

October - 19

TNPSC BITS

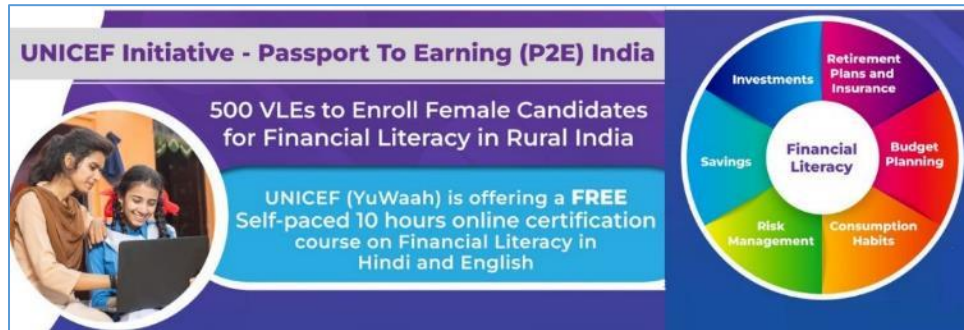
- ❖ 16th Agricultural Science Congress (ASC) organised by the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) was held at Kochi.
- ❖ Bangalore International Airport Limited has established South Asia's first aircraft recovery training school on the premises of the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru.
- ❖ In Wayanad, Kerala, a new species of dragonfly was recorded – the *Epithemis wayanadensis*.
- ❖ The 3rd round of Intensified Mission Indradhanush 5.0 campaign with special focus on improvement of Measles and Rubella vaccination coverage was concluded recently.
- ❖ The 9th G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20) was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has joined the One CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research) integrated partnership.
- ❖ ICICI Bank has launched 'iFinance', an application that allows customers to view their savings and current accounts across banks in one place.
- ❖ A BSNL mobile tower has been installed for the first time at Siachen Glacier, the world's highest battlefield.
- ❖ The Chief Minister of Jharkhand unveiled the mascot for the upcoming Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2023 'Juhi'.
- ❖ Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was named as one of the 11 nominees for the 2023 men's World Athlete of the Year award.
- ❖ An India-Saudi Arabia Investment Forum 2023 was organized in New Delhi during the state visit of Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince.
 - This was the significant milestone as the first formal investment symposium between the two nations.

NATIONAL

Milestone of One Million Certifications

- ❖ A Global learning-to-earning solution, Passport to Earning (P2E), has skilled and certified more than one million young people in India.
- ❖ It was an online programme organised by UNICEF.

- ❖ This marks a major step towards helping them gain skills relevant to the future of work and life.
- ❖ 62 percent of all young learners who benefitted from P2E courses in India are adolescent girls and young women.
- ❖ P2E provides free access to certificate courses in digital productivity, financial literacy, employability skills, and other in-demand, job-ready skills.



UNICEF Initiative - Passport To Earning (P2E) India

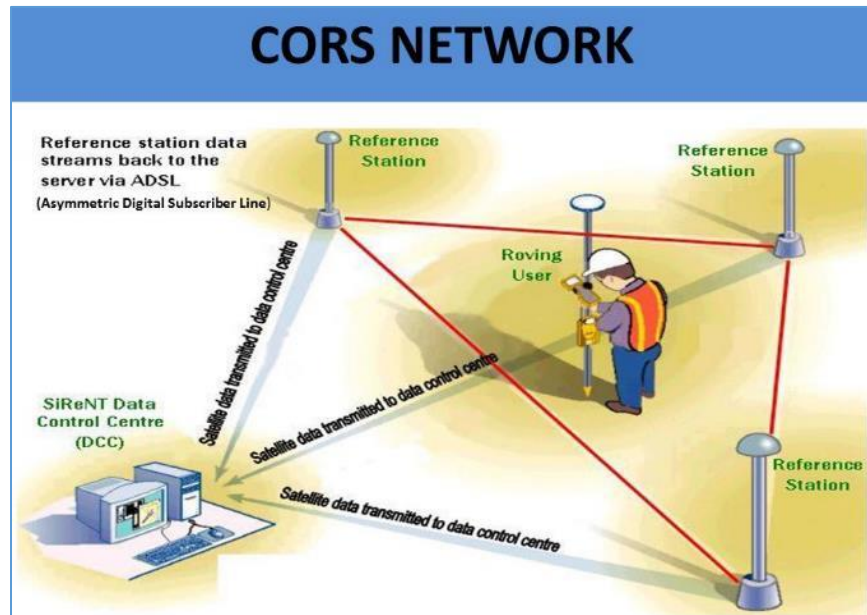
500 VLEs to Enroll Female Candidates for Financial Literacy in Rural India

UNICEF (YuWaah) is offering a **FREE** Self-paced 10 hours online certification course on Financial Literacy in Hindi and English

Financial Literacy components:

- Investments
- Retirement Plans and Insurance
- Budget Planning
- Consumption Habits
- Risk Management
- Savings

National Survey Network



- ❖ The centre launched state-of-art latest National Survey Network.
- ❖ The nationwide "Continuously Operating Reference Stations" (CORS) Network will be operated by the Survey of India.
- ❖ India now has a world class Precise Location based service, which are capable of providing centimetre level positioning services in Realtime.
- ❖ It is capable of providing real time location-based mapping services with an accuracy of + / - 3cm.

- ❖ The Survey of India has set up more than 1,000 CORS stations across India.

Report on Local Democracy

The Added Value of Local Democracy

Evidence from a Natural Experiment in India

*Abhishek Arora
Siddharth George
Vijayendra Rao
MR Sharan*

- ❖ A policy research paper titled “The Added Value of Local Democracy: Evidence from a Natural Experiment in India” was released by the World Bank.
- ❖ The study analyses the effects of local democracy by exploiting a unique natural experiment in the Indian state of Karnataka.
- ❖ Local Democracy aligns spending more closely with citizen preferences.
- ❖ But these gains accrue more to men, upper castes, and other advantaged social groups.
- ❖ Elected leaders are more responsive to citizen needs and cause local bureaucrats to exert more effort.
- ❖ Appointed administrators perform better on aspects of governance that are aligned with their specialized skills.
- ❖ Local democracy improves governance in some domains.
- ❖ But it has no overall impact on economic outcomes or effectiveness of COVID-19 management.

Sagar Maitri

- ❖ INS Sagardhwani, started on a two-month long Sagar Maitri (SM) Mission-4.
- ❖ It is an oceanographic research vessel belonging to the Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) of DRDO.

- ❖ It aims to foster closer cooperation in socio-economic aspects and enhance scientific interactions, particularly in the field of ocean research, among Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) countries.
- ❖ Under this initiative, DRDO introduced MAITRI.
- ❖ MAITRI stands for 'Marine and Allied Interdisciplinary Training and Research Initiative'.
- ❖ This initiative focuses on establishing long-term collaborations with IOR countries in the domain of 'Ocean Research and Development'.



National Green Credit Program

- ❖ The Government has introduced a special program where an individual or entity can earn green credit and trade it on a dedicated exchange.
- ❖ It refers to a unit of an incentive provided for a specified activity; delivering a positive impact on the environment.

- ❖ This programme will cover 8 types of activities.
- ❖ The initiative aims to encourage industries, companies, and other entities to meet their existing or other obligations.
- ❖ This programme is independent of the carbon credit provided under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023.
- ❖ It was made under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

Green Credit Programme

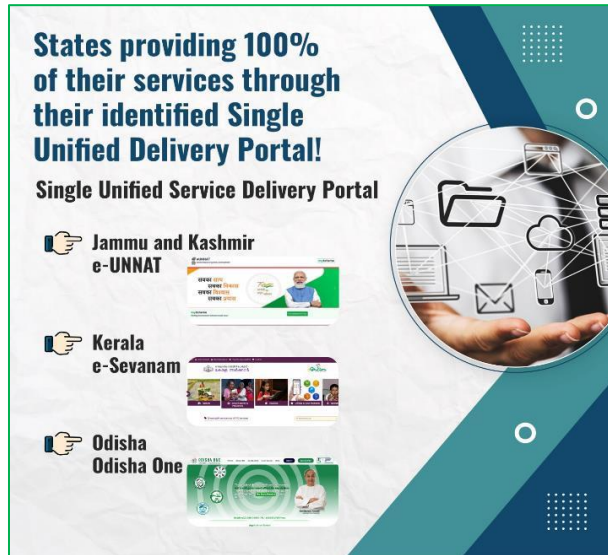
- **Green Credit:** It refers to a unit of an incentive provided for a specified activity; delivering a positive impact on the environment.
- **A Green Credit programme** is being launched at the national level to leverage a competitive market-based approach for green credit for incentivizing environmental actions of various stakeholders. This programme is a follow-up action of the **'LiFE' - (Lifestyle for Environment) campaign.**



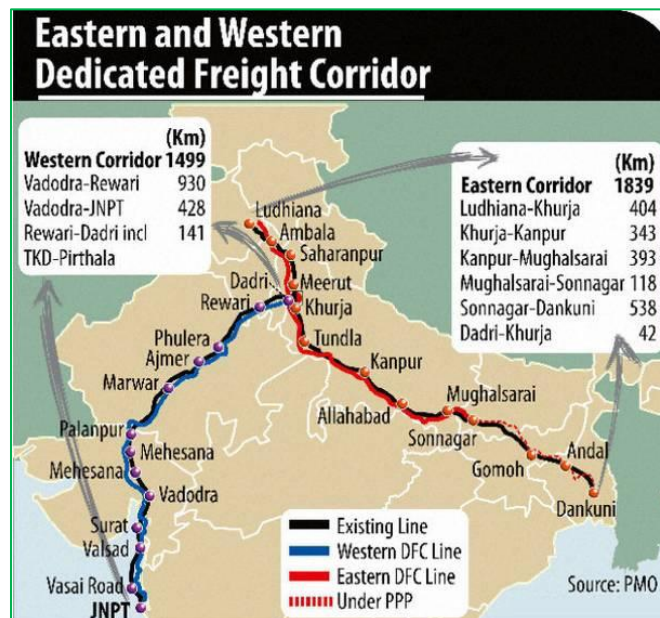
6th Edition of the 'NeSDA – Way Forward Monthly Report

- ❖ The sixth edition of National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) – Way forward Monthly Report for States/UTs – was released recently
- ❖ It provides a detailed overview of status of e-service delivery across States/UTs.
- ❖ 14,736 e-services are provided across States/UTs.
- ❖ It is an increase of 6.2% (869) services from July Report.
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala and Odisha provide 100% of their services through their identified Single Unified Service Delivery Portal.
- ❖ 1,368 e-services are mapped under labour and employment sector.
- ❖ Haryana provides the maximum e-services in the sector (149).
- ❖ It is followed by Tamil Nadu (96) and Jharkhand (89).

- ❖ Bihar has launched a web-based Child Labour Tracking System (CLTS) which facilitates case management of rescued child labourers
- ❖ Gujarat has built Anubandham, that allows job seekers and job providers to connect through auto-matching, in a transparent and user-friendly manner.
- ❖ Uttarakhand provides employment opportunity to the unemployed youth in the state through Rojgar Prayag portal.



Operationalization of the EDFC



- ❖ The entire 1337-km length of the Rs 51,000-crore Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) was declared operational recently.

- ❖ The trial run of the first freight train over the 401-kilometre long New Sahnewal (Punjab) – to New Khurja (Uttar Pradesh) section of the EDFC conducted successfully.
- ❖ The Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) is covering a length of 1046 kilometers.
- ❖ It will be connecting Khurja to Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Maharashtra.

INTERNATIONAL

Haiti security mission

- ❖ The United Nations Security Council authorized a foreign security mission to Haiti.
- ❖ The Caribbean country asked for help to fight violent gangs that have largely overrun its capital Port-au-Prince.
- ❖ Several of Haiti's Caribbean neighbours – Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, and Jamaica – have also offered support to the mission.



Putin's visit to Kyrgyzstan

- ❖ Vladimir Putin called to strengthen military ties with Kyrgyzstan in a trip to the Central Asian country.
- ❖ This is his first foreign visit since the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for him in March.

- ❖ President Putin is wanted by the court over the deportation of Ukrainian children.
- ❖ Its ruling requires members of the ICC, which does not include Kyrgyzstan, to make the arrest if he sets foot on their territory.
- ❖ Kyrgyzstan is part of the Collective Security Treaty Organization
- ❖ It is a NATO-style military alliance of ex-Soviet states led by Russia.



World's First Green Bond



- ❖ European Union approved new standards for companies issuing "green" bonds.

- ❖ This is the first of its kind in the world.
- ❖ It aims to help investors pick sustainable companies and avoid greenwashing or misleading climate-friendly claims.
- ❖ Europe is the world's biggest issuer of green bonds.
- ❖ It is accounting for more than half of global volume in 2021.

New members to UNHRC

- ❖ The UN General Assembly elected 15 new countries to serve on the Human Rights Council
- ❖ But in this, Peru and Russia failed to secure a seat.
- ❖ China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, France, and Malawi were re-elected for their second terms.
- ❖ UNHRC was created in 2006 and consists of 47 member States.
- ❖ Its seats are distributed among regional groups of States as follows, from Africa (13); Asia-Pacific (13); Eastern European (6); Latin American and Caribbean (8); and Western European and others (7).

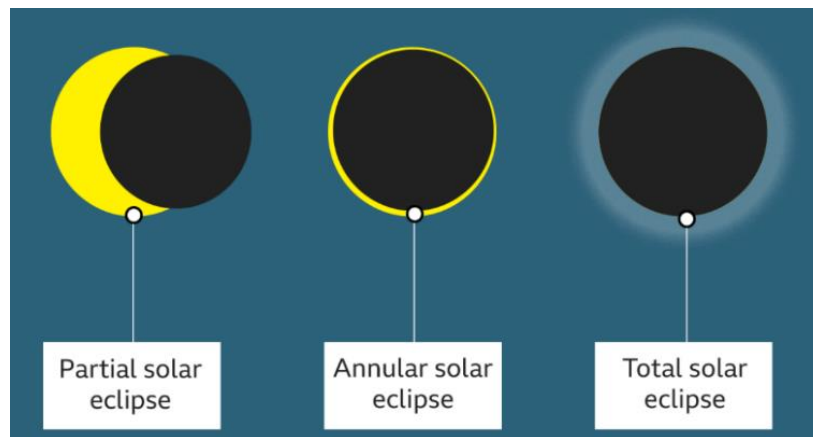


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

'Ring of Fire' - Solar Eclipse

- ❖ A Rare "Ring of Fire" Solar Eclipse event witnessed on Western Hemisphere.

- ❖ Since the moon is so distant, it did not cover the Sun completely, creating a "ring of fire" effect.
- ❖ An annular solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between Earth and the sun at a time when the moon is at or close to its farthest point from our planet.
- ❖ It does not completely obscure the face of the sun, unlike in a total solar eclipse.
- ❖ Instead, it creates the image of a brilliant ring on the outlines of the sun surrounding the dark disc of the moon.
- ❖ A total eclipse took place in 2017 in the United States.
- ❖ After next April's total eclipse, there will not be another until 2044.
- ❖ The next annular eclipse will be in 2046.



ENVIRONMENT

Dancing frogs of the Western Ghats



- ❖ Recently, the Wildlife Trust of India has assessed the 2nd edition of the Global Amphibian Assessment.

- ❖ The Dancing Frogs that are endemic to the Western Ghats are the most threatened amphibian genus of India.
- ❖ Of the 24 species of the frogs belonging to the Micrixalus genus that were assessed, two were found to be critically endangered and 15 were endangered.
- ❖ It is also the fifth most threatened genus in the world with 92% of its species in the threatened category.

Dragonfly Festival, 2023

- ❖ The Dragonfly Festival is a citizen science movement that has been running for the past five years.
- ❖ The sixth edition of the festival is happening across 11 States such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Telangana, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Assam.
- ❖ The festival demystifies dragonflies and damselflies and celebrates their role in keeping our environment healthy.

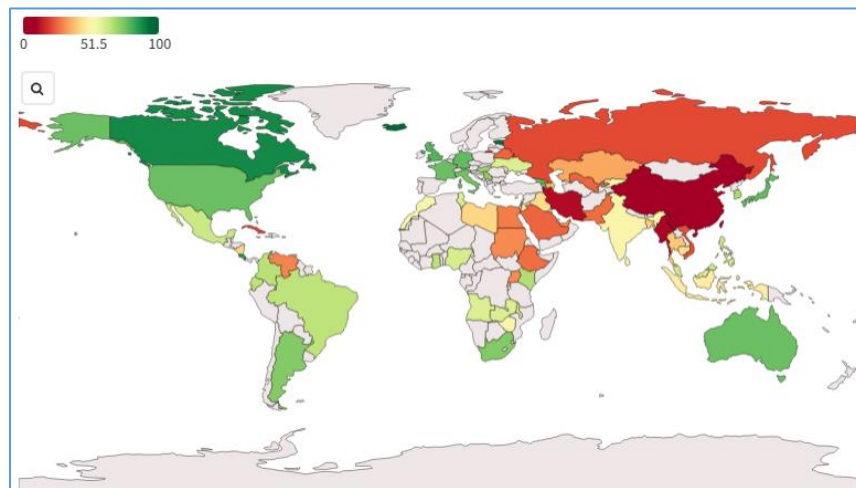


REPORTS AND INDICES

Freedom on the Net Report 2023

- ❖ The report titled 'Freedom on the Net 2023: The Repressive Power of Artificial Intelligence' was released recently.
- ❖ The global Internet freedom has declined for the 13th consecutive year.
- ❖ The environment for human rights online has deteriorated in 29 countries.
- ❖ There are only 20 countries registering net gains.

- ❖ Moreover, in 41 countries, individuals were assaulted or killed due to their online statements.
- ❖ Iceland has the best climate for internet freedom.
- ❖ China, for the ninth straight year, ranked as the world's worst environment for Internet freedom.
- ❖ Myanmar is the world's second most repressive for online freedom.
- ❖ India has moderate level of digital freedom.
- ❖ India has incorporated AI-based censorship into its legal framework, impacting freedom of expression and criticism of the ruling party.
- ❖ The report warns about adverse repercussions for Indian democracy due to the expanding censorship regime.

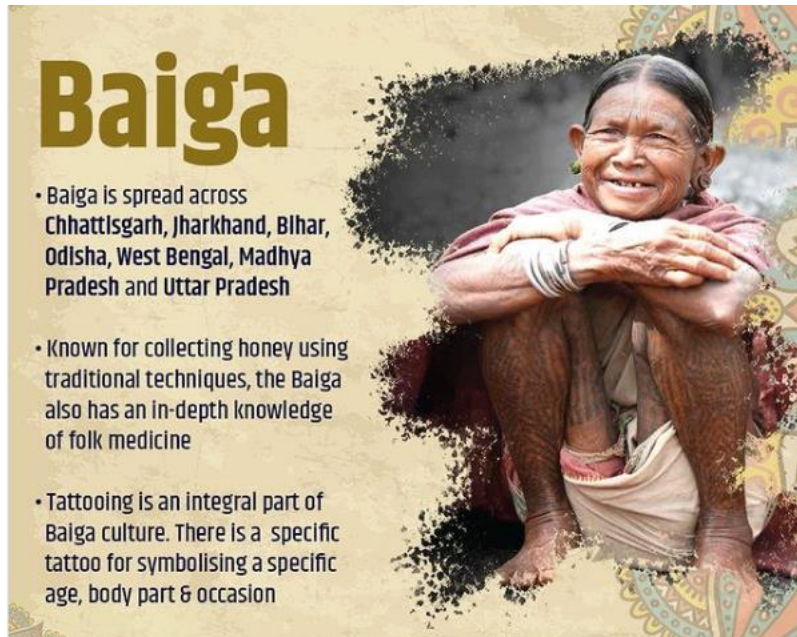


STATES

Baiga Tribal Group - Habitat rights

- ❖ The Baiga Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) became the second to get habitat rights in Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ A total of 19 Baiga villages with a population of 6,483 people (2,085 families) have been given the habitat rights.
- ❖ Habitat rights recognition provides the community concerned rights over their customary territory of habitation, socio-cultural practices, economic and livelihood means, intellectual knowledge of biodiversity and ecology, traditional knowledge of use of natural resources, as well as protection and conservation of their natural and cultural heritage.
- ❖ Habitat rights safeguard and promote the traditional livelihood and ecological knowledge passed down through generations.

- ❖ Habitat rights are given to PVTGs under section 3(1) (e) of the Forest Rights Act 2006.
- ❖ Earlier the Kamar Tribal Group get habitat rights in the state.



Manchirevula Forest Mesolithic rock art



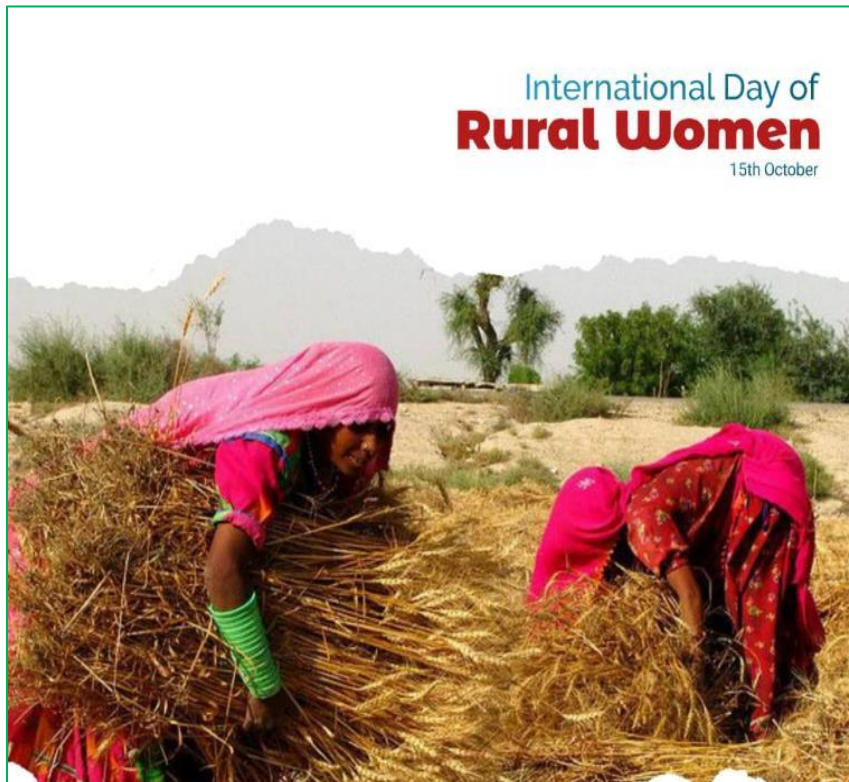
- ❖ The Paintings belonging to the middle Stone Age (Mesolithic period), were found on a rock shelter at the Manchirevula forest trek park, Hyderabad.
- ❖ The Mesolithic era is dated from 10,000 to 4,000 BC.
- ❖ It is suggesting that the paintings are between 6,000 to 12,000 years old.
- ❖ The paintings show three tortoises, a fish, and a geometric motif, all in red pigment.

- ❖ The rock shelter itself, where these paintings were found, indicating it was likely used as a dwelling space by Mesolithic humans.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Rural Women 2023 - October 15

- ❖ The International Day of Rural Women was first celebrated in 2008.
- ❖ The day acknowledge the vital contributions of rural women to their communities and the global economy.
- ❖ It also celebrates the critical role that rural women play in agriculture, food production and rural development.
- ❖ The theme of this year is “Rural Women Cultivating Good Food for All.”



World White Cane Day 2023 - October 15

- ❖ This day is observed to recognise the importance of blind people, and their active participation in society and to celebrate independence.
- ❖ In 1964, then-US President Lyndon B Johnson celebrated this Day for the first time.

- ❖ For the unversed, the white cane is an important mobility tool that was mainly invented for blind people and has been in use for centuries now.



Global Handwashing Day 2023 - October 15

- ❖ The first Global Handwashing Day was celebrated on October 15th 2008.
- ❖ This day is dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding about the importance of handwashing with soap as an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Clean Hands are Within Reach."



MISCELLANEOUS

Global Prime Residential Index 2023

- ❖ The London-based property consultant Knight Frank released the Global Prime Residential Index.

- ❖ It has ranked Mumbai in the 19th position, Bengaluru in the 22nd position, and New Delhi in the 25th position.
- ❖ The Turkish capital Ankara leads the Index with the highest growth rate of 105.9 percent, followed by Istanbul at 85.1 percent.

