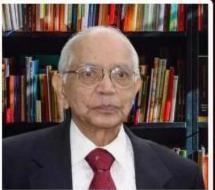
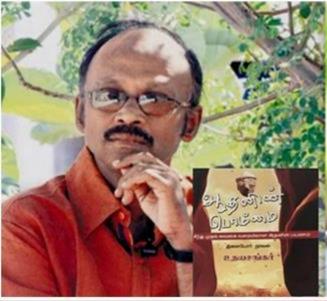
TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM **CURRENT AFFAIRS JUNE 2023**

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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Praveen Kumar Srivastava has been appointed as the Central Vigilance Commissioner.
- ❖ Indian shuttler HS Prannoy defeated Chinese Weng Hong Yang in the Malaysia Masters 2023 final to clinch his first BWF World Tour title.
- ❖ World Vape Day is celebrated on May 30th to raising awareness about the potential benefits of vaping as a harm reduction tool for smokers.
- ❖ Prime Minister flagged off Assam's first Vande Bharat Express which connects Guwahati in Assam and Jalpaiguri in West Bengal.
- ❖ The Second meeting of the G20 Anti–corruption Working Group recently held in Rishikesh.
- ❖ Telangana State has achieved 100 percent household coverage of banking services extending them to all sections of people through Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojana.
- Mukesh Ambani has been appointed as a member of the Advisory Committee to the President of the 28th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) to UNFCCC.
- The Department of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Chandigarh got Skoch SILVER Award 2023 for e-Governance for computerisation of medical records of livestock.
- ❖ ISRO is collaborating with the Raman Research Institute (RRI), Bengaluru, to build the X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat).
 - o This will be the India's first, and only the world's second polarimetry mission.
- ❖ Guidance Tamil Nadu, the State government's investment promotion agency, signed a MOU with Omron Healthcare, the Japanese medical equipment maker, for establishing a manufacturing unit in the State.
- Canada has now approved TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) as an acceptable score for use in Canada's Student Direct Stream.
 - o Till now, IELTS was the only English-language testing option which was authorised for the SDS route.
- ❖ The University of Edinburgh has partnered with the Indian consulate in the UK to develop its first open access course in Hindi language.
- ❖ India defeated Kazakhstan in the final to clinch gold in the Central Asian Volleyball Associations (CAVA) Volleyball Challenge Cup for Women in Kathmandu.





- Senior bureaucrat Angshumali Rastogi was appointed India's representative to the council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal, Canada.
- ❖ The Ministry of External Affairs, EU Delegation to India and the Asian Confluence are jointly organised the India EU Connectivity Conference in Meghalaya.
- ❖ Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance has launched an exclusive term plan Bajaj Allianz Life Diabetic Term Plan Sub 8 HbA1c.
 - o This is a first of its kind protection plan designed especially for Type 2 diabetic and pre-diabetic individuals.
- Odisha unveiled two initiatives named 'Odisha for Artificial Intelligence' and 'Artificial Intelligence for Youth', to leverage the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the state.
- ❖ The member nations of the WHO accepted a draft resolution on the impact of chemicals, waste and pollution on human health during the 76th World Health Assembly.
- ❖ An International Convention Centre would be set up in Chennai in the name of former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi.
- ❖ The World Health Organisation has featured on its website an article on Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam.
 - o It is Tamil Nadu government's health scheme to reach out to people and help them access healthcare.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi inaugurate a conference of vice-chancellors (VCs) of State-run and private universities in Tamil Nadu at Ooty.
- ❖ Unified Payment Interface (UPI) payment touched a record high of Rs 14.3 trillion in terms of value and 9.41 billion in volume in May.
- ❖ The Rogue tusker Arikompan has been captured and transferred to Muththukuzhivayal beyond Upper Gothaiyar area in Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR).
- ❖ Shalini Singh created history by becoming the first female NCC cadet in India to complete the mountaineering course in the Himalayan region in Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The two-day "Lavender Festival" was inaugurated in Jammu and Kashmir's Bhaderwah Valley.
- ❖ The UN General Assembly (UNGA) elected Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the UN, Dennis Francis as the President of its 78th session.
- ❖ United Arab Emirates' Dr Abdulla Al Mandous has been elected as the new President of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for a four-year term from 2023 to 2027.





- ❖ Jagdish Bakan, Wildlife Warden and District Forest Officer (DFO) of Ramanathapuram district, has won the 2023 Michel Batisse Award for Biosphere Reserve Management from UNESCO.
- ❖ Nirmala Lakshman has been unanimously appointed Chairperson of the Board of Directors of The Hindu Group Publishing Private Limited.
- ❖ Ancient potsherds engraved with graffiti have been discovered at Pandiyan kottai near Kalayarkoil in Sivagangai district.
- ❖ President Droupadi was conferred with the highest civilian award of Suriname, the Grand Order of the Chain of the Yellow Star.
 - o It is the most prestigious state decoration in the Republic of Suriname.
- ❖ NATO countries have kicked off Arctic military exercise named 'Arctic Challenge 2023'.
- Universal Postal Union regional office is to be established in New Delhi to enhance postal technology.
- ❖ Celeste Saulo of Argentina has been appointed as the first female Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization.
- ❖ The National Medical Commission (NMC) has recognised the Chennai Stanley Government Medical College Hospital and Dharmapuri Government Medical College.
- TN Chief Minister M launched a mass tree planting drive to plant 5 lakh saplings along the highways in Tamil Nadu to mark the birth centenary year of late Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi.
- ❖ The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India decided to keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.50%.
- ❖ The Union health ministry notified the amended rules under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2004, making India the first country of the World to regulate anti-tobacco warnings on OTT platforms.
- ❖ India's first carbon neutral village is being developed in Bhiwandi taluka of Thane district, Maharashtra.
- ❖ A giga-factory of this kind will be operational in Gujarat for the production of the first-ever lithium-ion cells in India.
- ❖ The Karnataka government has issued a set of guidelines to the 'Shakti' scheme which provide free travel for women in state run ordinary bus services.
- ❖ The Arunachal Pradesh's District Good Governance Index was released recently, the first in the Northeast region.





- o It is jointly developed by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) and the Government of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ AIIMS-Nagpur has become the first AIIMS in the country to receive the prestigious NABH (National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers) accreditation.
- ❖ The 3rd Health Working Group meeting as part of G20 India Presidency was held at Hyderabad.
- Sagar Samriddhi is the online dredging monitoring system launched to accelerate 'Waste to Wealth' initiative.
 - o It was launched by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- ❖ India, France and UAE have concluded their first-ever trilateral Maritime Partnership Exercise between three navies in the Gulf of Oman.
- ❖ Maharashtra Government has launched Asia's largest, ambitious and historic cluster development scheme in Thane.
 - o The redeveloped township plan includes well-equipped health, educational, sports, recreational, parking, mandi, and civic facilities.
- ❖ A celt, belonging to the neolithic period, was discovered in Poothinatham village in Dharmapuri district.
- **❖** Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited's (Tangedco) net loss narrowed to ₹5,523 crore in fiscal 2023 from ₹11,955 crore in fiscal 2022.
- ❖ The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) launched the National Campaign "Addiction Free Amrit Kaal" to promote a healthier and addiction-free India.
- ❖ Janardan Prasad has been appointed as the new Director-General of Geological Survey of India.
- ❖ Meta and Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), launched the Amrit Generation campaign.
 - It invited age group of 16-18 from across the country to showcase their creativity and share their aspirations by creating reels on Instagram and Facebook.
- ❖ Indian and Maldives Navies conducted the sixth edition of Exercise Ekatha.
- ❖ Australia won the ICC World Test Championship 2023 after victory against India in the Final held at London.
- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has given permission to the Uttarakhand government to continue mining activities till June 30 in the Gaula River in Nainital district.





- ❖ Former Director-General of Police, M. Shakeel Akhter, has been appointed the Chief Information Commissioner of the Tamil Nadu Information Commission.
 - o Former ADGP P. Thamarai Kannan, R. Priyakumar, Dr. K. Thirumalaimuthu and Dr. M. Selvaraj have been appointed as State Information Commissioners.
- ❖ The Supreme Audit Institutions-20 (SAI20) Engagement Group Summit will be held in Goa.
- ❖ India's retail inflation dipped to an over 2-year low of 4.25 per cent in May 2023.
- ❖ The first-ever national conference of tribal writers was held in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ An Indian documentary film titled "When Climate Change Turns Violent" has won a special prize in the 'Health for All' category at the WHO's 4th Annual Health for All Film Festival (HAFF).
- ❖ The Indian hockey team clinched its first Women's Junior Asia Cup 2023 title by win over the Republic of Korea in the final, held at Japan.
- ❖ The Islamiah College (Autonomous) in Vaniyambadi has been awarded the Green Champion Award by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) for its contribution to environmental protection.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government would construct a 250-bed Kalaignar centenary hostel spread over two hectares at Perumugai near Sathuvachari in Vellore district.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu CM Inaugurated the 1,000-bedded Kalaignar Centenary Super Speciality Hospital at Guindy in Chennai.
 - o It will be the second Multi-Super Specialty Hospital in Chennai after Tamil Nadu Government Multi Super Speciality Hospital, Omandurar.
- ❖ The W20 summit was held in Mahabalipuram with a theme of 'women-led development to transform, thrive and transcend'.
- ❖ Nitin Agrawal takes charge as new Director General of Border Security Force.
- ❖ The Indian Army has sealed a deal with a Bengaluru-based company to procure the indigenously-developed "tactical LAN radio".
- ❖ The 12th edition of joint military exercise "Ex Ekuverin" between the Indian Army & the Maldives Defence Force has commenced at Uttarakhand.
- ❖ Amit Agrawal have been appointed as the CEO Unique Identification Authority of India.
- ❖ The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) Society in Delhi has been renamed as the 'Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society.





- ❖ Singapore has emerged as the largest investor in India during 2022-23, followed by Mauritius, US and UAE.
- ❖ The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) will gain the international recognition, by becoming an affiliate member of the International Social Security Association (ISSA).
- ❖ Indian Navy warship INS Satpura participated in the 4th edition of the Multilateral Naval Exercise Komodo (MNEK 2023) at Makassar, Indonesia.
- ❖ The International Picnic Day is observed on June 18th to provides a wonderful opportunity for all family members to be at home and enjoy the perfect occasion of gathering outdoors for a delightful picnic experience.
- ❖ Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday of June to showing respect to the Father for his love, and his sacrifice.
- ❖ The Geological Survey Training Institute of India (GSITI), Hyderabad has been accredited as "Athi Uttam" by the National Accreditation Board for Education and Training (NABET).
- Prime Minister has collaborated with Falguni Shah, a Grammy Award winner Indian-American singer, for a special song to promote the benefits of millet and its potential to alleviate world hunger.
- * Reserve Bank of India governor Shaktikanta Das has received the 'Governor of the Year' award at London's Central Banking Awards 2023.
- ❖ Jettwings Airways, a Guwahati-based airline, has announced to launch a regional airline catering to the Northeast part of India starting November this year.
- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty scripted history by becoming the first Indian doubles pair to win a title at a Badminton Super 1000 event in Jakarta.
- ❖ Egypt have been crowned the World Squash Federation's Squash World Cup Champions after beating Malaysia in Express Avenue Mall in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Third G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group (SFWG) meeting under India's G20 Presidency held in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu police have introduced a new service where women travelling alone in remote locations could seek police assistance in case, they felt unsafe.
 - o A woman travelling alone and requiring police help could dial 1091, 112, 044-23452365 and 044-28447701.
- ❖ The Guwahati Railway Station in Assam under North East Frontier Railway has been awarded 'Eat Right Station' certification by FSSAI.





- ❖ Senior IPS officer Ravi Sinha was appointed as the new chief of India's external intelligence agency RAW.
- ❖ State Bank of India Managing Director Swaminathan Janaki Raman has selected for the post of Deputy Governor in the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ❖ The first Janjatiya Khel Mahotsav, a grand sporting event jointly hosted by the Ministry of Culture, the Odisha Government and KIIT University.
- ❖ The Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021 will be conferred on Gita Press, Gorakhpur for its outstanding contribution towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violent and other Gandhian methods.
- ❖ The 'National Yoga Olympiad 2023' was organised by the NCERT, was held at Bhopal.
- ❖ The World Bank (WB) launched its first dedicated road safety project in Bangladesh, South Asia with a USD 358 million financing.
- ❖ Olympian C.A. Bhavani Devi from Tamilnadu created history by securing India's first-ever medal (bronze) at the Asian fencing championships in Wuxi, China.
- ❖ On June 21 each year, the summer solstice day, the world Humanist Day are celebrated to spread awareness of Humanism as a philosophical life stance.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government announced closure of 500 retail liquor shops run by the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation Limited (TASMAC) from June 22.
- Oman created history as first foreign government to promote country through Yoga.
- ❖ The Union Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan flagged off Gabon's first Agri- SEZ project from New Delhi.
- ❖ India clinched the 2023 Hero Intercontinental Cup Football title with a comprehensive win over Lebanon at the Kalinga Stadium, Odisha.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Environment has given the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance for the Tamil Nadu government's proposal to construct Kalaignar pen monument in Bay of Bengal with 15 conditions.
- ❖ Former Tamil Nadu chief secretary P Sabanayagam (100), who worked with three Chief Ministers Rajaji, Kamaraj and Karunanidhi passed away in Chennai.
- ❖ The 'Ocean Ring of Yoga' event was organised in onboard Indian naval ships such as Kiltan, Chennai, Shivalik, Sunayna, Trishul, Tarkash, Vagir, Sumitra, and Brahmaputra on International Day of Yoga.
- ❖ The Union Defence minister has inaugurated the Integrated Simulator Complex (ISC) 'Dhruv' at Southern Naval Command, Kochi.





- It is envisaged to give real-time experience on navigation, fleet operations and Naval tactics.
- ❖ The International Olympic Committee (IOC) presented the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus, with the Olympic Order for his inspirational role in ensuring the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.
- ❖ World Olympic Day or International Olympic Day is celebrated all around the world on June 23.
- ❖ The USA will open two new consulates in Bengaluru and Ahmedabad.
- ❖ India recently cleared a deal worth over USD 4 billion to buy 31 Predator drones from the US.
- ❖ The unique yoga session at the U.N. Headquarters commemorates the 9th International Day of Yoga which saw the participation from top U.N. officials.
- ❖ Reliance Industries Ltd is the most valuable private company in India followed by Tata Consultancy Services and HDFC Bank, as per Hurun India's 2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 list.
- ❖ The construction work of the 'world's largest Ramayan temple' started in the East Champaran district of Bihar.
- ❖ Narendra Modi is the first Indian prime minister to address the United States Congress twice.
 - o This will put him in the group of leaders like Nelson Mandela and Winston Churchill and Benjamin Netanyahu.
- ❖ The man behind the iconic Amul Girl 'utterly butterly' campaign (1966), Sylvester daCunha passed away at Mumbai recently.
- Medha Servo Drives Private Limited, India's largest private rail coach factory was inaugurated at Kondakal village in Rangareddy district near Hyderabad.
- ❖ NITI Aayog and the United Nations in India signed the Government of India United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027.
 - It is the principal planning and implementation instrument for the UN Development System at country level.
- Cristiano Ronaldo receives Guinness World Record award after becoming first male player to reach 200 international appearances.
- ❖ The Madras high court held that women home makers are entitled to equal share of property purchased from their husband's income.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Government has issued an order to erect a statue of former Prime Minister VP Singh at Presidency College in Chennai on the occasion of birth anniversary of VP Singh.





- Selvaluxmy Ganesharajah, director of the Cancer Institute (WIA), Adyar passed away recently.
- ❖ Forbes has ranked Tata group's brand custodian Harish Bhat (10th) as among the top ten most influential CMOs (chief marketing officers) in the Forbes list of 50 most influential CMOs.
- ❖ The Indian Navy has conducted "Julley Ladakh" (Hello Ladakh), an outreach programme to Ladakh to increase awareness about the service in the pristine state and to engage with youth and civil society.
- ❖ DD India and All India Radio have been voted most trusted electronic media organization in country as per Reuters Institute's Digital News Report 2023.
- ❖ Acharya N. Gopi has been selected for Prof. Kothapalli Jayashankar Award instituted by Bharat Jagruthi.
- ❖ 1000 years old Two square pillars with sculptures of Jain Tirthankaras and inscriptions were found at Enikepalli village in Rangareddy district, Hyderabad.
- ❖ The Chandrayaan-3 lander will bear the name 'Vikram' and the rover, 'Pragyan' as same as Chandrayaan-2.
- ❖ Indigo, India's largest airline by market share, placed an order for 500 Airbus A320 Family aircraft in the largest purchase agreement in aviation history.
- ❖ National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) celebrated its 20th Foundation Day on 19 June.
- ❖ Assam's first underwater railroad tunnel will be built between Numaligarh and Gohpur region.
- Dr. K. Venugopal from Alappuzha, has been selected for an award instituted by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) to commemorate National Doctors' Day under the category of community service.
- ❖ The International Association Football Federation (FIFA) Council has selected Indonesia to host the U-17 World Cup by replacing Peru.
 - FIFA also announced Colombia as the host of the 2024 U-20 Women's World Cup and Dominica as the host of the U-17 Women's World Cup.
- ❖ India and Egypt signed an agreement to elevate the bilateral relationship to a "Strategic Partnership".
- ❖ The prestigious Intersolar Europe 2023 exhibition held in Munich, Germany.
- ❖ The International Pineapple Day is celebrated on June 27th each year to honor and appreciate the tropical fruit known as the pineapple.





TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu electorate

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu electorate fell by eight lakh and stood at more than 6.12 crore.
- ❖ It is including 3.11 crore women, 3.01 crore men and more than 7,900 belonging to the third gender.
- ❖ In January this year, the total electorate of Tamil Nadu was 6.20 crore.
- ❖ It is including 3.15 crore women, 3.04 crore men and more than 8,000 from the third gender.
- ❖ Shozhinganallur Assembly Constituency in Chengalpattu district continues to have the highest number of electors in the State with 6,51,077 electors.
- ❖ It is followed by Kavundampalayam Assembly Constituency of Coimbatore district with 4,54,919 electors.
- ❖ The Harbour Assembly Constituency of Chennai district continues to have the lowest number of electors with 1,69,292.
- ❖ Kilvelur Assembly Constituency in Nagapattinam District has the second lowest number of electors in the State with 1,69,750.

Guidelines for issuing ST certificates

- ❖ Recently the Narikoravan and Kurivikkaran communities were transferred from the Most Backward Communities (MBC) category to the list of Scheduled Tribes (ST).
- ❖ Now the Tamil Nadu government has framed guidelines to streamline the issuance of community certificates to these two communities.
- They divided into three categories:
 - o Those who do not have any community certificate,
 - o Those who have MBC certificate and
 - o Those who have certificates with some complaints or related documents are missing in the taluk office concerned.

First train to Theni

- ❖ The Southern Railway would introduce the first-ever express train connecting Bodinayakanur in the district with Chennai from June 15.
- * This would be the first train to link Theni district outside Madurai.
- ❖ Theni was formed by bifurcating Madurai district in 1996.







Kilnamandi Excavation site



- ❖ Iron implements, mostly blades and axe heads, carnelian beads, offering pots and a stone nut-cracker were unearthed from the excavation site at Kilnamandi.
- ❖ This indicates the existence of human settlements dating back to the later phase of the Iron Age at the excavation site.
- ❖ The team also unearthed 12 rectangular sarcophagi at the site.
- ❖ A large number of black and red wares and red slipped wares were also found, dating the site to the Iron Age.
- * Kilnamandi is located around 20 km from Vandavasi town in Tiruvannamalai.

Highest coal demand

- ❖ The power sector in Tamil Nadu may see a maximum coal demand of 65.7 million tonnes by the financial year 2030.
- ❖ The actual consumption in financial year 2022 is 27.95 million tonnes.
- ❖ The report, prepared by Deloitte, brings out a realistic and optimistic coal demand across India.





Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission

- ❖ The TN Govt launched the Tamil Nadu Wetland Mission at Otteri Lake inside Vandalur Zoo.
- ❖ Under the wetland mission, the State Wetland Authority will ecologically restore 100 wetlands across the State.
- ❖ Otteri lake is one among the 100 wetlands selected for restoration.
- ❖ The government has already allocated Rs 115 crore to restore 100 wetlands over the period of 5 years.

NIRF - Top colleges from Tamil Nadu

India Rankings 2023: College					
Institute \$	Name	City 🛊	State	Score ¢	Rank _{\$}
IR-C-C-43921	Presidency College	Chennal	Tamil Nadu	71.18	3
IR C C 41046	PSGR Krishnammal College for Women	Coimbatore	Tarnii Nadu	71.05	4
IR-C-C-44006	Loyola College	Chennai	Tamil Nadu	70.46	7
IR-C-C-43955	Madras Christian College	Chennal	Tamii Nadu	66.51	16
IR-C-C-36513	Thiagarajar College	Madurai	Tarmi Nadu	65.08	18
IB-C-C-41124	PSG College of Arts and Science	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu	64.61	20
IR-C-C-35860	St. Joseph's College	Tiruchirappalli	Tamil Nadu	62.48	25
IR C C 41157	V.O. Chidambaram College	Tuttcorin	Tamil Nadu	62.14	2/
IR-C-C-41106	Kongunadu Arts & Science College	Combatore	Tamil Nadu	61.56	29
IB-C-C-41126	Sri Krishna Arts and Science College	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu	59.74	33
IR C C 35825	Bishop Heber College	Tiruchirappalli	Tarmii Nadu	59.15	34
IR-C-C-43931	Stella Mans College for Women	Chennai	Tamil Nadu	58.19	37
IR-C-C-43954	Madras School of Social Work	Chennal	Tamii Nadu	58.02	39
IR-C C-35787	Holy Cross College, Hruchtrappalli	Hruchtrappalli	Tamil Nadu	57.88	40
IR-C-C-36411	Sacred Heart College (Autonomous)	Trupattur	Tarmi Nadu	57.49	42

- ❖ 22 universities from Tamil Nadu find a place among top 100 in NIRF rankings.
- ❖ Thirty-five colleges from Tamil Nadu featured in the top 100 colleges in the NIRF list this year, three more than in the previous year.
- ❖ Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham and Vellore Institute of Technology have got the 15th and 17th positions respectively in the overall category.
- ❖ Anna University is ranked 18th in the overall category.
- ❖ NIT Trichy stood at 21st.
- ❖ Around 20 universities and colleges are securing places in list of over all 100.
- ❖ Anna University is ranked 14th among universities, while Bharathiyar University is ranked 24th.





- ❖ Ranking of University of Madras among universities has fallen from 39 in 2022 to 50 in 2023.
- ❖ But it has improved its overall ranking from 70 last year to 63 this year.
- ❖ Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham and Vellore Institute of Technology have got the seventh and eighth positions this year in the university category.
- Presidency College retained third position in the rankings of colleges.
- ❖ Around 35 colleges are securing places in rankings of top 100 colleges list.

Vembakottai archaeological site



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology has unearthed two pieces of gold in the second phase of excavation at Vembakottai.
- ❖ It is located near Sattur in Virudhunagar district.
- ❖ The gold objects were found at a depth of 1.15 m to 1.59 m.
- ❖ While one gold piece is in a conical shape, the other one is rectangular.
- ❖ Among the artefacts found in the second phase are an ivory dice, a terracotta smoking pipe, an earring and a stone weighing unit.

Passenger cruise vessel to Sri Lanka

- ❖ The first regular international cruise passenger vessel mv Empress was launched from Chennai Port that will connect three ports on Sri Lanka.
- ❖ The MV Empress will visit three ports in Sri Lanka before returning to Chennai: Hanbantota, Trincomalee, and Kankesanturei.
- ❖ There are also plans to look into additional ferry routes through India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Myanmar.





Green Champion Awards 2022

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) on presented Green Champion Awards 2022.
- It was awarded to individuals, schools, colleges and commercial establishments for contributing to environmental conservation by adopting alternatives to singleuse plastics.
- ❖ The Justice Basheer Ahmed Sayeed College for Women in Chennai or SIET College of Chennai received the award and college principal Amthul Azeez along with the team received the certificate and cash award.
- ***** The other recipients were:
 - o Government Higher Secondary School, Old Perungalathur;
 - o Patrician College of Arts and Science, Adyar;
 - o Hand in Hand, Ashok Nagar;
 - o G. Thangaraj, National Green Corps; and
 - o Caterpillar India Private Limited, Power Systems Division, Hosur.
- ❖ A total of 92 members won the award with a cash prize of ₹1 lakh each.

500 urban health and wellness center

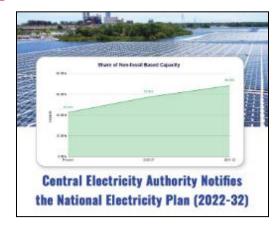


- ❖ Tamilnadu Chief Minister inaugurated 500 urban health and wellness centres in various parts of the State.
- ❖ The staff at these centres would provide 12 comprehensive primary health care services.
- ❖ This is the first of its kind initiative in the country.





National Electricity plan



- ❖ The National Electricity Plan Volume-I: Generation was notified by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu accounts for about 82% of India's lignite reserves of 40.9 billion tonne.
- ❖ The State has lignite reserves of 33,309.53 million tonne, followed by Rajasthan with 4,835.29 million tonne and Gujarat with 2,722.05 million tonnes.
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir accounts for 25.55 million tonnes.
- ❖ Kerala and West Bengal together have 11.44 million tonnes.
- ❖ The National Electricity plan covers a detailed plan for the period 2022-27 and a prospective plan for the period 2027-32.
- ❖ It anticipates 28.74 billion units of gross lignite-based generation by 2026-27 and 28.18 billion units by 2031-32.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's peak power demand is expected to be 21,736 MW by 2026-27 and 28,291 MW by 2031-32, as per the plan.

Highest rainfall in a day

- ❖ A strong hailstorm hit many parts of Vellore recently.
- ❖ The highest rainfall (55 mm) recorded in a day in the State for this season.
- ❖ Vellore recorded 41.7 degrees Celsius, which is the highest in the State for this summer.

Menhir and megalithic burial sites

❖ The Tamil Nadu Department of Archaeology has declared five 'menhir' (single stone) and megalithic burial sites at Kodumanal in Erode district as protected monuments.





- ❖ Kodumanal is located on the northern banks of the Noyyal and about 42 km from Erode.
- ❖ Potsherds containing names inscribed in Tamil-Brahmi script were found in a large number, apart from Roman silver coins, precious stones and quartz.
- ❖ These findings showed that an industrial and trade centre had existed here about 2,300 years ago.



Mettur dam opening 2023

- ❖ Chief Minister M K Stalin released water from the Stanley reservoir in Mettur.
- ❖ It was the 19th time that the water was released from the dam on June 12.
- ❖ It is the traditional date for water release for kuruvai crop cultivation.
- ❖ The CM announced a Rs 75.95crore Kuruvai Nel Sagupadi Thogppu thittam (kuruvai crop cultivation scheme).
- ❖ Under this, farmers will be given fertilizers and farm materials at subsidized prices.

Cauvery realisation over the last five years				
Year	Quantity realised (in TMC)	Excess quantity (in TMC)		
2018-19	405.43	228.18		
2019-20	275.16	97.90		
2020-21	211.38	34.13		
2021-22	281.06	103.81		
2022-23	667.55	490.30		





Withdrawal of general consent



- ❖ The Government of Tamil Nadu has withdrawn the general consent given to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- ❖ The CBI should henceforth seek prior permission from the Tamil Nadu government for undertaking investigation.
- ❖ As per Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946, the CBI needs consent from the respective State governments for conducting the investigation in their jurisdiction.
- ❖ A general consent to CBI granted by State governments enables the central agency to carry out investigations without such hindrances.
- Currently Nine States Mizoram, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Kerala, Jharkhand, Punjab and Meghalaya had withdrawn their general consent given to CBI.

Engineering courses in Tamil

- From 2024-2025 academic year, Anna University is likely to start Tamil courses in core engineering program such as ECE, EEE, Computer Science and Chemical Engineering.
- ❖ Already civil and mechanical engineering are being offered in Tamil.
- ❖ Earlier this year, the university decided to suspend the Tamil courses in its constituent colleges as there were few takers.

Reallocation of Ministerial portfolios

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi approved the re-allocation of the portfolios.
- ❖ The Electricity and Non-Conventional Energy Development portfolio has been allocated to Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu.





- ❖ The subjects of Prohibition and Excise, Molasses, have been assigned to Housing and Urban Development Minister S Muthusamy.
- ❖ They both assume these new portfolios in addition to their existing responsibilities.
- ❖ The Minister Senthil Balaji would continue as a Minister without portfolio.

40-lakh-tonne mark in paddy procurement

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has scored a hat-trick in exceeding the 40-lakh-tonne mark in paddy procurement.
- ❖ As on, June 15, 2023, the quantity procured was a little more than 40 lakh tonnes.
- ❖ Until about five years ago, 23.87 lakh tonnes, procured during 2011-12, was considered the all-time high.
- ❖ But it was broken in 2019-20 when 32.4 lakh tonnes were procured.
- ❖ This was followed by 44.9 lakh tonnes procurement in 2020-21 and about 43.3 lakh tonnes in 2021-22.

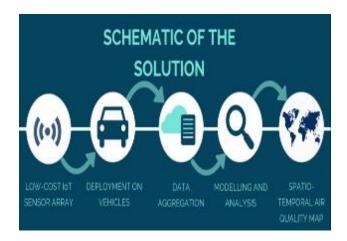
Year	Paddy procured (in tonnes)	Farmers benefitted	MSP paid (₹ in crore)	State govt.'s Incentive (₹ in crore)	Total amount paid to farmer (₹ in crore)
2018-2019	19,10,665	5,06,821	3,367.47	119.34	3,486.81
2019-2020	32,40,990	5,85,241	5,925.19	204.83	6,130.02
2020-2021	44,90,222	8,52,152	8,448.95	285.73	8,734.68
2021-2022	43,27,616	8,27,249	8,453.79	397-34	8,851.14
2022-2023* (till June 14)	39,92,251	5,04,783	8,181.80	351.68	8,533.48

Project Kaatru

- ❖ IIT Madras have developed a low-cost Internet of Things (IoT)-based mobile air pollution monitoring framework named as Project Kaatru.
- ❖ It can be mounted on buses, cars and two-wheelers to gather spatio-temporal air quality data.
- The devices can also asses road roughness, potholes and ultraviolet index among others.







Southern Railway's first elephant underpass

- ❖ The construction of Southern Railway's first underpass for wild elephants entered final phase.
- ❖ This is built for pachyderm movement on the Ettimadai Walayar section near Coimbatore.
- ❖ As per Forest Department statistics, a total of 11 elephants have been killed in six major accidents since 2008 on the Tamil Nadu side alone.



Tamil Nadu Fintech City

- ❖ Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the development of Fintech City and Fintech Tower in Nandambakkam.
- ❖ The Fintech city is expected to attract investments to the tune of 12,000 crore and create employment opportunities to 80,000 people.
- ❖ A Fintech wing has been set up in the Guidance Bureau and a Fintech governing council led by the industries minister has been constituted by the government.

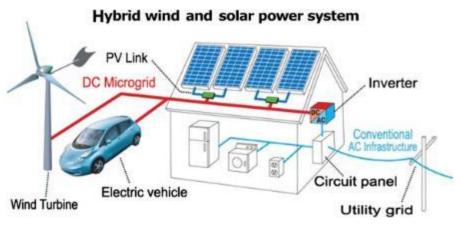




- ❖ The government provided incentives to firms investing more than 50 crores.
- ❖ TN already released a special policy called Tamil Nadu FinTech Policy 2021 to make Tamil Nadu a global hub for FinTech companies by 2025.

Solar-wind energy hybrid system

- ❖ Citizen Consumer and Civic Action Group (CAG) published a report recently on by capacity of renewable energy.
- ❖ Although Tamil Nadu has more installed capacity of renewable energy than non-renewable energy, the State still depends highly on coal to generate electricity.
- ❖ Also, it is yet to develop a framework on hybrid solar-wind system.
- ❖ 2020-2021, the installed capacity of non-renewable sources of electricity generation was 16,219 megawatts (MW).
- ❖ Renewable energy sources wind, solar, hydro and biomass constituted 16,276 MW.
- ❖ The electricity generated through renewable energy was just 22% of the total electricity mix



MSP-receiving paddy growers

- ❖ Paddy growers, who get covered under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) system in Tamil Nadu, account for around one-fifth of the average number of farmer-beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) in the State.
- ❖ As per the State government's documents, paddy accounts for 35% of the gross cropped area.
- ❖ PM-KISAN, implemented since February 2019, aims at augmenting the income of families of all landholding farmers, regardless of the size of landholding.
- ❖ Every farmer-beneficiary receives ₹6,000 annually in three instalments.



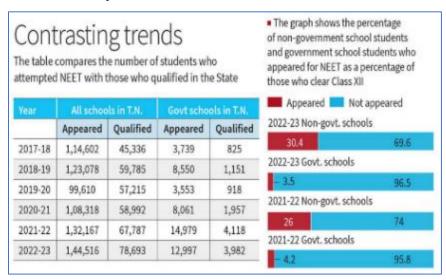


❖ According to official data, 48 lakh farmers in Tamil Nadu have registered with the authorities for the scheme.

The table cor Minimum Su	nces in scale npares the number of farmer pport Price (MSP) and Pradha hi (PM-KISAN) Scheme in the	n Mantri Kisan	
Year	Paddy-raising farmers covered under MSP	Beneficiaries of PM-KISAN	
2018-19	5,06,821	21,61,247*	
2019-20	5,85,241	32,60,755	
2020-21	8,52,152	41,55,035	
2021-22	8,27,249	37,19,121	
2022-23	5,04,783	24,96,943	

Tamilnadu Government school students qualify in NEET

- ❖ The percentage of government school students, who qualified in the exam, has increased from 22.1% in 2018 to 30.6% in 2023.
- ❖ The number of government school students who sat for the exam came down by 13% to 12,997 in 2023 compared to 14,979 in 2022.
- ❖ The average number of students who took part in the exam between 2018 and 2021 was only around 6,000.
- ❖ 1,31,519 (30.4%) of the 4,32,231 aided and private school students took the NEET exam in this year.
- ❖ In comparison, only 12,997 (3.5%) of the 3,71,154 government school students took the test in this year.







Kid's bones found in burial urn

- ❖ A small burial urn which was unearthed at the Adichanallur excavation site has been found to contain the bones of a child.
- ❖ It also contains ornaments, especially bangles of smaller sizes.
- ❖ It could be of a child aged five to eight years since a small skull and hand bone were found inside.
- ❖ There were four bangles made of a mixture of bronze and silver.
- ❖ Adichanallur in Tuticorin district is an important archaeological excavation site, especially for burial urns.



Second highest growth in GeM procurement



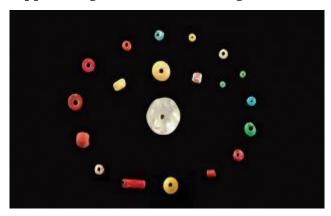
- ❖ The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is an online public procurement platform.
- ❖ It has inked a deal with Tamil Nadu Small and Tiny Industries Association (TANSTIA) to jointly enhance GeM seller base in the State.
- ❖ During the last fiscal year, Tamil Nadu recorded the second highest growth in GeM procurement amongst 36 States and Union Territories.
- **❖** The State witnessed an increase in order value by 302.5% from ₹220.89 crore in financial year 2021-22 to ₹889.19 crore in financial year 2022-23.





Chola-era artefacts

- ❖ Nearly 400 antiquities, including a Chola-era coin belonging to the period of King Raja Raja Chola, have been found in the second phase of the Vadakkupattu excavation.
- ❖ It is located near Oragadam in Kancheepuram district.
- ❖ The findings in the second phase include two coins that belong to the Chola period between the 9th and 10th century CE.
- ❖ One of the coins was used during Raja Raja Chola's period.
- ❖ A copper bow, copper lid, glass beads and bangles also found here.



Rice requirement of Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Food Corporation of India (FCI) reiterating its position of not providing more food grains to States under its Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC) is negotiating with the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF) and other States to procure the additional quantity of 50,000 to 60,000 tonnes a month.
- ❖ The monthly allocation by the Centre to Tamil Nadu is approximately 2.97 lakh tonnes of rice for the public distribution system (PDS) under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).
- ❖ Over and above this quantity, the State requires, on an average, 50,000 tonnes to 60,000 tonnes per month.
- ❖ TN has over 2.2 crore rice-drawing ration cards.
- ❖ Between December 2022 and March 2023, it bought 3 lakh tonnes from the NCCF.
- ❖ During the Kharif Marketing Season 2022-23, 7 lakh tonnes were retained by the State for local requirements.
- ❖ At present, the State has a stock of 5.4 lakh tonnes of rice at its godowns.





❖ Besides, around 1.9 lakh tonnes are available with millers and this quantity will eventually be available for the PDS.



Olive Ridley hatchlings



❖ As many as 1,83,497 Olive Ridley hatchlings were released into sea along the Tamil Nadu coast this year.

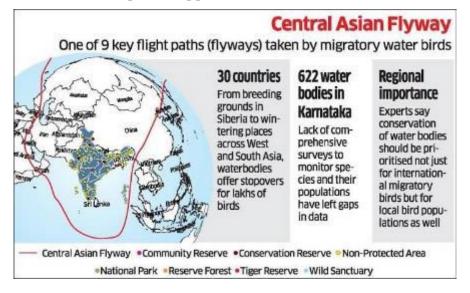




- ❖ The number of sea turtle hatchlings released in 2022-23 was the highest in the last seven years.
- ❖ The hatchlings released this breeding season, which lasts from January to May, marked a rise from 1,72,339 in 2021-22.
- ❖ The count has been above the 1-lakh mark since 2017-18, when 1,21,289 turtles were recorded entering the waters.

State Bird Authority

- The Tamil Nadu government has constituted a State Bird Authority.
- ❖ It aims to monitor and improve bird sanctuaries, nesting conditions for birds, and ecotourism facilities.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has 17 bird sanctuaries of which 14 are Ramsar sites.
- ❖ The State is also part of the Central Asian Flyway.
- ❖ The Authority will
 - o Undertake an Integrated Management Plan for all bird sanctuaries,
 - o Map locations where native and migratory birds visit to create new protected areas for birds,
 - o Improve visitor facilities and
 - o Ecotourism development opportunities.



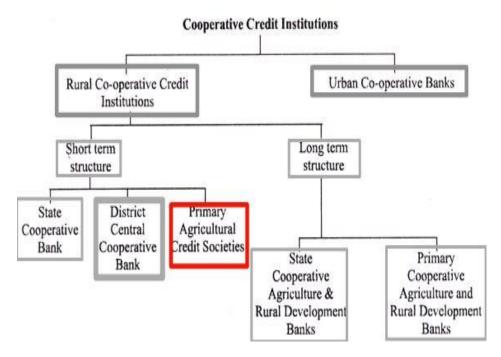
India's first cooperative society

* Restoration and conservation of a building belonging to India's first cooperative society, started at Tirur in Tiruvallur district.





- ❖ The No1. Tirur Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Society was started for farmers on August 22, 1904.
- ❖ A small meeting hall and a museum tracing the history of the cooperative movement would come up adjacent to the old building.



Zero cases of Covid in Tamilnadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu recorded zero cases of Covid on 26th June 2023.
- ❖ This is the first time that no fresh case of Covid has been recorded in the State since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020.
- ❖ The first case of Covid was reported on March 7, 2020.
- ❖ The total number of cases of Covid in Tamil Nadu stands at 36,10,593.
- ❖ More than 7.09 crore samples have been tested in Tamil Nadu to test for Covid.
- ❖ Total recovery stands at 35,72,497.
- ❖ The death toll stands at 38,080.

FSSAI's Eat Right certification - Cuddalore

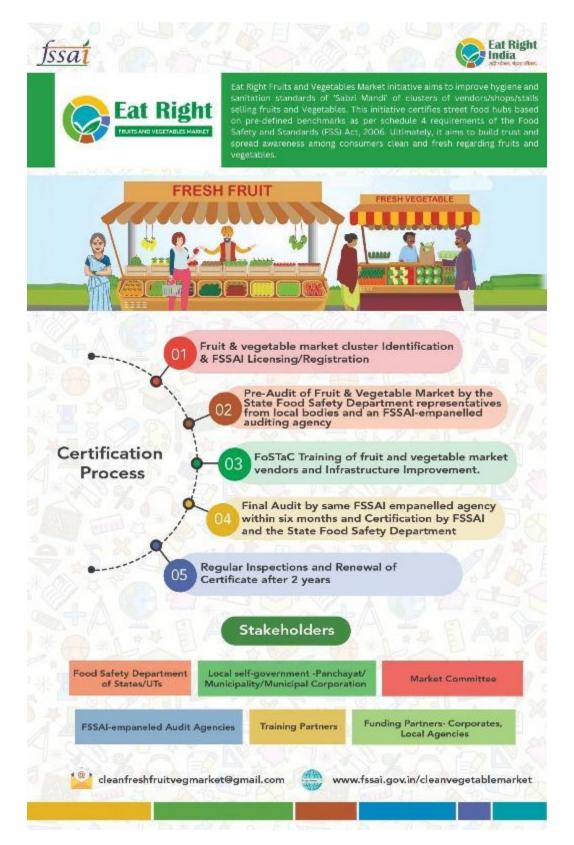
- ❖ The Thirupapuliyur Uzhavar Sandhai in Cuddalore has obtained Eat Right (Fruits and Vegetable Market) certification from FSSAI.
- ❖ The certification was issued as the farmers' market had met the benchmarks established by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.





❖ The Eat Right initiative aims at promoting safe, healthy, and sustainable food on campuses such as schools, universities, colleges, workplaces and food markets.









Madras High Court on appointment of priests

- ❖ The Madras High Court made it abundantly clear that pedigree based on caste will have no role to play in the appointment of Archaka (temple priest).
- ❖ The only criteria for such appointments would be how well-versed a person is in religious texts and rituals.
- ❖ Muthu Subramania Gurukkal had filed a writ petition in 2018.
- This petition challenging a job announcement for the post of Archagar/Sthanigar (temple priest, also known as Archaka) in Sri Sugavaneswarar Swamy Temple, Salem.
- ❖ An argument was made that the appointments must follow the specific Agama (scriptures governing temple rituals) principles adhered to by the temple, and that the job advertisement infringed upon the hereditary right of the petitioner and others.
- ❖ But the justice Venkatesh cited the Supreme Court's verdict in the 2016 All India Adi Saiva Sivachariargal Seva Sangam's versus Government of Tamil Nadu case.
- ❖ The top court had held that the appointment of a temple priest is a secular function and not about a hereditary right.
- ❖ The top court had held that the religious service by an Archaka is the secular part of the religion and the performance of the religious service is an integral part of the religion.
- ❖ In the 2022 case of N Adithayan versus Travancore Devaswom Board, the Supreme Court had held that there is no justification to insist that only a Brahmin (in this case, a Malayali Brahmin) alone can perform the rites and rituals.
- ❖ National Insurance Awareness Day is annually observed on 28th June to raise awareness about Insurance which offers a layer of protection to guard in various situations and about the benefits of investing in an insurance plan.





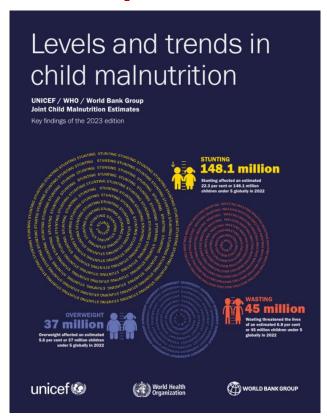


NATIONAL

New Rules for Special Protection Group

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notified fresh rules for the elite Special Protection Group (SPG).
- ❖ It will now be handled by an officer not less than the rank of an Additional Director-General belonging to the Indian Police Service.
- ❖ Earlier, the SPG has been headed by an Inspector General of Police (IGP) rank officer.
- ❖ Junior officers will be appointed on deputation for an initial period of six years.
- ❖ According to a 2019 amendment to the SPG Act, 1988, the force now protects only Prime Minister and members of his immediate family.
- ❖ The force would also provide security to former Prime Ministers and their immediate family members staying with them at the residence allotted for a period of five years after his office.

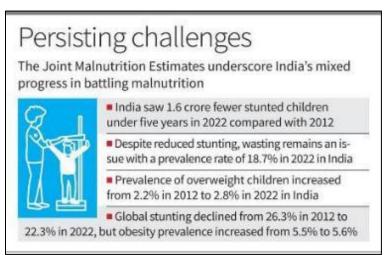
Joint Malnutrition Estimates Report







- ❖ The 2023 edition of the 'Joint Malnutrition Estimates' (JME) has released by UNICEF, WHO and the World Bank.
- ❖ There were 16 million fewer stunted children in India in 2022 as compared to 2012.
- ❖ Stunting among children under five years in India dropped from a prevalence rate of 41.6% in 2012 to 31.7% in 2022
- ❖ The numbers are dropping from 52 lakh to 36 lakh.
- ❖ The overall prevalence of wasting in 2022 was 18.7% in India, with a share of 49% in the global burden of this malnutrition indicator.
- ❖ The prevalence of obesity marginally increased in a decade from 2.2% in 2012 to 2.8% in 2022.
- ❖ India is contributing to 8.8% of the global share.
- ❖ But the overall classification for obesity is low and much lower than the global prevalence of 5.6%.
- ❖ Globally, stunting declined from a prevalence rate of 26.3% in 2012 to 22.3% in 2022.
- ❖ In South Asia, the decline was much sharper as it dropped from 40.3% to 30.5%.
- ❖ There was no improvement in the weight issue worldwide, as its prevalence rate grew from 5.5% to 5.6%.



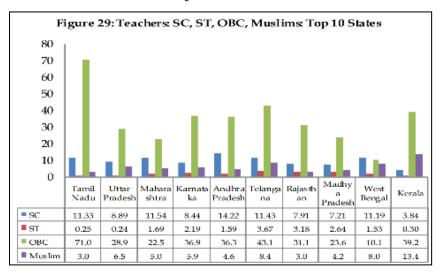
AISHE Survey 2020-21

- ❖ The AISHE Survey 2020-21 conducted under the Ministry of Education.
- ❖ The enrolment of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes (OBC) in higher education improved by 4.2%, 11.9% and 4%, respectively.





- ❖ The Muslim community's enrolment declined by 8%.
- ❖ The most drastic decline was reported from Uttar Pradesh (36%), followed by Jammu and Kashmir (26%), Maharashtra (8.5%) and Tamil Nadu (8.1%).
- ❖ Kerala is the only State where 43% Muslims go for higher education.
- ❖ OBC community accounts for 36% of the total enrolment in higher education in the country.
- ❖ The SCs bring up another 14%.
- ❖ The two communities cover nearly 50% of the seats in universities and colleges.
- ❖ The Muslim community population stands at over 14% but witness only 4.6% higher education enrolment.
- ❖ At an all-India level, teachers belonging to the General Category account for 56% of all teachers.
- ❖ OBC, SC and ST teachers make up another 32%, 9% and 2.5% of the teachers, respectively.
- ❖ Muslims constitute only about 5.6% of the teachers.
- ❖ In terms of gender, there are 75 female teachers for 100 male teachers.
- ❖ There are 71% female OBC teachers and 75% female ST teachers, but only 59 female Muslim teachers for every 100 male Muslim teachers.



Foucault's Pendulum

- ❖ The National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) based in Kolkata was installed the Foucault's Pendulum in new Parliament building.
- ❖ The pendulum takes precisely 49 hours, 59 minutes, and 18 seconds to complete a full rotation.





- ❖ It is a deceptively simple device used to illustrate the earth's rotation.
- ❖ If the pendulum is installed at the North Pole, the pendulum will basically be swinging as the earth rotates 'below'.
- ❖ If the pendulum is installed over the equator, the plane won't appear to shift at all because it will be rotating along with the earth.
- ❖ Depending on where you are on Earth, the pendulum will appear to rotate in different ways.



Periodic Labour Force 2023

Srl.		Estimate of Indicator (in per cent)					
No.	Description of the Indicator	Jan, 2021 – Dec, 2021			Jan, 2022 – Dec, 2022		
		Rural	Urban	Rural + Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural + Urban
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1	Ratio of female workers to male workers working as Legislators, Senior officials and Managers (age group: 15 years and above)	22.5	17.6	20.0	19.5	18.6	19.0
2	Ratio of female workers to male workers working as Professionals and Technical Workers (age group: 15 years and above)	49.9	45.4	47.3	49.7	44.4	46.5
3	Percentage of female employed with advanced degree among total employed (age group: 25 years and above)	1.3	5.9	2.5	1.2	6.4	2.6

- ❖ The National Statistical Office (NSO) released the data of Periodic Labour Force Survey.
- ❖ The unemployment rate for both males and females aged 15 years and above declined to 6.8% in Q4FY23.
- ❖ This is below 8.2% during a similar period last year.
- ❖ Unemployment rate had peaked at 20.8% in Q1 FY20.
- ❖ The decline in male unemployment was much higher than female unemployment.
- ❖ Even as female labour force participation improved to 22.7% in Q4 from 22.3% in the previous quarter.





- ❖ The unemployment rate remained higher than 9%.
- ❖ Among the major states Chhattisgarh had the highest female labour force participation rate at 31.5%.
- ❖ It is followed by Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu at 30.5% and 27.4%, respectively.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh was her worst performer with a FLFPR of 13.3%.
- Overall, unemployment rate was the highest in Chhattisgarh at 12.5% rising from 10.6% in the previous quarter.
- ❖ It is followed by Rajasthan at 11.9%.
- ❖ It was lowest for Delhi at 3.1%, followed by West Bengal at 4.2% and Karnataka at 5.1%.

Ministry of Education Report

- ❖ Approximately 35 lakh students enrolled in Class 10 in 2021-2022 did not progress to Class 11.
- ❖ Of these 35 lakh students, 27.5 lakh failed, and 7.5 lakh students did not appear for the Class 10 examinations.
- ❖ The failure rate of students in CBSE and CISCE is as low as 5%.
- ❖ But it was as high as 16% in State Boards.
- ❖ Of the 35 lakh students, only 4.5 lakh students appear in exams through National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS).
- ❖ Also, the failure rates range in NIOS between 47% to 55%.
- ❖ Only 11 States contribute to 85% dropouts, or nearly 30 lakh students.
- ❖ They are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Assam, West Bengal, Haryana and Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ The percentage of students passing in Class 10 in Meghalaya is as low as 57%.
- In Madhya Pradesh, it is 61%, while in Jammu and Kashmir, it is 62%.
- ❖ For Punjab, it is as high as 97.8% and in Kerala, the passing rate is 99.85%.

CITIIS 2.0 Program

- ❖ The centre approved the second phase of the City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain (CITIIS) project.
- ❖ It is a programme under the ambit of the Smart Cities Mission.
- CITIIS stands for City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain.





- ❖ It aims to promote integrated waste management and climate-oriented reform actions.
- ❖ The CITIIS 2.0 will be implemented in 18 cities which would be selected based on a competition.
- ❖ It would be implemented in partnership with the French Development Agency (AFD), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), the European Union (EU), and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).



World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in the Cooperative Sector

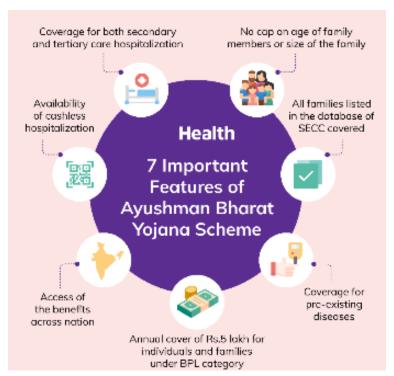






- ❖ The Union cabinet cleared a ₹1 trillion scheme to increase foodgrain storage capacity by 70 million tonnes in the cooperative sector.
- ❖ This will be world's largest grain storage plan in the cooperative sector.
- ❖ The plan will let cooperatives set up decentralised storage facilities across the country.
- ❖ It will likely to reduce the burden on Food Corp of India (FCI), cut wastage of farm produce and help farmers plan their sales better.
- ❖ The plan is to converge existing schemes of the ministries of Ministries of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Food Processing Industries.
- ❖ The Ministry of Cooperation would implement a pilot project in at least 10 selected districts of different States.

5 Crore hospital admissions under PM-JAY



- ❖ The Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), has logged an impressive 5 crore hospital admissions.
- ❖ The report stated that 56% of total admissions have been approved in private hospitals, with the remaining 44% in public ones in the financial year 2022-23.
- ❖ The scheme, managed by the National Health Authority, is offering an annual health cover of ₹5 lakhs per family.





- ❖ It provides benefits about 12 crore families with access to secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.
- ❖ Currently, the program is active in 33 of India's states and Union Territories, with Delhi, Odisha, and West Bengal being the exceptions.

Draft Aircraft Bill - 2023



- ❖ The Draft Aircraft Bill, 2023 has been prepared after reviewing the existing Aircraft Act, 1934.
- ❖ It has been issued by the ministry for public consultations for a period of 30 days.
- ❖ It aims to have an Act to make better provisions for regulation and control of the design, manufacture, possession, use, operation, sale, import and export of aircraft.

Pilot project for electronics repair

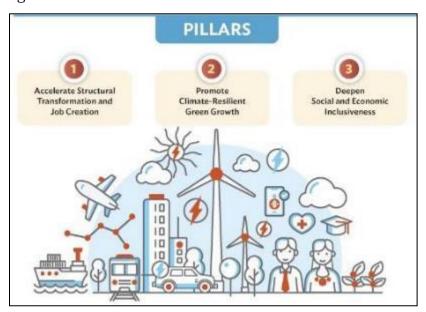
- ❖ The government started a 2-month pilot project aimed at capturing 20% of the global electronics repair industry.
- This is done by relaxing customs and e-waste rules and allowing companies to repair consumer electronics and telecom equipment brought in from other regions.
- ❖ This is seen as the first step towards making India the global repair hub of the world.
- ❖ India has a cost advantage of around 57% over China and 26% over Malaysia when it comes to repair services.
- ❖ At present, India's revenue from repair services is about \$350 million.



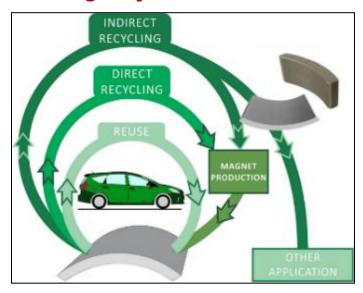


Country Partnership Strategy for India: 2023-2027

- ❖ The Asian Development Bank has announced its India strategy for the period 2023-2027.
- ❖ Its key focus is on employment creation and promoting green growth.
- ❖ Its engagement with India is support its drive for robust, climate-resilient, and inclusive growth.



Rare earth permanent magnets plant



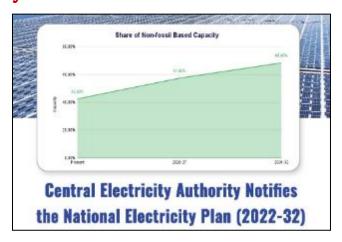
❖ The Prime Minister of India dedicated the Rare Earth Permanent Magnet Plant in Visakhapatnam to the nation.





- ❖ The rare earth permanent magnet has been developed on the campus of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ It is a type of magnet that can create a magnetic field without needing any external power source.
- ❖ It is called "permanent" because once it is magnetized, it can maintain its magnetism for a long time.
- * Rare earth permanent magnets are a type of permanent magnet that is made from rare earth elements.

National Electricity Plan 2022-32



- ❖ The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has notified the National Electricity Plan for the period of 2022-32.
- ❖ It includes the review of the last five years (2017-22), a detailed plan for the next five years (2022-27) and the prospective plan for the next five years (2027-32).
- ❖ The share of non-fossil-based capacity is likely to increase to 57.4% by the end of 2026-27.
- ❖ It may likely to further increase to 68.4% by the end of 2031-32 from around 42.5% as on April 2023.

Swachh Jal Se Suraksha Campaign Report

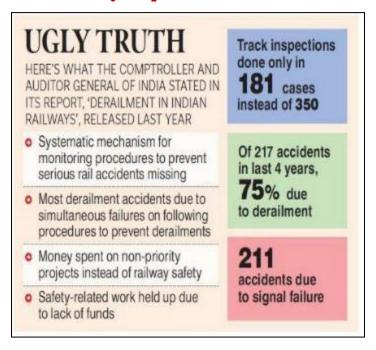
- ❖ The Union Jal Shakti Ministry released the report on progress under the Jal Jeevan Mission: Swachh Jal se Suraksha (SJSS) Campaign.
- ❖ The campaign took place between 2nd October, 2022, and 31st March, 2023.
- ❖ It is aimed at urging the States and Union Territories (UTs) to prioritize and actively engage in water quality monitoring and surveillance endeavours.





- ❖ 90.34% of the contaminated samples reported during the campaign underwent remedial action.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh emerged as the best performing states.

Derailment in Indian Railways report



- ❖ The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), submit his report on Derailments in Indian Railways 2022.
- ❖ Total 422 derailments were attributable to the Engineering Department.
- ❖ Analysis of 1129 'Inquiry Reports' of derailment accidents in 16 Zonal Railways (ZRs) revealed 24 factors responsible for derailments in the selected cases/accidents.
- ❖ The total damages/loss of assets in these cases was reported as ₹32.96 crore.
- ❖ In all, 182 derailments were attributable to the Mechanical Department and there were 154 accidents attributable to the loco pilots.
- ♦ Of the 1127 derailments during 2017-21, the report said around 289 derailments (26%) were linked to track renewals.

NIRF 2023

❖ The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) announced the India Rankings 2023 of higher education institutions.





- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Madras in Chennai remained the best educational institution in overall rankings for the fifth consecutive term.
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) of Bengaluru ranked as the best university in the country for eight years in a row.
- ❖ Miranda House of Delhi is ranked the best college.
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) of Ahmedabad is the top management institute.
- ❖ The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) of Hyderabad is ranked number one for pharmaceutical studies.
- ❖ The All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) of Delhi is ranked the best medical college.
- ❖ Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences of Chennai is the top dental college.
- ❖ National Law School of India University of Bengaluru is ranked the best law college in the country.
- ❖ IISc Bengaluru stood first in 'Research Institutions' category too for the third consecutive year.



- ❖ IISc is followed by the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and Jamia Millia Islamia University as the second and third best universities, respectively.
- ❖ Indian Agricultural Research Institute of New Delhi took the top slot in 'Agriculture and Allied Sectors'.
- ❖ IIT-Kanpur topped the 'Innovation' category.
- ❖ IISc, Bengaluru and IIT-Delhi are ranked the second and third best institutes in the overall category.





- ❖ Hindu College, Delhi and Presidency College, Chennai are ranked the second and third best colleges, respectively.
- ❖ IIM-Bangalore and IIM-Kozhikode secured second and third position in the ranking of management institutes, respectively.
- ❖ The Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh and the Christian Medical College, Vellore are ranked the top second and third medical colleges, respectively.

National center for earthquake of dams

- ❖ Malviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT) in Jaipur has been identified as the National Centre for Earthquake Safety of Dams.
- ❖ It will be the first centre of its kind in the country.
- The centre will develop indigenous capabilities in making the country self-reliant in handling technology issues related to structural and earthquake safety of dams.
- ❖ The number of specified dams in the country is over 5,500 and about 70 of them are those of national importance.

THE impact rankings 2023



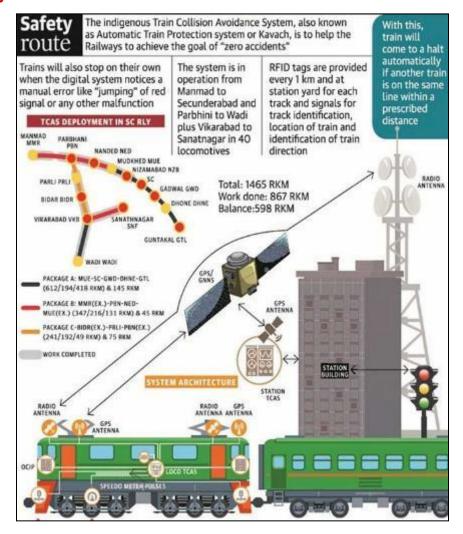
- ❖ 'Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2023' released recently.
- ❖ Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore has emerged as India's highest-placed university.
- ❖ The university is ranked at the 52nd rank globally out of 1,591 universities from 112 countries/regions.





- ❖ Other Indian universities in the top 300 include Lovely Professional University in Punjab, ranked between 101 and 200.
- ❖ Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences in Himachal Pradesh ranked between 101 and 200.
- * KIIT University in Odisha ranked between 201 and 300.
- ❖ India appears highest for SDG 5 gender equality with Manipal Academy of Higher Education coming 4th.
- ❖ India also has the most universities in the top 100 in SDG 7 affordable and clean energy with 5.
- ❖ Three universities from India are in the top 100 for SDG 3 good health and wellbeing.

Kavach System







- ❖ The KAVACH is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system.
- ❖ It is developed by the Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) in collaboration with the Indian industry.
- ❖ It is a state-of-the-art electronic system with Safety Integrity Level-4 (SIL-4) standards.
- ❖ It is meant to provide protection by preventing trains to pass the signal at Red (which marks danger) and avoid collision.
- ❖ It activates the train's braking system automatically if the driver fails to control the train as per speed restrictions.
- ❖ In addition, it prevents the collision between two locomotives equipped with functional Kavach systems.
- ❖ The system also relays SoS messages during emergency situations.
- ❖ An added feature is the centralised live monitoring of train movements through the Network Monitor System.
- ❖ 'Kavach' is one of the cheapest, SIL-4 certified technologies where the probability of error is 1 in 10,000 years.
- ❖ The South-Central Railway (SCR) Zone is a pioneer in the implementation of the KAVACH – TACS.

National Mission for Mentoring

- ❖ National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) launched NMM in Pilot in selected 30 Central Schools across the country.
- ❖ It aims to facilitate the continuous professional development of school teachers through mentoring.
- * Recently, NCTE organises 2-day capacity building workshop for the 60 mentors.

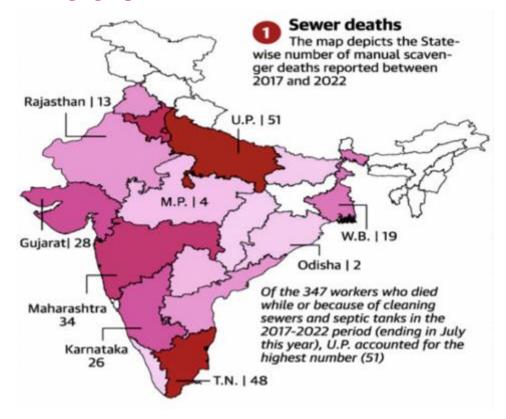
Sustainability Report for FY 2021-22

- ❖ NHAI's first 'Sustainability Report for FY 2021-22' covers NHAI's governance structure, stakeholders, environment and social responsibility initiatives.
- ❖ From FY 2019-20 till 2021-22 direct emission reduced by 18.44% and 9.49% due to less fuel consumption.
- ❖ Green House Gas (GHG) Emissions from energy consumption, operations, transport and travel saw a decline of 9.7% in FY 2020-21 and 2% in FY 2021-22.





Manual Scavenging report



- ❖ Only 508 districts (66%) out of the total 766 districts in the country have declared themselves manual-scavenging free.
- **♦** 58,000 identified sewer workers have been given a one-time cash pay-out of ₹40,000 each.
- ❖ In addition, around 22,000 of them (less than half) have been connected to skills training programmes.
- ❖ The scheme for rehabilitation of manual scavengers has now been merged with the NAMASTE scheme for 100% mechanisation of sewer work.

Nyaya Vikas Portal

- ❖ A user-friendly and transparent web portal to facilitate better delivery of judicial infrastructural projects via Nyaya Vikas Portal was launched recently.
- ❖ This portal helps in empowering stakeholders with seamless access to information about funding, documentation, project monitoring and approval.
- Under the Scheme, central assistance is provided to the State Government / UT for the construction of court halls and residential units for Judges of District and Subordinate Courts.





- ❖ The funds sharing pattern under the Scheme for Centre and State is 60:40 in respect of States.
- ❖ The fund's sharing pattern is 90:10 in respect of North Eastern and Himalayan States and 100% in respect of Union Territories.



Agni-1 Missile

- ❖ A successful training launch of Agni-1 was carried out by the Strategic Forces Command from APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha.
- ❖ This medium-range Agni-1 ballistic missile has a strike range from 700-1200 kilometres.
- ❖ Agni-I is used by the Strategic Force Command (SFC) of the Indian Army.







Demonstration of performance-based navigation

- ❖ India conducted Asia's first demonstration of performance-based navigation for helicopters for a flight from Juhu in Mumbai to Pune.
- ❖ This demonstration was conducted by using GAGAN satellite technology.
- ❖ The technology was jointly developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation and the Airports Authority of India.
- ❖ GAGAN GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation is a state-of-the-art space-based augmentation system which adds more accuracy.



Prerna: The Vernacular School

- ❖ Prime Minister launched the project 'Prerna: The Vernacular School' to inspire the youth of the country to become 'catalysts of change'.
- ❖ It aims to inspire the youth of the county to become catalysts of change.
- ❖ Gujarat's Vadnagar is being developed as 'Prerna (inspirational): The Vernacular School'.
- The school was established in 1888 and was functional until 2018.
- ❖ Two students from each district of the country will take part in the program.







Food Safety Index 2023

- ❖ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)' released its 5th State Food Safety Index.
- ❖ Kerala has topped the Food Safety Index 2022-23 by replacing Tamil Nadu.
- Punjab stood in the second position in the index.
- Tamil Nadu has slipped to third position.
- ❖ In the smaller states category, Goa emerged as the topper.
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, and Chandigarh secured the first, second, and third ranks, respectively, among the union territories.
- ❖ Last year, Tamil Nadu was in the top position among 20 larger states, followed by Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- ❖ In 2020-21, Gujarat was in top position, followed by Kerala and then Tamil Nadu in the third position.

Category- Union Territories							
Name	Rank						
Jammu & Kashmir	1						
Delhi	2						
Chandigarh	3						
Category- Small States							
Small State	Rank						
Goa	1						
Manipur	2						
Sikkim	3						
Category- I	Category- Large States						
Large State	Rank						
Kerala	1						
Punjab	2						
Tamil Nadu	3						

UGC Regulations - 2023



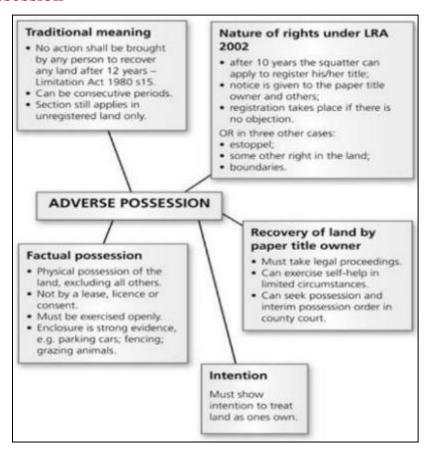
- ❖ The UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2023 was released recently.
- ❖ It will pave the way for the establishment of more quality-focused deemed universities





- ❖ The UGC Act 1956 empowers the central government to confer the status of Institutions Deemed to be Universities on institutions other than universities.
- ❖ The earlier set of regulations were introduced in 2010 and subsequently revised in 2016 and 2019.
- ❖ There are around 170 deemed institutions in the country currently.

Adverse Possession



- ❖ The Law Commission is headed by former Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court Ritu Raj Awasthi.
- ❖ "There is no justification for introducing any change in the law relating to adverse possession" the 22nd Law Commission has said in its recent report.
- ❖ The concept of adverse possession stems from the idea that land must not be left vacant but instead be put to judicious use.
- ❖ The adverse possession refers to the hostile possession of property, which must be "continuous, uninterrupted, and peaceful."
- ❖ The first attempt to bring the law of limitation to domestic shores was the "Act XIV of 1859".





- ❖ It regulated the limitation of civil suits in British India.
- ❖ After the passage of the Limitation Act in 1963, the law on adverse possession underwent significant changes.
- Under the Limitation Act, 1963, any person in possession of private land for over 12 years or government land for over 30 years can become the owner of that property.

Report on Sedition law



- ❖ The 22nd Law Commission of India recently submitted its final report ("Usage of the Law of Sedition") on the constitutionality of section 124A of the Indian Penal Code.
- ❖ The commission, while recommending that Section 124A of IPC, treats sedition as a criminal offence be retained.
- It called for safeguards and amending the law, which has been prone to misuse.
- ❖ To prevent misuse of Section 124A, it said the Centre may bring model guidelines to curb the same.
- ❖ The recommendations made in the report are persuasive and not binding.
- ❖ As for the penal provisions, the commission recommended a maximum life term, or seven years, or just a fine, depending on the case.
- Currently, the penal provision has a maximum punishment of life term, or three years, or fine.





New Wetland and Mangrove Conservation scheme



- ❖ On the occasion of World Environment Day, two new schemes were launched to reviving the country's wetlands and mangroves.
- ❖ They were: Amrit Dharohar and MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes).
- ❖ Amrit Dharohar Yojana will ensure the conservation of the existing Ramsar sites through public participation.
- ❖ The MISHTI scheme will help revive and protect the mangrove ecosystem in the country.
- ❖ India accounts for about 3% of South Asia's mangrove population.

13th Century tomb-like structure

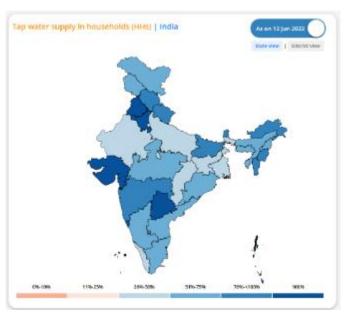






- ❖ A tomb-like structure was discovered in the Siri Fort area in Delhi by the Archaeological Survey of India.
- ❖ Siri Fort was built in the 13th Century by Aladdin Khilji, considered to be the most powerful ruler of the Khilji dynasty.
- ❖ It was used as a garrison town where his army used to reside.

WHO Report on Potable Water



- ❖ WHO highlights the substantial benefits of the 'Har Ghar Jal' program in India.
- ❖ Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) aims to provide piped potable water to all of Indians.
- ❖ It would succeed in averting close to 4,00,000 deaths from diarrhoea.
- ❖ It also prevents approximately 14 million Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) related to these diseases.
- ❖ This achievement alone would result in estimated cost savings of up to \$101 billion.
- ❖ Currently about 12.3 crore rural households, or 62%, have piped water connections up from 3.2 crore or about 16.6% from 2019.
- ❖ Five states viz; Gujarat, Telangana, Goa, Haryana, and Punjab and 3 Union Territories Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Daman Diu & Dadra Nagar Haveli and Puducherry have reported 100% coverage.
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh covered 98.87%, followed by Bihar at 96.30%.





National Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research



- ❖ The Ministry of Power and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy have jointly launched National Mission, titled "Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR)"
- ❖ It aims to facilitate indigenous research, development and demonstration of the latest and emerging technologies in the power sector.
- ❖ This will identify the emerging technologies and taking them to the implementation stage.
- ❖ Planned for an initial period of five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28, the Mission will follow the technology life cycle approach of Idea to Product.

New Degree Nomenclatures

- ❖ The UGC introduced a new recommendation of college degrees awarded by higher education institutions.
- ❖ It has recommended the introduction of Bachelor of Science (BS) degrees for all four-year undergraduate honours' programs, regardless of the discipline.
- ❖ They suggested that the universities can adopt the Master of Science (MS) nomenclature for postgraduate programs.
- ❖ It is also applicable to even in non-science disciplines like arts, humanities, management, and commerce.
- ❖ It has recommended to the introduction of the 'Hons' designation for four-year undergraduate honours programs.





- ❖ The four-year undergraduate honours degree programme will include 'Hons' in brackets, such as BA (Hons), BCom (Hons), or BS (Hons).
- ❖ Traditionally, Bachelor of Science (BSc) degrees have been associated with science subjects in India.
- ❖ Also, to Bachelor of Arts (BA) degrees have encompassed arts, humanities, and social sciences.



Kharif crop MSP hikes

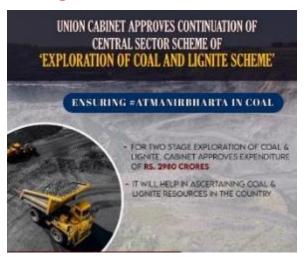
MOONG GETS THE HIGHEST RISE						
NEW MSP OF KHARIF CROPS IN 2023-24						
	Crop	New MSP*	% (Absolute*)	Hike over 2022-23		
	Moong	8,558	10.4	₹803		
	Sesamum	8,635	10.3	₹805		
G	roundnut	6,377	9	₹527		
43	Cotton	6,620	8.9	₹540		
7	Ragi	3,846	7.5	₹268		
34 14	Jowar	3,180	7	₹210		
600	Paddy	2,183	7	₹143		
	Soybean	4,600	7	₹300		
00	Maize	2,090	6.5	₹128		
0	Bajra	2,500	6.4	₹150		
N	iger Seed	7,734	6.1	₹447		
	Tur	7,000	6	₹400		
Sunflo	wer Seed	6,760	5.6	₹360		
	Urad	6,950	5.3	₹350		
*?Per quintal Paddy (Common) Jowar (Hybrid) Cotton (Medium Staple)						





- ❖ The Centre has set the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy sown in the kharif or monsoon season at ₹2,183 per quintal.
- ❖ It is a hike of ₹143 per quintal in comparison to last year.
- ❖ The 2023-24 MSPs for 17 kharif crops and variants were approved at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).
- **♦** The MSP for moong is ₹8,558 per quintal, an increase of ₹803 from last year.
- ❖ This is one of the highest increases among kharif crops.
- **❖** The MSP for tur or arhar has been set at ₹7,000 per quintal.
- ❖ It is estimated to be 58% above the cost of production.

Exploration of Coal and Lignite Scheme



- ❖ The Centre approved the continuation of the central sector plan 'Exploration of Coal and Lignite scheme'.
- ❖ The time period for the extension is from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- Under this scheme, exploration for coal and lignite is conducted in two broad stages:
 - o Promotional (Regional) Exploration and
 - o Detailed Exploration in non-Coal India Limited blocks.

Modified Semicon India Program

❖ The Government of India has invited new applications for setting up of Semiconductor Fabs and Display Fabs in India under the Modified Semicon India Program.





- ❖ Under the modified program, a fiscal incentive of 50% of the project cost is available to companies/consortia/joint ventures for setting up of Semiconductor Fabs in India.
- ❖ Similarly, a fiscal incentive of 50% of the project cost is available for setting up of Display Fabs of specified technologies in India.
- ❖ India Semiconductor Mission is the designated nodal agency for the program.



Twin CBG operation



- ❖ The Navy carried out a massive Carrier Battle Group (CBG) operation involving more than 35 aircraft in the Arabian Sea.
- ❖ It was one of the biggest demonstrations of its operational capabilities in recent years amid increasing Chinese forays in the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ A CBG is a naval fleet comprising an aircraft carrier and its multiple escort vessels.
- ❖ INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant along with a diverse fleet of escort ships, submarines and aircrafts participated in this event.





ICMR study on diabetes

'36% HAVE HYPERTENSION'					
➤ While 11.4% of India's	10 WORST AFFECTED				
population is diabetic, 15.3% have prediabetes	% Of Popn With	Diabetes	Prediabetes		
> Ratio of diabetic to prediabetic people is 1:1 in Delhi, 1:1.2 in Maha, 1:1.5 in Haryana and 1:3.8 in UP > 35.5% of people have hypertension and 81.2%	Goa	26.4	20.3		
	Puducherry	26.3	25.8		
	Kerala	25.5	18.3		
	Chandigarh	20.4	15.6		
	Delhi	17.8	18		
dyslipidemia (abnormal	Tamil Nadu	14.4	10.2		
> While 28.6% Indians have generalised obesity, 39.5%	W Bengal	13.7	23.5		
	Sikkim	12.8	31.3		
have abdominal obesity	Punjab	12.7	8.7		
"Source: Metabolic non-communicable disease health report of India/ICMR-INDIAB	Haryana	12.4	18.2		

- ❖ India now has more than 101 million people living with diabetes.
- ❖ The number of diabetic cases has increased by 44 per cent in four years from 70 million affected people in 2019.
- ❖ At least 136 million people, or 15.3% of the population, have prediabetes.
- ❖ The highest prevalence of diabetes was observed in Goa (26.4%), Puducherry (26.3%) and Kerala (25.5%).
- ❖ The national average is 11.4%.
- ❖ In Goa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Chandigarh there are fewer pre-diabetes cases compared to diabetes cases.
- ❖ UP has a diabetic prevalence of 4.8%, the lowest in the country.
- ❖ But it has 18% pre-diabetics compared to the national average 15.3%.
- ❖ Pre-diabetic is a person with a higher-than-normal blood sugar level but not high enough to be considered type-2 diabetes.

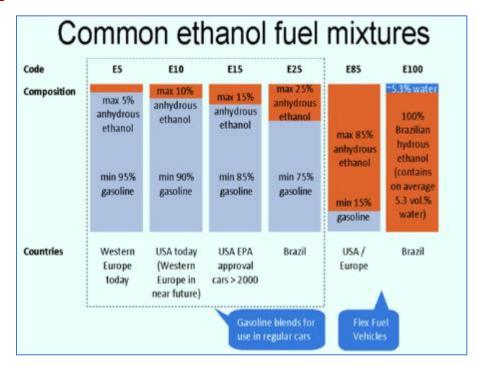
Vigyan Vidushi - 2023

- ❖ It aims to address the gender balance in the discipline of Physics at the doctorate level.
- ❖ It has commenced at the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), in Mumbai.
- ❖ 40 women students from forty different institutes all over India, who have just completed their first year MSc in Physics, are attending this 3-week programme.





E27 Fuel



- ❖ Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) launched a pilot study on vehicles using E27 fuel and Ethanol Blended Diesel Fuel.
- ❖ This was making it the first Oil Marketing Company in India to undertake such a comprehensive research program.
- ❖ The centre's team is evaluating the effects and performance of different blends of ethanol-gasoline, ranging from 10 to 27 percent.

Most developed constituency







- Udhampur-Doda-Kathua' Parliamentary Constituency from Jammu & Kashmir is one of the most developed constituencies in India among the 550 Parliamentary Constituencies.
- ❖ It is only Constituency in India having three medical Colleges including All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).
- This constituency has earned its name as the birthplace of the 'purple revolution'.
- ❖ The world's highest railway bridge the Chenab Bridge and the world's longest tunnel Dr Shyama Prasad Mookherjee tunnel are located here

Fame-II Subsidy Cut



- ❖ The government's reduction in the FAME subsidy for electric scooters in India, which came into effect from June 1.
- ❖ The government has lowered the subsidies from 40 percent to 15 percent of the vehicle cost.
- ❖ The FAME scheme commenced on April 1, 2019, for a period of three years.
- ❖ It was further extended for a period of two years up to March 31, 2024.

Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman

- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting announced the second edition of Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman.
- ❖ Under the Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman 2023, 33 Sammans in 22 Indian languages and English will be conferred under the following category
 - o Best Media Coverage in Yoga in Newspaper -11
 - o Best Media Coverage in Yoga in Electronic Media (TV)- 11 and
 - o Best Media Coverage in Yoga in Electronic Media (Radio) 11.



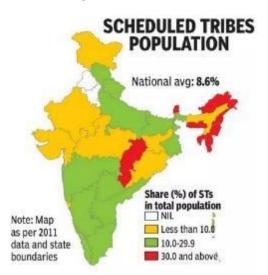


Anjadip & Sanshodhak warships

- ❖ Two warships of different classes were launched into the water.
- ❖ Anjadip is the 3rd Anti-Submarine Shallow Water Craft (ASWSWC).
- ❖ Sanshodhak is the 4th Survey Vessel Large (SVL).
- ❖ Anjadip is named after an island close to India's western coast that is now part of the Indian Naval base INS Kadamba, Karwar in karnataka.
- ❖ Anjadip offered strong resistance in 1961 when India took back Goa from the Portuguese.

New Human Development Index for tribals

- ❖ The Union government will develop a human development index (HDI) of 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) communities across India.
- ❖ About 28 lakh people of the PVTGs living in over 22,000 villages across the country.
- ❖ This will be a part of the three-year Rs 15,000 crore PVTG Mission, which was proposed in the 2023-24 budget.



Reforming arbitration law

- ❖ The centre has set up an expert panel led by former law secretary T K Viswanathan to recommend reforms in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.
- ❖ Earlier in January 2017, constituted a High-Level Committee formed under the chairmanship of retired Supreme Court justice BN Sri Krishna.





- ❖ The Act provides the procedure to be followed in arbitration proceedings, arbitral tribunal, the conduct of the tribunal along with the arbitral awards to be made in a dispute.
- ❖ The decision is binding on the parties and given in the form of an arbitral award in an arbitration agreement.
- ❖ It also prescribes the procedure of appeal to courts in case of discrepancies.



National Working Plan Code - 2023

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change released the "National Working Plan Code-2023".
- * This is for the scientific management of forests and evolving new approaches.
- ❖ This is deals in detail with the essentials of forest management planning, incorporating the principles of sustainable management of forests.

Top Achievers in Wind Energy Adoption

- * Rajasthan, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu are felicitated for their achievements during the financial year 2022-23.
- * Rajasthan was felicitated for achieving the highest wind capacity addition.
- Gujarat was achieving the highest wind capacity addition through open access.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu was initiating repowering of wind turbines.





- ❖ Wind Atlas has been prepared by the National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE).
- ❖ It has estimated the onshore wind potential of the country at 1,164 GW at 150 meters above ground level.

4th National Water Awards



- ❖ The Jal Shakti Ministry had announced a total of 41 winners, covering 11 categories, including joint winners, for the National Water Awards, 2022.
- ❖ The awards focus on encouraging good work and efforts made by various individuals and organisations to conserve water.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh was awarded the first prize in the best State category.
- ❖ Odisha got second place and Bihar shared the third spot along with Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ In the best district category, the award was given to the Ganjam District of Odisha.
- ❖ Namakkal in Tamil Nadu got 2nd prize in best district category.
- ❖ The best Village Panchayat award was presented to Jagannadhapuram Village Panchayat, Bhadradri Kothagudem district of Telangana.
- ❖ Kadavur Village Panchayat in Karur district of Tamil Nadu shared 2nd price in this category.
- ❖ Akashvani of Guwahati also received the second-best award in Media category.
- ❖ Apollo Tyres Limited, Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu shared 3rd price in Best Industry category.

Open Market Sale Scheme restriction

❖ The Central Government recently discontinued the sale of rice and wheat from the central pool under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) to State governments.





- ❖ However, the sale of rice under the OMSS will be continued for northeastern as well as hilly States.
- ❖ The quantity that a bidder can purchase in a single bid under the OMSS (D) from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) will range from 10-100 metric tonnes (MT).
- ❖ Earlier, the maximum quantity allowed was 3,000 MT per bid for a buyer.

Indian languages programme

- ❖ Google launched the 'Indian Languages Programme' under its News Initiative to support local news publishers in India.
- ❖ It is a comprehensive initiative designed to empower publishers through various components.
- ❖ It is including access to training, technical support, and funding, to help them improve their digital operations and reach more readers.
- ❖ It supports for total of nine languages, including English, Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Bengali, Malayalam, Gujarati, and Marathi.

Education loans growth in 2023

- ❖ For the first time in five years, growth in education loans registered a 17 per cent surge in the last financial year ended March, 2023.
- ❖ This is significant because the growth in education loans was flat during 2021-22 and it was negative for the three years prior to it.
- ❖ The education loans were down by 3 per cent, 3.3 per cent, and 2.5 per cent during FY21, FY20, and FY19, respectively.







First Omicron-specific mRNA vaccine



- ❖ India's first indigenous mRNA vaccine for the Omicron variant, GEMCOVAC-OM, was developed by Pune-based Gennova Biopharmaceuticals Ltd.
- ❖ It was approved under emergency use guidelines by the Drug Controller General of India.
- ❖ This comes a year after the company got approval for GEMCOVAC-19, the country's first m-RNA vaccine against COVID-19.

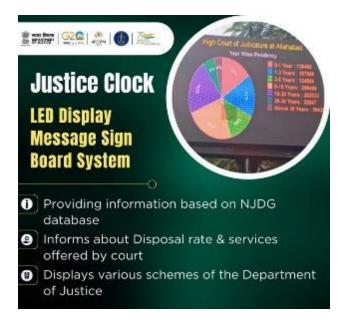
National Time Release Study 2023 report

- ❖ The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) released the National Time Release Study (NTRS) 2023 report.
- ❖ NTRS 2023 presents port-category wise average release time for the current year.
- ❖ The average import release time has continued to improve:
 - o Achieving 20 percent reduction in release time for inland container depots,
 - o 11 percent reduction for air cargo complexes, and
 - o 9 percent reduction for seaports in 2023 over 2022.

Justice Clocks

- ❖ The Electronic signage systems known as Justice Clocks have been across the court complexes of High Courts.
- ❖ The initiative will inform stakeholders about court-related key parameters and bring awareness among public by providing bird eye view of court-related data.
- ❖ It will enable the stakeholders by informing them about court-related key parameters.





Levels of urban segregation in India

- The level of segregation for Muslim and Scheduled Caste residents of Indian cities was as much as the current levels of segregation between Black and White Americans.
- ❖ Group of international academics and economists released a paper titled, 'Residential Segregation and Unequal Access to Local Public Services in India: Evidence from 1.5m Neighbourhoods'.
- ❖ It used data from the Socioeconomic and Caste Census 2012 and the Economic Census.
- ❖ It found that 26% of the Muslim population lives in neighbourhoods with over 80% Muslim population.
- ❖ 17% of the SCs live in neighbourhoods with over 80% SC population.

BIS Standards for Biodegradable Agri By-Product Utensils

- ❖ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has issued standards for agricultural byproduct utensils.
- ❖ It aims to reduce plastic pollution and promote sustainability.
- ❖ The published standard will be IS 18267: 2023 "Food Serving Utensils Made from Agri By-Products Specification".
- ❖ It provides comprehensive guidelines to manufacturers and consumers to ensure uniformity in quality requirements across the country.







One Nation One Helpline



- ❖ The Centre decided to integrate women helpline, child helpline with ERSS-112 (Emergency Response Support System).
- Childline services is defined in Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015 under section 2(25).
- ❖ As a 24-hours emergency outreach service is for children in crisis which links them to emergency or long-term care and rehabilitation service.
- ❖ The service can be accessed by any child in crisis or an adult on their behalf by dialling a four-digit toll free number (1098).
- ❖ The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Kerala will function as a total solution provider (TSP) for automation of child helpline-1098 and its integration with ERSS-112.





Test flight for cloud seeding

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) has conducted a test flight for cloud seeding.
- ❖ It aims to help create conditions for rain which would help to combat dry conditions and air pollution.
- ❖ The Cloud seeding involves the utilisation of various chemical agents such as silver iodide, dry ice, common salt, and other elements with the aim of enhancing the probability of precipitation.



VAIBHAV Fellowship



❖ The Government has launched a new fellowship programme to connect the Indian STEMM diaspora with Indian academic and R&D institutions.





- ❖ VAIBHAV stands for Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik.
- ❖ This fellowships programme to be implemented by the Department of Science and Technology.
- ❖ It would be awarded to outstanding scientist/technologists of Indian origin (NRI/OCI/PIO) who are engaged in research activities in their respective countries.
- ❖ 75 fellows selected and would be invited to work in 18 identified knowledge sectors.
- ❖ It including quantum technology, health, pharma, electronics, agriculture, energy, computer sciences, and material sciences amongst others.

Minerals Security Partnership

- ❖ India has been inducted into the Mineral Security Partnership (MSP).
- ❖ The Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) is a global initiative by the US to bolster critical mineral supply chains.
- ❖ It is also known as the critical mineral's alliance of 14 countries.
- ❖ It focusses on the supply chains of minerals such as cobalt, nickel, lithium and also the 17 "rare earth" minerals.

India's First Hydrogen Train



- ❖ The first prototype of the hydrogen train is expected to commence in the fiscal of 2023-2024 between Jind-Sonipat section of Northern Railway.
- ❖ India's first hydrogen plant is being set up near the railway junction in Jind district, Haryana.
- ❖ Currently, hydrogen-powered trains are running only in Germany.
- ❖ Hydrogen trains use hydrogen fuel cells instead of diesel engines.

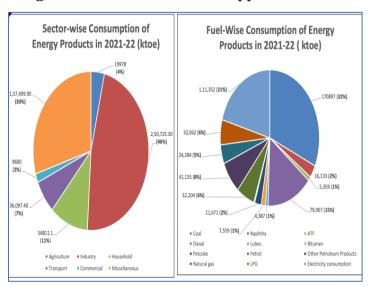




- ❖ These cells produce electricity by combining hydrogen and oxygen, which generates the electricity used to power the train's motors.
- ❖ Among the by-products are water and a little heat.

National Energy Data: Survey and Analysis 2021-22

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Power has come out with a comprehensive energy sector report titled 'National Energy Data: Survey and Analysis 2021-22'.
- ❖ The report released by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has been prepared in collaboration with Niti Aayog,
- ❖ India conserved 249 billion units (BUs) of electricity to save Rs 1.60 lakh crore in bills for the 2021-22 financial year.
- ❖ The total energy savings worth Rs 1,60,721 crore happened as an impact of various energy conservation policies.
- ❖ Electricity saving of 249 billion units has happened.



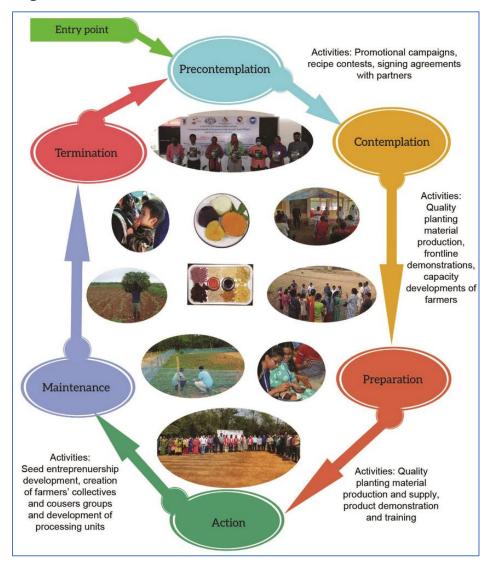
Rainbow diet campaign

- ❖ The ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI) of Thiruvanantha Puram is gearing up to extend its tuber crop-based 'rainbow diet' campaign.
- ❖ The CTCRI would launch the campaign in Odisha in the current fiscal.
- ❖ By the end of 2024-25, planned to cover nine districts in that State.
- ❖ The initiative was aimed at popularising biofortified tubers and value-added products made from them among the tribal communities for tackling malnutrition and ensuring a balanced diet.





❖ A typical 'rainbow diet' is a meal plan comprising different-coloured fresh fruits and vegetables.



'Dakshta' course

- ❖ The central government introduced a new curated collection of courses called "Dakshta" on the iGOT Karmayogi Platform.
- ❖ Dakshta stands for 'Development of Attitude, Knowledge, Skill for Holistic Transformation in Administration'.
- ❖ The iGOT (Integrated Government Online Training) Karmayogi platform is a comprehensive portal to guide government officials in their capacity-building journey.





INTERNATIONAL

Global Wealth Conference

- ❖ The Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute (SWFI), a source on institutional investors and global capital's Global Wealth Conference (GWC) will be held London.
- ❖ The GWC platform has attracted some of the world's largest pools of capital, some of which are coming from India.
- ❖ Sovereign wealth funds globally see India as a destination for direct investments.
- Sovereign wealth funds have directly invested \$6.714 billion into India in 2022, compared to just \$4.3 billion in 2021.



Replenishment mechanism

- ❖ The purpose of the replenishment mechanism is to provide the organization with more flexible funding options.
- ❖ The replenishment mechanism aims to address this challenge and ensure greater financial flexibility for WHO.
- ❖ This will cover a four-year period from 2025 to 2028.
- Currently, 84% of WHO's funds are sourced from generous donors.
- ❖ Of these funds, specific voluntary contributions comprise 88 per cent of all donations.
- ❖ This leaves no room for WHO to be flexible and shift funds as per its requirements.





Health for All - WHO

- ❖ 'Health for All: Transforming economies to deliver what matters' report was launched by WHO.
- ❖ This is a roadmap to focus on the links between health and sustainable, inclusive and innovation-led economic growth.
- ❖ The report is the first of its kind.
- ❖ The report recommended policy approaches underpinned by this new economic narrative.
- ❖ It has recommended reorienting economies to deliver health for all across four interrelated themes viz. Value, Value, Innovation and Innovation.

Polio Eradication Efforts in West and Central Africa



- ❖ Three countries Cameroon, Chad and Niger has kicked off Africa's largest polio vaccination campaign since 2020.
- ❖ The three West and Central African countries intend to immunise 21 million children under the age of five.
- ❖ The vaccination drive started in response to 19 detections of type-2 Polioviruses.
- ❖ Two cases in Niger, 10 in Chad, four in the Central African Republic and three in Cameroon were reported recently.
- ❖ All polio cases in West and Central Africa are due to circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus.

Shenzhou-16 mission

- China launched a spacecraft carrying three astronauts, including its first civilian, to Tiangong space station.
- ❖ This is the country's fifth manned mission to a fully functional space station since 2021.





- Jing Haipeng is the leading commander on the mission.
- ❖ The other two are, Zhu Yangzhu and Gui Haichao, the first Chinese civilian to travel to space.



Global Plan of Action for the Health of Indigenous People



- ❖ World Health Organization accepted a draft resolution that proposed developing a Global Plan of Action for the Health of Indigenous People.
- ❖ The world presently has 476 million indigenous people across the world in about 90 countries, according to the United Nations.
- ❖ They speak 7,000 languages and come from 500 different cultures.





- ❖ The life expectancy of indigenous people is 20 years lower than that of an average person.
- ❖ The 194 member states were urged to develop a collection of ethical data to identify specific requirements of indigenous people and fill in the gaps.

Global Alliance for Drowning Prevention



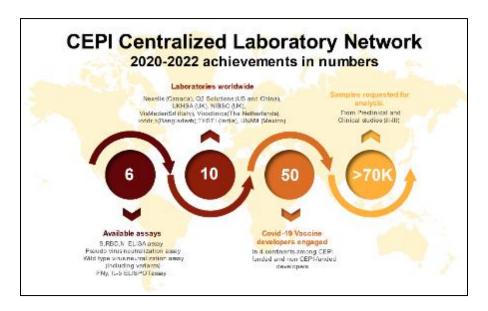
- ❖ The Member states of the World Health Assembly (WHA) agreed to establish an alliance to prevent drowning worldwide.
- ❖ This is the first alliance to address global public health concerns on the issue until 2029.
- ❖ A resolution sponsored by the Governments of Bangladesh and Ireland invited the World Health Organization (WHO) to coordinate action on drowning prevention.
- Over 90 per cent of deaths by drowning occur in low- and middle-income countries.

Centralized Laboratory Network

- ❖ India has recently joined the Centralized Laboratory Network (CLN).
- ❖ It currently has 15 partner facilities in 13 countries that works to test vaccines which can be used during pandemic, epidemic disease outbreak.
- CLN is a part of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).
- ❖ This Network is the largest global group which has standardised methods and materials for testing.



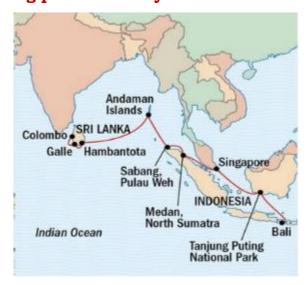




Multilateral Naval Exercise Komodo

- China is participating with its warships in multilateral naval exercise hosted by Indonesia.
- ❖ North Korea, Russia, South Korea and the United States also invited to this exercise.
- ❖ The last Komodo exercise took place in 2018 before suspensions over COVID-19.
- ❖ The Chinese military also plans a joint drill, Exercise Amana Youyi-2023 with Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.

Joint report on Sabang port feasibility



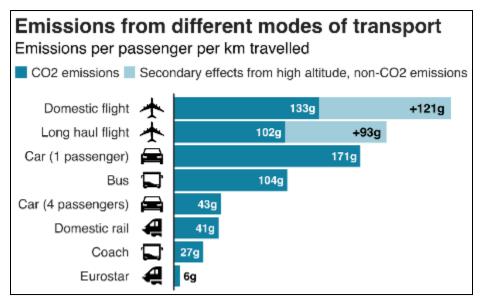




- ❖ India and Indonesia have completed a joint feasibility study on developing the strategically valuable Sabang port.
- ❖ Sabang port is located in the province of Aceh, Indonesia.
- ❖ It is roughly 700 km from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ The successful development of this vital port would allow India easier access to the Malacca Straits.

Ban on domestic short-haul flights

- ❖ France has banned domestic short-haul flights where train alternatives exist, in a bid to cut carbon emissions.
- ❖ On average, the plane emits 77 times more CO2 per passenger than the train.
- * Recently, the Schiphol airport in Amsterdam, banned private jets and small business planes.



Helmand River Dispute

- ❖ Afghanistan and Iran have a dispute over the Helmand River.
- ❖ It is a critical source of drinking water, irrigation and fishing for both countries.
- While the two countries signed a treaty on sharing water resources in 1973.
- ❖ But it was never ratified, leaving the Helmand's waters a topic of dispute.
- ❖ Treaty of 1973 stipulates that Afghanistan must deliver water to Iran at a rate of 22 cubic metres per second per annum with an additional four cubic metres per second.





- ❖ The Helmand River originates in the Afghan Hindu Kush Mountain range and flows across Afghanistan.
- ❖ It splits into the Shele Charak River that forms the border between the two countries, and the Sistan River which flows westward into Iran.



India's Top Choice for Foreign Direct Investment

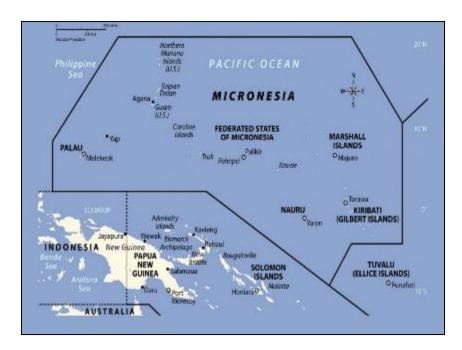
- ❖ Dubai ranks No. 1 as the Destination City for foreign direct investment (FDI) from India in calendar year 2022.
- ❖ India ranked among the Top 5 source countries for announced FDI projects and estimated FDI capital.
- ❖ India accounted for 12 percent of announced FDI projects in Dubai in 2022.
- Only the US (20 percent) and UK (13 percent) are ahead of India.
- ❖ On a yearly basis, in 2021, India has 78 FDI projects in Dubai, which rose to 142 in 2022.
- ❖ In value terms, FDI from India stood at \$545.52 million in 2022 compared to \$363.85 million in 2021.

Undersea Cable Connection Project in Micronesia

- ❖ Japan joined the US and Australia's undersea cable project.
- ❖ It will connect East Micronesia Island nations to improve networks in the Indo-Pacific region.
- ❖ The approximately 2,250-kilometre undersea cable will connect the state of Kosrae in the Federated State of Micronesia, Tarawa in Kiribati and Nauru.







Oil production Cut

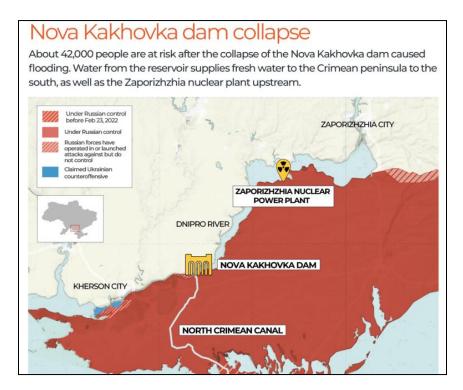
- ❖ The world's top oil exporter Saudi Arabia announced further voluntary output cuts which will be implemented from July, 2023.
- ❖ The kingdom's output will decline to 9 million barrels per day from around 10 million barrels in May.
- ❖ But, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its partners (known as OPEC+) made no changes to its planned oil production cuts for the rest of the year.
- ❖ OPEC+ pumps approximately 40% of the world's crude and policy decisions can have a significant impact on prices.

Kakhovka Dam collapse

- ❖ The collapse of the Nova Kakhovka dam in southern Ukraine is one of the biggest industrial and ecological disasters in Europe for decades.
- ❖ The dam is one of the biggest in Europe, was holding nearly 18 cubic-kilometres of water.
- ❖ The Kakhovka Dam completed in 1956 on the Dnieper River (also known as Dnipro) in Kherson Oblast, Ukraine.
- ❖ The primary purposes of the dam were hydroelectric power generation, irrigation and navigation.







Pfizer Inc's RSV Vaccine

- ❖ The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Pfizer Inc's respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine for older adults.
- ❖ This is making it the second shot against the common respiratory disease that can be fatal for seniors.
- ❖ Earlier, the FDA approved a similar shot by GSK Plc.

Most powerful hypersonic wind tunnel



China has recently completed the construction of the most powerful wind tunnel in the world.





- ❖ The wind tunnel, called JF-22, has a diameter of 4 metres (13 feet) and can generate incredibly high airflow speeds of up to 10 kilometres (6.2 miles) per second.
- ❖ This makes it capable of simulating hypersonic flight conditions up to Mach 30, which is 30 times the speed of sound.

Non-permanent members of the UNSC

- ❖ Algeria, Guyana, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone and Slovenia were elected to the UN Security Council as non-permanent members.
- ❖ They will replace Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates from January 1 next year.
- ❖ The Security Council is composed of 15 countries including 10 non-permanent members and 5 permanent members.
- ❖ The 10 non-permanent members are elected by the General Assembly.
- ❖ Their Voting is conducted by secret ballot and candidates must receive a two-thirds majority, or 128 votes



Air Defender 23

- * The NATO military exercise Air Defender 23 has begun recently.
- ❖ It's the biggest drill of its type since the military alliance was formed in 1949.
- Germany serves as the host and logistical hub.
- ❖ Up to 250 aircraft stationed across six military bases, with 25 countries taking part.







Fraser Island Name change



- ❖ The iconic Fraser Island in Australia has been officially renamed Kgari.
- ❖ Formerly known as Fraser Island, the decision to rename the island as Kgari is a tribute to its traditional owners, the Butchulla people.
- ❖ Kgari holds immense cultural significance for the Butchulla people, who have inhabited the land for thousands of years.
- ❖ The name "Kgari" translates to "paradise" in the Butchulla language.
- ❖ The renaming serves as a symbolic gesture of reconciliation, recognizing the importance of Indigenous languages, histories, and traditions.
- It is the largest sand island in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage site.



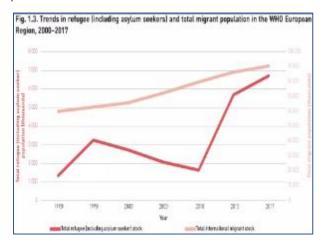


Atlantic Declaration

- ❖ The United States and the United Kingdom have announced the Atlantic Declaration for a Twenty-First Century U.S.-UK Economic Partnership.
- ❖ It aims to boost industry ties on defence and renewable energy, in the face of growing competition from China.
- ❖ The Atlantic Declaration is focused on building a resilient, diversified, and secure supply chain, reducing strategic dependencies.

EU Deal on Equitable Refugee Hosting

- ❖ The European Union reached a deal on a revision of rules to share hosting of asylum seekers more equitably.
- ❖ The agreement says that countries that refuse to host refugees would be required to pay 20,000 euros (USD 21,000) per person.
- ❖ The money will go to a fund managed by Brussels.
- ❖ Poland and Hungary voted against the proposals.
- ❖ Bulgaria, Malta, Lithuania and Slovakia abstained.



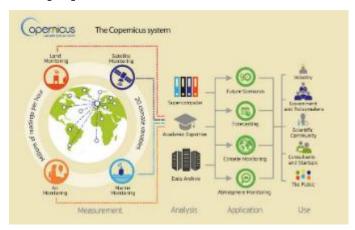
Copernicus program

- ❖ June 8, 2023, marks the 25th anniversary of Copernicus, the earth observation component of the European Union's space programme.
- ❖ It was launched in 1998 and previously known as the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security Programme (GMES).
- ❖ Copernicus is designed to provide information on the earth's environment to aid sectors like agriculture, climate change, disaster management, urban planning, and more.





* The programme is named after Nicolaus Copernicus, the 15th-century Polish scientist who first proposed a heliocentric universe model.



Tripartite power trade agreement



- ❖ India, Nepal, and Bangladesh have finalised the draft of a tripartite power trade agreement.
- ❖ The agreement will also meet a long-standing demand from Nepal and Bangladesh to allow the trading of power through the Indian grid.
- ❖ In addition to constructing electricity transmission infrastructure in Nepal and Bangladesh, India has helped build cross-border pipelines with both countries.

Memorial wall for fallen United Nations peacekeepers

- The UN General Assembly has adopted a draft resolution introduced by India to establish a memorial wall in the UN Headquarters to honour fallen peacekeepers.
- ❖ India introduced the draft resolution titled 'Memorial wall for fallen United Nations peacekeepers' in the UN General Assembly.
- ❖ The resolution was co-sponsored by nearly 190 UN Member States and was adopted by consensus.



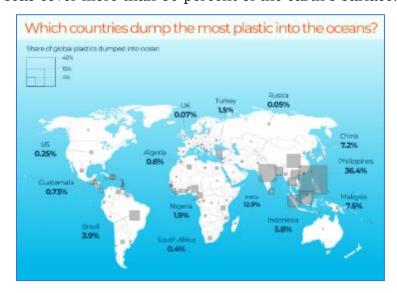


❖ In 2015, the Permanent Mission of India to the UN launched a virtual memorial wall, dedicated to the Indian troops who made the supreme sacrifice.



First ever High Seas Treaty

- ❖ The United Nations has adopted the first-ever international treaty to govern the high seas and protect remote ecosystems vital to humanity.
- ❖ This is Officially known as the Treaty on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction.
- ❖ It aims to protecting and governing activities such as fishing, mining, and oil extraction in international waters.
- ❖ The treaty still needs to be ratified by at least 60 member nations to take effect.
- ❖ The treaty establishes principles for sharing the benefits of "marine genetic resources.
- ❖ The high seas cover more than 60 percent of the earth's surface.







Ex Khaan Quest 2023

- ❖ Multinational Peacekeeping Joint Exercise "Ex Khaan Quest 2023" is featuring participation from military contingents and observers from over 20 countries.
- ❖ The Indian Army is represented by a contingent from the GARHWAL RIFLES.
- ❖ The 14-day exercise is hosted by Mongolia.
- ❖ It aimed at enhancing interoperability of the participating nations, for sharing experience and to train uniformed personnel for the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO).

Global DPI Summit



- ❖ The Global DPI (Digital Public Infrastructure) Summit and Exhibition was inaugurated in Maharashtra.
- ❖ The session explored common principles and design aspects of DPI, including open standards, partnerships, interoperability, and affordability.
- ❖ India has also introduced the idea to form an alliance of countries, called One Future Alliance.
- ❖ It would allow like-minded nations to use technology to improve people's lives.
- ❖ DPI refers to blocks or platforms such as digital identification, payment infrastructure and data exchange solutions.

Estonia legalizes same-sex marriage

- **Section** Estonia's parliament passed a law legalizing same-sex marriage.
- ❖ Two adults will be able to marry "regardless of their gender".





- ❖ The amended Act will go into effect from January 1, 2024.
- ❖ By this, it becoming the first ex-Soviet country to do so.



Unique Gifts by Indian PM



- ❖ The Indian Prime Minister exchanged official gifts with U.S. President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden.
- ❖ One of Modi's gifts to the Bidens was an intricately-carved box made of sandalwood.
- ❖ The box contained a statue of Ganesh, a diya (an oil lamp), a copper plate with a shloka engraved, South Indian sesame seeds, a 24-carat gold coin handcrafted in Rajasthan, and a handwoven silk cloth from Jharkhand.
- ❖ Also, a copy of 'The Ten Principal Upanishads and the Hindu 'Das Danam' was given to Joe Biden.
- ❖ He gave personalised gifts to the First Lady, Jill Biden, as well, one of these being a lab-grown 7.5-carat green diamond made in India.





- ❖ The green diamond was enclosed within a beautiful papier Mache box, skilfully painted by artisans on paper pulp.
- ❖ The Bidens gave Narendra Modi gifts as well, including a vintage camera, a book on wildlife photography, and a first-edition signed copy of a book of poems by Robert Frost.

NATO Plus

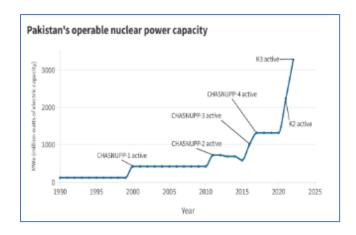
- ❖ US Senator plans to introduce a bill that would make India a part of the NATO Plus grouping.
- ❖ The NATO Plus security arrangement currently includes NATO and five aligned nations.
- ❖ The 5 are Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Israel, and South Korea.
- ❖ Its purpose is to boost defence and intelligence ties.
- ❖ NATO is a transatlantic alliance of 31 like-minded North American and European countries.
- ❖ It was established by the North Atlantic Treaty (Washington Treaty) 1949.



Nuclear Power Plant for Pakistan

- ❖ China and Pakistan entered a \$4.8 billion agreement to set up a 1,200-megawatt nuclear power plant at Chasma.
- ❖ The installed capacity of the existing four power plants is 1,330 megawatts.
- ❖ Two other nuclear power plants are also operational in Pakistan.





INDUS X event

- ❖ India-United States Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS X) was launched at an event in Washington DC.
- ❖ The initiative aims to foster collaboration and innovation between Indian and US defence startups, promoting technological advancements in the sector.
- ❖ It will create jobs for working families in both countries and promote global peace, security, and prosperity.

Bangladesh Floats Currency

Fixed Exchange Rate	Basis Meaning	The system of exchange rate in which value of a currency is allowed freely to float as determined by demand for and supply of foreign exchange.	
The system of exchange rate in which exchange rate is officially declared and fixed by the government.			
It ensures stability in international money market / exchange market. Day to day fluctuations are avoided.	Stability	It causes instability in the international money market.	
It implies low risk and low uncertainty of future payments. It encourages international trade.	International Trade	Instability in foreign exchange market causes instability in the area of international trade	
It discourages venture capital in international money market.	Venture Capital	It encourages venture capital in international money market.	
It is often supported with huge international reserves of gold. This is because of different currencies are directly or indirectly convertible into gold.	International Reserves	It is not to be supported with international reserves	

- ❖ Bangladesh's central bank will allow the currency to float freely for the first time in the country's history.
- ❖ This is the demands from the IMF in order to unlock more money from the \$4.7 billion loan program.





- ❖ Pakistan, Egypt and Lebanon were among those that have dropped their fixed exchange rates this year.
- ❖ A floating exchange rate is a regime where the currency price of a nation is set by the forex market based on supply and demand relative to other currencies.
- ❖ This is in contrast to a fixed exchange rate, in which the government entirely or predominantly determines the rate.

St. Petersburg International Economic Forum

- ❖ The 26th edition of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF), held recently in Russia's second-largest city.
- ❖ SPIEF is a unique event in the world of business and economics.
- ❖ It has been held since 1997.
- ❖ Since 2006, it has been held under the auspices of the President of the Russian Federation.
- ❖ It was probably the only such elite gathering of global business community leaders in this part of the world.

Heliopolis Memorial in Egypt



- ❖ Indian Prime Minister pays his respects at the Heliopolis (Port Tewfik) Memorial in the Heliopolis War Cemetery in Cairo, Egypt.
- ❖ It is part of the larger Heliopolis Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery.
- ❖ This memorial commemorates the memory of 3,727 Indian soldiers who died fighting in various campaigns in Egypt and Palestine in the First World War.
- ❖ The original Port Tewfik memorial had been unveiled in 1926 and was situated at the entrance to the Suez Canal.
- ❖ A new memorial bearing the names of the Indian was erected in Heliopolis Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery in 1980.





INS Kirpan to Vietnam

- ❖ India has gifted the indigenously-built in-service missile corvette INS Kirpan to Vietnam to enhance that country's naval capabilities.
- ❖ The INS Kirpan is a Khukri class missile corvette and was commissioned into the Navy on January 12, 1991.
- ❖ The Capable of speed is in excess of 25 knots.



USA's fish kill

- ❖ Thousands of dead fish washed up on the beaches of southeast Texas of USA due to a phenomenon called "fish kill".
- ❖ It is the sudden and unexpected death of many fish or other aquatic animals over a short period and mostly within a particular area.
- ❖ It occurs mainly due to low levels of dissolved oxygen in the water that causes suffocation of the fish.



The Hiroshima AI process

❖ The annual Group of Seven (G7) Summit, hosted by Japan, took place in Hiroshima.





- ❖ The G7 Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué initiated the Hiroshima AI Process (HAP).
- ❖ It is an effort by this bloc to determine a way forward to regulate artificial intelligence (AI).
- ❖ It aims to advance international discussions on inclusive AI governance and interoperability to achieve our common vision and goal of trustworthy AI.

'In-country' Renewable H-1B Visas

- ❖ The US is set to introduce in-country renewable H-1B visas as part of the people-to-people initiative.
- ❖ The move is set to smoothen the process of H-1B visa renewal for several Indians who are working in the US on a H-1B visa.
- ❖ H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise.
- ❖ The H-1B visas are issued for three years at a time.
- ❖ Until 2004, certain categories of non-immigrant visas, particularly the H-1B, could be renewed or stamped inside the US.
- ❖ After that, for the renewal of H-1B, the workers have to go to their own country to get the H-1B extension stamped on their passport.

2.7 million	Indian-origin persons in the US as of 2021, according to Migration Policy Institute
73%	Share of H-1B visas given to Indians in 2022
5	Number of Indian-origin members in the US Congress
#6	India's rank in foreign tourist arrivals to the US (2022)
28.60%	Share of US in foreign tourist arrivals to India, the highest (2021)

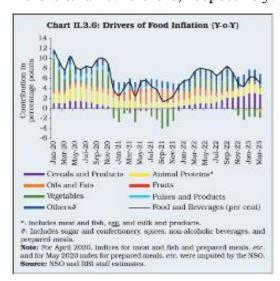


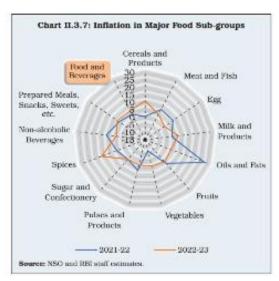


ECONOMY

RBI Annual Report 2022-23

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India released its annual report for the year 2022-23 recently.
- ❖ The report provides information on the RBI's functioning through the fiscal year as well as the state of the economy.
- RBI's total income in 2022-23 was ₹2.35 lakh crore.
- ❖ It is 47% more than the ₹1.6 lakh crore number for 2021-22.
- **♦** RBI will transfer a dividend of ₹87,416.2 crore to the Centre.
- ❖ It is more than double the amount transferred in 2021-22.
- ❖ Gross NPA as share of total advances has fallen from 15.5% in 2018-19 to 5.8% in the quarter ending December 2022.
- ❖ 2022-23 saw 13,530 cases of bank frauds involving an amount of ₹30,252 crore.
- ❖ These numbers were 9,097 and ₹59,819 crore in 2021-22.
- ❖ Total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) fell to a three-year low of \$46 billion in 2022-23.
- ❖ This is 26% lower than the previous fiscal year.
- ❖ During 2022-23, headline inflation averaged 6.7%
- ❖ In value terms, the share of ₹500 and ₹2000 banknotes together accounted for 87.9% of the total value of banknotes in circulation.
- ❖ The value of e-Rupee-Wholesale and e-Rupee-Retail in circulation stood at ₹10.69 crore and ₹5.70 crore, respectively.









Rise in Fake Rs 500 Notes

- ❖ Around 91,110 pieces of fake Rs 500 notes were detected in FY23.
- ❖ During 2022-23, 4.6 per cent Fake Indian Currency Notes were detected at the Reserve Bank and 95.4 per cent at other banks.
- ❖ The central bank reported 78,699 fake Rs 100 notes and 806 fake Rs 2000 notes in the same year.

Denomination (₹)	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1	2	3	4
2 and 5	9	1	3
10	304	354	313
20	267	311	337
50	24,802	17,696	17,755
100	1,10,736	92,237	78,699
200	24,245	27,074	27,258
500 (Specified Banknotes)	9	14	6
500	39,453	79,669	91,110
1000 (Specified Banknotes)	2	11	482
2000	8,798	13,604	9,806
Total	2,08,625	2,30,971	2,25,769

FY23 Fiscal Deficit Target

- FY23 fiscal deficit at Rs 17.33 lakh cr
 FY23 fiscal deficit at 6.4% of GDP
 FY23 fiscal deficit at 98.7% of Rs 17.55 cr target
 FY23 revenue gap at Rs 10.69 lakh cr vs Rs 11.11 lakh cr revised aim
 FY23 spending at Rs 41.89 lakh cr vs Rs 41.87 lakh cr revised aim
- ❖ The central government has met its fiscal deficit target of 6.4 percent of GDP for 2022-23.
- Rs 17.33 lakh crore, the fiscal deficit for FY23, amounts to 6.4 percent of the GDP
- ❖ But the deficit was lower than the revised estimate of ₹17.55 trillion given in the Union Budget 2023.
- ❖ Total receipts for fiscal 2023 stood at Rs 24.56 lakh crore, while the overall expenditure was at Rs 41.89 lakh crore.

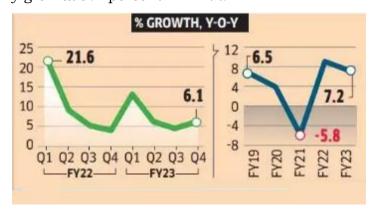




- ❖ Revenue receipts were at ₹23.84 trillion of which tax revenue was ₹20.97 trillion.
- ♦ Non-tax revenue was ₹ 2.86 trillion, narrower than 116.4% a year ago.
- ❖ Net tax revenues and non-tax revenues reported a sharp contraction of 13.9% and 8.2% respectively.

India's GDP Growth

- ❖ In Q4FY23, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is at 6.1%.
- ❖ In fiscal FY23, the economy grew at 13.1 percent, 6.2 percent and 4.5 percent in Q1, Q2 and Q3, respectively.
- ❖ The Indian economy grew at 7.2 percent in the entire FY23.
- ❖ GVA in agriculture, forestry and fishing saw a growth of 4% in FY23, rising from 3.5% in FY22.
- ❖ Financial, real estate and professional services recorded a growth of 7.1% versus 4.7% in FY22.
- ❖ India's per capital national income (net) rises to ₹98,374 crore in FY23, as against ₹92,583 crore in FY22.
- ❖ India's manufacturing sector saw a sharp slowdown in growth to 1.3% in FY23 versus 11.1% in the previous fiscal.
- ❖ Construction sector also slowed down to 10% growth in FY23 versus 14.8% in FY22.
- ❖ The economy grew at 9.1 percent in FY22.



Defense exports of India

- ❖ India had recorded an extraordinary 23 times rise in military exports during the last 9 years.
- ❖ India's defence exports have reached an all-time high to nearly Rs 16,000 crore (\$1.9 billion) in FY 2022-23.





- ❖ It was Rs 686 crore (\$82 million) in FY 2013-14.
- ❖ While India's exports grew, its defence imports declined by 11 per cent between 2013-17 and 2018-22.



e-Appeals Scheme 2023

- ❖ The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) notified E-Appeals Scheme, 2023.
- ❖ This will speed up hearing of appeals in I-T matters.
- ❖ Under the Faceless Appeal Scheme, all communication between the appellate commissioner and the taxpayer are routed through the National Faceless Appeal Centre (NFAC).
- ❖ Under the E-Appeals Scheme, the communication between the Joint Commissioner of Income-Tax (Appeals) and the taxpayer is via the portal.
- ❖ But it is direct as the NFAC is not involved.
- ❖ This will result in speedy flow of communication and should reduce the time gap in disposal of appeals.

World's 2nd largest producer of crude steel

- ❖ India has moved from 4th largest producer of crude steel to the second largest producer of crude steel from 2014-15 to 2022-23.
- ❖ India stands as a net exporter of steel witnessing an export of 6.72 MT of finished steel against the import of 6.02 MT in 2022-23.
- ❖ In the financial year 2022-23, India's total finished Steel Production was 122.28 MT.
- ❖ It is an increase of 49 % as compared to 81.86 MT in financial year 2014-15.





Key parameters	FY 2014-15	FY 2022-23	% increase
Crude steel Capacity (MT)	109.85	160.3	46%
Crude steel Production (MT)	88.98	126.26	42%
Total Finished Steel Production (MT)	81.86	122.28	49%
Consumption (MT)	76.99	119.86	57%
Per capita steel consumption (in Kg)	60.8	86.7	43%

Financial Inclusion Dashboard

- ❖ The RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das recently launched a financial inclusion dashboard named 'Antardrishti'.
- ❖ It will provide the required insight to assess and monitor the progress of financial inclusion by capturing relevant parameters.
- ❖ This facility will also enable to gauge the extent of financial exclusion at granular levels across the country so that such areas can be addressed.

India's Internet Economy

- ❖ A report titled 'The e-Conomy of a Billion Connected Indians' was released by Google, Temasek, and Bain & Company.
- ❖ India's internet economy to soar from approximately \$175 billion in 2022 to a staggering \$1 trillion by 2030.
- ❖ Internet economy to India's technology sector is set to expand, from the present 48% to 62% in 2030.
- ❖ The internet economy will go from contributing 4–5% to the Gross Domestic Product to more than double that number, nearly 12–13%.





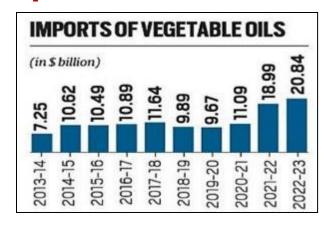


Enhanced Surveillance Measure



- ❖ BSE and NSE have put in place an enhanced surveillance mechanism (ESM) for companies that have a market cap of less than Rs 500 crore.
- ❖ This mechanism will be instrumental in monitoring and controlling the price fluctuations of small-cap companies, providing stability to the market.
- ❖ Securities included in the ESM framework must undergo surveillance for a minimum period of three months.

Pulses and Edible oil production in India 2022-23







- ❖ Between 2013-14 and 2022-23, the value of India's vegetable oil imports has climbed from \$7,249.85 million (Rs 44,038.04 crore) to \$20,837.70 million (Rs 167,269.99 crore).
- ❖ The country consumes 24-25 million tonnes (mt) cooking oil annually.
- ❖ But, only 9-10 mt is from domestically produced grain.
- ❖ The balance 14-15 mt is imported.

Key Measures for Urban Co-operative Banks

RBI notifies 4 key measures to strengthen 1,514 Urban Co-operative Banks 10 Jun 2023 * Banking & Finance *RBI has notified four key measures to strengthen 1,514 Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) in the country. *UCBs can now open new branches up to 10% of the number of branches in the previous financial year without prior approval of RBI in their approved area of operation. *UCBs have to get the policy approved by their board and comply with the Financially Sound and Well Managed Norms.

- The deadline to achieve PSL target of 60% also extended to March 31, 2024.
- Reserve Bank has notified four key measures, including giving them two years more to meet the priority sector lending targets.
- ❖ The four important initiatives have been taken to strengthen 1,514 Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) in the country.
- UCBs can now open new branches (maximum 5 branches) without prior approval of RBI.
- ❖ UCBs can also do One-Time Settlement at par with commercial banks.
- RBI has recently notified a nodal officer for UCBs.

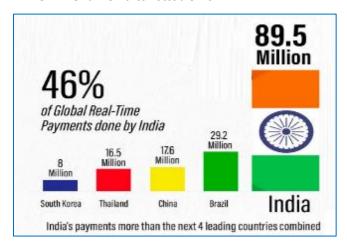
Global digital payments

- ❖ India with 89.5 million digital transactions in the year 2022 has topped the list of five countries in digital payments.
- ❖ India accounted for 46% of the global real-time payments.
- ❖ The digital payment transactions in India are more than the other four leading countries combined.





- ❖ Second, on the list is Brazil which amounted to 29.2 million transactions followed by China with 17.6 million transactions.
- ❖ On number 4 is Thailand with 16.5 million digital transactions followed by South Korea with 8 million worth of transactions



Third Tax Devolution

State-wise distribution of Net Proceeds of Union Taxes and Duties for June 2023

Sl. No	Name of State	Total (₹ Crore)
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	4787
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	2078
3	ASSAM	3700
4	BIHAR	11897
5	CHHATTISGARH	4030
6	GOA	457
7	GUJARAT	4114
8	HARYANA	1293
9	HIMACHAL PRADESH	982
10	JHARKHAND	3912
11	KARNATAKA	4314
12	KERALA	2277
13	MADHYA PRADESH	9285
14	MAHARASHTRA	7472
15	MANIPUR	847
16	MEGHALAYA	907
17	MIZORAM	591
18	NAGALAND	673
19	ODISHA	5356
20	PUNJAB	2137
21	RAJASTHAN	7128
22	SIKKIM	459
23	TAMIL NADU	4825
24	TELANGANA	2486
25	TRIPURA	837
26	UTTAR PRADESH	21218
27	UTTARAKHAND	1322
28	WEST BENGAL	8898
	Grand Total	118280





- ❖ The union government released the third instalment of tax devolution to state governments, amounting to Rs 1.18 trillion.
- ❖ This is significantly higher than the normal monthly devolution of Rs 59,140 crore.
- ❖ The distribution of net proceeds of Union taxes and duties as Rs 21,218 crore for Uttar Pradesh, Rs 4,825 crore for Tamil Nadu, Rs 2,486 crore for Telangana, Rs 11,897 for Bihar and all other states.

Highest exports of seafood

- ❖ India's seafood exports, both in terms of volume and value, achieved an all-time high in 2022-23.
- ❖ It shipped 1.7 million tonnes of seafood worth Rs 63,969.14 crore (\$8.09 billion) during the financial year.
- ❖ It was growing 26.73 per cent in quantity terms and 4.31 per cent in value terms over 2021-22.
- ❖ Frozen shrimp, retained its position as the most significant item.
- ❖ Frozen fish is the second largest exported item.
- ❖ The US, China, and the European Union are key markets for Indian seafood.
- South East Asia is the fourth largest market.



First Loss Default Guarantee

- * RBI has granted its approval for First Loss Default Guarantee (FLDG) framework.
- ❖ FLDG scheme allows Indian fintechs to partner with banks and NBFCs.

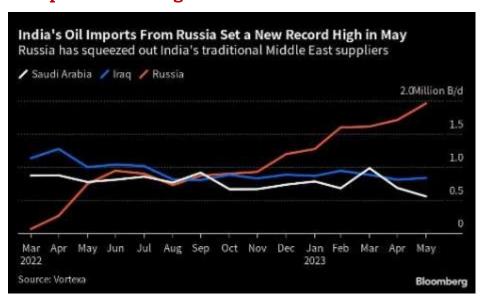




- ❖ This decision is seen as a big positive for data-tech NBFCs and fintechs.
- ❖ Further, the move will strengthen the digital lending ecosystem.
- ❖ It is an arrangement between Regulated Entities (REs) and Lending Service Providers (LSPs) or between two REs involving default loss guarantee (DLG), commonly known as FLDG.



Russian oil imports record high



- ❖ India's rising imports of Russian oil hit a record high of about 1.95 million barrels per day (bpd) in May.
- ❖ India is the world's third biggest oil consumer and importer.
- ❖ It buys more than 80 per cent of its oil from overseas markets.





SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

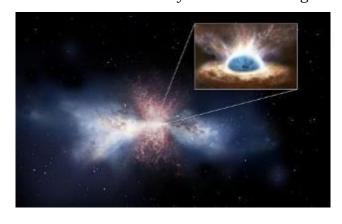
Navigational satellite - NVS 1

- ❖ ISRO launched India's Next-Gen Navigation Satellite NVS-01 successfully.
- ❖ NVS-01 is first of the India's second-generation NavIC satellites.
- ❖ It is aimed to augment the navigational capabilities of the country.
- ❖ The network covers an area including India and a region up to 1500 km beyond the Indian boundary.
- ❖ The signals are designed to provide user position accuracy better than 20 meters and timing accuracy better than 50 nanoseconds.



Supermassive Black Hole in GS-9209

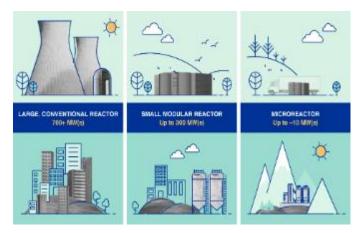
- ❖ The massive black hole was spotted by researchers in a galaxy called GS-9209.
- ❖ It lies 25 billion light-years away from Earth.
- ❖ It is one of the farthest to have been discovered and recorded.
- ❖ The GS-9209 galaxy was discovered in 2004.
- ❖ It was born about 600 to 800 million years after the Big Bang.







Modular reactors



- ❖ India is taking steps for development of Small Modular Reactors (SMR), with up to 300 MW capacity to fulfill its commitment to Clean Energy transition.
- ❖ Being mobile and agile technology, the SMR can be factory-built unlike the conventional nuclear reactors that are built on–site.
- ❖ Thus, SMRs offers significant savings in cost and construction time.
- ❖ SMR is a promising technology in industrial de-carbonization especially where there is a requirement of reliable and continuous supply of power.
- ❖ It is said that SMR is simpler and safer as compared to large nuclear plants.

Daam Malware



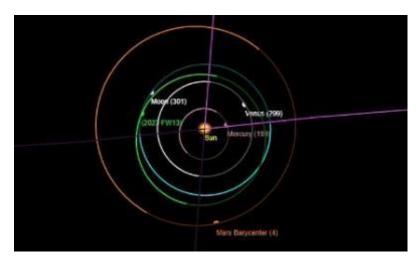
- ❖ The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team or CERT-IN has issued a warning against Android malware.
- 'Daam', the malware infects mobile phones and hacks into users' sensitive data like call records, contacts, history and camera has been found on Android devices.





- ❖ The malware is capable of "bypassing anti-virus programs and deploying ransomware on the targeted devices".
- ❖ This is distributed through third-party websites or apps that have been downloaded from untrusted/unknown sources.

2023 FW13



- ❖ Scientists have discovered a new asteroid along Earth recently.
- ❖ The asteroid, dubbed 2023 FW13, is considered a "quasi-moon" or "quasi-satellite".
- ❖ The new celestial object orbits the sun in a similar time frame as Earth does.
- ❖ The quasi-moon is estimated to be 50 feet (15 metres).
- ❖ While orbiting the Sun, the quasi-moon also circles the Earth.
- ❖ It is coming within nine million miles (14 million kilometres) from Earth.
- This is not Earth's only quasi-companion.
- ❖ Another quasi-satellite, known as Kamo'oalewa, was discovered in 2016.

Israel-1 Supercomputer

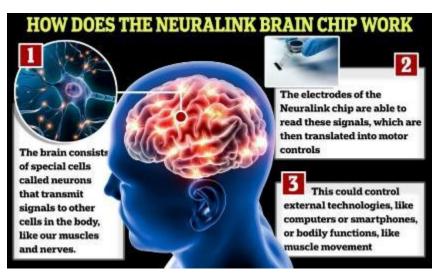
- ❖ Nvidia Corporation will build Israel-1, one of the world's most powerful AI supercomputers.
- ❖ Israel-1 is expected to deliver up to 8 exaflops of peak AI performance.
- ❖ An exaflop is a measure of performance for a supercomputer.
- ❖ It can calculate at least one quintillion (10¹8) floating-point operations per second.





Neuralink Chip

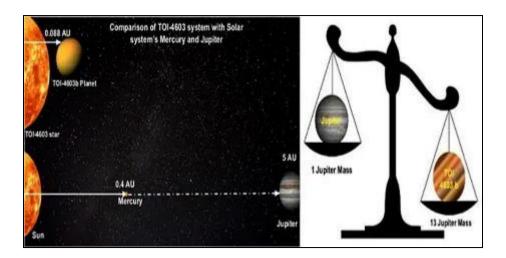
- ❖ Elon Musk founded a neurotechnology company Neuralink in 2016.
- ❖ Neuralink is now making a Class III medical device known as a brain-computer interface (BCI).
- ❖ The device connects the brain to an external computer via a Bluetooth signal, enabling continuous communication back and forth.
- ❖ The device itself is a coin-sized unit called a Link.
- ❖ It's implanted within a small disk-shaped cut out in the skull using a precision surgical robot.
- ❖ The robot splices a thousand tiny threads from the Link to certain neurons in the brain.



New exoplanet

- ❖ A new Jupiter-size exoplanet with the highest density known till this date and mass 13 times than that of Jupiter has been discovered.
- ❖ Discovery of this massive exoplanet was made using the ISRO's indigenously made PRL Advanced Radial-velocity Abu-sky Search spectrograph (PARAS).
- ❖ The newly discovered exoplanet is found around the star called TOI4603 or HD 245134.
- ❖ It is located 731 light years away.
- ❖ It orbits a sub-giant F-type star TOI4603 every 7.24 days.
- ❖ This discovery marks the third exoplanet discovery by India.
- ❖ The other 2 discoveries are in 2018 (K2-236b) and 2021 (TOI-1789b).





Fattah or Conqueror



- ❖ Iran's new missile, Conqueror, have a claim that can penetrate any regional missile Defense system.
- ❖ This hypersonic missile capable of traveling at 15 times the speed of sound.
- ❖ It had a range of up to 1,400 kilometers (870 miles).

Varunastra Torpedo







- ❖ Indigenously designed and developed heavy weight torpedo (HWT) Varunastra was successfully test-fired recently.
- ❖ Varunastra is a ship-launched anti-submarine torpedo having low drift navigational systems.
- ❖ The torpedo has a maximum speed of 40 knots and a maximum operating depth of 600 m.

Light-powered Supercapacitors



- ❖ The Indian and Korean researchers have jointly developed a portable super capacitor that can be charged using light.
- ❖ It will be replacing the conventional lithium-ion batteries in portable and wearable devices such as smartphones and tablets.
- ❖ However, supercapacitors' capability of getting charged and discharged quickly.
- ❖ They exhibit long life since they are not subject to chemical degradation as in conventional batteries.
- ❖ A supercapacitor device consists of an electrode, electrolyte and a current collector.

20th Anniversary of Mars Express

- ❖ On 2 June 2023, European Space Agency celebrated the 20th anniversary of the launch of the Mars Express spacecraft.
- Mars Express is Europe's first planetary mission was launched in 2003.
- ❖ It carries eight instruments and deployed a lander, Beagle 2.





Virgin Birth in Crocodiles

- ❖ Scientists say they have documented the first virgin (without male partner) birth in a crocodile.
- ❖ The crocodile named Coquita, had been living alone in a Costa Rican Zoo called Parque Reptilandia for 16 years.
- ❖ In 2018, a cluster of 14 eggs was found in the enclosure.
- ❖ One of those eggs was later found to contain a fully formed crocodile fetus.
- ❖ The ability of reproducing without males is not new in the animal kingdom.
- ❖ It's called facultative parthenogenesis, where the offspring only has DNA from the mother.
- ❖ It has been previously observed in snakes and lizards and some types of fish such as sharks, rays and sawfish.
- ❖ However, this is the first time that such an occurrence has been documented in Crocodilia order.







Experiment on Frying in Space

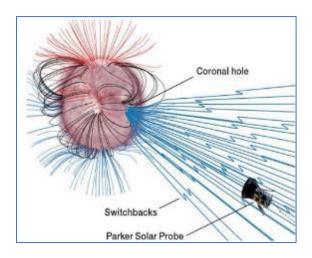


- ❖ The first fry in space has been made by researchers of the European Space Agency.
- ❖ A study was recently carried out in microgravity at a height of 2,000 feet to see whether potatoes can be cooked to an edible level.
- ❖ The concept of buoyancy, which makes oil bubbles leave the surface of the potato does not exist in outer space due to lack of gravity.
- * ESA teams managed to get a fried product in a simulated environment.

Source of Solar Wind

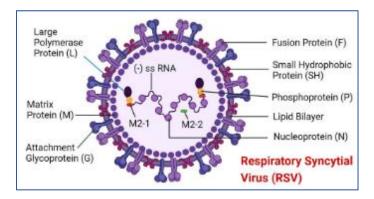
- ❖ The solar wind the flow of charged particles, or plasma, from the Sun radiates out over all the bodies in the solar system.
- ❖ Parker probe was deployed to answer what accelerates the plasma and accompanying magnetic fields.
- ❖ This solar wind travels at different speeds, fast and slow.
- ❖ The data collected by the Parker Solar Probe has revealed fascinating insights into the workings of coronal holes.
- ❖ These regions resemble showerheads on the sun's surface, characterized by jets appearing as bright spots.
- ❖ The probe's findings indicate that these coronal holes are associated with the supergranulation flows within the sun's atmosphere.
- Magnetic fields passing in and out of the photosphere create these supergranulation cells, resulting in intensified magnetic energy within the funnel structures.





Controlling respiratory syncytial virus

- ❖ A new study has shown that human T cells have an important role to play in controlling Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) infection.
- ❖ T cells can independently control RSV infection in human lung tissue in the absence of an RSV-specific antibody response.
- ❖ But, a vaccine-induced RSV-specific T cell response would not be able to prevent infection.
- * RSV is a highly contagious and seasonal respiratory virus that mainly causes common cold symptoms in healthy adults.
- ❖ It can cause more serious lung infections in infants, the immunocompromised and older individuals.



Tapas UAV

- ❖ TAPAS 201 UAV has indigenously developed by Defence Research Development Organisation.
- ❖ DRDO and the Indian Navy have successfully demonstrated transferring of command-and-control capabilities of the UAV from a distant ground station to onboard INS Subhadra.



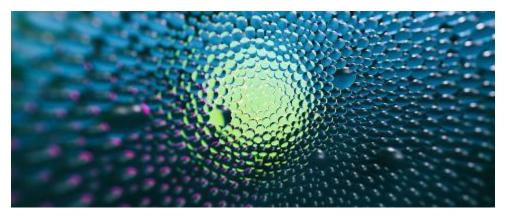


- ❖ The UAV was seamlessly flying around an altitude of 20,000ft (ASML).
- ❖ The indigenously developed TAPAS 201 Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE).
- ❖ It has developed to carry out the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance roles.
- ❖ It is comparable in the same class as Israeli HERON UAV.



Chiral Bose-liquid State

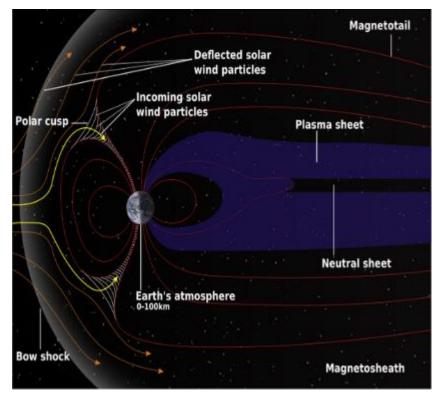
- ❖ The Researchers found an entirely new state of matter.
- ❖ So far, all of us encounter matter in three states solid, liquid and gas.
- ❖ The Chiral-Bose liquid state is formed by bringing two layers of a special material very close together at absolute zero.
- ❖ It is a system with built-in constraints that prevent particles from interacting as they might typically.
- ❖ In the quantum state, matter behaves in ways quite different from the three states that we are used to.







Link between Earthquakes and Cosmic Radiation



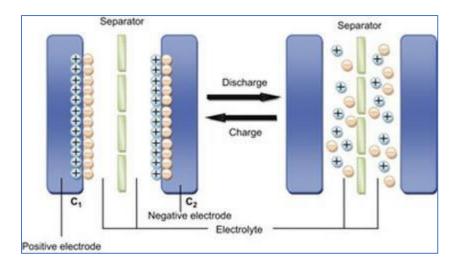
- Scientists have identified a striking link between earthquakes and changes in the intensity of cosmic radiation measured on Earth's surface.
- * This correlation could aid in earthquake prediction by up to two weeks.
- ❖ Location-specific analyses do not reveal clear correlations between cosmic ray intensity and earthquakes.
- ❖ When seismic activity is taken into account on a global scale, these correlations become more noticeable.
- ❖ This suggests that changes in cosmic ray intensity may be a phenomenon experienced by the entire planet.

Paper-based Supercapacitor

- ❖ Gujarat Energy Research and Management Institute (GERMI) have developed the thinnest, lightweight and biodegradable paper-based supercapacitor.
- ❖ This supercapacitor can fully charge a device within 10 seconds.
- ❖ It has been developed from seaweed (marine macroalgae).
- ❖ The device is of high tensile strength and performance, as well as cost-effective.
- ❖ A supercapacitor is an electrochemical charge storage device with a fast charging/discharging cycle, high power density and a longer lifecycle.

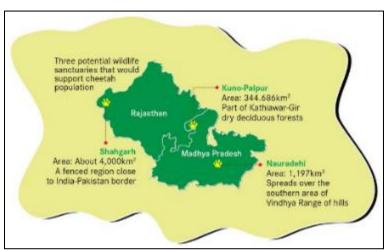






ENVIRONMENT

Cheetah Project Steering Committee



- ❖ The Centre has set up yet high-level panel of national and international experts to oversee and monitor the ambitious Project Cheetah in India.
- ❖ This step has taken after the death of six cheetahs, including three newborn cubs, at the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has constituted this Committee with 11 members.





- ❖ The Committee will be chaired by Rajesh Gopal (former member secretary of the NTCA and currently with the Global Tiger Forum).
- ❖ In October last year, the ministry had constituted a "Cheetah Task Force" to monitor India's cheetah introduction programme.

Gomphonema rajaguruii

- * Researchers have discovered a new species of single-cell algae, known as diatoms, from the northern Western Ghats.
- ❖ It is named after a veteran geo-archaeologist, the late Professor S N Rajaguru as Gomphonema rajaguruii.
- ❖ It was found in a semi-aquatic environment along the wet walls of Maharashtra's hill station, Mahabaleshwar.
- ❖ It exhibits traits of two genera, Gomphoema and Gomphoneis, making it a noteworthy addition to diatom taxonomy.
- ❖ Diatoms play a crucial role in the ecosystem by supplying oxygen to the atmosphere through photosynthesis.



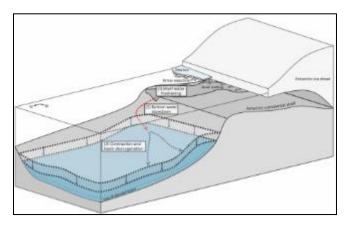
Deep ocean currents in Antarctica

- ❖ Antarctica drives a global network of ocean currents called the "overturning circulation" that redistributes heat, carbon and nutrients around the globe.
- ❖ The overturning is crucial to keeping the earth's climate stable.
- ❖ It's also the main way oxygen reaches the deep ocean.
- * Recent measurements show the overturning circulation has slowed by almost a third (30%) and deep ocean oxygen levels are declining.
- ❖ This is happening even earlier than climate models predicted.
- ❖ As the flow of bottom water slows, the supply of oxygen to the deep ocean declines.





- * The shrinking oxygen-rich bottom water layer is then replaced by warmer waters that are lower in oxygen, further reducing oxygen levels.
- ❖ Ocean animals, large and small, respond to even small changes in oxygen.
- ❖ Deep-ocean animals are adapted to low oxygen conditions but still have to breathe.
- ❖ Losses of oxygen may cause them to seek refuge in other regions or adapt their behaviour.



Borealis Mud Volcano

- Scientists have discovered an ancient, methane-spewing volcano at the bottom of the Barents Sea.
- ❖ The volcano named 'Borealis Mud Volcano' lies approximately 70 nautical miles south of Bear Island at 400m depth.
- ❖ The volcano is the second-ever mud volcano found within Norwegian waters.
- ❖ The volcano is situated inside a crater that is nearly 300 meters wide and 25 meters deep.







Pisodonophis kalinga

- ❖ The scientists have discovered a new species of eel from Palur canal in Odisha's Ganjam district.
- ❖ The new species has been named Pisodonophis kalinga after the name of ancient Odisha.
- ❖ It belongs to the family Ophichthidae and order Anguilliformes and has a snake-like appearance.
- ❖ With this, there are now a total of three species of Pisodonophis in the waters of India.



'Saving Our Stripes' initiative

- ❖ The Times of India newspaper launched the "Saving Our Stripes" campaign.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the importance of tiger conservation.
- ❖ India's first tiger anthem a song and a short film on a tigress and her cub composed and created as part of this initiative.

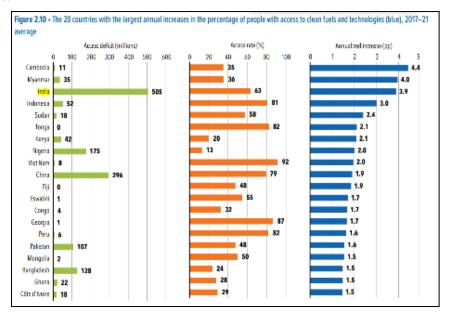
The Energy Progress Report 2023

- ❖ A new report titled 'Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report 2023' was released recently.
- ❖ It was released by International Energy Agency (IEA), International Renewable Energy Agency, United Nations Statistics Division, World Bank, and the WHO.
- ❖ In 2021, 675 million people still lacked access to electricity.
- ❖ Of those, 567 million people lived in Sub-Saharan Africa accounting for more than 80% of the global population without access.
- ❖ Meanwhile, 2.3 billion people lacked access to clean cooking, largely in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.
- ❖ At the current rate of progress, 660 million people are projected to still lack access to electricity in 2030.





- ❖ 1.9 billion people would continue to rely on polluting cooking fuels.
- ❖ The share of renewable energy in total final energy consumption remains low at 19.1%.



Global Ocean Census



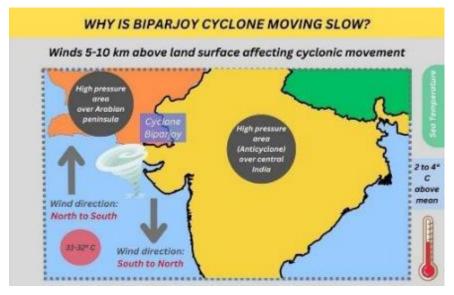
- ❖ A new initiative called the Ocean Census aims to expand marine biodiversity knowledge by finding 100,000 new marine species within a decade.
- ❖ A team of scientists sailed on a research vessel to the waters of the Barents Sea in the Arctic.
- ❖ They aim to find new marine species around cold seeps cracks on the seafloor from which hydrogen sulfide, methane and other gases bubble up.
- ❖ It is jointly established by The Nippon Foundation Japan and Nekton Foundation U.K to discover unknown marine life.
- ❖ Scientists estimate that only about 10% of marine species have been formally described, and about 2 million species have yet to be identified.





Cyclone Biparjoy

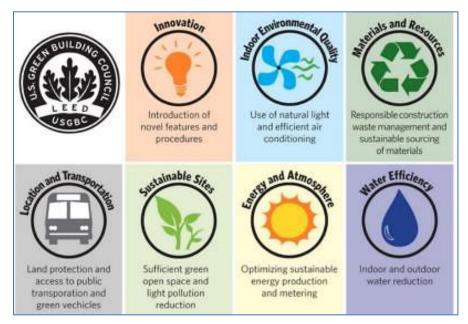
- ❖ Severe Cyclone Biparjoy made landfall in Gujarat after a 10-day journey across the Arabian Sea.
- ❖ Cyclone Biparjoy takes its name from the Bengali word for "disaster", given by Bangladesh.
- ❖ The storm started on June 4 and had been moving slowly north in the Arabian Sea for 10 days before it hit the land on June 15.
- Cyclone Biparjoy has become the cyclone with the longest lifespan in the Arabian Sea.
- ❖ Scientists believe that warm sea surface temperatures helped Cyclone Biparjoy to last longer than any other cyclone in the Arabian Sea.
- ❖ The Arabian Sea has warmed up by almost 1.2-degree Celsius since March.
- ❖ Thus, the conditions are very much favourable for the rapid intensification of the system so it has potential to sustain the strength for a longer period.
- ❖ Prior to this, in 2019, the extremely severe Cyclone Kyarr of 2019 over the Arabian Sea had a life of 9 days and 15 hours.
- ❖ In 2018, the very severe cyclonic storm Gaja over the southeast Bay of Bengal had a life span of 9 days and 15 hours.
- ❖ Biparjoy will also be the third cyclone to hit the western state in June since 1965.
- ❖ Based on data from 1965 to 2022 for the month of June, 13 cyclones developed over the Arabian Sea.
- ❖ Of these, two crossed the Gujarat coast (1996&1998), one Maharashtra, one Pakistan coast, three Oman-Yemen coasts and six weakened over the sea.







LEED net zero certifications



- ❖ India has emerged as a top country with LEED Zero green building projects.
- ❖ Out of 150 LEED Zero certified projects, India has 45% or 73 such projects.
- ❖ Haryana and Tamil Nadu leading the race in certifications.
- ❖ The United States and China have the second and third most LEED Zero certifications, with 47 (30%) and 15 (10%) certifications respectively.
- ❖ LEED Zero recognises projects that have reached net zero or net positive status in the categories of carbon, energy, water, or waste.
- ❖ The LEED Zero projects include office spaces, hospitality facilities, retail malls, industrial manufacturing projects and data centres.
- ❖ Nearly one-third of all carbon emissions in India come from the building and construction sector.

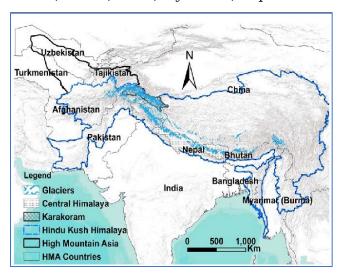
Glacier Mass Loss in the Hindu Kush Himalayas

- ❖ The Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH) have seen a 65 per cent faster loss of glacier mass.
- ❖ The glaciers lost a mass of 0.28 metres of water equivalent per year (m w.e.) between 2010 and 2019.
- ❖ It was 0.17 (m w.e.) per year between 2000 and 2009.
- The Karakoram range, has also started showing a decline in glacier mass.
- ❖ It is losing 0.09 m w.e. per year during 2010-2019.
- ❖ Glaciers occupy an area of approximately 73,173 square kilometres (km2) in the HKH.

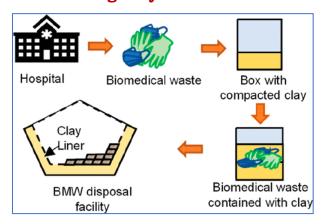




- ❖ The average temperature in the region has increased by 0.28°C per decade between 1951 and 2020.
- ❖ Himalayan glaciers may lose 75 percent of ice by 2100.
- ❖ The Hindu Kush Himalaya stretches 3,500 km (2,175 miles) across Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan.



Disposal of Medical Waste using Clay



- ❖ IIT Guwahati proposes the use of compost natural clay to neutralise pathogens in waste.
- ❖ The research findings revealed that viral decay was quicker on bentonite compared to kaolin clay.
- ❖ It was observed that the removal efficiency of the virus depended on the quality of bentonite and multilayer sorption of the virus on clay surfaces.
- ❖ Biomedical waste (BMW) that contains viruses poses significant risks to human health, food safety, animal health, and the environment.





Blue Pansy (Junonia Orithya)

- ❖ Jammu and Kahsmir administration have officially declared the Blue Pansy (Junonia Orithya) as the official butterfly of the union territory.
- ❖ The Blue Pansy, a species of vibrant blue butterflies, can be found in various parts of Southeast Asian countries, Australia, and Africa.
- They are known for their territorial nature.
- ❖ These butterflies exhibit 26 local subspecies across their range.



Burmese Peacock Softshell Turtles

- * Burmese peacock softshell turtles have hatched from their eggs in Myanmar.
- ❖ They also known as Nilssonia Formosa are only found in Myanmar.
- ❖ They may have declined by at least 80 per cent over the past 90 years.
- ❖ They are listed as a critically endangered turtle species in IUCN list.



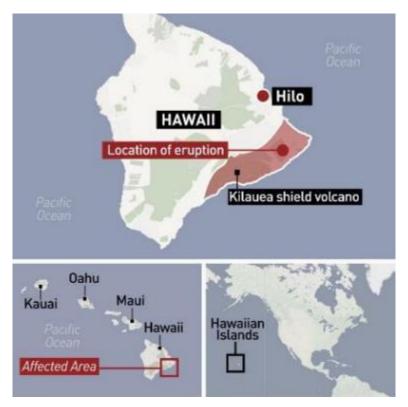
Kilauea volcano

- ❖ The Kilauea volcano in Hawaii, one of the most active volcanoes, began to erupt.
- ❖ The eruption has commenced within Halema'uma'u crater in Kilauea's summit caldera, within Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.





- ❖ The sulphur dioxide emission rate of around 65,000 tonnes per day.
- ❖ The volcano had stopped erupting in December for the first time since September 2021.

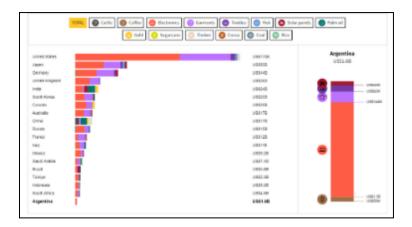


REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Slavery Index 2023

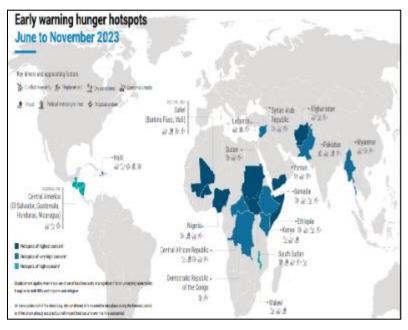
- ❖ The Rights group 'Walk Free Foundation' released the Global Slavery Index 2023.
- ❖ This is an assessment of modern slavery conditions in 160 countries.
- ❖ It shows that 50 million people were living in conditions of modern slavery on any given day in 2021.
- ❖ The Group of 20 nations are contributing to this increase, as their trade operations and global supply chains allow for human rights abuses.
- ❖ Among the G20 nations, India tops the list with 11 million people working as forced labourers.
- ❖ It is followed by China, Russia, Indonesia, Turkey and the U.S.





Hunger Hotspots - FAO/WFP

- ❖ The report named 'Hunger Hotspots FAO/WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity' was released recently.
- ❖ Pakistan, the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Syrian Arab Republic are hotspots with very high concern.
- ❖ The warning is also extended to Myanmar.
- ❖ Acute food insecurity can potentially increase in magnitude and severity for 18 areas in 22 countries.
- ❖ Afghanistan, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen remain at the highest concern level.
- ❖ Haiti, the Sahel (Burkina Faso and Mali) and Sudan have been elevated to the highest concern levels.

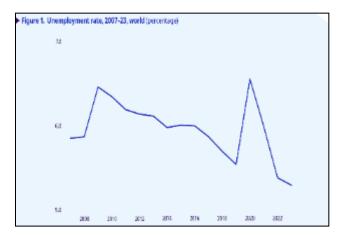






11th Edition of the World of Work Report

- ❖ The International Labour Organisation released its 11th annual report.
- ❖ Global unemployment is expected to fall below pre-pandemic levels to 5.3% or 191 million in 2023.
- ❖ Low-income countries in Africa and the Arab region are unlikely to recover to prepandemic levels of unemployment this year.
- ❖ For North Africa, the unemployment rate in 2023 is projected to be 11.2% compared to 10.9% in 2019.
- ❖ It is 6.3% for Sub-Saharan Africa as against 5.7% in 2019 and 9.3% for the Arab states as against 8.7% in 2019.
- ❖ Latin America and the Caribbean had the unemployment rate of 6.7% compared to 8% in 2019.
- ❖ Northern, southern and western Europe had the unemployment rate of 6.3% visa-vis 7% in 2019.
- ❖ Central and Western Asia has unemployment rate of 7.8% as against 9.2% in 2019.



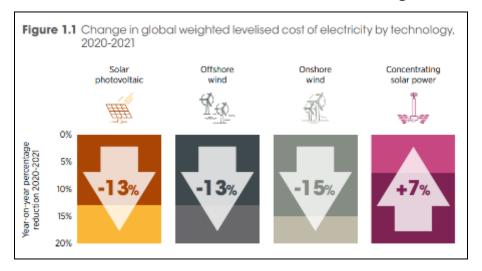
Low-cost finance for the energy transition report

- ❖ The International Renewable Energy Agency released the 'Low-cost finance for the energy transition' report.
- * Renewable power generation technologies, notably solar photovoltaic and onshore wind power, have become mature and competitive.
- ❖ Offshore wind, hydrogen electrolysers, energy storage and heat pumps, need to be deployed at faster speeds, and greater scales.
- ❖ It has praised India's achievement in rolling out renewable energy capacity, calling it "unprecedented".





- ❖ India ranked third on the Renewable Energy Attractive Index in 2021.
- ❖ Its solar and wind power base is the fourth largest in the world.
- ❖ India would need \$ 10 trillion to meet its 2070 net-zero target.



Brand Finance Report



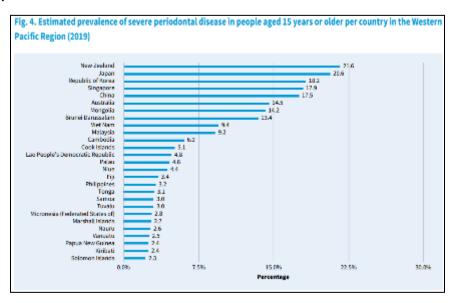
- ❖ Brand Finance, the world's leading independent brand valuation firm released its report recently.
- ❖ The Tata Group has retained its title of India's most valuable brand in India.
- ❖ This is the first time that an Indian brand has breached the brand value-mark of \$25 billion to feature in the top 100 of the Brand Finance Global 500.
- ❖ IT Company Infosys is the second-most valued company in India.
- ❖ Taj Group with a brand value of \$374 million, became India's strongest brand for the second year in a row.
- ❖ The Mahindra group has also leaped into the position as India's seventh most valuable brand





Global oral health status report - WHO

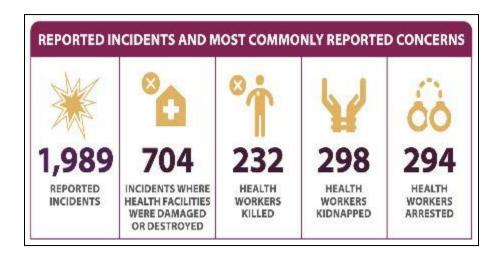
- ❖ About 3.5 billion people worldwide were affected by oral diseases in 2019.
- ❖ Between 1990 and 2019, estimated case numbers of oral diseases increased by more than 1 billion.
- ❖ This translates to a 50% increase, which is larger than the population increase of about 45% during the same period.
- ❖ The oral diseases in the region surged by 30% over the past 30 years (1990–2019).
- ❖ The global average spending for oral healthcare is USD 50 per person per year in 2019.



Violence against healthcare workers

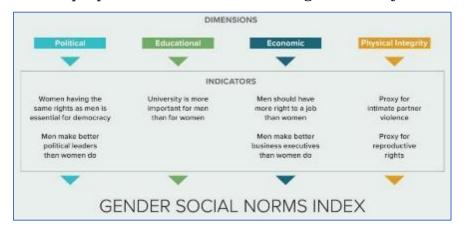
- ❖ The report named 'Ignoring Red Lines: Violence Against Health Care in Conflict 2022' was released recently.
- ❖ It was published by Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC).
- ❖ Violence against healthcare workers in Mali was more than doubled in 2022 as compared to 2021.
- ❖ The document identified 46 incidents of violence against healthcare workers or obstruction of healthcare in the country in 2022.
- ❖ This is an increase from 20 in 2021.
- Over half of the total attacks were reported in just two countries, Ukraine and Myanmar.





Gender Social Norms Index - 2023

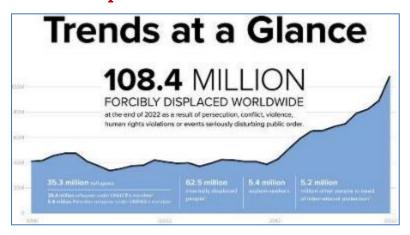
- ❖ The report was released by UN Development Programme and is called the Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) report.
- ❖ Among both men and women, "biased gender social norms are prevalent worldwide: almost 90% of people have at least one bias" of the seven biases analysed.
- ❖ 69 percent believes that men make "better" political leaders as opposed to women.
- ❖ More than 40 per cent of people reportedly believe that men are better business executives than women.
- Only 27 per cent of people believe that women having the same rights as men is essential for a democracy.
- ❖ 25 per cent of people believe that a man beating his wife is justifiable.







Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2022

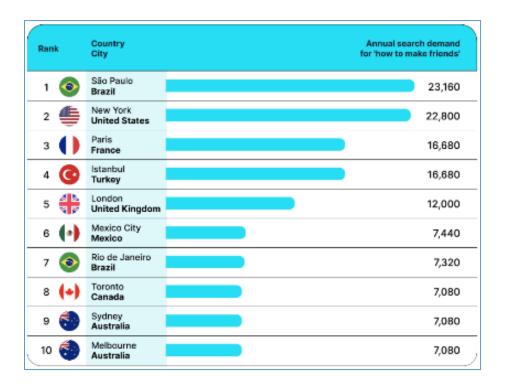


- ❖ The Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2022 report, an annual publication was released by the United Nations refugee agency.
- ❖ More than 108.4 million people were forcibly displaced by the end of 2022, 30 per cent of them children.
- ❖ The total number of people displaced across the world increased to 110 million by May 2023.
- ❖ Climate disasters caused 32.6 million internal displacements throughout 2022.
- ❖ 8.7 million of the people did not manage to return home by the end of the year.
- ❖ Disaster related internal displacement accounted for more than half (54 per cent) of all new displacements in 2022
- ❖ The 46 countries with the poorest development indicators or the Least Developed Countries hosted 20 per cent of the global refugee population.
- ❖ 19.1 million more people were pushed out of their homes last year over 2021.

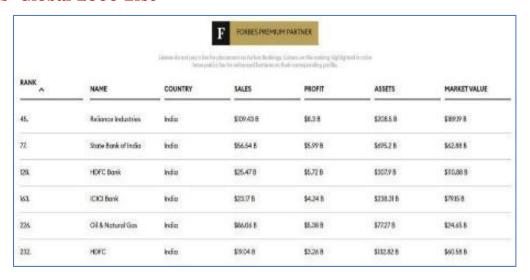
Community Spirit Index

- Community Spirit Index was published by Preply.
- ❖ It is ranking the 53 cities of different countries.
- ❖ Community spirit is about making people in a community feel like they belong and are connected to each other.
- ❖ Toronto and Sydney are named the world's top friendliest cities.
- ❖ Accra in Ghana is ranked as the least friendly city in the world for non-native.
- Marrakech in Morocco ranks at 2 as the second least friendly city in the world.
- ❖ It is followed by Mumbai, Kuala Lumpur, Rio de Janeiro, and Delhi.





Forbes' Global 2000 List



- ❖ Forbes released the 2023 ranking of the world's top 2,000 companies.
- * Reliance Industries Ltd climbed eight spots to the 45th rank.
- ❖ It is the highest for an Indian company on Forbes' latest Global 2000 list of public companies worldwide.
- ❖ State Bank of India climbed to the 77th spot from 105th in the 2022 ranking.
- ❖ HDFC Bank is at 128th position (153 in 2022) and ICICI Bank is at 163 (204 in 2022).





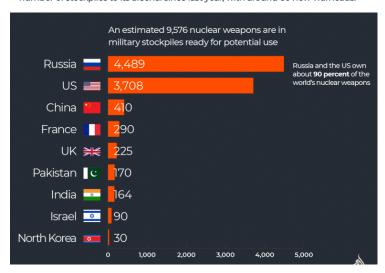
- ❖ NTPC Ltd achieves 433rd rank in the list.
- Other Indian firms: ONGC at 226, HDFC at 232, LIC at 363, Axis Bank (423) and NTPC (433).
- ❖ JPMorgan, America's biggest bank with \$3.7 trillion in assets, is at the top of the list for the first time since 2011.
- ❖ Adani Enterprises at 1062, Adani Power at 1488, and Adani Ports & Special Economic Zones at 1598.

SIPRI's Findings on Nuclear Arsenals

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Global nuclear weapons stockpile growing

Nine countries held roughly **12,512 warheads** as of early 2023, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. China has added the largest number of stockpiles to its arsenal since last year, with around 60 new warheads.



- ❖ The size of China's nuclear arsenal increased from 350 warheads in January 2022 to 410 in January 2023.
- ❖ According to SIPRI estimates, the nuclear arsenals of India grew from 160 in 2022 to 164 in 2023 and that of Pakistan from 165 to 170.
- ❖ The nine nuclear-armed states are: the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) and Israel.

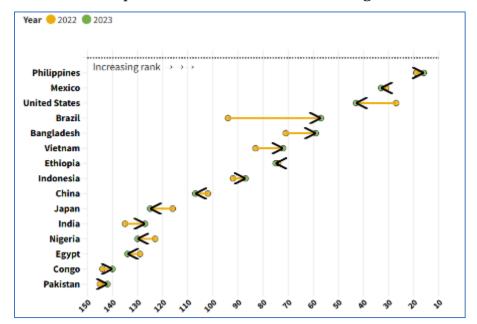
Gender Gap Report, 2023

- ❖ The annual Gender Gap Report, 2023 was released by World Economic Forum (WEF).
- ❖ India was ranked at 127 out of 146 countries in terms of gender parity.





- This is an improvement of eight places from last year.
- ❖ India was ranked 135 in the report's 2022 edition.
- ❖ India had closed 64.3% of the overall gender gap,
- ❖ India had reached only 36.7 % parity on economic participation and opportunity.
- ❖ The index ranked India's neighbours Pakistan at 142, Bangladesh at 59, China at 107, Nepal at 116, Sri Lanka at 115 and Bhutan at 103.
- ❖ Iceland is the most gender-equal country in the world for the 14th consecutive year.
- ❖ On political empowerment, India has registered 25.3% parity, with women representing 15.1% of parliamentarians.
- ❖ It is the highest for the country since the inaugural report in 2006.
- ❖ 18 countries including Bolivia (50.4%), India (44.4%) and France (42.3 %) have achieved women's representation of over 40% in local governance.



Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2023

- ❖ Tata Power has emerged as the most attractive employer brand'.
- ❖ It is followed by e-commerce giant Amazon and steel major Tata Steel.
- ❖ IT major Tata Consultancy Services secured the 4th position in the top 10 most 'attractive employer brand'.
- ❖ It is followed by Microsoft, Samsung India, Infosys, Tata Motors, IBM and Reliance Industries.



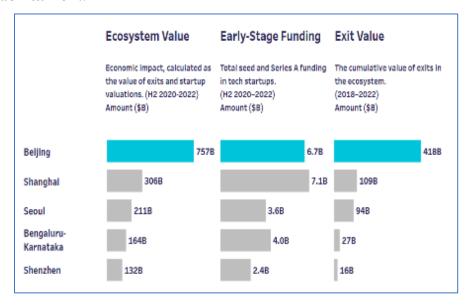


❖ Big Basket, the online megastore, emerged as the most attractive startup employer brand in the country.



Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2023

- ❖ In Startup Genome's The Global Startup Ecosystems Report (GSER) 2023, Bengaluru climbed 2 spots coming to 20th place.
- ❖ Pune lay in the 31-40 range in 2023.
- ❖ The Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2023 is an extensive analysis stating the current state of startup ecosystems around the world
- ❖ In the report, Silicon Valley remaining at the top followed by New York City and London at No 2.



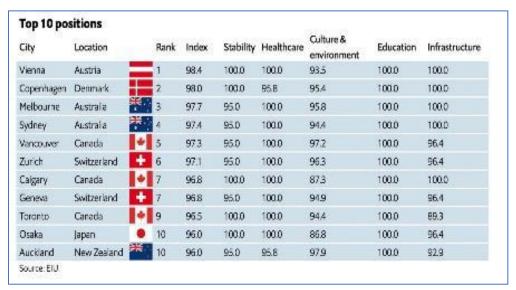




State of the Climate in Europe 2022 Report

- ❖ This report was prepared by the World Meteorological Organisation and the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service.
- ❖ It has emerged as the fastest-warming continent of the world.
- ❖ Its temperature rising by 2.3-degree Celsius last year compared to that in preindustrial times.
- ❖ Across the continent, temperatures rose 1.5C in 30 years from 1991 to 2021
- ❖ Weather-related production losses accounted for approximately just about 0.35 per cent of global nuclear energy generation in 2022.

EIU Global Liveability Index 2023



- ❖ Austria's capital Vienna has been named as the world's "most liveable city" for 2023
- ❖ Denmark's capital Copenhagen also retained its second-place position in the list.
- ❖ Following it are two Australian cities, Melbourne and Sydney, respectively.
- ❖ The list is released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
- ❖ From India, New Delhi and Mumbai are at 141st position and Chennai at 144th.
- Ahmedabad and Bengaluru are ranked 147 and 148, respectively.
- ❖ Damascus, Syria is the least liveable city in the index for more than a decade.

THE Asia university rankings 2023

❖ Eighteen Indian universities have made their way into the top 200 in the Times Higher Education's (THE) annual Asia university rankings for 2023.





- ❖ The Indian Institute of Science continuing to rank the highest among Indian institutions at the 48th position.
- ❖ Last year, 17 higher education institutions figured in the top 200 club.
- ❖ Jawaharlal Nehru University (167th in 2022) and IIT Gandhinagar (120th last year) are notable names missing from the top 200 this year.

University	Rank
Indian Institute of Science	48
JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research	68
Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences	77
Mahatma Gandhi University	95
International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad	106
Alagappa University	111
Saveetha University	113
Jamia Millia Islamia	128
Indian Institute of Technology Ropar	131
Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi	137

TIME's 100 Most Influential Companies - 2023

- ❖ National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Meesho are the only two Indian companies that made it to TIME's list of 100 Most Influential Companies 2023.
- ❖ NPCI Founded in 2008 by the Reserve Bank of India and the Indian Bank's Association (IBA).
- E-commerce app Meesho, launched in 2015 by Vidit Aatrey and Sanjeev Barnwal.

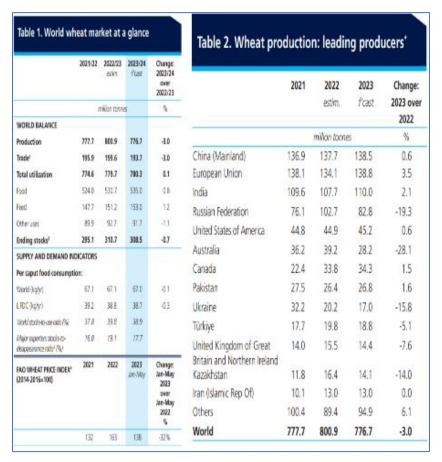
Food Outlook Report

- ❖ This report was released by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- ❖ The food import bill for the least developed countries was predicted to decline by 1.5 per cent this year.
- Net food-importing developing countries may see a 4.9 per cent decline.





- ❖ It estimated that the global food bill will rise to \$1.98 trillion in 2023, up by 1.5 per cent from 2022.
- ❖ World rice production is forecast to rise by 1.3 per cent in 2023-24 to 523.5 million tonnes.
- ❖ International trade is expected to drop by 4.3 per cent in volume terms to 53.6 million tonnes.
- ❖ Wheat production in 2023 is expected to decline by 3 per cent from its all-time high of 777 million tonnes in 2022.



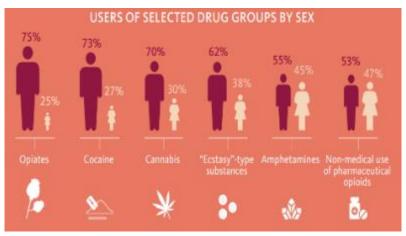
World Drug Report 2023

- ❖ The World Drug Report 2023 was launched by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
- ❖ Global estimate of people who inject drugs in 2021 was at 13.2 million.
- ❖ It is 18 per cent higher than previously estimated.
- ❖ Globally, over 296 million people used drugs in 2021.
- ❖ This is an increase of 23 per cent over the previous decade.



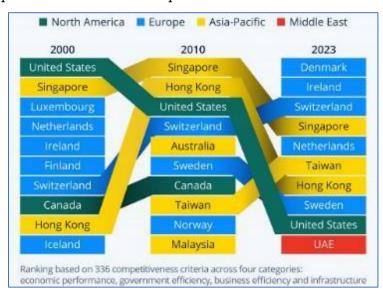


- ❖ The number of people who suffer from drug use disorders, has skyrocketed to 39.5 million.
- ❖ This is a 45 per cent increase over 10 years.
- ❖ While almost 90 percent of methamphetamine seized worldwide was in two regions East and Southeast Asia and North America.



IMD World Competitiveness Ranking

- ❖ The latest world competitiveness ranking was published by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD).
- ❖ Denmark, Ireland and Switzerland took the top three places.
- ❖ India fell 3 ranks from 37 to finish 40th place.
- ❖ It was placed 43rd three years in a row between 2019-2021.
- ❖ The IMD report highlighted that India witnessed improvements in government efficiency but slightly underperformed in business efficiency, infrastructure, and economic performance when compared to other countries.



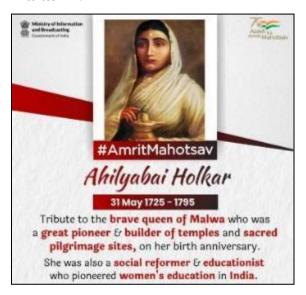




STATES

Ahmednagar Name Change

- ❖ Maharashtra announced that Ahmednagar city would be renamed 'Ahilyanagar' after the 18th century Maratha queen Ahilyabai Holkar.
- ❖ She had proved to be an extremely able ruler in the erstwhile Malwa province in the 18th century.
- ❖ She established Maheshwar (in Madhya Pradesh) as the seat of the Holkar dynasty.
- ❖ Earlier the govt renamed Aurangabad as 'Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar' and Osmanabad as 'Dharashiv.'



Plan to largest solar city

- ❖ The Kerala government launched a project to turn every rooftop in Thiruvananthapuram into a solar energy-producing station.
- ❖ Through this project, the State capital is expected to become one of the largest 'solar cities' in the country.
- ❖ The Kerala government-run Agency for New and Renewable Energy Research and Technology (Anert) will execute this project.

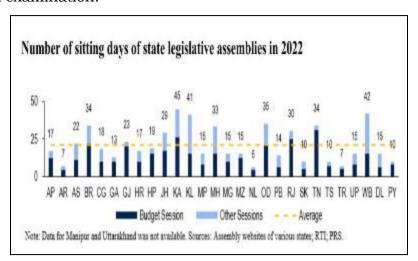
Legislative Research's Analysis of State Assembly Sessions

- State assemblies in India met for an average of 21 days in 2022.
- ❖ Only seven states in India met for more than 30 days in 2022.





- ❖ Karnataka had the highest number of days with 45, followed by West Bengal (42) and Kerala (41).
- ❖ Among the North-East states, only Assam exceeded the national average of 21 sitting days.
- ❖ Meghalaya and Mizoram had 15 Sessions each.
- ❖ The Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) convened for just six days.
- ❖ Apart from Nagaland, the state assemblies of Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura had the second lowest number (7) of meetings in the country.
- Sikkim ranked third with 10 days.
- ❖ On average, 20 states discussed budgets for eight days in 2022.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu spent 26 days on the entire budget discussion.
- ❖ It is followed by Karnataka (15), Kerala (14), and Odisha (14).
- ❖ Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, and Punjab discussed their budgets for two days each.
- ❖ Nagaland passed the fewest bills in 2022, with only three, compared to the average of 21 bills passed by the 28 states.
- ❖ 56% of the bills were passed within a day of introduction across the states.
- ❖ Only around 5% of the bills were referred to the Committee of the Assembly for detailed examination.



Verdict on Necrophilia

- ❖ The Karnataka High Court cited sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) that do not explicitly address punishment for engaging in "Necrophilic activities".
- ❖ The Indian Penal Code (IPC) do not explicitly address punishment for engaging in "sexual intercourse with a deceased body," as the law only applies to acts involving a living person.

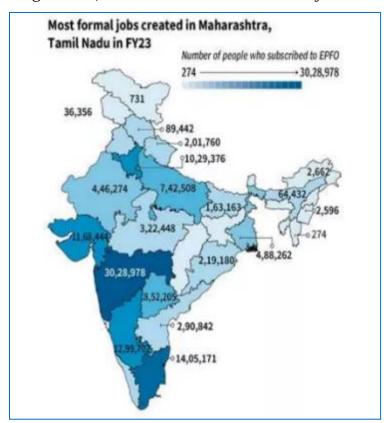




❖ Necrophilia refers to the act of a person engaging in sexual intercourse with a corpse.

Formal job creation in FY 23

- ❖ According to the Employees' Provident Fund, 1.39 crore people found new formal jobs in India in FY23.
- ❖ This is a 13 per cent increase compared to FY22.
- ❖ Data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) also showed lower unemployment rate, 7.6 per cent, in FY23.
- ❖ It fell down compared to the previous two financial years 8 per cent in FY22 and 10 per cent in FY21.
- ❖ Maharashtra has topped in the financial year by adding 30.28 lakh payroll.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is in second place, with 14.05 net new payroll additions in FY23.
- ❖ Karnataka, Haryana and Gujarat bagged the third, fourth and fifth positions, respectively.
- ❖ Among the large states, Assam had the fewest formal job creations at 64,432.







Overall Environmental Performance

- ❖ Non-profit Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has released its annual report named 'State of India's Environment 2023: In Figures'.
- ❖ Telangana has ranked at the top for its progress in increasing its forest cover and in municipal waste treatment.
- ❖ It is followed by Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and Gujarat.
- ❖ Telangana increased the green cover from 22 per cent to 33 per cent.
- ❖ A remarkable 24.06 per cent of geographical area in the state is covered with forests.



KFON internet connectivity







- ❖ The Kerala government officially launched the Kerala Fibre Optical Network (KFON).
- ❖ Through KFON, Kerala was the first state to declare the right to internet as a basic right.
- ❖ It aims to reduce the digital divide by ensuring high speed broadband internet access to all houses and government offices.
- ❖ Basically, KFON will act as an infrastructure provider.

FAO accelerator program

- ❖ Farmers Fresh Zone (FarmersFZ) has been selected for an accelerator programme of the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).
- ❖ FarmersFZ is the Kochi-based multichannel marketplace platform.
- ❖ It functions under the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM).
- ❖ It got place on a list of 12 agri-food start-ups across the world for the FAO to develop business.



First Over Dimensional Cargo



❖ The first consignment of over dimensional cargo (ODC) for expansion of Assam's Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL), transported through waterways.





- ❖ The ODC was transported by IWAI ship MV Marine 66.
- ❖ The ODC had left Kolkata on March 18 and travelled for nearly three months via the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route to reach the NRL jetty.

Kari Ishad mango

- ❖ The Kari Ishad mango has bagged the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ It is prominently grown in Ankola taluk of Uttara Kannada, Karnataka.
- ❖ The fruit is famous because of its sweet taste and pulp.
- ❖ The Ishad mango has two variants Kari Ishad, and Bili Ishad.

'Natural Arch' in Odisha

- ❖ The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has proposed declaring the 'Brahmani Natural Arch' in Odisha as a Geo Heritage Site.
- It is situated in Kanika range of Sundargarh forest division of Odisha.
- ❖ If it declared so, it will be the biggest natural arch of the country to have the Geo Heritage tag.
- ❖ The natural arch is composed of ferruginous sandstone from the Upper Kamthi Formation.
- ❖ It dates back to the lower to middle Jurassic age, approximately 184 to 160 million years old.
- ❖ India currently has two other natural arches, located at Tirumala hills in Tirupati and Andaman and Nicobar, but both are smaller than the one in Sundargarh.



Prisons as "Reform Homes"

- Uttar Pradesh will establish prisons as 'Sudhaar Grah' (Reform Homes).
- ❖ Also, the state issued instructions regarding the preparation of the new Prison Act of the state.





- ❖ Currently, there is a semi-open jail operational in Lucknow.
- ❖ In the present time, the Jail Act of 1894 and the Prisoners Act of 1900 are in effect concerning prisoners detained in jail.
- ❖ The objective of the Prison Act of 1894 is to maintain discipline and control over offenders in custody.
- ❖ The Model Prison Act 2023 has recently been prepared by the Government of India.

Punjab Police (Amendment) Bill, 2023

- ❖ The Punjab assembly passed the Punjab Police (Amendment) Bill, 2023.
- ❖ It aims to bring about an independent mechanism for the selection and appointment of suitable persons to the post of the DGP.
- It will make the process "free from political or executive interference."
- ❖ In 2019, the Supreme Court had rejected petitions filed by Punjab, Kerala, West Bengal, Haryana, and Bihar to allow them to select DGPs based on similar laws passed in their respective State Assemblies.

Karnataka's Anna Bhagya Scheme

- ❖ The Congress government announced Anna Bhagya scheme as one of the five pre-poll guarantees.
- ❖ It is looking to supply five kg of rice per person for BPL card-holding families over and above the five kg that the Centre is supplying currently.
- With about 2.29 lakh metric tonnes of additional required per month.
- ❖ The Food Corporation of India (FCI), which had initially agreed to supply the quantity, later rescinded its decision.

North India's first Skin Bank

- ❖ North India's first Skin Bank has been inaugurated at New Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital.
- ❖ It is a bank where deceased donors can donate their skin which will be helpful in treating burns.
- ❖ The skin can be donated within six hours of death and utilized for burns and trauma patients after processing.
- ❖ The country has 16 skin banks seven in Maharashtra, four in Chennai, three in Karnataka, and one each in Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.





PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

External Auditor of WHO

- ❖ Girish Chandra Murmu, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), has been re-elected as the External Auditor of the WHO for a four-year term from 2024 to 2027.
- ❖ Besides the WHO, the CAG of India is currently the External Auditor of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (2020-2025), International Atomic Energy Agency (2022-2027), Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (2021-2023) and Inter Parliamentary Union (2020-2022).
- ❖ The CAG is a Member of the United Nations Panel of External Auditors.
- ❖ He is also a member of the Governing Boards of International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions and ASOSAI.

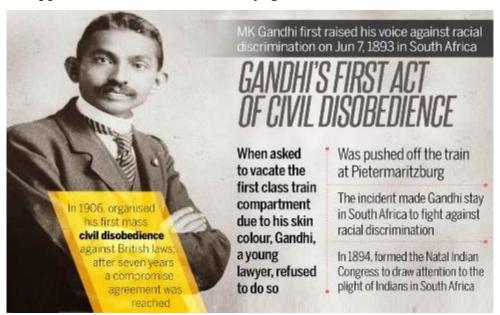
130 Years of Gandhi's Rail Incident in South Africa

- ❖ INS Trishul's visit to Durban of South Africa is to commemorate several historic events.
- ❖ It includes the 30th anniversary of the restart of India-South Africa diplomatic relations.





- ❖ It also marks the incident, 130 years ago when Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, was evicted from a train in Pietermaritzburg Station.
- ❖ Gandhi arrived in Durban in 1893 to serve as legal counsel to merchant Dada Abdulla.
- ❖ On June 7, 1893, during a trip to Pretoria in the Transvaal, he first arrived at Pietermaritzburg Railway station.
- ❖ He was seated in a first-class compartment after having purchased a ticket.
- ❖ But he was later thrown off from the compartment at the directive of a European.
- ❖ During that days, 'coolies' and non-whites were not permitted in first-class compartments.
- ❖ The incident is considered to be the trigger which led to Gandhi's fight against racial oppression and the birth of Satyagraha.

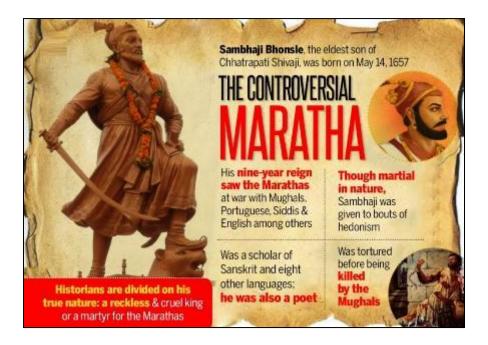


350th year of Chhatrapati Shivaji Coronation Day

- ❖ As per the Gregorian calendar, the Maratha king was coronated on June 6, 1674 at the Raigad fort, Maharashtra.
- By this, he laid the foundation of "Hindavi Swaraj" or self-rule of Hindus.
- ❖ According the Hindu calendar, the anniversary of his coronation was on June 2 this year.







Commodore K.S. Subramanian

- ❖ Commander Of Indian Navy's First Submarine, Commodore K S Subramanian, passed away recently.
- ❖ He was the command officer of the Indian Navy's first submarine, INS Kalvari (S23).
- ❖ On 8 December 1967, INS Kalvari was commissioned at the Soviet naval base in Riga, Latvia.
- ❖ This insignificant milestone marked the birth of the Indian Navy's submarine arm.







SMOPS-2023

- ❖ The International Conference on Spacecraft Mission Operations (SMOPS-2023), was organised by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).
- ❖ The ISRO collaborated with the Italian Space Agency (ASI) and the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) and in association with industry partners for this event.
- ❖ The conference brought together Space agencies, start-ups, industry, and academia to discuss emerging technologies and automation in Space mission operations and ground segment.



Spinoza Prize

- ❖ Indian-origin scientist Joyeeta Gupta has been awarded the Spinoza Prize.
- ❖ This was awarded for her outstanding, pioneering and inspiring scientific work in which she focuses on a just and sustainable world.
- ❖ It is the highest distinction in Dutch science which is also referred to as the 'Dutch Nobel Prize'.

UITP award Mumbai BEST

- ❖ The BEST Green Travel initiatives has won the UITP Awards, one of the world's most coveted prize in public transport.
- ❖ It was the winner in the 'Climate and Health', category.
- It was also among the top three finalists in 'Public and Urban Transport Strategy' category.
- ❖ The UITP Awards showcase the most ambitious and innovative projects of the last two years in cities and regions around the globe.





International Green Apple Awards

- ❖ The Five buildings and structures from Telangana have been selected for the 'International Green Apple Awards for Beautiful Buildings'.
- ❖ They have chosen under the Urban and Real Estate Sector category.
 - Mozzam-Jahi Market in the Heritage category- excellent restoration and reuse,
 - o Durgam Cheruvu Cable Bridge in the bridge category unique design,
 - o B R Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat Building, aesthetically designed office and workspace building category,
 - o Integrated Command Control Centre of Telangana Police the unique office category and
 - Yadadri Temple, abode of Lord Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy in the excellent religious structures category.

National Florence Nightingale Award 20200-23

- ❖ The President conferred the National Florence Nightingale Award on Major General Smita Devrani and Brigadier Amita Devrani of the Military Nursing Service for 2022 and 2023 respectively.
- ❖ The award was instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 1973.
- ❖ It is given to recognise the meritorious services rendered by nurses and nursing professionals to society.

Bal Sahitya Puraskar for Tamil

- Writer Udhayasankar was selected for the Bal Sahitya Puraskar Award for his novel Aadhanin Bommai.
- ❖ It was written with Keezhadi excavations as its theme and it makes known "our roots to the youth".
- ❖ The books authored by him include Munnoru Kalathil (Once Upon a time), Pirithoru Maranam (One more death), Mayakkannadi (Illusion Mirror), and Kumarapuram Railway Stationil Oriraravu (A Night in the Kumarapuram Railway station).





Yuva Puraskar for Tamil

- * Ram Thangam was selected for Yuva Puraskar Award for Thirukarthiyal.
- It is a collection of short stories.
- ❖ His first book Gandhiraman was published in 2015.
- ❖ Later, his works Oor Sutri Paravai and Meenava Veeranukku Oru Kovil were published.
- ❖ The short story collection titled Thirkarthiyal was published in 2018.
- He also authored many books including Rajavanam, a novel, his second collection of short stories titled Pulikuthi, travelogues Kadavulin Desathil (Two parts) and the like.
- ❖ The awards are conferred by Sahitya Akademi.

2023 Iqbal Masih Award - Lalitha Natarajan

- ❖ The United States department of labour has honoured lawyer and activist Lalitha Natarajan with the 2023 Iqbal Masih Award for the Elimination of Child Labour.
- ❖ Lalitha has been constantly fighting to end exploitative child labour in south India.
- ❖ She identifies child victims of trafficking, specifically bonded labour, assisting in their re-integration into society.
- ❖ The Iqbal Masih Award is a US Congress-mandated, non-monetary award established by the secretary of labour in 2008.
- ❖ It honours extraordinary contributions to combat child labour.

International Prize in Statistics

- ❖ Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao (102), a prominent Indian-American mathematician and statistician, will receive the 2023 International Prize in Statistics.
- ❖ It is equivalent to the Nobel Prize in the field.
- ❖ This is awarded for his monumental work 75 years ago that revolutionised statistical thinking.
- ❖ In 1945, he published a paper in the Bulletin of the Calcutta Mathematical Society.
- ❖ He demonstrated three fundamental results that paved the way for the modern field of statistics and provided statistical tools heavily used in science today.
- ❖ He served as the Director of the Indian Statistical Institute.





- ❖ He was awarded the title of Padma Bhushan by the Indian Government (1968) and Padma Vibhushan in 2001.
- ❖ The first International Prize in Statistics was awarded in 2017 to David R Cox.



Egypt's 'Order of the Nile'

- ❖ Indian Prime Minister received Egypt's highest state honour the 'Order of the Nile' and his 13th international award.
- ❖ This is his first tour to Egypt and the first bilateral visit by an Indian PM to the country since 1997.
- ❖ The 'Order of the Nile' is presented to heads of states, crown princes, and vice presidents.
- ❖ He is the 49th person adorned by this award.







Sahitya Akademi Awards

- ❖ The Sahitya Akademi has announced a list of 22 recipients of its Bal Sahitya Puraskar and 20 winners of its Yuva Puraskar for this year.
- ❖ It did not announce any Yuva Puraskar winner for Odia and Bal Sahitya Puraskar for Kashmiri.
- ❖ Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2023 winners are

Awardee	Language	Title			
Short stories					
Suryanath Singh	Hindi	Kotuk App			
Jugal Kishore Sarangi	Odia	Jejenka Gapa Ganthili			
Gurmeet Karyalvi	Punjabi	Sachi Di Kahani			
Mansing Majhi	Santali	Nene-Pete			
D.K. chaduvula Babu	Telugu	Vajrala Vaana			
Late Mateen Achalpuri	Urdu	Mamta Ki Dor			
Pratima Nandi Narzaree	Bodo	Gosaini Gwjwn Nwjwr			
Novels					
Rothindranath Goswami	Assamese	Powalmoni Aru Chichingar			
		Duhxahaxik Abhijan			
Shyamalkanti Das	Bengali	Eroplaner Khata			
Vijayashree Haladi	Kannada	Surakki Gate			
Tukaram Rama Shet	Konkani	Jaann			
Priya A.S.	Malayalam	Perumazhayathe Kunjithalukal			
Radhavallabh Tripathy	Sanskrit	Manavi			
Udhayasankar	Tamil	Aadhanin Bommai			
Potery					
Balwan Singh Jamoria	Dogri	Kanjkan			
Akshay Anand 'Sunny'	Maithili	Ol Katra, Jhol Katra			
Eknath Avhad	Marathi	Chhand Dei Aanand			
Dholan Rahi	Sindhi	Vanganmal Ji Shaadi			
Stories					
Sudha Murty	English	Grandparent's Bag of Stories			
Play					
Madhusudan Bisht	Neplai	Bal Ekanki Natakharu			
Memoir					
Kiran Badal	Rajasthani	Tabran Ri Duniyan			

Yuva Puraskar 2023 winners





Awardee	Language	Title			
Short Stories					
Jintu Gitartha	Assamoso	Mon Mora Tora			
Hamiruddin Middya	Bengali	Mathrakha			
Sagar Shah	Gujarati	Get Together			
Manjunayak Challur	Kannada	Phoo Mattu Ithara Kathegalu			
Tanvi Kamat	Konkeni	Shots			
Bapi Tuđu	Santali	Dusi			
Monika J. Panjwani	Sindhi	Glamour			
Ram Thangam	Tamil	Thirukarthiyal			
Tauseef Bareilvi	Urdu	Zehen Zead			
Poetry					
Mainasori Daimary	Bodo	Som, Jin, Arw			
Nighat Nasreen	Kashmiri	Lalli Nilvath Tchali Na Zanh			
Ganesh Puthur	Malayalam	Achante Alamara			
Vishakha Vishwanath	Marathi	Swatahala Swataviruddh Ubhe			
		Kartana			
Naina Adhikari	Nepali	Ghat-Pratightka Udgarharu			
Sanddep	Punjebi	Chitt Da Jugraphia			
Deilal Mahiya	Rajastheni Atas Ro Olmo				
Plays					
Dheeraj Bismil	Dogri	Ahlada			
Historical					
		Lords of the Deccan: Southern			
Anirudh Kanisetti	English	India from the Chalukyaa to the			
		cholas			
	Critici	sm			
Johny Takkedasila	Telugu	Vivechani			
Novel					
Atul Kumar Rai Hindi Chandpur Ki Chanda					

Expansion of Grammy Awards

- ❖ The Grammy Awards is known for honouring exceptional achievements in the music industry.
- ❖ It has added three new Categories: Best African Music Performance, Best Alternative Jazz Album and Best Pop Dance Recording.
- ❖ These new categories will be introduced at the 2024 GRAMMYs, officially known as the 66th GRAMMY Awards.
- ❖ Additionally, the existing Categories of Producer of the Year, Non-Classical and Songwriter of The Year, Non-Classical will be moved to the General Field.







SPORTS

Highest dismissals in T20 cricket

- ❖ Mahendra Singh Dhoni became the first Indian and only second cricketer to effect 300 dismissals (catches and stumpings) in T20 cricket.
- ❖ Dhoni has a total of 301 dismissals including 214 catches and 89 stumpings.
- ❖ Kieron Pollard has taken 345 catches in T20 cricket.
- ❖ Dinesh Karthik has a total of 276 dismissals including 207 catches and 69 stumpings.
- ❖ Dhoni also became the first player to feature in 250 IPL matches during the match.

Men's Junior Hockey Asia Cup 2023

- ❖ The Indian Junior Men's Hockey Team championed by beating Pakistan in the Final match of the Men's Junior Asia Cup 2023 in Salalah, Oman.
- ❖ With this victory, India has created a new record of winning the maximum titles at the Men's Junior Hockey Asia Cup.
- ❖ The team had previously won the title in 2004, 2008 and 2015.
- ❖ Pakistan has won the tournament in 1988, 1992, 1996.

3rd Khelo India University Games

- ❖ The Khelo India University Games 2023 concluded in IIT Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Panjab University topped the medals tally with 26 gold, 17 silver and 26 bronze medals (total 69 medals).
- ❖ Amritsar's Guru Nanak Dev University came in second in the overall championship race with 24 gold, 27 silver and 17 bronze (total 68 medals).
- ❖ Last edition's champion Jain University, Karnataka had to be content with the third position with 32 medals.
- ❖ Swimmer Siva Sridhar topped the men's section with a total of 11 medals, including eight golds.
- Shrungi Bandekar won nine medals in the women's section, including five golds.
- ❖ University of Madras got 9th rank in the list with 7 gold, 8 Silver and 8 Bronze medals.
- ❖ Other Tamil Nadu universities in the tally are: SRM University (37), Bharathiar University (42) and Madurai Kamaraj University (85)







World Squash Championship

- ❖ The Squash World Cup 2023 is currently underway at the Express Avenue Mall in Chennai.
- ❖ The Squash World Cup 2023 is being conducted in two phases.
- ❖ Each team at the Squash World Cup 2023 consists of four players two men and two women.
- ❖ India have never won a Squash World Cup title.
- ❖ Australia won the inaugural edition in 1996 while England emerged champions in the second edition in 1999.

French Open 2023

Title	Winner	Runner up
Men's Singles	Novak Djokovic	Casper Ruud
Women's Singles	Iga Świątek	Karolina Muchova
Men's doubles	Ivan Dodig and Austin Krajicek	Sander Gille and Joran Vliegen
Women's doubles	Hsieh Su-Wei and Wang Xinyu	Taylor Towsend and Leylah Fernandez
Mixed doubles	Miyu Kato and Tim Pütz	Bianca Andreescu and Michael Venus

❖ Novak Djokovic of Serbia won his 23rd Grand Slam title with a victory over Casper Ruud of Norway in French Open Final.





- ❖ He broke a tie with Rafael Nadal for the most major singles trophies in the history of men's tennis.
- ❖ He also becomes the first man to win all four majors at least three times.
- ❖ The French Open is one of the four Grand Slam tennis tournaments, and it has been held annually since 1891.

FIFA U20 World Cup 2023

- ❖ Uruguay won the FIFA U20 World Cup 2023 title with a 1-0 victory over Italy in the final.
- ❖ The FIFA U-20 World Cup was played across four cities in Argentina.
- ❖ Chelsea midfielder Cesare Casadei won both the Player of the Tournament (Golden Ball) and Golden Boot awards.
- ❖ This competition was started in 1977 and was earlier known as the FIFA World Youth Championship.
- This competition takes place after every two years.
- ❖ The 2023 edition took place after four years due to a covid.
- ❖ Argentina have won the most FIFA U20 World Cup (6) titles in the competition's history.

Mascot for 37th Indian National Games

- ❖ The official mascot and jersey of the 37th National Games was released in Goa.
- ❖ The unveiling of the official mascot 'MOGA,' a bison, is representing the distinct identity of Goa.
- ❖ It embodied the connection between the Games and the state's heritage.
- ❖ The last National Games edition was held in Kerala in 2015.

Special Olympics World Games 2023

- ❖ For the first time, Germany had been chosen as the host country for the Special Olympics World Games.
- India ended their Special Olympics World Games campaign with a whopping 202 medals.
- ❖ India secured 76 gold, 75 silver and 51 bronze medals in the global multi-sport event.
- It is held every two years.
- ❖ 2025 and 2027 editions will be held in Italy and Australia respectively.





IMPORTANT DAYS

Goa Statehood Day - May 30

- ❖ Goa got its statehood on May 30, 1987.
- ❖ It was a Portuguese territory since Alfonso de Albuquerque conquered it in 1510 by defeating Adil Shah of Bijapur.
- ❖ 400 years later, India took back Goa from the Portuguese.
- ❖ The Indian Army invaded Goa in December 1961 under "Operation Vijay" to liberate it from the Portuguese.
- ❖ The annexation by the Indian Army began on December 17, 1961.



World Milk Day - June 01

- ❖ This day aims to recognize the significance of milk as a universal food.
- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations created the day in 2001.





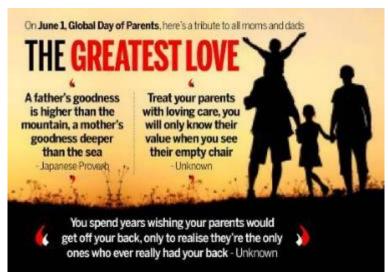


Telangana Day - June 02

- ❖ The Telugu-speaking regions of Hyderabad were merged with Andhra Pradesh on November 1, 1956 to form a unified state.
- ❖ On July 1, 2013, the Congress Working Committee passed a resolution to form Telangana as a separate state.
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2014 bill was passed in the Parliament in February 2014 for the formation of the Telangana state.
- ❖ The bill was passed by the President of India on March 1, 2014, and the state of Telangana was finally formed on June 2.

Global Day of Parents - June 02

- ❖ In 2012, the General Assembly officially designated this day.
- ❖ It is an opportunity to appreciate and honour the love, dedication, and sacrifices of parents worldwide.
- ❖ The day reflects the importance of parenting and the well-being of families.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly declared 1994 as the International Year of the Family.



International Sex Workers Day - June 02

- ❖ This day is celebrated to create awareness about the discrimination and struggles faced by sex workers globally.
- ❖ It also aims to raise awareness of the rights of the sex workers and to combat stigma and discrimination.





- ❖ Since 1976 this day has been commemorated to show respect for the most abused, victimised and valuable section of the society.
- ❖ The theme of this year is "Access to Justice".

World Bicycle Day - June 03



- ❖ The day aims to develop a culture of cycling for basic transportation, commutation, and strengthening physical and mental health.
- ❖ The day highlights the "uniqueness, longevity and versatility of the bicycle".
- ❖ The first bicycle day was celebrated on June 3, 2018.

International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression - June 04

- ❖ This day acknowledging the pain and suffering experienced by the children who are victims of emotional, physical and mental abuse
- ❖ The day is also observed to honour the efforts of organisations and individuals who are working to preserve the rights of children.
- ❖ The very first International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression was observed on August 19, 1982.
- ❖ At the time, the day was focused on victims of the Lebanon War.

World Day Against Speciesism - June 05

- This day is aimed at denouncing speciesism, which is discrimination against non-human animals on the basis of their species.
- Speciesism is a term used in philosophy regarding the treatment of individuals of different species.





World Environment Day - June 05



- ❖ It is observed to raise awareness on the protection and preservation of the environment.
- ❖ In 1972, the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment was held at Stockholm, Sweden.
- ❖ As a result of this conference, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was established on June 15, 1972.
- ❖ The UNEP proposed a special day for the environment.
- ❖ In 1972, the UN General Assembly designated this day.
- ❖ This year marks the completion of 50 years of its establishment.
- ❖ The first World Environment Day was observed on June 05, 1973.
- ❖ The theme of this year is "BeatPlasticPollution".

International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing 2023 - June 05

- ❖ This annual event aims to raise awareness of the dangers posed by Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing to the marine ecosystem.
- ❖ In 1995, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) convened a conference where a code of conduct was adopted to conserve aquatic ecosystems.
- On 5 December 2017, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution for this day





- ❖ Almost 32% of seafood imported into the United States is unlawfully caught.
- ❖ 39% of fish populations in the North-East Atlantic and adjacent waters are deemed overfished.
- ❖ In the past 40 years, marine species have decreased by 39%.

World Pest Day - June 06



- ❖ This day is dedicated to spread awareness about pest management and its benefits.
- ❖ The day also aims to educate people to keep the crops, trees and plants free from pests.
- ❖ This day was first celebrated in Beijing on 6 June 2017.

UN Russian Language Day 2023 - June 06

- ❖ The celebration of Russian Language Day began in 2010 by UNESCO.
- ❖ It is a part of its program to support and develop cultural diversity and multilingualism.
- Its date coincides with Alexander Pushkin's birthday June 6, 1799.
- ❖ Pushkin is considered to be the greatest Russian poet ever who introduced Russia to all the European literary genres.
- ❖ The UN has a program which aims to maintain the equality of the organisation's six official languages: French, Spanish, English, Arabic, China and Russian.

World Food Safety Day 2023 - June 07

- ❖ This day aims to raise awareness about the importance of safe food practices and to highlight the global need for safe food.
- ❖ This international day is a collaborative effort of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).





- ❖ This day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2018 through a resolution.
- ❖ The theme of World Food Safety Day 2023 is "Food standards save lives."

World Brain Tumor Day 2023 - June 08

- * This day aims to increase awareness and educate people about brain tumours.
- ❖ Brain tumours are abnormal growths that develop within the brain or its surrounding structures.
- ❖ Theme for 2023 is "Protect yourself keep away from stress."



World Oceans Day 2023 - June 08



❖ This day reminds us of the important role of the oceans in sustaining our livelihoods and the necessity to prevent them from destruction.





- ❖ The oceans cover about 71% of the Earth's surface.
- ❖ They are vital for maintaining the planet's climate, regulating temperature, and producing oxygen.
- ❖ Theme of this year is "Planet Ocean: Tides are Changing".

World Accreditation Day 2023 - June 09



- It aims at recognizing and promoting the role of accreditation across various sectors.
- ❖ This day aims to raise awareness about the value and benefits of accreditation in ensuring competence, reliability, and credibility in industries.
- ❖ This Day came into existence in 2007 as a result of a joint effort between the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).
- ❖ The theme of 2023 is "Accreditation: Supporting the Future of Global Trade".

World Day Against Child Labour 2023 - June 12

- ❖ It is an event that is observed by all United Nations member countries to raise awareness about the need to end child Labour.
- ❖ The International Labour Organization established this day in the year 2002.
- ❖ The Africa and the Asia and the Pacific regions together account for almost nine out of every ten children in child labour worldwide.
- ❖ Theme of this year is 'Social Justice for All. End Child Labour!'





International Albinism Awareness Day - June 13

- ❖ This day spread awareness about the human rights of the Albinos across the world and also to condemn attacks on them.
- ❖ Albinism is a rare and genetically inherited condition resulting in little or no pigmentation (melanin) in the skin, hair, and eyes.
- ❖ It is causing vulnerability to the sun and bright light.
- ❖ It is a non-contagious health condition but people with albinism are visually impaired and are prone to developing skin cancer.
- ❖ In 2013, the UNHRC adopted a resolution called "Attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism."
- ❖ The theme of this year's celebration is "Inclusion is strength."

International Archives Day 2023 - June 09

- ❖ This day is commemorating the date when the International Council on Archives (ICA) was established in 1948.
- ❖ This year is the 75th year of the organization.
- The National Archives of India was established on 11 March 1891 at Kolkata.
- ❖ The National Archives of India is also the nodal agency for the implementation of the Public Records Act, 1993 and Public Record Rules, 1997.



World Blood Donor Day 2023 - June 14

- ❖ It aims to spread awareness around access to safe blood and also to thank blood donors for their noble act.
- This day was first recognised in 2004.
- ❖ The theme for this year is "Give blood, give plasma, share life, share often."





Global Wind Day - June 15

- ❖ This day to raise awareness about the benefits of wind energy, with the goal of promoting further development within the industry.
- ❖ It is a collaborative initiative organised by WindEurope and the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC).
- ❖ This year will mark the 16th celebration of Global Wind Day, kickstarted in 2007.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day - June 15

- ❖ It aims to provide a better understanding of the abuse older people suffer by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic, and demographic processes affecting them.
- ❖ This annual event launched in 2006, by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization.
- ❖ The number of older people in the world expected to be 1.4 billion by 2030.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is "Closing the Circle: Addressing Gender-Based Violence in Older Age Policy, Law and Evidence-based Responses."
- ❖ According to the recent data, 28% are the victims of physical violence, followed by disrespect (54%), verbal abuse 36% and neglect 29%.

ASEAN Dengue Day 2023 - June 15

- ❖ It aims to increase public awareness of dengue, to mobilize resources for its prevention and control, and to demonstrate the region's commitment to tackling the disease.
- ❖ The advocacy event was agreed upon during the 10th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting in 2010.
- ❖ The first regional event was held in 2011 in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- ❖ Theme for this year is 'ASEAN's Commitment to Fight Against Dengue'.

International Day of Family Remittances 2023 - June 16

- ❖ The day recognises the importance of migrant workers and the efforts needed to help sustain and uplift their families.
- * Remittance refers to the amount of money that is given as a payment or gift.
- ❖ Migrant workers, mostly from rural areas, make meagre wages, far away from their native place to help sustain their families.





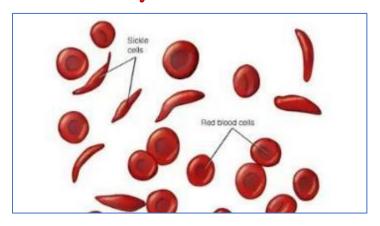
- ❖ "Digital remittances towards financial inclusion and cost reduction," is the theme for the 2023-2024.
- ❖ This day was adopted by the UN General Assembly on June 12, 2018.

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2023 - June 17

- ❖ The day focuses on restoring the land that has been damaged, preventing desertification.
- ❖ This day was established in 1994 as a result of a convention held at the UN General Assembly.
- ❖ This day was observed in 1995 for the first time.
- ❖ In order to combat the environmental deterioration that is being brought upon by climate change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was created.
- ❖ 2006 was declared "International Year of Deserts and Desertification".



World Sickle Cell Awareness Day 2023 - June 19







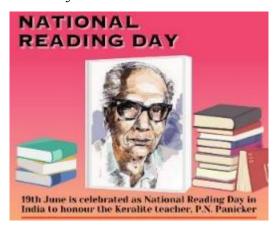
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about sickle cell disease (SCD) and its impact on individuals, families and communities worldwide.
- Sickle cell disease is a genetic blood disorder characterised by abnormal red blood cells
- ❖ Cells will take on a crescent or sickle shape and these irregularly shaped cells.
- ❖ It can cause blockages in blood vessels, leading to a variety of health complications.

World Sauntering Day 2023 - June 19

- ❖ This day serves as a reminder to take a break and rediscover the beauty in each day.
- ❖ It encourages the people around the world to slow down their pace and enjoy a leisurely stroll.
- ❖ This day was founded by WT Rabe in 1979 during his employment at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island in Michigan, USA.
- ❖ The theme this year is "Rediscover the Joy of Simplicity."

National Reading Day 2023 - June 19

- ❖ This day aims to remind people about the value of reading books even in an era dominated by the internet.
- ❖ The day marks the death anniversary of PN Panicker, who is famously known as the 'Father of the Library Movement' in Kerala.
- ❖ He founded Sanadana Dharma Library which was the centre of the library movement in Kerala.
- ❖ The Father of Reading passed away on June 19, 1995.
- on his death anniversary, the Ministry of Education in Kerala also observes a reading week known as Vayana Varam from June 19 to 25 every year.







World crocodile day 2023 - June 17

- ❖ The day is a global awareness campaign to highlight the plight of endangered crocodiles and alligators around the world.
- ❖ The first global event was held on June 17th 2017.
- Crocodile is among the 23 species of amphibious animals belonging to the reptile order Crocodylia.
- ❖ It is a large aquatic reptile that lives throughout Africa, Asia, the Americas and Australia.
- ❖ They congregate in freshwater habitats like rivers, lakes, wetlands.
- ❖ Some species, like Saltwater Crocodile often live along the coastal areas.
- ❖ India is home to three crocodilian species: the mugger or marsh crocodile, the estuarine or saltwater crocodile and the gharial.



Sustainable Gastronomy Day 2023 - June 18

- ❖ This day highlights the important role that food plays in promoting sustainable development and the crucial choices about what we eat.
- ❖ According to the United Nations, gastronomy is sometimes called the art of food.
- ❖ It also refers to a style of cooking from a particular region.
- ❖ The theme for this year's celebrations is 'Local Flavours, Preserving Global Heritage.'





International Day for Countering Hate Speech 2023 - June 18

- ❖ It serves as a vital reminder of the urgent need to address the global issue of hate speech.
- ❖ It called for collective action to counter the spread of divisive rhetoric and promote understanding, respect, and inclusivity.
- ❖ This significant day builds upon the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech.
- ❖ This was launched on June 18, 2019.

International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict 2023 - June 19

- ❖ This day aims to highlight the issue of conflict-related sexual violence and inspire efforts to prevent it.
- ❖ The theme for this year is "bridging the gender digital divide to prevent, address and respond to conflict-related sexual violence".
- ❖ This day was established on June 19, 2015, by the United Nations General Assembly.
- ❖ It is aimed at raising awareness about the need to end conflict-related sexual violence and honouring people who are subjected to sexual violence around the world.

World Refugee Day 2023 - June 20

- ❖ This day raises awareness about the challenges faced by refugees worldwide and honours their resilience.
- ❖ This day serves as a reminder of the challenges faced by millions of individuals who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution, or violence.
- ❖ It offers an opportunity to raise awareness, advocate for their rights, and show solidarity with those seeking safety and protection.
- ❖ This day was established on December 4, 2000.
- ❖ It aimed to raise awareness about the increasing number of refugees worldwide and to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention.
- ❖ The theme of this year is "Hope away from home".

World Hydrography Day 2023 - June 21

❖ The International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) was established in 1921.





- ❖ It is serving as a prominent entity focused on addressing various aspects of marine life.
- ❖ This day aims to raise awareness about hydrography and how it plays a role in improved knowledge of the seas and oceans.
- ❖ Theme of this year is "Hydrography underpinning the digital twin of the ocean."

World Music Day 2023 - June 21

- ❖ It aims to celebrate the global language of music.
- ❖ The first World Music Day was observed in France on June 21, 1982.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is "Music on the Intersections."



International Yoga Day 2023 - June 21

- ❖ The date of June 21 was chosen as it is the Summer Solstice, the day where there is the most sun out of every other day of the year.
- ❖ The idea of International Yoga Day was first proposed by India in 2014 at the UN General Assembly.
- ❖ The 2023's theme is Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.
- ❖ Over 1.25 lakh people attended the International Yoga Day event in Surat, setting a new Guinness World Record for the largest gathering of people for a yoga session in one place.

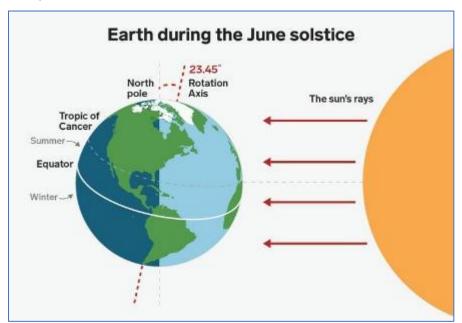
International Day of the Solstice 2023 - June 21

- ❖ The summer solstice marks the official beginning of the summer season.
- ❖ June 21 is the longest day of the year with the shortest night.





- ❖ After this day, the days start getting shorter, slowly and steadily.
- During the summer solstice, the sun reaches the highest as well as northernmost points.
- ❖ Likewise, the winter solstice marks the official commencement of the winter
- ❖ It generally falls on December 21.



International Widows Day 2023 - June 23

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the plight of widows worldwide and to advocate for their rights and well-being.
- ❖ The day serves as a reminder of the challenges faced by widows and the need to address their unique social, economic and legal issues.
- ❖ This day was first recognised and established by the United Nations on June 23, 2011.
- ❖ Theme for this year is 'Innovation and technology for gender equality'.

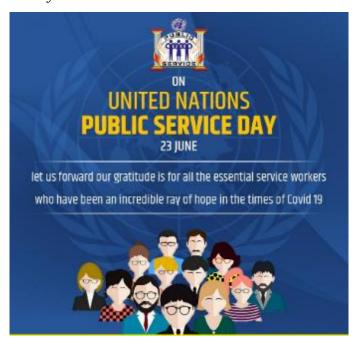
United Nations Public Service Day 2023 - June 23

- ❖ This day commemorates the immeasurable value and noble nature of public service.
- ❖ It aims to create awareness among people about the significant role of public services in the development of a country.





❖ On December 20, 2002, the General Assembly of the United Nations officially designated this day.



International Day of Women in Diplomacy 2023 - June 24

- This day celebrates inspiring women in fields of diplomacy and decision-making, around the world.
- ❖ Armenian ambassador Diana Abgar is considered as the first female diplomat of the 20th century.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is "Breaking Barriers, Shaping the Future: Women in Diplomacy for Sustainable Development".
- ❖ This day was created just last year, at the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- ❖ As of January 2023, there 34 women serve as heads of state and/or government of 31 countries.

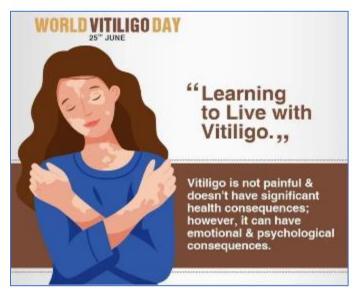
World Vitiligo Day 2023 - June 25

- ❖ It is observed to raise awareness about vitiligo, a chronic skin disorder characterised by the loss of skin colour in patches.
- ❖ The day aims to promote a better understanding of the condition, provide support to those affected by vitiligo and advocate for the rights and well-being of individuals living with the disorder.





- Vitiligo affects people of all ages, genders and ethnic backgrounds and its exact cause is not yet fully understood.
- ❖ It was first observed on June 25, 2011.



Day of the Seafarer 2023 - June 25

- ❖ This day recognize the unique part played in international trade, the world economy and civil society by this seaborne workforce.
- ❖ This was first started in 2010 by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
- ❖ This year marks the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL),
- ❖ Theme for 2023 is 'MARPOL at 50 Our commitment goes on'.







International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2023 - June 26

- ❖ On December 7, 1987, the United Nations General Assembly decided to observe this day
- ❖ It aims to strengthen their efforts in order to achieve the goal of making the society free of drug abuse.
- ❖ Theme of this year is: "People first: stop stigma and discrimination, strengthen prevention."

International Day in Support of Victims of Torture 2023 - June 26

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly on December 12, 1997, adopted a resolution to proclaim this day.
- ❖ The day is observed to call upon nations, civil societies and individuals all across the world to extend their support to victims of torture and those who are being tortured.

World Refrigeration Day 2023 - June 26

- ❖ This day was established in 2019 by industry veteran Stephen Gill.
- ❖ This date June 26 marks the birthday of refrigeration pioneer Lord Kelvin.
- ❖ Theme of 2023 is 'Next Generation Cooling'.

International MSME Day 2023 - June 27

- ❖ The day is aimed at raising public awareness of the contribution of MSMEs to global economic growth and sustainable development.
- This day was marked by the United Nations General Assembly in its 74th Plenary on April 6 2017.
- ❖ MSMEs account for 90% of businesses, 60 to 70% of employment and 50% of GDP worldwide.

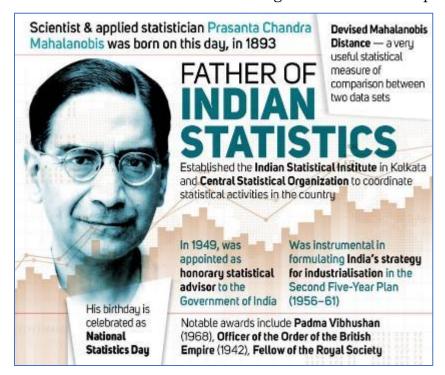






National Statistics Day 2023 - June 29

- ❖ This day commemorates the birth of the legendary Indian statistician, P.C. Mahalanabis.
- ❖ He is regarded as the father of Indian statistics.
- ❖ He invented a formula called Mahalanabis Distance.
- ❖ Mahalanabis also established the National Statistical Institute (ISI) in 1950.
- ❖ The day was observed for the first time on June 29, 2007.
- ❖ The theme of Statistics Day 2023 is "Alignment of State Indicator Framework with National Indicator Framework for Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals".



International Day of the Tropics 2023 - June 29

- ❖ It highlights the challenges faced by the nations of the Tropics and the opportunities their citizens have access to.
- ❖ The nations of the tropics are those that fall between the Tropic of Capricorn and the Tropic of Cancer.
- ❖ The majority of Africa, ASEAN countries, Gulf nations, and a significant part of South America fall in the region.
- ❖ The central and the southern parts of India also fall between the two imaginary lines on the globe.





❖ In 2016, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution to declaring this day.



World Asteroid Day 2023 - June 30

- ❖ It aims to raise public awareness about the asteroid impact hazard and to inform the public about the crisis communication actions to be taken
- ❖ This day marks anniversary of the Tunguska impact over Siberia, Russian Federation, on 30 June 1908.
- ❖ On this day, a meteor burst on the surface of the Earth and leveled 2,150 square kilometers of forest land in Siberia, Russia.
- The current known asteroid count is 1,297,954, according to NASA.
- ❖ Theme of 2023 edition is "Asteroid discovery".

International Parliamentary Day 2023 - June 30

- ❖ It commemorates the date on which the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was founded.
- ❖ The IPU, founded in Paris in 1889, is an international organisation of national parliaments.
- ❖ It aims to promote democratic governance, accountability, and cooperation among its members.
- ❖ The Icelandic Parliament (Althing) was founded in 930, is the oldest parliament in the world.
- ❖ The theme of 2023 is "Parliaments for the planet".





MISCELLANEOUS

Gateway to the Underworld

- ❖ The ancient Olmec artifact known as the "Gateway to the Underworld" was successfully returned to Mexico.
- ❖ It was illegally taken in the late 1950s.
- ❖ The piece is officially known as Monument 9 of Chalcatzingo.
- ❖ It is considered Mexico's most sought-after piece from the ancient Olmec civilization.
- ❖ It belongs to the Mid-Pre-Classic period (800 400 BC).
- Olmecs are one of the oldest civilizations in Mesoamerica.
- ❖ According to estimates, they developed between 1200 and 400 BC.



Lipizzan Horses



- ❖ Lipizzan horses have recently achieved the recognition on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list.
- ❖ The noble Lipizzans, also known as Lipizzaners, are descendants of long stallion lines crossing Spanish, Arabic and Berber horses.





- ❖ They were first bred by the Habsburg court in the 16th century.
- ❖ Eight countries jointly applied for recognition of their shared breeding heritage of Lipizzan horses.

Purana Qila excavations

- ❖ Purana Qila excavations reveal the pre-Mauryan era settlement.
- ❖ The findings include shards of Painted Gray Ware pottery which are usually dated to around 1200 BC to 600 BC.
- ❖ The new excavations have also found remains of a 900-year-old Vaikuntha Vishnu from the Rajput period.
- ❖ A terracotta plaque of Goddess Gaja Lakshmi from the Gupta period, the structural remains of a 2,500-year-old terracotta ring well from the Mauryan period found here.
- ❖ They found a well-defined four-room complex from the Sunga-Kushan period dating back to 2,300 years ago, besides beads, seals, copper coins and a bone needle.



Heat index-based insurance plan

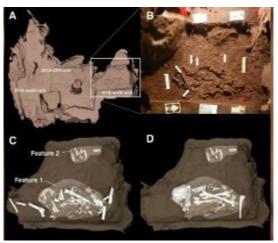
- * mooMark of Karnataka, a leading private dairy in India, is becoming the first company to offer a Heat Index Insurance Plan to dairy farmers.
- ❖ It aims to aims to protect farmers from income loss resulting from a drop in milk yield during scorching summer months.
- ❖ It will provide financial compensation to dairy farmers for the loss of income caused by a decline in milk productivity during heat waves.





Homo Naledi Burials and Carvings

- * Researchers have uncovered evidence that members of archaic human species buried their dead and carved symbols on cave walls.
- ❖ This is the earliest evidence of burials by modern humans.
- ❖ The burials are older than any known Homo sapiens burials by at least 100,000 years.
- ❖ The brains belonging to Homo naledi, were around one-third the size of a modern human brain.
- Homo naledi, an extinct human species that lived hundreds of thousands of years ago.
- ❖ Fossils belonging to Homo naledi were first discovered in the Rising Star cave system in South Africa during excavations in 2013.





My Account My Name scheme







- ❖ Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has introduced a scheme that lets customers choose any name as their savings account number.
- ❖ The scheme is the first in the banking industry to let a customer choose his or her name or any name as an account number.
- ❖ As per the scheme, the account name can be a combination of seven letters, or seven numbers, or seven alphanumeric only.

Thol Pavai Koothu Show in USA

- ❖ Thol Pavai Koothu B. Muthuchandra Rao, has been invited by the Federation of Tamil Sangams of North America (FeTNA) and Sacramento Tamil Mandrum to perform at the Fetna 36th Convention, USA.
- ❖ He is a winner of the Tamil Nadu government's Kalaimamani Award.
- ❖ Tholpavaikoothu is a form of Shadow puppetry.
- ❖ This form of art is especially popular in the Madurai, Kanyakumari (TN), Palakkad Thrissur and Malappuram districts of Kerala.



Catastrophic implosion

- ❖ A deep-sea submersible carrying five people on a voyage to the wreck of the Titanic was found in pieces from a "catastrophic implosion".
- ❖ The submersible, known as the Titan, was operated by the U.S. based company Ocean Gate Expeditions.
- ❖ Five men aboard the Titan, including the company's founder and chief executive officer, Stockton Rush, who was piloting the Titan.





- ❖ The RMS Titanic, which struck an iceberg and sank during its maiden voyage in 1912, killed more than 1,500 people aboard.
- ❖ At the depth the Titanic rests, there is around 5,600 pounds per square inch of pressure.
- ❖ A catastrophic implosion is "incredibly quick," taking place within just a fraction of a millisecond.



Prehistoric rock paintings - Guntur



❖ A Mesolithic period rock painting depicting a person tilling a piece of land has been found in Orvakallu village in Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh.

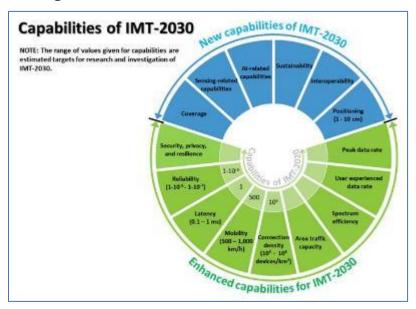




- ❖ Among the five naturally formed caves, two are embellished with distinguished depictions of rock paintings on the back walls and ceilings.
- ❖ These were executed by people of Mesolithic Age, roughly [from] 5000 BC.

ITU - IMT 2030

- ❖ The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has approved the 6G vision framework at its meeting held in Geneva.
- ❖ The sixth-generation or 6G technology has been named "IMT-2030" by the telecoms agency of the United Nations (UN).
- ❖ This new framework recommendation will now become a foundation document for 6G work across the different research groups and in external standards development organizations like the 3GPP.



Duck-billed dinosaur

- * Remains of a species of herbivorous dinosaur, previously unknown in the southern hemisphere, have been discovered in Chile
- ❖ It was challenging long-held beliefs about the range of duck-billed dinosaurs.
- ❖ The Gonkoken nanoi lived 72 million years ago in the extreme south of what is now Chilean Patagonia.
- ❖ Very ancient species of hadrosaurs, a type of duck-billed dinosaur common in North America, Asia and Europe.
- ❖ They lived during the Cretaceous period, from 145 to 66 million years ago.





❖ Gonkoken nanoi, the fifth species of dinosaur discovered in Chile, was actually found in 2013.



Al-Hakim Mosque in Egypt

- ❖ Prime Minister of India visited Egypt's historic 11th-century Al-Hakim Mosque in Cairo.
- ❖ It was restored with the help of India's Dawoodi Bohra community.
- ❖ The Mosque have intricately carved inscriptions on the walls and doorways of the mosque which was built in 1012.
- ❖ The Bohra community are known to have originated from Egypt and later shifted to Yemen.
- ❖ They are establishing a presence in India in the 11th century.



