

January - 03

NATIONAL

Proposal to Shift from “Minimum” to “Living” Wages

- ❖ The Union Labour Ministry is currently mulling to shift from the “minimum wages” to “living wages” in a bid to bring more people from poverty in the country.
- ❖ The term “living wage” is the theoretical income level that enables an individual or a family to afford adequate shelter, food, healthcare and other basic necessities.
- ❖ It is the minimum income of that helps support a satisfactory standard of living and prevents individuals from falling into poverty.
- ❖ A living wage is defined as the minimum income necessary for workers to meet their basic necessities.
- ❖ It is different from the minimum wage, which is based on labor productivity and skill sets.
- ❖ Minimum wage is the lowest amount of money a labourer can earn as mandated by the law.
- ❖ It does not change based on inflation. It can increase only with the government intervention.
- ❖ This is not true for the living wage.
- ❖ The living wage is determined by the average cost to live comfortably, while the minimum wage is the fixed amount set by the government.

Official Government of India Calendar for 2023



- ❖ The Union Minister Anurag Thakur has released the Official Government of India Calendar for the year 2023.
- ❖ It includes 12 themes for 12 months to showcase the various efforts taken by the Indian Government to ensure the welfare of the public.
- ❖ Overall, this calendar reflects the Indian Government's vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas.
- ❖ It is created based on the theme 'Naya Varsh, Naye Sankalp'.
- ❖ This calendar is available in 13 languages, including English and Hindi.

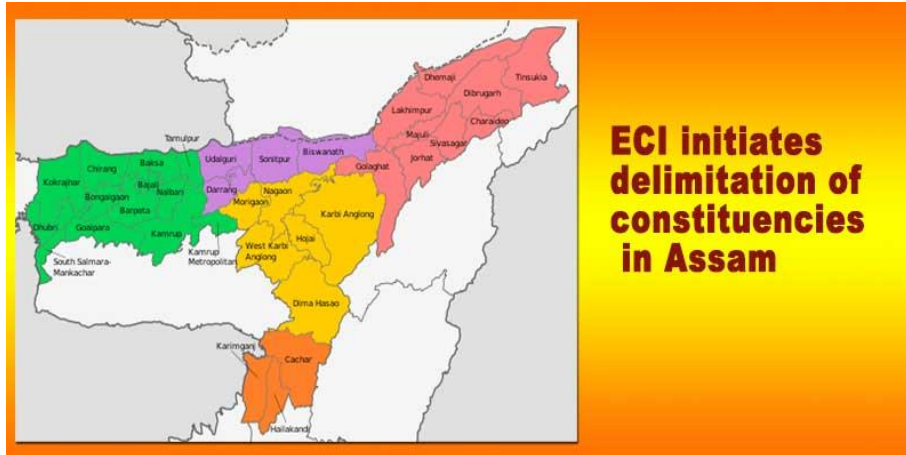
Early Warning System



- ❖ The Union Ministry of Power and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to set up early warning systems for vulnerable hydro projects or power stations in the hilly regions.
- ❖ Currently, the majority of hydropower projects and dams in hilly regions do not have early warning systems.
- ❖ An early warning system (EWS) is an integrated system of
 - Hazard monitoring, forecasting and prediction
 - Disaster risk assessment
 - Communication and preparedness activities system

- Processes that enable individuals, communities, governments, and businesses to take timely action to minimize disaster risks.

Delimitation of Constituencies in Assam

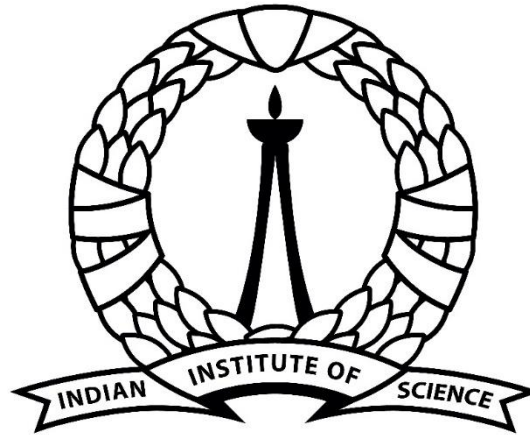


- ❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) recently commenced the process of delimitation of state assembly and parliamentary constituencies of Assam.
- ❖ The last delimitation in Assam happened in 1976.
- ❖ The current delimitation exercise is being conducted based on the 1971 Census.
- ❖ Delimitation is the process of redrawing boundaries of state assembly seats and the Lok Sabha seats to represent the changing population numbers.
- ❖ The main purpose of the delimitation exercise is to ensure equal representation to equal segments of a population.
- ❖ Since the population does not increase uniformly, delimitation reflects the changes in the distribution of the population over a period of time.
- ❖ The Delimitation Commission is an independent commission responsible for conducting delimitation exercises.
- ❖ It is set up by the Central Government under the Delimitation Commission Act.
- ❖ This commission jointly works with the Election Commission of India (ECI) to conduct the delimitation.
- ❖ It includes a retired Supreme Court Judge, the Chief Election Commissioner and the respective state's State Election Commissioners.
- ❖ Article 82 of the Constitution requires the Indian Parliament to enact a Delimitation Act after every Census.
- ❖ Once this Act is in force, the Central Government must set up a Delimitation Commission.



- ❖ A total of 4 Delimitation Commissions have been set up in the past (1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002).
- ❖ The 2002 Act did not make any changes in the total number of Lok Sabha seats or their apportionment between various states.
- ❖ It left out Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur from the delimitation exercise due to security concerns.
- ❖ The Indian Government reconstituted the Delimitation Commission for these 4 states and the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir in 2020.
- ❖ The last delimitation exercise that changed the state-wise composition of the Lok Sabha happened in 1976.
- ❖ It was conducted based on the 1971 census.
- ❖ The delimitation exercises were not conducted frequently in the recent past.
- ❖ This is because the Indian Constitution mandates that the number of Lok Sabha seats allocated to a state should be (as far as it is achievable) same for all states.
- ❖ To address this issue, the Indian Constitution was amended in 1976 to suspend the delimitation until 2001.
- ❖ Another amendment was enacted to delay the delimitation exercise further until 2026.

G20 Science Working Group's Secretariat



भारतीय विज्ञान संस्थान

- ❖ The Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has been chosen as the secretariat for science 20 (S20).
- ❖ It will work towards resolving common global-level challenges like poverty.

- ❖ It will be discussed at the events that will be held in Agartala, Lakshadweep, and Bhopal throughout the year of 2023.
- ❖ The S20 summit, which will be held in Coimbatore, will bring together all the science ministers from the G20 countries.
- ❖ The theme of the Science 20 (S20) 2023 is ‘Disruptive Science for Innovative and Sustainable Development’.

INTERNATIONAL

Japan’s new Policy

- ❖ Japan has adopted a new policy promoting greater use of nuclear energy to secure a stable power supply and reduce carbon emissions.
- ❖ It was reversing its previous plan to phase out nuclear energy by 2030.
- ❖ The new policy calls for the maximum use of existing nuclear reactors by restarting as many as possible and extending the operating life of old reactors beyond their 60-year limit
- ❖ Anti-nuclear sentiment and safety concerns rose significantly in Japan after the 2011 Fukushima disaster.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

‘GNB1 Encephalopathy’ Disease

	Gβ1 WT vs mutants		
	Gβ1 WT	Gβ1 K78R	Gβ1 I80N & I80T
Gβ1 protein levels	RNA ↓ Gβ1 protein	Gain of Expression	Partial Loss of Expression
GIRK single channel activity	K ⁺	GIRK1/2 Partial Loss of Function	GIRK2 Loss of Function
Whole-cell GIRK currents		Gain of Function	Loss of Function
Rescue		GIRK inhibitors	GIRK activators

- ❖ Researchers in India, the US and Israel are currently trying to develop a drug to treat a rare genetic disease called GNB1 Encephalopathy.
- ❖ GNB1 Encephalopathy is a rare genetic brain disease caused due to mutations in the GNB1 gene.
- ❖ Less than 100 cases of GNB1 Encephalopathy have been recorded worldwide.

REPORTS AND INDICES

The State of the World's Midwifery 2022: East and Southern Africa

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

The State of the World's Midwifery 2022

EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA



- ❖ The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and World Health Organization (WHO) released this report.
- ❖ Around 1.2 million lives can be saved each year in East and Southern Africa by 2035 if there is universal coverage of midwife-delivered interventions.

- ❖ A strong midwifery workforce is vital for successfully achieving UNFPA strategies for improving sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, and adolescent health (SRMNAH).

2022 in Nine Charts

- ❖ This report was released recently by the World Bank.
- ❖ At the end of 2022, the world is experiencing the “steepest slowdown” in the Global poverty since 1970.
- ❖ Currently, 685 million people are living in extreme poverty.
- ❖ This makes 2022 the second-worst year for poverty reduction in the past 20 years after the year 2020.

