

March - 09

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela held in New Delhi under the theme of 'nutrition, food grains and environmental protection through coarse grains'.

TAMIL NADU

Keezhadi museum



- ❖ The Keezhadi museum, constructed in Chetti nadu architectural style was inaugurated by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin at the excavation site, Sivagangai District.
- ❖ The museum contains artefacts unearthed from the Keezhadi excavation sites since 2018.
- ❖ Keezhadi had the ancient civilisation that thrived on the banks of the Vaigai.
- ❖ Vaigai riverbed was urbanised during the early 6th century BCE, around the same time that the Ganges civilisation was urbanised.
- ❖ Artefacts classified into categories of Keezhadi and Madurai, Agrarian and Water Management, Ceramic Industry, Weaving and Iron Industry, Sea Trade and Lifestyle.
- ❖ The excavations at Keeladi pushed the Sangam Age to 6th Century BCE from the earlier assessment of between 3rd Century BCE and 3rd Century CE.

- ❖ More than 1000 symbols and 60 pot shells with lettering in Thamizhi, an ancient Tamil script, have been found.
- ❖ The ASI carried out explorations at 293 sites along the Vaigai Valley in Theni, Dindigul, Madurai, Sivagangai and Ramanathapuram districts in 2013-14.
- ❖ The excavation was carried out at Pallichanthai Thidal of Keeladi.
- ❖ The State Department of Archaeology took over from the fourth season in 2018.
- ❖ From the sixth season, Konthagai, Agaram and Manalur were added as clusters of Keeladi.
- ❖ While Konthagai is largely a burial site, Agaram and Manalur show the existence of an active human habitation.

St. Anthony's feast Katchchatheevu



- ❖ The Annual St. Anthony's feast will be held at the Katchchatheevu island in Sri Lanka.
- ❖ Indian pilgrims have reached the island to participate in the feast.
- ❖ Over 2400 pilgrims have reached the island and an equal number will join from the Sri Lankan side.
- ❖ Katchchatheevu is the 163-acre uninhabited island near Jaffna.
- ❖ The shrine of St. Anthony is the only structure on the island.

- ❖ It was built by a prosperous Indian Catholic TAMILIAN fisherman in the early 20th century.

NATIONAL

AIRS Fellowship Program



- ❖ More than 60 Australian and Indian emerging researchers have been awarded an Australia India Research Students Fellowship for 2023.
- ❖ The AIRS Fellowship Program is a bilateral program between India and Australia.
- ❖ It is part of the Update to the India Economic Strategy to 2035 action plan that seeks to strengthen academic relations.
- ❖ It is led by Australia India Institute.
- ❖ The funding for this program is provided by the Australian Government Department of Education.
- ❖ It promotes research collaborations and student mobility between India and Australia.
- ❖ It is to see collaboration among 22 Australian universities and 37 Indian higher education institutes.

National Conference on Economics of Competition Law

- ❖ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) hosted its 8th annual National Conference on Economics of Competition Law.
- ❖ The Conference is being organised every year since 2016 by the CCI.
- ❖ The Conference has a plenary session and two technical sessions.

- ❖ The Plenary at this year's Conference is on the topic 'Antitrust and Regulation: Interfaces and Synergies'.



DUSTLIK 2023



- ❖ India-Uzbekistan 15-day joint military exercise DUSTLIK was concluded in Uttarakhand.
- ❖ This was the fourth edition of the biennial exercise DUSTLIK, meaning friendship in Uzbek.
- ❖ The first edition of the joint military exercise took place in Tashkent in 2019.

- ❖ It aims at enhancing military capability to undertake multi-domain operations in a Sub Conventional scenario under United Nations Mandate.

INTERNATIONAL

IDEX and NAVDEX



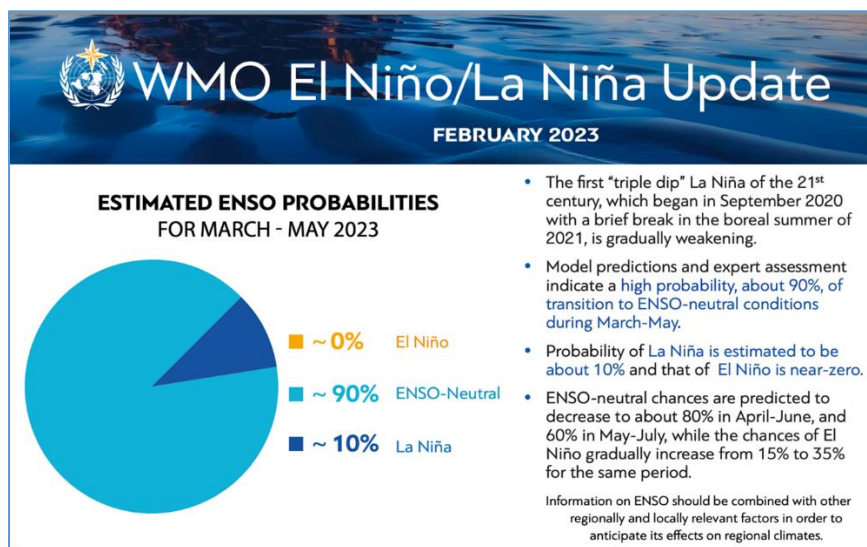
- ❖ Indian Navy has sent INS Sumedha to participate in NAVDEX 23 (Naval Defence Exhibition) and IDEX 23 (International Defence Exhibition).
- ❖ The IDEX-UAE is considered to be a strategically important tri-service defence exhibition internationally.
- ❖ This is the only international defence exhibition and conference which takes place in the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA) region.
- ❖ It displays the latest, state of the art technology available globally in the defence sector – across land, sea and air.
- ❖ INS Sumedha is the 3rd ship of the indigenously built Saryu class Naval Offshore Patrol Vessels (NOPV) which was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 2014.

ENVIRONMENT

ENSO Update

- ❖ As per the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) updates, a warming El Nino event may develop in the coming months.

- ❖ The El Nino event may develop after three consecutive years of an unusually stubborn and protracted La Nina.
- ❖ It will influence temperature and rainfall patterns in different parts of the world.
- ❖ The year 2016 is currently the warmest on record because of the combination of El Nino and climate change.
- ❖ There is a 93% likelihood of at least one year until 2026 being the warmest on record.
- ❖ The current La Nina began in September 2020 with a brief break in the boreal summer of 2021.
- ❖ La Nina has the opposite impacts on weather and climate as El Nino in affected regions.
- ❖ La Nina has been associated with the persistent drought in the Greater Horn of Africa and large parts of South America as well as above average rainfall in South East Asia and Australasia.

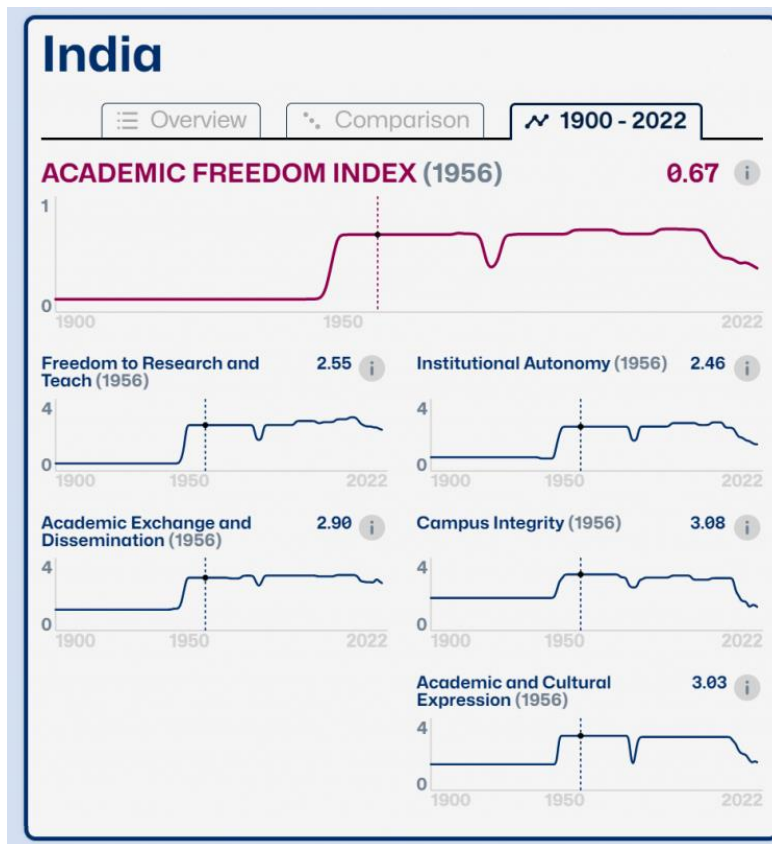


REPORTS AND INDICES

Academic Freedom Index 2023

- ❖ This report was compiled by Swedish think tank V-Dem Institute and the Institute of Political Science at the Friedrich Alexander University in Germany.
- ❖ The report provides an overview of academic freedom in 179 countries by assessing five indicators.
- ❖ India's academic freedom index is in the bottom 30% among 179 countries in 2022.

- ❖ India is among 22 countries and territories out of 179 in the world that achieved this feat.
- ❖ India's immediate neighbours Nepal (0.86), Pakistan (0.45) and Bhutan (0.46) scored higher than India whereas Bangladesh (0.25) and Myanmar (0.01) scored lower than India.
- ❖ India's freedom index score was high in the past, ranging from 0.60-0.70 between 1950 and 2012.
- ❖ Only five small countries (Gambia, Uzbekistan, Seychelles, Montenegro, and Kazakhstan) improved their rankings.



STATES

Bhojpur's Millet Festival

- ❖ The Bhojpur's Millet Festival was organized in Bihar.
- ❖ It aims to increase the awareness among the people towards Shree Anna.
- ❖ Bihar is known to produce Jowar, Bajra, Ragi and Small Millets.
- ❖ India accounts for 20% of the global millet production and 80% of Asia's millet output.

- ❖ However, millets still account for a mere 3% of the world grain trade.



SPORTS

Hyderabad Formula E-Championship



- ❖ The Hyderabad ePrix is a race of the single-seater, electrically powered Formula E race held in Hyderabad.
- ❖ It was first held as part of the 2022–23 Formula E World Championship season and was the first Formula E race to be held in the country.
- ❖ Two-time Formula E world champion Jean-Eric Vergne won the championship.

2026 FIFA World Cup

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- ❖ The three countries won the right to host the World Cup in a united North American bid.
- ❖ FIFA usually allows host nations to surpass qualification rounds.
- ❖ This is the first time FIFA had to set aside three host bids.
- ❖ The tournament is set to expand from 32 teams to 48 in 2026.

