol of the wheel of democracy that reflects the resilience of democratic ideals, and commitment to progress in society.



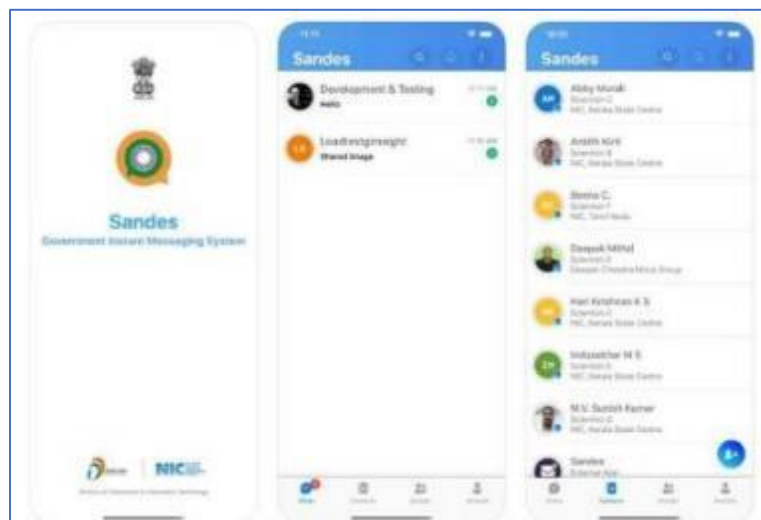
G20 India mobile app

- ❖ Indian government has released a G20 India mobile app for all visitors including ministers.
- ❖ This app offers complete information about the Summit in 10 languages including Hindi, German, Portuguese and Japanese.
- ❖ It will also offer a virtual tour of the venue that will be helpful for delegates, officials, media personnel and more.



Sandes app

- ❖ Delhi Police is using a Sandes app to communicate securely during G20 summit.
- ❖ It was Developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- ❖ This app is being used by inspectors and commissioners to share documents and other important texts.
- ❖ The app follows a secure internet protocol for docs and can only be viewed on the app.

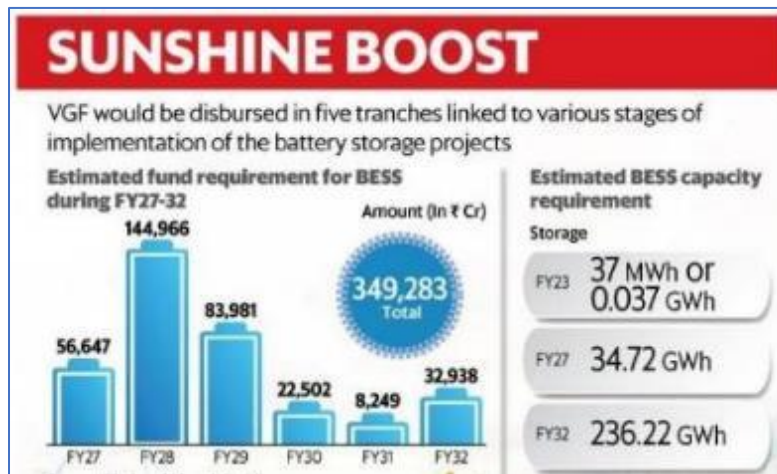


Central Empowered Committee

- ❖ The central government notified the formation of a “permanent” Central Empowered Committee (CEC) in response to the Supreme Court order.
- ❖ The committee on environment issues, which has been ad hoc so far, will now be recognised as a permanent statutory body.
- ❖ The Central Empowered Committee (CEC) was initially established by the apex court in 2002.
- ❖ It was directed to be constituted at national level for monitoring the apex court orders pertaining to forests and wildlife cases.

VGF Scheme for BESS

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved a ₹3,760 crore viability gap fund (VGF) for battery energy storage systems (BESS).
- ❖ This grant is aimed at enhancing the viability of infrastructure projects.
- ❖ Under the scheme, the government will provide financial support of up to 40% of the capital cost of BESS projects totalling 4,000 megawatt-hours (MWh) till FY31.



Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2023

- ❖ The survey was conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board.
- ❖ In cities with over one million population, Indore secured the first rank followed by Agra and Thane.
- ❖ Madurai, Howrah and Jamshedpur ranked in bottom 46, 45 and 44, respectively.
- ❖ Bhopal stood fifth while Delhi took the ninth spot.
- ❖ In the second category, with a population between 300,000 to one million, Amravati secured the first rank followed by Moradabad and Guntur.

- ❖ Jammu, Guwahati and Jalandhar ranked 38, 37 and 36, respectively.
- ❖ For the third category, with a population of less than 300,000, Parwanoo in Himachal Pradesh secured the first rank followed by Kala Amb and Angul.
- ❖ Kohima was ranked last – 39.

SWACHH VAYU SARVEKSHAN 2023				City Name	Assesment by city	Assesment by CPCB	Rank
				Category I: Population above 10L			
Category 1 (<10 Lakh Population)	1 st	Indore	187	Indore	191	187	1
	2 nd	Agra	186	Bhopal	187	181	5
	3 rd	Thane	185.2	Jabalpur	172	172	12
Category 2 (3-5 Lakh Population)	1 st	Amravati	194	Gwalior	171	114	41
	2 nd	Moradabad	186.2	Category II: Population ranging from 3 to 10L			
	3 rd	Guntur	185.5	Ujjain	189	182	5
Category 3 (<3 Lakh Population)	1 st	Parwanoo	193.6	Sagar	188.2	170.7	9
	2 nd	Kala Amb	193	Category III: Population less than 3L			
	3 rd	Angul	187.5	Dewas	181	180	6

Source: CPCB

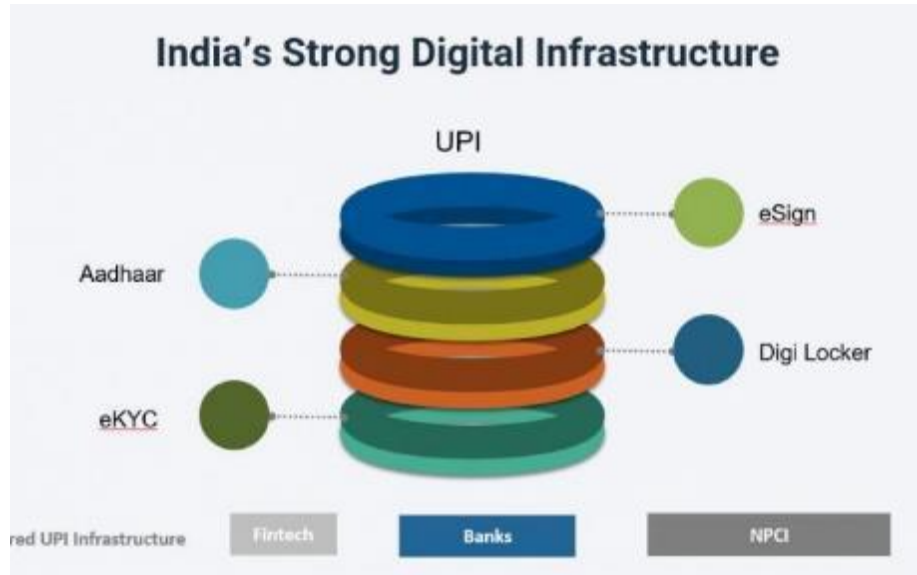
People with orphan diseases



- ❖ Global numbers indicate that there are around 7,000 rare diseases affecting 300 million people.
- ❖ By extrapolation, India should have 70 million cases.
- ❖ Yet hospitals in India have so far reported less than 500 of these diseases.
- ❖ There is not enough epidemiological data on the communities in which these rare diseases occur.
- ❖ Sophisticated clinical genomics tools are often needed to confirm these disorders.
- ❖ Diseases prevailing in our countries include cystic fibrosis, haemophilia, lysosomal storage disorders, sickle-cell anaemia, etc.

India's Digital Public Infrastructure

- ❖ India planning to build and maintain a Global Digital Public Infrastructure Repository (GDPIR).
- ❖ It is voluntarily shared by G20 members and beyond has won endorsement from the group of developed and developing countries.
- ❖ Under its G20 presidency, India had promised to help other countries that wanted to build such systems for delivery of public services.



G20 Satellite Mission

- ❖ India proposed to launch a G-20 Satellite Mission for Environment and Climate Observation.
- ❖ It aims to help the countries of the Global South.
- ❖ The climate and weather data obtained from this will be shared with all the countries, especially the countries of the Global South.
- ❖ India had launched a satellite in 2017 for the benefit of the SAARC countries.
- ❖ It is popularly called SAARC Satellite.
- ❖ It is a part of India's 'neighbourhood first policy'.
- ❖ It aimed at provide crucial information on tele-medicine, tele-education, banking and television broadcasting opportunities to its South Asian neighbours.

Gifts to G20 Leaders

- ❖ Heads of state and leaders representing their countries at the G20 summit were also given a special hamper by Prime Minister.

- ❖ The hamper consisted of handicrafts and products reflecting India's rich tradition and depth of craftsmanship.
- ❖ It contains
 - Sheeshamwood Sandook with Brass Patti: This Sandook (treasure chest) is hand-crafted using Sheesham (Indian Rosewood).
 - Sheeshamwood Sandook with Brass Patti
 - Saffron from Kashmir: Saffron ('Zafran' in Persian, 'Kesar' in Hindi) is one of the most expensive spices in the world.
 - Pekoe Darjeeling and Nilgiri Tea:
 - Araku Coffee
 - Sundarbans Multiflora Mangrove Honey
 - Kashmiri Pashmina: 'Pashm' refers to the raw unspun wool of the Changthangi goat (a Cashmere goat) found at a height of 14,000 feet above sea level.
 - Zighrana Ittar: 'Ittar' (meaning 'perfume') is an essential oil derived from botanical sources.
 - Khadi Scarf
 - A coin box with commemorative stamps and coins marking India's G20 Presidency

Report on Parliamentarians

- ❖ This report was released by the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) and the National Election Watch (NEW).
- ❖ Over 26% of Members of Parliament were Post Graduates while around 45% were Graduates.
- ❖ There were 54 MPs drawn from both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha who held doctorates, 22 were diploma holders, 89 had passed the class 12th exams and 51, the standard 10th exams.
- ❖ While 184 were graduates, 141 were professional graduates.
- ❖ Only one MP was illiterate.
- ❖ 239 (31.32%) MPs were in the 51-60 years age group, 209 (27.39%) were in the 61-70 years and 184 in the 41-50 years bracket.
- ❖ Only nine MPs were aged 25-30 years and a mere six were above 81.
- ❖ While 306 (40%) MPs have declared criminal cases, around 194 (25%) MPs have declared serious criminal cases.

- ❖ The average worth of assets per MP from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha was ₹38.33 crore and 53 (7%) were billionaires.
- ❖ The All-India Trinamool Congress has the highest percentage of MPs who have declared criminal cases against themselves.
- ❖ Looking at party-wise data, 139 (36%) out of 385 MPs are from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).
- ❖ Kerala (73%) topped the list, followed by Bihar, Maharashtra and Telangana.
- ❖ Bihar (50%) has the highest percentage of MPs with serious criminal cases followed by Telangana (9%), Kerala (10%), Maharashtra (34%) and Uttar Pradesh (37%).

Aswasanidhi project

- ❖ Nearly 1,400 victims of sex crimes and highly heinous gender-based violence have collectively received an interim financial relief.
- ❖ This is provided under the Aswasanidhi project of the Women and Child Development department since its inception in 2018.
- ❖ The largest assistance under the Aswasanidhi project was released during the 2021-22 financial year with aid to 472 victims.
- ❖ Ten different categories of victims, including those who fall prey to sexual offences chargeable under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, are eligible for assistance under the Aswasanidhi project.

World's Highest Fighter Airfield

- ❖ The Border Roads Organisation is to construct India's highest fighter airfield in Nyoma, a village in Ladakh.
- ❖ The Nyoma village is located close to the south Bank of Pangong Tso at an altitude of about 13,700 feet.
- ❖ Nyoma is around 46 kilometres from the Line of Actual Control with China.
- ❖ Besides the Nyoma Airfield, the BRO would soon set in motion the construction of Shinkun La Tunnel.
- ❖ It will be the world's highest tunnel at an altitude of 15,855 feet.
- ❖ The tunnel will connect Lahaul-Spiti in Himachal to the Zaskar Valley in Ladakh and provide all-weather connectivity.



20th ASEAN India summit

- ❖ The 20th ASEAN-India Summit recently took place in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- ❖ It had the theme “ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth.”
- ❖ The PM of India presented a 12-point proposal for strengthening India – ASEAN cooperation.
- ❖ It will be covering connectivity, the digital transformation, trade and economic engagement, addressing contemporary challenges, people-to-people contacts, and deepening strategic engagement.
- ❖ India offered to share India’s Digital Public Infrastructure Stack with ASEAN partners.
- ❖ He had also announced an ASEAN-India fund for Digital Future focusing on cooperation in digital transformation and financial connectivity.
- ❖ PM Invited ASEAN countries to join the Global Centre for Traditional Medicine being established by WHO in India.
- ❖ He has invited ASEAN countries to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and called for cooperation in disaster management.
- ❖ India offered to share India’s experience in providing affordable and quality medicines to people through Jan-Aushadhi Kendras.

Project Samudra Yaan

- ❖ The Samudrayaan project is expected to be realized by 2026.
- ❖ It is being designed and developed by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) in Chennai.

- ❖ The submersible vehicle is named 'MATSYA 6000'.
- ❖ This has an endurance of 12 hours under normal operation and 96 hours in case of emergency for human safety.
- ❖ This project is aimed at exploring the deep ocean and its resources.
- ❖ It is set to send three personnel to a depth of 6000 meters in a submersible vehicle.
- ❖ This India's first manned ocean mission is designed to study deep-sea resources and conduct biodiversity assessments.
- ❖ The project is part of the larger Deep Ocean Mission, which supports the centre's Blue Economy policy.

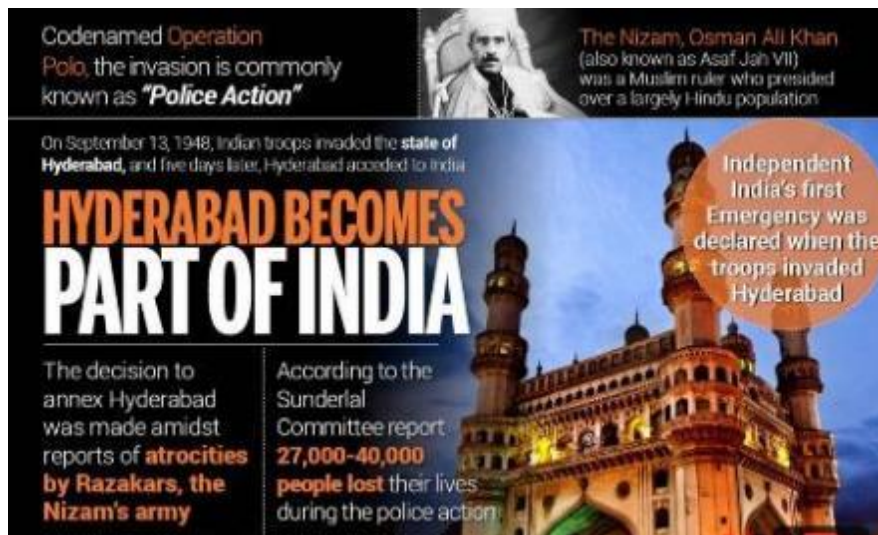


Unique terracotta figurines at Moodbidri

- ❖ Ancient terracotta figurines were found in Karnataka dating back to 800-700 BCE.
- ❖ They are in different stages of preservation, with bone and iron pieces.
- ❖ They were found inside the surface of dolmens, which was disturbed by treasure hunters.
- ❖ This megalithic dolmen site is located at Mudu Konaje near Moodbidri in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka.
- ❖ Megalithic culture is known by its different types of burials and use of iron in India.



Operation Polo - 75th anniversary



- ❖ India celebrated the 75th anniversary of Operation Polo on September 13, 2023.
- ❖ On this day in 1948, the Indian Army launched military action to integrate the princely state of Hyderabad.
- ❖ The military offensive in Hyderabad state was termed as 'Police Action' at the time by the then home minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- ❖ The Hyderabad Nizam's forces surrendered to the Indian Army by September 18.

Ayushman Bhav Campaign

- ❖ Honourable President of India virtually launched Ayushman Bhav Campaign.
- ❖ It is a comprehensive nationwide healthcare initiative.
- ❖ It ensures saturation coverage of healthcare schemes, reaching every village and town in the country.

- ❖ It is initiated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ❖ It aims to provide Ayushman cards, generate ABHA IDs, and raise awareness about vital health schemes and disease conditions, such as non-communicable diseases, tuberculosis, and sickle cell disease.
- ❖ The campaign will be implemented during the 'Seva Pakhwada' from September 17th to October 2nd, 2023.
- ❖ It is a mission to ensure that every individual receives essential health services without any disparity or exclusion.
- ❖ This synergistic approach aims to saturate coverage of health services through its three components:
 - Ayushman - Apke Dwar 3.0
 - Ayushman Melas at Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) and
 - Ayushman Sabhas in every village and panchayat.



New Director of Enforcement Directorate

- ❖ Rahul Navin was appointed in-charge Director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on the completion of tenure of the incumbent Sanjay Kumar Mishra.
- ❖ Mr. Navin is currently serves as the ED's special director.
- ❖ Mishra's tenure was initially extended by the Supreme Court until September 15, after the court deemed the previous extensions beyond September 8, 2021, as "not valid in law".

Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023

- ❖ For the first time since its inception in 1969, a Bill introduced to amend the 54-year-old law.

- ❖ The Bill aims to create a state, and national, level database of registered births and deaths.
- ❖ It will come into force across the country from October 1, 2023.
- ❖ This allows the use of a birth certificate as a single document for admission to an educational institution, issuance of a driving licence, preparation of voter list, Aadhaar number, registration of marriage or appointment to a government job.
- ❖ It would be facilitating the registration process of adopted, orphan, abandoned, surrendered, surrogate child and child to a single parent.
- ❖ It provides for the appointment of special "sub-registrars" in the event of disaster or epidemic for speedy registration of deaths and issue of certificates.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, INDIA)
New Delhi, the 13th September, 2023

S.O. 4058(E).—In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 1 of the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023 (20 of 2023), the Central Government hereby appoints the 1st day of October, 2023, as the date on which the provisions of the said Act shall come into force.

[F.No. 1/7/2020-VS (CRS) Part-1]

MRITUNJAY KUMAR NARAYAN, Registrar General and Census Commissioner

OIML certificate-issuing authority

- ❖ Legal Metrology Division, Department of Consumer Affairs of India has become an OIML certificate-issuing authority.
- ❖ The OIML stands for International Organisation of Legal Metrology.
- ❖ It was established in 1955 and headquartered in Paris.
- ❖ The OIML is an international standard-setting body.
- ❖ It develops model regulations, standards and related documents for use by legal metrology authorities and industry.
- ❖ India became a member of the OIML in 1956.
- ❖ In the same year, India signed the metric convention.
- ❖ Since only 13 countries are authorised, neighbouring countries and manufacturers can come to India to get their certification done.

National Judicial Data Grid platform

- ❖ The Supreme Court onboarded its case data on the National Judicial Data Grid.
- ❖ The NJDG portal is a national repository of data relating to cases instituted, pending and disposed of by the courts across the country.
- ❖ It is a database of orders, judgments and case details of 18,735 District and subordinate Courts and High Courts created as an online platform under the eCourts Project.
- ❖ Its key feature is that the data is updated in real-time and has granular data up to the Taluka level.
- ❖ NJDG works as a monitoring tool to identify, manage & reduce pendency of cases.
- ❖ The NJDG was built as part of Phase II of the e-Courts project.
- ❖ It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.



National List of Essential Assistive Products

- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has released the National List of Essential Assistive Products (NLEAP).
- ❖ It aims to prioritise essential assistive products towards making a difference in the lives of those with functional impairments.
- ❖ The NLEAP consists of 21 essential assistive products and technologies.

- ❖ They are considered fundamental for improving the lives of those with functional impairments.
- ❖ Assistive products (APs) play a pivotal role in enhancing the quality of life and promoting independence among individuals with functional impairments.

Immunity in pre-2014 corruption cases



- ❖ The Supreme Court held that its 2014 ruling which struck down Section 6A of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act would be applied retrospectively.
- ❖ Section 6A of this act introduced in the Act in 2003.
- ❖ It provided that sanction from the central government was mandatory before the CBI could conduct probes in corruption cases against bureaucrats of the rank of joint secretary and above.
- ❖ The Court stated that Section 6A violated fundamental rights and that once a law is declared unconstitutional, it is void from its inception.

Extension of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has given the green light for an extension of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) to 2025-26.
- ❖ This move will bring the total number of PMUY beneficiaries to 10.35 crore.
- ❖ As per the existing modalities of Ujjwala 2.0, the first refill and stove will also be provided free of cost to Ujjwala beneficiaries.
- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana was launched in Ballia (Uttar Pradesh) on May 1, 2016.
- ❖ It aims to provide clean cooking fuel to about 80 million poor households across the country.

- ❖ The target was achieved in September 2019.
- ❖ Later, PMUY phase-2 was launched in August 2021 with an initial target of 10 million connections, which was achieved by January 2022.
- ❖ Subsequently, the government released 6 million more connections under Ujjwala 2.0 till December 2022.
- ❖ Now the government has announced a third phase of the scheme.

CABINET DECISIONS: 13 SEPTEMBER 2023

Extension of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

Cabinet approves extension of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

- 75 lakh LPG connections to be releases over three years
- Total financial implication of Rs.1650 crore
- Connections to be provided at following rates:

14.2 kg Single Bottle Connection	- Rs.2200 per connection
5 kg Double Bottle Connection	- Rs.2200 per connection
5 kg Single Bottle Connection	- Rs.1300 per connection

1/2

CABINET DECISIONS: 13 SEPTEMBER 2023

Extension of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

Cabinet approves extension of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

Benefit

- LPG connections to poor households will provide access to clean cooking fuel
- Address health problems caused by use of traditional sources of cooking fuel such as fire-wood, coal, cowdung etc
- Enhance productivity of women, raise their quality of life by removing drudgery associated with collection of wood

2/2

Vishwakarma scheme

- ❖ Prime Minister launched the 'PM Vishwakarma' scheme for the benefit of traditional artisans.
- ❖ Under the scheme, the government will provide up to ₹3 lakhs loan without any (bank) guarantee.
- ❖ It has also been ensured that the interest rate is also very low.
- ❖ The Govt has decided that ₹1 lakh loan will be given in the beginning.
- ❖ Once it is repaid, govt will provide additional ₹2 lakhs loan to the Vishwakarma partners".

- ❖ The scheme will provide support to artisans and craftspeople in rural and urban areas across India.
- ❖ Initially, 18 traditional trades will be covered.
- ❖ The beneficiaries of the scheme will be provided recognition through a PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card, and skill upgradation involving basic and advanced training.

PM Vishwakarma
Central Sector Scheme to support traditional artisans and craftspeople of rural and urban India

PM Vishwakarma
Eighteen traditional trades will be covered in the first instance under PM Vishwakarma

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Financial outlay of Rs.13,000 crore

Eighteen traditional trades to be covered in the first instance

Artisans and craftspeople to be provided recognition through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card

Credit Support upto Rs.3 lakh (First Tranche) and Rs.2 lakh (Second Tranche) with a concessional interest rate of 5%

Scheme to provide Skill Upgradation, Toolkit incentive, incentive for Digital Transactions and Marketing Support.

Cabinet Decision 16 August 2023

- Carpenter (Suthar)
- Boat Maker
- Armourer
- Bladesmith (Lohar)
- Hammer and Tool Kit Maker
- Locksmith
- Goldsmith (Sanar)
- Potter (Kumhar)
- Sculptor (Mortikar, stone carver, Stone breaker)
- Cobbler(Chamkar)/Shoemithi/Footwear artisan
- Mason (Rajmistr)
- Basket/Mat/Broom Maker/Daik Weaver
- Doll & amc; Toy Maker (Traditional)
- Barber (Naal)
- Garland maker (Malakar)
- Washerman (Dhobi)
- Tailor (Darzi)
- Fishing Net Maker

Cabinet Decision 16 August 2023

Old parliament Building



- ❖ The proceedings of the Parliament were shifted to the new building recently.
- ❖ Prime Minister announced the new name of the old parliament building which will be called “Sam vidhan Sadan” (Constitution House).
- ❖ The old Parliament Building which was designed by British architects Sir Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker and was completed in 1927.

- ❖ The central legislative assembly sat and which was converted as Lok Sabha, was originally designed with a floor area of 3688 square feet and seating arrangement for 148 members.
- ❖ After the first general election in 1951-52 the chamber was remodelled.
- ❖ The floor area was increased to 4804 square feet to provide accommodation to 450 members.
- ❖ The first sitting of elected Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha was on 13th May 1952.
- ❖ After independence the Chamber of Princes was regularly used by the Supreme Court for over ten years, till in 1958.
- ❖ The chamber was then redesigned as the Library Hall.
- ❖ It still bears 102 emblems of the erstwhile Indian States.

Operation Sajag

- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard recently conducted 'Operation Sajag'.
- ❖ It is a coastal security drill conducted by the Indian Coast Guard along the west coast.
- ❖ The drill facilitates revalidation of the coastal security mechanism and brings awareness among the fishermen at sea.
- ❖ During the drill, extensive checking and verification of documents and crew passes of all fishing boats, barges and craft at sea was undertaken.

UPAg Portal

- ❖ Union govt launched the Unified Portal for Agricultural Statistics (UPAg Portal- www.upag.gov.in).
- ❖ This is intended to serve as a public resource, streamlining access to credible, granular, and objective data while reducing search costs and inefficiencies for users.
- ❖ The UPAg Portal's core function is to generate crop estimates and integrate with other agriculture-related statistical systems.
- ❖ It aims to combat challenges like non-standardized and unverified data, ultimately supporting data-driven decision-making in India's agriculture sector.

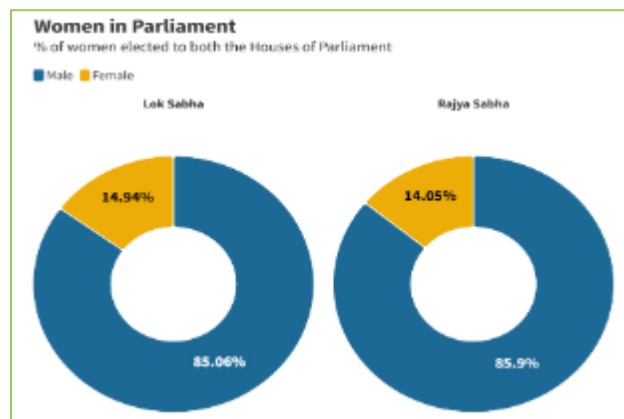
Parliament House of India

- ❖ The Lok Sabha was officially designated the new Parliament building as the "Parliament House of India".

- ❖ Both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha held their sittings in the new Parliament building on September 18.
- ❖ The new Parliament building is situated east of the existing Parliament House.



One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Amendment bill 2023



- ❖ The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023, seeks to provide a 33% reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and assemblies.
- ❖ This can be implemented only after a delimitation exercise is completed, using data from the latest census conducted after the passage of the Bill.
- ❖ The next delimitation exercise, or redrawing of constituency boundaries, is scheduled to be held in 2026.
- ❖ The bill was officially introduced in the Lok Sabha on September 12, 1996 by the UPA government.
- ❖ It was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee chaired by Geeta Mukherjee.
- ❖ Women account for almost half of India's 950 million registered voters but make for only 15% of parliament and around 10% of state legislatures.

Agri-Credit and Crop Insurance Initiatives

- ❖ The government launched three transformative initiatives, include
 - Kisan Rin Portal (KRP)
 - Door to Door KCC Campaign, and
 - Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) Manual.
- ❖ KRP is the collaborative effort promises to revolutionize access to credit services under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC).
- ❖ It is facilitating the availing of subsidized agricultural credit through the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS).
- ❖ The WINDS initiative establishes a network of Automatic Weather Stations & Rain Gauges to provide hyper-local weather data, aiding agricultural decision-making.

Skills on Wheels Initiative

- ❖ The Union govt launched the 'Skills on Wheels' initiative.
- ❖ It aims to empower nearly 60,000 youth and improve their livelihood.
- ❖ The skill training programme will be conducted in collaboration with IndusInd Bank and NSDC.
- ❖ The initiative will operate from a 'customised bus with retrofitted tools' that will travel to the remotest corners of the country to train and prepare youth for the current job market.
- ❖ The youth, particularly women, will be equipped with key digital skills that are crucial in sustaining oneself in the present job sector.
- ❖ The mission will run for a period of five years.

People's G20 eBook

- ❖ The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, unveiled the "People's G20" eBook, highlighting India's G20 Presidency.
- ❖ It provides a comprehensive overview of India's G20 Presidency, featuring three main parts.
- ❖ The first part covers the G20 Summit held in September 2023, explaining the G20's structure and initiatives during India's Presidency.
- ❖ It details the initiatives undertaken during India's Presidency.
- ❖ The second part offers a summary of meetings held by various Working Groups under the Sherpa and Finance Track, along with Engagement Group meetings.
- ❖ Third section includes a photo essay showcasing Jan-Bhagidari (public participation) events that transformed India's G20 Presidency into a people-driven movement.

PV Narasimha Rao Case – 1998

- ❖ The Supreme Court referred a 1998 judgment that provided immunity to MPs and MLAs in cash-for-votes cases to a seven-judge bench recently.
- ❖ It granted legislators immunity against criminal prosecution for bribery charges related to their parliamentary activities.
- ❖ The P V Narasimha Rao case originated from the 1993 JMM bribery case, where legislators were accused of taking bribes to influence parliamentary votes.
- ❖ The Supreme Court had granted immunity under Article 105(2) in that case.
- ❖ In 2012, Sita Soren, was accused of accepting a bribe to vote for an independent candidate in a Rajya Sabha election.
- ❖ She attempted to invoke Article 194(2) for immunity, but the High Court declined her request, leading to further legal proceedings.

Women's reservation Bill

- ❖ The Rajya Sabha on September 21 unanimously passed the Bill proposing to reserve one-third of all seats for women.
- ❖ This will be applicable to the Lok Sabha, the state legislatures, and the Delhi legislative assembly.
- ❖ The bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on September 20.
- ❖ This is the first bill to have been passed in the new Parliament building.

Mission Intensified Indra Dhanush 5.0



- ❖ The second phase of Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 5.0 campaign was concluded recently.

- ❖ It is an immunisation campaign targeting partially vaccinated and unvaccinated children up to the age of five years and pregnant women.
- ❖ All vaccines under the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) were provided.
- ❖ IMI 5.0 is being held in three phases across the country.
- ❖ The third phase will now be held in October.

Swachhata Pakhwada - 2023

- ❖ The Ministry of Railways has launched Swachhata Pakhwada 2023 initiative.
- ❖ The Swachhata Pakhwada 2023 is observed from September 16th to 30th.
- ❖ This initiative is aimed at promoting cleanliness and the environmental consciousness.
- ❖ Swachhata Pakhwada – 2022 awards are given to best performing three Zonal Railways.
 - 1st Position: South Western Railway;
 - 2nd Position: Western Railway;
 - 3rd Position: North Eastern Railway.

Transnational Grid Interconnections

- ❖ A conference on "Transnational Grid Interconnections for One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG)" was recently held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The initiative aims at connecting energy supply across borders.
- ❖ It aims to connect different regional grids through a common grid that will be used to transfer renewable energy power.
- ❖ The project is being spearheaded by the governments of India and the UK in partnership with the International Solar Alliance and the World Bank Group.
- ❖ Once it became operational, it will transport solar power to different countries.

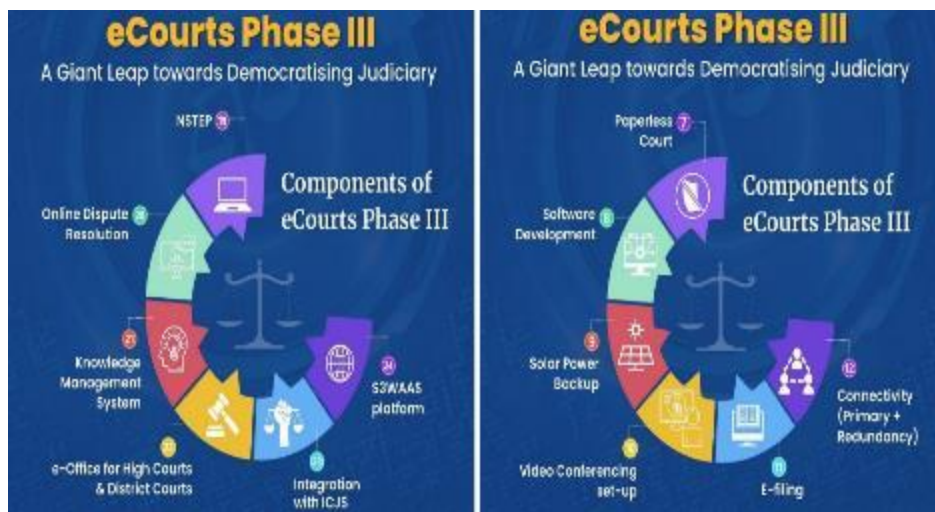
Skill India Digital app

- ❖ The Centre launched the Skill India Digital app.
- ❖ It brings together listings for upskilling courses and job listings.
- ❖ The app will be linked with DigiLocker and Aadhaar to issue verifiable certificates of course completion.
- ❖ It will generate digitally signed CVs for job applicants and people taking courses.

- ❖ It is linked to the Udyam portal, the eShram portal, the National Career Service and the ASEEM job directory.



eCourts Phase III

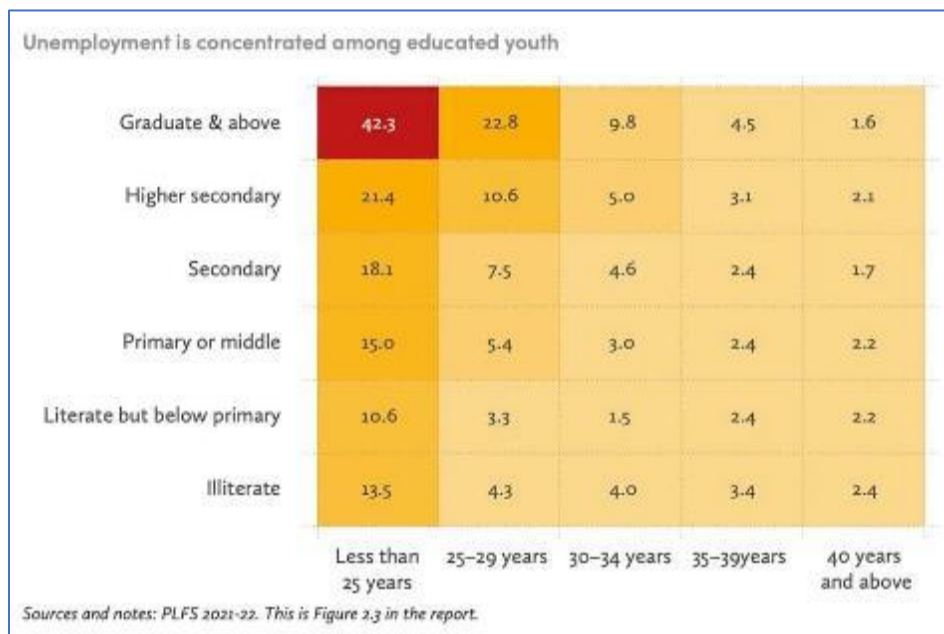


- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the third phase of the eCourts Project with a financial outlay of ₹7,210 crore.
- ❖ It aims to upgrade digital infrastructure of the lower judiciary.
- ❖ This Central scheme will be implemented over four years.
- ❖ Phase 3 of the project will see the digitisation of entire court records, both legacy and pending cases.
- ❖ A total of 3,108 crore documents will be digitised.

State of Working India 2023

- ❖ The 'State of Working India 2023' report was released by Azim Premji University's Centre for Sustainable Employment.

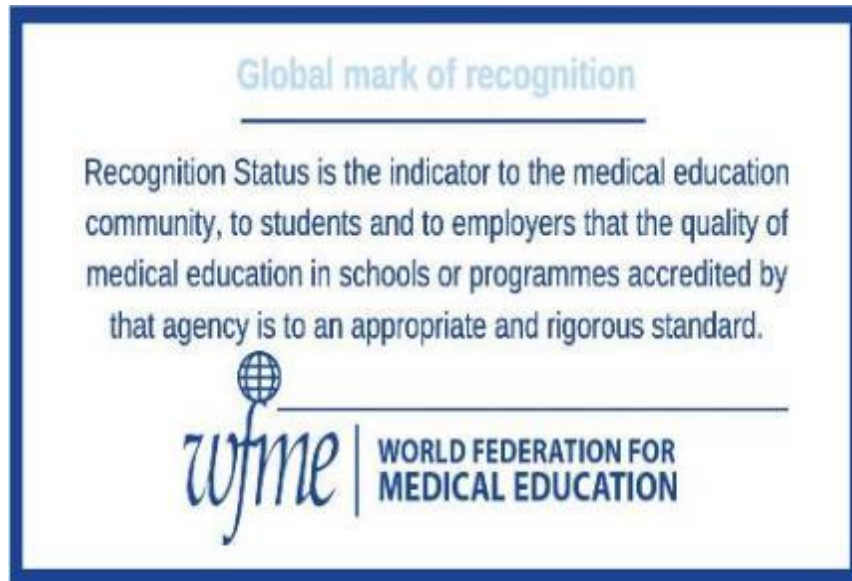
- ❖ The overall unemployment rate reduced to 6.6 per cent in 2021-22 from 8.7 per cent in 2017-18.
- ❖ But, over 42 per cent of India's graduates under 25 were unemployed in 2021-22.
- ❖ In 2021, 32% of general caste workers were in regular wage employment as compared to 22% of SC workers.
- ❖ In 2018, 75.6% of sons of SC/ST casual wage working fathers were themselves casual wage workers, a dip from 86.5% in 2004.
- ❖ A steeper fall is noticed for sons of general caste casual wage working fathers, to 53% in 2018 from 83.2% in 2004.
- ❖ Since the 1980s, the share of workers employed in non-agricultural sectors increased significantly, with the figure standing at 19.8% in 2021.
- ❖ As of 2021-2022, about 40% of SC women were in employment as opposed to only 21% of general caste women.
- ❖ Salaried women workers in India now earn 76% of their male counterparts, compared to 70% in 2004.



National Medical Commission - global recognition

- ❖ The National Medical Commission (NMC), India, has been being awarded the coveted World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) Recognition.
- ❖ This status was given for a tenure of 10 years.

- ❖ This recognition will enable Indian medical graduates to pursue postgraduate training and practice in other countries that require WFME recognition.
- ❖ All the 706 existing medical colleges become WFME accredited and the new medical colleges that will be set up in the coming 10 years will automatically become WFME accredited.
- ❖ The World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) is a global organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of medical education worldwide.



All-women panel of 13 Vice-Chairpersons

- ❖ The Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar constituted an all-women panel of Vice-Chairpersons in Rajya Sabha in view of the Women's reservation Bill.
- ❖ The panel comprises 13 women Rajya Sabha Members only for discussing the Women's reservation Bill which is called as Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam 2023.
- ❖ The panel includes P. T. Usha, Jaya Bachchan, Saroj Pandey, Dola Sen, Sulata Deo and Dr. Fauzia Khan.



14th edition of Global Skills Summit

- ❖ The 14th edition of the Global Skills Summit was held in Delhi.
- ❖ The theme of the event is building skills, empowering youth, and creating a future.
- ❖ The Summit aims to focus on creating a road map for a high-quality industry-led skilling ecosystem in India.

Trilateral Maritime Exercise



- ❖ INS Sahyadri had participated in the maiden trilateral Maritime Partnership Exercise.
- ❖ This is the maiden trilateral maritime exercise between India-Indonesia-Australia.
- ❖ The trilateral exercise provided an opportunity to strengthen their partnership and improve their collective capability to support a stable, peaceful and secure Indo-Pacific region.
- ❖ INS Sahyadri is the third ship of the indigenously designed and built Project-17 class multirole stealth frigates.

SIMBEX 2023



- ❖ The Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy is participating the 30th edition of their annual bilateral naval exercise in the southern South China Sea.
- ❖ SIMBEX stands for Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise.
- ❖ This annual bilateral Naval exercise between two country is being conducted since 1994.

New Vande Bharat Trains

- ❖ Prime Minister on September 24 flagged off nine Vande Bharat trains, connecting 11 states.
- ❖ It includes the rail service between the Tirunelveli- Chennai Egmore route.
- ❖ This is the second Vande Bharat service to the State of Tamilnadu after Coimbatore.
- ❖ With these nine trains, the total number of Vande Bharat trains has increased to 34.
- ❖ They will improve connectivity in Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, West Bengal, Kerala, Odisha, Jharkhand and Gujarat.

Arogya Manthan 2023

- ❖ The National Health Authority (NHA), is organised 'Arogya Manthan' to celebrate five years of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).
- ❖ It also celebrates two years of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).
- ❖ Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY was launched on 23rd September 2018.
- ❖ The ABDM was launched on 27th September 2021.
- ❖ This scheme is aimed at creating a digital highway connecting different stakeholders of healthcare ecosystems.

Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar

- ❖ The Centre has introduced a new set of National Awards in the field of Science, Technology, and Innovation.
- ❖ It is named as the "Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar" (RVP).
- ❖ These awards aim to recognize the remarkable contributions made by scientists, technologists, and innovators in various fields of science and technology.
- ❖ It is set to be one of the highest recognitions in the field of science, technology, and innovation in India.
- ❖ It will be awarded across four categories.
 - The 'Vigyan Ratna' - Lifetime achievements in any field of science and technology.
 - The 'Vigyan Shri' - acknowledges the distinguished contributions in any field of science and technology.
 - The 'Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar' - To recognize and encourage young scientists under the age of 45 who have made exceptional contributions in any field of science and technology.
 - The 'Vigyan Team' award - Given to a team of three or more scientists, researchers, or innovators who have made exceptional contributions in any field of science and technology.

Draft Patents (Amendment), Rules, 2023

Body blow to pre-grant opposition

The draft patent amendment rules give the controller the power to determine the maintainability of representation of those filing pre-grant oppositions



Worrying: The draft amendment rules create needless hurdles. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

- Currently, the Patents Act explicitly permits "any person" to file a pre-grant opposition without the discretion of the Controller. But as per the draft rules, the Controller will decide maintainability

- Big pharma had questioned the maintainability of petitioners opposing patents, leading to delays. The same can happen with pre-grant opposition
- The present amendments present the most significant challenge to the Indian Patent System since 2005
- Pharma companies are averse to pre-grant opposition. The draft patent amendment rules help them by making the process difficult
- There are innumerable instances when patient groups and civil society organisations have filed pre-grant opposition, leading to rejection of patent extension
- The latest pre-grant opposition ruling that was not in favour of a pharma company is the Bedaquiline drug for MDR-TB patients

- ❖ The government has released Draft Patents (Amendment) Rules, 2023 rule, under the Patents Act of 1970.
- ❖ Under this, Patents are granted for new and useful inventions and are intended to encourage innovation by providing legal protection and exclusive rights to inventors.
- ❖ There will be a variable fee for Pre-Grant Opposition (PGO) filing (previously free).
- ❖ PGO is a pre-grant opposition filed after patent publication but before its grant.
- ❖ PGO filing, previously open to anyone, will now be determined by Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks.
- ❖ Disclosure of the patented product's manufacturing location and price is no longer required.

ODF Plus villages



- ❖ About 4.4 lakh or 75 per cent of India's villages have achieved the open defecation free-plus status.
- ❖ An 'ODF Plus' village is one which has sustained its Open Defecation Free (ODF) status along with implementing either solid or liquid waste management systems.
- ❖ All villages in 14 states and Union Territories (UT) have achieved ODF Plus Status, of which four have been declared 'ODF Plus Model'.
- ❖ The top performing states and UTs which have 100 per cent ODF Plus villages are Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra Nagar Haveli, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Ladakh, Puducherry, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Tripura.
- ❖ Of these, Andaman and Nicobar, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu, Jammu and Kashmir and Sikkim have achieved the 'ODF Plus Model' status.

INTERNATIONAL

B20 Summit India 2023

- ❖ The three-day B20 summit was hosted by India at Delhi.
- ❖ The theme of event was “R.A.I.S.E.”- Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable and Equitable Business.
- ❖ India officially handed over the B-20 (Business 20) presidency to Brazil.
- ❖ It is the official G20 dialogue forum from with the global business community.
- ❖ Established in 2010, B20 is the most prominent Engagement groups in G20.
- ❖ The next G20 summit will be held at Brazil in 2024.

Ban on Abayas

- ❖ France has enforced a strict ban on religious signs in state schools.
- ❖ It has banned children from wearing the abaya in state-run schools.
- ❖ Abaya is the loose-fitting, full-length robes worn by some Muslim women.
- ❖ In 2004, it banned headscarves in schools and passed a ban on full face veils in public in 2010.

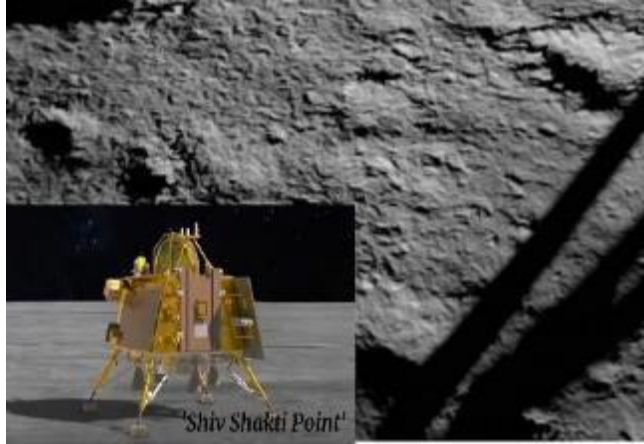


Osteoarthritis in 2050

- ❖ By 2050, nearly one billion people globally are projected to be living with osteoarthritis.
- ❖ Currently, 15 per cent of the world's population aged 30 years or above experience osteoarthritis.
- ❖ In 2020, 595 million people were found to be affected by osteoarthritis.
- ❖ It is a 132 per cent increase from 256 million people in 1990.

- ❖ In 1990, obesity was found to be responsible for 16 per cent of the disability due to osteoarthritis.
- ❖ It had risen to 20 per cent in the year 2020.
- ❖ In 2020, 61 per cent of osteoarthritis cases were in women versus 39 per cent in men.

Naming of space objects



- ❖ India named the Chandrayaan-3 lander touched down region as Shiv Shakti.
- ❖ The Moon does not come under the jurisdiction of any one country.
- ❖ But, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) determines some other rules for Space activities.
- ❖ The IAU has been the arbiter of planetary and satellite nomenclature since its inception in 1919 and India is among its 92 members.
- ❖ Many mission sites first see names being given to them informally.
- ❖ These names are later submitted to the IAU for approval.
- ❖ The Working Group of IAU handles the naming process.
- ❖ The decisions and recommendations are not enforceable by any national or international law.
- ❖ Upon successful review by vote of the members of the WGPSN, names are considered approved as official IAU nomenclature.
- ❖ Then the names can be used on maps and in publications.

General Comment No. 26

- ❖ The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) has issued General Comment No. 26.

- ❖ It provides a legal framework to address the adverse effects of environmental degradation and climate change on the enjoyment of children's rights.
- ❖ It is also looking to ensure a clean, healthy, and sustainable world now and to preserve it for future generation.
- ❖ Member states urged to take necessary measures to protect children's rights from climate change-related harm caused by businesses.

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child has published General Comment No. 26 on children's rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change.

Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration

- ❖ A total of 48 African countries have now agreed to adopt the Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (KDMECC).
- ❖ It aims to address the nexus of human mobility and climate change in the continent.
- ❖ Africa is one of the world's most vulnerable continents to the impacts of climate change.
- ❖ KDMECC was originally signed and agreed upon by 15 African states in Kampala, Uganda in July 2022.
- ❖ The Declaration is the first comprehensive, action-oriented framework led by Member States to address climate-induced mobility in a practical and effective manner.
- ❖ There were over 7.5 million new internal disaster displacements last year alone.

Global Fund for HIV

- ❖ The Global Fund to Fight AIDS announced the successful conclusion of the first summit focused on their strategic partnership with India.
- ❖ It secures a deal with generic pharmaceutical manufacturers to significantly slash the price of a cutting-edge HIV drug.
- ❖ The Global Fund is a partnership set up in 2002 to battle AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.
- ❖ The agreement would make it possible to provide the advanced pill known as TLD for under \$45 per person per year.

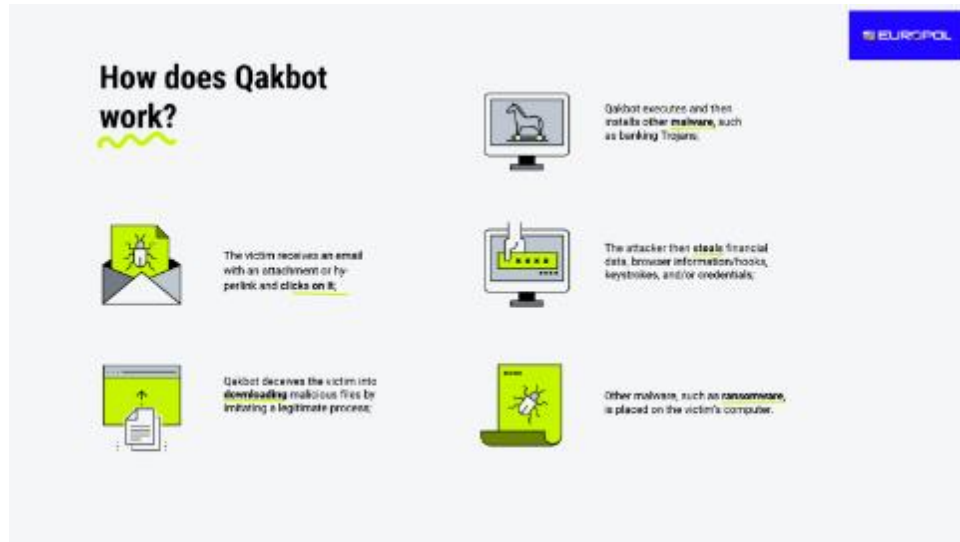
Gabon Military coup

- ❖ Military officers of Central African nation Gabon announced that they have taken power "on behalf of the Gabonese people".
- ❖ President Ali Bongo currently remains under house arrest.
- ❖ He had won a third term in recent election.
- ❖ The nation has little more than 2 million people.
- ❖ France occupied Gabon in 1885.
- ❖ In 1910, Gabon became one of the four territories of French Equatorial Africa.
- ❖ On 15 July 1960, Gabon gained independence from France.
- ❖ It is located on the Atlantic Ocean, and borders Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, and the Republic of Congo.



Qakbot malware platform

- ❖ An international law enforcement operation had taken down the notorious "Qakbot" malware platform.
- ❖ It is used extensively by cybercriminals in a variety of financial crimes.
- ❖ Qakbot is commonly spread through malicious, boobytrapped emails sent to unsuspecting victims.
- ❖ The operation, nicknamed Duck Hunt, has involved multinational enforcement agencies.
- ❖ QakBot, also known as QBot and Pinkslipbot, was started as a banking trojan in 2007.



9 dash line

- ❖ Vietnam joined India, Malaysia and the Philippines to reject a new map released by China.
- ❖ The issuance of the map as well as China's 'nine-dash line' claim show a violation of Vietnam's sovereignty
- ❖ India specifically protested China's claims over Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin.
- ❖ The South China Sea is claimed by Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, and the Philippines.
- ❖ China asserts a claim to 90% of the South China Sea.
- ❖ The nine-dash line is a historical demarcation line on a map used by China to assert territorial claims in the South China Sea.
- ❖ The 2016 Arbitral Award invalidated the nine-dashed line.



10-point peace formula

- ❖ India will be part of the implementation of the 10-point peace formula proposed by Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.
- ❖ He first presented the peace formula at the G-20 summit in Indonesia in November 2022.
- ❖ Some of the main provisions of his proposal are withdrawal of Russian troops and the cessation of hostilities and the restoration of Ukraine's state borders with Russia.



1. Radiation and nuclear security.
2. Food security.
3. Energy security.
4. Release of all POWs and deportees.
5. Implementation of the UN Charter and restoration of the territorial integrity of Ukraine and the world order.
6. Withdrawal of Russian troops and cessation of hostilities.
7. Restoring justice.
8. Countering ecocide.
9. Prevention of escalation.
10. Fixation of the end of the war.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy,
G20 summit

WHO Gujarat declaration



WHO TRADITIONAL MEDICINE
GLOBAL SUMMIT

Towards health and well-being for all

Gujarat Declaration

- Diverse Indigenous knowledges and TCIM systems of healing, well-being and sustainability are a valuable resource for humanity
- WHO - GCTM at Jamnagar will scale up WHO capacities to support member states and stakeholders in taking forward the summit action agenda and other relevant priorities.

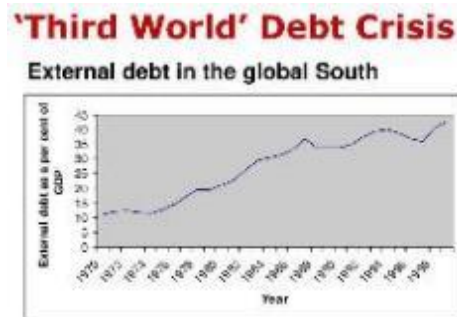
- ❖ India hosted the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

- ❖ The World Health Organization has released the outcome document of first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2023 in form of “Gujarat Declaration”.
- ❖ It reaffirmed global commitments towards indigenous knowledges, biodiversity and traditional, complementary and integrative medicine.

43rd ASEAN

- ❖ 2023 chair of ASEAN, Indonesia hosted the 43rd summit In Jakarta.
- ❖ It was commenced on a note of unity and cultural celebration.
- ❖ This year, Indonesia assumed the chairmanship with the theme “ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth.”
- ❖ By encouraging ASEAN countries to strengthen collaboration, Indonesia aims to retain the region’s position as the world’s centre of economic growth.

Global South’s Debt Problem



- ❖ The 18th G20 Heads of State and Government Summit will be held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The meeting will witness discussion on a wide variety of topics, including climate, green development, digital economy, public infrastructure and many more.
- ❖ One of the key issues up for talks will be the persistent and crippling problem of debt among a number of developing countries.
- ❖ The external debt is the money borrowed from richer countries, multilateral creditors like the World Bank and IMF, or private lenders such as banks.
- ❖ Of these nations, mostly in the global south has gone up by 150% between 2011 and 2023, reaching their highest levels in 25 years.
- ❖ Zambia in June clinched a \$6.3 billion debt rework deal with the “Paris Club” creditor nations.
- ❖ Its other big bilateral lender is China.
- ❖ Ghana is aiming to reduce its international debt payments by \$10.5 billion over the next three years.

- ❖ Pakistan needs upwards of \$22 billion to service external debt and pay other bills for fiscal year 2024.
- ❖ Kenya's public debt stands at nearly 70% of GDP.
- ❖ Lebanon has been in default since 2020, with no clear resolution in sight.

10th Meeting of The Ministers of Law and Justice Of SCO

- ❖ The 10th meeting of the Ministers of Law and Justice of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) countries was held via video conferencing.
- ❖ India has reaffirmed its commitment to the SCO by extending support to member countries in enhancing their legal and judicial capabilities.
- ❖ It was decided to hold the next meeting of SCO Ministers for Law and Justice in the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2024.

78th Session of the UN General Assembly

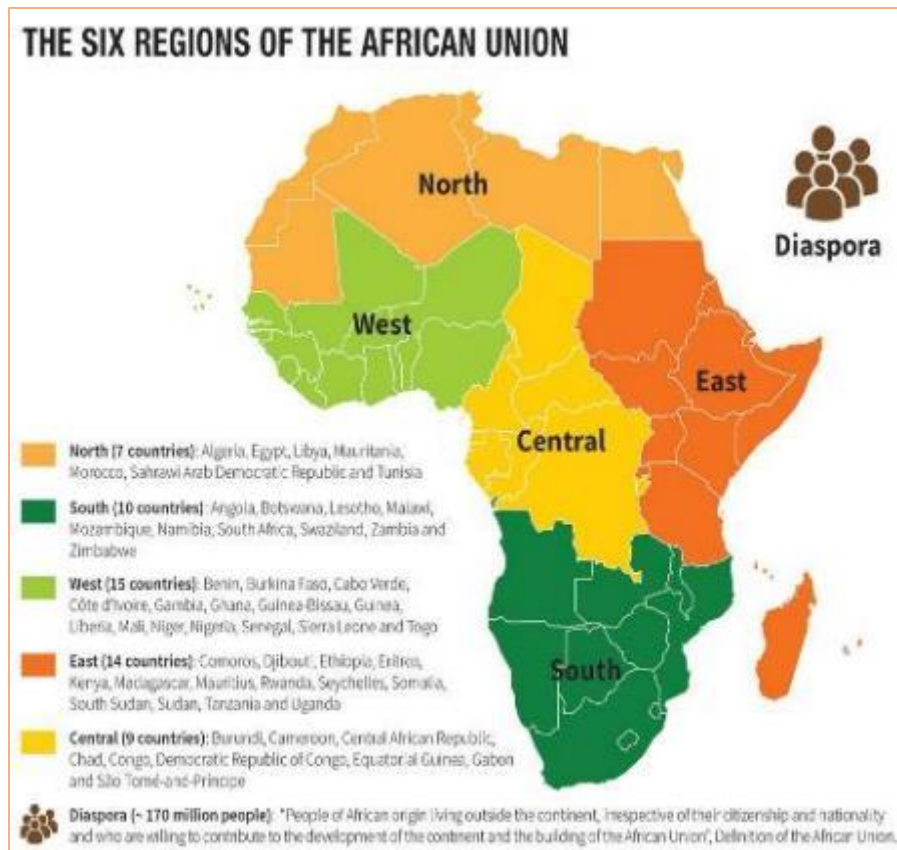
- ❖ The 78th session of the UN General Assembly was declared open on by new General Assembly President Dennis Francis.
- ❖ The 78th session of the General Assembly was themed 'Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity: Accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals towards peace, prosperity, progress, and sustainability for all.

India and US talks 2023

- ❖ The Indian Prime Minister engaged in bilateral talks with US President Joe Biden in New Delhi.
- ❖ India welcomes the US President to the next Quad Leaders' Summit to be hosted by India in 2024.
- ❖ Both countries have agreed to set up a Renewable Infrastructure Investment Fund with up \$1 billion worth of investments (\$500 million each).
- ❖ Both announced the settlement of their World Trade Organisation (WTO) poultry dispute.
- ❖ New Delhi has agreed to reduce tariffs on a range of American products.
- ❖ These include the following: frozen turkey, frozen duck and fresh, frozen, dried and processed blueberries and cranberries.

African Union - Permanent Member of G20

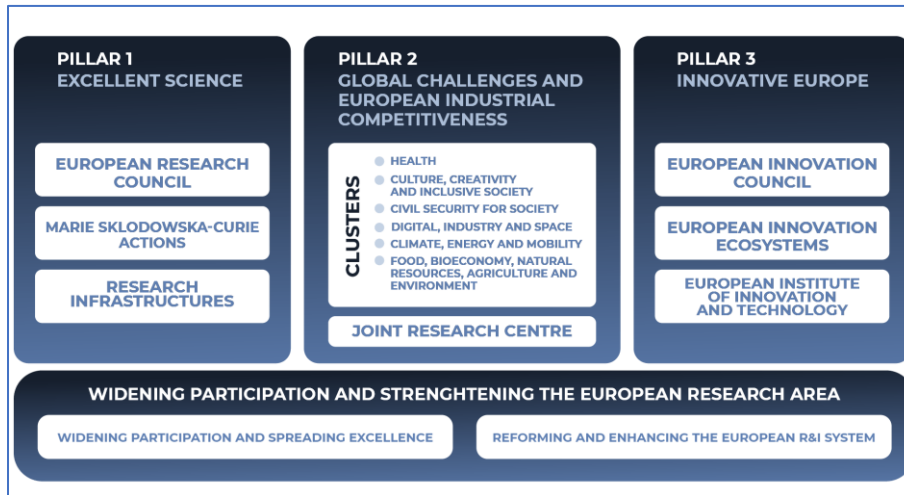
- ❖ The African Union became a full member of the G-20 on September 9, 2023.
- ❖ This will strengthen the G-20 and also strengthen the voice of the Global South.
- ❖ The AU is an influential organisation comprising 55 member states that make up the countries of the African continent.
- ❖ Apart from this, India has also invited Bangladesh, Comoros, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and the UAE as part of the ‘Guest Countries’ at the G-20 summit.
- ❖ The International organizations such as the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, the Financial Stability Board, Asian Development Bank, IMF, ILO, International Solar Alliance, the OECD, the UN, the World Bank, the African Union, the WHO, the WTO and ASEAN are also invited as guests.



EU's Horizon Science Research Program

- ❖ Britain is rejoining the European Union's \$100 billion science-sharing program Horizon Europe.
- ❖ The UK has been excluded from the scheme for the past three years because of a disagreement over the Northern Ireland Protocol.

- ❖ Britain is also rejoining Copernicus, the EU space program’s Earth observation component.
- ❖ Horizon will give UK companies and research institutions unrivalled opportunities to lead global work to develop new technologies and research projects, in areas from health to AI.

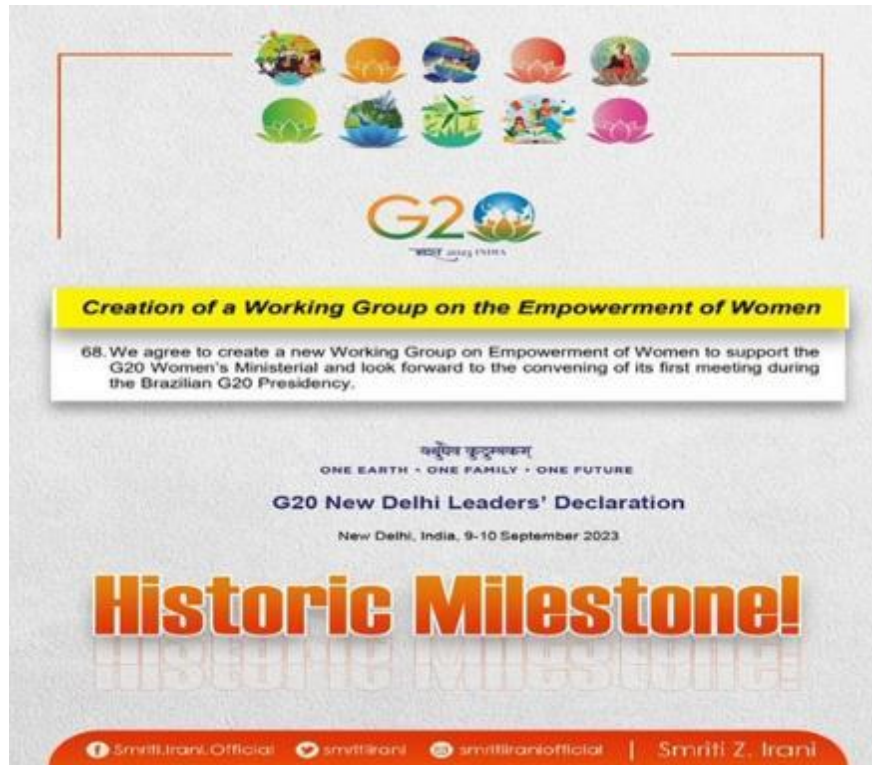


Earthquake in Morocco



- ❖ Morocco was struck by a devastating 6.8 magnitude earthquake.
- ❖ The epicentre was located in the Atlas Mountains region, specifically in Al-Haouz.
- ❖ It was Morocco's deadliest earthquake since Agadir was devastated by a 6.7-magnitude quake in 1960, which killed more than 12,000.
- ❖ Recent quake was also the most powerful to hit Morocco for more than a century.

G20 Working Group on Empowerment of Women



- ❖ Leaders of the G20 agreed to the creation of a working group on the empowerment of women.
- ❖ It aims to support the G20 women's ministerial panel which will convene its first meeting during Brazil's presidency of the bloc.
- ❖ Brazil will officially take over the mantle of the G20 presidency from India on December 1.
- ❖ The next leaders' summit is scheduled to be held at the popular seaside resort city of Rio de Janeiro in November 2024.

India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor

- ❖ India, the US, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, France, Germany, Italy and the European Union literally signing the MoU to establish the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEE-EC).
- ❖ This will connect Asia and Europe by promoting economic integration.
- ❖ It aims to create connectivity through rail and shipping networks, energy cables, and data links.
- ❖ It seeks to boost trade, clean energy, and economic growth while providing an alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

- ❖ The Middle East corridor consists of two separate corridors.
- ❖ The East Corridor will link the Indian port of Mundra on the west coast to Fujairah port.
- ❖ Then by using the railroad via Saudi Arabia and Jordan transport goods through standardized containers to the Israeli port of Haifa.
- ❖ The west corridor will be from Haifa, from where the Indian goods will reach various ports like Marseille in France and other ports in Italy and Greece.



18th EAS summit



- ❖ The 18th East Asia Summit (EAS) Summit was held in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- ❖ It was chaired by H.E. Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia.

- ❖ The East Asia Summit (EAS) serving as a platform for diplomatic engagement and cooperation among its member states.
- ❖ Comprising 18 countries, it includes 10 member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and eight key partners: Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia, and the United States.

Storm Daniel

- ❖ Extreme rainfall from a storm system called Storm Daniel hit parts of the central and eastern Mediterranean.
- ❖ It leads devastating flooding and massive loss of life in Libya.
- ❖ Libya is the worst affected country, as well as in Greece, Türkiye and Bulgaria.
- ❖ It caused record-breaking rainfall in Greece on 5-6 September, with a reported 750 mm falling in 24 hours at a station in the village of Zagora.
- ❖ This is the equivalent of about 18 months of rainfall.



Liptako-Gourma Charter

- ❖ The military leaders of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger signed a mutual defence pact.
- ❖ The Liptako-Gourma Charter establishes the Alliance of Sahel States (AES).
- ❖ It aims is to "establish an architecture of collective defence and mutual assistance for the benefit of our populations.

- ❖ The Liptako-Gourma region — where the Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger borders meet — has been ravaged by jihadism in recent years.
- ❖ This alliance will be a combination of military and economic efforts between the three countries.
- ❖ A jihadist insurgency that erupted in northern Mali in 2012 spread to Niger and Burkina Faso in 2015.
- ❖ All three countries have undergone coups since 2020.
- ❖ The Sahel is the ecoclimatic and biogeographic realm of transition in Africa between the Sahara to the north and the Sudanian savanna to the south.



G77+China summit

- ❖ The two-day Summit of the G77+China concluded recently in Cuba.
- ❖ The theme of the event is “Current Development Challenges: Role of Science, Technology and Innovation.
- ❖ The summit saw the adoption of the 47-article Havana Final Declaration.
- ❖ This is aimed at all countries in the Global South defend the demands of developing countries amid the geopolitical divide while emphasizing on making the Global South a powerful force in the multipolar world.
- ❖ As many as 134 members, including India, the G77 is the largest intergovernmental group of developing nations.
- ❖ It’s called G77 Plus China because while China works closely with the group.
- ❖ The block represents more than 80 percent of the world’s population and two-thirds of the United Nations membership.
- ❖ G77 had 77 members when it was founded in 1964.

Derna dam collapse

- ❖ The catastrophic collapse of two dams occurred in the eastern Libyan city of Derna.
- ❖ The dam collapse came after an extreme storm, Storm Daniel, slammed into the north African country.
- ❖ There were two major dams upstream from Derna that, for one, had not been maintained since 2002.
- ❖ Also, the dams were not very large, with the first dam only 70 metres (230 feet) tall.
- ❖ Experts estimate that 30 million cubic metres of water were released when the dams broke, equivalent to 12,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools.



Biden Impeachment Inquiry

- ❖ The Republican-led US House of Representatives is set to hold its first committee hearing.
- ❖ First, the inquiry will consider an August memorandum of the House Oversight Committee.
- ❖ They claimed that Mr. Biden involved in, unauthorized Foreign Payments, Influence Peddling and Impropriety in Hunter Biden's Business Dealings.

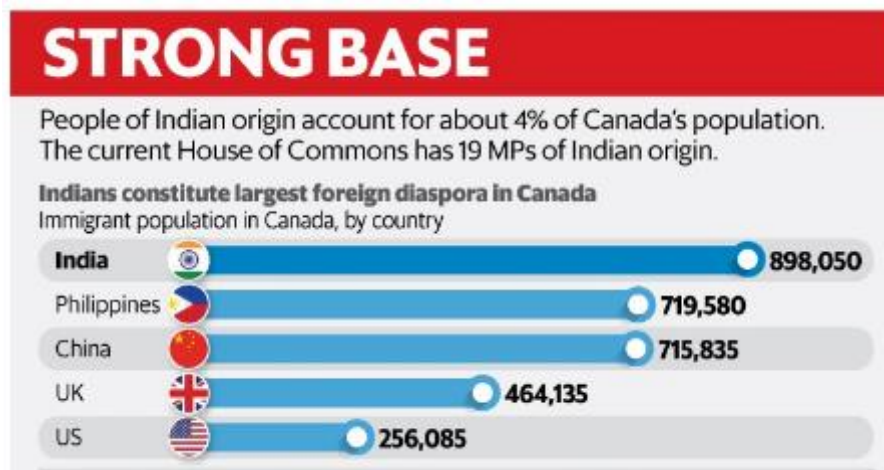
Climate Ambition Summit (CAS) 2023

- ❖ The Climate Ambition Summit (CAS) was held in New York, as part of the United Nations General Assembly.
- ❖ Only representatives from 34 states and 7 institutions were given the floor on the day of the summit.
- ❖ China, United States and India were all absent in the summit.

- ❖ They have collectively account for about 42% of global greenhouse gas emissions and are the top three emitters in that order.
- ❖ India last updated its climate pledges in 2022 of reducing emissions intensity by 45% from 2005 levels by 2030, a 10% increase from what it agreed to in 2015.
- ❖ Nepal and Portugal announced a revised target of achieving Net Zero emissions by 2045 instead of 2050

Bilateral ties between India and Canada

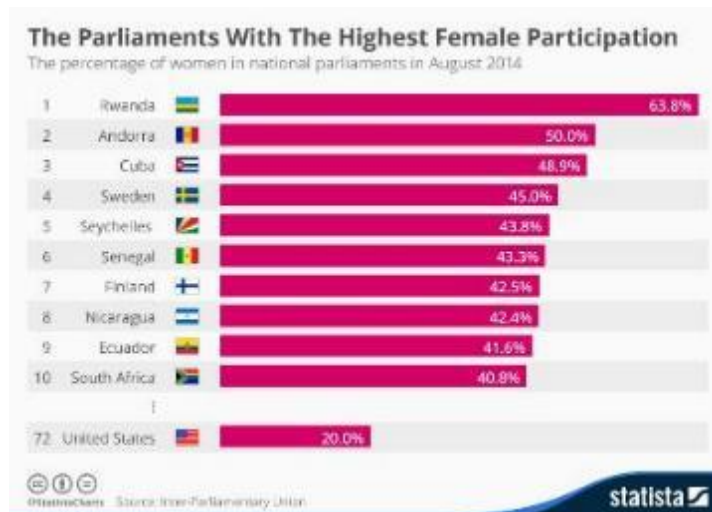
- ❖ Canada accused India of involvement in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar.
- ❖ He was earlier designated a terrorist by the Indian government for his involvement in pro-Khalistan activities.
- ❖ The Khalistan extremist movement is a separatist movement that seeks to establish an independent Sikh state called Khalistan.
- ❖ It emerged primarily among the Sikh diaspora, particularly in countries like Canada, during the 1980s.
- ❖ They established a 'Khalistan government in exile' office in Vancouver in 1982.
- ❖ Canadians of Indian origin account for about 4% of that country's population.
- ❖ The current House of Commons has 19 MPs of Indian origin, including three cabinet ministers.



Women Parliamentarians in Rwanda

- ❖ Globally, the average for women in parliament is around 24 per cent.
- ❖ But the country with the highest percentage of women legislators in its Parliament is Rwanda.
- ❖ It has 49 of its 80 Lower House seats occupied by women (around 61 per cent).

- ❖ According to the World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Index, in 2023, Rwanda ranked 12th out of 146 countries.
- ❖ In 1994, more than 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were massacred at the hands of Hutu militias.
- ❖ As a result, 70 per cent of the population was composed of women after the war.



I2U2 Group Joint space venture

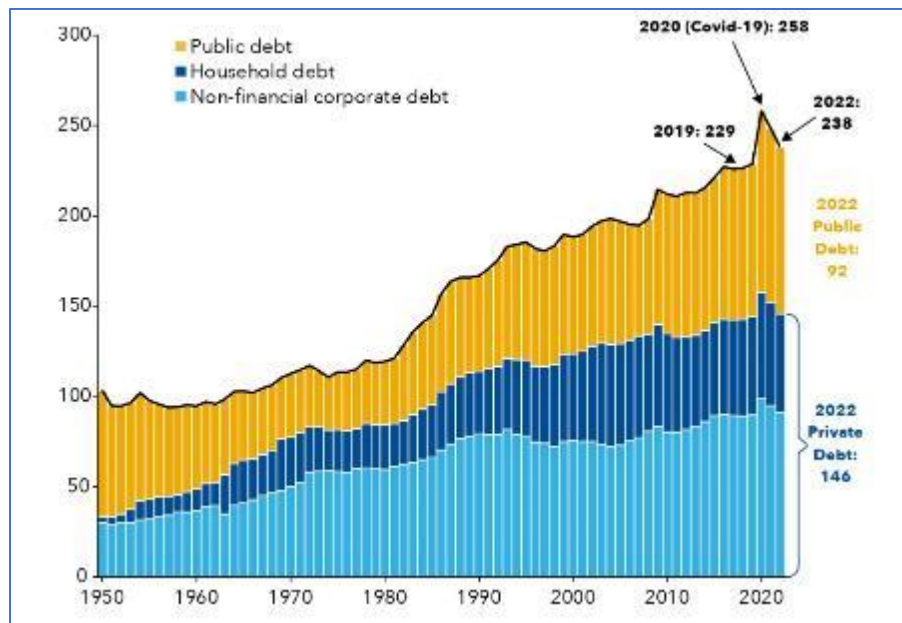
- ❖ India, Israel, the United States and United Arab Emirates (UAE) under the I2U2 group announced a new joint space venture.
- ❖ It is aimed at creating a “unique space-based tool” for policymakers, institutions, and entrepreneurs.
- ❖ The I2U2 group of nations are collectively referred to as the West Asian Quad and are all signatories of the Artemis Accords.

UNESCO's World Heritage List – Zagorochoiria of Greece



- ❖ The Zagorochoiria (or villages of Zagori), has been inducted onto UNESCO's World Heritage List.
- ❖ It is the first time that a cultural area of Greece that comprises an outstanding example of its modern cultural heritage is listed.
- ❖ All Greek listings so far are related to ancient Greece or Byzantium.

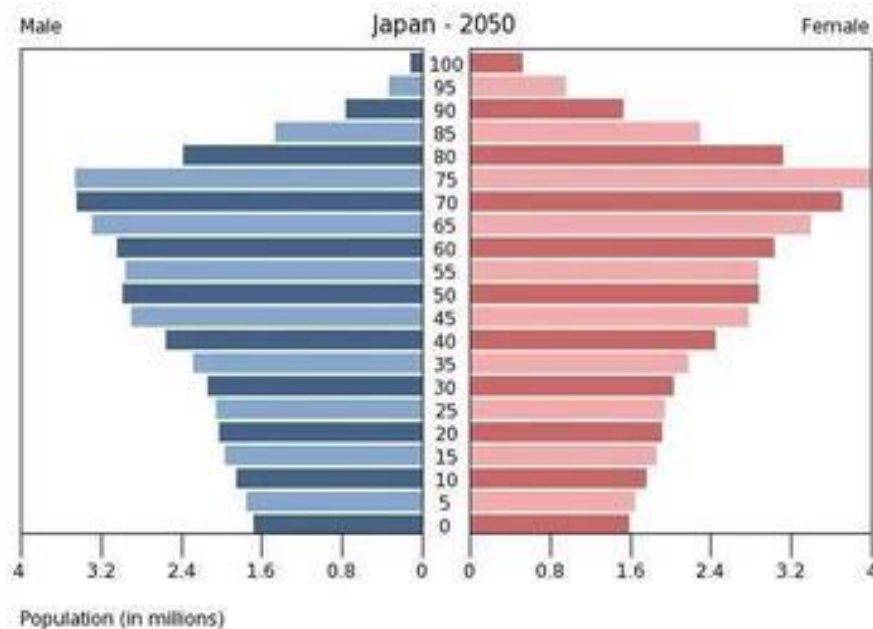
Global Debt as a Share of Economic Output



- ❖ The International Monetary Fund said that the global debt as a share of economic output fell significantly in 2022 for the second year in a row.

- ❖ The world's total debt to-GDP ratio fell last year to 238% from 248% in 2021 and 258% in 2020.
- ❖ However, despite the decline over the past two years, global debt remains well above the 2019 level of 238% of GDP.
- ❖ China has been a major contributor to the increase in global debt in recent years, with its debt burden growing to 272% of GDP in 2022.
- ❖ The United States saw its total debt-to-GDP ratio fall to 274% in 2022 from 284% in 2021.

Japan population crisis



- ❖ For the first time, more than 10 per cent or one in 10 people have crossed the age of 80 years or older.
- ❖ Japan currently has the world's oldest population as measured by the proportion of people aged 65 years or up.
- ❖ Just a year ago, Japan's population aged 65 or older stood at 29 per cent.
- ❖ By 2040, it is projected that around 34.8 per cent of the Japanese population will be aged 65 or more.
- ❖ More than a third of people aged between 70 and 74 have jobs in Japan.
- ❖ Italy is ranked at the second position in terms of older population, has 24.5 per cent of its population at 65 or older.
- ❖ Third-ranked Finland's 23.6 per cent population is of the age bracket.

Five Eyes Alliance

- ❖ Canada claims that the Indian government may have “potential links” to the killing of separatist leader Harmeet Singh Nijjar in Canada.
- ❖ This issue was “shared intelligence among Five Eyes partners”.
- ❖ “Five Eyes” refers to an intelligence-sharing alliance of the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and New Zealand.
- ❖ In 1943, the Britain-USA (BRUSA) agreement laid the foundations for what would become the UK-USA (UKUSA) agreement.
- ❖ The UKUSA was signed in 1946.
- ❖ Canada joined it in 1949, and New Zealand and Australia did so in 1956, forming the alliance.
- ❖ In 2016, the Five Eyes Intelligence Oversight and Review Council came into being.
- ❖ It includes the non-political intelligence oversight, review, and security entities of the Five Eyes countries.
- ❖ They exchange views of mutual interest, compare best practices, hold conference calls throughout the year and gather in person annually.



The Next Pandemic: Disease X

- ❖ Disease X, the name given by World Health Organisation (WHO), can cause another pandemic deadlier than Covid-19.
- ❖ The new virus could have a similar impact to the devastating Spanish Flu of 1919-1920.
- ❖ According to WHO, Disease X could be a new agent - a virus, a bacterium or fungus - without any known treatments.
- ❖ It could be related to zoonotic disease likely an RNA virus.
- ❖ Covid-19 caused 20 million or more deaths across the world.



ECONOMY

10 billion UPI Transactions

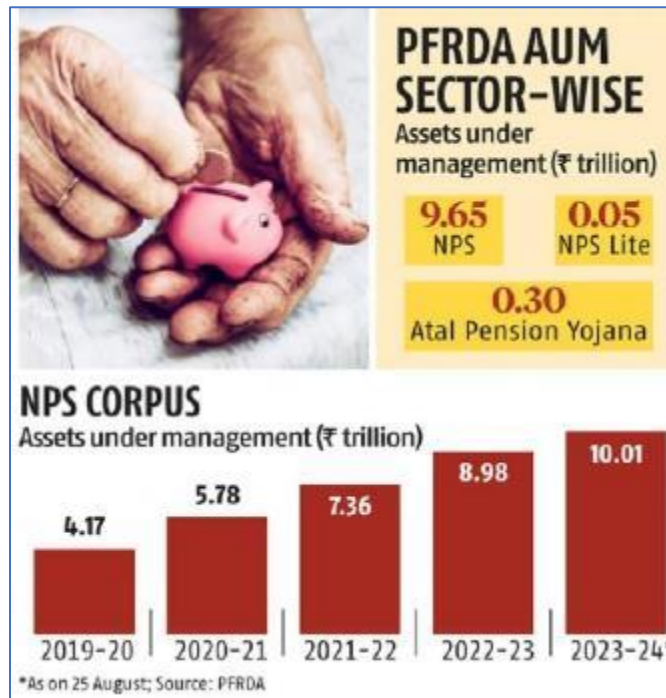
- ❖ India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) have likely crossed the historic mark of 10 billion monthly volumes for the month of August.
- ❖ Monthly transaction count on UPI crossed 10.24 billion on 30 August, with net transaction value of ₹15.18 trillion.
- ❖ Transactions on UPI have grown by over 50% year-on-year, with August last year registering 6.58 billion monthly transactions.
- ❖ UPI crossed 1 billion monthly transactions for the first time in October 2019.



Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers

- ❖ Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF) has received 'Navratna Status' from Department of Public Enterprise.
- ❖ Navratna companies possess financial autonomy to invest up to Rs 1000 crore without any approval from the central government.
- ❖ The RCF is a Government of India owned 4th leading fertilizer and chemical manufacturing company.
- ❖ About 80% of its equity is held by the Government of India.
- ❖ The company recently received an environmental clearance for its nano urea fertilizer plant.

Asset Under Management of NPS And APY



- ❖ Assets under management of the National Pension System (NPS) and the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) have crossed the milestone of Rs 10 lakh crore.
- ❖ In total, the number of subscribers has reached 66.2 million (6.62 crore).
- ❖ The total funds from the National Pension System (NPS) Private, Atal Pension Yojana (APY), and National Pension System (NPS) Lite stand at Rs 47,663 crore, Rs 30,051 crore and Rs 5,157 crore respectively.
- ❖ The National Pension System was introduced for all central government employees, except those in the armed forces who joined on or after January 1, 2004.

- ❖ There are many states and union territories that have adopted the NPS.
- ❖ As of May 1, 2009, NPS has been made accessible to all Indian citizens voluntarily.
- ❖ On June 1, 2015, the Atal Pension Yojana was launched.
- ❖ It has significantly boosted the reach and effectiveness of social security schemes.
- ❖ Currently, it is open only to non-taxpayers.

India's first UPI ATM

- ❖ Hitachi Payment Services, launched India's first UPI-ATM in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India.
- ❖ The UPI-ATM service is also known as Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW).
- ❖ It offers a convenient way for customers of participating banks who are using UPI to withdraw cash from any ATM that supports UPI-ATM functionality.
- ❖ It can be used without the need for a physical card.



Global Fintech Fest 2023

- ❖ The three-day Global Fintech Fest 2023 (GFF 2023) concluded recently.
- ❖ State Bank of India launched its RuPay backed National Common Mobility Card in the event.
- ❖ It would facilitate payments for all kinds of transport from road to rail to waterways to parking across the country.
- ❖ The card could also be used for purchases at retail outlets.
- ❖ RBI governor announces the following 5 new exciting payments solutions:
 - Credit Line on UPI

- UPI LITE X
- UPI Tap & Pay
- Hello! UPI — Conversational Payments on UPI
- BillPay Connect — Conversational Bill Payments



Incremental cash reserve ratio

- ❖ RBI announced is discontinuing the incremental cash reserve ratio (I-CRR) in a phased manner.
- ❖ RBI released 25% of the I-CRR maintained on September 9 and another 25% on September 23.
- ❖ The remaining 50% of the I-CRR maintained will be released on October 7.
- ❖ It aims to release I-CRR funds gradually to avoid shocks to system liquidity and ensure orderly money market functioning.
- ❖ The Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) will remain at 4.5%.
- ❖ The CRR is a mandatory reserve amount that banks must maintain with the RBI.
- ❖ The I-CRR was introduced to absorb excess liquidity in the banking system, primarily caused by factors like the return of Rs 2,000 notes.



Inward & Outward FDI Trends 2023

OUTWARD DIRECT INVESTMENT FROM INDIA			
COUNTRY	2022	2023	SHARE
Singapore	₹182,200 cr	₹203,233 cr	22.3%
USA	₹102,078 cr	₹124,123 cr	13.6%
UK	₹84,075 cr	₹116,398 cr	12.8%
Netherlands	₹97,723 cr	₹106,395 cr	11.7%
UAE	₹55,608 cr	₹87,459 cr	9.6%
Mauritius	₹70,392 cr	₹76,881 cr	8.4%
Switzerland	₹26,130 cr	₹28,228 cr	3.1%
Bermuda	₹11,515 cr	₹12,582 cr	1.4%
Jersey	₹13,198 cr	₹11,661 cr	1.3%
Cyprus	₹10,142 cr	₹9,985 cr	1.1%
Other Countries	₹1,09,591 cr	₹1,34,124 cr	14.7%
All Countries	₹7,62,652 cr	₹9,11,069 cr	100.0%

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India report shows that Total outward direct investment by Indian firms rose by 19.46% in FY2023.
- ❖ Outward direct investment (ODI) is a business strategy in which a domestic firm expands its operations to a foreign country.
- ❖ It is different from the foreign portfolio investment.
- ❖ Singapore was the largest beneficiary of outward direct investment (ODI) by Indian firms.
- ❖ Bermuda, Jersey and Cyprus, known for their tax benefits are in the top 10 countries that received Indian ODI.

OTG Ring

- ❖ The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has introduced a contactless payment wearable ring known as the 'OTG Ring'.
- ❖ This device has been developed in collaboration with the Indian fintech startup LivQuik.
- ❖ It is tailored for National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) customers.

GSTN - Geocoding Across India

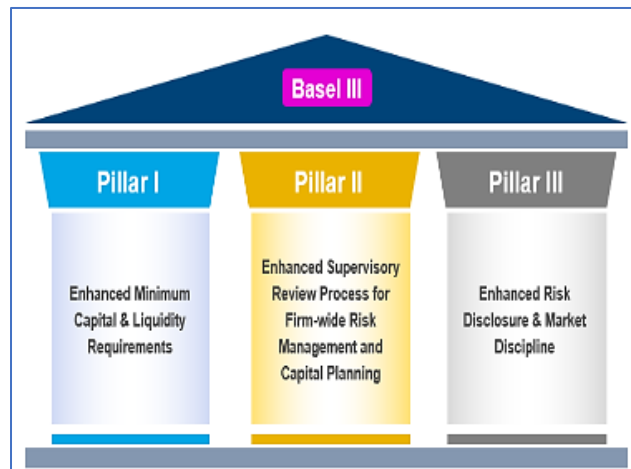
- ❖ The Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) has introduced geocoding functionality to identify and locate businesses accurately across all states and union territories.
- ❖ Geocoding allows for precise location data and enhances auditing and enforcement efforts.

- ❖ This move will make it easier to eliminate fake registration or to locate a tax evader.
- ❖ Geocoding is a process that assigns geographical coordinates to addresses or locations.



Basel-III capital framework

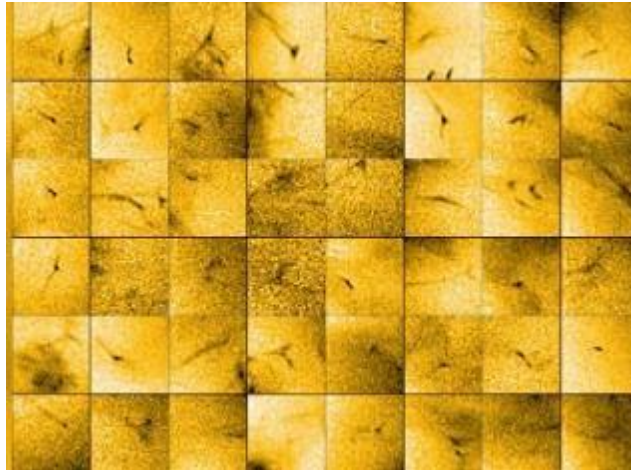
- ❖ The RBI has introduced norms on the Basel III capital framework to All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs).
- ❖ This will include fund raising, exposure guidelines, and norms on classification and valuation of investment portfolios.
- ❖ It will come into effect from April 2024.
- ❖ Basel-III standards mainly seek to raise the quality and level of capital to ensure that financial entities are better able to absorb losses.



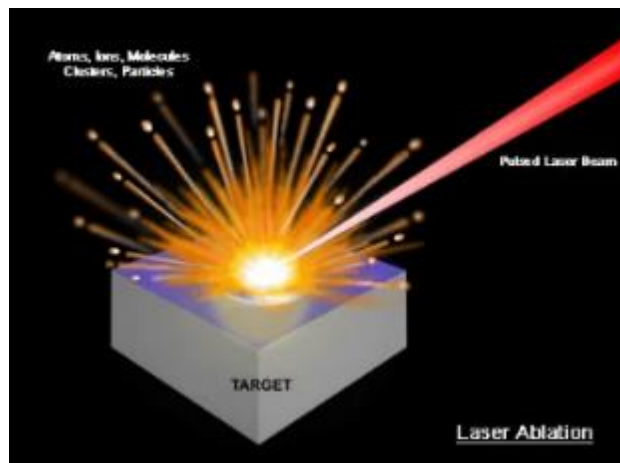
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Tiny Jets

- ❖ The ESA/NASA Solar Orbiter spacecraft has discovered a multitude of tiny jets of material escaping from the Sun's outer atmosphere.
- ❖ Each jet lasts between 20 and 100 seconds, and expels plasma at around 100 km/s.
- ❖ These jets could be the long-sought-after source of the solar wind.
- ❖ The solar wind consists of charged particles, known as plasma, that continuously escape the Sun.
- ❖ It propagates outwards through interplanetary space, colliding with anything in its path.
- ❖ When the solar wind collides with Earth's magnetic field, it produces the aurorae.



LIBS Technique



- ❖ LIBS instrument onboard the Chandrayaan-3's rover has made the first-ever in-situ measurements on the elemental composition of the lunar surface near the south pole.
- ❖ LIBS stands for 'Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy'.
- ❖ These in-situ measurements confirm the presence of Sulphur (S) in the region.
- ❖ Search for Hydrogen (H) is underway.
- ❖ The LIBS payload was developed at ISRO's Laboratory for Electro-Optics Systems in Bengaluru.

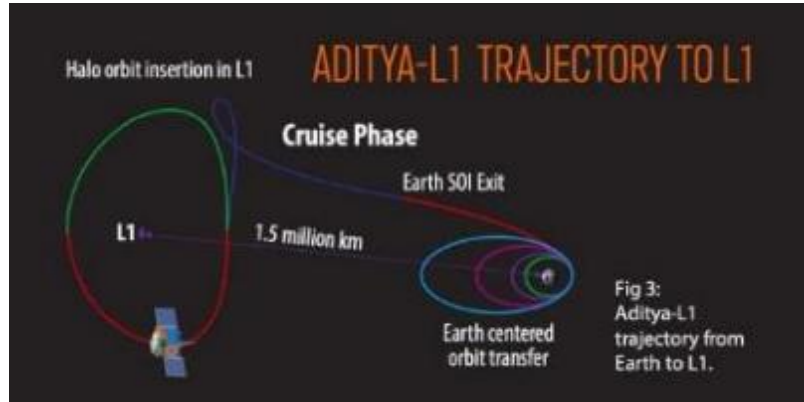
Nabhmitra device

- ❖ 'Nabhmitra' device is developed by ISRO-Space Applications Centre (Ahmedabad) for the safety of fishermen.
- ❖ The satellite-based communication system enables two-way messaging services from and to the sea.
- ❖ While weather and cyclone warnings will be communicated in the local language, the boats can also send distress messages to the authorities.
- ❖ In emergency situations like capsizing and fire, fishers can press a button on the device and get in touch with the control centre.
- ❖ While the control centre will receive the alert including the location of the boat, the crew on the boat will get a response message from the control centre.

Aditya L1 Mission

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched Aditya L-1, its first space-based mission to study the Sun.
- ❖ The solar probe was carried into space by the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) in 'XL' configuration.
- ❖ The rocket is most powerful in the 'XL' configuration as it is equipped with six extended strap-on boosters.
- ❖ PSLV-XL can lift 1,750 kg of payloads to the sun-synchronous polar orbit.
- ❖ The spacecraft will finally be stationed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system.
- ❖ It is about 1.5 million km from the Earth.
- ❖ The Aditya L-1 will cover its journey to the L1 point in about four months.
- ❖ There are essentially seven payloads on the Aditya L-1.
- ❖ The mission's main objective is to expand our knowledge of the Sun, and how its radiation, heat, flow of particles, and magnetic fields affect us.

- ❖ Lagrange points are the points where gravitational pull of the celestial bodies equals the centripetal force required to keep a smaller third body in orbit.



Mahendragiri - India's New Warship

- ❖ Indian Navy's latest warship 'Mahendragiri' was launched recently.
- ❖ The project is the seventh warship of Project 17A.
- ❖ Project 17A frigates are a follow-on to the Project 17 (Shivalik class) frigates.
- ❖ Mahendragiri is the last stealth frigate of Project 17A.

RAMBHA-LP

Lander Payloads

RAMBHA-LP
Langmuir Probe
To measure the near surface plasma (ions and electrons) density and its changes with time.

ChaSTE
Chandra's Surface Thermo-physical Experiment
To carry out the measurements of thermal properties of lunar surface near polar region.

ILSA
Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity
To measure seismicity around the landing site and delineating the structure of the lunar crust and mantle.

Rover Payloads

APXS
Alpha Particle X-Ray Spectrometer
To derive the chemical composition and infer mineralogical composition to further enhance our understanding of lunar surface.

LIBS
Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy
To determine the elemental composition (Mg, Al, Si, K, Ca, Ti, Fe) of lunar soil and rocks around the lunar landing site.

SHAPE
Spectro-polarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth
An experimental payload to study the spectro-polarimetric signatures of the habitable planet Earth in the near-infrared (NIR) wavelength range (1-1.7 μm).

इसरो ISRO

- ❖ RAMBHA-LP payload onboard Chandrayaan-3 Lander has made first-ever measurements of the near-surface Lunar plasma environment over the south polar region.
- ❖ RAMBHA-LP stands for Radio Anatomy of Moon Bound Hypersensitive ionosphere and Atmosphere - Langmuir Probe.
- ❖ The initial assessment indicates that the plasma near the lunar surface is relatively sparse.
- ❖ These quantitative measurements potentially assist in mitigating the noise that Lunar plasma introduces into radio wave communication.
- ❖ Also, they could contribute to the enhanced designs for upcoming lunar visitors.

Brain-Computer Interface

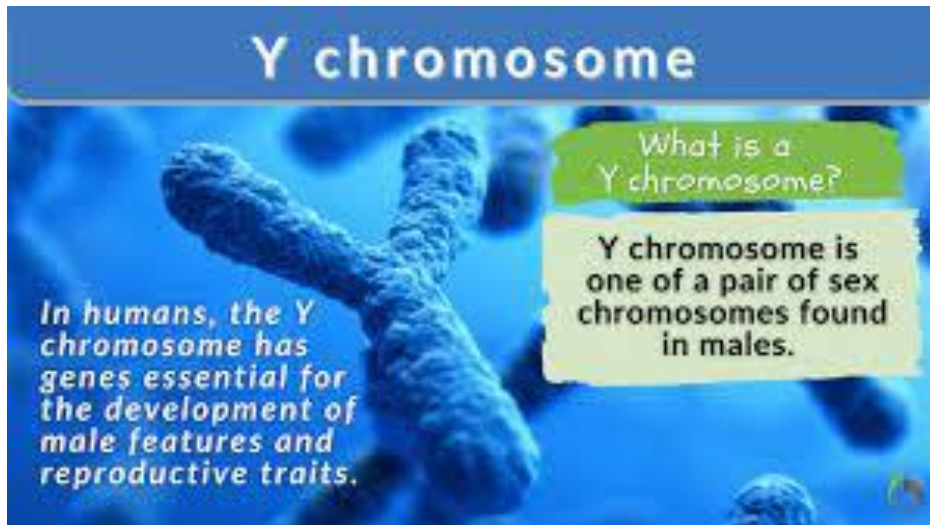
- ❖ Scientists have developed a device that can translate paralysed people's brain signals into words at faster speeds than before.
- ❖ This is a step towards restoring communication to people with severe paralysis.
- ❖ These BCIs are capable of decoding brain activity into speech faster, more accurately and covering larger vocabulary than existing technologies.
- ❖ This will help those People with neurological disorders, including brainstem stroke or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, often face speech loss due to paralysis of muscles.



Decipher of the Y Chromosome

- ❖ The scientists have successfully sequenced the Y chromosome for the first time.
- ❖ This reference sequence will facilitate the exploration of conditions and disorders tied to this chromosome.
- ❖ The Y chromosome is termed as the "dark matter" of the genome.
- ❖ Initial attempts to decipher the fundamental elements of our genetic code occurred two decades ago.

- ❖ Yet significant gaps persisted across the 23 pairs of human chromosomes.
- ❖ These gaps were substantially filled last year by an international collective of 100 researchers known as the Telomere-to-Telomere (T2T) Consortium.



Jais - Language Mode

- ❖ Inception, a unit of Abu Dhabi AI company G42, has released 'Jais', the world's most advanced Arabic large language model.
- ❖ Jais is a bilingual Arabic-English model that has been trained on a massive dataset of text and code.
- ❖ It can be used for a variety of tasks, such as machine translation, text summarization, and question answering.
- ❖ It was trained on the Condor Galaxy, the world's largest AI supercomputer.

Introducing Jais

- The world's best-performing Arabic Large Language Model
- A partnership between Inception, MBZUAI and Cerebras Systems
- **13-billion-parameter**, open-source, **bilingual Arabic-English model**
- Trained on **116 billion Arabic tokens** and **279 billion English tokens** of data
- Trained on **Condor Galaxy 1 AI Supercomputer**
- Homegrown in Abu Dhabi to bring the power of Generative AI to 400m Arabic speakers
- Available for download on HuggingFace

7-min cancer treatment injection



- ❖ The National Health Service (NHS) England has introduced an innovative anti-cancer injection.
- ❖ This is capable to drastically reducing cancer treatment duration.
- ❖ The injection takes only 7 minutes to administer and will be the first of its kind in the world.
- ❖ This revolutionary jab has the potential to curtail treatment time for specific patients by a remarkable 75%.

Pirola variants

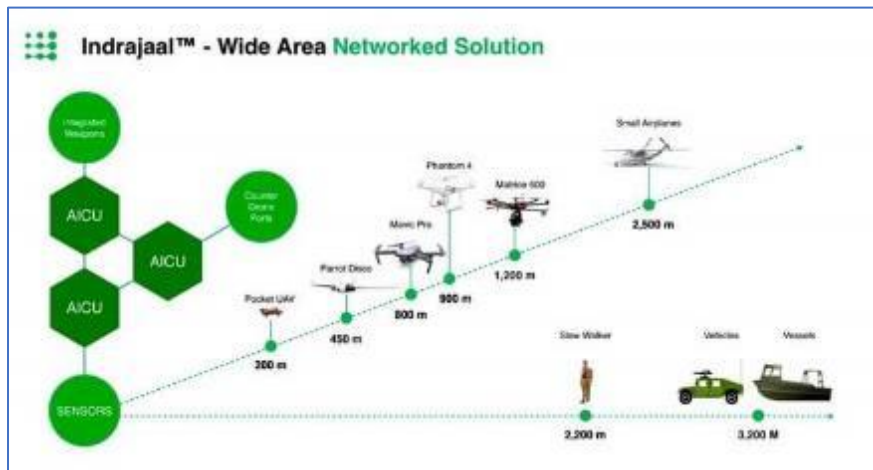


- ❖ The BA.2.86 variant of Omicron is nicknamed as “Pirola”.
- ❖ It is a newly designated, highly mutating variant of Omicron which triggered the surge in cases.
- ❖ New coronavirus variants have raised concern across the world amid a rise in cases in the United States and parts of Europe.

- ❖ Pirola has more than 30 mutations.
- ❖ It was first spotted in Denmark on July 24.

AI-Powered Anti-Drone System

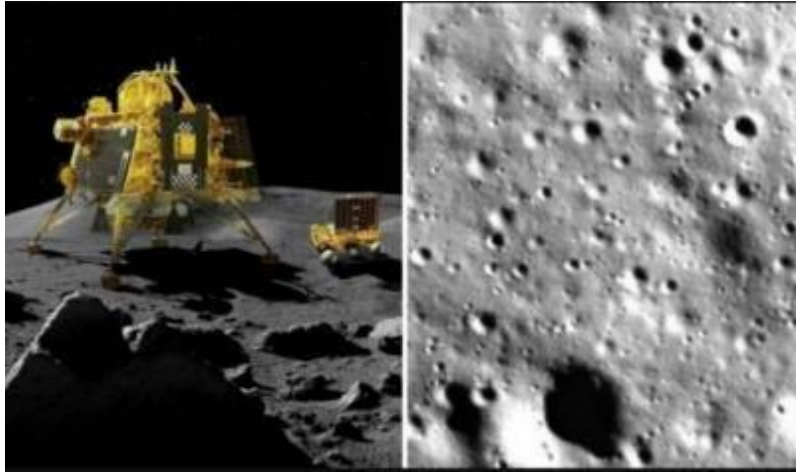
- ❖ A Hyderabad-based robotics firm has unveiled a state-of-the-art autonomous anti-drone system, powered by artificial intelligence.
- ❖ It is named Indrajaal, and it is said to be the world's only wide-area Counter-Unmanned Aircraft System (C-UAS).
- ❖ The system can protect vital installations like nuclear installations and oil rigs.
- ❖ It also covers a wide area encompassing even an entire city, from multiple drones of any kind.
- ❖ This is the first time such a system has been developed in India.



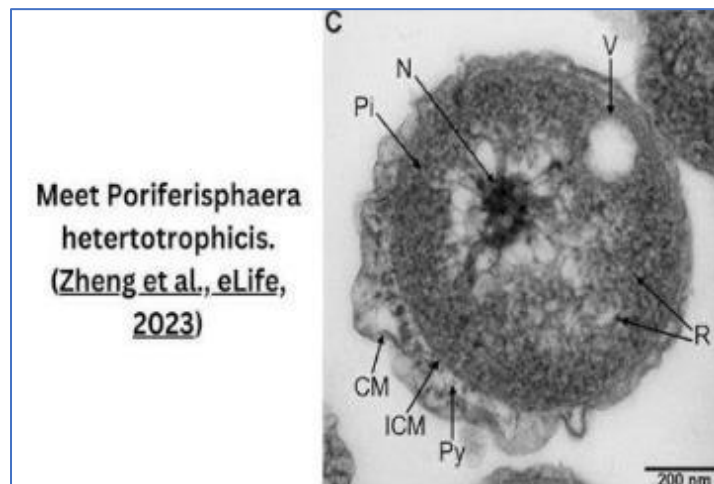
Pragyan into sleep mode

- ❖ On September 2, Pragyan had completed its assignments and it had been safely parked and set into sleep mode.
- ❖ Pragyan's receiver had been kept on.
- ❖ The ISRO added that Vikram would fall asleep next to Pragyan once the solar power was depleted and the battery was drained.
- ❖ Once the sun sets on the moon, temperature can plunge below minus 200°C.
- ❖ The solar panel is oriented to receive the light at the next sunrise expected on September 22.
- ❖ ISRO is hoping for a successful awakening for another set of assignments.
- ❖ Else, it will forever stay there as India's lunar ambassador.

- ❖ The lander and the rover, with a mission life of one lunar day (14 earth days), have scientific payloads to carry out experiments on the lunar surface.



Poriferisphaera hetertotrophicis

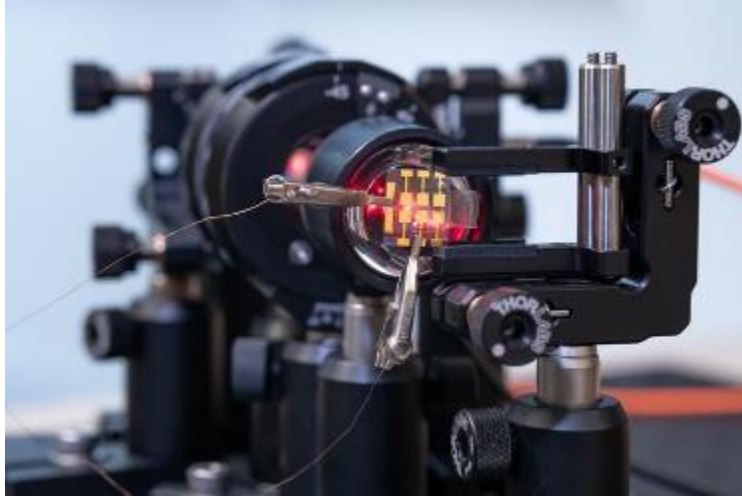


- ❖ Researchers in China have identified a unique and mysterious new species of marine bacteria called *Poriferisphaera hetertotrophicis*.
- ❖ This is found in sediment samples from the deep ocean floor.
- ❖ The bacteria belong to the Planctomycetes phylum.
- ❖ This finding advances our understanding of deep-sea microbiology and chemical processes.

Quantum Random Number Generator

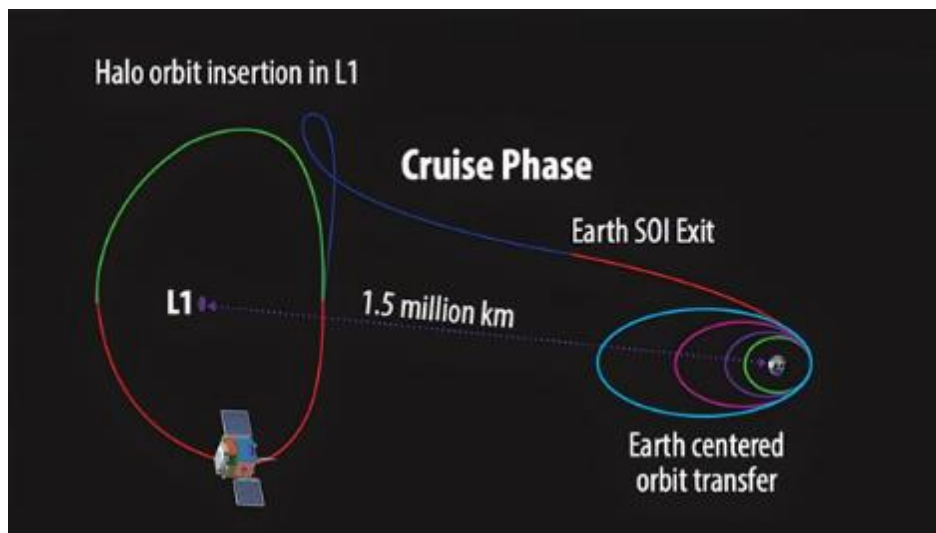
- ❖ Scientists developed a new type of QRNG for encryption, betting, and computer simulations.
- ❖ It uses LEDs made from the crystal-like material perovskite.

- ❖ A random number generator, which can either be a computer program or the hardware itself, is used to encrypt data.
- ❖ The information at the receiving end is encrypted and decrypted using keys generated by the random number generator.



Aditya-L1 enters new orbit

- ❖ Aditya-L1, India's first solar observatory mission, has successfully undergone a second Earth-bound manoeuvre on September 5.
- ❖ This entry was performed from ISTRAC (ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network), Bengaluru.
- ❖ The new orbit attained is 282 km x 40,225 km.
- ❖ With three more manoeuvres in line, the next, EBN#3, is scheduled for September 10.

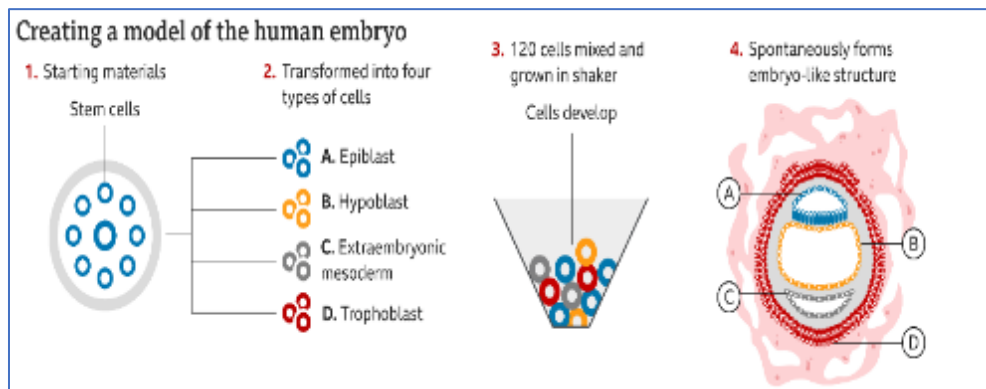


Moon sniper – Japan



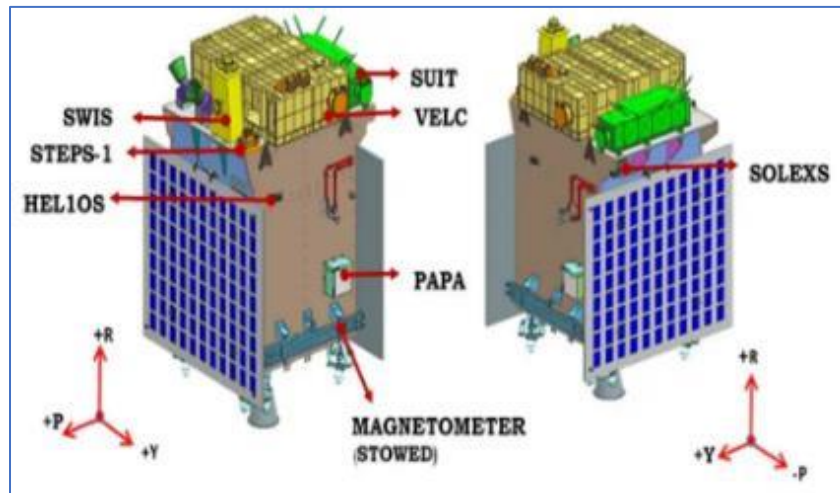
- ❖ Japan has launched a rocket carrying what it plans to be the country's first successful Moon lander.
- ❖ This is an effort to become the fifth nation in the world to land an object on the moon.
- ❖ The lunar craft is officially known as Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM).
- ❖ It is also referred to as the “moon sniper”.
- ❖ The SLIM spacecraft is expected to land on the moon’s surface sometime in January of February next year.
- ❖ It was taking a long but more fuel-efficient path.
- ❖ The rocket is also carrying a research satellite which has been developed by NASA, the European Space Agency and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

Human Embryo Model Using Stem Cells



- ❖ A team of Israeli researchers has created a synthetic human embryo model using stem cells
- ❖ This is an unconventional approach, bypassing the need for traditional sperm, egg, or a womb.
- ❖ Instead, they harnessed the power of reprogrammed stem cells to construct this unique model.

Visible Line Emission Coronagraph (VELC)

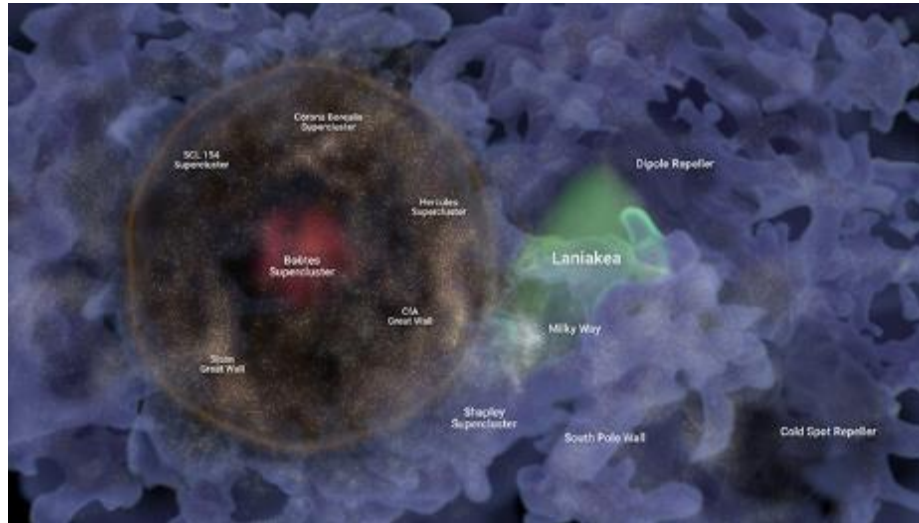


- ❖ It is the largest payload which attached with the Aditya-L1 mission.
- ❖ VELC's mission aim to provide a wealth of solar images daily, contributing to the understanding of the Sun's corona and its behavior.
- ❖ VELC's imaging channel will provide one image per minute, totalling around 1,440 images over 24 hours.

XRISM Mission

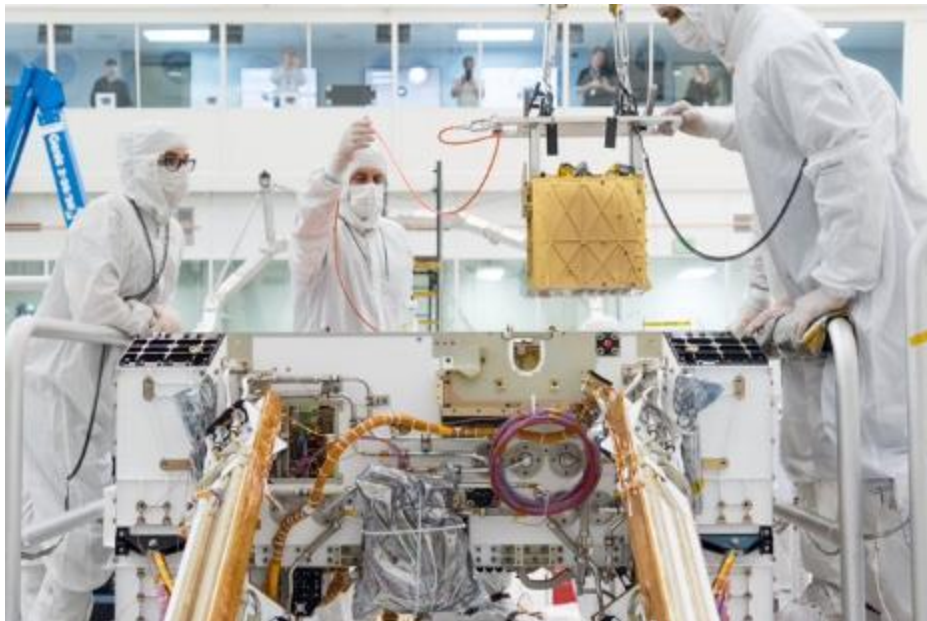
- ❖ Japan has launched H-IIA rocket which carried the XRISM (X-Ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission) into space.
- ❖ It is a collaboration between NASA and JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency).
- ❖ The XRISM mission has two instruments—Resolve and Xtend.
- ❖ Resolve instrument can measure each individual X-ray's energy to provide information about the source including composition, motion and physical state.
- ❖ Xtend observes an area that corresponds to 60 per cent larger than the average apparent size of the full moon.

Bubble of Galaxies



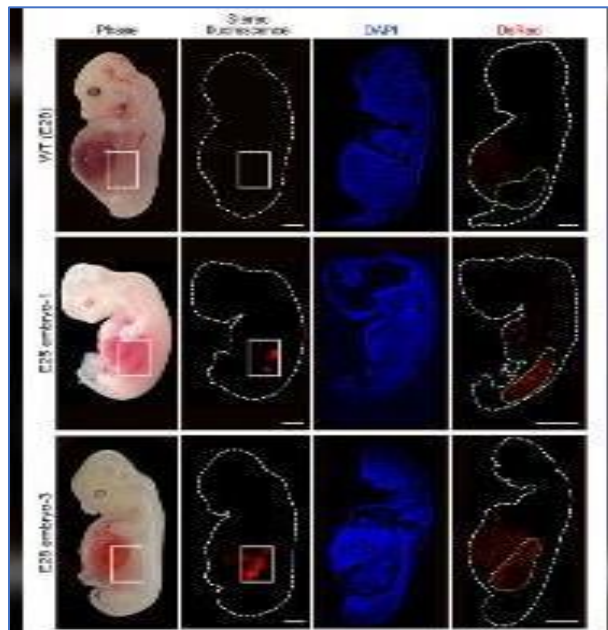
- ❖ Astronomers have discovered the first "bubble of galaxies".
- ❖ The bubble spans a billion light years, making it 10,000 times wider than the Milky Way galaxy.
- ❖ This giant bubble cannot be seen by the naked eye.
- ❖ It is a relatively close 820 million light years away from our home galaxy.
- ❖ Around 380,000 years after the Big Bang the process stopped as the universe cooled down, freezing the shape of the bubbles.

Oxygen on Mars



- ❖ NASA's oxygen-generating experiment that accompanied the Perseverance rover has successfully completed its mission and generated oxygen on Mars.
- ❖ This is done by a microwave-oven-sized device called MOXIE (Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilisation Experiment).
- ❖ MOXIE has been generating oxygen aboard the Perseverance rover since its landing in 2021.
- ❖ It has exceeded expectations by producing a total of 122 grams of oxygen.
- ❖ The oxygen produced is of 98% purity or better, making it suitable for both fuel and breathing purposes.

Human Kidneys inside Pig Embryos



- ❖ Scientists have grown kidneys that are made up of more than 50 per cent human cells and implanted them in pigs for up to 28 days.
- ❖ This marks the first time a “humanised” organ with both animal and human cells was grown inside another species.
- ❖ The research brings up hopes of generating human organs for transplants inside pigs.

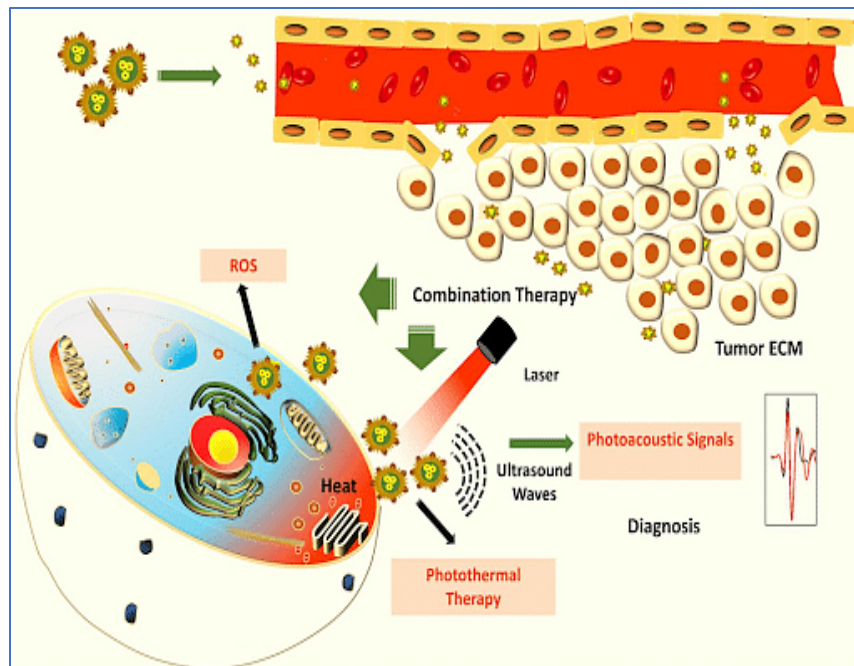
First tactical nuclear armed submarine

- ❖ North Korea launched its first operational "tactical nuclear attack submarine."
- ❖ The Submarine No. 841 was named Hero Kim Kun Ok, after a North Korean historical figure.

- ❖ This older model has been redesigned to carry nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles and possibly radar-evading cruise missiles as well.
- ❖ North Korea conducted its first nuclear test in October 2006.
- ❖ North Korea has about 20 Romeo-class submarines, powered by diesel-electric engines but obsolete by modern standards.



Novel approach to detect and kill cancer cells

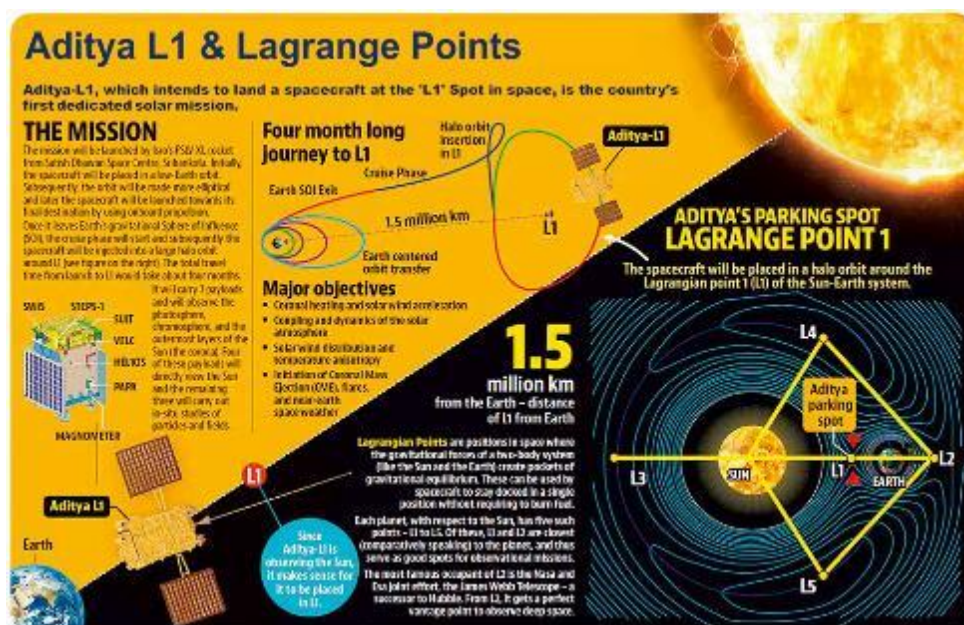


- ❖ The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) scientists have developed a new approach to potentially detect and kill cancer cells, especially those which form a solid tumour mass.

- ❖ They have created hybrid nanoparticles made of gold and copper sulphide.
- ❖ It can kill cancer cells using heat, and enable their detection using sound waves.
- ❖ These hybrid nanoparticles have photothermal, oxidative stress, and photoacoustic properties.
- ❖ These hybrid nanoparticles absorb the light and generate heat which can kill the cancer cells.
- ❖ These nanoparticles also produce singlet oxygen atoms that are toxic for the cells.
- ❖ Moreover, these nanoparticles have potential to aid in cancer diagnosis.
- ❖ The existing methods such as CT and MRI scans require trained radiology professionals to decipher the images.
- ❖ But, the photoacoustic properties of these particles can provide better images with high resolution.

Trans-Lagrangian Point 1 Insertion (TL1I) Manoeuvres

- ❖ ISRO successfully executed the trans-Lagrangian 1 insertion (TL1I) maneuver of Aditya-L1 mission
- ❖ It marks the beginning of the spacecrafts about 110-day trajectory to the destination around the L1 Lagrange point.
- ❖ This is the fifth consecutive time the ISRO has successfully transferred an object on a trajectory toward another celestial body.
- ❖ L1 is approximately 1.5 million km away from Earth.
- ❖ It is representing just 1 percent of the distance between Earth and the Sun.



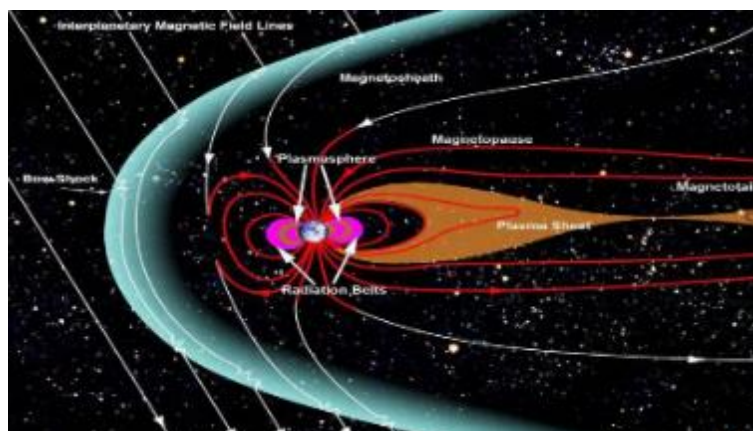
‘Vibhav’ Anti-Tank Mines

- ❖ Six hundred indigenously-manufactured self-neutralising anti-tank mines, known as "Vibhav" have been inducted into the Army.
- ❖ They aim to provide mobility kill against all enemy armoured vehicles.
- ❖ Since, they have mechanical timers, after 120 days, it will be self-neutralised.
- ❖ This provision was not available in the earlier mines.



Moon’s Water Formation

- ❖ Chandrayaan-1 data revealed that the High-Energy electrons from planet Earth might be forming water on its satellite Moon.
- ❖ Chandrayaan-1 played a crucial role in the discovery of water molecules on the Moon.
- ❖ Solar wind is composed of high energy particles such as protons, bombards the lunar surface.
- ❖ It is thought to be one of the primary ways in which water has been formed on the Moon.
- ❖ Water formation in Earth’s magnetotail is similar to when the Moon is outside it.
- ❖ This suggesting additional water formation processes beyond solar wind protons, possibly involving high-energy electrons.



ENVIRONMENT

Call for Concept Notes

- ❖ The Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHCP) has launched a Call for Concept Notes for Phase IV of the Tiger Programme.
- ❖ It aims to further protect big cats and their environments.
- ❖ This phase expands eligibility to include species beyond tigers.
- ❖ Leopards and both mainland and Sunda clouded leopards are now eligible for funding.

World's First Ethanol-Run Toyota Innova car

- ❖ Union road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari, unveiled a 100 per cent ethanol-fuelled variant of Toyota's Innova HyCross car.
- ❖ This car is said to be the world's first BS-VI (Stage-II), electrified flex-fuel vehicle.
- ❖ Flexible fuel vehicles (FFVs) have an internal combustion engine and are capable of operating on petrol and any blend of petrol and ethanol.
- ❖ Last year, a hydrogen-powered car, the Toyota Mirai EV, was launched by the union minister to promote alternative and green fuel energy.



Largest Recorded Wildfire

- ❖ The Greece wildfire has been declared the "largest ever" recorded in the European Union's history.
- ❖ This wildfire is the largest in the EU since 2000.
- ❖ The forest fires, which began on August 19, have burnt more than 310 sq miles (810 sq km).

- ❖ This area is bigger than New York City.



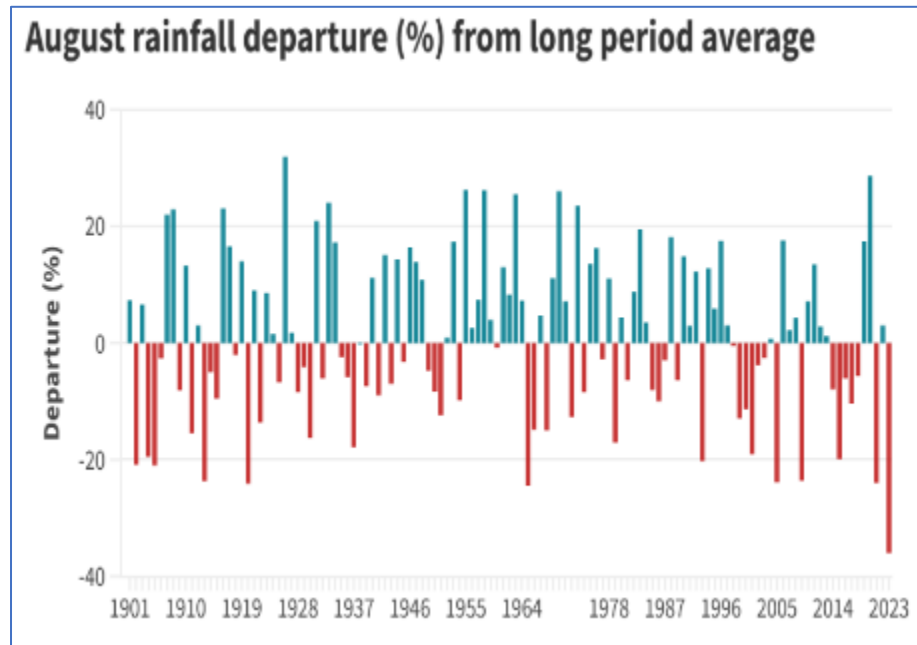
Funga Campaign

Phycomycetes (Lower Fungi)	Ascomycetes (Sac Fungi)	Basidiomycetes (Club Fungi)	Deuteromycetes (Fungi imperfecti)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saprolegnia • Rhizopus • Mucor • Albugo • Pythium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yeast • Aspergillus • Pencillium • Neurospora • Peziza 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agaricus • Polyporus • Puccinia • Ustilago • Lycoperdon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cercospora • Collectotrichum • Trichoderma • Pyricularia • Fusarium
Rhizopus	Neurospora	Agaricus	Fusarium

- ❖ The United Nations Biodiversity has initiated a campaign urging the global community to incorporate the term “funga” alongside “flora and fauna”.
- ❖ It aims to emphasize the significance of fungi.
- ❖ The UN aims to elevate fungi’s importance to the same level as plants and animals in conservation efforts.
- ❖ This initiative highlights the impact of language on shaping perceptions and policy decisions.
- ❖ Earlier, the Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the IUCN announced that it would use “mycologically inclusive”.
- ❖ Fungi or fungus are a diverse group of eukaryotic microorganisms.

Rainfall in August 2023

- ❖ Rainfall in August had been the least in over a century.
- ❖ India got 36% less rain than it usually does in the month.
- ❖ Of the four monsoon months, August usually sees the most amount of rainfall (25.4 cm) after July's 28 cm.
- ❖ The last time India recorded such severe deficits in August was in 2005, when the shortfall was about 25% of the normal.
- ❖ In 2009, India saw its biggest drought in half a century and August rainfall was 24% less than what was due.
- ❖ Rainfall in August has brought the overall, national deficit to 10%.
- ❖ The regional deficits are being 17% in east and northeast India, 10% in central India, and 17% in southern India.
- ❖ Strengthening of the El Nino and unfavourable conditions both in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal August rainfall has been markedly deficient in most of India.



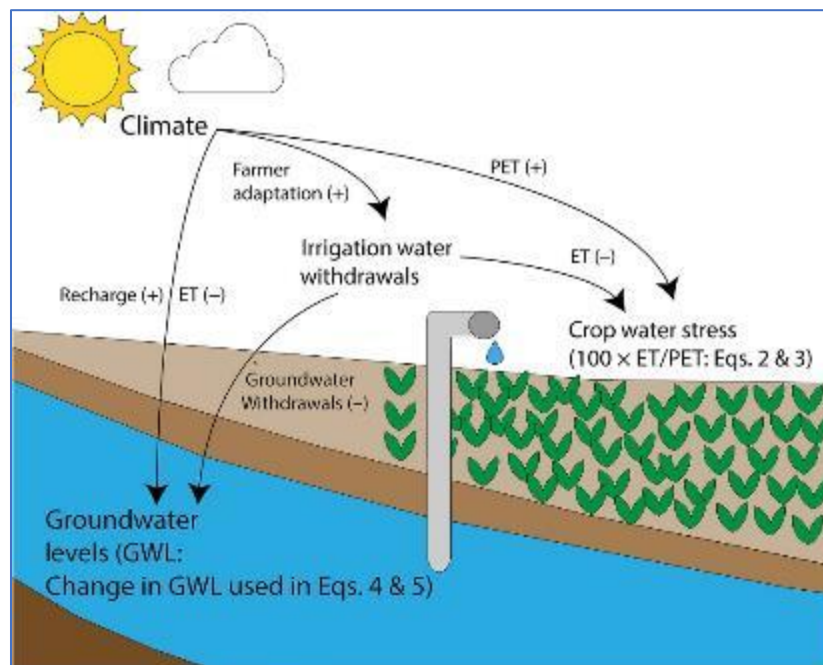
Climate Change effect in Polar Bears

- ❖ The greenhouse gas emissions will increase the number of ice-free days in the bears' habitats.
- ❖ It will affect the percentage of cubs that reach adulthood.
- ❖ The apex carnivores have had endangered species protections since 2008.

- ❖ Long term declines have already been recorded in three of the 19 polar bear subpopulations found across the Arctic.
- ❖ Its population dropped from an estimated 842 to 618 between 2016 and 2021.
- ❖ The marine mammals are heavily dependent on sea ice for hunting.

Groundwater Depletion

- ❖ The rate of depletion of groundwater in India during 2041-2080 will be thrice the current rate with global warming.
- ❖ The groundwater level (GWL) declines from 2041 to 2080 is 3.26 times current depletion rates on average (from 1.62-4.45 times).
- ❖ Groundwater depletion is expected to worsen as rising temperatures lead to higher irrigation demands.
- ❖ More than 60% of India's irrigated agriculture depends on groundwater.



LED Lights and Light Pollution

- ❖ The rapid adoption of LED lighting in the United States contributes to a growing crisis of light pollution.
- ❖ LED lights are aimed at saving energy and reducing costs.
- ❖ The night sky is becoming 10% brighter each year, primarily due to the proliferation of cheaper and brighter LED lights.
- ❖ This excessive artificial light not only obscures our view of the stars.

- ❖ It also disrupts sleep cycles, potentially leading to health issues, affects insect populations, and results in the deaths of millions of birds.



Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and their Control



- ❖ The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) has issued this new publication.
- ❖ It has found that there are 37,000 alien species, including plants and animals, that have been introduced by many human activities to regions and biomes around the world.
- ❖ It is including more than 3,500 invasive alien species and that invasive alien species have played a key role in 60% of global plant and animal extinctions recorded.
- ❖ Invasive alien species are one of the five major direct drivers of biodiversity loss globally

- ❖ Not all alien species establish and spread with negative impacts on biodiversity, local ecosystems and species.
- ❖ About 6% of alien plants; 22% of alien invertebrates; 14% of alien vertebrates; and 11% of alien microbes are known to be invasive, posing major risks to nature and to people.
- ❖ At least 218 invasive alien species have been responsible for more than 1,200 local extinctions.
- ❖ 34% of the impacts of biological invasions were reported from the Americas, 31% from Europe and Central Asia, 25% from Asia and the Pacific and about 7% from Africa.
- ❖ Most negative impacts are reported on land (about 75%) with considerably fewer reported in freshwater (14%) and marine (10%) habitats.
- ❖ Most countries (80%) have included targets related to managing invasive alien species in their national biodiversity plans.

Bamboo-based Reusable Straw

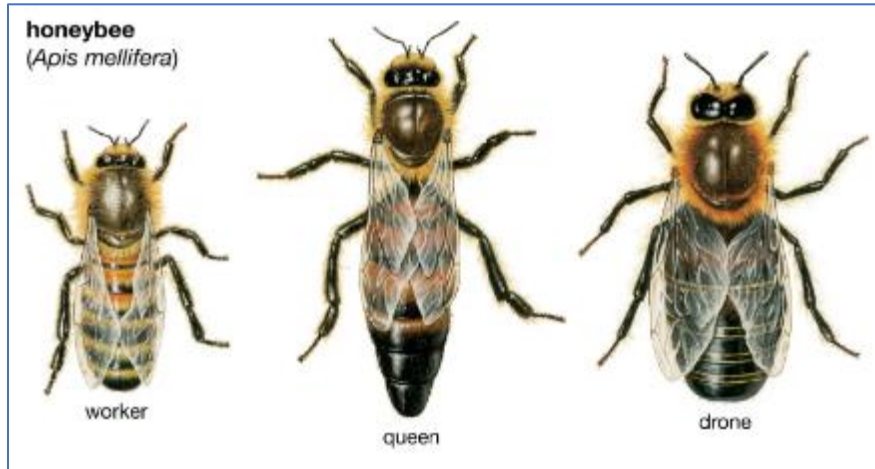


- ❖ Botanical Survey of India gets patent for bamboo based reusable straw.
- ❖ The reusable straw is developed from a species of endemic bamboo plant- *Schizostachyum andamanicum*.
- ❖ It is found in the Andamans and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ It is a novel way to replace plastic straws with an organic alternative.

Apis Mellifera

- ❖ European honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) can serve as effective biomonitoring agents.
- ❖ They help to detecting the spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in urban neighbourhoods.
- ❖ Honeybees can carry genetic elements associated with key AMR drivers in their digestive tracts.

- ❖ AMR is the ability of bacteria and other microbes to resist the drugs used to inhibit or kill them.
- ❖ The dangerous rise of AMR could lead to up to 10 million deaths annually by 2050.



Mega congregation of firefly species



- ❖ Mega congregation of the insects and their synchronised bioluminescence is observed during summer every year in the Anamalai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The researchers recorded the flashing patterns of fireflies (whether ascending or descending) in individual trees and the timing of flashing events.
- ❖ They analysed their synchronisation phenomenon.
- ❖ They also observed mating behaviours such as rapid pulsations and the duration of flashing sequences.
- ❖ Three species of fireflies — *Asymmetrica humeralis*, *Abscondita* genus (species unknown) and *Curtos* sp — were identified from the ATR.

Declining Donkey population

- ❖ As per a 2012 census, there were 9,183 donkeys in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ But their population came down to 1,428 in 2019.
- ❖ The donkeys in Tamil Nadu are dark grey in colour with the mark of a cross on their back.
- ❖ Now, the owners cross-breed them with donkeys from other States and this may result in the extinction of the local species
- ❖ The dung of donkeys is placed in septic tanks, as it has a high level of microorganisms, and prevents tanks from overflowing.
- ❖ Across the world, beauty products with donkey milk as an ingredient are popular, and quite expensive.

UK - UN Climate Fund



- ❖ Britain will commit to provide 2 billion USD to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to help developing countries cope with climate change.
- ❖ The pledge would be the biggest single funding commitment the UK has made to date to help the world tackle climate change.
- ❖ The Green Climate Fund (GFC) - the world's largest such fund - was set up under United Nations' climate change negotiations.
- ❖ It will used to channel money needed by poor states to meet their targets to reduce carbon emissions, develop cleaner energy sources and adjust to a warming world.
- ❖ Already, Britain has committed to spend 11.6 billion pounds (14.46 billion USD) on international climate finance between 2021 and 2026.

White sambar deer in Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary

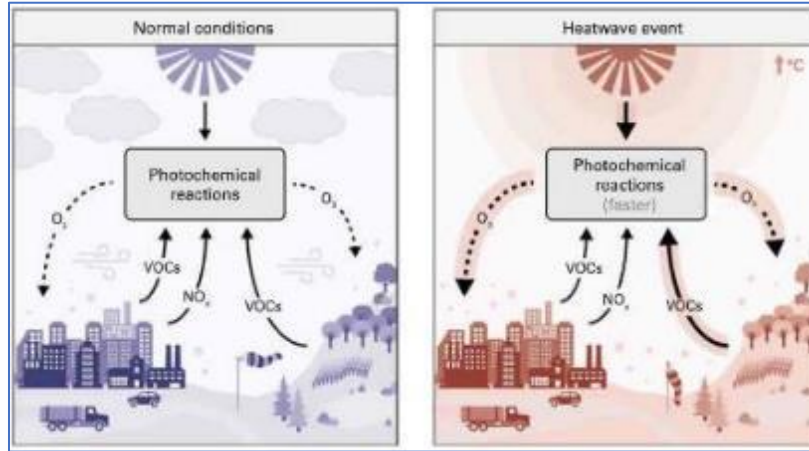


- ❖ Researchers discovered 'white' sambar in Cauvery wildlife sanctuary.
- ❖ The presence of a leucistic sambar has been documented in the Sangama range of Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ❖ This is the first recorded photographic record of a white form of sambar from this landscape.
- ❖ leucism is a condition in which the pigmentation of an animal's skin is missing, causing white or pale skin.
- ❖ This condition can occur naturally from birth due to a phenotype (a trait of any living being) that may have formed from a defect in the animal's development.
- ❖ It is different from albinism which is a condition that arises due to a lack of melatonin in the animal's skin.
- ❖ But the animal has pink or reddish eyes.
- ❖ But in leucism the animal lacks the pink eyes.
- ❖ White form of sambar deer was previously recorded in Bandipur Tiger Reserve in 2014.

2023 WMO Air Quality and Climate Bulletin

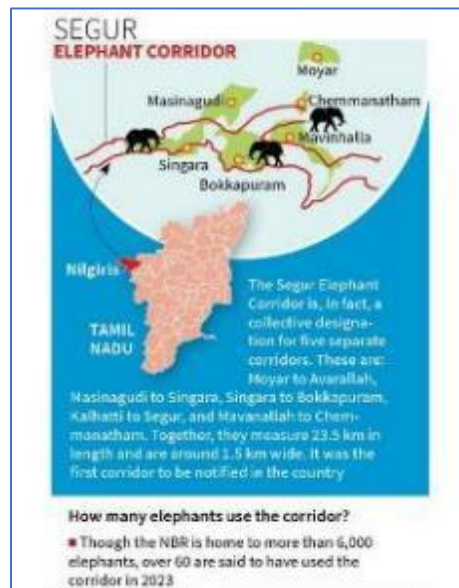
- ❖ WMO's recent report highlights the link between climate change, heatwaves, wildfires, and rising air pollution, including ozone.
- ❖ Climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of heatwaves, which, in turn, raise the risk and severity of wildfires.
- ❖ The smoke from these wildfires contains pollutants that negatively impact air quality, health, ecosystems, and crops.
- ❖ Heatwaves exacerbate air quality issues, leading to the production of ozone and particulate matter.
- ❖ The combination of high temperatures and aerosol levels affected human health and agriculture globally.

- ❖ High significant crop losses reported in India and China.
- ❖ WMO emphasizes the interconnectedness of climate change and air quality, calling for integrated solutions to address both challenges.



Segur elephant corridor

- ❖ A Supreme Court-appointed committee recently ruled in favour of protecting this corridor.
- ❖ This committee recently declared 12 private resorts, along the Segur elephant corridor, illegal.
- ❖ The committee considered the objections raised by the owners of the 12 resorts, who had challenged the validity of the elephant corridor notification issued in 2010.
- ❖ This corridor is home to the largest population of three critically endangered species of vultures in southern India.



Elephant Corridors of India report

India's Elephant Corridors: 150 Identified, West Bengal Leads

- ❖ India has at least 150 elephant corridors spanning 15 range-states across four elephant-bearing regions.
- ❖ West Bengal tops the list with 26 such land strips.
- ❖ The central government's 2010 Elephant Task Force report (Gajah report) listed 88 corridors in the country.
- ❖ Of the total corridors, 15 have been impaired and require restoration efforts to restore functionality.
- ❖ Information regarding the current use of 18 corridors by elephants was unavailable.
- ❖ Of the 150 reported elephant corridors, 126 are within the political boundaries of states while 19 are located across two states.
- ❖ There are also six trans-national corridors between India and Nepal, primarily in Uttar Pradesh.

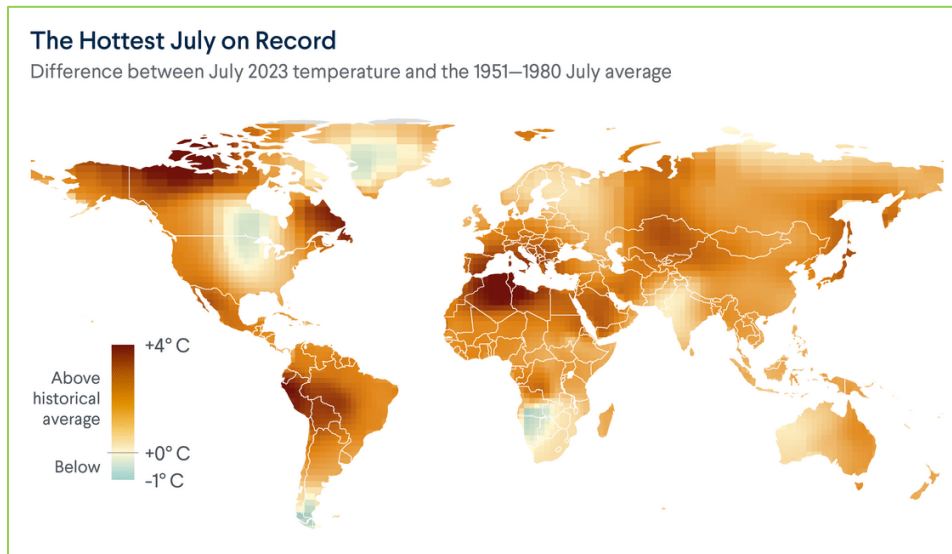
Shore bird from Arctic



- ❖ Kurichi tank in Coimbatore spotted a Red-necked phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*).
- ❖ It is a shore bird that breeds in the Arctic region.
- ❖ The sighting of the bird is believed to be after a gap of a decade.
- ❖ The previous record of the species in Coimbatore was in 2012

Summer 2023 - Hottest on Record

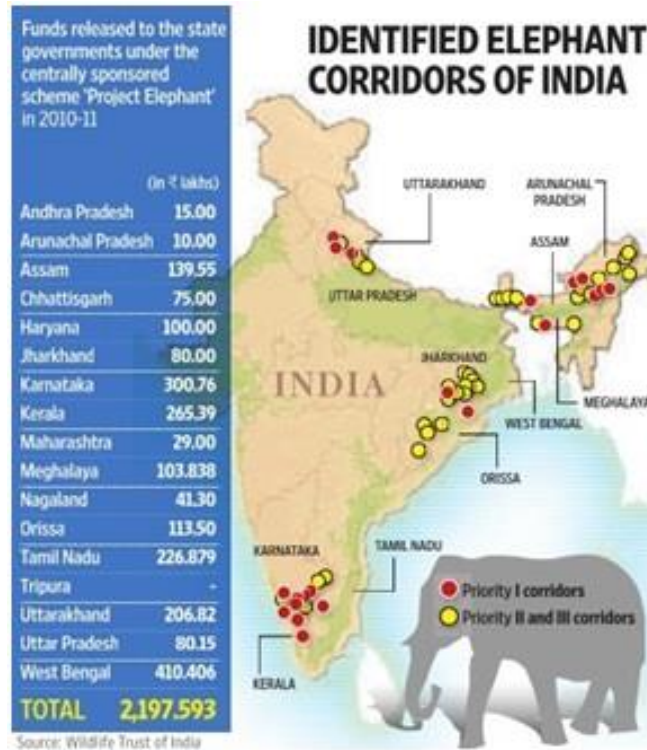
- ❖ The summer of 2023 was the Northern Hemisphere's hottest in recorded history.
- ❖ Last month was the hottest August scientists ever recorded by far with modern equipment.
- ❖ It was also the second hottest month measured.
- ❖ In August 2023, temperatures soared 2.2 degrees Fahrenheit (1.2 degrees Celsius) above the summer average.
- ❖ This was about 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than pre-industrial averages.
- ❖ June through August marked the world's hottest three-month period in recorded history.
- ❖ The average global temperature in July was more than 2°F (1.1°C) hotter than last century's average.
- ❖ The world's oceans — more than 70% of the Earth's surface — were the hottest ever recorded.



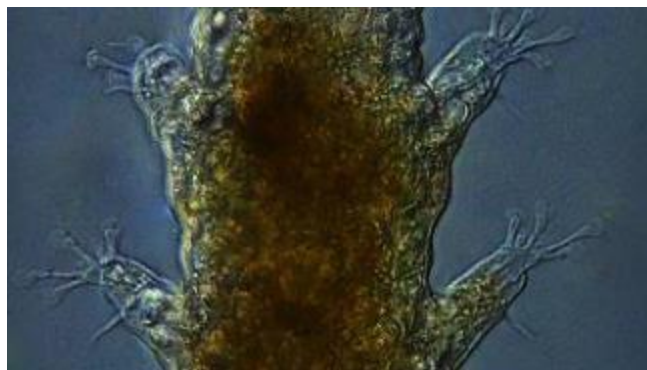
Elephant Corridors Across India

- ❖ The number of elephant corridors in India has risen from 88 in 2010 to 150, a 40% increase.
- ❖ The report also notes that 19% of the corridors have seen a decrease in use, with 10 others requiring restoration due to impairments.
- ❖ The expansion of elephant ranges is observed in regions like Vidarbha in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, northern Andhra Pradesh, and northeastern states.

- ❖ West Bengal has the most elephant corridors with 26, which is 17% of the total corridors.



Marine Tardigrade



- ❖ Researchers have identified a new species of marine tardigrade.
- ❖ They have named after the late former President and scientist A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.
- ❖ Tardigrades are extremely tiny animals whose size is measured in micrometres.
- ❖ They are known for their extraordinary resilience and survival instincts.
- ❖ The new species were discovered from Mandapam in south-east Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ They belong to the genus Batillipes and has been named Batillipes kalami.

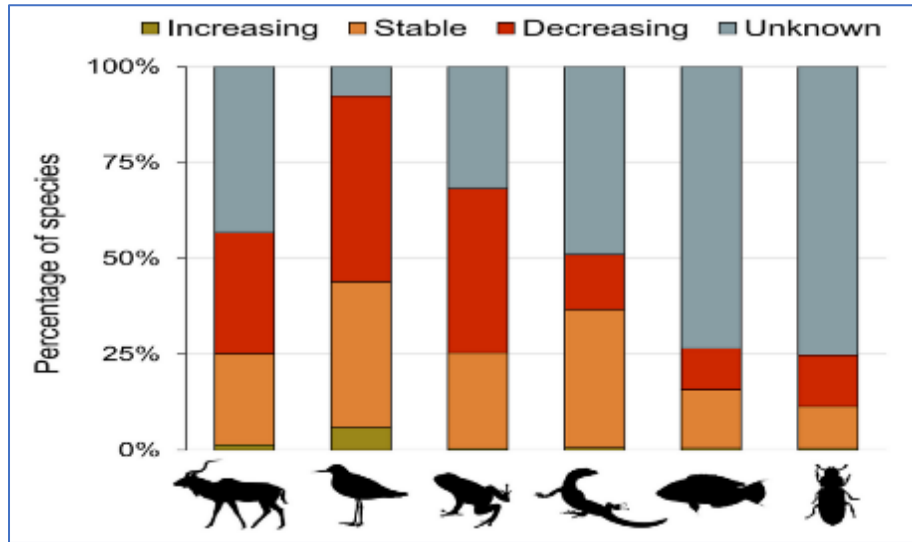
World's Largest Flower Near Extinction

- ❖ Rafflesia, the flower species which contains some of the world's largest flowers, is at risk of extinction.
- ❖ 60% of the 42 known species of Rafflesia are facing a severe risk of extinction.
- ❖ Rafflesia is a genus of parasitic flowering plants native to Southeast Asia.
- ❖ Rafflesia is commonly found in Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Thailand.
- ❖ These plants are renowned for producing the largest individual flowers in the world, both in terms of size and weight.
- ❖ They are often referred to as "corpse flowers" due to their foul odour.
- ❖ They are massive and can reach up to 3 feet (almost 1 meter) in diameter and weigh up to 7 kg.



Threat of a sixth mass extinction

- ❖ Humans are driving the loss of entire branches of the "Tree of Life," warning of the threat of a sixth mass extinction.
- ❖ The study is largely based on the species listed as extinct by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and focuses on vertebrate species (excluding fish).
- ❖ Out of some 5,400 genera – which comprises some 34,600 species – 73 had become extinct in the last 500 years.
- ❖ Based on the extinction rate in the previous million years we would have expected to lose two genera. But we lost 73.
- ❖ A mass extinction defined as the loss of 75 per cent of species over a short period of time.



REPORTS AND INDICES

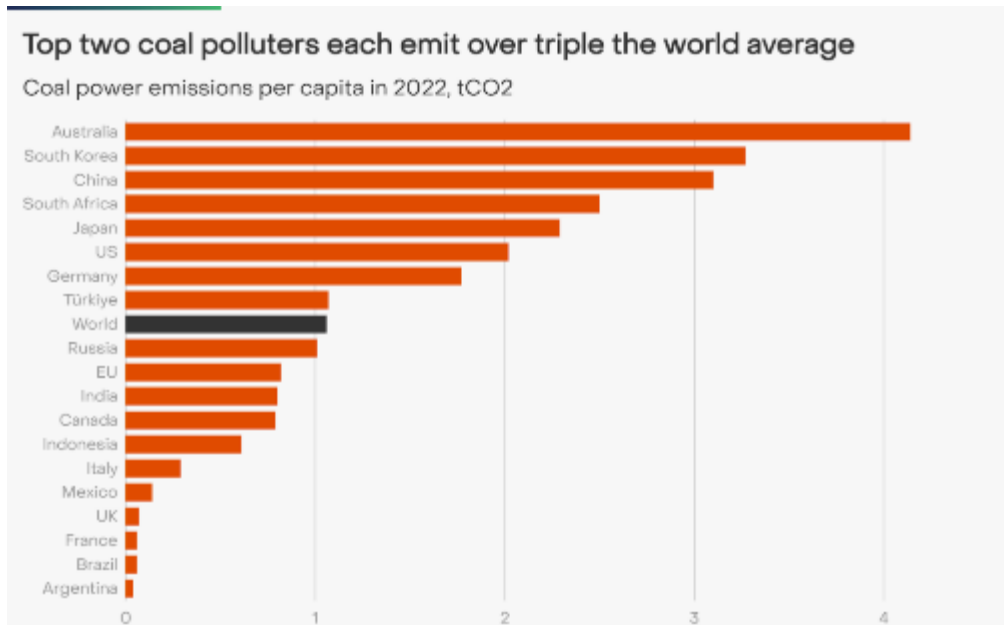
Annual Air Quality Life Index

WORST-HIT NATIONS		
Country	PM2.5*	Years lost**
B'desh	74	6.8
India	58.7	5.3
Nepal	51.7	4.6
Pakistan	44.7	3.9
Mongolia	36	3

- ❖ The University of Chicago's Energy Policy Institute has released the annual Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) report.
- ❖ It said that the current air pollution's status as a significant threat to global human health.
- ❖ The report demonstrates that adopting WHO guidelines on fine particulate pollution (PM2.5) could extend life expectancy by 2.3 years globally.
- ❖ It may lead to the preservation of 17.8 billion life-years.

- ❖ The most pronounced impact on life expectancy is witnessed in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, China, Nigeria, and Indonesia.
- ❖ These 6 countries are the epicentres of air pollution's toll on life expectancy.
- ❖ These nations experience losses of between one and over six years of life due to the polluted air their citizens breathe.

Changes in Per Capita Coal Power Emissions of G20 Countries



- ❖ This report was released by global energy think tank 'Ember.'
- ❖ It highlights the transition to clean electricity worldwide.
- ❖ Despite some G20 economies reducing their per capita coal emissions since 2015.
- ❖ India witnessed a significant 29% increase in per capita coal emissions in 2022 compared to 2015.
- ❖ G20 countries collectively experienced a 9% rise in per capita coal emissions.
- ❖ They are reaching 1.6 tonnes of carbon dioxide per capita in 2022.
- ❖ The G20 represents approximately 80% of global power sector carbon dioxide emissions.
- ❖ Australia and South Korea were highlighted as the worst polluters, leading in coal pollution by more than three times the world average.
- ❖ Both countries are reducing their per capita coal emissions by 26% and 10%, respectively, since 2015.
- ❖ China's per capita coal power emissions are increased by 30% in the same period.

Gender Snapshot 2023 Report

- ❖ The 'Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2023' report was brought out by UN Women and UNDESA.
- ❖ The report is stating that the goal of achieving gender equality by 2030 is not realized.
- ❖ In 2023, women made up 55.7% of people aged 65 and above globally.
- ❖ One in every ten women today, or 10.3%, lives in extreme poverty.
- ❖ If current trends continue, it predicts that 8% of the world's female population will still be living in extreme poverty in 2030.
- ❖ Up to 129 million girls and young women may be out of school globally in 2023.
- ❖ Around 110 million still out of school in 2030 if current trends persist.
- ❖ 6.4 trillion USD per year is required across 48 developing countries to achieve gender equality in various key areas by 2030.
- ❖ By 2050, there will be 1.6 billion persons aged 65 and older, 78.1% of whom will reside in less developed regions.
- ❖ Only 27 countries have comprehensive systems to track and make budgetary allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment.
- ❖ Only 61.4% of prime working age women are in the labour force, compared to 90 per cent of prime working age men.



World food price index

- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organization’s (FAO) released this price index.
- ❖ It tracks the most globally traded food commodities.
- ❖ It consists of the average of five commodity group price indices – cereals, oilseeds, dairy products, meat and sugar.
- ❖ The August reading was the lowest since March 2021.
- ❖ It is also 24% below an all-time high reached in March 2022 in the wake of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.
- ❖ The FAO forecasted world cereal production this year at 2.815 billion tonnes.
- ❖ This is slightly lower from a previous estimate of 2.819 billion.



Global Stock take Report

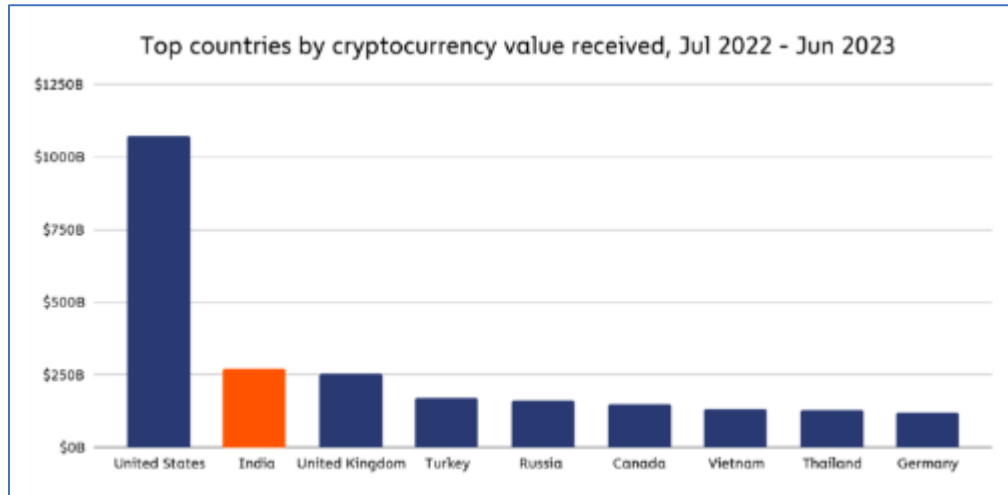


- ❖ The United Nations climate secretariat made public a ‘synthesis report’.

- ❖ The synthesis report ties into a larger exercise called the ‘global stocktake.
- ❖ It is expected to take place once in five years.
- ❖ In 2015, global countries committed in Paris to keep global temperatures from rising beyond 2 degrees Celsius by the end of the century and “as far as possible” below 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- ❖ They also agreed to periodically review, or take stock of efforts, made by individual countries in containing greenhouse gases and transitioning their fossil-fuel dependent energy systems to renewable sources.
- ❖ The report suggests that the world is not on track to achieve Paris Agreement targets.
- ❖ The NDCs of 166 countries were analysed to conclude that they were inadequate to meet Paris-agreed targets.
- ❖ Much more ambition was needed to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by 43% by 2030.
- ❖ It is also required further by 60% in 2035 and reach net zero CO₂ emissions by 2050 globally.
- ❖ 5.8-5.9 trillion USD in the pre-2030 period is required for developing countries to achieve the result.
- ❖ Also, 4 trillion USD is needed per year for clean energy technologies by 2030 to reach net zero by 2050.

2023 Global Crypto Adoption Index

- ❖ India has achieved the top rank among 154 nations in grassroots crypto adoption.
- ❖ It is displaying remarkable resilience in the face of challenging regulatory conditions.
- ❖ This marks a significant comeback from last year.
- ❖ India had dropped to the fourth spot in Chainalysis’ 2022 adoption index.
- ❖ Nigeria, Vietnam, the United States and Ukraine have completed the top 5 in the rankings.
- ❖ The report highlights a recovery in grassroots cryptocurrency adoption, primarily in lower-middle-income (LMI) countries, following the FTX implosion of 2022.
- ❖ Grassroots crypto adoption reflects about the widespread acceptance and the utilization of crypto in daily life.



Hunger Map LIVE: Global insights and key trends

- ❖ The World Food Programme has released “Hunger Map LIVE: Global insights and key trends”.
- ❖ It is a real-time monitoring system tracking key indicators of acute hunger.
- ❖ It is including household food consumption, livelihoods, child nutritional status, mortality, and access to clean water.
- ❖ The global issue of hunger and food insecurity has shown an alarming increase since 2015.



- ❖ These trends are exacerbated by a combination of factors including the pandemic, conflict, climate change, and deepening inequalities, which calls for attention.

- ❖ As per the findings, 828 million chronically hungry globally.
- ❖ 193 million experiencing acute hunger in 53 countries.
- ❖ 12 countries account for 33% of the total number of people with insufficient food consumption.
- ❖ Somalia, Afghanistan, Syrian Arab Republic, Niger, Mali, Haiti, and some others has a High Prevalence of Insufficient Food.
- ❖ The Central African Republic, the Syrian Arab Republic, Namibia, and others has a high Challenges to Accessing Markets.

The World Best Countries Report 2023

- ❖ The U.S. News and World Report released its ranking of the best countries in the world.
- ❖ For the second year in a row, Switzerland is the best country in the world.
- ❖ It was also the No. 1 country from 2017 to 2020 until Canada's win in 2021.
- ❖ Canada listed as the No. 2 best country in the world.
- ❖ It is followed by Sweden at No. 3, Australia at No. 4, and the United States at No. 5.
- ❖ India's ranking improved by one position by securing the 30th spot.



Digital Quality Life Index 2023

- ❖ The Digital Quality of Life (DQL) Index was released by cyber-security company Surfshark.
- ❖ This annual study ranks 121 countries across globe.
- ❖ France tops in the list and is followed by Finland, Denmark, Germany and Luxemburg.
- ❖ India is placed at 52nd position in the index.

- ❖ In Asia, India takes 13th place, with Singapore the top in the region.
- ❖ India’s internet quality is 36 per cent higher than the global average and ranks 16th in the world.
- ❖ India ranks 28th in internet affordability, 35th in e-government, and 66th in e-security.
- ❖ But the country faced challenges in e-infrastructure with ranking 91st.

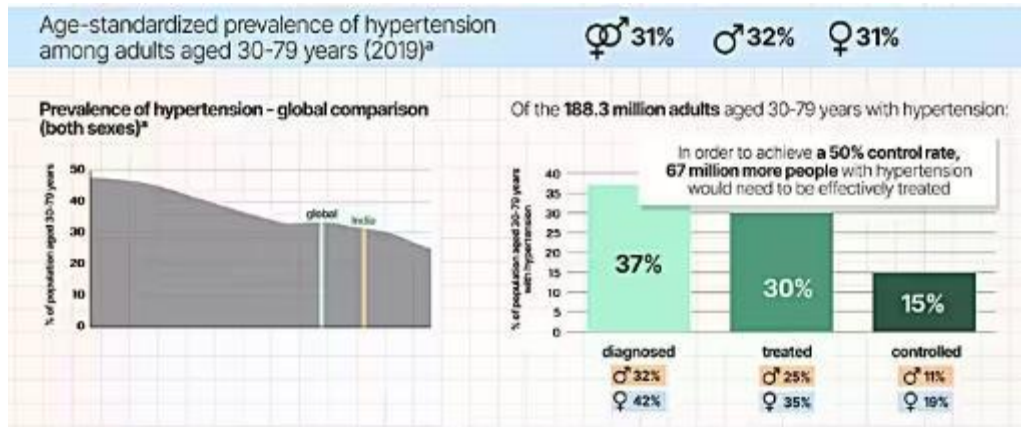
Top 10				Bottom 10			
Rank 2023 (Out of 127)	Country	Rank Changes from 2022	2023 DGI Index score	Rank 2023 (Out of 127)	Country	Rank Changes from 2022	2023 DGI Index score
1	France	▲ 3	0.7902	121	Yemen	▼ 5	0.1705
2	Finland	▲ 5	0.7483	120	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	▼ 3	0.1824
3	Denmark	▼ 1	0.7377	119	Mozambique	▼ 5	0.2158
4	Germany	▼ 1	0.7357	118	Ethiopia	▼ 3	0.2205
5	Luxembourg	▲ 13	0.7357	117	Tajikistan	▼ 5	0.2315
6	Spain	▲ 10	0.7232	116	Cameroon	▼ 3	0.2347
7	Estonia	▲ 7	0.7185	115	Zimbabwe	▼ 6	0.2563
8	Austria	▲ 14	0.7166	114	Honduras	▼ 6	0.2587
9	Switzerland	▲ 4	0.7106	113	Tanzania	▼ 6	0.2695
10	Singapore	▲ 5	0.7096	112	Mali	▼ 10	0.2735

World’s Freest Economy

- ❖ Singapore has dethroned Hong Kong to become the world’s freest economy.
- ❖ This is as per report released by Canadian think tank Fraser Institute.
- ❖ For the first time since the Economic Freedom of the World Index started in 1970, Hong Kong slipped to second place from the number one spot
- ❖ Switzerland, New Zealand and the U.S. occupy the third, fourth and fifth positions respectively.

Ranking	Economic Freedom Scores
1	Singapore 8.56
2	Hong Kong 8.55
3	Switzerland 8.47
4	New Zealand 8.43
5	United States 8.14
6	Ireland 8.11
7	Denmark 8.1
8	Australia 8.0
9	United Kingdom 8.0
10	Canada 7.98

Global report on hypertension



- ❖ The World Health Organisation (WHO) has released a report on the devastating impact of high blood pressure.
- ❖ The report is titled 'Global report on hypertension: The race against a silent killer'.
- ❖ 188.3 million people in the same age group are suffering from hypertension.
- ❖ Only 37 per cent of Indians are diagnosed with the condition in time, and 30 per cent of them get treatment.
- ❖ 76 million deaths could be averted by 2050 if countries can scale up the coverage.
- ❖ In India, at least 40 million deaths can be prevented by 2040 if nearly half of those in the 30-79 age group with hypertension are able to control their blood pressure.
- ❖ In order to achieve a 50 per cent control rate, 67 million more people with hypertension would need to be effectively treated.
- ❖ The WHO report is based on the analysis of the data where blood pressure is 140/90 mmHg or higher.
- ❖ Hypertension leads to stroke, heart attacks, heart failure, kidney damage and numerous other health problems.

TIME World's Best Companies of 2023

- ❖ Infosys is the only Indian firm in the top 100 of TIME Magazine's list of World's Best Companies of 2023.
- ❖ This IT services company is ranked at the 64th spot out of 750 global companies.
- ❖ Microsoft, Apple, Alphabet (Google) and Meta Platforms (Facebook) are the top 4 firms in the list.
- ❖ Wipro was on 174th rank in the list while Anand Mahindra-led Mahindra Group was on 210th rank.

- ❖ Reliance Industries was at 248th rank, HCL Technologies at 262nd rank, HDFC Bank at 418th rank, WNS Global Services at 596th rank, and finally ITC at 672nd rank.

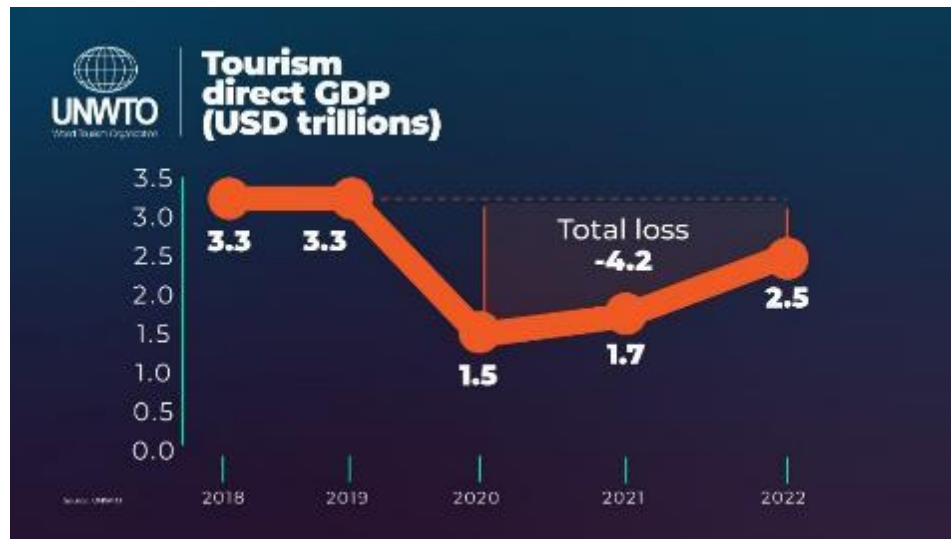
Global trends in child monetary poverty

- ❖ The Global Trends in Child Monetary Poverty According to International Poverty Lines was prepared by the World Bank Group and UNICEF.
- ❖ World's extremely poor population is increasingly being added by children.
- ❖ The latest assessment of child poverty is based on the new poverty line of \$2.15.
- ❖ In 2022, children accounted for 52.5 per cent of the total extreme poor population in the world.
- ❖ In 2022, 15.9 per cent of the world children population lived in extremely poor households as compared to 6.6 per cent of adults.
- ❖ In India, according to the assessment, 11.5 per cent children live in extremely poor households.
- ❖ In absolute numbers, 52 million Indian children who are poor.
- ❖ Some 18.3 per cent (99 million) of children is living in extreme poor households were below the age of five years.
- ❖ The average poverty gap at the \$2.15 line of children younger than 18 years is greater (5.1 per cent) than that of adults (1.9 per cent).

Table 2: Extreme poverty (PPP \$2.15) in 2022, by age groups

	Age group	Extreme poor (millions)	Headcount poverty rate (%)	Share of extreme poor (%)	Share of population (%)	Poverty Gap ratio
0_17	Children 0-17	333.34	15.9	52.5	31.6	5.1
0_4	Children 0-4	99.34	18.3	15.8	8.2	6.0
5_9	Children 5-9	105.04	17.1	17	9.3	5.6
10_14	Children 10-14	88.75	14.7	14.1	9.1	4.7
15_17	Children 15-17	40.21	11.9	6.4	5.1	3.6
18plus	Adults (18 or more)	301.43	6.6	47.5	68.4	1.9
18_59	Adults 18-59	264.43	7.1	42	56.4	2.1
60plus	Adults 60 or more	31.55	4.0	5.0	12.0	1.1
Total	Total	629.32	9.48	100.00	100.00	2.9

International Tourism Highlights – 2023



- ❖ The UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) recently released a report on international tourism.
- ❖ Tourism was one of the most impacted industries by the COVID-19 pandemic and lost \$2.6 trillion in export revenues.
- ❖ International tourist arrivals or overnight visitors fell from 1.5 billion in 2019 to 400 million in 2020.
- ❖ This was a 72 per cent drop in just one year.
- ❖ Export revenues in 2020 dropped to as low as 62 per cent of the pre-pandemic levels, meaning losses of \$1.1 trillion.
- ❖ This is accounted for 44 per cent of the global loss in international trade that year.
- ❖ Revenues from international tourism is accounted for seven per cent of global exports in 2019.
- ❖ The proportion is dropped to three per cent in 2020 and 2021.
- ❖ International tourism experienced a 12 per cent increase in 2021 to reach 456 million arrivals.
- ❖ Although this was 49 million more than in 2020, it was still 69 per cent less than the pre-pandemic levels of 2019 (1,465 million).
- ❖ Due to the pandemic, tourism's economic contribution, measured in tourism direct gross domestic product (TDGDP), has been dropped from 4 per cent of global GDP in 2019 to 2 per cent in 2020 and 2021.

STATES

Solar Roof Cycling Track

- ❖ Hyderabad setup a first-of-its-kind sustainable solar roof cycling track near the Outer Ring Road.
- ❖ This is inspired by the South Korean bike highway with solar panels.
- ❖ It aims to ensure a better experience for cyclists.

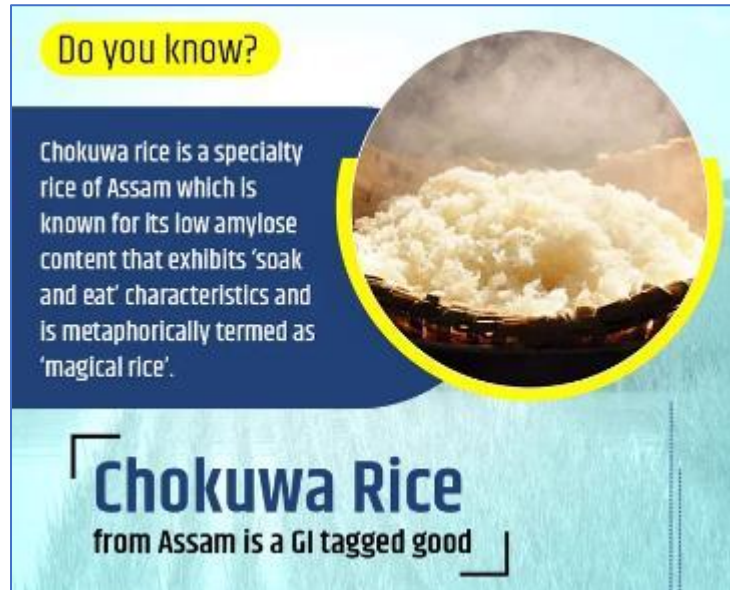


Shinon Meeras

- ❖ The 'Shinon Meeras', the Shina Cultural Centre, was inaugurated in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ It is developed by the Indian Army and District Administration to the people of Dard-Shin community.
- ❖ The Cultural Centre is a unique tribute to preserve and promote glorious artistic heritage of Dard-Shin tribal community.

GI tag for Chokuwa Rice

- ❖ Assam's famed "Magic Rice", Chokuwa Rice, recently secured a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ This unique rice has been a staple of the troops of the mighty Ahom dynasty.
- ❖ This unique and healthy rice is cultivated around the Brahmaputra area.
- ❖ It is cultivated in several parts of Assam like Tinsukia, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh and others.
- ❖ This whole grain can be consumed after soaking the rice in the cold or lukewarm water.



Lead state on Attracting FDI

- ❖ In the first quarter of the fiscal year 2023-24, Maharashtra has emerged as the front-runner in attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).
- ❖ The state had secured the top position by attracting FDI amounting to Rs 36,634 crore.
- ❖ This is more than the sum of investment received by Delhi, Karnataka and Telangana in the first quarter.

Aadhaar Linked Birth Registration

- ❖ Nagaland became the first among the eight States in the northeast to start Aadhaar-linked birth registration.
- ❖ It facilitates birth registration-based Aadhaar enrolment for children up to five years of age.
- ❖ The ALBR will play a vital role in enrolling newborn babies and also cover children below the age of five years.

Kokborok language

- ❖ The Kokborok language issue revolves around the script used for Kokborok, which has been a decades-old debate in Tripura.
- ❖ Bengali and Roman scripts have been used for Kokborok.
- ❖ The demand for Roman script has gained momentum in recent years.

- ❖ Kokborok is one of the official languages of Tripura, along with Bengali.
- ❖ It is a Sino-Tibetan language spoken by about 1 million people in the state of Tripura in northeast India.
- ❖ It is a relatively homogenous language with several dialects spoken in Tripura.
- ❖ It is the lingua franca of most of the 19 tribal communities of Tripura.

Kokborok Day is celebrated annually in Tripura, to mark the day in 1979 when Kokborok was recognised as an official language of the state, the other being Bengali. Kokborok refers to the group of several languages and their dialects that are spoken by people in Tripura as well as parts of Assam, Mizoram and West Bengal. The first use of Kokborok is said to date back to the records of the Kingdom of Tripura in the 1st Century CE.

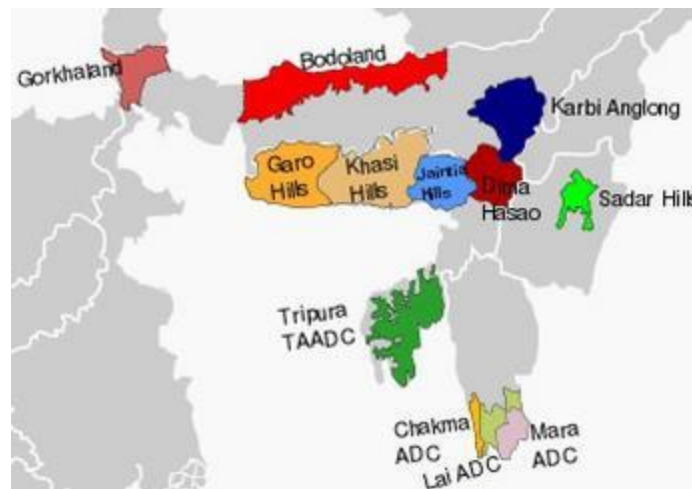
Gruha Lakshmi program – Karnataka

- ❖ Karnataka government launched a social welfare scheme for women -- Gruha Lakshmi scheme.
- ❖ Under this scheme, the women heads of a family will receive Rs 2,000 per month from the government.
- ❖ Women listed as family heads on Antyodaya, Below Poverty Line (BPL), and Above Poverty Line (APL) ration cards are eligible for the Scheme.
- ❖ Only one woman in a family will be the beneficiary of this scheme.

Manipur - More Autonomy

- ❖ To solve the ongoing conflict in Manipur and assuage Kukis, the Manipur state has proposed to the Centre that the existing autonomous hill councils be given more autonomy.
- ❖ The state government is opposed to the demand of “separate administration” made by Kukis.
- ❖ The British divided the hill regions of Assam into “excluded” and “partially excluded” areas through the Government of India Act, 1935.
- ❖ Currently, there are 10 ADCs under the Sixth Schedule in the North East, with three each in Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram, and one in Tripura.
- ❖ Manipur has six ADCs, but these came into existence in 1971 under an act of Parliament.

- ❖ In December 1971, the Parliament passed the Manipur (Hill Areas) District Council Act, paving the way for creation of ADCs in Manipur's hill areas.
- ❖ These regions constitute 90% of its geographical area, inhabited by tribes such as Nagas, Kukis, Zomis, Hmars, etc.
- ❖ At that time, Manipur was a Union Territory.
- ❖ The Manipur ADCs are dependent on the state Assembly due to the provisions of the Act.
- ❖ Some changes for greater autonomy brought in through an amendment Bill in 2000 in the state assembly were effectively revoked by another bill in 2006.
- ❖ Since 2021, a Bill proposing amendments to grant more autonomy to the ADCs has not been introduced in the Assembly due to resistance from sections in the Valley.



Rayagada Shawls And Koraput's Kala Jeera Rice

- ❖ The handwoven Rayagada Shawls crafted by the Dongria Kondhs of Odisha are ready to receive a Geographical Indication tag.
- ❖ This is considered a masterpiece of traditional craftsmanship.
- ❖ The embroidered shawl is given as a gift by the tribe to guests as a mark of its appreciation.
- ❖ Dongria Kondhs are the particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) Kondhs of Rayagada district.
- ❖ The Koraput Kalajeera Rice from the state also has been granted the esteemed GI tag.
- ❖ This rice is often referred to as the 'Prince of Rice'.

Vijayawada ‘Green Railway Station’

- ❖ Vijayawada Railway Station was awarded the ‘Green Railway Station’ certification with the highest rating of Platinum.
- ❖ This is awarded by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).
- ❖ This certification is for its efforts in improving the environmental standards and providing eco-friendly services to passengers.
- ❖ This is an upgradation of the station’s ratings, from gold in 2019 to platinum in 2023.

India’s First Solar City

- ❖ Sanchi in Madhya Pradesh becomes India's 1st solar city.
- ❖ The entire solar project in Sanchi will reduce 14,324 tonnes CO₂ less per year.
- ❖ A 3 MW solar plant, which is for the city's needs, is fully operational.
- ❖ Another plant of 5 MW capacity - to meet agriculture-related requirements - is being built.

Poila Baisakh

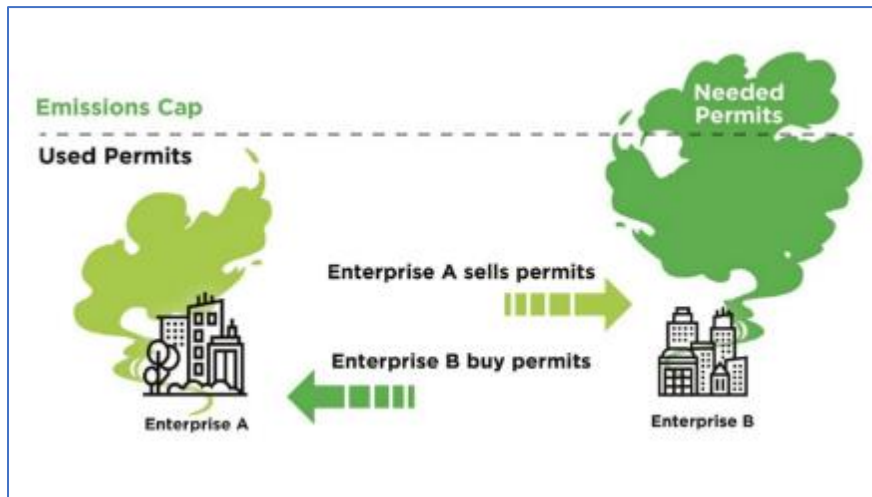
- ❖ The West Bengal Legislative Assembly declared ‘Poila Baisakh’ as ‘Bangla Dibas’ or West Bengal Foundation Day.
- ❖ This is the first day of the Bengali calendar.
- ❖ It also passed a proposal of making Rabindranath Tagore’s ‘Banglar Mati Banglar Jol’ (Bengal’s soil and Bengal’s water) the official song of West Bengal.
- ❖ Bengal existed as a (kingdom or) province for ages.
- ❖ On June 20, 1947, MLAs from West Bengal voted for the partition of Bengal, an event that was celebrated as Bengal Day.

500 KVA underground power transformation station

- ❖ The first underground transformer in the country was inaugurated at Malleswaram, Bengaluru.
- ❖ The transformer is expected to bring down the impact due to accidents and reduce losses during transmission.
- ❖ Further, it will also help clear the footpaths and make it safe for pedestrian movements.



Emissions Trading Scheme



- ❖ Ahmedabad has become the second city in the country to implement an emission trading scheme (ETS) for particulate pollution.
- ❖ It will help in regulating industrial emissions and reduce the state's pollution levels.
- ❖ The Live trading involving 118 industries within the scheme commenced on September 1.
- ❖ An ETS, or “cap-and-trade” system, caps the amount of pollution allowed from regulated industries and allots permits to plants.
- ❖ Under ETS, industries with low abatement costs can make larger reductions in emissions and thus profit by selling excess permits.
- ❖ Industries with high abatement costs can save money by buying permits instead of installing expensive equipment.

- ❖ The scheme was first introduced in 350 highly polluting solid fuel burning industries in Surat in August 2019.
- ❖ The “cap-and-trade” system, similar to ETS, was introduced by the United States in the 1980s.
- ❖ It aims to reduce emissions of pollutants like sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides (NO_x).

Nipah Virus in Kerala

Alert healthcare system detects Nipah outbreaks
The route of Nipah virus transmission from bats to humans has not been clearly established in Kerala

Widespread: NIV Pune found Nipah virus antibodies in fruit bats (*Pteropus medius*) in nine States, including Kerala, and the Union Territory of Pondicherry





- Three Nipah virus outbreaks — 2018, 2021 and 2023 — in Kerala have been in Kozhikode district; the 2019 outbreak was in Ernakulam district
- Four outbreaks in five years may be because the virus has become endemic in bats in Kerala, or due to thorough investigation of undiagnosed fever cases for possible Nipah virus infection or both
- Except in NIV Pune, there is no Nipah virus testing facility anywhere in India. Kerala screens for Nipah virus routinely in a molecular lab in Calicut Medical College
- Patients with unusual symptoms are tested for Nipah virus, the reason why Kerala might be detecting Nipah cases
- Patients who tested positive for Nipah virus in 2023 had only respiratory symptoms not reported anywhere in the world before. Nipah virus detection still became possible due to doctors' high index of suspicion
- In the latest outbreak, a combination — possible index case, clustering of cases, unusual symptoms, and proximity to the 2018 outbreak epicentre — led to testing for Nipah virus

- ❖ Nipah virus strain found in Kerala is the Bangladesh variant.
- ❖ It spreads from humans and is characterised by high mortality despite lower infectivity.
- ❖ There is no vaccine for the virus till date.
- ❖ It spreads through contact with the bodily fluids of infected bats, pigs, or humans.
- ❖ It has a mortality rate of up to 75% among those infected.

Mob Lynching Victim Compensation Scheme 2023

Stalled **crackdown**

A brief look at anti-lynching Bills passed by four States that are caught in a question of definition

<p>JHARKHAND </p> <p>The Prevention of Mob Violence and Mob Lynching Bill, 2021, provides for punishment ranging from three years in prison to life imprisonment, in case of death of the victim. Those convicted may be fined between ₹3 lakh and ₹25 lakh depending on the severity of the crime</p>	<p>RAJASTHAN </p> <p>The Rajasthan Protection from Lynching Bill, 2019, provides for life imprisonment and a fine from ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh to those convicted in cases of mob lynching leading to the victim's death</p>
<p>MANIPUR </p> <p>The Manipur Protection from Mob Violence Bill, 2018, proposes rigorous life imprisonment for those involved in mob violence, if it results in the death of a victim</p>	<p>WEST BENGAL </p> <p>The West Bengal (Prevention of Lynching) Bill, 2019, has a provision for death sentence. It proposes a jail term from three years to life imprisonment for those involved in assaulting and injuring a person. The Bill, while defining terms such as "lynching" and "mob", says the West Bengal Lynching Compensation Scheme may be framed under it</p>

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh government will provide ₹10 lakh as compensation to the kin of any person killed in a mob lynching incident.
- ❖ There will be a provision of compensation of ₹4 to ₹6 lakh for the injured.
- ❖ This will also include all those incidents of mob lynching which occur due to religion, caste, language or any other reason.
- ❖ A provision has been made to provide compensation to the kin of the mob lynching victim
- ❖ Under the scheme, mob lynching will be considered in which five or more accused are involved.

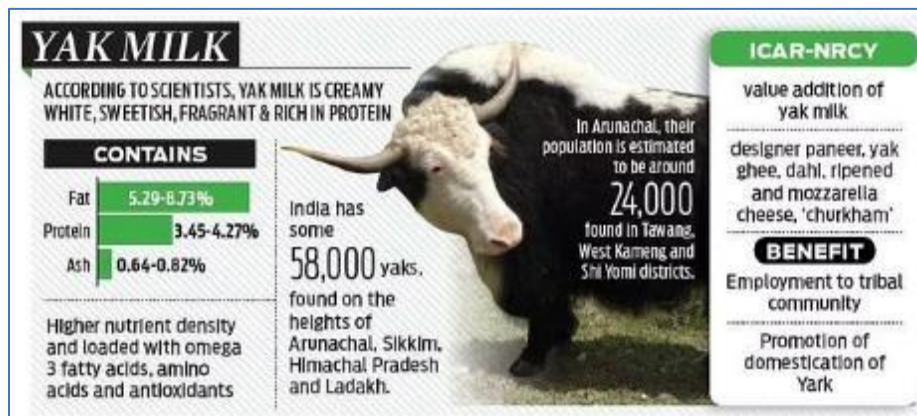
GI Tag for Atreyapuram pootharekulu

- ❖ The 'Atreyapuram Pootharekulu', a sweet made of rice and jaggery, has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

- ❖ It mandates that the production of the sweet be confined only to the Atreyapuram village.
- ❖ This village located on the banks of the Godavari in Konaseema district of Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The MTU-3626 variety Rice is the main ingredient.
- ❖ This variety is locally known as 'Bondalu'.
- ❖ It is extensively grown in the Konaseema region and consumed in Kerala.



Nyukmadung Dairy



- ❖ The National Research Centre on Yak (NRCY) has launched a “milk parlour,” named Nyukmadung Dairy, at the centre’s yak farm in Nyukmadung.
- ❖ It is located in West Kameng district in Arunachal Pradesh
- ❖ Yak milk is creamy white, thick, sweetish, fragrant and rich in protein, fat, lactose and minerals and total solids than cow milk.
- ❖ It contains 15.63-19.63 percent total solids with 5.29-8.73 percent fat, 3.45-4.27 percent protein and 0.64-0.82 percent ash.
- ❖ The Nyukmadung Dairy, situation about 2,800 metres above sea level.

- ❖ It aims to popularise a range of products from the milk of the animal that's referred to as the 'ship of the Himalayas'.

Mithuns - food animal



- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has accepted a proposal on Mithun (NRCM) and declared it a food animal.
- ❖ Mithun meat is consumed by various tribal communities of the North East region.
- ❖ But FSSAI's approval will help farmers benefit economically from the rearing of the animal.
- ❖ The Mithun or gayal (*Bos frontalis*) is considered a descendant of the Indian Gaur or bison.
- ❖ It is distributed in Northeast India, Bangladesh, northern Myanmar and in Yunnan, China.
- ❖ It is known as the 'cattle of the mountain'.
- ❖ The gayal is the state animal of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.
- ❖ Mithun meat contains significantly low (2-3%) fat compared to beef and buffalo (10-12%).
- ❖ It is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN list.

Gig Workers Insurance Scheme

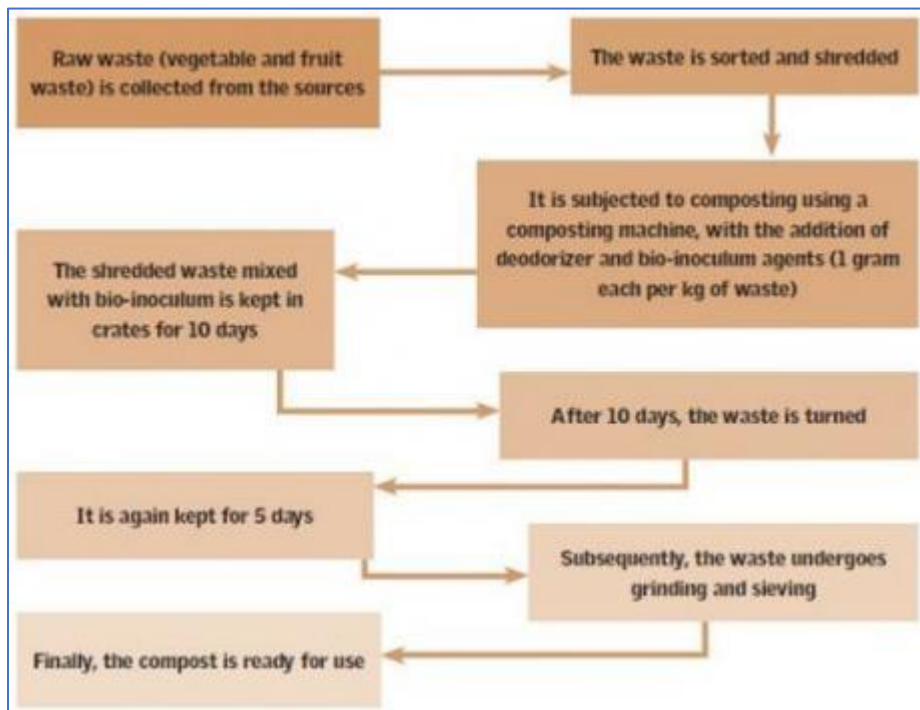
- ❖ The Karnataka Labour Department issued a government order, notifying the Rs 4 lakh health insurance cover for gig workers of the state.
- ❖ The exact number of gig workers in the state is estimated to be over 2 lakhs.

- ❖ Once the scheme is rolled out, the gig workers employed as full time/part time delivery personnel in e-commerce companies are set to benefit from this accidental cover.
- ❖ Hospital expenses of up to Rs 1 lakh will be reimbursed and benefits will apply in cases of accidents on duty and off duty, but only for active workers.
- ❖ Karnataka is only second after Rajasthan to provide health insurance for gig workers.
- ❖ Gig workers aged between 18 and 60, those not falling under the tax bracket, and individuals not currently availing of PF/ESI benefits are eligible for the insurance.
- ❖ Anyone who has been working as a gig worker with any e-commerce company for at least six months will also be eligible for the scheme.

Nuakhai Juhar – Odisha

- ❖ Nuakhai is an annual harvest celebration in the state, marking the arrival of the new rice season.
- ❖ This day is determined by the lunar calendar, the day falls on the ‘Panchami tithi’ (the fifth day) of the lunar fortnight.
- ❖ The word ‘nua’ means new and ‘khai’ means food.

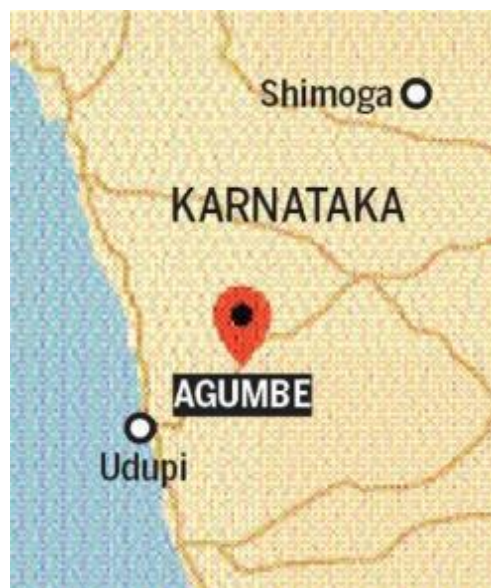
Agra - Decentralized garbage processing System



- ❖ Agra has initiated decentralized garbage processing plants to manage organic waste from bulk waste generators.
- ❖ This model can drastically reduce the transportation cost incurred by the municipal government.
- ❖ Agra generates a daily municipal solid waste of 916 tonnes per day (TPD) with a per capita waste generation rate of 0.48 kg.
- ❖ Compost derived from flower waste has been made available on e-commerce sites Jio-mart and Amazon.

Agumbe Rainforest Complex

- ❖ Karnataka's Agumbe Rainforest Complex (ARC) in Shivamogga district had been christened as the 'Cherrapunji of the South'.
- ❖ It is receiving over 8,000 mm of rainfall during the monsoon.
- ❖ ARC received its peak rainfall of 6,000 mm during the monsoon months of June and August.
- ❖ But, for two years now, the peak monsoon rainfall here has been wavering in the range of 5,250 mm-5,500 mm.
- ❖ Some towns, such as Nadpal and Mudradi, located 45-50 kilometers away from ARC, have recorded higher rainfall in 2022.
- ❖ In 2022, Agumbe received 6,251.5 mm of rain. However, Nadpal recorded 6,391.8 mm of rainfall.
- ❖ Hulikal in Hassan district received 6,422.9 mm.
- ❖ This is pushing Agumbe to the third position in terms of rainfall in Karnataka.

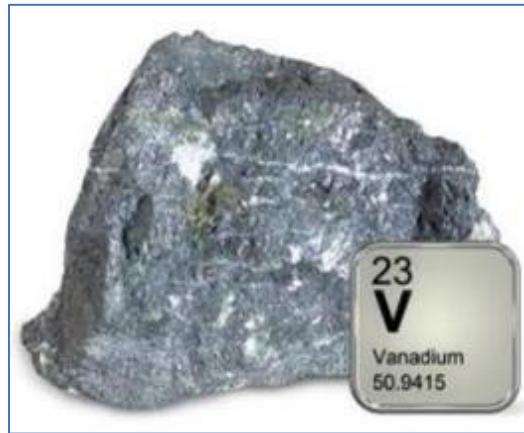


Best Tourism Village of India - Biswanath Ghat



- ❖ Biswanath Ghat in Assam has been selected as the Best Tourism Village of India 2023 by the Ministry of Tourism.
- ❖ It is located on the banks of the Brahmaputra River.
- ❖ Biswanath Ghat is also popularly known as 'Gupta Kashi' and is named after the ancient Biswanath Mandir.

Discovery of Vanadium



- ❖ The Rare element Vanadium discovered in the from Gulf of Khambhat, Gujarat.
- ❖ This maybe the first report on the presence of Vanadium in the offshore sediments in India.
- ❖ Titanomagnetite is the primary source of the element and 88% of the world's Vanadium is extracted from it.
- ❖ Vanadium can be used to strengthen steel and titanium and Vanadium redox batteries for energy storage.
- ❖ When mixed with titanium and aluminium, it is also used in jet engine parts and electrical components due to its durability against corrosion and high temperatures.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Miss Earth India 2023

- ❖ Priyan Sain clinched the title of Miss Earth India 2023 during the Miss Divine Beauty 2023.
- ❖ She succeeds last year's winner Vanshika Parmar.
- ❖ She will represent India at the Miss Earth 2023 pageant in Vietnam this December.
- ❖ At the same event, Praveena Aanjna was named Miss International India 2023.
- ❖ Pema Choden Bhutia and Tejaswini Shrivastava were both announced as runners-up.



First woman to head railway board



- ❖ The central government has appointed Jaya Verma Sinha as the new Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Railway Board.
- ❖ She is the first woman ever to head the Railway Board in its 166-year history.
- ❖ The Railway Board is the top decision-making body for Indian Railways.
- ❖ She will be responsible for overseeing the overall transportation of freight and passenger services.

New president of Singapore

- ❖ Former Singapore deputy prime minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam was elected as new president.
- ❖ In 2011, he became Deputy Prime Minister while still overseeing the finance portfolio.
- ❖ He was born in Singapore in 1957, to a Tamil father and a Chinese mother.
- ❖ His father, Kanagaratnam Shanmugaratnam, was a renowned pathologist and cancer researcher.

Ramon Magsaysay Award

- ❖ Renowned oncologist Dr Ravi Kannan, director was declared as one of the awardees of Ramon Magsaysay Award 2023.
- ❖ This is awarded for his contribution towards providing cancer care to patients from the North Eastern states of India.
- ❖ He has been announced as the distinguished recipient of the 'Hero For Holistic Healthcare' award.
- ❖ Ravi hails from Chennai in Tamil Nadu is worked at Chennai's Adyar Cancer Institute.
- ❖ The other winners of the 65th edition of the Ramon Magsaysay Award is
 - Korvi Rakshand – Bangladesh
 - Eugenio Lemos - Timor-Leste
 - Miriam Coronel-Ferrer - Philippines
- ❖ This Award is often called the 'Nobel Prize of Asia'.

World Innovation Award

- ❖ Telangana Chief Innovation Officer Shanta Thoutam has received the World Innovation Award at the first BRICS innovation forum.

- ❖ The award is given for outstanding contribution to the Sustainable Development Goal-4.
- ❖ SDG-4 that ensures inclusive and equitable quality education and promotes life-long opportunities for all.
- ❖ The world Innovation Award was instituted by the World Organisation for Development, an international NGO.

Global Finance Central Banker Report 2023

- ❖ Shaktikanta Das was rated an 'A+' in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023.
- ❖ He has been placed at the top of the list of three central bank governors who have been rated A+.”
- ❖ The report celebrates those bank governors whose strategies outperformed their peers through originality, creativity, and tenacity.



ISRO scientist Valarmathi



- ❖ Valarmathi, the scientist and voice behind the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) launch countdowns, passed away.
- ❖ She voiced the launch of India's first successful mission, Chandrayaan-3, which became her final one.
- ❖ In 2015, former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa presented the first APJ Abdul Kalam award to N. Valarmathi.
- ❖ She led the team that successfully launched Radar Imaging Satellite RISAT-1 in 2012.

Swachhata Pakhwada award

- ❖ NLC India Limited (NLCIL) has bagged the first prize in 'Swachhata Pakhwada' award among Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) under the Ministry of Coal.
- ❖ NLCIL was selected for the award for its activities, innovative ideas, maximum public participation and awareness programmes during the Pakhwada.

G20 TechSprint 2023 Winners



- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank for International Settlements Innovation Hub (BISIH) jointly initiated the fourth edition of the G20 TechSprint.
- ❖ This global event beckoned innovators from around the world to pioneer technology solutions for enhancing cross-border payments, a critical global economic priority.

- ❖ The Winning Innovations:
 - ML/CFT/Sanctions Technology Solutions - Secretarium Ltd, United Kingdom
 - FX and Liquidity Technology Solutions - Millicent Labs, United Kingdom.
 - Technology Solutions for Multilateral Cross-Border CBDC Platforms -Knox Networks, United States of America.

Scientist Mylswamy Annadurai

- ❖ The scientist Mylswamy Annadurai has joined the Board of Directors of SS Innovations.
- ❖ He is also called the 'Moon Man of India' for his contributions to ISRO's Chandrayaan -1 mission.
- ❖ He would be the Director of SS Innovations Pvt Ltd and the global firm SS Innovations International Inc.
- ❖ He was bestowed with the Padmashri award in 2016.
- ❖ He has also received the Rajyotsava Prashasti award for science in 2008 from the Government of Karnataka.
- ❖ In 2019, Dr. Annadurai assumed the role of Vice President for the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology.
- ❖ Additionally, he was nominated as the Chairman of the Board of Governors for the National Design and Research Forum.

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar prize

- ❖ Rajnish Kumar, professor at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) has won the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar prize for science and technology.
- ❖ The prize recognises persons for their outstanding contributions to human knowledge and progress.
- ❖ He was recognised for his contributions to the fundamental understanding of nucleation and growth of clathrate hydrates, CO₂ sequestration in solid hydrates, and methane recovery from marine gas hydrates.
- ❖ He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry [FRSC] in the United Kingdom.
- ❖ The annual award is instituted by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research since 1985.

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize (SSB) 2022

Name	Affiliation	Field of Study
Ashwani Kumar	CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology	Biological Sciences
Maddika Subba Reddy	Centre for DNA Fingerprinting Diagnostics, Hyderabad	
Akkattu Biju	Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru	Chemical Sciences
Debabrata Maiti	Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay	Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Vimal Mishra	Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar	
Dipti Ranjan Sahoo	Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	Engineering Sciences
Rajnish Kumar	Indian Institute of Technology, Madras	
Apoorva Khare	Indian Institute of Science and	Mathematical Science
Neeraj Kayal	Microsoft Research Lab India	
Dipyaman Ganguly	Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata	Medical Sciences
Anindya Das	Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru	Physical Sciences
Basudeb Dasgupta	Tata Institute of Fundamental Research	

- ❖ Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards for 2022 announced to honour 12 young scientists with India's top science prize, after a year's delay.
- ❖ The Bhatnagar Prizes are named after Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, the first Director-General of CSIR.
- ❖ This is awarded annually in seven scientific disciplines: biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, medicine, engineering, and earth, atmosphere, ocean, and planetary sciences.

Ig Nobel Prize 2023

- ❖ A team of scientists from India, China, Malaysia and the US has won this year's Ig Nobels.
- ❖ This prize is awarded for humorous scientific feats, in the mechanical engineering category for its study of repurposing dead spiders to be used in gripping tools.
- ❖ The Ig Nobel Prize is a parody of the Nobel Prize, awarded for unconventional and humorous scientific achievements.
- ❖ It aims to make people laugh and then think about the peculiar aspects of science.
- ❖ Unlike the Nobel Prize, which honor significant intellectual accomplishments, the Ig Nobel Prize celebrates the quirky and offbeat side of research.

Print Asia Awards

- ❖ The Hindu Group's Chennai plant won silver at the Best in Print Asia Awards Indian Printers Summit in Kochi.

- ❖ The awards were presented in two categories –
 - Newspapers with a circulation of less than 100,000 copies and
 - Newspapers with a circulation of more than 100,000 copies.
- ❖ The Hindu Group won the award under 2nd category.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards

- ❖ The Sangeet Natak Akademi on September 15 announced special one-time awards to 84 artists.
- ❖ It is commemorating 75 years of India's independence.
- ❖ This is awarded to, who are above the age of 75 years and haven't been accorded any national honour in their career so far.
- ❖ These Awards is a national honour bestowed by the country on performing artists, teachers and scholars in the field of performing arts, said Sandhya Purecha, chairperson of the Akademi.
- ❖ Awardees from Tamil Nadu:
 - Achalapuram Chinntambi – Nagasvaram
 - Purusai Subramanum – Terukoothu
 - Sundaresan Ramamurthy - Theatre (Acting)
 - V.A.K Rangarao - Dance Music (Scholar & Documentation)
 - R. Ramani - Carnatic Veena.

14th World Spice Congress

- ❖ The 14th edition of the World Spice Congress (WSC) held at Vashi in Navi Mumbai.
- ❖ This event has been organized by the Spices Board India, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in association with various trade bodies and export forums.
- ❖ The theme of the WSC 2023 is VISION 2030: S-P-I-C-E-S (Sustainability, Productivity, Innovation, Collaboration, Excellence and Safety).
- ❖ Regional spices potential
 - Black Pepper: Grown in Kerala, Karnataka, and other southern states.
 - Cardamom: Mainly produced in Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.
 - Turmeric: Cultivated in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Odisha.
 - Chilli: Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana are known for chilli production.

- Cumin: Grown in Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- Coriander: Cultivated in states like Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh.

Moving Memory app

- ❖ The 'Memory, Ecology, and Sustainability' conference, inaugurated is being attended by over 500 participants from various countries.
- ❖ An augmented reality/virtual reality (ARVR) app called Moving Memory was launched at the second annual international conference of the Indian Network for Memory Studies and the Centre for Memory Studies at IIT-M.
- ❖ This app captures moving models of memory through digital reconstruction and enables the user to select any desired avatar and navigate through these three-dimensional spaces.

Norman Borlaug Field Award 2023

- ❖ Odia scientist Swati Nayak will receive the Borlaug Field Award 2023.
- ❖ This is given for her innovative approach to engaging farmers in demand-driven rice seed systems, from testing and deployment to access and adoption of climate-resilient and nutritious rice varieties.
- ❖ The World Food Prize Foundation is describing her as an "outstanding young scientist."
- ❖ This award holds a special place in recognizing young scientists' contributions to agriculture, food security, and the eradication of hunger.

Breakthrough Prize 2024

- ❖ The Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences for 2023 has been awarded to Carl June and Dr. Michel Sadelain.
- ❖ These two scientists advanced the first use of CAR-T immunotherapy in leukemia.
- ❖ This type of therapy involves taking a patient's own immune cells and genetically engineering them to target and kill cancer cells.
- ❖ This technology has helped revolutionize cancer therapies.
- ❖ The other Life Sciences prize was awarded to Thomas Gasser, Ellen Sidransky and Andrew Singleton.
- ❖ Breakthrough Prize in Mathematics is awarded to Simon Brendle.

- ❖ Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics is awarded to John Cardy and Alexander Zamolodchikov.
- ❖ Six New Horizons Prizes are awarded for Early-Career Achievements in Physics and Mathematics.
- ❖ Three Maryam Mirzakhani New Frontiers Prizes are awarded to Women Mathematicians for Early-Career Achievements.



SPORTS

U.S. Open Tennis 2023

- ❖ The Former US Open champion Stan Wawrinka became the oldest man to win a match at the tournament since 40-year-old Jimmy Connors in 1992.
- ❖ The 50th anniversary of the U.S. Open becomes the first sporting event to offer equal prize money to female and male competitors celebrated recently.
- ❖ The 79-year-old tennis player Billie Jean King, as the defending U.S. Open champion in 1973 rallied her fellow women players to threaten a boycott of that year's tournament unless women got the same pay as men.
- ❖ It was announced that summer that the men's and women's U.S. Open champions would each receive \$25,000.
- ❖ It would take 34 years before all the other Grand Slam events followed suit.
- ❖ This year the U.S. Open winners will each receive \$3 million.

India's top chess player

- ❖ Grandmaster D. Gukesh has replaced Viswanathan Anand as India's top chess player after more than three decades.
- ❖ Anand has been India's No.1 since July 1986.
- ❖ The 17-year-old Chennai Grandmaster moved ahead of Anand to be ranked No.8 in the world.
- ❖ Gukesh's entry into the top 10 of the FIDE rating list marks a significant milestone.
- ❖ He has climbed three places in the rating list since August 1.



Durand cup 2023

- ❖ Mohun Bagan Super Giant take the cup for the 17th time in the event.
- ❖ A total of 24 teams, four more than last year, took part in the month-long competition.
- ❖ It is started in 1888, the Durand Cup is the oldest football competition in India and Asia.
- ❖ It's also the third-oldest in the world.
- ❖ The 2023 edition was the 132nd edition of the tournament.

US open grand slam

- ❖ Novak Djokovic annexes his 4th US Open title for record 24th Grand Slam.
- ❖ He draws level with Australia's Margaret Court's record for most Grand Slam singles titles in history.
- ❖ The 19-year-old Coco Gauff, won the U.S. Open, becoming the youngest American women to win a Grand Slam event.
- ❖ Earlier the Serena Williams won the same event at age 17, in 1999.

Asia Cup 2023

- ❖ India won the record 8th Asia Cup title against Sri Lanka.
- ❖ Kuldeep Yadav, who clinched 9 wickets, has won the Man of the series Title in the Asia cup 2023.
- ❖ Mohammed Siraj earned the Man of the Match award in the final due to his remarkable performance, securing 6/21.

Top ranked cricket Team

- ❖ India became the number 1 ranked team in all three formats i.e., Tests, ODIs and T20Is.
- ❖ India displaced Pakistan from the top of the ODI rankings.
- ❖ Already India leading the Test and T20 chart, India now reigns supreme across all formats.
- ❖ This is only the second time in men's cricketing history that a side has achieved the No.1 ranking across the formats.
- ❖ Prior to this, only South Africa had achieved the feat back in August 2012.

Berlin marathon world record



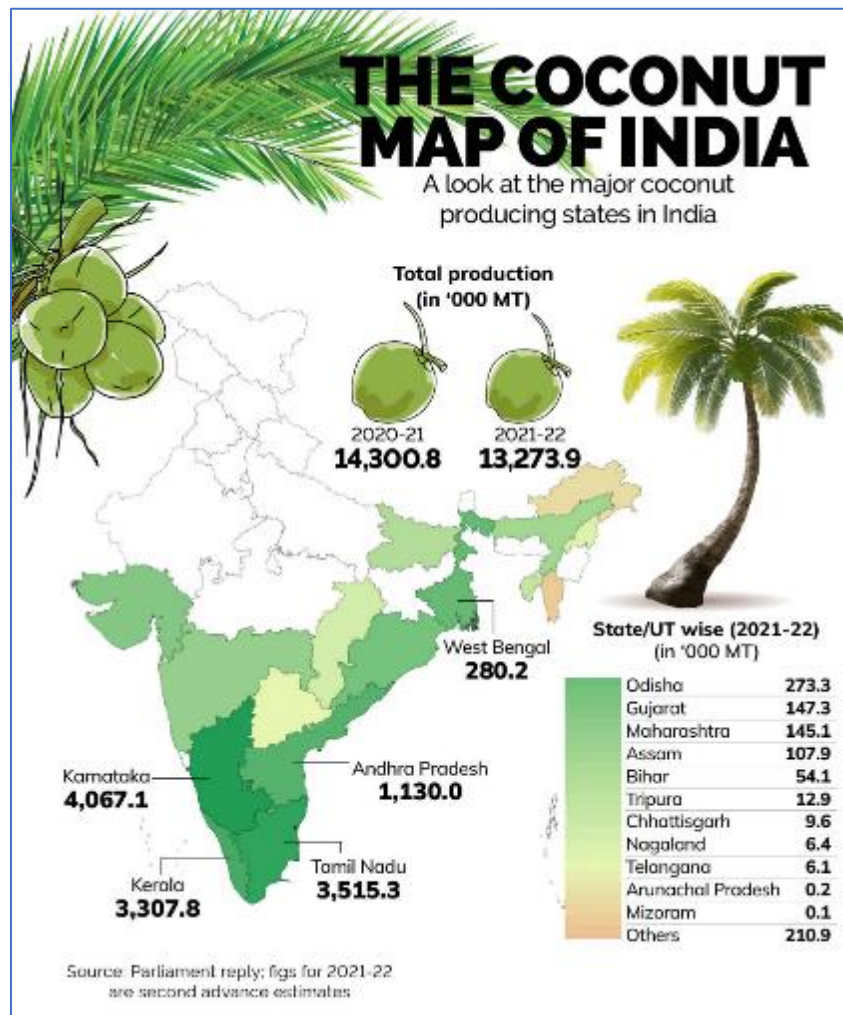
- ❖ Ethiopia's Tigist Assefa broke the women's marathon world record as she won the Berlin Marathon by completing the course in 2:11:53.
- ❖ It marked her second consecutive Berlin Marathon title.
- ❖ This was two minutes and 11 seconds faster than Brigid Kosgei's previous world record set at the 2019 Chicago Marathon.
- ❖ Meanwhile, Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge won a record fifth title in the men's race, stopping the clock at 2:02:42.
- ❖ This is the fifth-fastest time of his career.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Nutrition Week 2023 – September 01/07

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness among people about the value of healthy eating practices and proper nutrition for upholding a healthy lifestyle.
- ❖ This week-long program is conducted by The Food and Nutrition Board of India.
- ❖ This board works under the aegis of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- ❖ It was first observed in India in 1982.
- ❖ Theme for 2023 is “Healthy Diet Gaining Affordable for All”.

World Coconut Day 2023 - September 02



- ❖ The Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC), has started the initiative of celebrating World Coconut Day in 2009.
- ❖ APCC is headquartered in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- ❖ It was founded in 1969 to support the growth, production, sell and export of coconuts in Asian countries.
- ❖ India, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Kenya and Vietnam are some of the countries that are members of APCC.

Tibetan Democracy Day 2023 - September 02

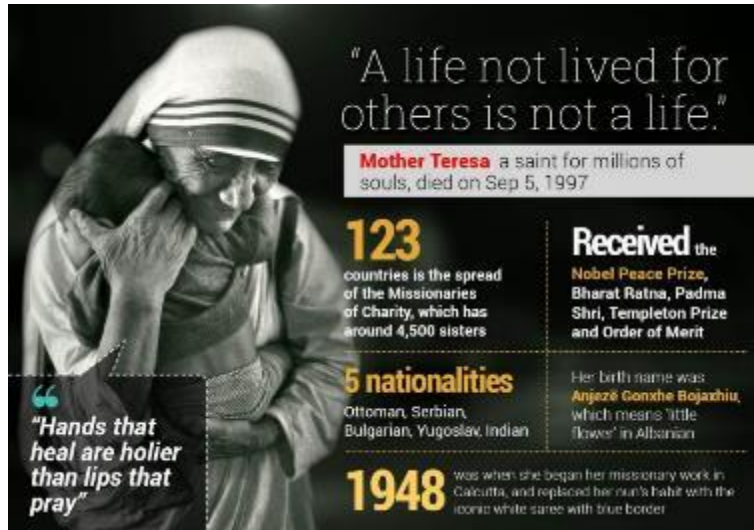
- ❖ Tibetan Democracy Day was marked with the inauguration of the Tibetan government-in-exile in Dharamshala on September 2.
- ❖ On September 2, 1960, the first elected representatives of the Tibetan Parliament-in-exile took their oaths in Bodh Gaya to inaugurate the Tibetan democratic system.
- ❖ In 1963, the Dalai Lama enacted the Tibetan constitution based on the ideals of democracy and universal values.
- ❖ In 1975, Kashag, the apex body of CTA, declared September 2 as the founding day of Tibetan democracy.

Literacy week – September 01- 08

- ❖ The Government of India has decided to organise a literacy week from 1st September to 8th September 2023.
- ❖ It aims to celebrate International Literacy Day for generating awareness among all the stakeholders/ beneficiaries/ citizens about the ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram.
- ❖ The week-long literacy campaign shall enable mass participation to inculcate a sense of Kartavyabodh and Janbhagidari in the nation's citizens.

International Day of Charity 2023 - September 05

- ❖ Mother Mary Teresa Bojaxhiu famously known as Mother Teresa passed away on September 5 in 1997.
- ❖ This day is perhaps a fitting tribute to someone who served the poor and needy people throughout her life.
- ❖ She did her exceptional service to the poor in Kolkata, India, and founded the Missionaries of Charity.
- ❖ For her works, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.



"A life not lived for others is not a life."

Mother Teresa a saint for millions of souls, died on Sep 5, 1997

123 countries is the spread of the Missionaries of Charity, which has around 4,500 sisters

Received the Nobel Peace Prize, Bharat Ratna, Padma Shri, Templeton Prize and Order of Merit

5 nationalities Ottoman, Serbian, Bulgarian, Yugoslav, Indian

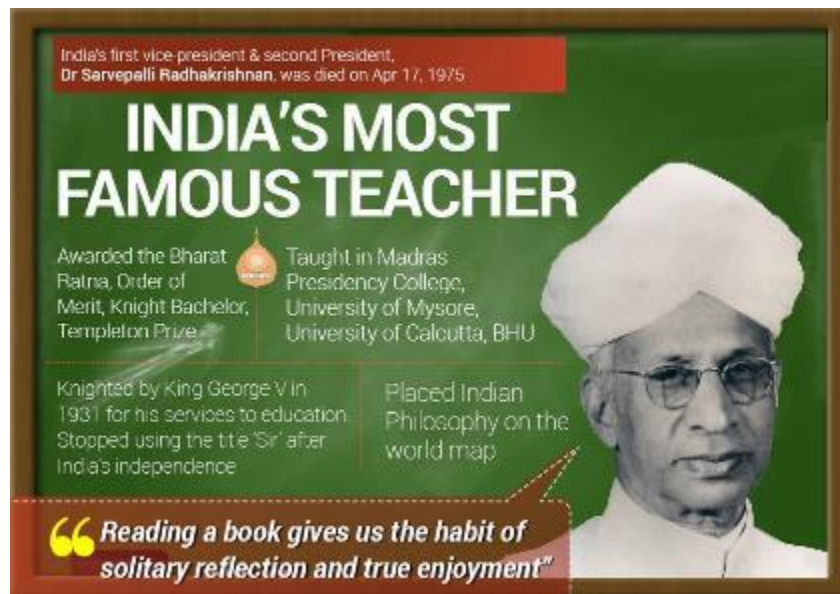
Her birth name was **Anjezë Gonxhe Bojaxhiu**, which means 'little flowers' in Albanian

1948 was when she began her missionary work in Calcutta, and replaced her nun's habit with the iconic white sari with blue border

"Hands that heal are holier than lips that pray"

National Teachers' Day 2023 - September 05

- ❖ Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan's birth anniversary is celebrated as Teachers' Day.
- ❖ He was India's second President and the first Vice President.
- ❖ From 1931 to 1936, he served as the Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University and then the Vice-Chancellor of Banaras Hindu University in 1939.
- ❖ He was also awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1954.
- ❖ In 1963, he was admitted as an honorary member of the British Royal Order of Merit.
- ❖ He also authored a book called 'The Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore'.



India's first vice-president & second President, Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, was died on Apr 17, 1975

INDIA'S MOST FAMOUS TEACHER

Awarded the Bharat Ratna, Order of Merit, Knight Bachelor, Templeton Prize

Taught in Madras Presidency College, University of Mysore, University of Calcutta, BHU

Knighted by King George V in 1931 for his services to education. Stopped using the title 'Sir' after India's independence

Placed Indian Philosophy on the world map

"Reading a book gives us the habit of solitary reflection and true enjoyment"

International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies 2023 - September 07

- ❖ This day is observed to promote and facilitate actions to improve air quality.
- ❖ It focuses on the transboundary nature of air pollution highlighting the need for collective accountability and collective action.
- ❖ Over 99 per cent of people on Earth breathe polluted air.
- ❖ It causes an estimated 6.7 million premature deaths a year and serious health impacts.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Together for Clean Air."

International Day of Police Cooperation 2023 - September 07

- ❖ This is being marked for the first time in 2023.
- ❖ This day recognizes the essential work of the world's law enforcement community in global security.
- ❖ On this day in 1923, then International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC), was created.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is 'Women in Policing'.

International Literacy Day 2023 - September 08

- ❖ On 8th September, 1965, the inaugural World Congress of Ministers of Education had convened in Tehran, Iran.
- ❖ It was marking the first-ever gathering dedicated to the international discussion on educational programmes.
- ❖ The day was announced during 14th UNESCO General Conference in 1966.
- ❖ The day reminds us of the importance of personal development, literacy, and progress of society.
- ❖ Around 775 million people around the world are deprived of basic literacy skills.

World Physical Therapy Day 2023 - September 08

- ❖ World Physiotherapy was established on this day in 1951.
- ❖ The day honours the world's physiotherapy community's togetherness and unity.
- ❖ Arthritis is the theme for World Physical Therapy Day 2023.

World First Aid Day 2023 - September 09

- ❖ The World First Aid Day is observed annually on the second Saturday of every September.

- ❖ It aims to create awareness around the role of first aid in saving lives.
- ❖ This Day was established by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 2000.
- ❖ The theme for this year is "First Aid in the Digital World".

International Day to Protect Education from Attack 2023 - September 09

- ❖ This day aims to raise awareness of the issue of attacks on education and to call for action to protect the right to education for all children.
- ❖ This day was established in 2020.
- ❖ Over 14,500 reports of attacks on education or military use of educational facilities were recorded worldwide between 2017 and 2022.
- ❖ More than 28,000 students, teachers, and academics were injured, killed, or harmed in such attacks.

World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) 2023 - September 10

- ❖ This day was established in 2003 by the International Association for Suicide Prevention in conjunction with the WHO.
- ❖ The day is dedicated to educate and aware people about the measures to prevent the suicides.
- ❖ The theme of 2023 is "Creating Hope Through Action".
- ❖ More than 700,000 suicides are registered worldwide every year.
- ❖ A total of 1.64 lakh suicides were registered in India in 2021.
- ❖ They show a significant increase of 6.1 cases per one lakh population compared to the 2020 figures.
- ❖ The suicide rate in India in 2021 was recorded at 12 per one lakh population as against the rate of 11.3 per one lakh population in 2020.

National Forest Martyrs Day 2023 - September 11

- ❖ It primarily serves as a tribute to all environmental activists and individuals who have sacrificed their lives to protect forests and wildlife.
- ❖ However, the day's history can be traced back to the Khejarli Massacre in 1730.
- ❖ In 1730, the historic Khejarli massacre occurred within the Marwar Kingdom.
- ❖ The Maharaja Abhai Singh of Rajasthan has ordered the cutting of trees in the Bishnoi village of Khejarli to obtain timber for a new palace.

- ❖ The Bishnoi community vehemently opposed this action and were willing to lay down their lives to protect the forest.



World EV Day 2023 - September 09

- ❖ This day aims to mark the celebration of e-mobility.
- ❖ The first World EV day was observed in 2020.
- ❖ This day celebrates electric vehicles of all shapes and sizes, as well as raising awareness of just how rewarding and easy making the switch really is.
- ❖ Presently, India has around 2.9 million electric vehicles and this number is increasing day-by-day.
- ❖ In year 2022-23, EV penetration rate touched around 5.3 per cent of the total.
- ❖ It is a jump of almost 6 times from 2020-21 level.

Himalaya Diwas 2023 - September 09

- ❖ This day aims to preserve the Himalayan ecosystem and region.
- ❖ In 2015, it was officially declared by the then Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The Himalayas play an important role in saving and maintaining nature and protecting the country from adverse weather conditions.
- ❖ The Himalayan range is also responsible for bringing rain to the country.

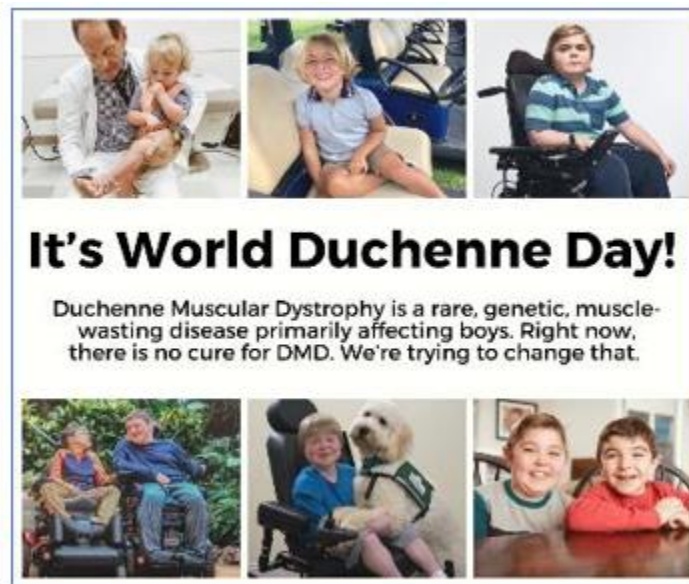
International Day for South-South Cooperation 2023 - September 12

- ❖ This day highlights the importance of cooperation among people and countries in the global South.

- ❖ The day also aims at spreading awareness on the social, economic, and political developments made in the Southern region.
- ❖ The theme for this year is “Solidarity, Equity and Partnership: Unlocking South-South Cooperation to Achieve the SDGs”.



World Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Day 2023 - September 07



- ❖ This Day is observed each year to raise awareness about Duchenne muscular dystrophy.
- ❖ The purpose of the day is to support efforts that will improve the quality of life for those who have dystrophinopathies through education, advocacy, and social inclusion.
- ❖ This rare degenerative illness makes muscles weaker over time until it affects the entire body.
- ❖ One in five thousand boys are born with the condition.
- ❖ It results from an X-chromosome mutation.

Hindi Diwas 2023 - September 14

- ❖ The Constituent Assembly of India accepted Hindi, written in Devanagari script, as the official language of India on September 14, 1949.
- ❖ On this day in 1916, Beohar Rajendra Singh was born, who played a key role in bringing Hindi to Devanagari script.
- ❖ The first Hindi Day was celebrated on September 14, 1953.

September 14 is celebrated as Hindi Diwas, to honour the rich heritage of the language

CELEBRATING HINDI

42.2 cr people, or **41%** of India's population, have Hindi & its derivatives as their mother tongue

25.79 cr speak pure Hindi while **16.41 cr** speak its derivatives

49 derivative languages of Hindi are in existence

The modern Devanagari script came into existence in the **11th century**

Derives its name from the **Persian word Hind** ('Land of the Indus River' most of which flows through Pakistan today)

National Engineer's Day 2023 - September 15

Celebrated engineer and scholar **M Visvesvaraya** was born on Sept 15, 1860

A STALWART OF INDIAN ENGINEERING

His birthday is celebrated as **Engineer's Day**

Chief engineer responsible for the construction of the **Krishna Raja Sagara dam in Mysore**

Designed and patented the automatic **weir water floodgates**, first installed at the **Khadakwasla Reservoir, Pune in 1903**

Designed a **flood protection system** for Hyderabad, giving him celebrity status

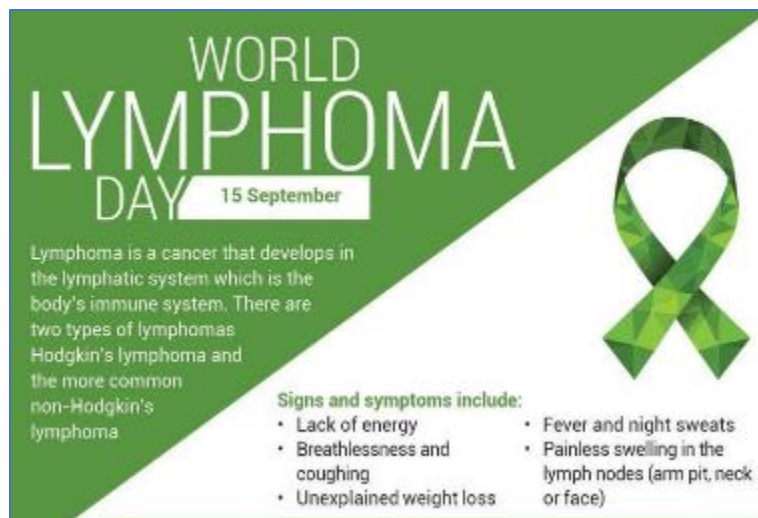
Received the **Bharat Ratna** in 1955

Lived till the **age of 101**

- ❖ This day serves as a tribute to Visvesvaraya's legacy and acknowledges the contributions made by engineers to India's growth and development.

- ❖ It commemorates the birth anniversary of Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya.
- ❖ Sir Visvesvaraya was a pioneer who significantly influenced the growth of India's infrastructure.
- ❖ He was instrumental in the development of dams, irrigation networks and other projects.
- ❖ He is also known as the Father of Engineering in India.
- ❖ He served as the 19th Diwan of Mysore from 1912 to 1918.
- ❖ He is known as the 'maker of modern Mysore'.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is 'Engineering for a sustainable future'.

World Lymphoma Awareness Day 2023 - September 15



- ❖ This day aims to educate the public about lymphoma and seeks to provide support and information to lymphoma patients and their families.
- ❖ Lymphoma is a group of blood cancers that affect the lymphatic system, a part of the body's immune system.
- ❖ Lymphomas can occur in various forms, with the two main types being Hodgkin lymphoma and non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

International Day of Democracy 2023 - September 15

- ❖ The International Day of Democracy owes its existence to the Universal Declaration on Democracy.
- ❖ It was adopted on September 15, 1997 by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).
- ❖ IPU is an international organisation of national parliaments.

- ❖ Qatar led efforts to promote an International Day of Democracy.
- ❖ The first celebration took place in 2008.



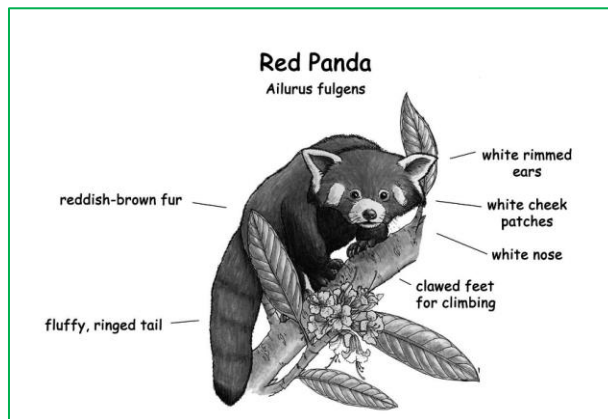
World Ozone Day 2023 - September 16

- ❖ This day aims to inform people about the significance of the ozone layer along with how its depletion can have adverse effects on human health, ecosystems and the environment
- ❖ On September 16, 1987, the United Nations and 45 other countries signed the Montreal Protocol, on substances that deplete the Ozone layer.
- ❖ Hence, every year this day is celebrated as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone layer.
- ❖ On September 16, 2009, the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol became the first treaties in the history of the United Nations to achieve universal ratification.
- ❖ The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol is legally binding and came into force from 1 January 2019.
- ❖ The amendment aims to phase out Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), a family of potent greenhouse gases by the late 2040s.
- ❖ The theme this year is “Montreal Protocol: Fixing the Ozone Layer and Reducing Climate Change”.

International Red Panda Day 2023 - September 16

- ❖ It is observed on the third Saturday of every September, which this year falls on September 16.

- ❖ This day was initially established by the Red Panda Network in 2010.
- ❖ It aims to raise the alarm about the significant decrease in the population of this enigmatic creature found in dense forests of Asia.
- ❖ Red pandas were found in the southwest region of China and the eastern Himalayas.
- ❖ According to the IUCN's list, India cumulatively accommodates around 5,000-6,000 red pandas.
- ❖ In India, the endangered red pandas are mostly found in the sanctuaries in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.



World Patient Safety Day 2023 - September 17



- ❖ This day was established by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about patient safety and to promote actions to elevate the safety of healthcare worldwide.
- ❖ The Patient safety focuses on the prevention of errors, adverse events and harm to patients during the delivery of medical services.
- ❖ The theme for this year is “Engaging patients for patient safety.”

World Bamboo Day 2023 - September 18

- ❖ This day was established courtesy the efforts of the World Bamboo Organization.
- ❖ The WBO organised the first World Bamboo Congress in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ❖ In 2009, during the 8th World Bamboo Congress, the participants officially declared this day.
- ❖ Bamboo is a type of grass that grows rapidly and is known for its strength, flexibility and eco-friendliness.



International week of Deaf people 2023 - September 24/30

- ❖ Every year, the full week ending on the last Sunday of September is observed as the International Week of the Deaf (IWD).
- ❖ This was first launched by the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) in 1958 in Rome.
- ❖ Theme for 2023 is 'A world where deaf people can sign anywhere.'

International Day of Peace (UN) 2023 - September 21

- ❖ The first International Day of Peace was celebrated on September 21, 1982.
- ❖ It aims to remind of the UN's commitment to peace and conflict resolution and encourages individuals, communities and nations to work towards a more peaceful and just world.
- ❖ This year's theme is 'Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals'.
- ❖ 2023 is also the 75th anniversaries of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide.

World Alzheimer's Day 2023 - September 21

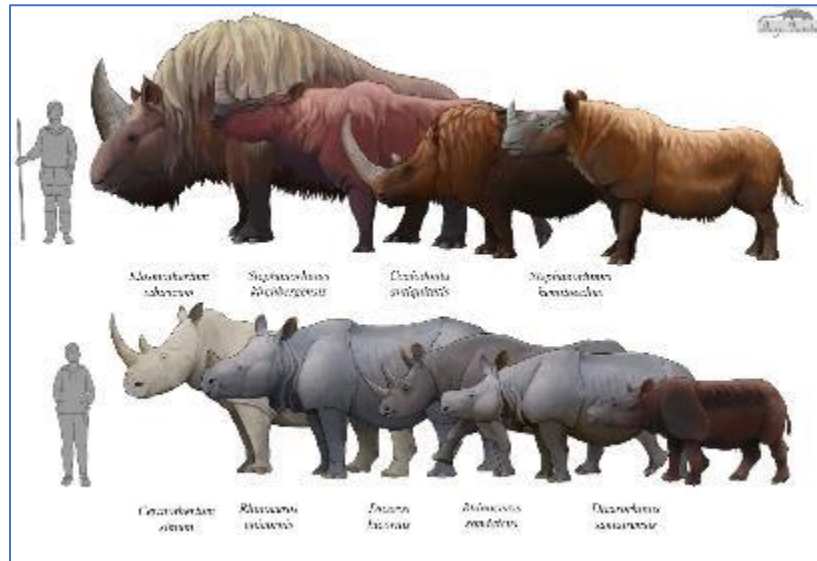
- ❖ This day is a global effort to raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease.
- ❖ It also aims to eradicate the stigma around Alzheimer's disease as well as other types of dementia.
- ❖ Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia and contributes to 60-70% of cases.
- ❖ Alzheimer's disease is a progressive brain disorder that affects memory, thinking and behaviour.
- ❖ These symptoms get worse over time and start to affect one's daily living and activities.
- ❖ It usually affects people over the age of 65 years.
- ❖ This day was established on September 21, 1994, in Edinburgh, to mark the tenth anniversary of Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI).
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is 'Never Too Early, Never Too Late'.

Day for the Welfare of Cancer Patients 2023 - September 22

- ❖ The Day for the Welfare of Cancer Patients is also known as World Rose Day.
- ❖ This day is dedicated to the welfare of cancer patients - encouraging them to live a better quality of life with hope and courage.
- ❖ It is also encouraging people around the world to work towards bringing cheer and hope into the lives of all those people who have been affected by cancer.
- ❖ This day was first observed in honour of 12-year-old Melinda Rose from Canada.
- ❖ She was diagnosed with a rare form of blood cancer known as Askin's Tumour.

World Rhino Day 2023 - September 22

- ❖ The day is dedicated to spread awareness and support the conservation efforts to save all five species of the rhinoceros.
- ❖ The greater one-horned rhino population India stood at 3,262.
- ❖ Assam's Kaziranga National Park is reporting the highest number of rhinos at 2,613.
- ❖ Currently, three species of rhinos — black, Javan and Sumatran — are classified as critically endangered.
- ❖ White Rhino is listed as Near Threatened.
- ❖ Greater One Horned is listed as Vulnerable.



International Day of Sign Languages 2023 - September 23

- ❖ The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) proposed the idea for the day on behalf of the estimated 70 million deaf people around the world.
- ❖ The date was chosen to honour the day in 1951 when the WFD was established.
- ❖ In 2018, as part of the International Week of the Deaf, the International Day of Sign Languages was observed for the first time.
- ❖ The International Week of the Deaf was first observed in September 1958.
- ❖ There are over 70 million deaf people in the world.
- ❖ More than 80% of them live in underdeveloped countries.

World Day of the Deaf 2023 - September 24

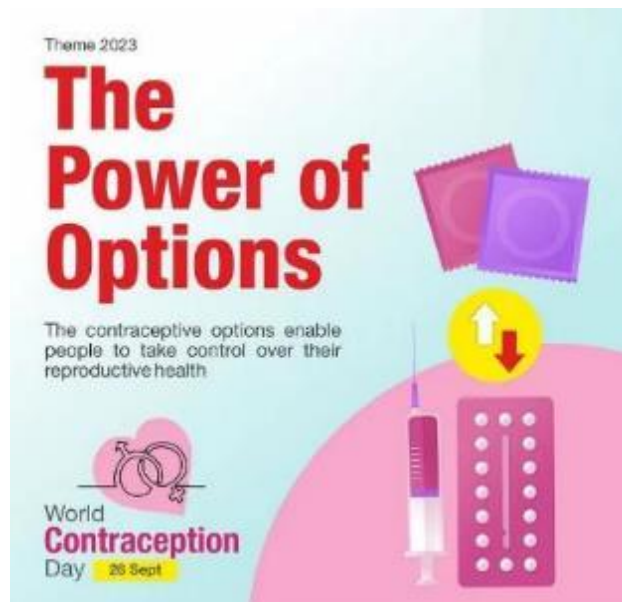


- ❖ World Deaf Day is celebrated every year on the last Sunday of September.
- ❖ The World Federation of the Deaf initiated the World Deaf Day in the year of 1958.
- ❖ The first World Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf took place in Rome, Italy in 1951.
- ❖ Theme for 2023 is "Ear and Hearing Care for All".

World Pharmacists Day 2023 – September 25

- ❖ This day was announced at the 2009 International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Congress held in Istanbul, Turkey.
- ❖ This special day was established to underscore the vital significance of pharmacists and pharmacy professionals in the realm of healthcare.
- ❖ The theme for this year is "Pharmacy Strengthening Health Systems."

World Contraception Day 2023 - September 26



- ❖ This day aims to raise awareness about the myriad contraceptive methods.
- ❖ The day is an occasion to empower women to make informed decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive health.
- ❖ This day was first observed in 2007.
- ❖ Theme for 2023 is "The Power of Options".
- ❖ Contraception or birth control is used to prevent pregnancies.
- ❖ Condom, birth control pills, Intra Uterine Contraceptive Devices like Copper T and injectable contraceptives are some of popular contraceptives.

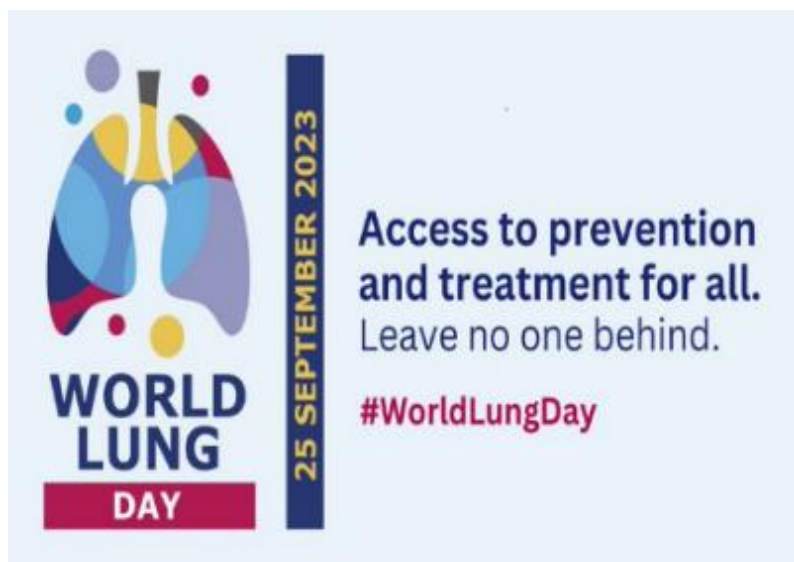
World Environmental Health Day 2023 - September 26

- ❖ This day aims to creating awareness about the impact of environmental health on human lives.
- ❖ This day was founded by the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) in 2011
- ❖ The theme for this year is - Global Environmental Public Health: Standing up to protect everyone's Health each and every day.

International Day for the Total Elimination of nuclear weapons 2023 - September 26

- ❖ The aims of the day are to enhance public awareness about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their total elimination.
- ❖ September 26 is also the anniversary of the incident in 1983 when a nuclear war was almost launched due to malfunctions in the Soviet nuclear weapons early warning system, which erroneously detected a US ballistic missile attack against Moscow.
- ❖ In 1959, the UNGA endorsed the objective of complete nuclear disarmament.
- ❖ In 1996, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was opened for signature.
- ❖ Yet, today around 12,512 nuclear weapons remain.

World Lung Day 2023 - September 25



- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about lung health and promote better lung care around the world.

- ❖ It endeavours to highlight the importance of healthy lungs and to address the causes and prevention methods of lung diseases.
- ❖ The first World Lung Day was celebrated in 2018
- ❖ The theme for this year is “Access to Prevention and Treatment for All. Leave No One Behind”.

World Tourism Day 2023 - September 27

- ❖ It aims to promote the tourism all over the world.
- ❖ It was established by the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) to celebrate the power of the tourism sector to help bridge cultures.
- ❖ In 1979, the UNWTO announced the World Tourism Day.
- ❖ But officially it was started celebrated from 1980.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is “Tourism and green investment”.

World Rabies Day 2023 - September 28

- ❖ This annual event aims to raise awareness of rabies prevention and the progress being made in the fight against this terrible disease.
- ❖ It is also the anniversary of the death of Louis Pasteur.
- ❖ He was a French chemist and microbiologist who developed the first vaccine against rabies.
- ❖ This day was established by the Global Alliance for Rabies Control in 2007.
- ❖ Rabies claims the lives of about 60,000 people each year.
- ❖ This year's theme is "All for 1, One Health for All".

World Maritime Day 2023 - September 28

- ❖ World Maritime Day is observed every year on the last Thursday of September.
- ❖ The day is observed to recognise the contribution of people engaged in the maritime industry.
- ❖ It also aims to draw public attention towards various issues related to the industry such as shipping, marine trade and environmental causes, among others.
- ❖ This day was established by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
- ❖ Theme for 2023 is ‘MARPOL at 50 – Our commitment goes on’.

International Day for Universal Access to Information 2023 - September 28

- ❖ The universal access to information means that everyone has the right to seek, receive, and impart information.
- ❖ The day focuses on the importance of access to information.
- ❖ UNESCO declared this day on 17 November 2015.
- ❖ The theme of 2023 is "the importance of the online space for access to information."



International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste 2023 - September 29

- ❖ It is an opportunity to raise awareness of the issue of food loss and waste, and to promote actions to reduce it.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 "Reducing food loss and waste: Taking Action to Transform Food Systems".
- ❖ According to the UN FAO, a staggering 1.3 billion tonnes of food being wasted annually costs the world about \$750 billion.
- ❖ 61 percent of food waste comes from households, 26 percent from food services and 13 percent from retail.
- ❖ Globally, food waste contributes roughly 20 percent of the global greenhouse gas emissions.
- ❖ It is a third of all human-contributed gas emissions.
- ❖ India's contribution to wasted food, at 68.8 million tonnes annually, is 7 percent of the global total.
- ❖ Up to 40 percent of the food produced in India is wasted, adding up to nearly Rs 50,000 crores worth of wasted food.

World Heart Day 2023 - September 29

- ❖ This day aims to raise awareness about heart disease and preventive measures that can help prevent and manage cardiovascular diseases.
- ❖ Heart attacks, stroke and heart failure kill more than 20.5 million people every year.
- ❖ This day was first founded in 1999 with the World Heart Federation (WHF) collaborating with the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is "Use Heart, Know Heart".



International Translation Day 2023 - September 30



- ❖ This day serves as a global celebration dedicated to recognizing the invaluable contributions of translators and interpreters in bridging linguistic and cultural divides.
- ❖ This day was established by the United Nations in 2017.

- ❖ The 30 September is the death anniversary of St. Jerome.
- ❖ St. Jerome is known for translating a large part of the Bible from its original manuscripts into Latin.
- ❖ He is known as the patron saint of translators.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is 'Translation unveils the many faces of humanity'.

International Blasphemy Rights Day 2023 - September 30

- ❖ This day educates individuals and groups about blasphemy laws and defends freedom of expression.
- ❖ This day is observed in reaffirmation of our belief that no religion or sect is beyond criticism.
- ❖ Blasphemy, in a religious sense, refers to great disrespect shown to God or to something believed as holy.
- ❖ The open criticism of religion is criminalized in many countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ Blasphemy Day was introduced as a worldwide celebration in 2009.

MISCELLANEOUS

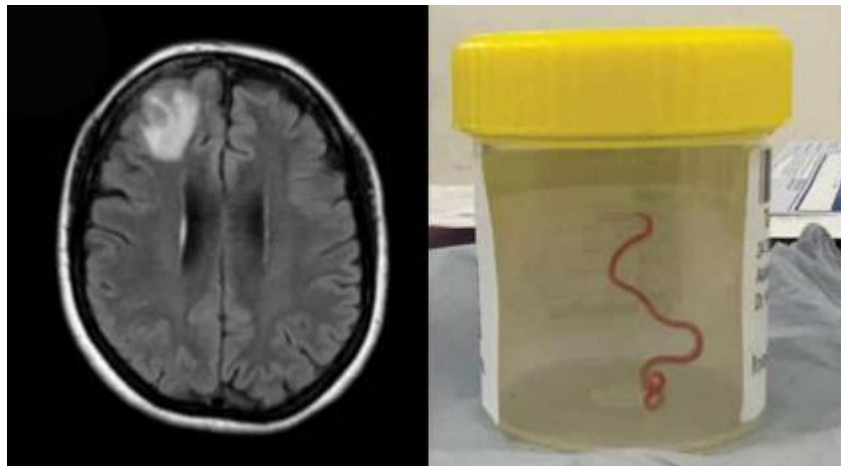
Priest of Pacopampa

- ❖ Peruvian archaeologists were found 3000-year-old remains at the Pacopampa Archaeological Complex.
- ❖ It is believed to be one of the first priests of the ancient north Andean region.
- ❖ It is dubbed as the 'Priest of Pacopampa'.
- ❖ Surrounding the priest were small, spherical ceramic bowls.
- ❖ Together, the body and items were burned beneath 6 layers of black earth mixed with ash.
- ❖ Two decorated bowls which might have been used for ritual body painting for a member of the Pacopampa elite.
- ❖ Two seals found which displaying a human-like face facing east and a west-facing jaguar.



Ophidascaris robertsi

- ❖ 8 cm-long parasitic roundworm was taken out of patient's brain in Australia.
- ❖ The roundworm, usually found in pythons, had never been reported in humans before.
- ❖ The parasite is identified as *Ophidascaris robertsi*.
- ❖ It is a python nematode of Australia and Papua New Guinea.
- ❖ This case creates a new frontier in understanding animal-human interactions and zoonotic diseases.



Fujianvenator

- ❖ Scientists in China have found fossils of a tiny bird-like dinosaur with a long lower leg.
- ❖ The "bizarre" fossil suggests that this strange pheasant-sized dinosaur.

- ❖ It has inhabited southeast China about 148 to 150 million years ago.
- ❖ It has elongated legs and arms built much like wings.
- ❖ They have named it as *Fujianvenator prodigiosus*.

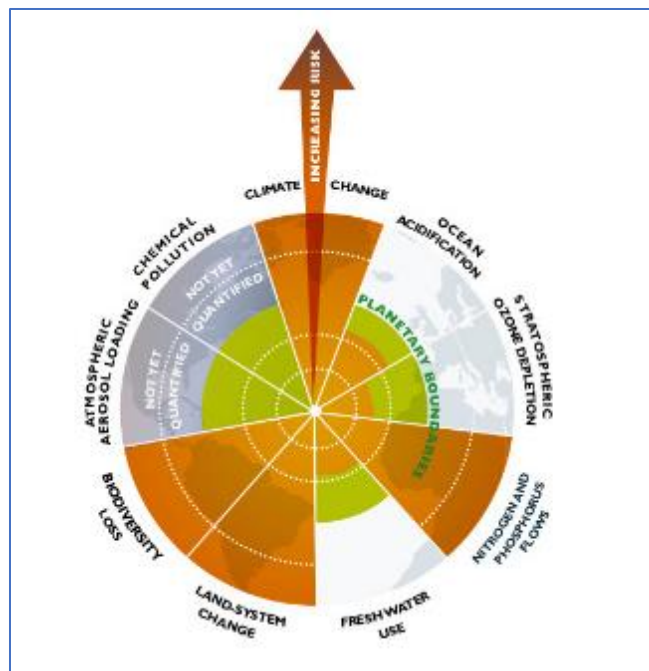


New UNESCO World Heritage site

- ❖ The 45th session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO approved following India's recommendations.
- ❖ Santiniketan, the famed place in West Bengal where poet Rabindranath Tagore built Visva-Bharati over a century ago, also earned the UNESCO tag.
- ❖ The Hoysala temples at Belur, Halebidu and Somanathapur in Karnataka were declared as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- ❖ The Hoysala temples are known for evolving a distinct style that is ornate with temple architecture following a stellate plan built on a raised platform.
- ❖ The material used in temple construction is chloritic schist which is also known as soapstone that are soft and amiable to carving.
- ❖ They are the 42nd site in India and fourth site in Karnataka to get the world heritage tag.
- ❖ Previously, two other groups of monuments of Karnataka at Hampi (1986) and Pattadakal (1987) along with the Ecological hotspot Western Ghats (2012) had the coveted status.
- ❖ The Hoysala rulers ruled over parts of Southern India from the 11th Century to the 14th Century with Halebidu (Dwarasamudra) as their capital.
- ❖ With this successful nomination, India has 42 world heritage properties overall.
- ❖ It includes 34 in the cultural category, seven in the natural category and one mixed property.
- ❖ Presently, India has the sixth largest number of (UNESCO) sites in the world.



Planetary Boundaries



- ❖ Six out of nine planetary boundaries have been breached due to human-caused pollution and destruction of the natural world.
- ❖ The planetary boundaries are a set of frameworks designed by scientists within which humanity can continue to develop and thrive for generations to come.
- ❖ These nine planetary boundaries were first proposed by a group of 29 internationally renowned scientists in 2009.
- ❖ If Earth can manage these nine factors, Earth could be relatively safe.

London's India Club

- ❖ London's India Club is set to close down permanently on September 17 after decades of operations.
- ❖ It was a rest stop for Indians in the United Kingdom during the independence movement.
- ❖ It was started in 1951 by the India League, a British organisation.
- ❖ This organisation started out as an advocate for Indian independence and self-rule (swaraj) and included members of the elite in British society.



P-7 Heavy Drop Parachute System



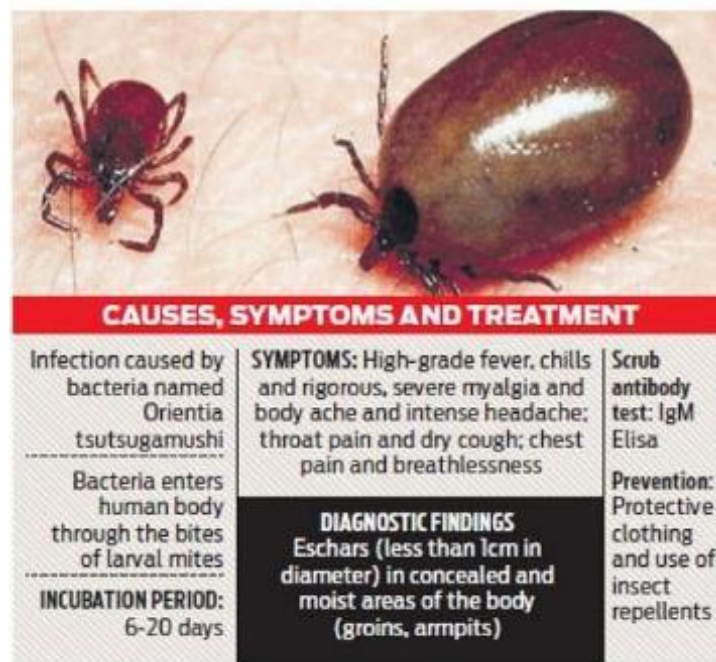
- ❖ This Parachute System was indigenously designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ❖ It is a military parachute system primarily used for the airdrop of heavy equipment, vehicles, and supplies from aircraft.
- ❖ It is set to enhance the paradropping capabilities of the Armed Forces on the battlefield.
- ❖ It has a maximum load-bearing capacity of 8,500 kg and a permitted payload limit of 7,000 kg.

Project Abhinandan

- ❖ The Tata Group-owned Air India has launched 'Project Abhinandan' in a bid to elevate the on-ground experience of travellers.
- ❖ The initiative aims to provide a personalised and hassle-free airport experience to Air India ticket-holders across 16 major Indian airports.
- ❖ Air India has deployed a team of specially trained service assurance officers (SAOs) who will be stationed at strategic touch points inside airports.

Scrub Typhus infections

- ❖ At least five people died in recent weeks in Odisha's Bargarh district due to scrub typhus infection.
- ❖ This acute infectious disease was caused by the parasite *Orientia tsutsugamushi*.
- ❖ Scrub typhus spreads through bites of infected chiggers (larval mites).
- ❖ It is a vector-borne disease and is usually reported in the rainy season during November-July.
- ❖ The common symptoms of the disease include fever, headache, body ache and a black, inflamed mark on the skin.
- ❖ Scrub typhus is predominantly found in Southeast Asia, its associated archipelagoes, northern Australia, and Japan.
- ❖ It was first described in 1899 and extensively studied from 1906 to 1932.



First Airbus C295 Aircraft

- ❖ India received the first of the 56 C295 aircraft, 40 of which will be manufactured in India.
- ❖ This is a part of a partnership between European aviation major Airbus and TATA.
- ❖ This is the first time an Indian private company will manufacture an aircraft.
- ❖ This is Capable of carrying up to nine tonnes of payload or as many as 71 troops at a maximum cruise speed of about 480 kilometres.
- ❖ The C295 can also be used for air-to-air refuelling of choppers and fixed-wing aircraft.



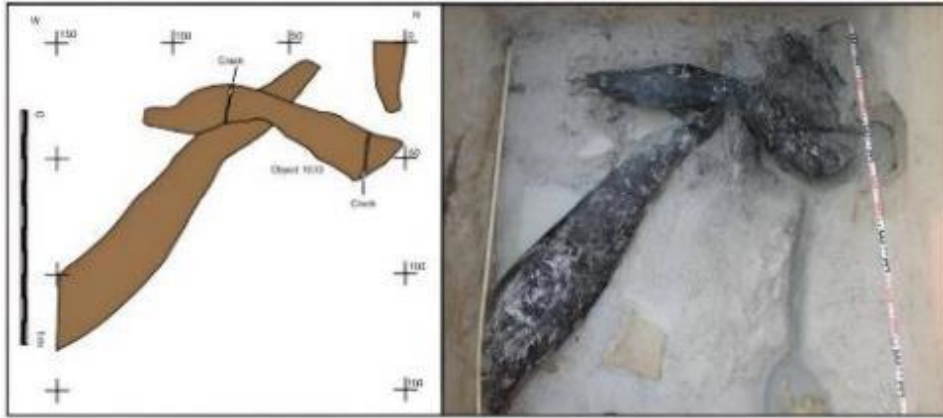
All-Electric Carmaker

- ❖ Volvo Cars will end production of any remaining diesel models by early 2024.
- ❖ This will be marking a step toward its goal of becoming an all-electric carmaker.
- ❖ Volvo has committed to going fully electric by 2030.
- ❖ In August 33 per cent of Volvo's sales were fully-electric or hybrid models.

World's Oldest Wooden Structure

- ❖ Archaeologists have unearthed the oldest known wooden structure, and it's almost half a million years old.
- ❖ The simple structure has been found along a riverbank in Zambia.
- ❖ The structure consists of two interlocking logs from a large-fruited willow tree.
- ❖ It is believed to be the world's oldest known wooden structure.

- ❖ The structure is estimated to be over 476,000 years old.
- ❖ It is pre-dating the existence of modern humans by a significant margin.
- ❖ The structure's age suggests that it may have been crafted by Homo heidelbergensis.
- ❖ This hominin species is believed to have inhabited the area between 700,000 to 200,000 years ago.



Battle of Colachel against the Dutch

- ❖ The Travancore forces got victory over the Dutch East India Company at Colachel in Kanniyakumari district in 1741.
- ❖ New evidence, suggests that the Travancore army had in its service a German sergeant, Carl August Duijvenschot, who had deserted the Dutch East India Company at Kanniyakumari.
- ❖ He played a significant role in the battle of Colachel against the Dutch and their defeat.
- ❖ King Martanda Varma rewarded Duijvenschot appointing him a general in recognition of his services in the siege of Colachel and his successful enlistment of Europeans for the Travancore army.
- ❖ This has written by Mark de Lannoy of Leiden University in his book, The Kulasekhara Perumals of Travancore: History and State Formation in Travancore from 1671 to 1758.

BATTLE OF COLACHEL, 1741

HOW KING MARTHANDA VARMA SERVED THE DEATH BLOW TO DUTCH-RULE IN INDIA

- 1** By the 18th century, the Dutch East India Company had established themselves along the Coromandel coast and Sri Lanka and were trying to monopolize the spice trade.
- 2** The Dutch Governor met Travancore ruler Marthanda Varma and threatened to wage war against him if he did not agree to the Dutch monopoly contracts.
- 3** But King Marthanda Varma deployed his military and the sea-faring Mukkuvar community to cut-off supplies to the Dutch garrison.
- 4** He encircled the Dutch forces at Colachel and defeated them. The Dutch East India Company never recovered from the blow.

