

October - 16

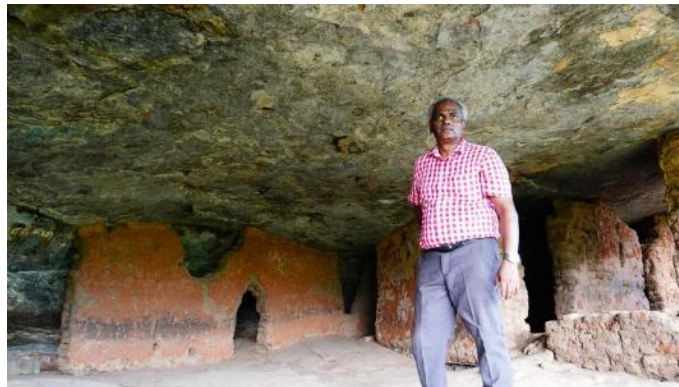
TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Karthyayani Amma (101), a celebrity elderly learner and recipient of the Union government's Nari Shakti Puraskar from Kerala passed away recently.
- ❖ H.H. Manikanta broke the men's 100m National record in the 62nd National Open athletics championships held at Bengaluru with a timing of 10.23s.
 - He broke the Amiya Mallick's mark of 10.26 secs set in 2016.

TAMIL NADU

Ambur Jain Cave

- ❖ The Arma Malai, which houses the Eighth Century Jain cave, will soon be declared a monument by the State government.
- ❖ It is located at Malayampattu village near Ambur town in Tirupathur district.
- ❖ At present only the cave was a monument for its natural formation and paintings on its walls.
- ❖ The cave paintings resemble those found in Sittannavasal, a rock-cut cave in Pudukkottai district, especially with regard to the style of using colours.
- ❖ At present, the TNSDA has 93 monuments in the State with Madurai having the highest number of 16 monuments.



NATIONAL

Royalty Rates for Critical Minerals

- ❖ The Centre approved royalty rate for lithium, niobium, and for Rare Earth Elements (REEs).

- ❖ For lithium and niobium, a royalty rate of 3% each has been fixed, while for Rare Earth Elements (REEs), the rate has been set at 1%.
- ❖ For this, the Union Cabinet approved amendment of Second Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act).
- ❖ Prior to the amendment, the Second Schedule of the MMDR Act mandated a royalty rate of 12% of ASP for all minerals not specifically provided a royalty rate.



Operation Ajay



- ❖ The first charter flight to repatriate Indian citizens stranded in Israel amid the ongoing war arrived in New Delhi.
- ❖ The flight was carrying 212 Indian passengers from Israel under 'Operation Ajay'.

- ❖ Notably, there are around 18,000 Indians in Israel including students, professionals, and traders.

Performance of Information Commissions in India

Case backlog

The time taken to dispose a complaint filed was computed using the average monthly disposal rate and the pendency

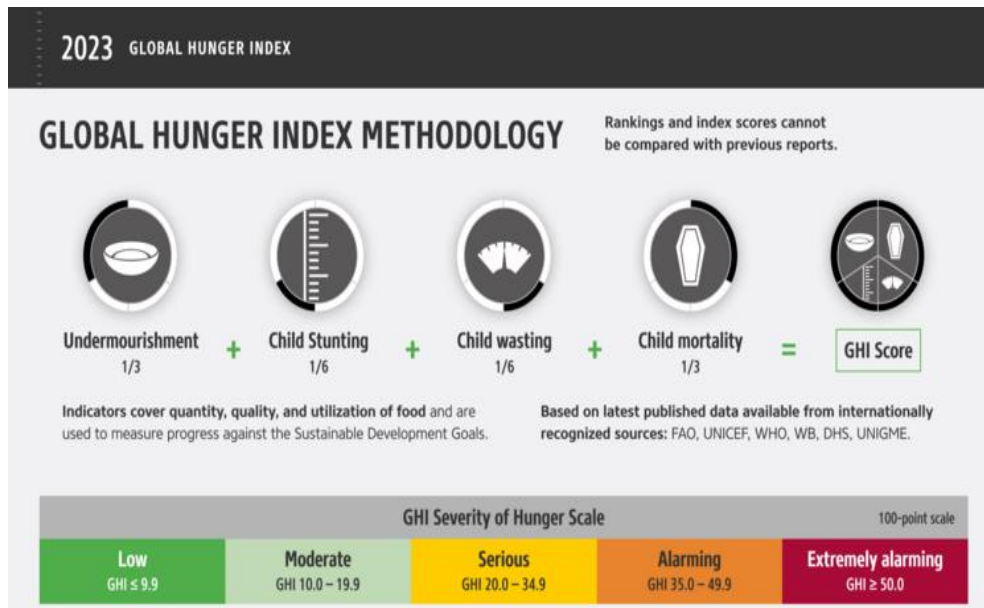
Information Commission	Estimated time for disposal
West Bengal	24 years and 1 month
Chhattisgarh	4 years and 4 months
Maharashtra	4 years
Arunachal Pradesh	2 years and 11 months
Odisha	2 years and 7 months
Madhya Pradesh	1 year and 11 months
Karnataka	1 year and 11 months
Telangana	1 year and 7 months
Kerala	1 year
Himachal Pradesh	1 year

- ❖ The 'Report Card on the Performance of Information Commissions in India, 2022-23' was released recently.
- ❖ A total of 3,21,537 appeals and complaints are pending in 27 State Information Commissions across the country.
- ❖ The maximum number of pending appeals was in Maharashtra (1,15,524), followed by Karnataka (41,047).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu declined to provide the information.
- ❖ Four Information Commissions — Jharkhand, Telangana, Mizoram and Tripura — are defunct as no new Information Commissioners were appointed upon incumbents demitting office.
- ❖ Six state Information Commissions are currently headless.
- ❖ West Bengal State Information Commission (SIC) would take an estimated 24 years and one month to dispose a matter.
- ❖ In Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra, the estimated time taken by SICs for disposing of an appeal or complaint is over four years.

- ❖ In Odisha and Arunachal Pradesh, it is over two years.
- ❖ October 12, 2023 marks 18 years of implementation of the RTI Act in India.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2023



- ❖ India ranks 111 out of a total of 125 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2023.
- ❖ India is ranked 107th out of 121 countries in 2022.
- ❖ Afghanistan, Haiti and 12 sub-Saharan countries perform worse than India on the GHI.
- ❖ India's ranking is based on a Global Hunger Index score of 28.7 on a 100-point scale where 0 is the best score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst.
- ❖ The 2023 GHI score for the world is 18.3, which is considered moderate.
- ❖ However, it is only one point below the world's 2015 GHI score of 19.1.
- ❖ India made significant strides between 2000 and 2015, with its score improving from 38.4 in 2000 to 35.5 in 2008 and 29.2 in 2015.
- ❖ Over the past eight years, the country has advanced on the GHI by only 0.5 points.
- ❖ South Asia and Africa South of the Sahara are the world regions with the highest hunger levels- serious hunger.



- ❖ West Asia and North Africa is the region with the third-highest hunger level - “moderate” hunger level.
- ❖ The rate of undernourishment in India stood at 16.6 percent and under-five mortality at 3.1 percent.
- ❖ The prevalence of anaemia in women aged between 15 and 24 years stood at 58.1 percent.
- ❖ India also has the highest child wasting rate in the world at 18.7 percent, reflecting acute undernutrition.
- ❖ India's neighbouring countries Pakistan (102th), Bangladesh (81st), Nepal (69th) and Sri Lanka (60th) have fared better than it in the index.

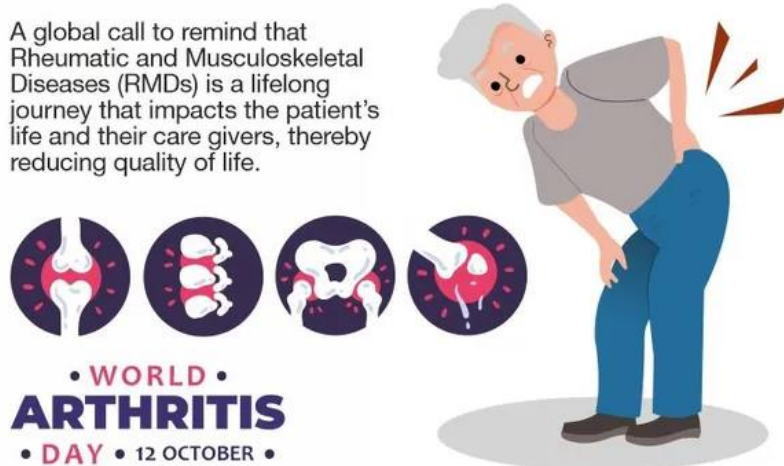
IMPORTANT DAYS

World Arthritis Day 2023 - October 12

Theme 2023

Living with an RMD at all stages of life

A global call to remind that Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (RMDs) is a lifelong journey that impacts the patient's life and their care givers, thereby reducing quality of life.



• WORLD •
ARTHRITIS
• DAY • 12 OCTOBER •

- ❖ This day aims to create awareness about arthritis, its impact on one's life and educating people about the symptoms, preventive measures.
- ❖ Arthritis refers to joint pain or joint disease, the inflammation or swelling of one or more joints.

- ❖ While there are more than 100 such conditions, two common ones are osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.
- ❖ The theme of 2023 is "Living with an RMD at all stages of life".
- ❖ This day was established by Arthritis and Rheumatism International (ARI).
- ❖ The first event was observed on 12 October 1996.

World Sight Day 2023 - October 12

- ❖ This day is observed across the globe on the second Thursday of October every year.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about blindness and vision impairment.
- ❖ Theme for this year is 'love your eyes at work'.



UN International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction 2023 - October 13

- ❖ The day is dedicated to create awareness about disasters, their impact on living beings, and preventive measures.
- ❖ In 1989 the United Nations General Assembly established the day to promote a culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction across the globe.
- ❖ The theme of 2023 is "Fighting inequality for a resilient future."

- ❖ In 2015, the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan.



MISCELLANEOUS

Human Settlements in Flood-Prone Zones



- ❖ As per the World Bank report, Human settlement in the world's riskiest flood zones increased 122 per cent since 1985.
- ❖ The world's overall built-up regions grew 85 per cent from 1985 to 2015.
- ❖ Richer countries like the United States and parts of Europe are seeing more growth in safer areas than flood-prone ones.
- ❖ China and Vietnam both saw their settlement extent more than tripling in the past 30 years.



- ❖ Most countries, especially in East Asia, saw more settlements in regular flood zones and ultra-high flood zones than in dry areas
- ❖ Libya, which suffered from devastating flooding last month, had an 83 per cent increase in settlement extent in the worst flood zones
- ❖ Pakistan, also affected by catastrophic flooding both last year and this year, had an 89 per cent increase

