

November - 29

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Nagaswaram player M.P.N. Ponnusamy, who shot to fame after playing for Thillana Mohanambal, starring Sivaji Ganesan in the lead role, passed away recently.
- ❖ Irish author Paul Lynch has won the 2023 Booker prize for his fifth novel Prophet Song.
- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu Sunday unveiled a statue of Dr B R Ambedkar in the Supreme Court premises on the occasion of Constitution Day.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first Prime Minister to fly in fighter aircraft, Tejas as he took a sortie trainer version.

TAMIL NADU

Health walk stretch



- ❖ Chief Minister launched the 'health walk' initiative in Chennai and 37 districts.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is the first State to have an 8-km stretch in every district for walking.
- ❖ It is inspired by an eight-km walking track of Tokyo, Japan.
- ❖ Walking for eight kilometres everyday equals 10,000 steps.

INTERNATIONAL

8th wonder of the world

- ❖ Angkor Wat, in the heart of Cambodia, has beaten Pompeii in Italy to become the eighth Wonder of the World.

- ❖ Eighth Wonder of the World is an unofficial title given to new buildings or projects or designs, among others.
- ❖ Built in the 12th century by King Suryavarman II, Angkor Wat was originally dedicated to the Hindu deity Vishnu.
- ❖ However, overtime, it was transformed into a Buddhist temple.
- ❖ The transition from Hinduism to Buddhism is evident in the intricate carvings that adorn the temple walls, depicting scenes from Hindu and Buddhist mythology.



REPORTS AND INDICES

Butterfly Migration in Tamil Nadu 2023

- ❖ Butterfly migration from the Eastern Ghats and plains towards the Western Ghats, an annual phenomenon coinciding with the onset of the Northeast monsoon, was below par this year.
- ❖ Large scale movement of butterflies towards the west not recorded till date since September, possibly due to below normal rainfall in west zone districts.
- ❖ Before the onset of the Northeast monsoon, butterflies from the subfamily Danainae, such as Blue Tiger, Dark Blue Tiger, Double-branded Crow, and Common Crow (commonly known as 'Tigers and Crows'), leave these hills and fly towards the west.
- ❖ But observers saw only a low scale migration of Tigers and Crows since September this year.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu had a rainfall of 92% of its normal level (June-September 2023).

- ❖ While the districts involved in the migratory movement in the west zone, especially Salem and Namakkal, had a deficit of 7% and 10%.



Melanistic pelicans

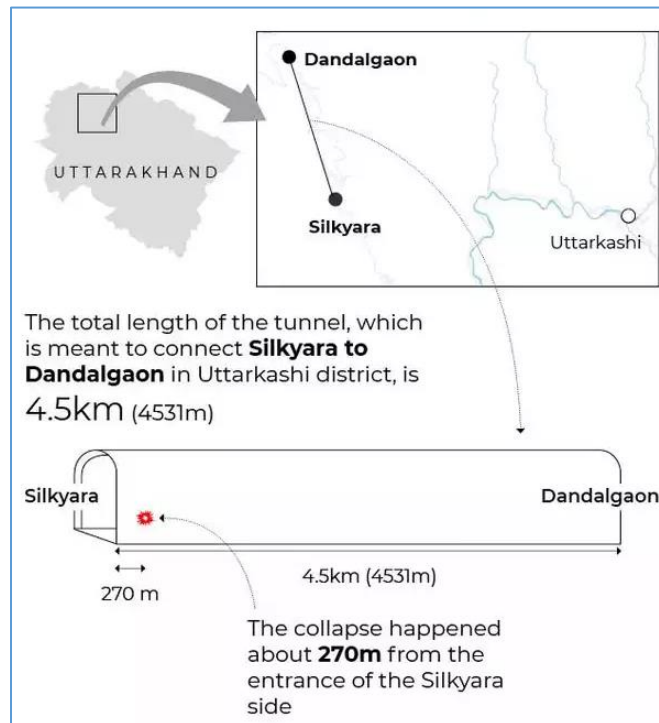


- ❖ Two pelicans with aberrant plumage were reportedly spotted at Pallikaranai marshland recently.
- ❖ These pelicans, brownish in colour, were near a flock of spot-billed pelicans but appeared to be isolated from them.
- ❖ The brown pelican is a different species that lives in the southern coasts of the United States and are not migratory.
- ❖ In 2005, two unusual, brightly-coloured pelicans were sighted at Pulicat lake and Nelapattu bird sanctuary.

- ❖ The brown could be melanism – a condition that causes birds to have an excess of dark pigmentation.

STATES

Uttarakhand Tunnel Crash rescue



- ❖ A successful rescue operation by NDRF and SDRF teams has led to the extraction of all the 41 workers who were trapped inside the Silkyara tunnel in Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The authorities, till now, have used multiple techniques to bring the workers out of the tunnel section.
- ❖ Among the different rescue techniques, rat-hole mining (manual drilling) is considered to be the most dangerous and risky.
- ❖ Rat-hole miners were the last resort of the rescue operation after the US-made auger machine was extracted from the tunnel after it went kaput.
- ❖ Rat-hole mining is a method of taking out coal by digging small pits.
- ❖ It involves manually digging up small tunnels, around 3-4 feet, through which workers enter and extract coal.
- ❖ But it was banned by NGT in 2014 as a coal-extracting method for being unscientific.

- ❖ Rat hole mining is largely prevalent in Meghalaya, particularly West Jaintia Hills, East Jaintia Hills and West Khasi Hills.

Bihar's demand for Special Category Status



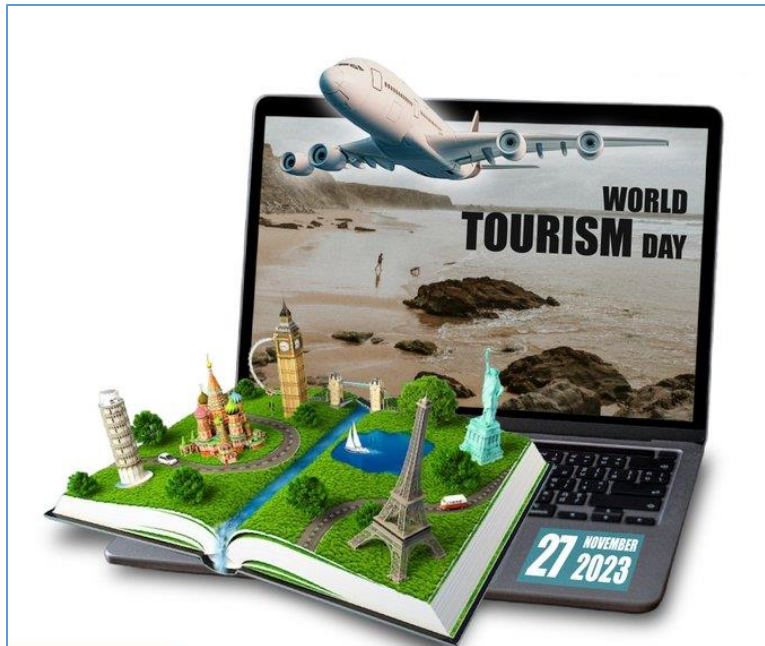
- ❖ The state Cabinet passed a resolution seeking the grant of special category status (SCS) to Bihar.
- ❖ The demand comes in the backdrop of the findings from the “Bihar Caste-based Survey, 2022”.
- ❖ It revealed that nearly one-third of Bihar’s population continues to live in poverty.
- ❖ Special category status is a classification granted by the Centre to assist the development of States that face geographical or socio-economic disadvantages.
- ❖ The SCS was introduced in 1969 on the recommendation of the fifth Finance Commission (FC).
- ❖ Five factors such as
 - Hilly and difficult terrain
 - Low population density and/or sizeable share of tribal population
 - Strategic location along international borders
 - Economic and infrastructural backwardness and
 - Non-viable nature of state finances, are considered before granting SCS.

IMPORTANT DAYS

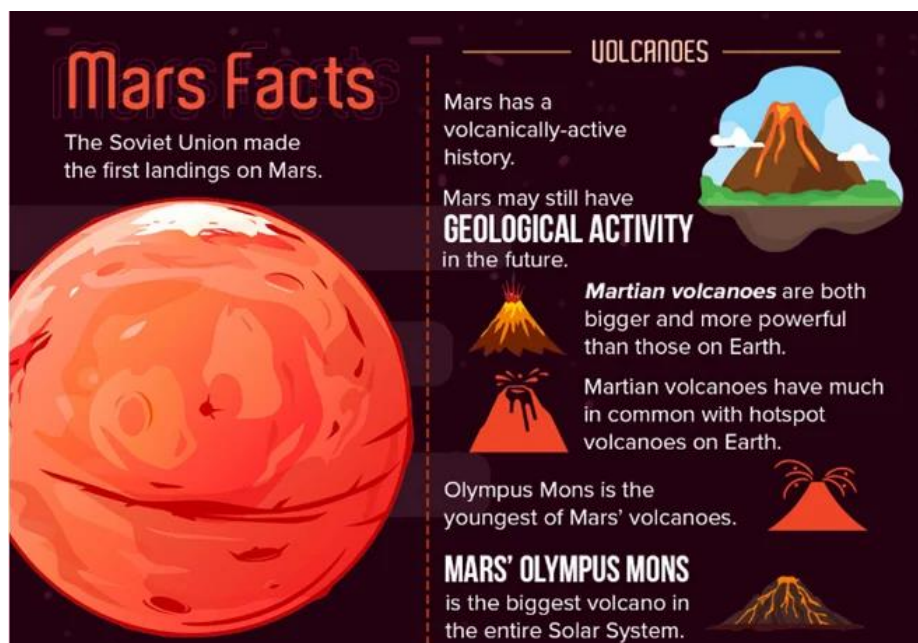
World Tourism Day 2023 - November 27

- ❖ It aims to promote the importance of tourism all over the world and make people aware of the fun and joy related to traveling.

- ❖ This day marks the anniversary of the adoption of statutes by the World Tourism Organisation.
- ❖ The World Tourism Organisation announced this Day in 1979.
- ❖ The theme for this year is Tourism and Green Investments.



Red Planet Day 2023 - November 28



- ❖ This day mark the launch of Mariner 4, the first aircraft to land on Mars in 1964.

- ❖ Mariner 4 helped humans see images showing lunar-type impact craters, some of them touched with frost.
- ❖ Mars is known as the Red Planet because its surface is coated in rusty red soil, rock and dust formed of iron oxide.
- ❖ The Red Planet has two moons, called Deimos and Phobos.
- ❖ It is the fourth planet from the sun. Mars is approximately 227,936,637 kilometres (141 million miles) from the sun and from Earth.
- ❖ It would take 300 days (about eight months) to reach it.

International Jaguar Day 2023 - November 29



- ❖ It brings attention to the myriad conservation efforts led by governments, organisations and individuals.
- ❖ In 1973, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) classified jaguars as an endangered species.
- ❖ The date, November 29, was chosen to coincide with the birthday of Liso, a jaguar rehabilitated by the Belize Zoo, in Central America.

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People 2023 - November 29

- ❖ On that day, in 1947, the Assembly adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine.

- ❖ In 1977, the General Assembly called for the annual observance of this day.
- ❖ The UNGA has organised an exhibit to commemorate the Palestinian Nakba (catastrophe), event which took place during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.
- ❖ During this time more than half of the Palestinian people were expelled from, or fled their homes and became refugees.
- ❖ Before the Nakba, Palestine was a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural society.
- ❖ 2023 marked the occasion of 75th Anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba

