

December - 23

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has been recognised as the top performer in the Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2023 rankings in Coastal states Group.
- ❖ NHAI has introduced the ERS Mobile App to optimize dispatch information to on-road units, ensuring swift responses to emergency calls for prompt assistance.
- ❖ All three Indian Armed Forces officers undergoing the Command and Staff Course at Defence Services Command and Staff College in Sri Lanka have been awarded the 'Golden Owl' for their outstanding performance.
 - The three officers are ranked first amongst the foreign student officers in the Air Force, Army and Navy wings respectively.
- ❖ Real Vision Homes Chairman, Dr. Srinivas Naik Dharavath, was conferred with Global Icon Award at G20 Initiative Summit in Colombo, Sri Lanka
- ❖ The International Gender Equality Prize was awarded to the Afghan Women Skills Development Center.
 - It works to promote and protect the rights of women in Afghanistan.
- ❖ Microsoft has released a new small language model—Phi-2, which has 2.7 billion parameters and is an upgraded version of Phi-1.5.
- ❖ Accenture has launched a Generative AI Studio in Bengaluru, as part of the company's broader strategy to harness advanced AI technology for business optimisation.
- ❖ The Wireless Planning & Coordination Wing (WPC) and Wireless Monitoring Organisation (WMO) celebrates the International Monitoring Station (IMS) Day on December 19, 2023.

TAMIL NADU

Conviction based disqualification

- ❖ The Madras High Court convicted Tamil Nadu Higher Education Minister K. Ponmudy in one of the multiple disproportionate asset cases.
- ❖ According to Section 8(1) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, a legislator convicted of an offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA) should be disqualified for a period of six years, from the date of conviction, if the punishment is limited to a fine.
- ❖ However, if a legislator is sentenced to any term of imprisonment under the PCA, then he or she should be disqualified from the date of conviction till the entire

period of imprisonment and also for a further period of six years from the date of release.

- ❖ The disqualification can be avoided only if the conviction, and not just the sentence, gets stayed or set aside.
- ❖ He is third T.N. legislator to face disqualification in past 10 years.
- ❖ The first legislator to be disqualified was Jayalalithaa in September 2014, followed by then Sports and Youth Welfare Minister P. Balakrishna Reddy in 2019.

WHAT THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT SAYS

SECTION 8(1) A person convicted for promoting enmity between different groups, rape, terrorist acts, insulting national flag etc stands disqualified for six years on mere conviction.

SECTION 8(2) A person convicted for hoarding, dowry offences etc. incurs disqualification if he is sentenced to at least six months for the offences. The bar continues for six years after release from jail.

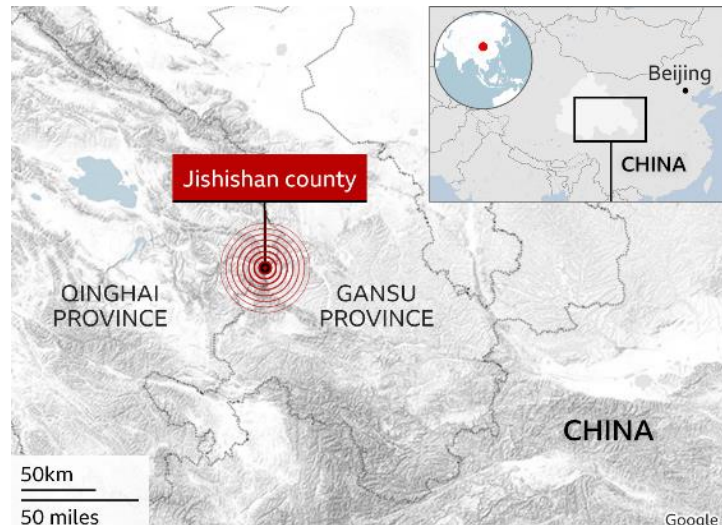
SECTION 8(3) A person con-

victed of any other offence incurs disqualification if he is sentenced to an imprisonment of not less than two years. The disqualification continues till six years after release.

SECTION 8(4) Protects sitting MPs and MLAs from being disqualification under the above provisions. If they file an appeal within three months, they can continue as a member of the House till the completion of the term or till the decision on appeal, whichever is earlier.

INTERNATIONAL

Earthquake in China



- ❖ A deadly earthquake in China has killed at least 126 people and injured many in the north-western part of the country.

- ❖ The earthquake measured 6.2 on the Richter scale, while the US Geological Survey recorded a magnitude of 5.9 and depth of 10 km.
- ❖ The quake is the deadliest to have hit China in nearly a decade, when more than 600 people died in southwestern Yunnan province in 2014.
- ❖ Sichuan province witnessed a devastating magnitude 7.9 earthquake in 2008 that killed some 90,000 people.
- ❖ In 1920, around 2,30,000 people reportedly died after a 7.8-magnitude quake struck Gansu province.
- ❖ Later in 1927, over 41,000 people died in an earthquake of 7.6 magnitude.
- ❖ China sits in a region where the Eurasian, Indian and Pacific plates meet and is therefore prone to earthquakes.

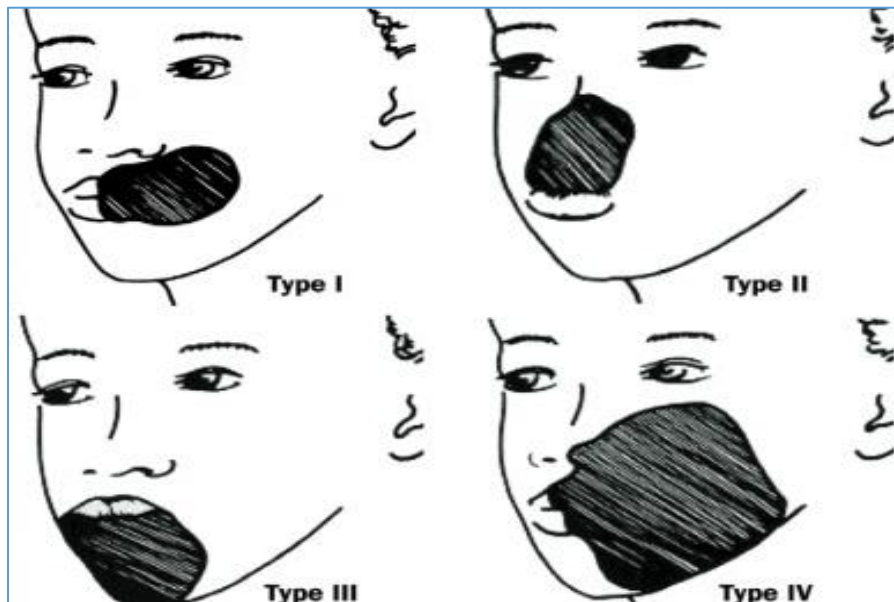
Gelephu Smart city Project



- ❖ Bhutan plans to build a massive “international city” in an area of over 1,000 sq. km. on its border with Assam.
- ❖ This project will be an “economic corridor connecting South Asia with Southeast Asia via India’s northeastern States”.
- ❖ The Government of India agreed to build the first India-Bhutan railway line to Gelephu.

- ❖ It would also connect with roadways and border trading and crossing points into Assam and West Bengal.
- ❖ Over time, it will provide Bhutan access to Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, and Singapore.

Noma Disease

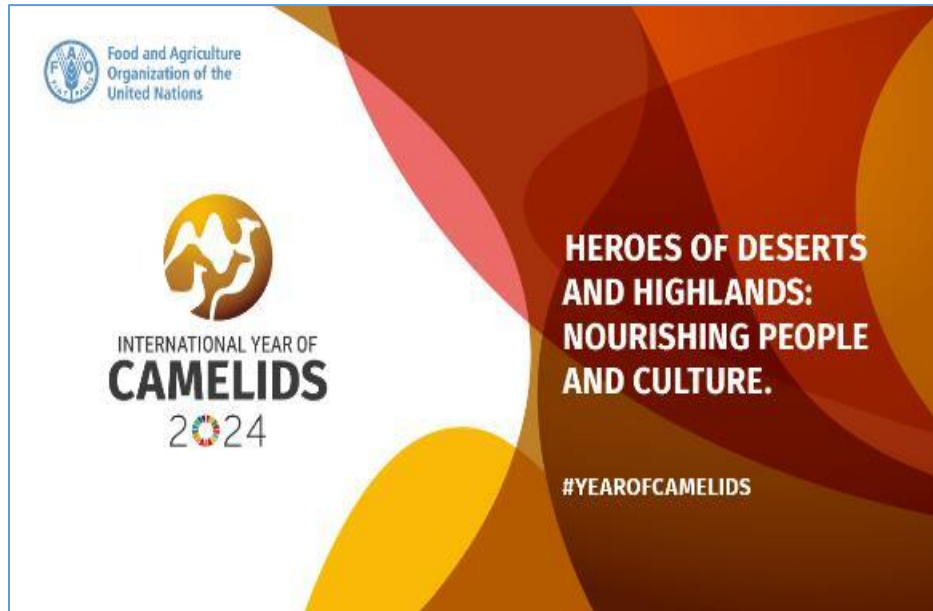


- ❖ The World Health Organization added Noma, to its official list of neglected tropical diseases (NTD).
- ❖ Noma is also known as cancrum oris or gangrenous stomatitis.
- ❖ It is a severe gangrenous disease of the mouth and face with a mortality rate of approximately 90 per cent.
- ❖ It is also associated with extreme poverty, malnutrition and poor access to sanitation and oral hygiene.
- ❖ Noma mainly affects children aged 2-6 years old and is found most commonly among those living in poor communities.
- ❖ WHO website estimates 140,000 cases per year and a prevalence of 770,000 cases.

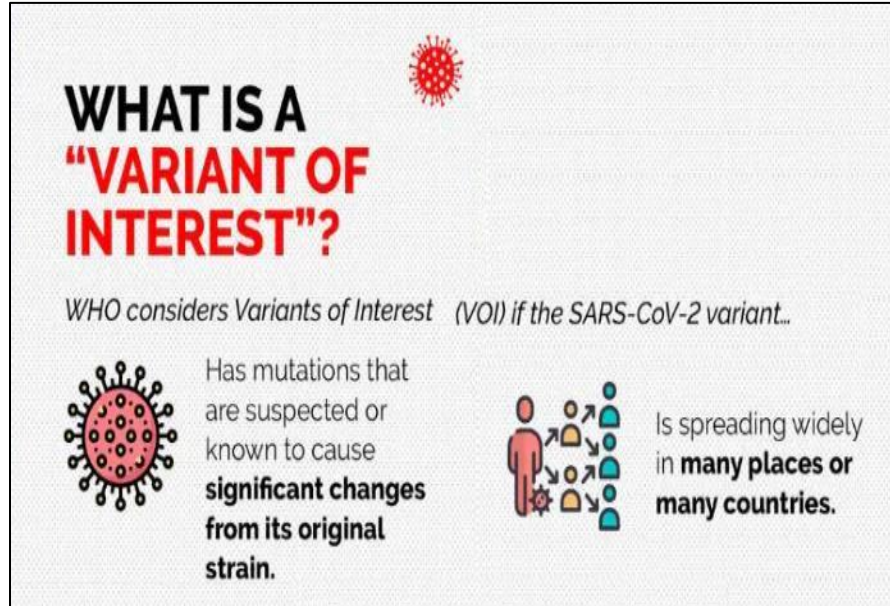
International Year of Camelids

- ❖ The United Nations has designated 2024 as the International Year Of Camelids (IYC 2024).
- ❖ The next year will highlight camelids' crucial role towards different communities.

- ❖ It will also make people aware of how camelids are key to the livelihoods of many households in hostile environments across more than 90 nations.



JN.1 Variant of COVID-19 Virus



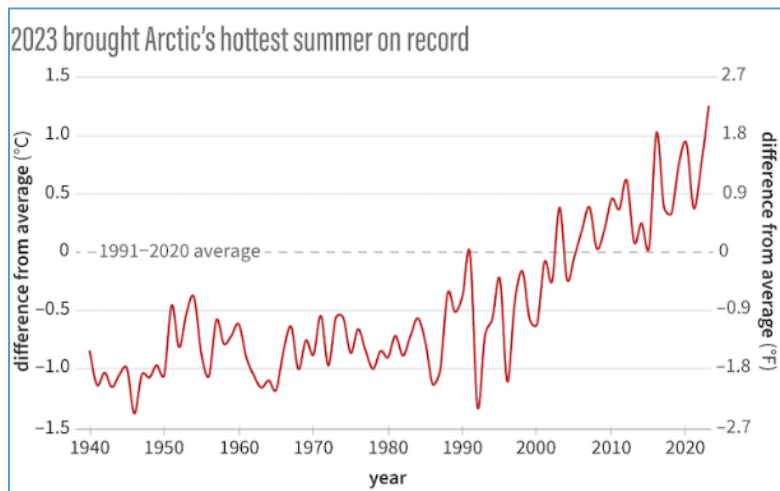
- ❖ A The JN.1 variant new COVID-19 variant has been classified as a "variant of interest" by the World Health Organisation
- ❖ The new variant did not pose much threat to public health.
- ❖ Initially it identified in Luxembourg.

- ❖ It is a descendant of the Pirola variant (BA.2.86), which has its origins in the Omicron sub-variant.

ENVIRONMENT

Arctic Report Card for 2023

- ❖ The year 2023 shattered the record for the warmest summer in the Arctic.
- ❖ Temperatures in the Arctic have been rising more than three times faster than the global average.
- ❖ Greenland's ice sheet summit recorded melting in late June, only its fifth melting event on record.
- ❖ Sea surface temperatures in the Barents, Kara, Laptev and Beaufort seas were 9 to 12 degrees Fahrenheit (5 to 7 degrees Celsius) above normal in August.
- ❖ Snow accumulation during the winter of 2022-23 was above average across much the Arctic.
- ❖ Shifts in wind patterns and increasingly intense ocean storms.
- ❖ Yukon River Chinook have decreased in size by about 6% since the 1970s.



Chum Salmon's Migration

- ❖ Chum salmon, a species of anadromous salmonid fish, have found a new location to spawn—the Arctic waters.
- ❖ Chum salmon are said to be anadromous, which means they hatch in freshwater streams and rivers.
- ❖ Then they migrate out to the saltwater environment of the ocean to feed and grow.

- ❖ They do not reside in fresh water for an extended period.
- ❖ Due to the climate change, the Arctic is becoming conducive for them to breed in large numbers.



SPORTS

Khelo India Para Games 2023

- ❖ On the first-ever Khelo India Para Games, Haryana bagged top honours with a total of 105 medals including 40 gold, 39 silver and 26 bronze medals.
- ❖ Finishing second was Uttar Pradesh, with a total of 62 medals, including 25 gold, 23 silver and 14 bronze.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu finished third with 20 gold, eight silver and 14 bronze medals.

KIPG 2023 medal winners					
Rank	State	Gold medals	Silver medals	Bronze medals	Total medals
1	Haryana	40	39	26	105
2	Uttar Pradesh	25	23	14	62
3	Tamil Nadu	20	8	14	42
4	Gujarat	15	22	20	57
5	Maharashtra	12	7	16	35

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Human Solidarity Day 2023 - December 20

- ❖ It aims to celebrate the ideal of unity in diversity and raise public awareness regarding the importance of solidarity.



- ❖ On December 20, 2002, the General Assembly had established the World Solidarity Fund.
- ❖ On December 22, 2005, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed this day.

