

October - 29

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) has received the first of six new Dornier Do-228 aircraft, exclusively manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) is working to upgrade its fleet of Sukhoi-30 MKI fighters with indigenous weapon systems and radar named Virupaaksha AESA.
- ❖ The U.S. House of Representatives elected Republican Mike Johnson as speaker of the house.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mandates private banks and foreign-owned subsidiaries to appoint a minimum of two Whole-Time Directors (WTDs) on their boards.
- ❖ Representatives and officials from India, Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan took part in the fifth meeting of the Moscow format consultation on Afghanistan in the Russian city of Kazan.
- ❖ NATO is preparing for a joint command and staff exercise, "Steadfast Defender" in 2024.
 - It will be the largest exercise since the end of the Cold War, with over 40,000 troops.
- ❖ Dhordo Village in Gujarat's Kutch district has been honoured with the prestigious "Best Tourism Village" title by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).
- ❖ The government launched a Standards & Labelling Program for solar PV modules, aiding citizens in discerning solar panel efficiency.
- ❖ Udhampur Military Station in Jammu and Kashmir was honoured as the 'Best Green Military Station' during the Army Commanders' Conference.
- ❖ The Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, is participating in the prestigious 75th Frankfurt Book Fair.
- ❖ Indian textile industry is set to host "Bharat Tex 2024" touted as the world's largest textiles event.
- ❖ Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud has received the 'Award for Global Leadership', the highest professional distinction handed out by Harvard Law School.
- ❖ India has initiated a unique endeavour called 'Project Udbhav,' aimed at blending ancient strategic wisdom with contemporary military practices.

- ❖ The South Korean, U.S. and Japanese militaries conducted their first-ever trilateral aerial exercise in response to evolving North Korean nuclear threats.
- ❖ The Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice 2023 will be conferred on jailed Iranian Nobel Laureate Nargis Mohammadi by the Harmony Foundation.
 - The award recognizes Mohammadi's courage in advocating for human rights against the Iranian regime.

TAMIL NADU

Dress code for Advocates



- ❖ The Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry (BCTNP) warning their members against wearing jeans, capris, and leggings to courts.
- ❖ All advocates to appear before the courts in a presentable manner.
- ❖ Any violation of the prescribed dress code would amount to professional misconduct punishable under Section 35 of the Advocates Act, 1961.

NATIONAL

PM SVANidhi Scheme

- ❖ The central Government launched micro-credit scheme, PM SVANidhi for the street vendors in 2020.
- ❖ It has helped promote 'inclusive entrepreneurship' and proven to be a gender equalizer.
- ❖ Almost 75% loan beneficiaries come from non-general category.

- ❖ OBCs account for 44% of total disbursement, while SCs/STs account for 22%
- ❖ 43% of the total beneficiaries are women.

Empowering Street Vendors with PM SVANidhi Scheme



Salient Features

-  **Loan tenure of 1 year** on working capital
-  **Interest Subsidy at 7% p.a.** on timely repayment, paid quarterly
-  **Monthly cash-back incentive up to ₹100** on digital transactions
-  **Higher loan eligibility** on timely/early repayment of the first loan
-  **Covers urban local bodies** across the country

INS Imphal



- ❖ INS Imphal delivered to the Indian Navy, four months ahead of schedule.
- ❖ This is the third ship of the Project 15B Class of stealth guided missile destroyers.
- ❖ Imphal was the first naval warship commissioned with accommodation for women officers and sailors.

- ❖ INS Visakhapatnam and INS Mormugao have already been commissioned. Surat, the fourth one, is under construction.

District officers under the POSH Act



- ❖ Recently, the Supreme Court of India (SC) has directed Ministry of Women and Child Development of all states/UTs to appoint district officers under the POSH Act.
- ❖ POSH Act stands for Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.
- ❖ It aims to address the issue of sexual harassment faced by women in the workplace.
- ❖ This act mandates States to appoint an officer in every district who would play a “pivotal” role in the implementation of the Act.
- ❖ The District Officer would constitute Local Complaints Committees (LCCs) to receive complaints from women employed in small establishments with less than 10 workers.
- ❖ A District Officer’s responsibilities also included appointing nodal officers under the Act in rural, tribal and urban areas.

ISRC Report on Semiconductor Sector

- ❖ The recent release of the ‘Indian Semiconductor Report and Roadmap (ISRC)’ promises a blueprint for India’s dominance in the semiconductor sector.
- ❖ The ISRC aims to boost India’s semiconductor manufacturing industry through a \$6.7 billion investment.

- ❖ The report outlines a roadmap to achieve 20% market share in global semiconductor design and manufacturing by 2030.
- ❖ The semiconductor industry is the heart of technological progress, impacting everything from smartphones to military systems.
- ❖ India has been a net importer of semiconductors.
- ❖ It is relying heavily on countries like Taiwan, South Korea, and China for its chip needs.



Compensation for Sewer Deaths and Disabilities

S.No	Name of States/UTs	Total no. of sewer/septic tank deaths	Compensation paid	Cases closed due to not having legal heirs
1	Gujarat	153	106	30
2	U.P.	116	69	0
3	Delhi	103	83	0
4	Tamil Nadu	226	212	0
5	Karnataka	86	86	0
6	Pondicherry	9	8	0
7	Chandigarh	3	3	0

- ❖ The Supreme Court has directed the Centre and states to take appropriate measures, frame policies and issue directions to ensure that manual sewer cleaning is completely eradicated in a phased manner.

- ❖ It also asked the central and state governments to pay Rs 30 lakh as compensation to the next of kin of those who die while cleaning sewers.
- ❖ The previous amount was fixed, that is, Rs 10 lakh was made applicable in 1993.
- ❖ For the case of sewer victims suffering from any disability, the minimum compensation shall not be less than Rs 10 lakh.
- ❖ If the disability is permanent and renders the victim economically helpless, the compensation shall not be less than Rs 20 lakh.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

“Calixcoca” Vaccine



- ❖ Scientists in Brazil have developed a new treatment vaccine for cocaine treatment for cocaine and crack addiction.
- ❖ The drug will work in an innovative way, by depriving users of the "high".
- ❖ The immune response trigger will make a patient's body produce antibodies that bind cocaine molecules to the bloodstream.
- ❖ Once vaccinated, the drug will potentially help people break the cycle of addiction.

ENVIRONMENT

Dhib and Nimr

- ❖ The Arabian wolf (*Canis lupus arabs*) and the Arabian leopard (*Panthera pardus nimr*) are found across the whole of the Arabian Peninsula.

- ❖ Dhib and Nimr are the Arabic terms for the two animals that have featured in the culture and folklore of the region's peoples.
- ❖ Dhib is world's smallest wolf and Nimr is the world's smallest leopard.
- ❖ Both are critically endangered in the northern half of their range.



GRAP Stage II

1 Stage I:

Stage I mandates the suspension of work at private construction and demolition projects with a plot size equal to or exceeding 500 square metres that are not registered on the state government's portal for remote monitoring of dust mitigation measures. Authorities are also tasked with enforcing a complete ban on the use of coal and firewood in 'tandoors' at hotels, restaurants and open eateries, along with taking punitive action against polluting industrial units and thermal power plants within 500 kilometres of Delhi.

2 Stage II:

Stage II measures involve increasing parking fees to discourage private transport and enhancing CNG or electric bus and metro services by introducing additional fleets and increasing service frequency. It also includes the use of public transport and minimize the use of personal vehicles.

3 Stage III:

In Stage III, BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel four-wheelers are prohibited from operating in Delhi, Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, and Gautam Buddh Nagar. Stage III involves a complete halt on construction and demolition work, except for essential government projects, besides mining and stone crushing.

4 Stage IV:

Stage IV includes banning all types of construction and demolition work. State governments are authorised to decide on online classes for school students and work-from-home arrangements for government and private offices during such situations.

- ❖ The air quality in Delhi fell to the 'Very Poor' category on October 23 with the Air Quality Index (AQI) at 306.
- ❖ Stage II or the 'very poor' stage of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) will set in across Delhi-NCR with immediate effect.
- ❖ Stage I of GRAP was imposed across Delhi-NCR on October 6.
- ❖ The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) is a set of anti-air pollution measures, generally implemented in Delhi-NCR during the winter.
- ❖ Under GRAP, the government introduces several measures.

- ❖ It includes strict restrictions on the plying of obsolete vehicles and a ban on the use of coal and firewood in eateries, restaurants and hotels when the AQI breaches the 200-mark.
- ❖ Four different stages of GRAP.
 - Stage 1 comes into implementation during ‘poor’ AQI (201-300);
 - Stage 2 during ‘very poor’ AQI (301-400);
 - Stage 3 during ‘severe’ AQI (401-450); and
 - Stage 4 during ‘severe plus’ when AQI is over 450.

REPORTS AND INDICES

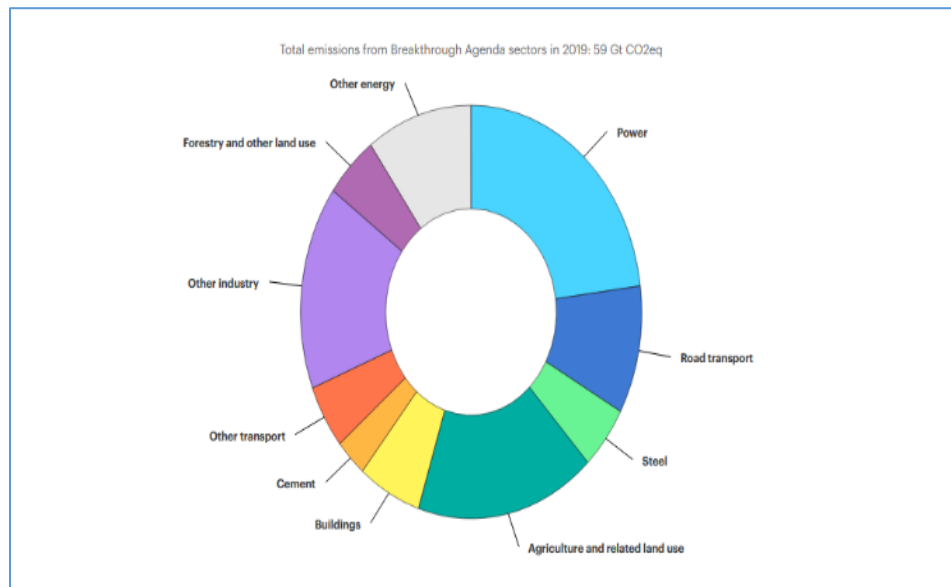
“Children Displaced in a Changing Climate” Report



- ❖ The report titled ‘Children Displaced in a Changing Climate’ was released by the UNICEF.
- ❖ Extreme weather conditions caused the displacement of nearly 20,000 children every day in the past six years across the world.

- ❖ Totally 3.1 million internal displacements of children are linked to weather-related disasters over a six-year period.
- ❖ China and the Philippines are the countries that have recorded the highest number of child displacements due to extreme weather conditions.
- ❖ In addition to that, children living in small and isolated island states such as Dominica and Vanuatu were affected by the storms while children in Somalia and South Sudan were impacted heavily due to the floods.
- ❖ Out of these recorded 4.3 crore displaced children, 4 crore or approximately 95 percent were affected due to floods and storms between 2016 to 2021.
- ❖ Apart from this, over 13 lakh children have been impacted due to the droughts.
- ❖ The wildfires have resulted in the displacement of 8.1 lakh children.

Breakthrough Agenda Report 2023



- ❖ The Breakthrough Agenda Report 2023 is an annual collaboration between the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and the United Nations Climate Change High-Level Champions.
- ❖ Renewable energy constituted nearly half of global power generation in 2022.
- ❖ But it emphasized that this pace must triple by 2030 to maintain a 1.5°C target.
- ❖ The power sector accounts for around 13 Gt CO₂e, or 23% of total emissions.
- ❖ This has risen by around 10% since 2010.
- ❖ These need to fall by over 50% by 2030.
- ❖ The average levelized cost of electricity has fallen by 86% for solar PV and 60% for wind since 2010.



- ❖ By 2030, 11 TW of renewable generating capacity is required, up from less than 4 TW today.
- ❖ Agriculture emissions continue to increase to 7.3 GtCO₂ in 2022.
- ❖ They need to fall to 5.7 GtCO₂ to get on track for net zero.

STATES

Star Party 2023

- ❖ In a first-of-its-kind event, the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) hosted an official Star Party at the Hanle Dark Sky Reserve in eastern Ladakh.
- ❖ The astronomers are travelling to Hanle with their telescopes and cameras to capture the night sky, free from light pollution.
- ❖ Hanle is known for its pristine dark skies and dry weather.
- ❖ It is making it an ideal location for astronomical research and astrophotography.
- ❖ The Hanle Dark Sky Reserve (HDSR) is spanning an area of approximately 1,073 square kilometers.
- ❖ It was recently designated by the Union Territory of Ladakh to control man-made light pollution and preserve the area's dark skies.

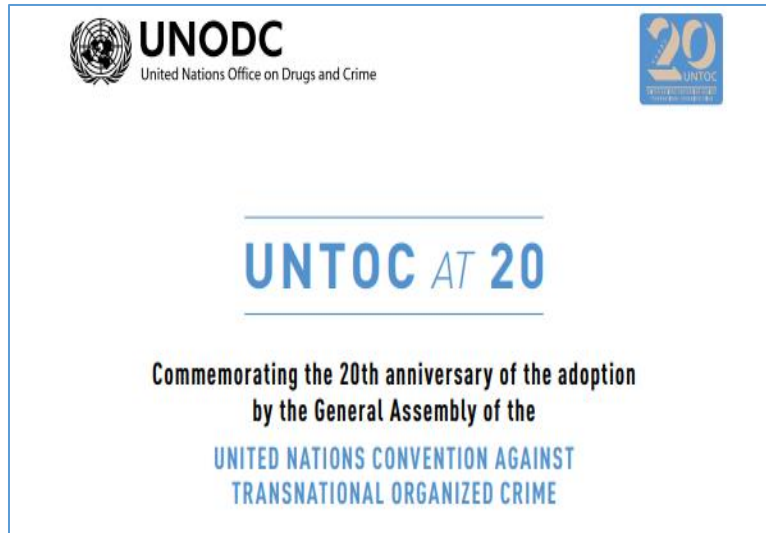


PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

20th anniversary of UNTOC

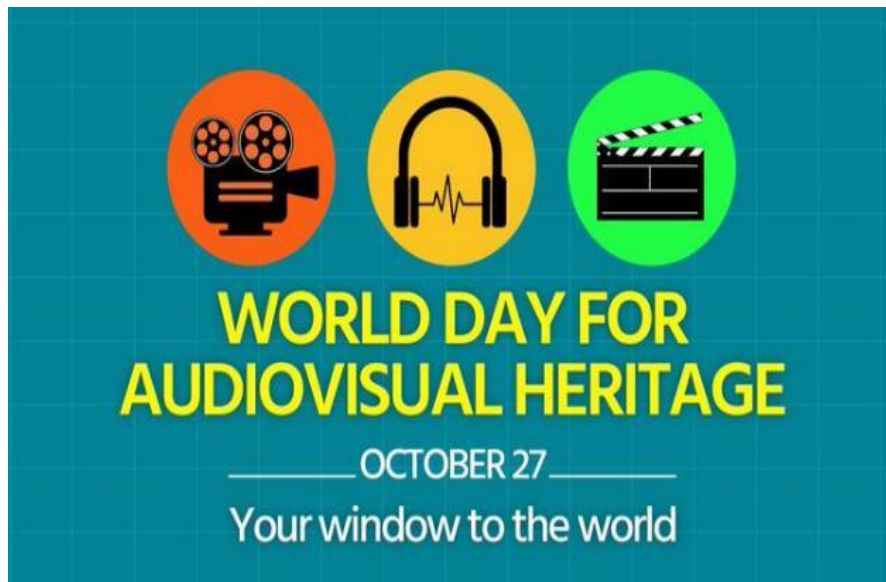
- ❖ Two-day conference was hosted to mark the 20th anniversary of United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crimes (UNTOC) at Palermo in Italy.
- ❖ UNTOC is a 2000 United Nations-sponsored multilateral treaty against transnational organized crime.

- ❖ The convention was adopted by a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on 15 November 2000.
- ❖ India joined on 12 December 2002.
- ❖ The Convention came into force on 29 September 2003.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2023 - October 27

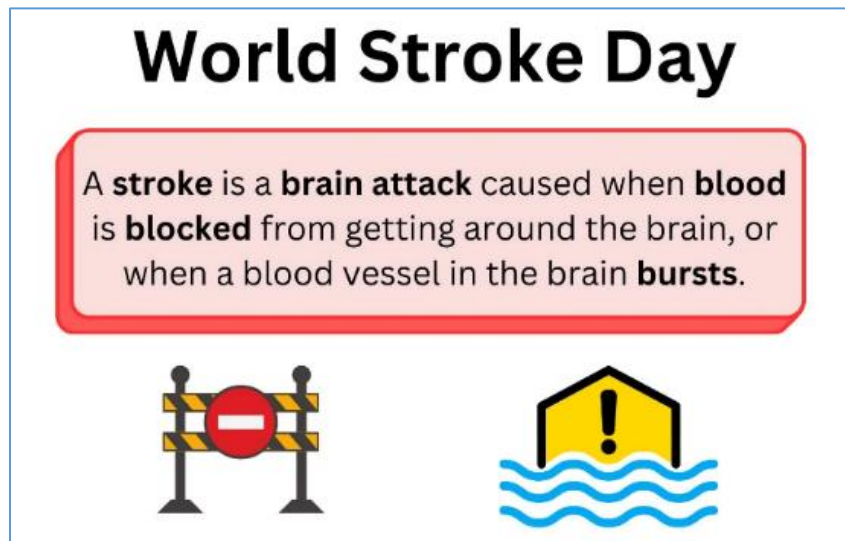


- ❖ The Day provides an occasion to raise general awareness of the need to take urgent measures and to acknowledge the importance of audiovisual documents.

- ❖ Audiovisual represent a priceless heritage which is an affirmation of our collective memory and a valuable source of knowledge.
- ❖ The 33rd session of UNESCO’s General Conference in 2005 proclaimed this day.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is “Your Window to the World”.

World Stroke Day 2023 - October 29

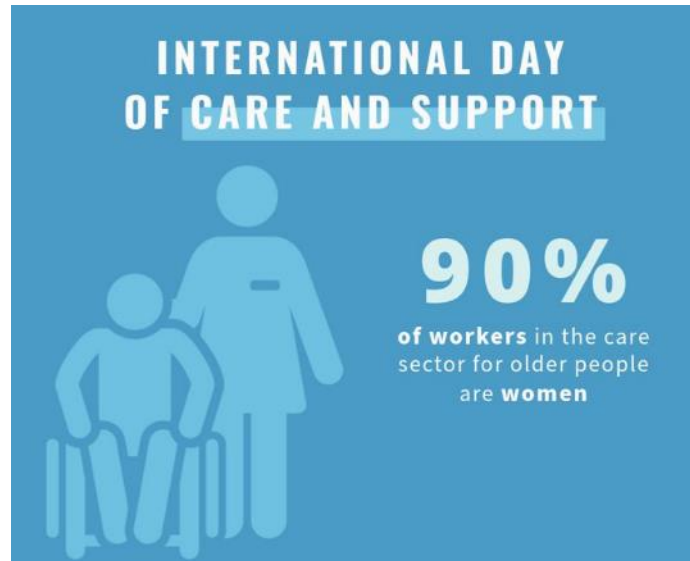
- ❖ This day aims to emphasize the serious nature and high rates of stroke.
- ❖ The day is also observed to raise awareness of the prevention and treatments of strokes.
- ❖ Worldwide, brain stroke is the second leading cause of death and third leading cause of disability and second leading cause of death.
- ❖ Every year, approximately 18 lakhs people suffer from stroke.
- ❖ The average incidence rate of stroke in India is 145 per one lakh (1,00,000) population.
- ❖ Theme for 2023 is “Together we are #Greater Than Stroke”.



International Day of Care and Support 2023 - October 29

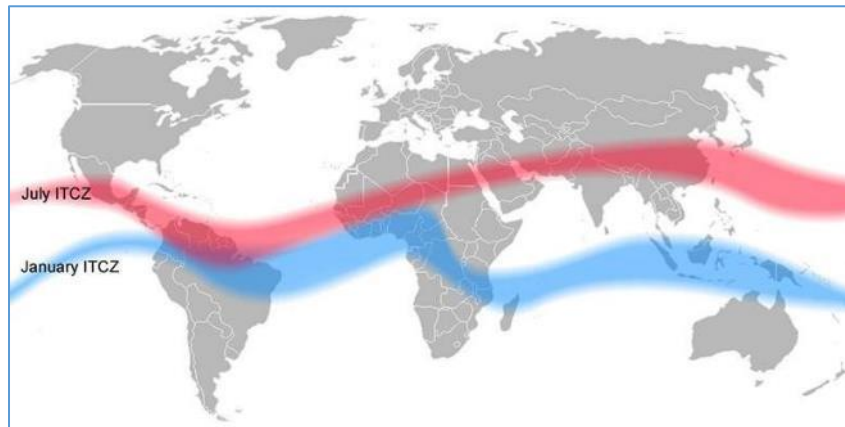
- ❖ On 24th July, 2023 the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted the UN Resolution for this day.
- ❖ This day aims to emphasize the importance of caregiving, recognize the contributions of caregivers, and advocate for policies and initiatives that support and enhance care in all its forms.

- ❖ It acknowledges the disproportionate burden of unpaid care and domestic work on women and girls.



MISCELLANEOUS

Conventional Notions of Little Ice Age Climate



- ❖ A new study of the Little Ice Age (LIA), a global climatic event between CE 1671-1942, has revealed that the age was wet and not uniformly cold and dry.
- ❖ It challenges the traditional belief of a uniformly cold and dry climate with reduced monsoon rainfall during this period.
- ❖ The Western Ghats experiences both the southwest summer monsoon (SWM) and the northeast winter monsoon (NEM).



- ❖ Investigating the vegetation dynamics and corresponding hydro-climate variability in an area influenced by both SWM and NEM is vital for understanding monsoonal fluctuations during the last millennium.
- ❖ A study of pollen-based vegetation dynamics and contemporary climate change and monsoonal variability between CE 1219-1942 was reconstructed from the Western Ghats.
- ❖ The study highlighted the presence of moist conditions during the Little Ice Age (LIA) in the Western Ghats, likely due to increased NEM influence.
- ❖ This moist LIA contradicts the expected dry climate associated with the period.
- ❖ The northward movement of the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), positive temperature anomalies, increased sunspot numbers and high solar activity could be driving the climate change and increased SWM.
- ❖ The southward shift of the ITCZ, resulting from increased northward energy flux across the equator, during a cold northern hemisphere.

