

TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM CURRENT AFFAIRS OCTOBER 2023

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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Two villages from Tamil Nadu - Vettaikaranpudur in Coimbatore district and Hullada in the Nilgiris – received bronze medals for the best tourist villages from the Centre.
- ❖ The 19th edition of YUDH ABHYAS between Indian Army and the US Army was conducted in Alaska, USA.
- ❖ Veteran Bollywood actress Waheeda Rehman, 85, has been conferred with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2021.
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) has been recognised with the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) platinum certification for its initiatives.
- ❖ Google Inc. has celebrated its 25th birthday (founded in 1998) on September 27.
- ❖ Kerala's Kanthalloor village has been chosen by the Ministry of Tourism as the Best Tourism Village 2023 and won the Gold on World Tourism Day (September 27).
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has achieved a remarkable feat by attaining 100% Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus status across its 95,767 villages.
- ❖ After the Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) in West Champaran district, Bihar is set to get a second tiger reserve in Kaimur district (Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary) by the end of the year or early 2024.
- ❖ India's Badminton team wins over Brazil at Badminton World Junior Championships in Spokane, United States.
- ❖ Kongthong, the village in the East Khasi Hills of Meghalaya, has been honoured with the prestigious 'Best Tourism Village (Bronze)' award at the National Tourism Awards 2023.
- ❖ India's First Cartography Museum, which will be known as the Sir George Everest Museum, was officially inaugurated in Mussoorie.
- ❖ The upcoming Noida International Airport (NIA) in Jewar in Uttar Pradesh was awarded its own unique international three-letter code, 'DXN', by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- ❖ The extended 45th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, and the first in-person committee gathering in four years, was successfully concluded in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ K.N. Shanth Kumar of The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd was elected Chairman of the Press Trust of India's Board of Directors for a one-year term.
- ❖ The Draft Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Ninth Amendment) Regulations, 2023 was released recently by TRAI.



- ❖ The Indian Army and the United States Army have co-hosted 13th Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference (IPACC), Indo-Pacific Armies Management Seminar (IPAMS) and Senior Enlisted Leaders Forum (SELF) in new Delhi.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu men's 3x3 basketball team win the final of the 3x3 National Basketball Championship against Punjab, held at the Nehru Indoor Stadium, Chennai.
- ❖ The Dr. MGR Chennai Central railway station has been awarded the platinum certificate by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for developing the railway station into a net zero energy building.
- ❖ Kanniyakumari District Collector P.N. Sridhar has bagged the Chief Minister's 'Green Award' for having implemented schemes for conserving environment.
- ❖ The "Statue of Equality," touted as the largest statue of B.R Ambedkar outside India, is set to be unveiled in Maryland, USA.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated Hitachi Energy's largest Global Technology and Innovation Centre in Chennai.
- ❖ The ICC named Sachin Tendulkar as the 'Global Ambassador' for the men's Cricket World Cup 2023.
- ❖ India and Bangladesh commenced the 11th edition of annual joint military exercise, SAMPRITI in Umroi, Meghalaya.
- ❖ The Healthway Cycling Track, India's first solar cycling track, was inaugurated in Hyderabad.
- ❖ The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) kick-started an all-female bikers' expedition rally named 'Yashasvini' from Srinagar to Gujarat.
- ❖ The Sahitya Akademi has bestowed the 'Bal Sahitya Puraskar' 2023 in Manipuri language to Dilip Nongmaithem for his book Iemma Amasung Ngabemma.
- ❖ Nokia has inaugurated a 6G research laboratory within its Global R&D center in Bengaluru.
- ❖ India's inaugural high-tech sports training center setup for Divyangjan (persons with disabilities) was inaugurated in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ World Day for Decent Work is observed annually on October 07.
- ❖ The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) conducted a multicity operation called "Kachchhap," and recovered the 955 live baby Gangetic turtles of different species.
- ❖ In Jammu and Kashmir, under the Swachh Bharat Mission, all of its 6,650 villages have been declared open defecation-free plus model.



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assembly adopted a resolution urging the Union government to direct Karnataka to release water to Tamil Nadu as mandated in the final judgment of the Supreme Court.
- ❖ The government along with the Indian Drugs Manufacturers' Association (IDMA) had celebrated the first ever National Current Good Manufacturing Practice Day (cGMP Day) on 10th October.
- ❖ The largest Hindu temple outside India, BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham, has been inaugurated in New Jersey, United States
- ❖ Multiple Grand Slam winner Leander Paes emerged as the first Asian man to be nominated for the International Tennis Hall of Fame in the player category.
- ❖ The Union new and renewable energy ministry unveiled the R&D roadmap for the national green hydrogen mission, committing Rs 400 crore towards developing a research ecosystem that can commercialize green hydrogen.
- ❖ The Agricultural College and Research Institute in Eachangkottai in Thanjavur district would be named after renowned agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan, who recently passed away.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act, 1987 amendment bill was passed to provide for an online trade platform for the conducting of any trading in any agricultural produce.
- ❖ The 49th All India Police Science Congress (AIPSC) is scheduled to be organized by the Uttarakhand Police.
 - Theme of the event was "Policing in Amrit Kaal".
- ❖ Indian Air Force (IAF) unveiled a new Ensign for the force on its 91st anniversary.
- ❖ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank have convened its annual meetings in Marrakesh, Morocco.
 - This is marking their first annual meetings on African soil in half a century.
- ❖ Karthyayani Amma (101), a celebrity elderly learner and recipient of the Union government's Nari Shakti Puraskar from Kerala passed away recently.
- ❖ H.H. Manikanta broke the men's 100m National record in the 62nd National Open athletics championships held at Bengaluru with a timing of 10.23s.
 - He broke the Amiya Mallick's mark of 10.26 secs set in 2016.
- ❖ Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) has won the 'Best Innovation in Refinery' award for a second year in succession from the ministry of petroleum and natural gas.
- ❖ Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) organised a workshop on Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) in collaboration with UNICEF and National Stock Exchange in Mumbai.



- ❖ The second edition of the National Cyber Security Exercise, known as 'Bharat NCX 2023,' is organised by the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS).
- ❖ The 8th BRICS International Competition Conference 2023 (BRICS ICC 2023), hosted by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ 16th Agricultural Science Congress (ASC) organised by the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) was held at Kochi.
- ❖ Bangalore International Airport Limited has established South Asia's first aircraft recovery training school on the premises of the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru.
- ❖ In Wayanad, Kerala, a new species of dragonfly was recorded – the *Epithemis wayanadensis*.
- ❖ The 3rd round of Intensified Mission Indradhanush 5.0 campaign with special focus on improvement of Measles and Rubella vaccination coverage was concluded recently.
- ❖ The 9th G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20) was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has joined the One CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research) integrated partnership.
- ❖ ICICI Bank has launched 'iFinance', an application that allows customers to view their savings and current accounts across banks in one place.
- ❖ A BSNL mobile tower has been installed for the first time at Siachen Glacier, the world's highest battlefield.
- ❖ The Chief Minister of Jharkhand unveiled the mascot for the upcoming Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2023 'Juhi'.
- ❖ Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was named as one of the 11 nominees for the 2023 men's World Athlete of the Year award.
- ❖ An India-Saudi Arabia Investment Forum 2023 was organized in New Delhi during the state visit of Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince.
 - This was the significant milestone as the first formal investment symposium between the two nations.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's peak power demand increased 10.04% to 19,045 MW in the first half of 2023-24 from 17,306 MW in the same period last year.
- ❖ The 8th BRICS International Competition Conference 2023 (BRICS ICC 2023), was hosted by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) in New Delhi.
- ❖ Ircon International Limited (IRCON) and RITES Ltd (RITES) under the Ministry of Railways, have been announced as 15th and 16th Navratna respectively.



- ❖ Guidance, the nodal agency for investment promotion, Government of Tamil Nadu, has received the prestigious United Nations Promotion Award 2023.
 - It is given for excellence in scaling up energy transition investments at the 8th World Investment Forum, held in Abu Dhabi.
- ❖ Arindam Bagchi has been appointed as the next Ambassador/Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva.
- ❖ The International Olympic Committee (IOC) amended the Olympic Charter to strengthen its human rights commitments.
- ❖ Grandmaster Raunak Sadhwani of Maharashtra has won the FIDE World Junior Rapid Chess Championship in Sardinia, Italy.
- ❖ A group of 20 mountaineers have achieved the incredible feat of scaling all the highest points in the country.
 - It is given for hoisting the national flag on top of each peak as a part of "Har Shikhar Tiranga" mission.
- ❖ The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has celebrated its 50th Foundation Day on October 15, 2023.
 - It functions under the Electricity Act 2003.
- ❖ Microsoft has completed its USD 69 billion acquisition of video game publisher Activision Blizzard.
 - It's Microsoft's largest deal in its 48-year history.
- ❖ SP Singh's 'Jhaadu Daan' (broom donation) initiative is securing a place in the prestigious India Book of Records by distributing over 1 lakh brooms across 80 different locations.
- ❖ The Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting under the Indian Presidency was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has released a draft "National Strategy for Robotics" (NSR).
 - It aims to strengthening the innovation cycle of robotic technology and fostering India's leadership in robotics by 2030.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force successfully test-fired an extended-range (ER) variant of the air-launched Brahmos missile.
- ❖ Fourth G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion Meeting was held in Mumbai.
- ❖ The Silicon Photonics Research Centre of Excellence (SPRCE) has been launched in Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M).



- ❖ Indian chess grandmaster Karthikeyan Murali has defeated world top-ranked player Magnus Carlsen (Norway) in the Qatar Masters.
- ❖ The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), conducted the 'Chakra-II' operation to curb cyber-enabled financial fraud.
- ❖ The union Cabinet approved Green Energy Corridor Phase-II – Inter-State Transmission System for 13-gigawatt renewable energy project in Ladakh.
- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) successfully transported more than 100 units of essential medications for 20 kilometres in Lahaul and Spiti district using drone.
- ❖ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has approved the world's first ever indigenously developed AC and DC combined charging connector standard for light electric vehicles (LEVs).
- ❖ Karnataka Chief Minister unveiled the emblem of Karnataka Sambhrama-50 to mark the golden jubilee of renaming the Mysore State as Karnataka on November 1, 1973.
- ❖ India and the UK's maiden 2+2 foreign affairs and defence dialogue was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The European Union has awarded the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought to Mahsa Amini, who died shortly after Iranian authorities arrested her last year.
- ❖ The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India's (ICAI) has bagged a prestigious International Standards for Accounting and Reporting (ISAR) Award, for its contribution to sustainability reporting.
- ❖ As per the recent statements of government, India aims to send an astronaut to the Moon by 2040 and planning for a space station by 2035.
- ❖ Google India has launched its flagship program, DigiKavach, an early threat detection and warning system, designed to identify and study emerging financial fraud patterns.
- ❖ The Arunachal Pradesh State Cabinet approved the constitution of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) in the State for three Tiger Reserves of the State namely-Namdapha, Pakke and Kamlang.
- ❖ The Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and Formula E (E-Prix) have officially confirmed the race in Hyderabad in 2024.
- ❖ As per the "How India Travels" report, India will become fourth largest global travel spender by 2030.
- ❖ India and the United Nations launched a joint capacity-building initiative called the "India-UN Capacity Building Initiative."
 - It aims to share India's development experiences, best practices, and expertise with partner countries in the Global South.



- ❖ An artwork by Amrita Sher-Gil fetched \$7.4 million (Rs 61.8 crore) at a recent auction, setting a record for the highest price achieved by an Indian artist.
 - The artwork, titled 'The Story Teller', was painted by Ms Sher-Gil in 1937.
- ❖ Two cyclones - Hamoon and Tej – are brewing over the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea respectively.
 - Cyclone Tej was named by India and the name Hamoon was given by Iran.
- ❖ Pro-China leader Mohamed Muizzu has won the Presidential election in Maldives.
- ❖ The Climate Action Award by the International Olympic Committee - IOC was given to the Colombian Olympic Committee.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has unveiled a statue of freedom fighter Anjalai Ammal in Cuddalore.
- ❖ Bangaru Adigal (82), the founder of Melmaruvathur Adhiparasakthi Siddhar Peedam, of Chengalpattu District, who allowed women to perform poojas in the sanctum sanctorum, passed away recently.
- ❖ Jharkhand is becoming the first state in India to take steps towards including gig workers, such as Swiggy, Zomato, Ola, Uber, and Rapido employees, under the ambit of minimum wages.
- ❖ Bhopal's Mahila Thana has become the country's first women-centric police station to be certified by the ISO (International Organization for Standardization).
- ❖ India is represented by a strong 446-member contingent, including 303 athletes, at the fourth Asian Para Games of Hangzhou, China.
- ❖ The Union govt officially launched IndiaSkills 2023-24 and honoured the winners of World Skills 2022 in New Delhi.
- ❖ As per the 'On-Time Performance Monthly Report', Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru has been the "world's most punctual airport" for the past three months consecutively.
- ❖ A high-level committee for social sciences of NCERT has recommended replacing the name 'India' with 'Bharat' in textbooks and introducing 'classical History' instead of ancient History in the curriculum.
- ❖ Air Vice Marshal Sadhna S Nair was promoted as Air Marshal and she becomes the second woman medical officer in the history of IAF to achieve this rank.
 - Air Marshal Padma Bandopadhyay made history as the first woman to ascend to the rank of Air Marshal in the Indian Air Force.
- ❖ The Indian and Malaysian armies have commenced "Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023."
- ❖ Mumbai was the second most polluted city among 109 places tracked by IQAir, a Swiss technology company measuring air quality in real-time.



- ❖ India's first Nano DAP plant was inaugurated in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) hosted the Anubhav Awards 2023 Ceremony at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- ❖ The National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) has conducted the 2nd Edition of the National Cyber Security Exercise 'Bharat NCX 2023.'
- ❖ A national hackathon named "Vimarsh-2023" was launched to identifying innovative tools to ensure the secure utilization of 5G technology by law enforcement agencies during sensitive operations.
- ❖ The Drums and Tins (Quality Control) Order 2023, and the Copper Products (Quality Control) Order 2023, notified to prohibit the production, sale, import and stocking of certain items unless they bear the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) mark.
- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), gave node to including the Jamrani Dam Multipurpose Project of Uttarakhand under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana-Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (PMKSY-AIBP).
- ❖ Competition Commission of India (CCI) has become a member of the steering group of the International Competition Network (ICN).
- ❖ The Indian Oil Corporation has achieved a significant milestone by producing specialized "reference" petrol and diesel for the first time in India.
- ❖ The cyclonic storm Hamoon over coastal Bangladesh weakened into deep depression over southeast Bangladesh & adjoining Mizoram.
- ❖ To augment the training infrastructure of special forces and combat free-fallers, the Army's Special Forces Training School (SFTS) at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh, has setup the Army's first Vertical Wind Tunnel (VWT).
- ❖ Sri Lanka announced that travellers from seven countries – India, China, Russia, Malaysia, Japan, Indonesia and Thailand can now have a visa-free entry to Sri Lanka.
- ❖ The government of Saudia Arabia hosted the Middle East and North Africa Climate Week 2023 in the city of Riyadh from 8-12 October, 2023.
- ❖ Rohit Sharma completed 50 ODI sixes in 2023 and becoming first Indian to smash 50 sixes in ODI cricket in a calendar year.
 - South Africa's AB de Villiers (58 sixes in 2015) holds the record of hitting highest number of sixes in ODIs in a calendar year.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) has received the first of six new Dornier Do-228 aircraft, exclusively manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).



- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) is working to upgrade its fleet of Sukhoi-30 MKI fighters with indigenous weapon systems and radar named Virupaaksha AESA.
- ❖ The U.S. House of Representatives elected Republican Mike Johnson as speaker of the house.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mandates private banks and foreign-owned subsidiaries to appoint a minimum of two Whole-Time Directors (WTDs) on their boards.
- ❖ Representatives and officials from India, Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan took part in the fifth meeting of the Moscow format consultation on Afghanistan in the Russian city of Kazan.
- ❖ NATO is preparing for a joint command and staff exercise, “Steadfast Defender” in 2024.
 - It will be the largest exercise since the end of the Cold War, with over 40,000 troops.
- ❖ Dhordo Village in Gujarat's Kutch district has been honoured with the prestigious "Best Tourism Village" title by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).
- ❖ The government launched a Standards & Labelling Program for solar PV modules, aiding citizens in discerning solar panel efficiency.
- ❖ Udhampur Military Station in Jammu and Kashmir was honoured as the 'Best Green Military Station' during the Army Commanders' Conference.
- ❖ The Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, is participating in the prestigious 75th Frankfurt Book Fair.
- ❖ Indian textile industry is set to host "Bharat Tex 2024" touted as the world's largest textiles event.
- ❖ Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud has received the 'Award for Global Leadership', the highest professional distinction handed out by Harvard Law School.
- ❖ India has initiated a unique endeavour called ‘Project Udbhav,’ aimed at blending ancient strategic wisdom with contemporary military practices.
- ❖ The South Korean, U.S. and Japanese militaries conducted their first-ever trilateral aerial exercise in response to evolving North Korean nuclear threats.
- ❖ The Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice 2023 will be conferred on jailed Iranian Nobel Laureate Nargis Mohammadi by the Harmony Foundation.
 - The award recognizes Mohammadi's courage in advocating for human rights against the Iranian regime.



- ❖ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has constituted a 12-member committee for simplification of insurance policy wordings.
- ❖ Reliance Jio, announced a partnership with California-based Plume to deliver smart home and small business services across India.
- ❖ India has ranked third among the countries with the most financial technology (fintech) unicorns (17) in the world in 2023, with the US (134) and UK (27) retaining the top two positions globally.
- ❖ Zomato, the food ordering and delivery platform, has introduced a maternity insurance programme for its female delivery partners.
 - This initiative is the first of its kind in the industry.
- ❖ India's Sundar Singh Gurjar broke the World Record (67.79) in the men's javelin throw F46 final with 68.60m to win gold at the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, China.
- ❖ The five Goan cities of Mapusa, Margao, Panjim, Ponda, and Vasco are hosting the 16 days 37th National Games at Goa.
- ❖ The 7th Edition of the India Mobile Congress 2023 in New Delhi.
 - Theme of the event will be 'Global Digital Innovation'.
- ❖ India and the European Union (EU) carried out their maiden naval exercise in the Gulf of Guinea off the west African coast to boost maritime security cooperation.
- ❖ US President Joe Biden honoured Two Indian-American scientists – Dr Ashok Gadgil and Dr Subra Suresh – with the National Medals in the fields of science and technology.
 - Gadgil was conferred the National Medal for Technology and Innovation, Suresh won the National Medal of Science.
- ❖ The Tata Group will soon become the India's first iPhone Manufacturer after Wistron Corp approved the sale of an assembly plant near Bengaluru.
- ❖ Malaysia has announced that its next and 17th king will be Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar from the southern state of Johor.
- ❖ Reliance Jio has tested its satellite internet service, JioSpaceFiber, in four of the “remotest” districts in India.
- ❖ Kerala became the first state in India to have hallmarking centres in all 14 districts.



TAMIL NADU

TN State Biodiversity Board

- ❖ The State government recently reconstituted the Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board.
- ❖ It includes three special invitees from the Industries Department, the Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department and the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.
- ❖ The Minister for Forests will be the chairperson of the board.

State's peak demand in 2024-25

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's annual peak energy demand is expected to be 20,806 MW in fiscal 2024-25.
- ❖ The State reached an all-time high peak demand of 19,387 MW on April 20 this year.
- ❖ As per the data, the peak demand in 2024 is expected to be 20,806 MW in April, 19,785 MW in May, 19,800 MW in June, 19,005 MW in July and 20,631 MW in August.
- ❖ It is expected to be in the range of 16,933 MW to 18,465 MW during monsoon and winter seasons in 2024-25.
- ❖ It may increase to 20,460 MW in March 2025.
- ❖ The annual peak demand for the Southern region is expected to be 73,114 MW in 2024-25.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's annual energy requirement is expected to be 132,871 million units in 2024-25.
- ❖ On April 20 this year, the State recorded an all-time high daily consumption of 423.785 million units.

15 odhuvars appointment

- ❖ The Government of Tamil Nadu appointed 15 'odhuvars' to government-controlled Hindu temples, including five women odhuvars.
- ❖ Odhuvars sing devotional hymns at Hindu temples in Tamil Nadu, but they are not priests.
- ❖ They sing devotional hymns but do not enter the sanctum sanctorum.

India's first Green Energy Archeological Site

- ❖ The Shore Temple in Mahabalipuram is becoming India's first-ever green energy archaeological site.
- ❖ Dating back to the 7th century, built by Narasimha Varman II or popularly known as Rajamalla, this UNESCO World Heritage site is one of the oldest stone temples in South India.
- ❖ The Shore Temple will now be illuminated using clean and sustainable solar energy.



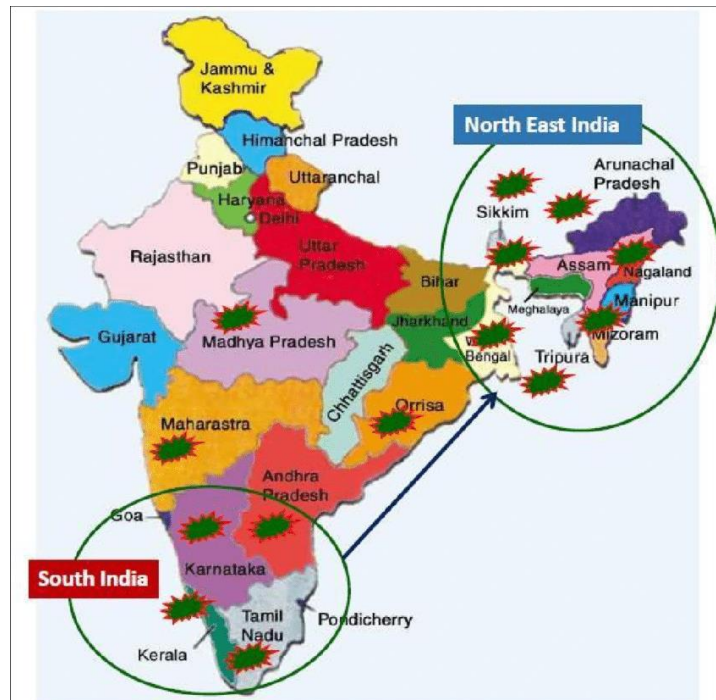
Primary animal care centre

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has planned to set up a primary animal care centre in each district using MP MLA funds.
- ❖ The three rescue centres at Tiruchi, Madurai, and Coimbatore are already under progress.
- ❖ The new centres will be meant for emergency or primary care for wildlife.

Rubber plantations in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ The rubber plantations in Tamil Nadu getting permissions for replanting takes several months resulting in losses.
- ❖ Most of plantation's areas are in Kanniyakumari district.
- ❖ Developed and cultivated areas in plantations were brought under Tamil Nadu Preservation of Private Forests Act in 1979.
- ❖ The land is classified as forest land.
- ❖ So, transfer or alienation of immovable property requires clearance from the district-level Forest Committees and this takes several months.

- ❖ Rubber is grown on 26,268 ha in Tamil Nadu and the annual production (worth almost ₹400 crores) is 24,163 tonnes.
- ❖ Of this, nearly 105 tonnes of rubber are exported.
- ❖ Less than one fifth of the total area under rubber plantations in Tamil Nadu is with large growers.
- ❖ The remaining land is with the small growers, who own less than 50 acres each.
- ❖ Rubber tapping starts from the seventh year of the tree and goes on till the tree is 21 - 30 years.



Chola-era Manambadi temple




- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Department of Archaeology is set to take up restoration of the 1,000-year-old Naganathaswamy Temple at Manambadi in Thanjavur district.
- ❖ It was built by Rajendra Chola I (1012-1044 CE).
- ❖ The temple, situated about 15 km from Kumbakonam, is a protected monument.
- ❖ It is known for its exquisite stone sculptures and important inscriptions.

PE-VC investments in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Private Equity and Venture Capital (PE-VC) funds invested \$338 million across 10 deals in Tamil Nadu-based companies during the third quarter of 2023.
- ❖ This represents a 21.76% decline compared to the second quarter of 2023 (Q2 2023).
- ❖ During Q2 2023, PE-VC funds pumped in \$432 million across 21 deals.

Of the 10 companies that received PE-VC investments in Q3 2023, nine are headquartered in the State

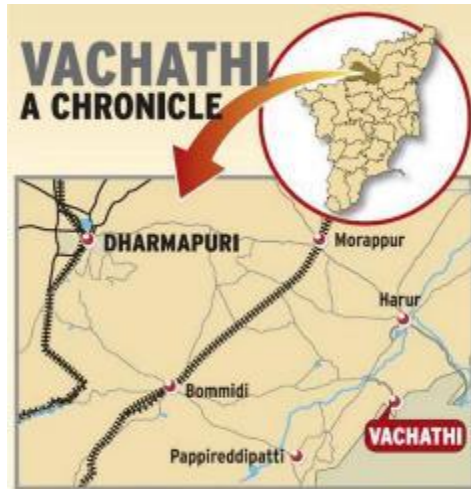


The table shows investments for firms based in T.N. from 2021 to Sept. 25, 2023			The table shows the top investments in Tamil Nadu during Q3 2023			
Quarter	No. of deals	Amount (\$M)	Company	Sector	Investors	Amount (\$M)
Q1 2021	15	537	Veritas Finance	Non-banking financial company (NBFC)	Multiples PE, Avendus PE, and IFC	146
Q2 2021	14	344				
Q3 2021	21	404	Dr. Agarwals	Hospital (eye care)	TPG Growth and Temasek	77
Q4 2021	20	755	NDR		InvestCorp Group	61
Q1 2022	26	1,359	Disprz	Enterprise software (SaaS - HR - training)	Lumos Capital, Dallas Venture Capital, Kois Invest, IIFL	30
Q2 2022	22	623				
Q3 2022	12	195				
Q4 2022	14	560				

Indian citizenship to Sri Lankan refugees

- ❖ A panel constituted to find durable solutions to short-term and long-term issues of the Sri Lankan Tamils living in and out of camps across the State submitted its interim report.
- ❖ The interim report has explored ways of granting Indian citizenship to Sri Lankan nationals living in the State and made certain recommendations in this regard.
- ❖ The Sirimavo Bandaranaike-Lal Bahadur Shastri Pact and the Sirimavo Bandaranaike-Indira Gandhi Pact — favour Indian citizenship for them.

1992 Vachathi brutality




- ❖ The Madras High Court dismissed all criminal appeals filed against the conviction of, and the sentences awarded by a trial court in 2011.
- ❖ They are convicted for atrocities committed on the residents Vachathi tribal village in Dharmapuri district in 1992.
- ❖ The case was probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation on the direction of the Madras High Court in 1995.
- ❖ On September 29, 2011, the trial court convicted the 215 surviving accused persons.

Samba coverage in 2023

Owing to the poor availability of Cauvery water, the area under cultivation in the Cauvery delta this Samba season is down by about 1.5 lakh acres compared to the previous year

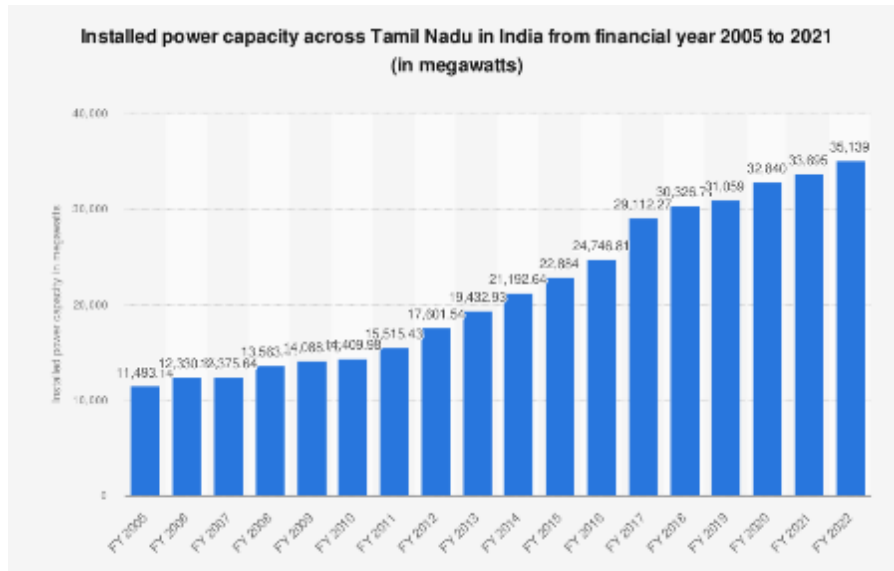
A compilation of Samba coverage in Cauvery delta *(in acres)*

District	2022-23* (Direct-sown)	2022-23* (Total)***	2023-24** (Direct-sown)	2023-24** (Total)***
Cuddalore	9,428	27,916	28,311	33,263
Tiruchi	-	12	-	89
Karur	-	1,420	-	-
Ariyalur	-	1,200	-	420
Pudukottai	1,608	3,213	2,631	2,631
Thanjavur	5,511	30,060	2,806	23,882
Nagapattinam	79,534	88,922	49,163	49,731
Mayiladuthurai	3,754	9,994	5,281	5,928
Tiruvarur	1,08,789	1,68,521	32,540	60,732
Total	2,08,624	3,31,258	1,20,732	1,76,676



- ❖ The area under cultivation in the Cauvery delta this Samba season is down by about 1.5 lakh acres compared to previous year.
- ❖ As on September 25, the total area covered was about 1.77 lakh acres.
- ❖ This was 3.31 lakh acres during the corresponding period last year (September 26, 2022).

Maximum shortfall of Power



- ❖ Tamil Nadu is expected to see a shortfall of 114 million units (MU) in power availability in the upcoming peak demand period from January-June 2024.
- ❖ Also, it may witness maximum shortfall of 1,200-1,600 MW in the same period.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's peak power demand in 2024 is expected to be 20,806 MW in April, 19,785 MW in May and 19,800 MW in June.
- ❖ The State's energy requirement in 2024 is expected to be 12,144 MU in April, 11,689 MU in May and 12,029 MU in June.

Gram Sabha meetings on Gandhi Jayanthi

- ❖ The gram sabha meetings in village panchayats was held across the state on October 2.
- ❖ The theme of the meeting was 'Everything for Everyone'.
- ❖ Chief minister made opening remarks for the event virtually.



Reservation in Educational institutions

Article 15(5), *Constitution of India*

“Nothing in this Article or in Sub-clause (g) of Clause (1) of Article 19 shall prevent the State from making any special provision, by law, for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes in so far as such special provisions relate to their admission to educational institutions including private educational institutions, whether aided or unaided by the State, other than the minority educational institutions referred to in clause (1) of Article 30.”

- ❖ The Madras High Court has ruled that educational institutions run by religious and linguistic minorities need not follow the rule of reservation with respect to the SCs, STs and OBCs.
- ❖ Article 15(5) of the Constitution was introduced through the 93rd amendment in 2005.
- ❖ It specifically excludes minority institutions while enabling the State Government to make special provisions by law for the advancement of any socially or educationally backward classes of citizens or for the SCs, STs and OBCs relating to their admission to educational institutions.
- ❖ Further, the definition of ‘private educational institution’ under Section 2(d) of the 2006 Act also excludes minority institutions established under Article 30(1) of the Constitution.

State of India’s Birds (SOIB) 2023 report

- ❖ This report shows nearly 110 species of birds recorded in Tamil Nadu are currently facing a state of decline nationwide.
- ❖ This has been highlighted by the Salem Ornithological Foundation (SOF) in a Tamil Nadu-specific report.
- ❖ This report assesses the long-term and current trends, distribution range size, and overall conservation status of 942 of the nearly 1,350 bird species identified in India.

- ❖ The report is based on over 30 million bird observations contributed by more than 30,000 birdwatchers to the eBird platform.

Mission to protect rare and threatened flora



Embelia ribes Burm.f.



Hydnocarpus pentandrus
(Buch.-Ham.) Oken



Myristica malabarica Lam.



Santalum album L.



Saraca asoca (Roxb.) Willd.



Vateria indica L.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu, started a mission to save some of the rare, endangered and threatened plants, of which many are endemic to the State.
- ❖ More than 30 taxonomists of premier institutions in the country carried out an assessment of threat to the State's flora and came out with a list of 25 plants.
- ❖ The taxonomists initially shortlisted 100 plants for the exercise.
- ❖ Some of the species are fewer than 500 or 1,000 individuals left in the wild.
- ❖ The remaining plants in the list of 100 will continue to be in the reckoning.
- ❖ Three species that have come up in the list — *Dysoxylum malabaricum*, *Coscinium fenestratum* and *Myristica malabarica* — are assessed to be over-exploited for their medicinal values.



Madras HC on caste census

- ❖ The Madras High Court refused to issue a direction to the Tamil Nadu government to conduct a caste-wise census.
- ❖ The court disposed of a public interest litigation petition which sought this direction.
- ❖ The petitioner had claimed to have made a representation to the State government to conduct a caste-wise census.
- ❖ That can be used to find out the exact percentage of populations belonging to different caste groups.
- ❖ So that the measures aimed towards social justice could reach deserving people.

Udangudi Panangarupatti - GI tag

- ❖ Udangudi 'Panangarupatti' (palm jaggery/ gur) has been given a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ The palm jaggery preparation procedure in this area is traditional till date without inclusion of any additional modern strategies.
- ❖ The karupatti prepared from the palm sap from the region around Udangudi in Tiruchendur taluk in Thoothukudi district has some uniqueness.
- ❖ This is due to presence of red sand dune soil found in the region.
- ❖ Triple super phosphate and phosphoric acid are used in many other areas.
- ❖ But no such chemical additives are used in Udangudi Panangkarupatti.

Realization of Cauvery water in 2023

- ❖ After a gap of 11 years, Tamil Nadu's realisation of Cauvery water during this year's southwest monsoon did not exceed the 50 tmc ft [thousand million cubic feet] mark.
- ❖ This is the fifth time in almost 50 years that the season's realisation has not crossed 50 tmc ft.
- ❖ This year's realisation was 45.16 tmc ft, was lower than that of 2016-17.
- ❖ Seven years ago, the State received about 53 tmc ft.
- ❖ During the water year June 2012 – May 2013, the first four months witnessed the State getting about 40.15 tmc ft.



Water year	Quantum realised (tmc ft)
1987-88	24.823
2003-04	30.632
2012-12	40.149
2023-24	45.1623
2002-03	46.665

Tamil Nadu energy plan 2023

- ❖ Tamil Nadu planned to add wind energy capacity of 5,000 MW this year.
- ❖ At present, the installed wind energy capacity in the State is 10,225 MW.
- ❖ Of the 5,000 MW capacity planned, 4,400 MW would be provided by new players and 600 MW by the existing players.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, almost 65% of wind energy is used for captive consumption or sold to third party industrial or commercial customers.
- ❖ Tangedco procures only 35%.

MMR in Tamil Nadu 2023

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) had surged to 90 per one lakh live births during 2021-2022.
- ❖ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it dropped to 52 per one lakh live births during 2022-2023.
- ❖ There were more or less the same number of live births during 2021-2022 and 2022-2023—about 9.20 lakh.
- ❖ In 2021-2022, of 827 maternal deaths, 250 were due to COVID-19.
- ❖ The number of maternal deaths recorded during 2022-2023 was 479.
- ❖ The State's Directorate of Public Health (DPH) made the collaboration with Preventive Medicine with Singapore Health Services and Singapore International Foundation (SIF) to enhancing maternal and child health services.
- ❖ Singapore had an MMR of 10 per one lakh live births.

First Nilgiri Tahr Day

- ❖ Tamil Nadu celebrated the first 'Nilgiri Tahr Day' on October 7.
- ❖ This date was chosen by the Government as Nilgiri Tahr Day in honour of E.R.C. Davidar.
- ❖ He is a wildlife conservationist who pioneered studies on the sole mountain ungulate of Southern India as early as in 1960s.
- ❖ He took the first census of the Nilgiri Tahr in the Nilgiris landscape during 1963 and reported that there were about 400 Tahr in the Nilgiris including a largest herd consisting of 38 animals.
- ❖ He conducted a detailed survey of Nilgiri Tahr throughout the Western Ghats in 1975 and estimated about 2,200 individuals.



Bharati script

- ❖ A Team from IIT Madras has, developed a unified script for nine Indian languages, named the Bharati script.
- ❖ It has developed a method for reading documents in Bharati script using a multi-lingual optical character recognition (OCR) scheme.
- ❖ The team has also created a finger-spelling method that can be used to generate a sign language for hearing-impaired persons.
- ❖ The scripts that have been integrated include Devnagari, Bengali, Gurmukhi, Gujarati, Oriya, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Tamil.
- ❖ English and Urdu have not been integrated so far.
- ❖ Optical character recognition schemes involve first separating (or segmenting) the document into text and non-text.

World's longest snake species

- ❖ Around 7 to 8 foot-long juvenile reticulated python was sighted inside IIT Madras.

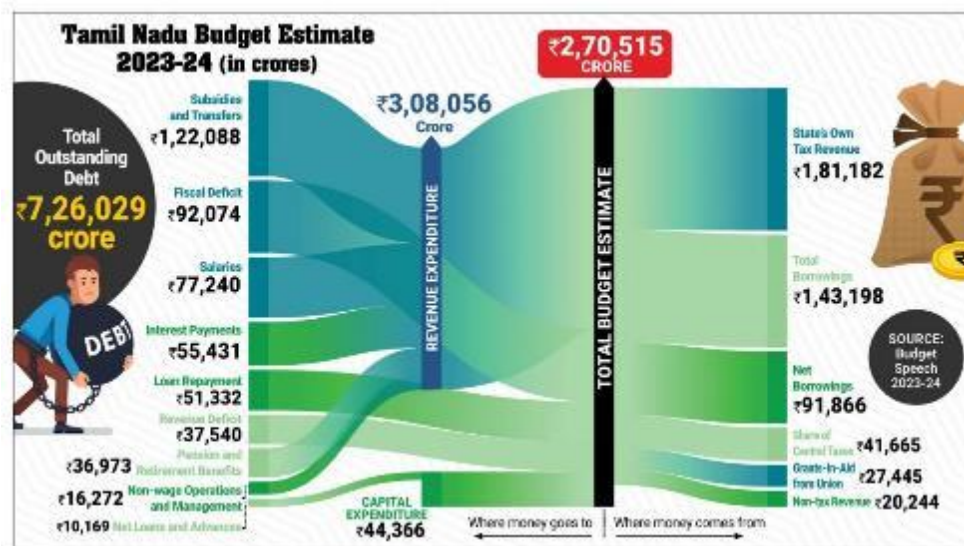
- ❖ Reticulated pythons are the world’s longest and third heaviest snakes ever recorded.
- ❖ In India, they are found in the wild only in Nicobar Islands.



Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS)

- ❖ Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) and Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (CUMTA) will jointly take over MRTS.
- ❖ Initially, CUMTA and CMDA will oversee the operations and Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) will be formed.
- ❖ After about seven or eight years, CMRL may take charge depending on the prevailing situation.

State’s total revenue receipts in 2023-24





- ❖ Tamil Nadu's total revenue receipts increased marginally to ₹92,967.33 crore in 2023-24 (till August).
- ❖ It was Rs.91,812.08 crore in the same period in 2022-23.
- ❖ In the State Budget for 2023-24, the total revenue receipts were projected to be ₹2,70,515.23 crore.
- ❖ The State has reached 34.37% of the target, as of August 2023.
- ❖ The State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) increased about 5.47% to ₹59,616.01 crore in 2023-24 from ₹56,521.83 crore in the same period in 2022-23.
- ❖ The Budget had projected that the SOTR would be ₹1,81,182.22 crore for 2023-24.
- ❖ The State's revenue expenditure stood at ₹1,10,582.31 crore in 2023-24 (till August).
- ❖ The State Budget had estimated a revenue expenditure of ₹3,08,055.68 crore for 2023-24.
- ❖ The revenue deficit stood at ₹17,614.98 crore till August in 2023-24.
- ❖ The State Budget estimated the revenue deficit to be ₹37,540.45 crore.

First Supplementary Estimates for 2023-24

- ❖ Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu presented the Tamil Nadu government's First Supplementary Estimates for ₹2,893.15 crore for 2023-24.
- ❖ The government has sanctioned ₹304 crore from the State Disaster Mitigation Fund to the Greater Chennai Corporation.
- ❖ This will be used for the construction of storm water drains in Chennai and its suburbs, and to the Cuddalore Municipal Corporation.
- ❖ It has also sanctioned ₹175.33 crore in share capital assistance to the Tamil Nadu Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation and the Trichy Milk Union.
- ❖ Sum of ₹181.40 crore has been sanctioned for giving input subsidy relief assistance to 1,87,275 farmers, affected by natural calamities.
- ❖ This will cover 25 blocks of Tenkasi, Sivagangai, Ramanathapuram, Pudukkottai, Virudhunagar and Thoothukudi districts,

Passenger ferry to Sri Lanka

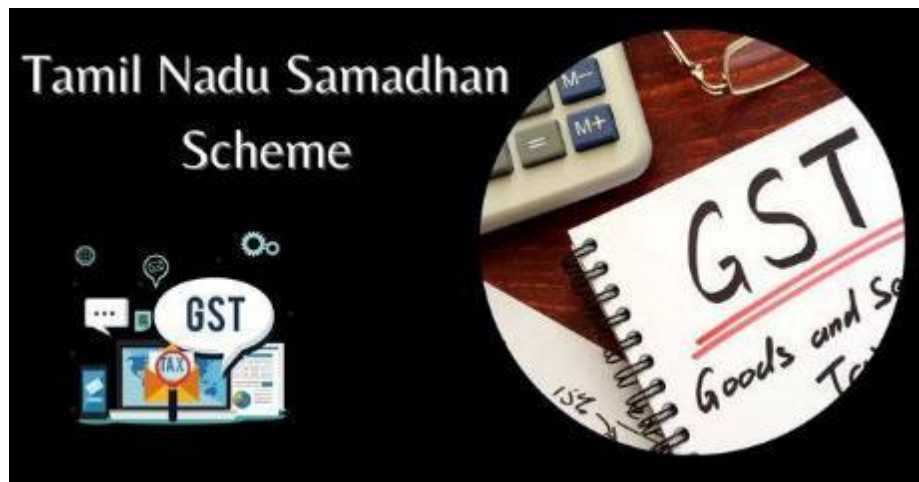
- ❖ The high-speed passenger ferry service between Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu and Kankesanthurai in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka.
- ❖ This is restarted after a gap of nearly four decades.

- ❖ The High-Speed Craft (HSC) Cheriya Pani is owned by the Shipping Corporation of India.
- ❖ Nagapattinam is a non-major port located on the shores of the Bay of Bengal.



Reintroduction of Samadhan Scheme

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly adopted a Bill to reintroduce an effective Samadhan Scheme.
- ❖ It aims to provide another opportunity to settle the arrears of tax, penalty (prior to GST regime) and interest payable to the government pertaining to the assessments under various Acts up to 2017-18.
- ❖ Assessments made on or before March 31, 2021 would benefit from the scheme.
- ❖ The system of levy of tax on Goods and Services i.e., GST was introduced across the country, from July 1, 2017.
- ❖ The State government had introduced Samadhan Schemes in 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2011 by enactment of various legislations, with a view to expedite the collection of arrears.



Second spaceport of ISRO



- ❖ The second spaceport of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will come up at Kulasekarapattinam in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It will be dedicated exclusively for Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs) developed by the private sector.
- ❖ This project will be taking off in about two years from now.
- ❖ SSLV is a 3-stage launch vehicle capable of launching approximately 500 kg satellites in 500-km planar orbit.

Life tax rate for a new motor vehicles

COST OF COMMUTE COULD GO UP			
CARS		TWO-WHEELERS	
PRESENT TAX RATES		REVISED RATES	
Cost of vehicle (₹ lakh)	Life tax (%)	Cost of vehicle (₹ lakh)	Life tax (%)
<10	10	<5	12% of vehicle cost
>10	15	5-10	13
		10-20	18
		>20	20
Present tax: 8%		Revised rates: 10% for two-wheelers costing less than ₹1 lakh and 12% for all other motorcycles	

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has decided to hike the rate of life tax of these vehicles, after a decade.
- ❖ A Bill amending the Tamil Nadu Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1974 to this effect, was adopted by the Legislative Assembly.
- ❖ The rate of life tax for a new motorcycle would be 12%, if its total cost exceeds ₹1 lakh and 10%, if its total cost does not exceed ₹1 lakh.
- ❖ In case of new cars and other new motor vehicles, the rate of life tax would be 20% if the cost of the vehicle exceeds ₹20 lakh.
- ❖ For new cars and other new motor vehicles whose costs are between ₹10 lakh and ₹20 lakh, the rate of life tax would be 18%.
- ❖ The vehicles costing between ₹5 lakh and ₹10 lakh, it would be 13%.
- ❖ In case of vehicles costing below ₹5 lakh, the rate of life tax would be 12%.
- ❖ The Bill also specified a green tax of ₹1,500 for five years for motor vehicles (other than transport vehicles) that have completed 15 years from the date of their registration.
- ❖ For motorcycles that have completed 15 years since their registration, the green tax would be Rs.750 for five years.

Protected agricultural zone

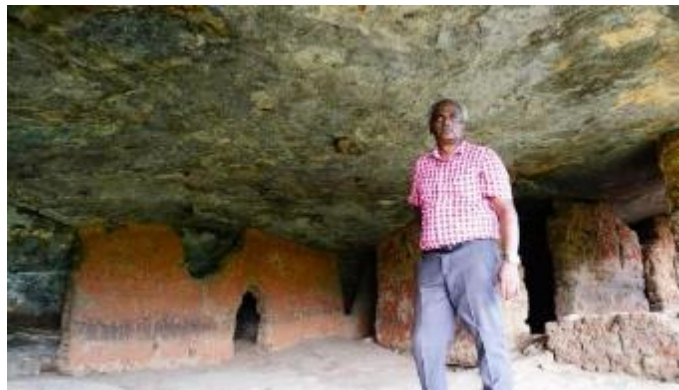


- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly adopted a Bill to include the newly-formed Mayiladuthurai district as a protected agricultural zone.
- ❖ It also included 'animal husbandry and inland fishery' within the ambit of the term 'agriculture'.

- ❖ The State government had enacted the Tamil Nadu Protected Agricultural Zone Development Act, 2020 to convert Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, and Tiruvarur districts and a few blocks in Pudukkottai and Cuddalore districts into a Protected Agricultural Zone.

Ambur Jain Cave

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



Project Nilgiri Tahr


- ❖ Chief Minister has launched Nilgiris Tahr Project to conserve the state animal, on October 12.
- ❖ The implementation cost of the Nilgiris Tahr Project will be Rs 25.14 crore.
- ❖ It will be used during a period of 5 years from 2022 to 2027.
- ❖ The project will follow a multi-pronged strategy, including synchronised surveys to estimate numbers of Nilgiri Tahr individuals through the use of Radio Telemetry, including Radio collaring and others.
- ❖ Nilgiri Tahr is endemic to Western Ghats.
- ❖ Valparai in Anamalai Tiger Reserve serves as a conducive habitat for Nilgiri Tahr.

State's capital expenditure



- ❖ Tamil Nadu has incurred a capital expenditure of ₹9,955 crore so far in 2023-24 (till August 2024).
- ❖ It has seen a reduction of 7.37% in the comparable period in 2022-23.
- ❖ The State had provided ₹44,366 crore for capital expenditure in the Budget estimates for 2023-24.
- ❖ It spent 22.44% of the budgeted amount till August.

KaniTamil 24



கணித்தமிழ்24
பன்னாட்டுக் கணித்தமிழ் மாநாடு

தமிழ்நாடு அரசின் சார்பில் வருகின்ற 2024 பிப்ரவரி 8,9,10 ஆகிய நாட்களில் சென்னை, நந்தம்பாக்கம் வர்த்தக மையத்தில் 'பன்னாட்டுக் கணித்தமிழ் மாநாடு' நடைபெறும்.

அங்கிலைத் தொழில்நுட்பத்தில் உருவாக்கப்பட்டுவரும் NLPT, AI, ML, MT, SA போன்றவற்றைத் தமிழில் உருவாக்கும் முயற்சியும், வளர்ந்துவரும் இந்தத் தொழில்நுட்ப யுகத்தில் தமிழாக்கமான இடத்தினை வலுப்படுத்த வேண்டும் என்பது இலக்காகவும், இம்மாநாட்டின் நோக்கமாகவும் இருக்கும்.

ஆங்கில மாதிரி உருவான மந்திரம் மின்னாக்கம், ஆய்வுக் கட்டுரைகள், தலைக்கல் போன்ற, கன்செப்ட் ஆகிய அம்சங்களுடன் தீர்மானப்பட்டுள்ளது.

மேலும் தகவல்களைக்
www.kanitamil.in ADE CENTRE
என்ற இணையதளத்தில் அறியலாம்.



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government will be organising a three-day 'KaniTamil 24' conference in Chennai in February 2024.


- ❖ The conference would elaborate on the latest advancements in computing and exploring the possibilities of using Tamil in natural language processing, artificial intelligence, machine learning, machine translation, sentimental analysis, large language models and automatic speech recognition.
- ❖ The 1st conference on Tamil computing organised when M. Karunanidhi was the Chief Minister in 1999.
- ❖ The second such conference on Tamil computing is being organised after 25 years.

Election seizure management system



ESMS: Enhancing Oversight for an inducement free Elections

- ❑ **Election Seizure Management System**
 - A Tech platform for **real-time updates on seizures** from the field by multifarious state & central enforcement agencies
- ❑ Facilitates **qualitative analysis** and **planning** of the seizures
- ❑ Ensures **seamless coordination** and **intelligence sharing** amongst enforcement agencies
- ❑ To be used for the first time in these five state assembly elections



- ❖ The upcoming assembly elections in five states will witness the roll-out of the Election Commission's latest technology initiative.
- ❖ It will enhance transparency in monitoring use of money power and poll inducements as well as action taken by central and state enforcement agencies against such offences.
- ❖ The technology is called Election Seizure Management System (ESMS).
- ❖ This is a platform where all the central and state enforcement agencies will be onboarded.
- ❖ It will require them to upload details of every recorded movement and seizure of illicit cash, liquor, drugs etc.
- ❖ This will also, enabling real-time updates from the field as well as coordination and intelligence-sharing between such agencies.
- ❖ The rise in seizures between the latest poll and election before that was 2,184% in Tripura, 1,150% in Nagaland, 6,627% in Meghalaya, 2,862% in Gujarat, 533% in HP and 200% in Uttarakhand.

Protocol for Management of Malnutrition in Children

- ❖ The Centre has launched a standardised national protocol to identify and provide extensive care to malnourished children in the country.
- ❖ It includes fresh initiatives like appetite testing and “buddy mother” concept.
- ❖ It provides detailed 10-step guidelines for identification and management of malnourished children at the Anganwadi level.
- ❖ It is including decision-making for referral, nutritional management and follow-up care.
- ❖ The “Buddy mother” concept was first used in the state of Assam.
- ❖ Under this scheme, the mother of a healthy baby guides the mother of a malnourished child at an Anganwadi centre every week.



First tilapia parvovirus

- ❖ The occurrence of tilapia parvovirus (TiPV) has been reported for the first time in India at ponds in Walajah in Ranipet district.
- ❖ It will be affecting farm-bred tilapia, a freshwater fish species, and causing a huge mortality rate.
- ❖ This DNA virus caused mortality ranging from 30 to 50% in the farm and 100% mortality in the laboratory.
- ❖ Considered as “a poor-man’s fish”, Mozambique tilapia was introduced to Indian fresh water bodies in the 1950s.
- ❖ And it is called Jilabi in Tamil.

- ❖ The TiPV was first reported in China in 2019 and Thailand in 2021.
- ❖ India is the third country to report the occurrence of TiPV.



AI-based early warning system

- ❖ Tamil Nadu plans its first artificial intelligence (AI)-based early warning system to prevent wild elephants from getting hit by trains on railway lines.
- ❖ It is laid along the Ettimadai–Walayar section, which links Tamil Nadu and Kerala, is nearing completion.
- ❖ It will give an additional layer of protection for pachyderms.
- ❖ The installation of all 12 e-surveillance towers for the project — five along the ‘A’ line and seven along the ‘B’ line, of the twin single line — has been completed.
- ❖ A total of 11 elephants were killed in six train collisions on the two railway lines linking Coimbatore and Palakkad from 2008 to 2022.



Muthuvan tribe

- ❖ Members of the Muthuvan tribe of the Anamalai hills have joined hands with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department for a unique task.
- ❖ They are known for coexisting with the wildlife with their traditional knowledge.
- ❖ They will be part of the Project Nilgiri Tahr, which is aimed at protecting the 'endangered' State animal.
- ❖ Members of the Muthuvan tribe are known for their traditional knowledge and understanding of hills.
- ❖ They are already contributing a lot on the conservation front by sharing their knowledge about the flora and fauna and helping us in preventing forest fires.



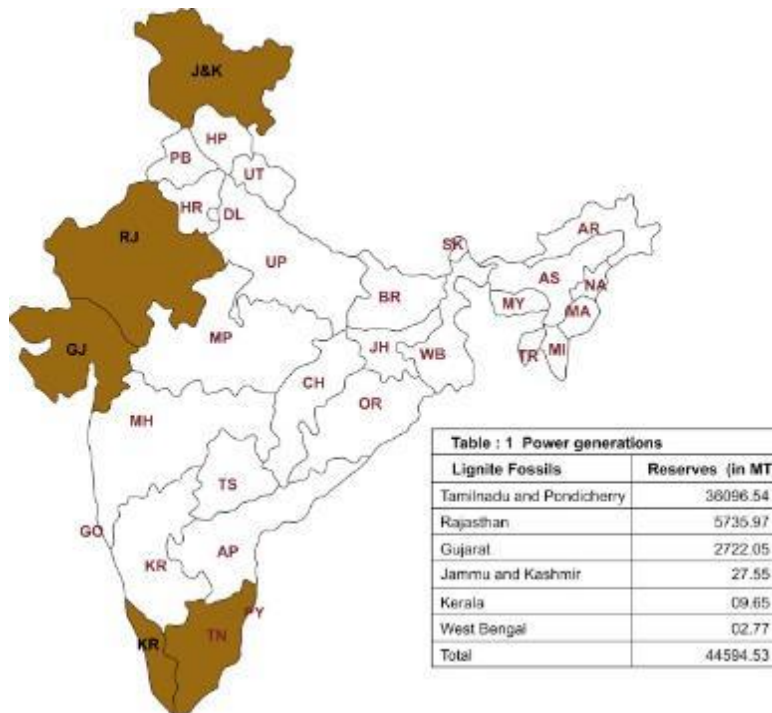
Primary Health Centres ranking

- ❖ Primary Health Centres (PHC) in the State are now being ranked based on 20 key indicators.
- ❖ This will assess their level of performance as well as track progresses made over a period of time.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has a total of 2,127 PHCs.
- ❖ This is the first time such a ranking exercise for its health institutions.
- ❖ The aim of ranking PHCs is to have an objective quantifiable way to measure performance of the facilities instead of a subjective review.

Global text standard

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is one of only three government members of the Unicode Consortium that sets digital standards for scripts and emojis.
- ❖ But the Tamilnadu State government has largely stayed away from actually using the standard.
- ❖ The State government has spent \$200,000 over a 16-year period in membership dues to the Consortium.
- ❖ The board of the Tamil Virtual Academy (TVA) — which represents the State government at the Consortium.
- ❖ Press releases, government orders and gazette notifications usually use custom Tamil fonts that are incompatible with the Unicode standard.
- ❖ This can harm the accessibility of government documents and their discovery online.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is a ‘Supporting Member’ at the Unicode Consortium.
- ❖ This privilege allows the State a half vote on proposals at the Unicode Technical Committee, where it has not voted in years.
- ❖ The governments of Bangladesh and Oman are the only others who are currently paying for this membership.

Lignite production



- ❖ Tamil Nadu was the largest producer of lignite and produced 22.480 million Tonnes (MT) in 2022-23.
- ❖ The overall production of lignite declined 5.27% to 44,990 MT in 2022-23 from 47,492 MT in 2021-22, as per the provisional figures.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu accounted for 49.97% of the production, followed by Gujarat at 27.37%, and Rajasthan at 22.67%.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu accounts for about 82% of India's lignite reserves of 40.9 billion tonne.
- ❖ Lignite deposits in India are primarily located in the tertiary sediments in the Southern & Western parts of the peninsular shield, particularly in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir.
- ❖ Lignite is also available in minor quantities in Odisha, Kerala & West Bengal

Dress code for Advocates



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

Tamil Nadu draft elector list 2023

- ❖ As per the draft roll, Tamil Nadu has more female voters (3.1 crore) than male voters (3 crore).
- ❖ Of the total 6.1 crore voters. 8,016 have been marked as third gender.

- ❖ Only in Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Kanyakumari and Kallakurichi districts male voters outnumber women voters.
- ❖ Sholinganallur assembly constituency in Chengalpattu has the largest number of voters (6.52 lakh).
- ❖ Kilvelur in Nagapattinam has the lowest (1.69 lakh).
- ❖ Chennai (38.68 lakh), Thiruvallur (33.34 lakh) and Coimbatore (30.49 lakh) are the top the districts in number of voters.
- ❖ Ariyalur (5.07 lakh), Nagapattinam (5.41 lakh), Perambalur (5.62 lakh) and the Nilgiris (5.7 lakh) are at the bottom of the list.
- ❖ The state has 137 voters above the age of 120.
- ❖ There are 381 people aged between 110 and 119.

Pichwai Painting



- ❖ Chennai hosts an art exhibit showcasing Pichwai paintings.
- ❖ Some of the paintings are dating back 350 years.
- ❖ The Pichwai artists use stone pigments, especially for gold and silver tones.
- ❖ The brighter orange, red, chrome yellow and kesari colours come from vegetable dyes.

1,300-year-old Pallava paintings

- ❖ The 1,300-year-old Pallava period paintings found at Talagirishwara temple at Panamalai in Villupuram district.
- ❖ The panel depicting the dance of Lord Shiva has almost faded away.
- ❖ Only the face of goddess Parvathi and a few patches remain now.

- ❖ The temple was constructed by Pallava king Narasimhavarman II, popularly known as Rajasimha.
- ❖ The paintings bear a close resemblance to the paintings in Ajantha and Sittannavasal.



Tiger Rewilding program

- ❖ A committee assessed the progress of Tamil Nadu's first tiger rewilding program in the Anamalai Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ The tiger, which was rescued from a tea estate near Valparai in September 2021, is about 30-months-old now.
- ❖ The tiger is taken care of by two dedicated staff of the Forest Department and being monitored through cameras.

NATIONAL

Fourth Gender Samvaad



The poster is for a webinar titled "4th Gender Samvaad" with the theme "Significance of Community Based Strategies for addressing Gender - Based Violence under DAY-NRLM". It features two speakers: Shri Charanjit Singh, Additional Secretary, RL, Ministry of Rural Development, and Smt Smriti Sharan, Joint Secretary, RL, Ministry of Rural Development. The event is scheduled for Friday, 22 September 2023, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The poster includes a "SAVE THE DATE" banner and a "WEBINAR" label. There are also three circular images showing people at a community meeting.

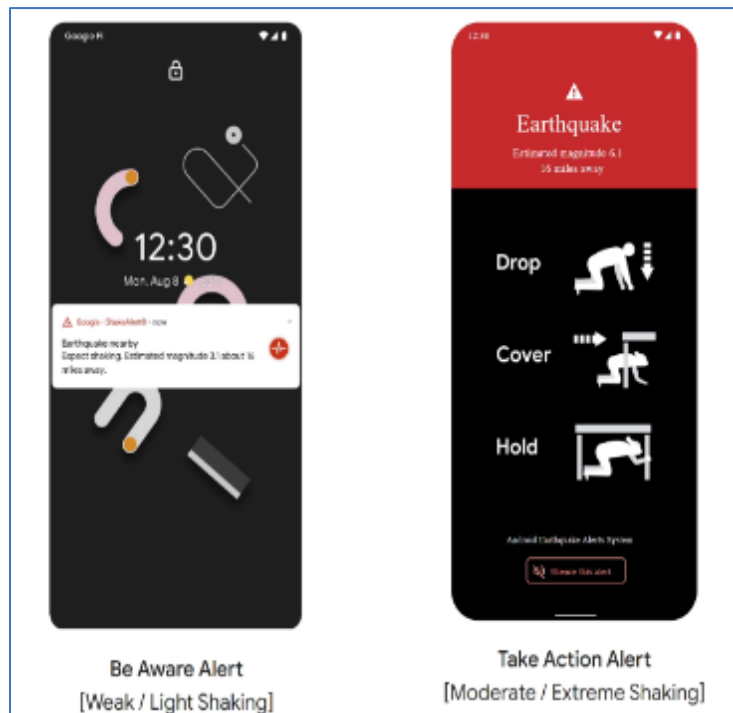
- ❖ It is a collaborative initiative by the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) and the Institute for What Works to Advance Gender Equality (IWWAGE),
- ❖ This platform aims to create awareness about DAY-NRLM's gender-focused initiatives in India.
- ❖ It also specifically focusing on amplifying the voices of states and self-help group (SHG) members.

Supreme Court on HIV Act 2017

- ❖ The Supreme Court has directed the Centre and state governments to ensure effective implementation of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017.
- ❖ It is also known as the HIV Act.
- ❖ The court also directed all courts, tribunals, and quasi-judicial bodies in the country to prioritise cases relating to HIV-infected persons for early disposal as per the mandate of Section 34(2) of the HIV Act.
- ❖ They also directed that steps should be taken to keep the identity of HIV-infected individuals anonymous.



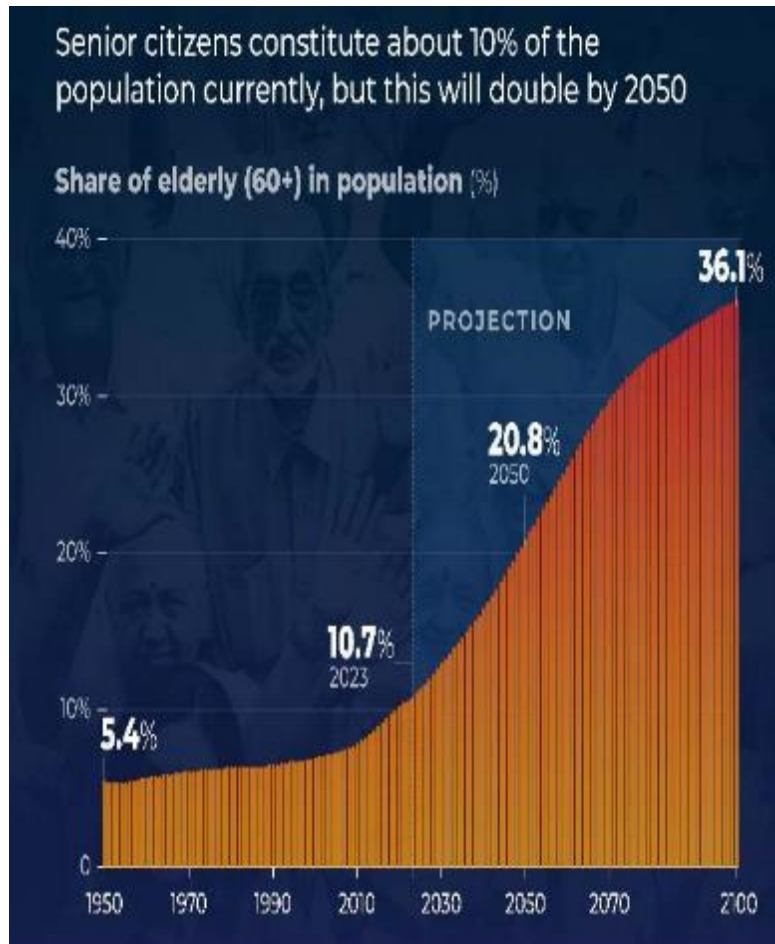
Earthquake Alerts system



- ❖ Google announced an Android Earthquake Alerts System to provide early warning alerts to users about earthquakes in their area.
- ❖ It consulted with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the National Seismology Center (NSC) to develop alerts.
- ❖ The alerts will also be available in Indian languages which are already supported by Android.

- ❖ Android smartphones' accelerometers can act as “mini seismometers”.
- ❖ They can detect the beginning of a quake when the phone is plugged in and charging.

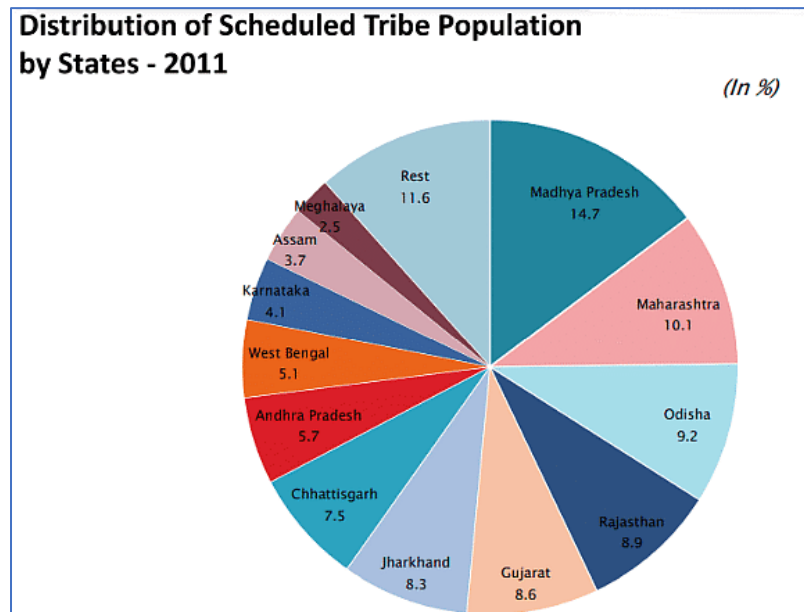
India Ageing Report 2023



- ❖ The United Nations Population Fund released the India Ageing Report 2023.
- ❖ The population above 60 years will double from 10.5% or 14.9 crore (as on July 1, 2022) to 20.8% or 34.7 crore by 2050.
- ❖ By 2050, this population will double to 20.8%, with the absolute number at 347 million.
- ❖ By the end of the century, the elderly will constitute over 36% of the total population of the country.
- ❖ India's one-fifth of population will comprise people above 60 by 2050.
- ❖ In Kerala and West Bengal for instance, there is a growing population of the elderly who live alone as children migrate for better opportunities.

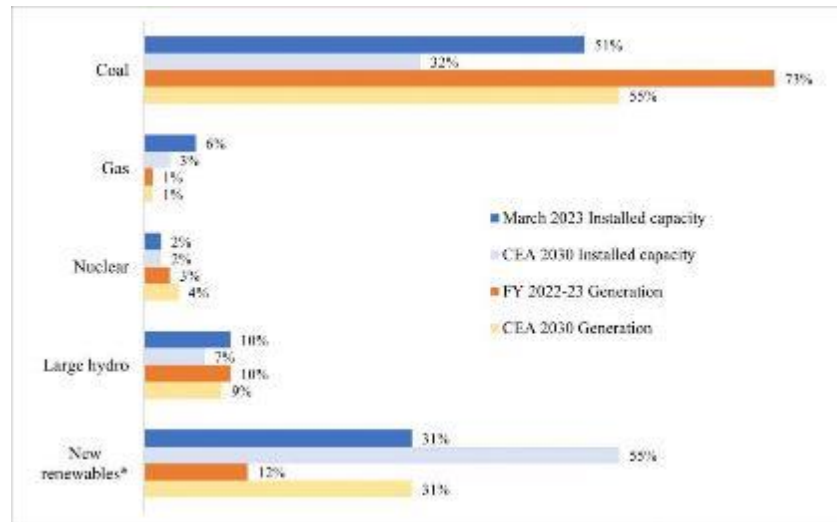
- ❖ Currently, India has one of the highest populations of adolescents and young people in the world with 65% of Indians under 35.
- ❖ 18.7% elderly did not have any income.
- ❖ This proportion was above the national level in 17 states, ranging from 19.3% in Uttarakhand to 42.4% in Lakshadweep.
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh and Punjab reported a higher share of the elderly than the national average in 2021.
- ❖ This gap is expected to widen by 2036.
- ❖ Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, also expect to see an increase in the share of the elderly between 2021 and 2036.

Statistics on Tribal Land Claims



- ❖ The latest statistics, collated by the ministry of tribal affairs, reveal that out of 45,54,603 claims, 18,01,561 - about 40% have been rejected.
- ❖ Eleven of 23 states and union territories have rejection rates higher than the national average.
- ❖ These include Uttarakhand (97.23%), Karnataka (84.9%), Uttar Pradesh (79.75%), Jammu and Kashmir (78.21%), West Bengal (67.98%), Bihar (52.54%), Madhya Pradesh (51.43%), Rajasthan (52.94%), Telangana (45.62%), Chhattisgarh (42.99%) and Tamil Nadu (39.64%).
- ❖ The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 gives the tribals residing in a place the right over their land through formal pattas.

India's Power Demand in 2023



- ❖ India's power demand in September saw a year-on-year growth of 10-12 percent to 140-142 billion units (BUs) - a five-year high.
- ❖ However, the demand was about seven percent lower than the previous month.
- ❖ Overall power generation is estimated to have risen 9-10 percent on-year in September to 150-152 BU.
- ❖ It was surged to a record high of 159 BU in August 2023.

Sankalp Saptaah



- ❖ This programme is being implemented in 500 aspirational blocks across 329 districts in the country.
- ❖ It aims to improve governance at the block level in order to enhance the quality of life of citizens.

- ❖ It will be observed in all of the 500 Aspirational Blocks.
- ❖ Each day in 'Sankalp Saptaah' is starting from October 3 till October 9, 2023.
- ❖ The themes for the first six days include 'Sampoorna Swasthya', 'Suposhit Pariwaar', 'Swachhta', 'Krishi', 'Shiksha', and 'Samridhi Diwas'.

CRIIO 4 Good

- ❖ This is a new online life skill learning module which aims to promote gender equality among girls and boys.
- ❖ It was launched in collaboration with the International Cricket Council (ICC), UNICEF, and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- ❖ These modules are designed to be highly engaging and utilize cricket's popularity to convey essential life skills and promote gender equity among girls and boys in a fun and interactive manner.
- ❖ The program can be accessed free of cost via the web portal.
- ❖ It is available in three languages: English, Hindi, and Gujarati.

Key Amendments to Cable Television Network Rules, 1994



Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

G20
INDIA 2023

Ministry of I&B introduces key amendments to Cable Television Network Rules, 1994

MSO Registration to be renewed for a period of Ten years; Infrastructure Sharing for Enhanced Internet Access

Timely Renewal Window to Ensure Service Continuity for MSOs

Press Release No. 28 SEP 2023 11:25AM by PIB Delhi

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has yesterday issued a notification amending the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994, thereby introducing a procedure for the renewal of Multi-System Operator (MSO) Registrations. In addition, an enabling provision has been inserted in the Rules for the sharing of infrastructure by the Cable Operators with Broadband Service providers to promote internet penetration to the last mile.

The salient features of the amended Rules for MSO Registration are :-

- MSOs shall apply for the registration or renewal of registration online at the Broadcast Seva Portal of MIB.
- MSO registrations shall be granted or renewed for a period of ten years.
- The processing fee of Rs. One lakh is kept for the renewal of registration also.
- The application for renewal of registration shall be within a window of seven to two months before the expiry of the registration.

The renewal procedure is in line with the Government's commitment to ease of doing business as it will provide certainty to cable operators to continue their services without interruption and therefore make the sector attractive for foreign investment.

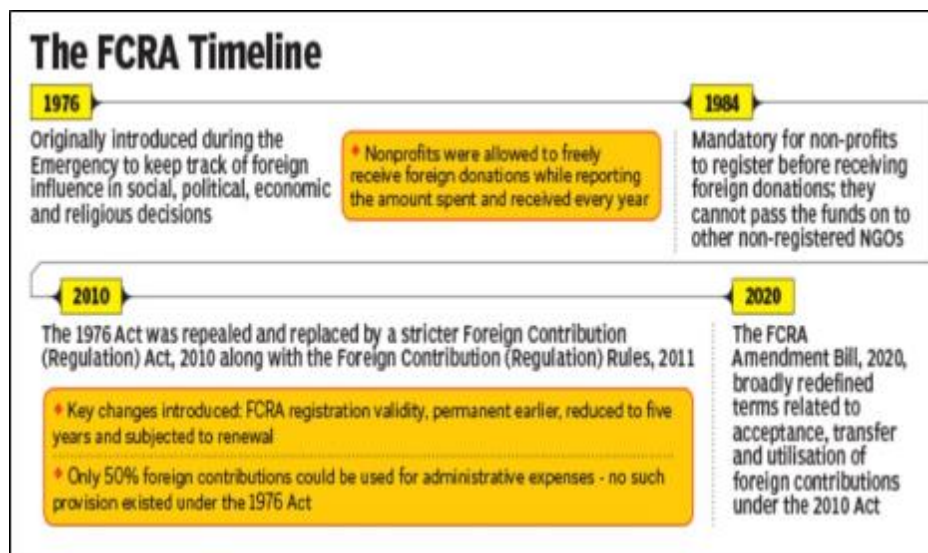
The Ministry has further said that MSOs whose registration is expiring within 7 months are required to apply online through the BroadcastSeva Portal. In case any assistance is required, the helpline number available on the portal may be contacted, or an email may be sent to [sodas-moiab\[at\]mib\[dot\]in](mailto:sodas-moiab[at]mib[dot]in).

Earlier, only fresh MSO registrations were granted under the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994. The Rules did not specify the period of validity for MSO registrations, nor did they recognize the mandatory filing of online applications.

The inclusion of a provision related to the sharing of infrastructure by Cable Operators with broadband service providers will provide the twin benefit of enhanced internet penetration and efficient utilization of resources. It will also reduce the need for additional infrastructure for broadband services.

- ❖ The Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry has issued a notification amending the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994.
- ❖ It enabled the cable operators to share infrastructure with broadband service providers.
- ❖ It is introducing a procedure for the renewal of Multi-System Operator (MSO) registrations.
- ❖ The cable operators will have to apply for the registration or renewal of registration online at the Ministry's Broadcast Seva Portal of MIB.
- ❖ The registrations will be granted or renewed for 10 years.
- ❖ Operators whose registrations are set to expire within seven months can apply online for renewal.

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2023



- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs issued a gazetted notification, amending the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) rules.
- ❖ It is mandating NGOs with FCRA licence to submit details of movable and immovable assets created out of foreign contributions.
- ❖ Earlier relatives to send larger sums under the FCRA and extended the time frame for organizations to inform the government about opening bank accounts for funds received under the 'registration' or 'prior permission' category.
- ❖ The new rules bring significant changes to who can receive foreign contributions without facing prosecution.
- ❖ The political parties, members of legislatures, election candidates, judges, government servants, journalists, and media houses, who were previously barred



from receiving foreign contributions, will no longer be prosecuted if they receive such contributions from relatives abroad.

- ❖ But these recipients will have up to 90 days to inform the government about these contributions.

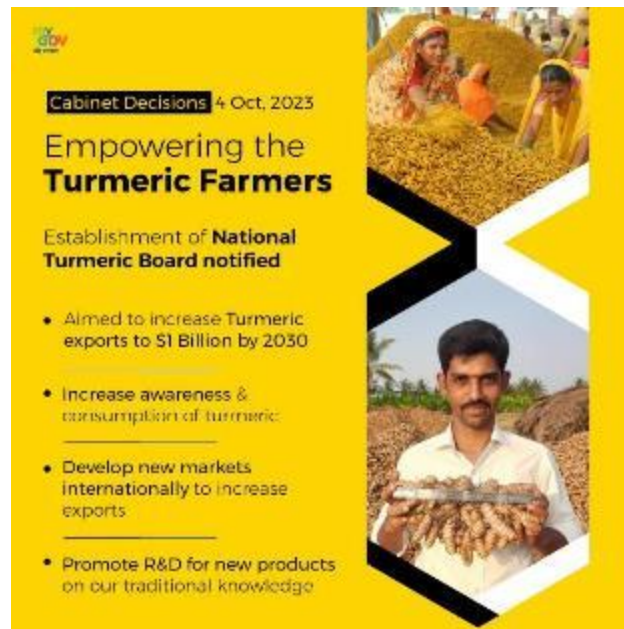
NMC's new guidelines

- ❖ After the 2023-24 academic year, permission for establishing of new medical colleges will be issued only for an annual intake capacity in the specific numbers of 50, 100 and 150 seats.
- ❖ The medical college shall follow the ratio of 100 MBBS seats for 10-lakh population in that state/ UT.
- ❖ The guidelines were published in the Gazette of India by National Medical Commission (NMC).
- ❖ For engineering colleges, this number is 60, 120, 180 seats.
- ❖ Colleges seeking an increased number of seats cannot exceed a total of 150 MBBS students from the year 2024-25.
- ❖ The new guidelines mean that Tamil Nadu, with an eight-crore population will not be able to add more seats since there are more than 10,000 seats across 70 undergraduate medical colleges in the state.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has the maximum number of MBBS seats in the country.
- ❖ There was a total of 72 medical colleges across the State, including 37 State-run medical colleges and 35 private medical colleges
- ❖ One in eight doctors from India is from Tamil Nadu, according to the data from the Medical Council of India.
- ❖ The state has a doctor for every 253 people.
- ❖ This ratio is at par with Scandinavian countries and above norms stipulated by WHO.

National Turmeric Board

- ❖ Prime Minister has announced the setting up of a National Turmeric Board in Telangana.
- ❖ It will be providing necessary infrastructure support, value addition, research facility and help in exports in a professional manner.
- ❖ Farmers in Telangana particularly produce turmeric in huge quantities.
- ❖ Nizamabad, Nirmal and Jagtial districts are known for their huge cultivation of turmeric.

- ❖ The finger and bulb varieties of turmeric from here are exported abroad apart from catering to domestic and commercial needs.

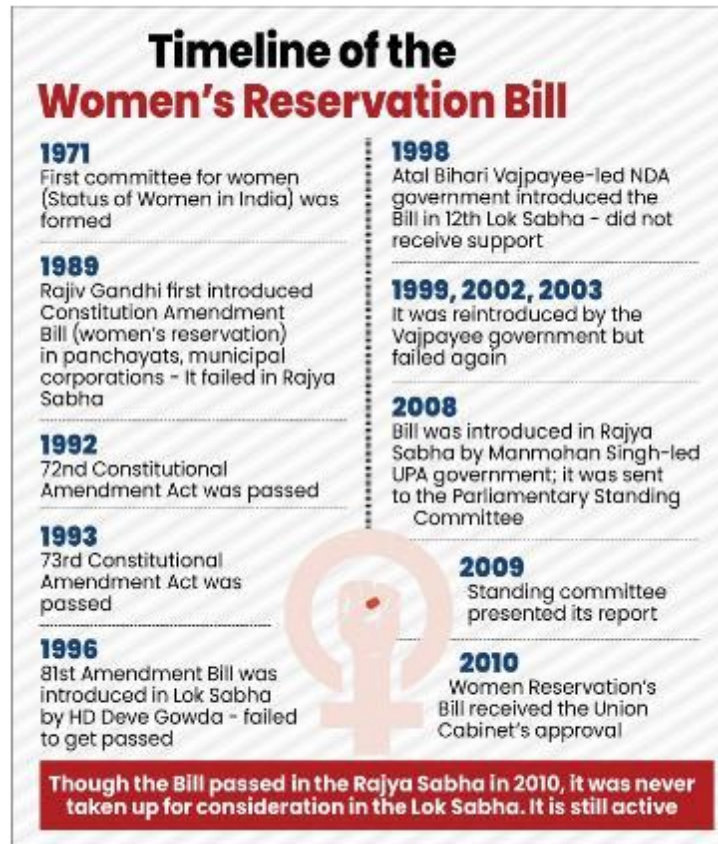


‘Shramdaan Event’

- ❖ An hour-long "shramdaan" event held as part of the nationwide 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign on October 01.
- ❖ The programme titled 'Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta Ek Saath' was organised across the country.
- ❖ The Ministry of MSME organized ‘Shramdaan’, on the theme of “Garbage Free India.”

106th amendment act

- ❖ The President of India has given her assent to the 106th amendment bill.
- ❖ This amendment is known as women’s reservation Bill.
- ❖ It seeks to provide 33% reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.
- ❖ There is quota within quota for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) women.
- ❖ Though it was introduced as the Constitution (128th) Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha, now it will be known as the Constitution (106th Amendment) Act.
- ❖ The law will be implemented after the next census and the subsequent delimitation exercise



World Bank Paper on Swachh Bharat Mission

- ❖ A departmental working paper by the World Bank on the progress of the Swachh Bharat Mission - Gramin (SBM-G) released recently.
- ❖ It has now gains made by the programme to bring toilet access to rural India since 2014-15, when it began, there has been a clear trend of regular toilet use declining in rural India from 2018-19 onwards.
- ❖ The largest drop being seen among Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe socio-economic groups.
- ❖ The paper found that as the programme started, it led to a substantial increase in access to own or shared improved toilets in rural India.
- ❖ It was dropped from 38% in 2012 to 90% in 2019-20.
- ❖ It was the sharpest increase reported in the last two years of this time period.
- ❖ The first phase of 2015-2019 was marked by large improvements.
- ❖ It was followed by some stagnation and decline over the last two years.

- ❖ That reported toilet use going up from 7% to 43% in between 2015-16 and 2019-21.
- ❖ A large increase in toilet use was seen in the poorest 20% of the rural population.
- ❖ It added that similar large increases were reported in all quintiles save for the richest 20%.
- ❖ The States where there has been a sustained decline in regular use of toilets since 2018 were Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Karnataka, and Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Seven other States like Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and West Bengal have been seeing an uneven decline in toilet use since 2018.
- ❖ Seven other States - Odisha, Punjab, Kerala, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Haryana, and Assam - were found to be steady performers in terms of continued toilet usage.

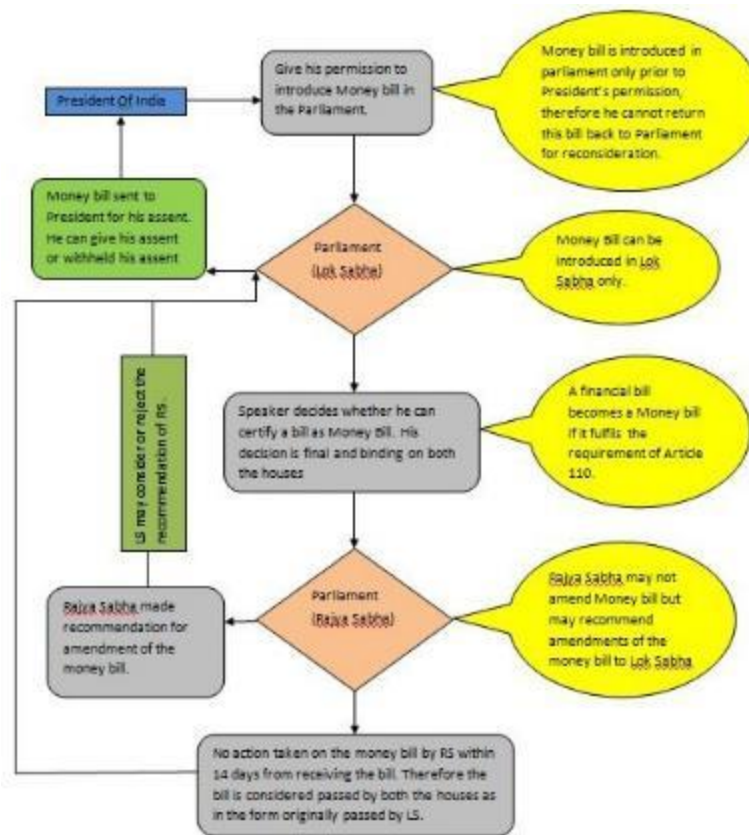


MP Disqualification from Lok Sabha

- ❖ The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) Lakshadweep MP Mohammed Faizal was disqualified from the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ He was convicted him and three others on charges of attempting to murder case and sentenced all the three to rigorous imprisonment for 10 years.

- ❖ Now, the Kerala high court rejected his plea to suspend his conviction in an attempt to murder case.
- ❖ Under Section 8(3) of the Representation of Peoples Act 1951, a sitting legislator who is convicted for an offence and sentenced to a punishment of two or more years stands disqualified from the date of conviction.
- ❖ Also, for a further period of six years ban unless they can get the order of conviction suspended.

Money Bill Challenge



- ❖ The Supreme Court will soon be set up seven-judge bench to hear a batch of pleas challenging the Centre's use of the Money Bill route to pass certain key legislations.
- ❖ The 7- judge bench will essentially examine whether a law was validly categorised as a Money Bill or only to circumvent scrutiny of the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ Article 110 of the Constitution deals with Money Bills.
- ❖ A money bill is a bill that, in the opinion of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, deals with taxation or the appropriation of public funds — the Consolidated Fund of India or the Contingency Fund of India.



- ❖ A money bill can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha, and the Speaker categorising a bill as a “money bill”.
- ❖ If any question arises whether a Bill is a Money Bill or not, the decision of the Speaker of the House of the People thereon shall be final.
- ❖ The matter of the money bill came into question when the Centre passed the Aadhaar Act in 2016.
- ❖ The amendments made to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) were introduced as money bills.

Sagar Parikrama Phase-IX

- ❖ It is aimed at addressing the issues of fishermen and other stakeholders while facilitating their economic upliftment through various schemes.
- ❖ The programme aims to address the challenges faced by coastal communities, particularly fishermen, and enhance their economic well-being through government schemes and initiatives.
- ❖ The ninth phase of the programme will cover coastal districts in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.
- ❖ The covered areas include Pudukkottai, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Chengalpattu, Chennai, Karaikal, and Puducherry.
- ❖ The first eight phases of ‘Sagar Parikrama’ covered 4,115 km in eight coastal states and union territories.

Drone (Amendment) Rules 2023

- ❖ The Ministry of Civil Aviation in India has introduced the Drone (Amendment) Rules 2023.
- ❖ It aims to liberalize, promote, and streamline drone operations across the country, with a vision to establish India as a global drone hub by 2030.
- ❖ One of the most significant changes brought about by the amendments is the relaxation of the previously stringent requirements for obtaining a Remote Pilot Certificate.
- ❖ Previously, a passport was mandatory to apply for this crucial document.
- ❖ It is creating obstacles for numerous aspiring drone pilots, particularly in rural areas and the agricultural sector.
- ❖ Individuals can now use government-issued proof of identity and proof of address, such as Voter ID, Ration Card, or Driving License, to apply for the certificate.

- ❖ Only individuals holding a valid Remote Pilot Certificate registered on the digital sky platform are authorized to operate unmanned aircraft systems in India.
- ❖ However, for non-commercial drone use, no Remote Pilot Certificate is required for drones weighing up to 2kg.



Extensive burial site in IVC

- ❖ Scientists have unveiled a sprawling burial site in India belonging to Indus Valley.
- ❖ Researchers now estimate the presence of at least 500 graves of the Indus society.
- ❖ They have also found an array of burial artefacts - more than 100 bangles and 27 beads made of shell.
- ❖ The graves have unique features, including sandstone-lined burial shafts that point in different directions.
- ❖ Some are oval shaped; others rectangular.
- ❖ There are smaller graves where children were buried.



UMMEED Guidelines



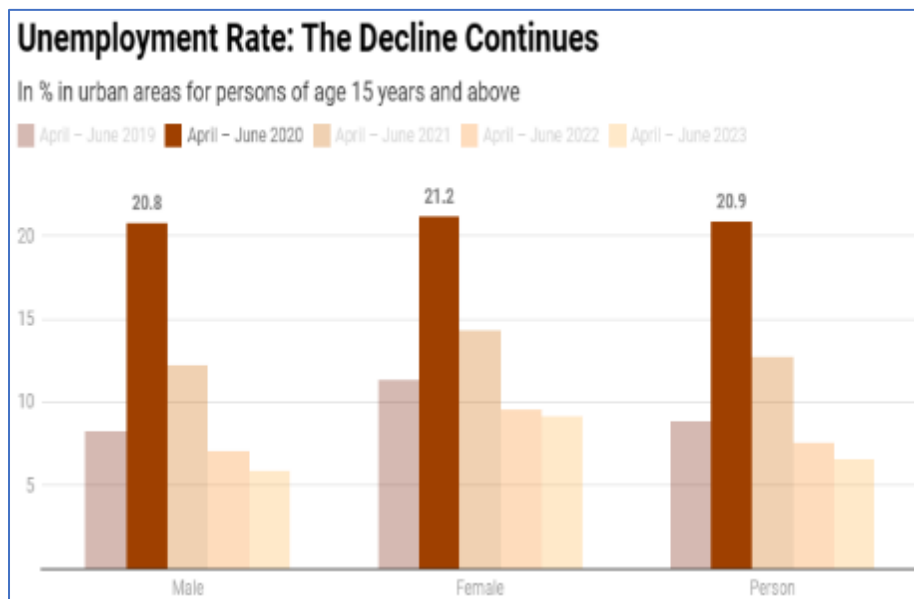
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Education (MoE) released the draft guidelines for schools to prevent suicide among students.
- ❖ It includes 'plan of action' the setting up of wellness teams, orientation of teachers and family members, and immediate response to students exhibiting warning signs.
- ❖ This guideline is titled as UMMEED (Understand, Motivate, Manage, Empathise, Empower, Develop).
- ❖ These guidelines aim to serve as “directions to schools for enhancing sensitivity, understanding, and providing support in case of reported self-harm”.
- ❖ A school wellness team (SWT) may be formed under the leadership of the school principal, where each member is oriented in handling crisis situations.
- ❖ When a student displaying warning signs has been identified by any stakeholder, they need to be reported to the SWT, which takes immediate action.

Chakravat 2023

- ❖ The annual joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise (AJHE-23) 'Chakravat' held in Goa.
- ❖ Since its first edition in 2015, the Annual Joint HADR Exercise, Chakravat, has transformed itself into a multi-agency endeavour involving participation of all three Services.
- ❖ The exercise has been conducted by Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force in rotation since 2016.
- ❖ The 2023 edition witnessed a participation from eight countries of the Indian Ocean Region.



Lowest Unemployment Rate in 2023



- ❖ The quarterly bulletin of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- ❖ The unemployment rate in urban areas decreased from 7.6% in April–June 2022 to 6.6% in April–June 2023 for persons aged 15 years and above.
- ❖ For males, it decreased from 7.1% to 5.9% during this period.
- ❖ For females, it decreased from 9.5% to 9.1% during this period.
- ❖ For the full year from July 2022 to June 2023, in rural areas, the unemployment rate decreased to 2.4% from 3.2% a year ago.

- ❖ For urban areas, it decreased to 5.4% from 6.3% during the same period.
- ❖ India's aggregate unemployment rate fell to 3.2%, the lowest since at least 2017-18.
- ❖ In the urban areas, states/UTs which recorded higher than national average unemployment rate included Himachal Pradesh (13.8 per cent), Rajasthan (11.7 per cent), Chhattisgarh (11.2 per cent), Jammu and Kashmir (10.9 per cent) and Kerala (10 per cent).
- ❖ States/UTs which posted a lower-than-national average unemployment rate were Delhi (2.7 per cent), Gujarat (2.8 per cent), West Bengal (4.4 per cent), Bihar (6.1 per cent), Maharashtra and Haryana (6.5 per cent each).

SHRESHTA Scheme

SHRESHTA

Scheme for Residential Education for Students
in High School in Targeted Areas

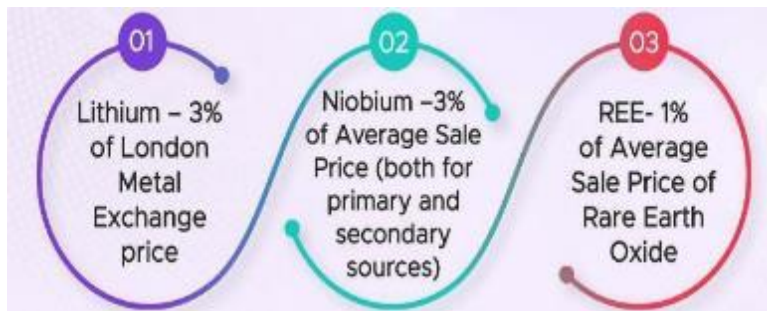
- ✔ The scheme will provide access to high-quality education (free of cost from Class 9 to 12) to the meritorious poor students from Scheduled Caste (SC) communities, whose parental income is under ₹2.5 Lakh per annum.
- ✔ Under the scheme, around 3,000 such students are selected each year through a National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS) conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA).
- ✔ For the selection of schools, the Ministry has selected the best performing private residential schools affiliated with the CBSE based on certain parameters such as –
 - School is in existence for at least for last 5 years
 - Board results of the school were more than 75% in Class 10 and 12 for the last 3 years, and
 - The schools have adequate infrastructure for admitting additional students.
- ✔ Provisions have also been incorporated in the scheme for a Bridge Course for a period of 3 months, for the students, joining the CBSE based schools from State Schools, Rural Areas, or from Regional language Schools, to adapt in the new environment of the selected schools.
- ✔ The scholarships will cover the school Fee (including tuition fee) and Hostel Fee (including mess charges) via DBT (Direct Bank Transfer).

- ❖ The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched its new programme, 'Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas' (SHRESHTA).
- ❖ Under this scheme, students of Scheduled Castes (SC) will be provided with high quality school education by different method.
- ❖ It will also help the government to expand the reach of its development initiatives in SC-dominant areas within the education sector.

- ❖ The scheme will be operated in selected grant-in-aid institutions run by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and residential high schools offering high-quality education.
- ❖ Under this mode, the meritorious students will get admission in selected private schools of CBSE and State Boards.
- ❖ These students will be selected through the National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS), conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

Royalty Rates for Critical Minerals

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



Operation Ajay



- ❖ The first charter flight to repatriate Indian citizens stranded in Israel amid the ongoing war arrived in New Delhi.
- ❖ The flight was carrying 212 Indian passengers from Israel under ‘Operation Ajay’.
- ❖ Notably, there are around 18,000 Indians in Israel including students, professionals, and traders.

Performance of Information Commissions in India

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

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

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

- ❖ In Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra, the estimated time taken by SICs for disposing of an appeal or complaint is over four years.
- ❖ In Odisha and Arunachal Pradesh, it is over two years.
- ❖ October 12, 2023 marks 18 years of implementation of the RTI Act in India.

Guidelines on Bima Vahaks

Boosting insurance access

IRDAI's draft norms for the Bima Vahak scheme are aimed at improving last-mile connectivity to raise rural insurance access

- The Bima Vahak scheme is a core component of the IRDAI's 'Insurance for all by 2047' goal
- Under the scheme, Bima Vahaks will gain the trust of locals for the distribution of insurance products
- Insurers will have to implement a board-approved policy in hiring and training Bima Vahaks



- ❖ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) issued guidelines on Bima Vahaks.
- ❖ This is the women-centric, dedicated distribution channel for enhancing insurance inclusion with a focus on rural areas.
- ❖ IRDAI plans to deploy 'Bima Vahaks' in every Gram Panchayat across the country by December 31, 2024.
- ❖ Bima Vahaks are expected to have a key role in taking Bima Vistaar, or affordable, accessible and comprehensive cover mooted by the regulator, to the target segment.
- ❖ The Bima Vahaks (individual as well as corporate) are to be provided with handheld electronic communication devices.
- ❖ These devices are integrated to the electronic platform of the insurers and sell and service Bima Vistaar and other products specified by the regulator.

Indian Military Heritage Festival

- ❖ A two-day festival showcasing the heritage and culture of India's armed forces will be held in Delhi.

- ❖ The Indian Military Heritage Festival will be hosted by the United Service Institution (USI) of India
- ❖ The first-of-its-kind festival is being organised in association with a news organisation at Manekshaw Centre

75 Years of India - Switzerland Friendship

- ❖ India and Switzerland celebrated 75 years of friendship and collaboration at a quaint Kumaon village in Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The three-day event, 'Swiss Himalayan Bounty', held last week at a homestay in Satoli village at an altitude of 6,000 ft.
- ❖ The roots of the cordial relations between India and Switzerland can be traced back to 1948 when they signed the Treaty of Friendship in New Delhi.
- ❖ Switzerland has emerged as one of India's principal partners in Europe, with significant foreign direct investment (FDI) flowing between the two countries.
- ❖ Switzerland's FDI in India is amounted to \$9.8 Bn, among the top 5 countries in Europe.
- ❖ India is home to more than 323 Swiss companies.



National framework for climate services

- ❖ India is set to launch its maiden national-level framework towards providing climate services and information.
- ❖ It is spearheaded by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

- ❖ The National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) envisions to bring a seamless working platform for users of climate information and services, and help decide and mitigate climate risks for key sectors — agriculture, energy, disaster management, health and water.
- ❖ Initially, the NFCS will work in bridging functioning gaps between the various agencies who require climate services.
- ❖ Since the 2009 declaration of frameworks for climate services, Switzerland, China, Germany and the United Kingdom have launched the NFCS.



IGMS 2.0 Public Grievance Portal



- ❖ The Govt of India launched the Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0 Public Grievance portal and Automated Analysis in Tree Dashboard.
- ❖ The Dashboard provides instant tabular analysis of Grievances Filed & Disposed, State-wise & District-wise Grievances Filed & Ministry-wise data.
- ❖ It will also help the officials identify the root cause of the grievance.
- ❖ It has been implemented by IIT Kanpur.

Schemes for Medical and Pharma sector

- ❖ The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has launched initiatives to nurture Innovation, research, and development in the Medical and Pharmaceutical sectors.
- ❖ These Initiatives are
 - National Policy on Research and Development and Innovation in Pharma-MedTech Sector in India and
 - Scheme for Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma MedTech Sector (PRIP).
- ❖ Indian pharmaceutical industry is the 3rd largest pharmaceutical industry in the world by volume with current market size of around USD 50 Billions.



National Policy on Research & Development and Innovation in Pharma-MedTech Sector in India

Benefits:

- Facilitate Innovation and Research in Product Development
- Incentivize Private and Public Investment in Innovation
- Build an Enabling Ecosystem to Support Innovation & Cross-sectoral Research
- Set up an Indian Council of Pharmaceuticals and Med-tech Research and Development

Objectives:

- To Enable rapid drug discovery and development & innovation in medical devices sector
- To Incentivize Private Sector Investment in Research
- To Strengthen R&D Ecosystem
- To Enable Coordination Among the Existing Policies & Programs
- To Facilitate the Rapid Development and Availability of Innovative Drugs and Medical Devices

Mera Yuva Bharat



MERA YUVA BHARAT

Impact:

- Leadership Development in the Youth
- Better alignment between youth aspirations and community needs
- Enhanced efficiency through Convergence of existing programmes
- Act as a one stop shop for young people and Ministries
- Create a centralized youth data base
- Ensuring accessibility by creating a physical ecosystem

- ❖ The Centre has announced the setting up of a new government platform for youth development.
- ❖ It is named as 'Mera Yuva Bharat' or MY Bharat.
- ❖ The platform is aimed at developing leadership skills among youth to make them social innovators and leaders in the communities.
- ❖ Youth in the age group of 15 to 29 years can avail the benefits of the platform.

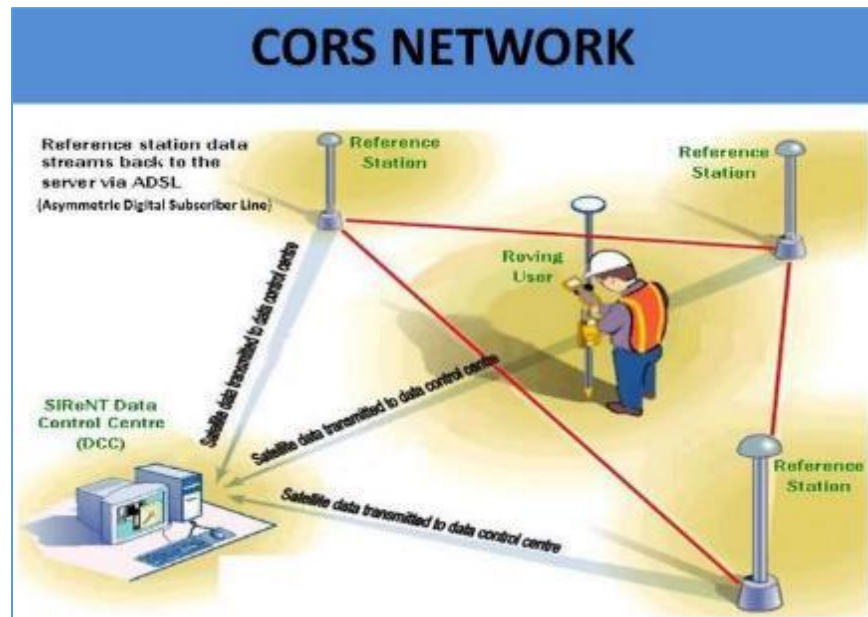
Milestone of One Million Certifications

- ❖ A Global learning-to-earning solution, Passport to Earning (P2E), has skilled and certified more than one million young people in India.
- ❖ It was an online programme organised by UNICEF.
- ❖ This marks a major step towards helping them gain skills relevant to the future of work and life.
- ❖ 62 percent of all young learners who benefitted from P2E courses in India are adolescent girls and young women.
- ❖ P2E provides free access to certificate courses in digital productivity, financial literacy, employability skills, and other in-demand, job-ready skills.



National Survey Network

- ❖ The centre launched state-of-art latest National Survey Network.
- ❖ The nationwide "Continuously Operating Reference Stations" (CORS) Network will be operated by the Survey of India.
- ❖ India now has a world class Precise Location based service, which are capable of providing centimetre level positioning services in Realtime.
- ❖ It is capable of providing real time location-based mapping services with an accuracy of + / - 3cm.
- ❖ The Survey of India has set up more than 1,000 CORS stations across India.



Report on Local Democracy

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

Sagar Maitri

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

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



National Green Credit Program

- ❖ The Government has introduced a special program where an individual or entity can earn green credit and trade it on a dedicated exchange.
- ❖ It refers to a unit of an incentive provided for a specified activity; delivering a positive impact on the environment.
- ❖ This programme will cover 8 types of activities.
- ❖ The initiative aims to encourage industries, companies, and other entities to meet their existing or other obligations.

- ❖ This programme is independent of the carbon credit provided under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023.
- ❖ It was made under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.



Green Credit Programme

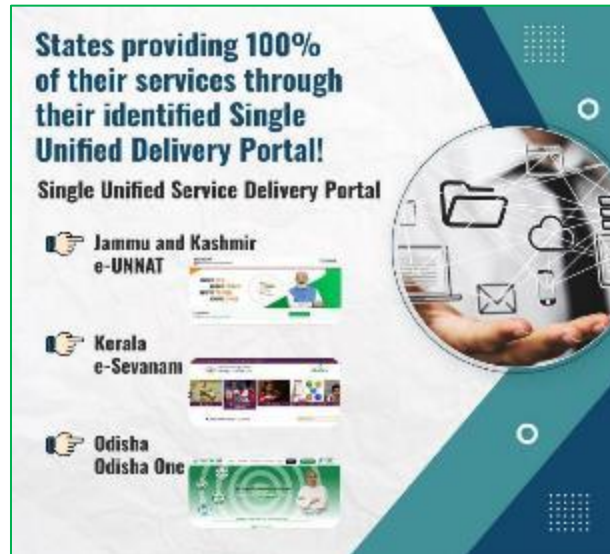
- **Green Credit:** It refers to a unit of an incentive provided for a specified activity; delivering a positive impact on the environment.
- **A Green Credit programme** is being launched at the national level to leverage a competitive market-based approach for green credit for incentivizing environmental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

The graphic features a background image of several people in green t-shirts holding small potted plants, symbolizing environmental care.

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

- ❖ The sixth edition of National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) – Way forward Monthly Report for States/UTs – was released recently
- ❖ It provides a detailed overview of status of e-service delivery across States/UTs.
- ❖ 14,736 e-services are provided across States/UTs.
- ❖ It is an increase of 6.2% (869) services from July Report.
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala and Odisha provide 100% of their services through their identified Single Unified Service Delivery Portal.
- ❖ 1,368 e-services are mapped under labour and employment sector.
- ❖ Haryana provides the maximum e-services in the sector (149).
- ❖ It is followed by Tamil Nadu (96) and Jharkhand (89).
- ❖ Bihar has launched a web-based Child Labour Tracking System (CLTS) which facilitates case management of rescued child labourers
- ❖ Gujarat has built Anubandham, that allows job seekers and job providers to connect through auto-matching, in a transparent and user-friendly manner.

- ❖ Uttarakhand provides employment opportunity to the unemployed youth in the state through Rojgar Prayag portal.



Operationalization of the EDFC



- ❖ The entire 1337-km length of the Rs 51,000-crore Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) was declared operational recently.
- ❖ The trail run of the first freight train over the 401-kilometre long New Sahnawal (Punjab) – to New Khurja (Uttar Pradesh) section of the EDFC conducted successfully.

- ❖ The Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) is covering a length of 1046 kilometers.
- ❖ It will be connecting Khurja to Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Maharashtra.

Rights of the unborn child

**MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY
(AMENDMENT) ACT, 2021**

1. Opinion of one **RMP** for termination of pregnancy up to **20 weeks**.
2. Opinion of **2 RMPs** for termination of pregnancy of **20–24 weeks**.
3. **Pregnancy can be terminated up to 24 weeks, only in cases of survivors of rape.**
4. **In case of failure of contraceptive in a women of her partner, MTP can be done only up to 20 weeks.**
5. MTP can be done even after 24 weeks. In case of substantial foetal abnormalities diagnosed by a **Medical Board**.

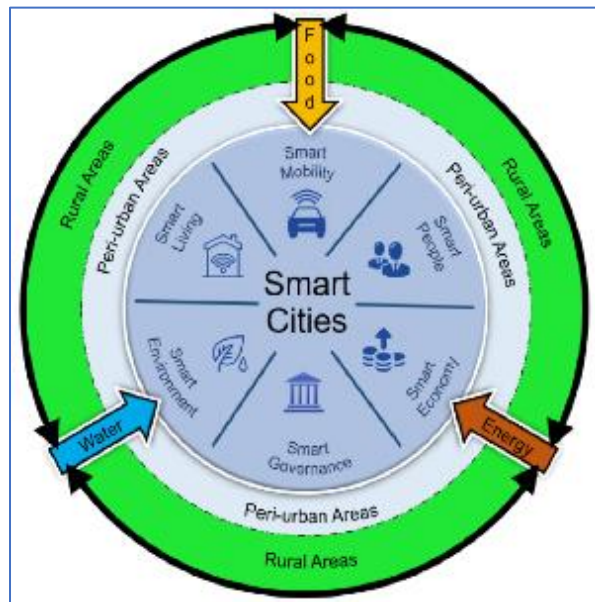
“Note: MTP can be done at any time if it is immediately necessary to save the life of the pregnant woman.”

- ❖ Recently, the Supreme Court refused to permit the married woman to terminate her 26-week pregnancy, thereby upholding the right of unborn child.
- ❖ The woman was well past the abortion limit of 24 weeks under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act 2021.
- ❖ Section 5 of Act allows abortion only if the pregnancy poses an actual, physical and immediate danger to a woman’s life and health according to medical experts.
- ❖ As per the Act, 20 weeks of pregnancy can be Termination of pregnancy is allowed on the advice of 1 doctor.
- ❖ The right to seek abortion is determined by 2 registered medical practitioners as an exception, but only under certain categories during the 20-24 weeks of pregnancy.
- ❖ Beyond 24 weeks, it is mandatory to form medical board at approved facilities to give opinion termination of pregnancy beyond 24 weeks owing to foetal abnormalities.

First edition of the IndiaAI report

- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) submitted the first edition of IndiaAI report.
- ❖ AI is expected to add USD 967 billion to the Indian economy by 2035 and USD 450–500 billion to India’s GDP by 2025.
- ❖ It will be accounting for 10% of the country’s USD 5 trillion GDP target.
- ❖ IndiaAI has a mission-centric approach that ensures a precise and cohesive strategy to bridge the gaps in the existing AI ecosystem.

Smart Cities Mission, India: Localizing Sustainable Development Goals



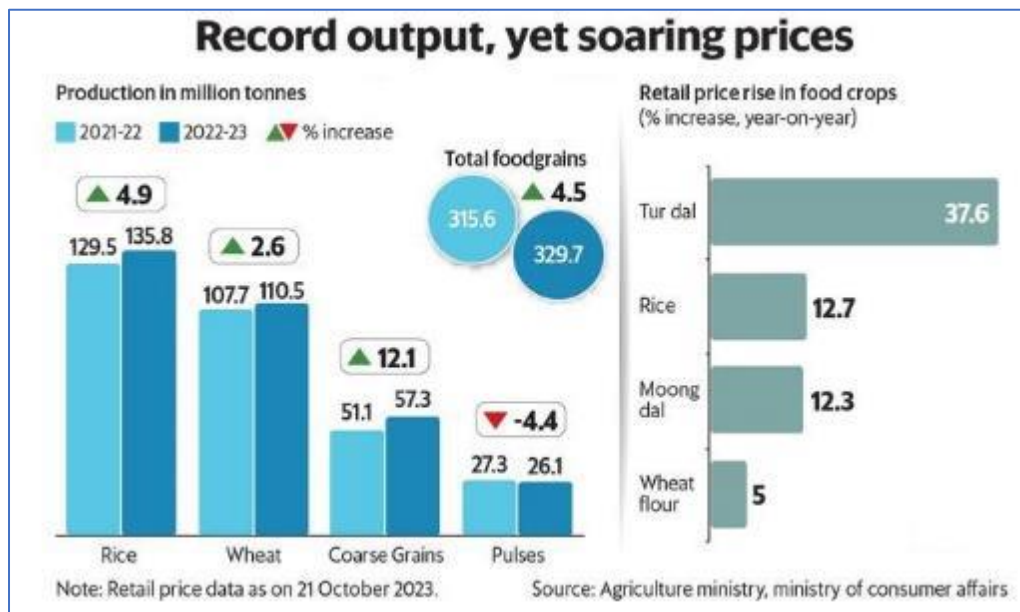
- ❖ The report was prepared jointly by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry and UN-Habitat.
- ❖ This is the first comprehensive effort to map national mission projects against global sustainability objectives.
- ❖ Over 70% of projects under the Smart Cities Mission (SCM) are in alignment with the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on cities, clean water and sanitation, clean energy and economic growth.
- ❖ The SCM involves around 8,000 projects.
- ❖ SCM projects have largely contributed, in one way or the other, to 15 of the 17 SDGs.
- ❖ Among these, nearly 44% were in line with the aim of SDG 11 — to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

- ❖ Around 3.3% of the SCM projects contributed to SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation).
- ❖ 8.6% to SDG 7 (Affordable and clean energy) and 6.4% to SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth).

Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group

- ❖ The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) has joined the Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group (PDG).
- ❖ IPC was the only Pharmacopoeia body in the world to be selected for the pilot phase initiated in September 2022.
- ❖ The PDG was established in 1989 by the European, Japanese and the US Pharmacopoeia.
- ❖ PDG aims to harmonize global Pharmacopoeial standards to reduce the burden on manufacturers and ensure consistent quality.
- ❖ In 2001, the World Health Organization (WHO) joined as an observer.

India's Horticulture Production 2022-23

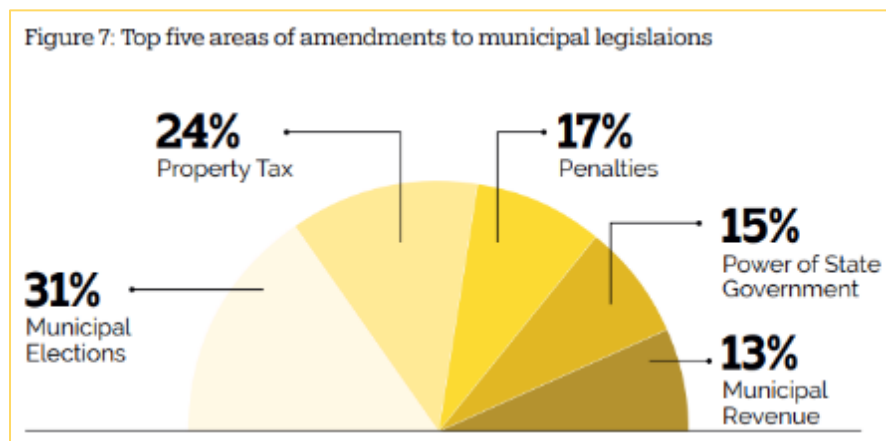


- ❖ Food grain and horticulture production hit a record high in the July 2022 to June 2023 crop year.
- ❖ The final estimates for food grain output in 2022-23 stood at a record 329.68 million tonne.
- ❖ This is 4% high or 14.1 million tonnes higher than a year ago.

- ❖ The food grain output has consistently grown over the last decade from 257.1 million tonne in 2012-13 to 315.6 million tonne in 2021-22.
- ❖ Food grain production in 2022-23 is 30.8 million tonnes higher than the previous five years' average.
- ❖ Total production of rice in 2022-23 is estimated at a record 135.75 million tonnes, up by 6.28 million tonnes from previous year's output.
- ❖ Production of wheat during 2022-23 is estimated at record 110.55 million tonnes.
- ❖ It is 2.8 million tonnes more than previous year's wheat production.
- ❖ Total pulses production during 2022-23 is estimated at 26 million tonnes.
- ❖ It is higher by 1.4 million tonnes compared to the last five years' average.

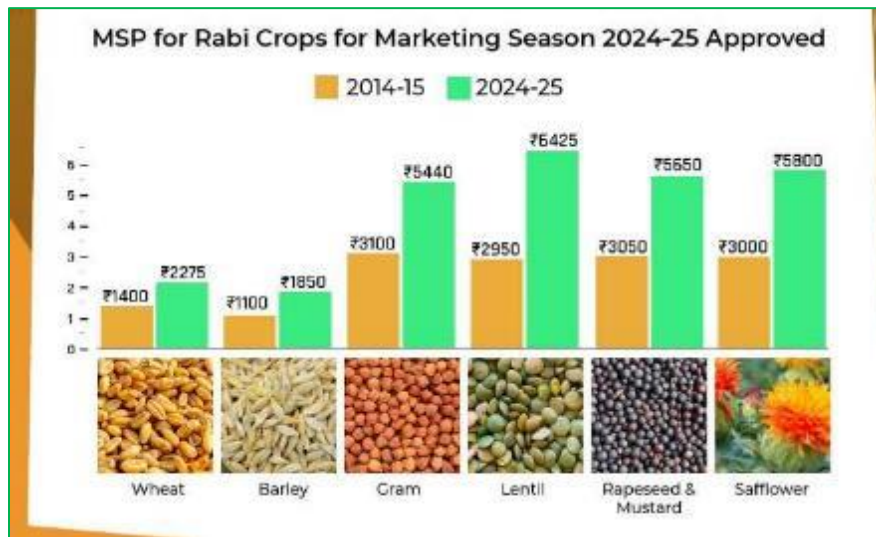
Urban Local Bodies: ASICS 2023 report

- ❖ The Annual Survey of India's City-Systems (ASICS) is a comprehensive evaluation of the quality of governance in Indian cities.
- ❖ It was published after a gap of five years (the last was in 2017).
- ❖ This time it focused on the state as a unit instead of ranking cities as they did in the past.
- ❖ Only About 20% of municipal expenditure is covered by property tax, suggesting the need for revenue optimization and efficiency measures.
- ❖ 51% of states/union territories lack accessible urban legislation in the public domain.
- ❖ 39% of India's capital cities do not have an active master plan.
- ❖ Eastern states have better urban legislation, followed by Southern states.



Minimum Support Price for Rabi 2024/25

- ❖ The union government announced an increase in the minimum support price (MSP) of wheat by ₹150 to ₹2,275 per quintal for the 2024-25 marketing season.
- ❖ This is the highest increase since 2014.
- ❖ Currently, the MSP on wheat stands at ₹2,125 per quintal for the 2023-24 marketing season (April-March).
- ❖ A decision in this regard was taken in the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).
- ❖ Wheat is the main rabi (winter) crop, sowing of which begins in October, while harvesting in April.
- ❖ MSP is the minimum rate ensured to protect the interest of farmers.
- ❖ And below this rate the grain is not purchased by the government procurement agencies.



ATMS Standards and Specifications 2023





- ❖ NHA has released its updated policy to implement upgraded and forward-looking Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) Standards and Specifications 2023.
- ❖ It is harnessing latest advancements in AI technology; the initiative will enhance road safety and digital enforcement on National Highways and Expressways.
- ❖ The existing VIDS cameras will be replaced with the Video Incident Detection and Enforcement System (VIDES) to emphasize the digital enforcement of traffic rules.
- ❖ The vehicle speed detection system (VSDS) is now integrated into VIDES, optimizing use of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras.
- ❖ Depending on the detected incident, VIDES will alert route patrol vehicles or ambulances, generate e-challans, relay alerts to nearby variable messaging boards, or send notifications through 'Rajmargyatra' mobile app to nearby travellers.

Supreme Court on Same-Sex Marriage

- ❖ A five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court unanimously ruled against legalising same sex marriage in India.
- ❖ The CJI has left it to the Parliament to decide on the issue.
- ❖ The SC also added that it cannot strike down the provisions of the Special Marriage Act (SMA) of 1954 or read words differently.
- ❖ The focus of the petitions filed is the gender-neutral interpretation of the SMA.
- ❖ It is a secular legislation designed to facilitate inter-caste and inter-faith marriages.
- ❖ The petitioners have sought a broader interpretation of the SMA to include same-sex marriages too.
- ❖ All five judges agreed that there is no fundamental right to marry.

Global Maritime India Summit

- ❖ The third edition of the Global Maritime India Summit 2023 held in Mumbai recently.
- ❖ A blueprint for the maritime blue economy also unveiled in the event.
- ❖ The blueprint outlines strategic initiatives are aimed at enhancing port facilities, promoting sustainable practices, and facilitating international collaboration.
- ❖ The first Maritime India summit was held in 2016 in Mumbai while the Second Maritime Summit was held virtually in 2021.



Provisional Coal Statistics 2022-23

- ❖ The Ministry of Coal released the statistical publication "Provisional Coal Statistics for 2022-23.
- ❖ India exported 1.163 million tonnes of coal in 2022-23 to neighbouring countries, including Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan.
- ❖ Coal accounts for half of our energy consumption and remains the dominant fuel for power generation due to its reliability compared to other renewable energy sources.




One Nation, One Student ID

- ❖ The Union Education Ministry has started the process of introducing 'One Nation, One Student ID' for school students around the country.
- ❖ It will be a life-long ID that will track students' achievements and academic journeys.

- ❖ This new initiative is named as Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR).
- ❖ This is an Education Ecosystem Registry or an ‘EduLocker’.
- ❖ The APAAR being a lifelong ID number will make it easier for students to track their academic journey and achievements.
- ❖ They will be able to digitally store their exam results, learning outcomes, and co-curricular achievements, such as rankings in Olympiads or receiving specialised skills.

APAAR REGISTRY OF ACADEMIC FEATS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It will help track educational progress and achievements of students ➤ Students can digitally store all achievements, like exam results, learning outcomes, achievements in Olympiad, sports, skill training etc ➤ Students can use the credit score for their higher education or employment purpose in future 	 <p>available to entities engaged in various educational activities, scholarships, educational institutions</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Aadhaar number will be masked while sharing data with other government users ➤ Personal information, such as name, address, age, date of birth, gender and photograph, will be made 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It will make transfer from one school to another easy ➤ It will help monitor students dropping out and mainstreaming them. New students entering the education system can also be tracked

Apna Chandrayaan



- ❖ Union education ministry will start special course modules on Chandrayaan and launch an education website 'Apna Chandrayaan'.
- ❖ It offers activity-based support material such as quiz and puzzles inspired by the Chandrayaan-3 Mission.
- ❖ Digital certificates will be issued for all those who score more than 70%, and the first 1000 winners will receive age-appropriate books.

Heat Wave Hotspots of India



- ❖ A study by the Mahamana Centre of Excellence in Climate Change Research analysed future changes in heat wave characteristics over India for mid-term (2041-2060).
- ❖ It was also the study of the long-term (2081-2099) future under the RCP 4.5 and RCP 8.5 emission scenarios respectively.
- ❖ The Northwestern, central and south-central India emerged as future heat wave hotspots with the largest increase in the south-central region.
- ❖ Representative Concentration Pathways (RCP) are used to capture future trends on how concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere will change in future as a result of human activities.
- ❖ In the RCP 4.5 scenario, emissions peak during the mid-century and decline at the end of the century.
- ❖ The RCP 8.5 is the highest baseline scenario in which emissions rise throughout the century.

Employment Outlook of the Country



Data for Development

- ❖ The National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation published the Employment Outlook of the country for the period of September 2017 and August 2023.
- ❖ India's formal sector employment jumped by 0.4 million in the October-December quarter of 2021.
- ❖ A total of 36,53,544 new subscribers joined and contributed in the NPS the central government, state governments, and corporate schemes during September, 2017 to June, 2022.
- ❖ The total number of workers employed across nine sectors was 31.4 million.

PM SVANidhi Scheme

Empowering Street Vendors with PM SVANidhi Scheme



Salient Features

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

- ❖ The central Government launched micro-credit scheme, PM SVANidhi for the street vendors in 2020.
- ❖ It has helped promote ‘inclusive entrepreneurship’ and proven to be a gender equalizer.
- ❖ Almost 75% loan beneficiaries come from non-general category.
- ❖ OBCs account for 44% of total disbursement, while SCs/STs account for 22%
- ❖ 43% of the total beneficiaries are women.

INS Imphal



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

District officers under the POSH Act

- ❖ Recently, the Supreme Court of India (SC) has directed Ministry of Women and Child Development of all states/UTs to appoint district officers under the POSH Act.
- ❖ POSH Act stands for Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.
- ❖ It aims to address the issue of sexual harassment faced by women in the workplace.
- ❖ This act mandates States to appoint an officer in every district who would play a “pivotal” role in the implementation of the Act.

- ❖ The District Officer would constitute Local Complaints Committees (LCCs) to receive complaints from women employed in small establishments with less than 10 workers.
- ❖ A District Officer's responsibilities also included appointing nodal officers under the Act in rural, tribal and urban areas.



ISRC Report on Semiconductor Sector

- ❖ The recent release of the 'Indian Semiconductor Report and Roadmap (ISRC)' promises a blueprint for India's dominance in the semiconductor sector.
- ❖ The ISRC aims to boost India's semiconductor manufacturing industry through a \$6.7 billion investment.
- ❖ The report outlines a roadmap to achieve 20% market share in global semiconductor design and manufacturing by 2030.
- ❖ The semiconductor industry is the heart of technological progress, impacting everything from smartphones to military systems.
- ❖ India has been a net importer of semiconductors.
- ❖ It is relying heavily on countries like Taiwan, South Korea, and China for its chip needs.

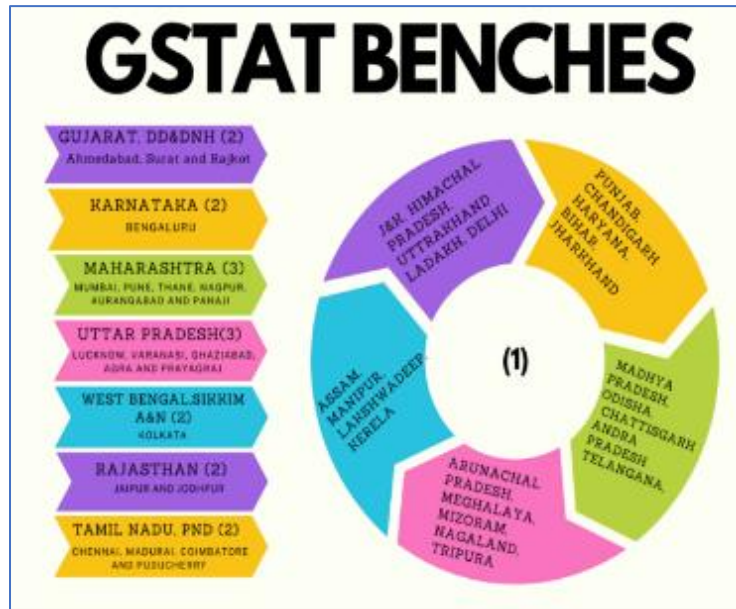
Compensation for Sewer Deaths and Disabilities

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

- ❖ The Supreme Court has directed the Centre and states to take appropriate measures, frame policies and issue directions to ensure that manual sewer cleaning is completely eradicated in a phased manner.
- ❖ It also asked the central and state governments to pay Rs 30 lakh as compensation to the next of kin of those who die while cleaning sewers.
- ❖ The previous amount was fixed, that is, Rs 10 lakh was made applicable in 1993.
- ❖ For the case of sewer victims suffering from any disability, the minimum compensation shall not be less than Rs 10 lakh.
- ❖ If the disability is permanent and renders the victim economically helpless, the compensation shall not be less than Rs 20 lakh.

Appellate Tribunal rules 2023

- ❖ The Ministry of Finance has issued Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (Appointment and Conditions of Service of President and Members) Rules, 2023.
- ❖ It provides a framework for the selection, tenure, and benefits of the tribunal's key personnel.
- ❖ These rules shall apply to the President, Judicial Member, Technical Member (Centre) and Technical Member (State) of the Principal Bench and State Bench of Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal.
- ❖ The maximum age limit for the president has been set at 70 years, while members should not exceed 67 years of age.
- ❖ The Finance Ministry had previously announced the establishment of 31 benches of GSTAT.



Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2023

- ❖ The Supreme Court has protected the right of parenthood of a woman, suffering from a rare medical condition, by staying the action of a law.
- ❖ Due to the complicated health condition, the petitioner women cannot produce her own eggs/oocytes.
- ❖ She suffers from a rare medical condition known as Mayer Rokitansky Kuster Hauser (MRKH) syndrome.
- ❖ However, a government notification on March 14 this year amended the law, banning the use of donor gametes.
- ❖ It said “intending couples” must use their own gametes for surrogacy.
- ❖ The petition was filed in the Supreme Court challenging the amendment as a violation of a woman’s right to parenthood.
- ❖ The 2023 amendment contradicted the Sections 2(r) and 4 of the Surrogacy Act, 2021.
- ❖ These sections recognised the situation when a medical condition would require a couple to opt for gestational surrogacy in order to become parents.
- ❖ The SC interpreted the law to mean that the child would be considered genetically related to the husband when Rule 14(a) applied, allowing the gestational surrogacy process to proceed.

Easing the path

On March 14, 2023, government notified amendments to the law to ban the use of donor gametes, saying 'intending couples' must use their own gametes for surrogacy

■ Supreme Court says the amendment cannot contradict Rule 14(a), which specifically recognises the absence of a uterus or any allied condition as a medical indication necessitating gestational surrogacy



The amendment which is now coming in the way of the Intending couple and preventing them from achieving parenthood through surrogacy, we find, is, prima facie contrary to what is intended under the main provisions of the Surrogacy Act both in form as well as in substance," says SC Bench

INTERNATIONAL

Refined map Zealandia

- ❖ An international team of geologists and seismologists has created a newly refined map of Zealandia.
- ❖ It is considered to be the 'eighth continent of the world' that is beneath the Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ The Zealandia is a vast continent of 1.89 million sq miles (4.9 million sq km) that is around six times the size of Madagascar.
- ❖ If classified as a microcontinent, Zealandia would be the world's largest micro continent.
- ❖ It is believed that 94% of Zealandia under the sea.
- ❖ The remaining 6% make up New Zealand and surrounding islands.
- ❖ Zealandia is also substantially larger than the Arabian Peninsula (3,237,500 km² or 1,250,000 sq mi), the world's largest peninsula, and the Indian subcontinent (4,300,000 km² or 1,700,000 sq mi).



United Nations mission to Nagorno-Karabakh

- ❖ A United Nations mission has arrived in Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan.
- ❖ Almost the entire ethnic-Armenian population fled since Baku recaptured the breakaway enclave.
- ❖ It marks the first time in about 30 years that the international body has gained access to the region.
- ❖ Armenian separatists, who had controlled the region for three decades, agreed to disarm, dissolve their government and reintegrate with Baku.
- ❖ The separatist Armenians have claimed part of Karabakh – internationally recognised as Azerbaijani territory – as their ancestral homeland.
- ❖ Armenia, a country of 2.8 million, faces a major challenge housing the sudden influx of refugees.



Whoosh' high-speed railway

- ❖ Indonesia is inaugurating Southeast Asia's first bullet train, named "Whoosh."
- ❖ It is a significant component of China's Belt and Road infrastructure initiative.
- ❖ This project is set to drastically reduce travel time between Jakarta and Bandung from three hours to 40 minutes.
- ❖ The Whoosh trains are set to be Southeast Asia's fastest, reaching speeds of up to 350 kph (217 mph).



Armenia - International Criminal Court



- ❖ The Armenian parliament voted to join the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- ❖ The Armenian lawmakers basically voted to ratify the Rome Statute, the founding treaty of the ICC.
- ❖ Countries that have signed and ratified the Rome Statute that created the ICC are bound to arrest Mr. Putin.

- ❖ He was indicted for war crimes connected to the deportation of children from Ukraine, if he sets foot on their soil.
- ❖ Armenia later sought to assure Russia that Mr. Putin would not be arrested if he entered the country.
- ❖ In 2020, Moscow brokered a deal that ended a six-week war between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Operation Al-Aqsa Flood

- ❖ Hamas militants fired over 5,000 rockets into Israel from the Gaza Strip.
- ❖ They are declaring it as a “Operation Al-Aqsa Flood” against Israeli occupation.
- ❖ Israel also declared a "state of war" after a stunning attack from Hamas from the land, sea, and air.
- ❖ Israel has enforced a stringent blockade on Gaza since 2007.
- ❖ Hamas are an Islamic militant group that opposes Israel, seized control of the territory in 2007.
- ❖ The West Bank has been under Israeli military occupation since the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict.



AIBD presidential

- ❖ India has been elected president of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) General Conference (GC) for the third successive term.
- ❖ This was a first in the history of AIBD.
- ❖ AIBD was established in 1977 under the auspices of UNESCO.
- ❖ The AIBD currently has 92 member organisations from across 44 countries.

- ❖ It will be including 26 government members (countries) represented by 48 broadcasting authorities and broadcasters, and 44 affiliates (organisations) represented by 28 countries and regions in Asia, Pacific, Europe, Africa, Arab States and North America.
- ❖ India is one of the founding members of AIBD.
- ❖ Prasar Bharati, India's public service broadcaster, is the representative body of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India

U.S. Speaker Kevin McCarthy



- ❖ The House of Representatives voted to remove Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., from his position.
- ❖ It is the first time in U.S. history that a speaker of the House has been voted out of office.
- ❖ He was accused of making a "secret side deal" that weekend with President Biden on Ukraine aid.

Chair of Indian Ocean Rim Association

- ❖ Several Foreign Ministers, including those of India, Bangladesh, Mauritius, Iran, Malaysia and South Africa participated in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers meeting in Colombo.
- ❖ The Council of Ministers meeting in Colombo witnessed the participation of 16 Ministers.
- ❖ Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Ali Sabry was chairing the Council, the highest decision-making body of the IORA.
- ❖ Sri Lanka is taking over from the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, the current Chair, for the next two years.

- ❖ IORA was established in 1997 as an intergovernmental organisation of States on the rim of the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ It has members from Africa, West Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Oceania.
- ❖ The Association’s membership has expanded to 23 member states and 11 dialogue partners.

World Heritage Sites in Danger

- ❖ UNESCO placed the World Heritage Sites located in Ukrainian cities of Kyiv and Lviv on its list of places “in danger.”
- ❖ It is the first step towards excluding these sites from UNESCO's World Heritage List which features 1,157 sites.
- ❖ It opens the door to additional financial and technical aid in order to implement new emergency measures.
- ❖ Saint Sophia Cathedral, present in Kyiv, dates back to the 11th century and is among the best-known landmarks of the city.
- ❖ Lviv, the western Ukrainian city near the Polish border, was founded in the late Middle Ages.
- ❖ This historic centre was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1998.

Multilateral Treaty to Address Digital Services Taxes

TARGET DEADLINES	
Pillar One	Pillar Two
Early 2022 – Text of a Multilateral Convention (MLC) and Explanatory Statement to implement Amount A of Pillar One	November 2021 – Model rules to define scope and mechanics for the GloBE rules
Early 2022 – Model rules for domestic legislation necessary for the implementation of Pillar One	November 2021 – Model treaty provision to give effect to the subject to tax rule
Mid 2022 – High-level signing ceremony for the Multilateral Convention	Mid 2022 – Multilateral Instrument (MLI) for implementation of the STTR in relevant bilateral treaties
End 2022 – Finalisation of work on Amount B for Pillar One	End 2022 – Implementation framework to facilitate co-ordinated implementation of the GloBE rules
2023 – Implementation of the Two-Pillar Solution	

- ❖ The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) recently published a multilateral treaty recently.

- ❖ This treaty has the potential to replace a patchwork of national digital services taxes if it gains sufficient support from countries.
- ❖ The treaty release comes as a significant development in the ongoing efforts to reform the cross-border taxation of multinational corporations.
- ❖ This marks the first pillar of a two-pillar overhaul of international taxation rules, which was collectively agreed upon by nearly 140 countries in 2021.

Beijing convention on the judicial sale of ships

- ❖ 15 countries, including China, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Switzerland, signed the UN Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sales of Ships.
- ❖ It aims to promote legal certainty and predictability at the international level by creating a uniform regime for the international effects of 'judicial' sales of ships.
- ❖ The Beijing Convention on the Judicial Sale of Ships, as it is now known, was developed by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).
- ❖ It addresses the problem of bona fide new owners and those financing the purchase of vessels.
- ❖ For instance, it is dealing with previous creditors laying claim to the ship as security for a loan.
- ❖ The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) acting as the repository for these notices and certificates of judicial sale.

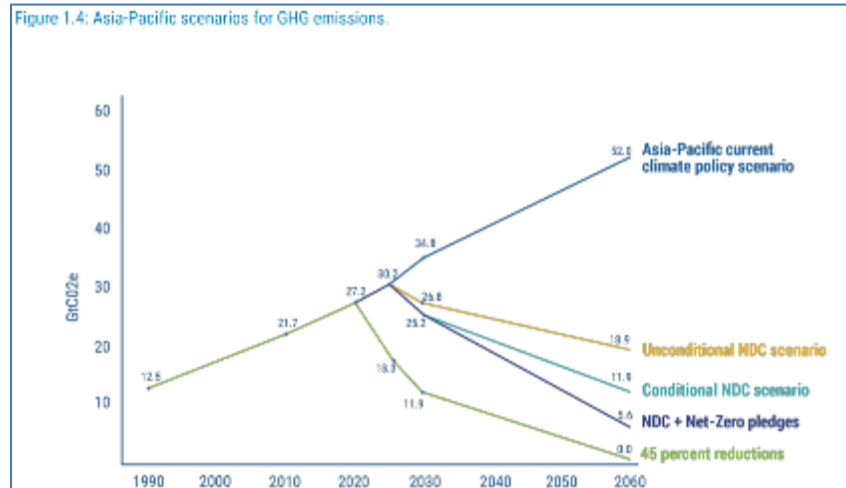
Europe's First Private Rocket Launch



- ❖ Spain's company PLD Space launched Miura-1 rocket successfully.

- ❖ This is marking Europe's first fully private rocket launch.
- ❖ Miura-1, a recoverable rocket, was launched from a site in southwest Spain.
- ❖ The primary objective of the Miura-1 rocket's debut mission was to conduct a suborbital test flight.

Sustainable Finance: Bridging the Gap in Asia and the Pacific



- ❖ It was a new report by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has put forward 10 principles for action for policymakers, regulators and private financiers.
- ❖ Only 17 of the 51 Asia-Pacific countries party to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change have assessed and reported their financial needs to meet their Nationally Determined Contributions.
- ❖ Only seven have broken down financial needs between adaptation and mitigation.
- ❖ Average economic losses in the region from disaster-related and other natural hazards are expected to rise to \$1.1 trillion in a moderate climate-change scenario.
- ❖ 1.4 trillion USD in a worst-case scenario of above.

Haiti security mission

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



Putin's visit to Kyrgyzstan

- ❖ Vladimir Putin called to strengthen military ties with Kyrgyzstan in a trip to the Central Asian country.
- ❖ This is his first foreign visit since the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for him in March.
- ❖ President Putin is wanted by the court over the deportation of Ukrainian children.
- ❖ Its ruling requires members of the ICC, which does not include Kyrgyzstan, to make the arrest if he sets foot on their territory.
- ❖ Kyrgyzstan is part of the Collective Security Treaty Organization
- ❖ It is a NATO-style military alliance of ex-Soviet states led by Russia.

World's First Green Bond

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



New members to UNHRC

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

Elimination of lymphatic filariasis

- ❖ Lao People's Democratic Republic has eliminated lymphatic filariasis (LF).
- ❖ It is a disease that cripples and has significant social and economic impact on the affected communities.
- ❖ This is the country's second neglected tropical disease (NTD) to be eliminated in six years, following the elimination of trachoma.

- ❖ Lao PDR is now the second country after Bangladesh to eliminate lymphatic filariasis (LF) in 2023.
- ❖ Nineteen countries have been able to eliminate lymphatic filariasis (LF).



Amazon Wildfires in 2023

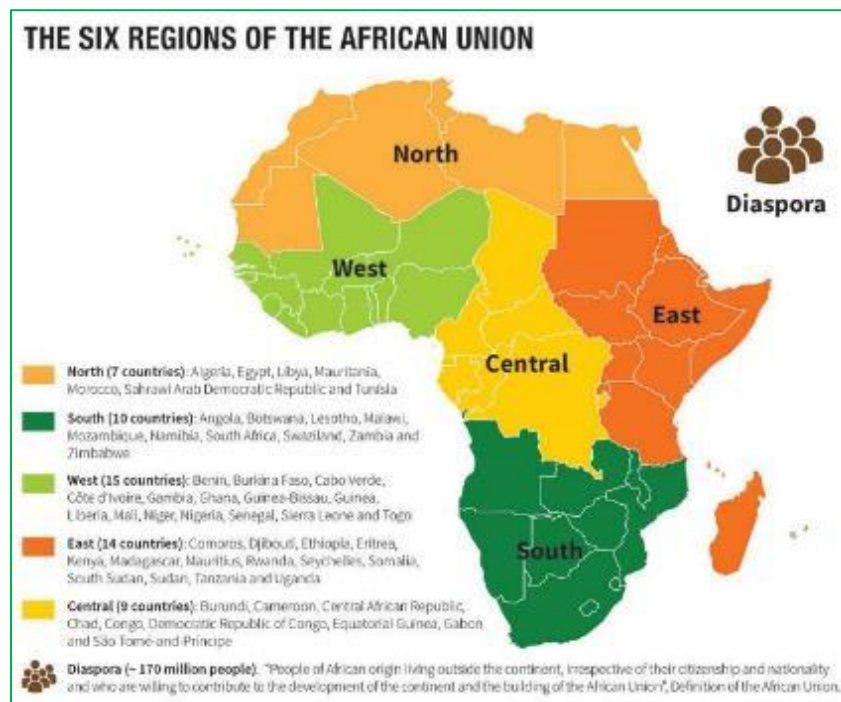


- ❖ The number of wildfires in the Amazon forests in the first half of 2023 was 10 per cent higher than in 2022.
- ❖ In June 2023, the number of active fires in the Amazon reached the highest peak since 2007.
- ❖ Indeed, only 19 per cent of the fires were related to recent deforestation during January-June 2023, down from 39 per cent in 2022.
- ❖ Hot and dry conditions wrought by El Nino this year also fuelled this occurrence.

- ❖ Deforestation rates have been falling in 2023, with alerts 42 per cent lower between January and July than in the same period of 2022.

African credit ratings agency

- ❖ The African Union plans to launch a new African credit rating agency next year.
- ❖ This is due to its concerns about what it views as unfair ratings given to African countries.
- ❖ It aims to provide additional context for investors when making decisions about purchasing African bonds or extending private loans to countries.
- ❖ The agency will generate its own evaluation of lending risks associated with African countries.



China's Nuclear Arsenal Buildup

- ❖ A Pentagon report on China's military power says Beijing is exceeding previous projections of how quickly it is building up its nuclear weapons arsenal.
- ❖ China may be pursuing a new intercontinental missile system using conventional arms.
- ❖ Last year's report warned that Beijing was rapidly modernizing its nuclear force and was on track to nearly quadruple the number of warheads it has to 1,500 by 2035.

- ❖ The 2023 report finds that Beijing is on pace to field more than 1,000 nuclear warheads by 2030.
- ❖ The United States has 3,750 active nuclear warheads.
- ❖ China's military spending for 2023 rose 7.2% to 1.58 trillion yuan, or \$216 billion in U.S. dollars.



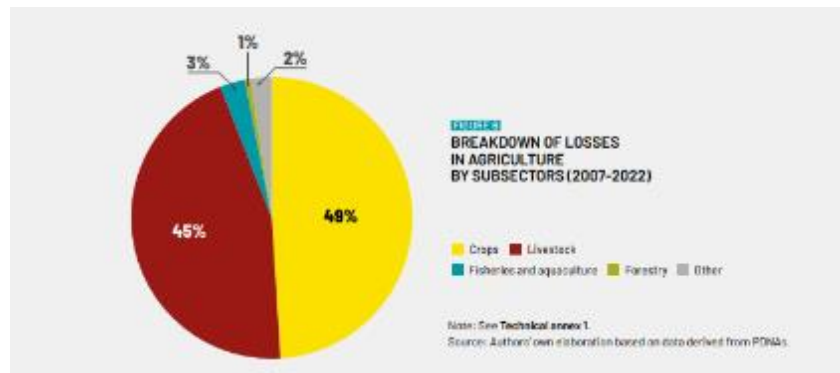
UN Bonn summit 2023

- ❖ United Nations (UN) Conference in the German city of Bonn adopted a new global framework to reduce environmental risks from chemicals and waste.
- ❖ Countries also committed to phase out the most harmful chemicals at the fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management or ICCM5.
- ❖ The Global Framework on Chemicals sets concrete targets and guidelines across the lifecycle of chemicals.
- ❖ The framework is based around 28 targets, designed to improve responsible management of chemicals and waste.
- ❖ National governments committed to formulating policies and regulations in order to reduce chemical pollution by 2030 as well as promoting safer alternatives.
- ❖ Industries also pledged to manage chemicals in order to reduce pollution and its adverse impacts.
- ❖ The aim of the framework is to phase out lethal agricultural pesticides by 2035.

The Impact of Disasters on Agriculture and Food Security

- ❖ The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) released a its first-of-its-kind report.

- ❖ The world has also lost over \$120 billion per year which amounts to five per cent of the annual global agricultural GDP.
- ❖ Disasters like floods, droughts, insect infestations, storms, disease and war have caused \$123 billion every year in lost food production between 1991 and 2021.
- ❖ It would have been enough to feed up to half a billion people per year.
- ❖ Natural and man-made disasters have led to \$3.8 trillion in crop and livestock losses over the last three decades.
- ❖ The average annual grain losses amounted to 69 million tonnes in the last three decades or so.
- ❖ It is equivalent to the entire cereal production of France in 2021.
- ❖ The world lost some 40 million tonnes of fruit and vegetable production and 16 million tonnes of meat, dairy and eggs to disasters.
- ❖ Around 23 per cent of losses due to disasters were sustained in the agricultural sector.



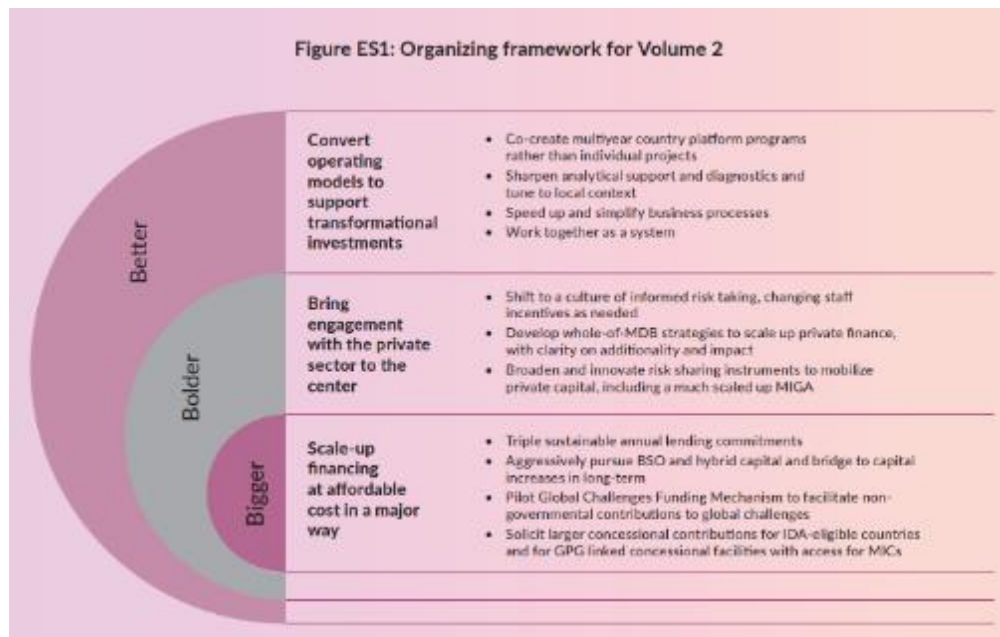
ASEAN Defence Meeting Plus Counter-Terrorism Exercise

- ❖ ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) Plus Expert Working Group (EWG) on Counter Terrorism Field Training Exercise (FTX) 2023 was held in Russia.
- ❖ It is a multinational joint military exercise being hosted by Russia as a co-chair of the EWG along with Myanmar.
- ❖ Since 2017, the ADMM Plus meets annually to allow dialogue and cooperation among Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Plus countries.

Roadmap for 'bigger, bolder, better' MDBs

- ❖ The independent expert group, which was led by former US treasury secretary Lawrence Summers and chair of the 15th Finance Commission NK Singh, submitted volume two of its report.

- ❖ The report was titled ‘The Triple Agenda: A Roadmap for Better, Bolder and Bigger MDBs’.
- ❖ Volume one of the reports, submitted to the G20 ministers in July, had recommended tripling the annual lending levels of MDBs to \$390 billion by 2030.
- ❖ The recommendations aim to enhance MDBs’ capabilities and optimize their functioning to drive global development priorities more efficiently.
- ❖ Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) are institutions whose members include multiple developed and developing countries.



1st Avian flu in Antarctic

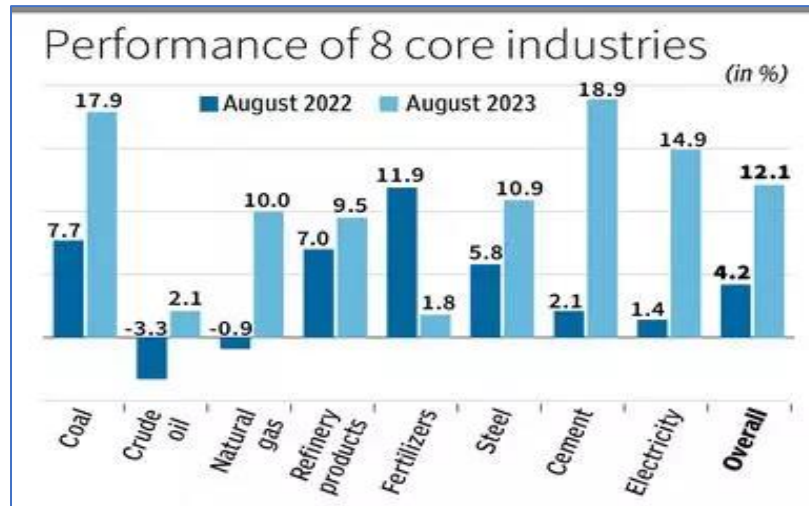
- ❖ Scientists have detected the presence of avian flu for the first time in the Antarctic region.
- ❖ It is raising concerns for remote populations of penguins and seals.
- ❖ The viral disease HPIA or avian influenza, especially the H5 and H7 strains, mostly affects birds.
- ❖ These strains are highly pathogenic and have been reported in domestic poultry.
- ❖ It is resulting in high mortality if they manage to reach wild bird populations.
- ❖ The ongoing outbreak of HPAI H5N1 was first reported in 2022.
- ❖ In 2022 and 2023, HPAI H5N1 spread rapidly in South America.



ECONOMY

Core sector output growth

- ❖ Output at India's eight core infrastructure sectors climbed by a combined 12.1% in August.
- ❖ This is the second month in a row that all eight core sectors.
- ❖ They constitute about 40% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), recorded an uptick, after a 14-month streak of uneven trends among the sectors.
- ❖ In August, cement output grew 18.9%, the largest uptick since November 2022.
- ❖ Fertilisers was the only sector to record the slowest growth in at least a year, rising 1.8% in August.



50-Year Bond

- ❖ India's government had maintained its plans to borrow 6.55 trillion rupees (\$78.72 billion) through bond issues.
- ❖ For this it has introduced a new security with a 50-year maturity.
- ❖ India has projected gross market borrowing at 15.43 trillion rupees for the current fiscal year.
- ❖ The borrowing will be done through bonds with maturities of three, five, seven, 10, 14, 30 and 40 years.
- ❖ India plans to raise 300 billion rupees through the newly introduced 50-year bond.



Change in Angel Tax Rules

BROADENING THE SCOPE

- > Final angel tax rules have broadened the scope of valuation methodology by offering foreign investors five additional methods
- > I-T department also brought in compulsorily convertible preference shares, often seen as a key element of startup financing
- > The startup ecosystem lauds the tax department for clarifying the valuation methodologies
- > Several investors had put their investment decisions on hold, pending the notification of the rules

Overall, the trajectory is to align tax valuation methodologies with permissible exchange control norms

SUMIT SINGHANIA | DELOITTE INDIA PARTNER

- ❖ The Income Tax Department has notified new angel tax rules that comprise a mechanism to evaluate the shares issued by unlisted startups to investors.
- ❖ The notification has introduced an additional sub-clause addressing Compulsorily Convertible Preference Shares (CCPS).
- ❖ Angel tax (30.6 per cent) is levied when an unlisted company issue shares to an investor at a price higher than its fair market value (FMV).
- ❖ Earlier, it was imposed only on investments made by a resident investor.
- ❖ But Budget 2023-24 proposed to extend angel tax even to non-resident investors from April 1, 2024.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NASA's OSIRIS-Rex

- ❖ Recently, NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft dropped off a capsule over the earth and landed in Utah in the U.S.
- ❖ It may contain around 250 grams of rocks and dust that OSIRIS-REx had collected from the surface of 101955 Bennu.
- ❖ OSIRIS-REx was launched toward the 1,650-foot-wide (500 meters) Bennu in September 2016.
- ❖ Bennu is an asteroid orbiting the sun (with a period of 436 days).
- ❖ Bennu could smash into the earth between 2178 and 2290.

Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus

- ❖ Indian oil unveiled the nation's first green hydrogen-powered bus in Delhi.
- ❖ Green hydrogen is a sustainable alternative and does not emit polluting gases.
- ❖ Only water vapour is emitted as a by-product when hydrogen is burnt, which means, no emission of polluting gases.
- ❖ Four cylinders with a capacity of 30 kg can run the buses for 350 km.
- ❖ It takes only 10-12 minutes for the four tanks to fill.



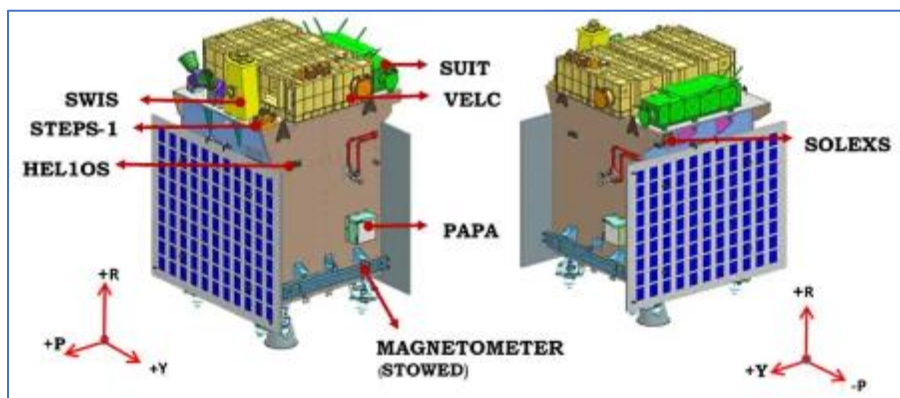
No Signals from Chandrayaan-3

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has received no signals from the Chandrayaan-3 mission's Vikram lander and Pragyan rover.
- ❖ All the modules of the mission are solar powered and were designed to last for just one lunar day or about 14 days on Earth.
- ❖ The mission's electronics were not designed to withstand the extreme nighttime conditions on the Moon.
- ❖ The temperature drops well below minus 200 degrees Celsius near the lunar south pole where the lander and rover are.
- ❖ The Russian Luna-25 mission had a plutonium radioisotope device, which can be thought of as a kind of nuclear battery.
- ❖ It may help to generate heat that can keep instruments within an operable temperature.
- ❖ The Vikram Lander and Pragyan Rover have no such provisions.



Aditya L1 - STEPS

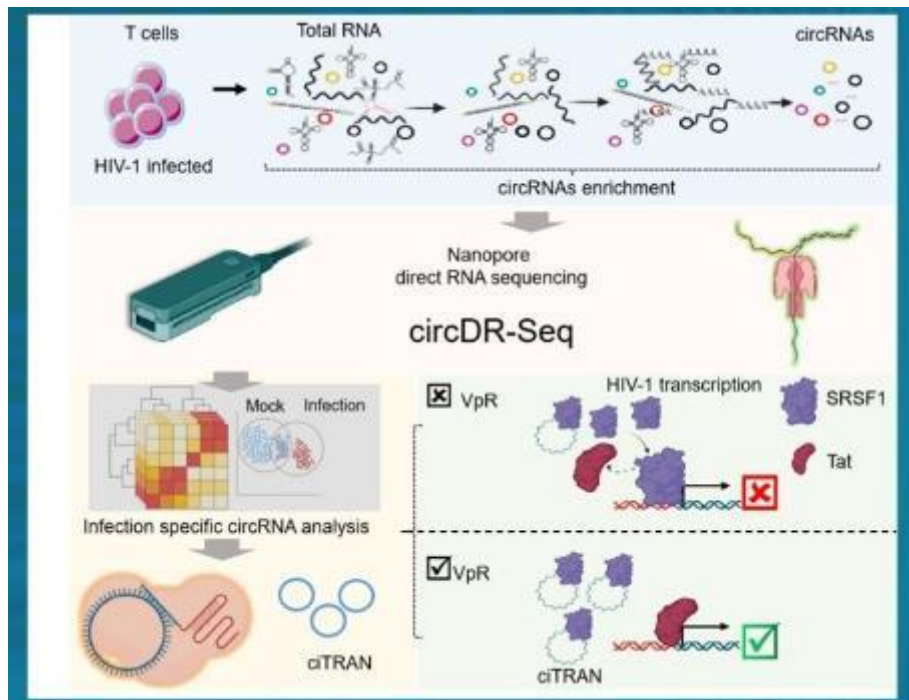
- ❖ The Supra Thermal & Energetic Particle Spectrometer (STEPS) instrument has begun measuring supra-thermal and energetic ions and electrons.
- ❖ They measure the supra-thermal and energetic ions and electrons at distances greater than 50,000 km from Earth.
- ❖ This distance is equivalent to more than eight times the Earth's radius.
- ❖ This data helps scientists analyse the behaviour of particles surrounding Earth.
- ❖ ISRO had launched Aditya-L1 on September 2 using a PSLV-C57 rocket.



ciTRAN

- ❖ Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) in Bhopal have identified a Circular RNA, ciTRAN.
- ❖ The functional consequences of circular RNA (circRNA) expression on HIV-1 replication are largely unknown.
- ❖ Circular RNA plays a pivotal role in regulating gene expression and is essential for various biological processes.

- ❖ Establishing how ciTRAN modulates the virus's transcription process, could potentially lead to novel drugs and therapies to fight HIV-1.



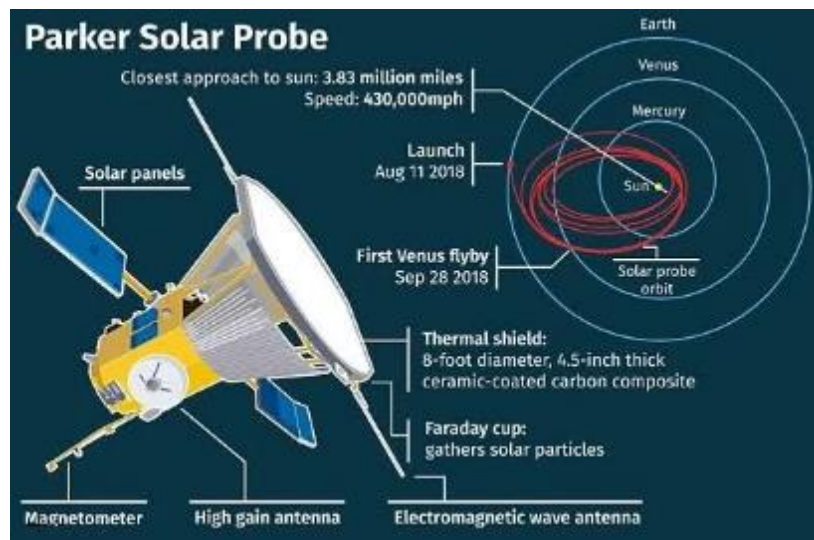
Aditya L1 - out of earth influence

- ❖ The Aditya-L1 space craft, which is headed to the Lagrangian 1 (L1) point, has escaped the sphere of Earth's influence.
- ❖ Aditya-L1 is India's first space-based observatory to study the Sun.
- ❖ The spacecraft has travelled beyond a distance of 9.2 lakh kilometres from Earth.
- ❖ It is now navigating its path towards the Sun-Earth Lagrange Point 1 (L1).
- ❖ L1 is about 1.5 million km from the Earth.
- ❖ The distance of L1 from Earth is approximately 1% of the Earth-Sun distance.



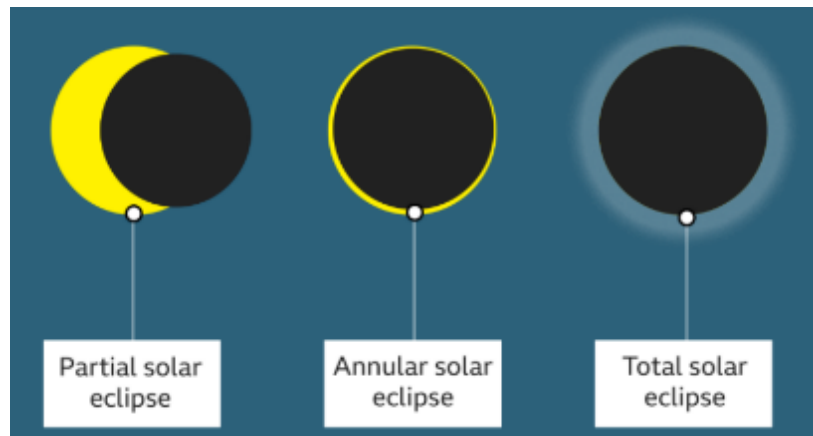
Parker Solar Probe's New Speed Record

- ❖ NASA's Parker Solar Probe has hurtling through the Solar System at an astonishing speed of 635,266 kilometres (394,736 miles) per hour.
- ❖ This milestone was reached during the probe's 17th orbit around the Sun.
- ❖ It collects crucial data about the Sun's charged particle winds and magnetic fields.
- ❖ Notably, this speed surpasses its previous record of 586,863.4 kilometres (364,660 miles) per hour, achieved just three years ago.
- ❖ It is also ventured to a distance of just 7.26 million kilometres above the Sun's scorching plasma surface.



'Ring of Fire' - Solar Eclipse

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



CO₂ on Jupiter's moon Europa

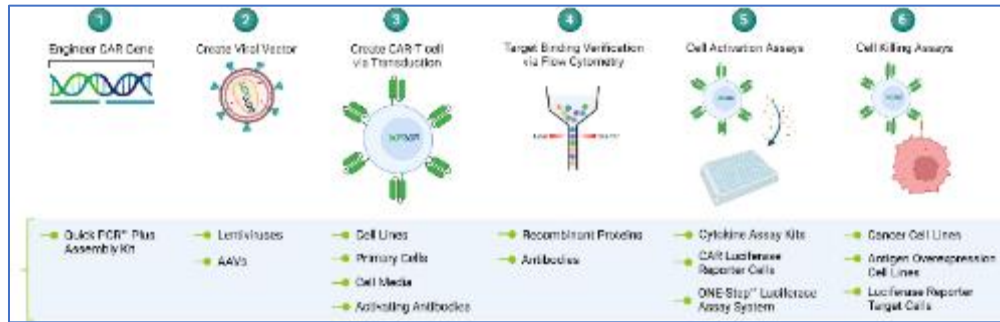


- ❖ Carbon dioxide detected on Jupiter's moon Europa comes from the vast ocean beneath its icy shell by James Webb Space Telescope.
- ❖ The most CO₂ was in the 1,800 kilometre-wide (1,120 miles) area called Tara Regio.
- ❖ Scientists are confident there is a huge ocean of saltwater kilometers below Europa's ice-covered surface.
- ❖ But whether it rose up from the ocean below remained an open question.

NexCAR 19

- ❖ ImmunoACT, an IIT-Bombay incubated startup, had developed a CAR-T Cell Therapy drug named NexCAR 19 for cancer therapy.
- ❖ CAR-T Cell Therapy is an innovative form of cancer treatment that involves genetically modifying a patient's T cells to fight cancer cells.

- ❖ NexCAR 19 is intended for the treatment of lymphomas and leukaemia, which are types of blood cancers.



New evolutionary law

SCIENTISTS SAY CHARLES DARWIN'S EVOLUTIONARY LAW GOES BEYOND LIVING BEINGS

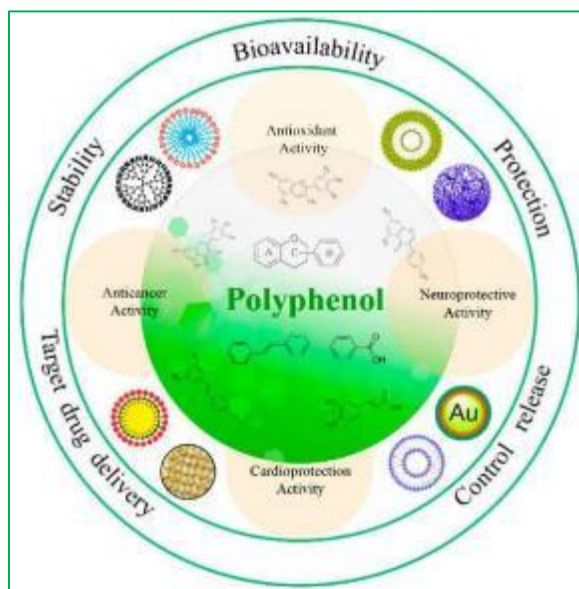
A new paper by scientists says that evolutionary laws are not only for the living beings, but also influence atoms, minerals and planets.

- ❖ Scientists have proposed a new evolutionary law that can explain the evolution of living and non-living entities, from minerals to stars.
- ❖ As life evolved from single-celled to multi-celled organisms, Earth's minerals, for example, became more complex, creating diversity.
- ❖ This, in turn, drove biological evolution.
- ❖ Biodiversity leads to mineral diversity and vice-versa.
- ❖ The two systems, biological and mineral, interacted to create life as we know it today.
- ❖ Evolution occurs when a new configuration or a new arrangement of atoms and molecules works well and functions improve.
- ❖ Darwin defined function as primarily with survival.
- ❖ But the new study highlights at least three kinds of functions that occur in nature.
- ❖ The first function is stability, which means systems made up of stable arrangements of atoms or molecules will continue to survive.

- ❖ The second one includes dynamic systems with energy supply.
- ❖ The third is “novelty” — the tendency of evolving systems to explore new configurations or arrangements that can give rise to new behaviours or characteristics.

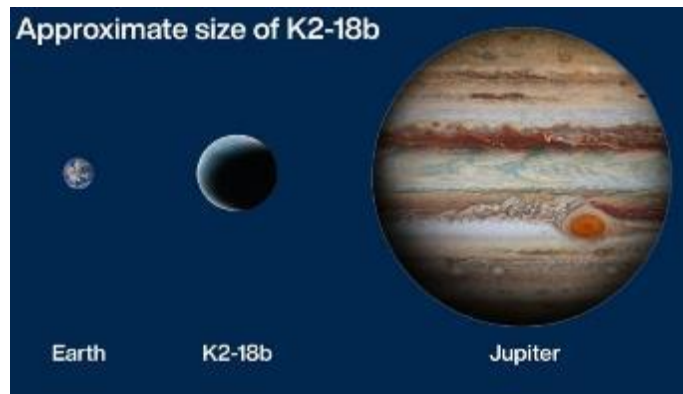
Plant-Based Polyphenols

- ❖ Scientists have found that highly abundant naturally occurring plant-based polyphenols (PPs) like Tannic acid found in twigs of trees like Chestnut and Oak can modulate the ferroptosis-AD axis.
- ❖ This is a safe, cost-effective strategy for combating Alzheimer’s disease (AD) and reduce the societal burden of this debilitating neurodegenerative disorder.
- ❖ AD is a widely prevalent progressive neurodegenerative disorder marked by memory and cognitive decline.

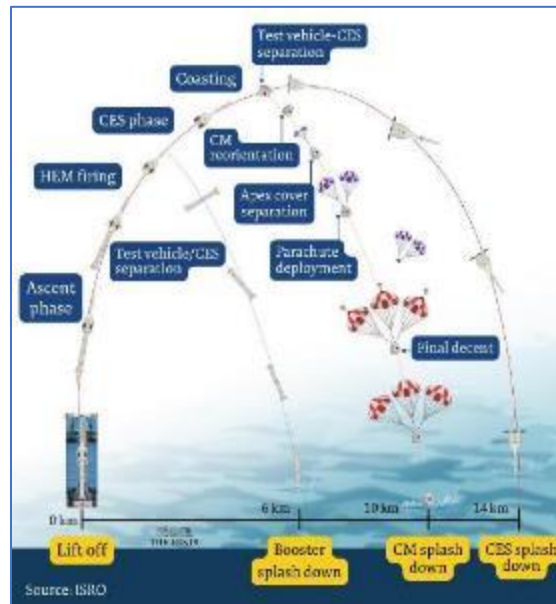


Methane and Co2 in K2-18 b

- ❖ James Webb Space Telescope data revealed that the presence of carbon-bearing molecules like methane and carbon dioxide in planet K2-18 b.
- ❖ The planet is 8.6 times as massive and has a radius 2.6 times that of Earth.
- ❖ Its surface could be covered with water oceans and that it has a hydrogen-rich atmosphere.
- ❖ The planet K2-18 b orbits the cool dwarf star K2-18 in the goldilocks zone.
- ❖ The planet is about 120 light-years away from us in the constellation Leo.



Gaganyaan TV-D1 Mission

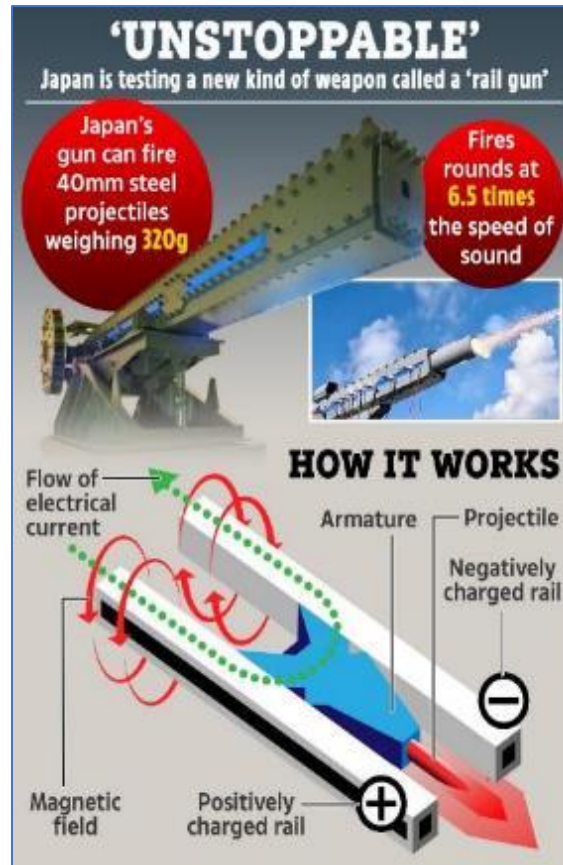


- ❖ Gaganyaan’s first Flight Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1) was successfully accomplished by ISRO.
- ❖ The TV-D1 flight was aims to demonstrate the performance of the Crew Escape System (CES).
- ❖ The Crew Escape System took the crew module away from the vehicle, and subsequent operations, including the touch-down at sea.

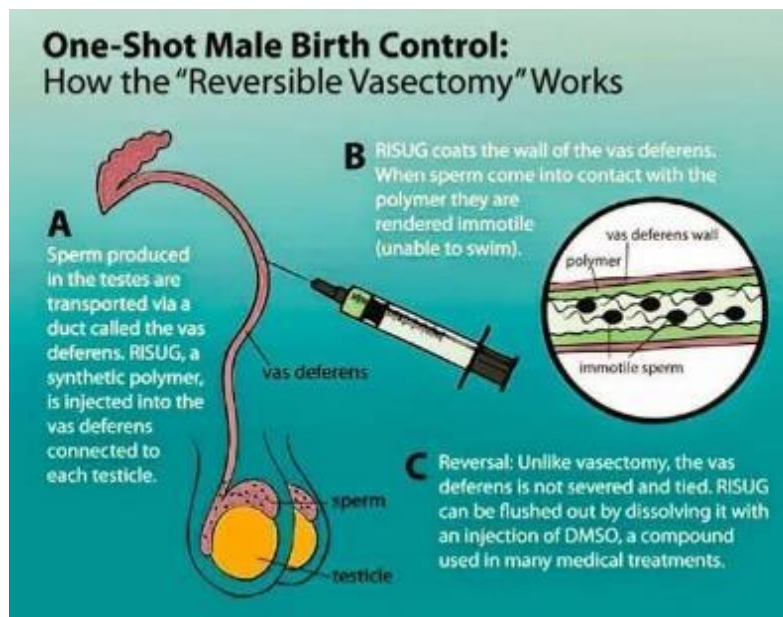
Electromagnetic Railgun

- ❖ Japan has successfully test-fired a world’s first medium-caliber maritime electromagnetic railgun from an offshore platform.
- ❖ A railgun is an electromagnetic weapon that can shoot projectiles at about Mach 7, or seven times the speed of sound.

- ❖ This can attack on targets like ships, missiles, and aircraft.



RISUG clinical trials



- ❖ India has successfully completed the clinical trials for the world's first injectable long-Term male contraceptive.
- ❖ The trials of 60 mg of the innovative Reversible Inhibition of Sperm under Guidance (RISUG) are conducted by the ICMR.
- ❖ RISUG presents the highest effectiveness compared to all other contraceptives both male and female.

Underwater “Ghost Particle” Detector

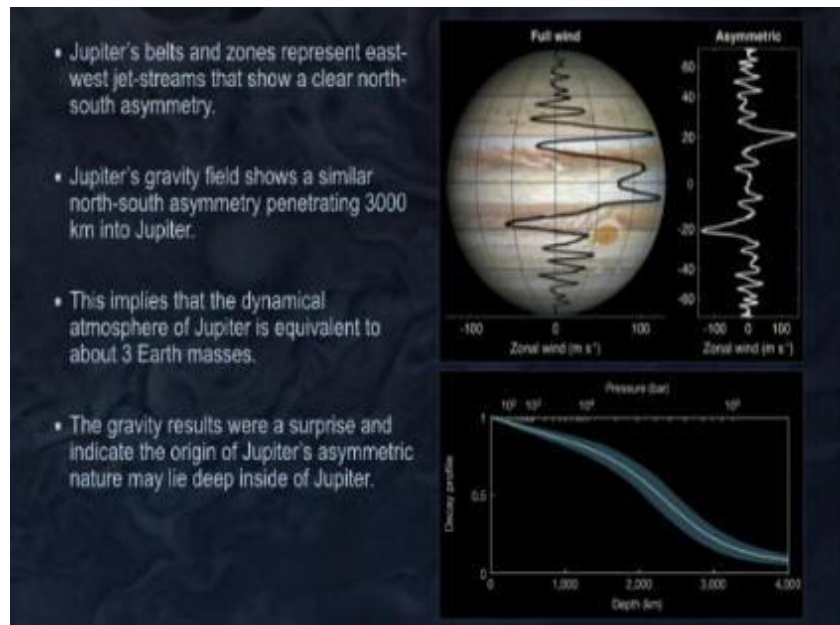
- ❖ China is building an enormous telescope in the western Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ Its job will be to detect “ghost particles”, also known as neutrinos.
- ❖ The telescope will be the largest of its kind.
- ❖ Neutrinos are a type of electron but, like neutrons, they do not have any charge.
- ❖ Ghost particles rarely interact with other particles.
- ❖ Sometimes they interact with water molecules, which is why China is building its ghost molecule telescope underwater.
- ❖ Right now, the largest neutrino-detecting telescope is the University of Madison-Wisconsin’s “IceCube” telescope, situated deep in the Antarctic.



Jet Stream in Jupiter

- ❖ A high-speed jet stream discovered in Jupiter’s lower stratosphere.
- ❖ It is an atmospheric layer sits over the planet’s equator about 25 miles (40 kilometers) above the clouds.
- ❖ James Webb Space Telescope’ data aided for this discovery.
- ❖ The jet stream spans more than 3,000 miles (4,800 kilometers) wide and moves at 320 miles per hour (515 kmph).

- ❖ It is equal to twice the rate seen with sustained winds of a Category 5 hurricane on Earth.



“Calixcoca” Vaccine

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

Chandrayaan - Ejecta Halo

- ❖ Chandrayaan-3 Lander descended towards the Moon's south pole on August 23, 2023.
- ❖ The Module generated a spectacular 'ejecta halo' of lunar material.
- ❖ Around 2.06 tonnes of this lunar epiregolith or material were ejected during the landing event.
- ❖ The material was displaced over an area of 108.4 m² around the landing site.
- ❖ Epiregolith is lunar rocks and soil, or regolith, or Moon dust.



InSight lander



- ❖ Mars's liquid iron core is likely to be surrounded by a fully molten silicate layer.
- ❖ The InSight Mars Lander used an instrument called the Seismic Experiment for Interior Structure (SEIS) to record seismic waves passing through Mars's interior.
- ❖ Unlike Earth, Mars has a molten layer around its core.
- ❖ The new studies found that the liquid iron-nickel core of Mars is surrounded by an approximately 150 km-thick layer of near-molten silicate rock.
- ❖ This top layer was previously misinterpreted as the surface of the core.
- ❖ The size of the core, to be about 30% smaller in volume than previously thought, with a diameter of about 2,080 miles.

ENVIRONMENT

Coimbatore's Kurichi tank

- ❖ Greater sand-plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*) has been spotted in an urban tank in Coimbatore.
- ❖ It is a long-distance migrant bird that normally prefers sea shores.
- ❖ It breeds during April to May in central Asia, late March to late May in Turkey and up to late June in Armenia.
- ❖ It winters in the shores of Indian and Australian Oceans after the breeding.
- ❖ Recently, a Red-necked phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*), a shore bird that breeds in the Arctic region, was sighted in Kurichi tank



Armageddon reedtail



- ❖ A new damselfly species has been discovered in Kerala's southern Western Ghats.
- ❖ Researchers from MIT-World Peace University in Pune has named the insect 'Armageddon reedtail' or *protosticta armageddonia*.
- ❖ This name aims to draw attention to the global decline of insect populations due to rampant habitat loss and climate change.

- ❖ The term ‘ecological armageddon’ is used to describe the devastating decline of insect populations around the world.
- ❖ This phenomenon, also called insect apocalypse, affects entire ecosystems because insects pollinate, cycle nutrients and provide food for other animals.

Tarantula

- ❖ The elusive Nilgiri large burrowing spider, *Haploclostus nilgirinus* could be threatened by the illegal trade in wildlife as well as by climate change.
- ❖ It is endemic to the Nilgiris hills of Western Ghats.
- ❖ It is a venomous species of tarantula, which is rarely seen and has never been studied.
- ❖ The spider is also believed to be venomous though reports of it biting people seem rare.



The State of the World’s Amphibians, 2023

- ❖ The world's amphibians are in grave danger, with 41% of species threatened with extinction.
- ❖ This is compared to 26.5% of mammals, 21.4% of reptiles and 12.9% of birds.
- ❖ It is an increase from the 39% reported in the last assessment conducted in 2004.
- ❖ Amphibians, including frogs, salamanders, newts, and others, are considered the most threatened animals globally.
- ❖ This is due to their unique biology and permeable skin, making them highly sensitive to environmental changes.
- ❖ The assessment evaluated the extinction risk of more than 8,000 amphibian species from all over the world.
- ❖ It is including 2,286 species evaluated for the first time.

- ❖ The data has revealed that two out of every five amphibians are threatened with extinction.
- ❖ Between 2004 and 2022, a few critical threats have pushed more than 300 amphibians closer to extinction.
- ❖ Climate change was the primary threat for 39% of these species.
- ❖ Three out of every five salamander species are threatened with extinction primarily as the result of habitat destruction.
- ❖ North America is home to the most biodiverse community of salamanders in the world.
- ❖ Four amphibian species were documented as having gone extinct since 2004.
- ❖ Twenty-seven additional critically endangered species are now considered possibly extinct.
- ❖ It is bringing the total to more than 160 critically endangered amphibians that are considered possibly extinct.
- ❖ The assessment also found that 120 species improved their Red List status since 1980.



Coral Reef Breakthrough

- ❖ The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), has launched the Coral Reef Breakthrough in partnership with the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR) and the Un Climate Change High-Level Climate Champions.
- ❖ ICRI is a network including 45 countries who represent over 75% of the world's coral reefs.
- ❖ It aims to secure the future of at least 125,000 km² of shallow-water tropical coral reefs with investments of at least US\$12 billion to support the resilience of more than half a billion people globally by 2030.
- ❖ It will focus on four action points:

- Stop drivers of loss,
- Double the area of coral reefs under effective protection,
- Accelerating restoration efforts,
- Securing investments of at least USD 12 billion by 2030.



Amphibians' status in India

- ❖ In India, 136 of the 426 species evaluated in the study were found to be threatened.
- ❖ Kerala has 178 species of which 84 are threatened, Tamil Nadu is next with 128 species of which 54 are threatened.
- ❖ Karnataka is in third place with 100 species of which 30 are threatened.
- ❖ India's Western Ghats were among the regions which recorded the greatest concentrations of threatened species.



Dakar Declaration on Climate Change 2023

- ❖ Ministers from the world's 46 least developed countries (LDC) issued a joint Dakar Declaration on Climate Change 2023.
- ❖ It is outlining their expectation and priorities for 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- ❖ The Dakar Declaration called for urgent global emissions reductions, increased climate finance, a strong outcome operationalising the new Loss and Damage Fund and an ambitious Global Stocktake to close the gaps in global climate action.
- ❖ The COP28 will be convened from November 30, 2023 to December 12, 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- ❖ While LDCs account for more than 14 per cent of the global population, they only account for about 1 per cent of emissions from fossil fuels and industrial processes.

Badis limaakumi

- ❖ The Scientists have recently discovered a new fish species from the Milak river, Nagaland.
- ❖ The newly discovered species Badis limaakumi has been named after Limaakum, the head of the zoology department at Fazl Ali College, Nagaland.
- ❖ The edible fish are found in ditches and stagnant water bodies across India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand and Myanmar.
- ❖ Fish from the Badis family are also known as chameleon fish for their ability to change colour.
- ❖ This helps them blend with the surroundings when under stress.



Joint Call to Action for Forests towards 2030



- ❖ The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) has launched the Joint Call to Action for Forests towards 2030.
- ❖ CPF is a partnership of 16 global organisations chaired by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- ❖ They aim to highlight the need for increased action and political commitment to implement forest solutions in pursuit of the United Nations-mandated Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- ❖ The Call to Action for Forests Towards 2030 has four focal areas:
 - Implementation and action;
 - Data, science and innovation;
 - Finance for forests; and
 - Communication and awareness-raising.
- ❖ The world has lost 420 million hectares of forest through deforestation since 1990.
- ❖ The rate slowed from 12 million hectares per year during 2010-2015 to 10 million hectares per year during 2015-2020.

Asiatic wild dog-tiger coexistence

- ❖ Recent studies revealed that the diurnal activity of the dholes had the highest temporal overlap with leopards and the lowest with clouded leopards.
- ❖ The study was conducted in Assam's Manas National Park.
- ❖ This study reveals that the overlapping prey availability or habitat suitability could dictate a positive association between dholes and tigers, facilitating coexistence or even cooperative behaviours between the two species of carnivores.

- ❖ Animals, plant species, and populations within the same or overlapping geographical areas are referred as Sympatric.
- ❖ The dhole or Asiatic wild dog (*Cuon alpinus*) is the only endangered wild pack-living canid in the tropical Indian forests.
- ❖ It is considered at high risk of extinction.
- ❖ The global population of adult dholes is estimated to be between 949 and 2,215 individuals.
- ❖ They scattered in localised areas of India and Thailand.



Dancing frogs of the Western Ghats

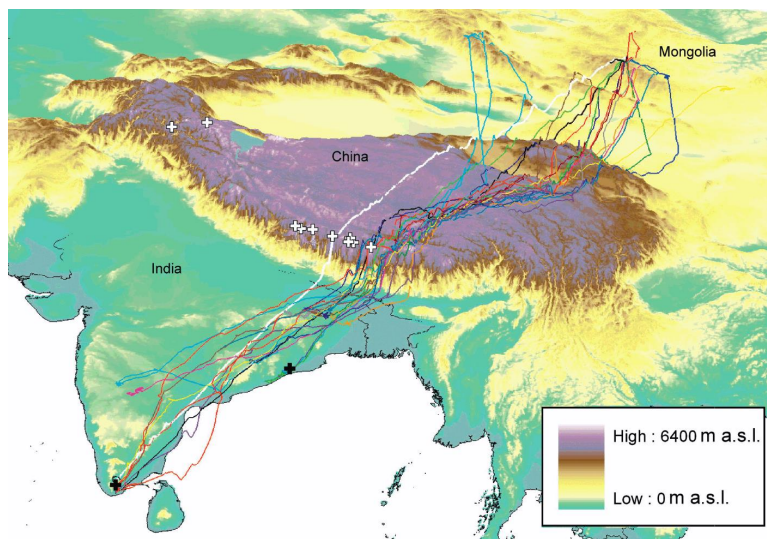


- ❖ Recently, the Wildlife Trust of India has assessed the 2nd edition of the Global Amphibian Assessment.
- ❖ The Dancing Frogs that are endemic to the Western Ghats are the most threatened amphibian genus of India.
- ❖ Of the 24 species of the frogs belonging to the *Micrixalus* genus that were assessed, two were found to be critically endangered and 15 were endangered.
- ❖ It is also the fifth most threatened genus in the world with 92% of its species in the threatened category.

Dragonfly Festival, 2023

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

Bird Migration Patterns in the Himalayas

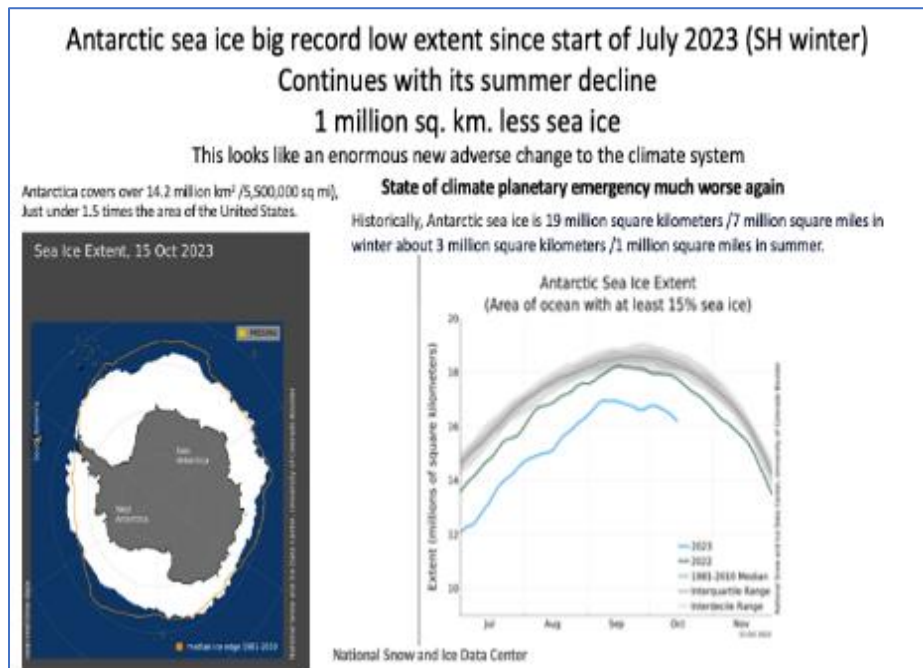


- ❖ The majority of birds in the Himalayas migrate downslope during the winter, while a small proportion of species in low elevations migrate upslope.
- ❖ 65 per cent of the species in the eastern and western Himalayas displayed seasonal elevational shifts within their species range compared with other bird communities reported in high seasonality or the peak season.
- ❖ About 10 per cent of the species showed upslope shifts while 35 per cent of them did not depict any shift in elevation.
- ❖ Out of 221 species in the western Himalayas, 57 per cent showed downslope shift, five per cent showed upslope shifts.
- ❖ About 38 per cent showed no elevational shift changes.

Antarctic Sea Ice Decline

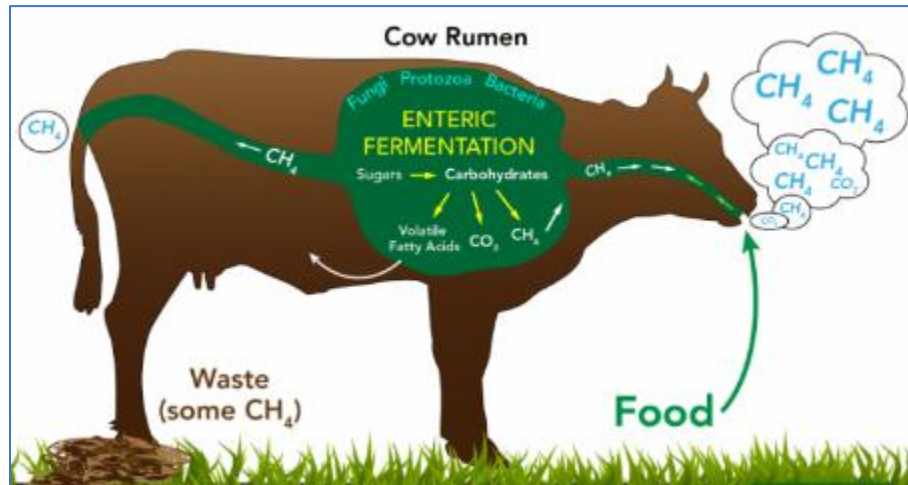
- ❖ Antarctic sea ice likely reached its annual maximum extent of 16.96 million square kilometers (6.55 million square miles).

- ❖ This is the lowest sea ice maximum in the 1979 to 2023 sea ice record by a wide margin.
- ❖ This year's maximum is 1.03 million square kilometers (398,000 square miles) below the previous record low set in 1986.
- ❖ It is also 1.75 million square kilometers below (676,000 square miles) below the 1981 to 2010 average Antarctic maximum extent.
- ❖ The missing sea ice amounted to approximately 386,000 square miles below the previous record low recorded in 2022 – a region larger than Egypt.



Livestock methane emissions

- ❖ About 32 per cent of global anthropogenic methane emissions result from microbial processes that occur during the enteric fermentation of ruminant livestock and manure management systems.
- ❖ Another 8 per cent comes from rice paddies.
- ❖ Methane is a short-lived greenhouse gas (GHG), which has an atmospheric lifetime of around a decade.
- ❖ Another GHG Carbon dioxide, affects the climate for hundreds of years.
- ❖ But methane is more than 25 times as potent as carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere.



Dhib and Nimr

- ❖ The Arabian wolf (*Canis lupus arabs*) and the Arabian leopard (*Panthera pardus nimr*) are found across the whole of the Arabian Peninsula.
- ❖ Dhib and Nimr are the Arabic terms for the two animals that have featured in the culture and folklore of the region's peoples.
- ❖ Dhib is world's smallest wolf and Nimr is the world's smallest leopard.
- ❖ Both are critically endangered in the northern half of their range.



GRAP Stage II

- ❖ The air quality in Delhi fell to the 'Very Poor' category on October 23 with the Air Quality Index (AQI) at 306.
- ❖ Stage II or the 'very poor' stage of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) will set in across Delhi-NCR with immediate effect.
- ❖ Stage I of GRAP was imposed across Delhi-NCR on October 6.



- ❖ The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) is a set of anti-air pollution measures, generally implemented in Delhi-NCR during the winter.
- ❖ Under GRAP, the government introduces several measures.
- ❖ It includes strict restrictions on the plying of obsolete vehicles and a ban on the use of coal and firewood in eateries, restaurants and hotels when the AQI breaches the 200-mark.
- ❖ Four different stages of GRAP.
 - Stage 1 comes into implementation during 'poor' AQI (201-300);
 - Stage 2 during 'very poor' AQI (301-400);
 - Stage 3 during 'severe' AQI (401-450); and
 - Stage 4 during 'severe plus' when AQI is over 450.

1 Stage I:
Stage I mandates the suspension of work at private construction and demolition projects with a plot size equal to or exceeding 500 square metres that are not registered on the state government's portal for remote monitoring of dust mitigation measures. Authorities are also tasked with enforcing a complete ban on the use of coal and firewood in 'tandoors' at hotels, restaurants and open eateries, along with taking punitive action against polluting industrial units and thermal power plants within 300 kilometres of Delhi.

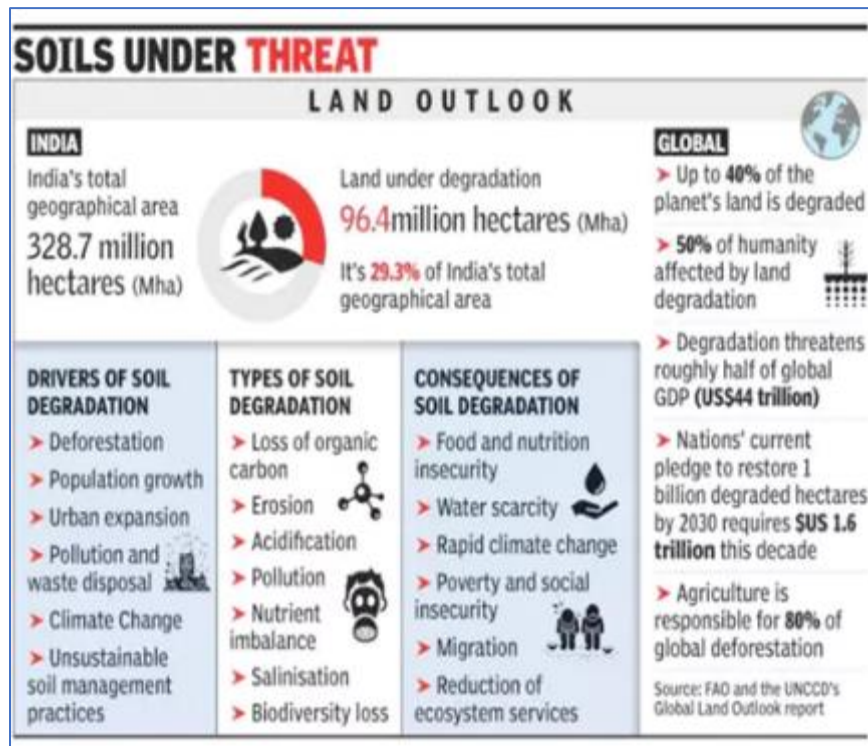
2 Stage II:
Stage II measures involve increasing parking fees to discourage private transport and enhancing CNG or electric bus and metro services by introducing additional fleets and increasing service frequency. It also includes the use of public transport and minimize the use of personal vehicles.

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

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

UNCCD's Report of land degradation in India

- ❖ From 2015-2019, 30.51 million hectares of India's total reported land was degraded.
- ❖ This means that 9.45 per cent of the country's landmass was degraded as of 2019.
- ❖ This was 4.42 per cent in 2015.
- ❖ India's total degraded land is equivalent to the size of 43 million football pitches.
- ❖ 854.4 million of the country's people were exposed to drought from 2015-2018.
- ❖ From 2015-2019, the world lost at least 100 million hectares of healthy and productive land each year.



REPORTS AND INDICES

The State of the Rhino Report, 2023

- ❖ The International Rhino Foundation (IRF) published the report named State of the Rhino, 2023.
- ❖ Poaching still threatens all five rhino species and has increased in several regions that had not previously been targeted.
- ❖ Black rhino populations are increasing despite constant poaching pressure.
- ❖ In Africa, climate change-induced drought is causing myriad detrimental impacts.
- ❖ In Asia dramatically increased precipitation and longer monsoon periods could cause more direct deaths of rhinos.
- ❖ India is estimated to be home to 3,262 rhinos.
- ❖ Greater one-horned rhinos in India and Nepal continue to thrive due to strong protection.

- ❖ The status and whereabouts of 12 of the approximately 76 remaining Javan rhinos are unknown.
- ❖ Sumatran rhinos are also increasingly difficult to find, raising uncertainty about their population in the wild.



THE World University Rankings 2024

- ❖ As per the 'THE Rankings 2024', the UK's University of Oxford is the highest ranked university in the world.
- ❖ Stanford University is taking second place and third place is the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).
- ❖ In the top 10 of THE Rankings 2024, seven universities are from the US, while the other three are from the UK.
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, has again become the best institute from India.
- ❖ A record 91 Indian universities have made it to the list this year making a significant improvement in the country's rank.
- ❖ Only 75 institutes from India were included in the rankings last year.

Institutions	Rank 2024	Rank 2023
Indian Institute of Science	201–250	251–300
Anna University	501–600	801–1000
Jamia Millia Islamia	501–600	501–600
Mahatma Gandhi University	501–600	401–500
Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences	501–600	351–400
Alagappa University	601–800	401–500
Aligarh Muslim University	601–800	801–1000
Banaras Hindu University	601–800	601–800
Bharathiar University	601–800	801–1000
Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati	601–800	1001–1200
Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines) Dhanbad	601–800	1001–1200
Indian Institute of Technology Patna	601–800	801–1000
International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad	601–800	501–600
Jamia Hamdard University	601–800	601–800
Jawaharlal Nehru University	601–800	601–800
KIIT University	601–800	601–800
Malaviya National Institute of Technology	601–800	NR
Manipal Academy of Higher Education	601–800	801–1000
National Institute of Technology Rourkela	601–800	1001–1200
National Institute of Technology Silchar	601–800	601–800

Global innovation index 2023



- ❖ India has retained its 40th spot in the latest Global Innovation Index 2023.
- ❖ It is released by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).
- ❖ The index tracks the innovation ecosystem performance of 132 global economies and the most recent global innovation trends.
- ❖ In 2015, India stood at 81st spot and has been rising in the past eight years.
- ❖ Switzerland for a 13th year ranks first in the index.

- ❖ Sweden is now second and the United States on third.
- ❖ It is followed by the United Kingdom (4th) and Singapore (5th).

World Talent Ranking 2023

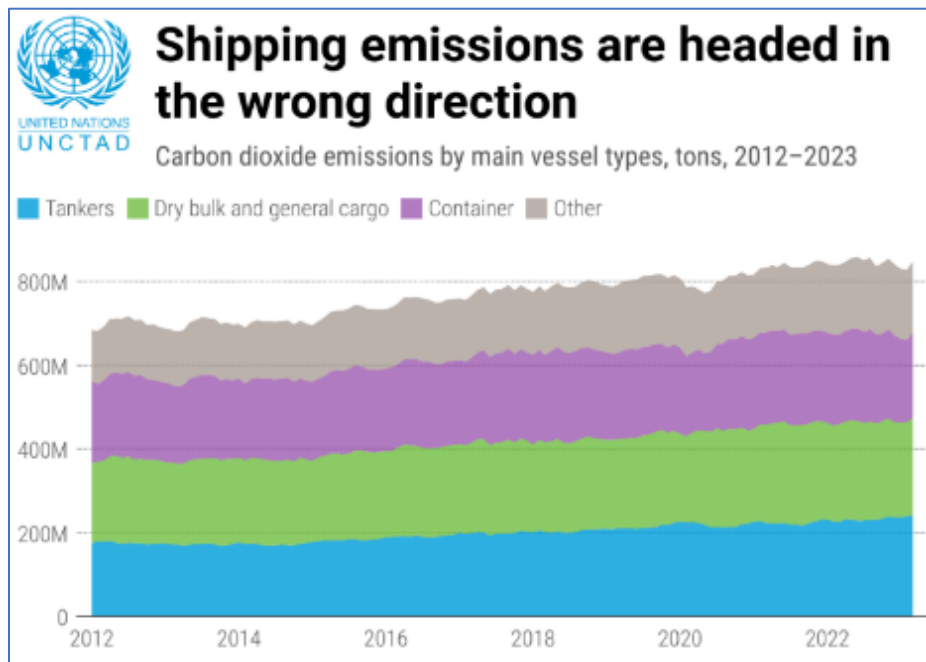
- ❖ The 2023 World Talent Ranking was released by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD).
- ❖ Switzerland is ranked on top, while Luxembourg was in second place.
- ❖ It is followed by Iceland, Belgium, and the Netherlands.
- ❖ Out of 64 economies, India has slipped four spots to 56th position.
- ❖ India stood 52nd position in 2022.
- ❖ The United States is ranked 15th, while China is at 41st place, and the UK ranks 35th.
- ❖ Brazil (63rd) and Mongolia (64th) occupy the bottom two spots.



Review of maritime transport 2023

- ❖ The “Review of Maritime Transport 2023” is the latest flagship report released by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- ❖ Maritime trade is expected to grow 2.4% in 2023 and more than 2% between 2024 and 2028.

- ❖ The industry’s greenhouse gas emissions, which account for 3% of the global total, have increased by 20% over the last decade.
- ❖ Without action, emissions could reach 130% of their 2008 levels by 2050.
- ❖ The report forecasts a 2.4% growth in the maritime shipping industry for the year 2023.
- ❖ Containerized trade is expected to grow by 1.2% in 2023, with further growth projected at 3% between 2024 and 2028.
- ❖ Achieving full decarbonization could require annual investments ranging from \$8 billion to \$28 billion by 2050.
- ❖ The infrastructure needed for 100% carbon-neutral fuels may demand annual investments between \$28 billion to \$90 billion.

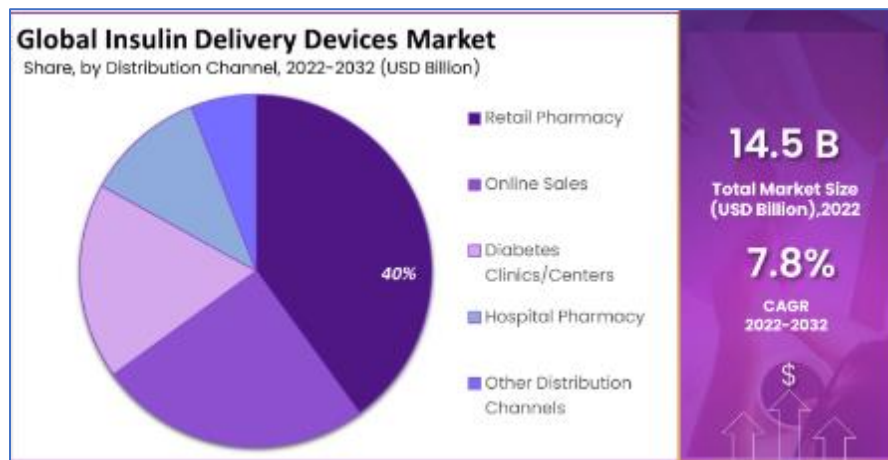


Top Most Valuable Indian Brands Report 2023

- ❖ The 10th anniversary edition of the Kantar BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands Report was released recently.
- ❖ Tata Consultancy Services is the most valuable Indian brand for the second consecutive year.
- ❖ HDFC Bank is the second most valuable brand, with Infosys (No.3), Airtel (No.4) and State Bank of India (No.5) completing the top five.
- ❖ The largest category by total brand value is Financial Services.
- ❖ Digital payment app, PhonePe (No.21) is the highest newcomer.



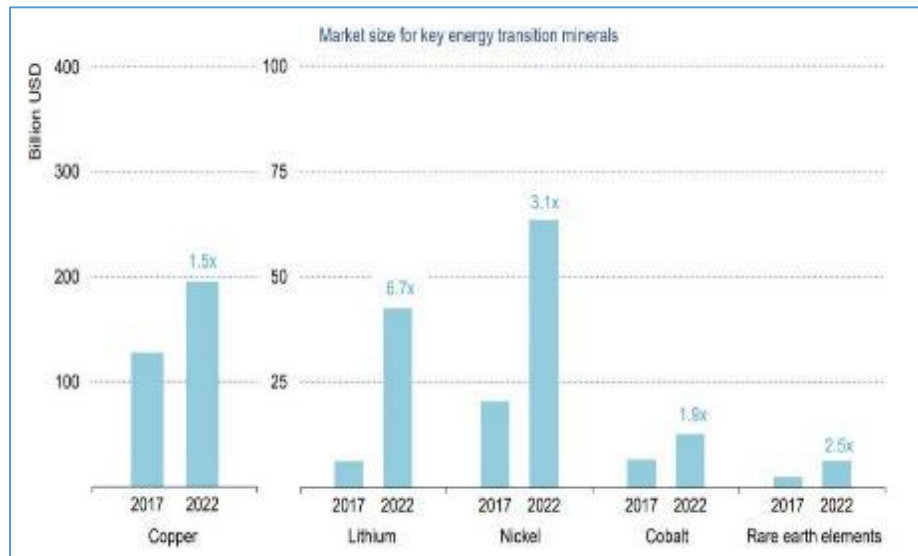
Diabetes Global Industry Overview 2023



- ❖ Approximately 40 per cent of people living with diabetes don't even know it, they remain undiagnosed.
- ❖ The research has found that the majority of undiagnosed cases are concentrated in certain regions, with Africa topping the list at 60 per cent.
- ❖ It is followed closely by south-east Asia at 57 per cent and the western Pacific region at 56 per cent.
- ❖ In 2021, nearly 7 million deaths worldwide were attributed to diabetes, with over USD 970 billion spent on treatment.
- ❖ the organisations involved in diabetes research and care — over 70 companies, or 55 per cent globally — are located in the United States.

IEA Critical Minerals Market Review 2023

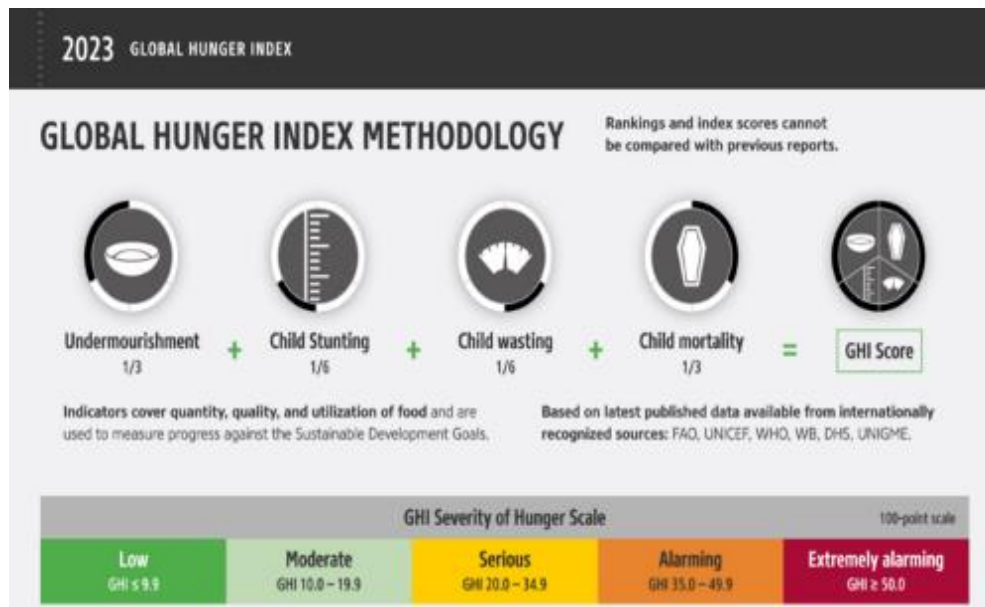
- ❖ The first IEA Critical Minerals and Clean Energy Summit held at Paris, France.
- ❖ The IEA Critical Minerals Market Review 2023 was released earlier this year.
- ❖ The market for critical minerals has grown by a factor of two over the previous five years and reached \$320 billion in 2022.
- ❖ Critical minerals include copper, lithium, nickel and cobalt.
- ❖ They are essential components in such rapidly growing clean energy technologies.
- ❖ Between 2017 and 2022, demand from the energy sector for lithium tripled.
- ❖ There was a 70 per cent increase in cobalt demand and a rise of 40 per cent in nickel demand.



Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2023

- ❖ India ranks 111 out of a total of 125 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2023.
- ❖ India is ranked 107th out of 121 countries in 2022.
- ❖ Afghanistan, Haiti and 12 sub-Saharan countries perform worse than India on the GHI.
- ❖ India's ranking is based on a Global Hunger Index score of 28.7 on a 100-point scale where 0 is the best score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst.
- ❖ The 2023 GHI score for the world is 18.3, which is considered moderate.
- ❖ However, it is only one point below the world's 2015 GHI score of 19.1.

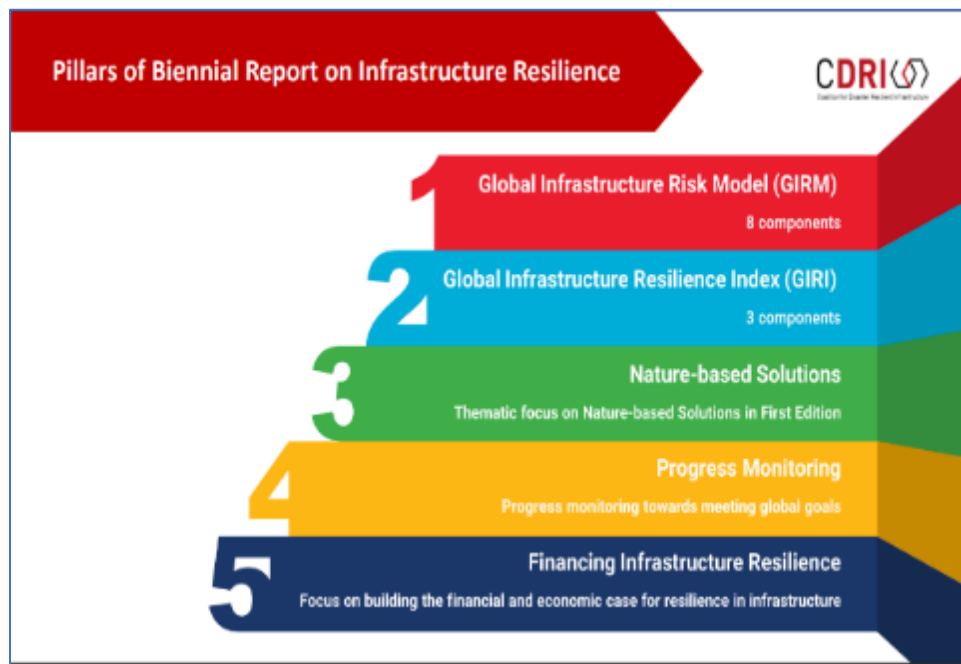
- ❖ India made significant strides between 2000 and 2015, with its score improving from 38.4 in 2000 to 35.5 in 2008 and 29.2 in 2015.
- ❖ Over the past eight years, the country has advanced on the GHI by only 0.5 points.
- ❖ South Asia and Africa South of the Sahara are the world regions with the highest hunger levels- serious hunger.
- ❖ West Asia and North Africa is the region with the third-highest hunger level - “moderate” hunger level.
- ❖ The rate of undernourishment in India stood at 16.6 percent and under-five mortality at 3.1 percent.
- ❖ The prevalence of anaemia in women aged between 15 and 24 years stood at 58.1 percent.
- ❖ India also has the highest child wasting rate in the world at 18.7 percent, reflecting acute undernutrition.
- ❖ India's neighbouring countries Pakistan (102th), Bangladesh (81st), Nepal (69th) and Sri Lanka (60th) have fared better than it in the index.



Report on Global Infrastructure Resilience

- ❖ The Biennial Report on Global Infrastructure Resilience: Capturing the Resilience Dividend released by Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
- ❖ The Climate change may lead to an estimated global average annual loss (AAL) in infrastructure sectors and buildings of between \$732 and \$845 billion.

- ❖ This means around 14 per cent of 2021- 2022 global gross domestic product is at risk.
- ❖ About half of this contingent liability is held by low- and middle- income countries (LMIC).
- ❖ The global AAL from disasters and climate change in just the principal infrastructure sectors is between \$301 and \$330 billion.
- ❖ High-income countries account for approximately 67 per cent of the global infrastructure asset value.
- ❖ Upper and lower middle-income countries account for 24.8 per cent and 7.0 per cent, respectively.
- ❖ While low-income countries account for 0.6 per cent.
- ❖ The climate change is expected to increase AAL by 11 per cent in high-income countries.
- ❖ It may increase by 12-22 per cent in middle-income countries and 33 per cent in low-income countries.



2023 World Trade Report: Re-globalization

- ❖ The 2023 World Trade Report, published by the WTO, explores the role of international trade in building a more secure, inclusive, and sustainable world.
- ❖ The report advocates for “re-globalization,” expanding trade integration to more economies, people, and issues.

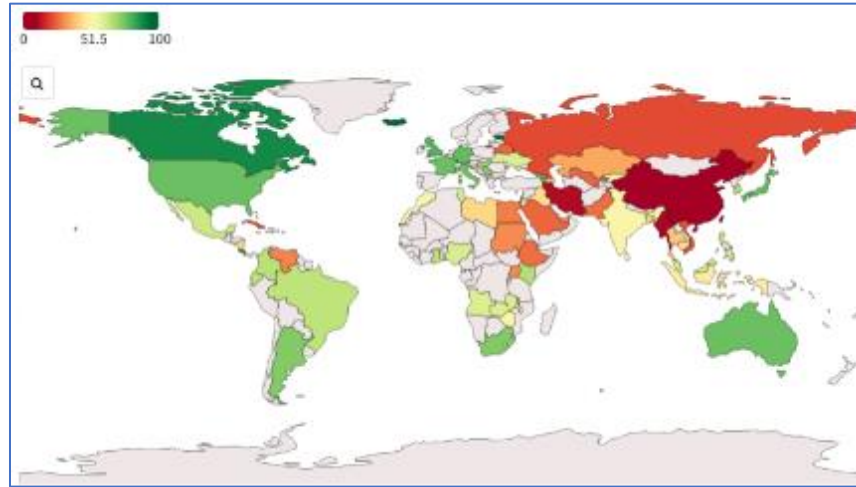
- ❖ Trade flows within hypothetical geopolitical “blocs” are growing faster than those between them.
- ❖ It is indicating a shift towards friend-shoring.
- ❖ Re-globalization is a concept that advocates expanding and strengthening international trade and economic integration, focusing on making globalization more inclusive, secure, and sustainable.
- ❖ It emphasizes the need to address contemporary global challenges, such as geopolitical tensions, economic inequality, and climate change, through greater cooperation and trade integration among nations.



Freedom on the Net Report 2023

- ❖ The report titled ‘Freedom on the Net 2023: The Repressive Power of Artificial Intelligence’ was released recently.
- ❖ The global Internet freedom has declined for the 13th consecutive year.
- ❖ The environment for human rights online has deteriorated in 29 countries.
- ❖ There are only 20 countries registering net gains.
- ❖ Moreover, in 41 countries, individuals were assaulted or killed due to their online statements.
- ❖ Iceland has the best climate for internet freedom.
- ❖ China, for the ninth straight year, ranked as the world’s worst environment for Internet freedom.
- ❖ Myanmar is the world’s second most repressive for online freedom.
- ❖ India has moderate level of digital freedom.
- ❖ India has incorporated AI-based censorship into its legal framework, impacting freedom of expression and criticism of the ruling party.

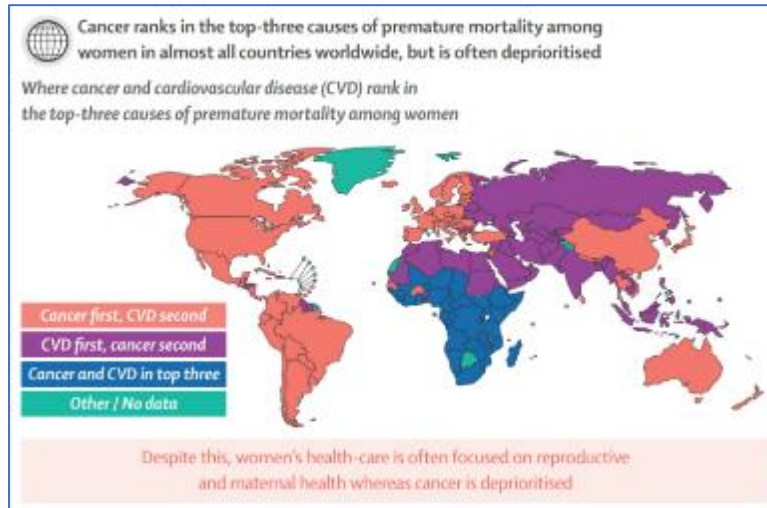
- ❖ The report warns about adverse repercussions for Indian democracy due to the expanding censorship regime.



Gender Inequality and Women Cancer

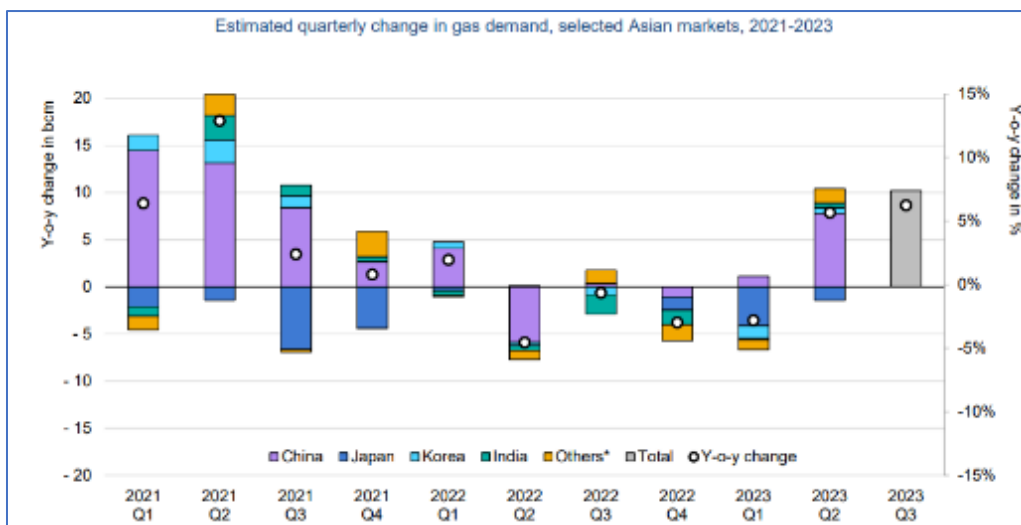
- ❖ The Lancet Global Health has released a report titled-“Women, Power and Cancer”.
- ❖ In 2020, approximately 5.3 million adults under the age of 70 died from cancer, with women accounting for 2.3 million of these deaths.
- ❖ These premature deaths resulted in a significant burden of 182.8 million years of life lost (YLLs).
- ❖ It will be accounting for 68.8% of the total YLLs from cancer across all age groups.
- ❖ Men experienced a higher proportion of preventable premature YLLs compared to women (70.3% for men vs. 65.2% for women).
- ❖ However, the proportion of treatable premature YLLs was higher for women than for men (34.8% for women vs. 29.7% for men).
- ❖ In 2020, approximately 1.3 million women of all ages died as a result of four major cancer risk factors: Tobacco, alcohol, obesity and infections.
- ❖ Nearly 63% of cancer deaths among women in India could have been prevented by reducing risk factors, screening, or early diagnosis.
- ❖ 37% of deaths could have been averted with appropriate and timely treatment.
- ❖ The top three cancers among women in India are Breast, Cervical, and Ovarian Cancers.
- ❖ One woman dies from cervical cancer every eight minutes.
- ❖ Due to the Gender Inequity in cancer care, a woman's health concerns were dismissed or ignored.

- ❖ Women are less likely to be in a position of power and may face difficulty in determining their care due to gender bias and discrimination.
- ❖ The value of unpaid cancer care-giving by women is about 3.66 of India’s national health expenditure.



Medium-Term Gas Report 2023

- ❖ This is released by the International Energy Agency (IEA).
- ❖ India’s natural gas demand is set to grow by 4 per cent in 2023.
- ❖ It will rise at an average annual rate of over 8 per cent till 2026,
- ❖ Following a steep 6 per cent decline in 2022, liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports into India are increased by 8 per cent in the first eight months of 2023.



2023 Global Survey on Persons with Disabilities and Disasters

- ❖ The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) conducted the 2023 Global Survey, following up on the 2013 survey.
- ❖ 16 per cent of the world's people have some form of disability and are killed by disasters two-four times more often than the rest of the population.
- ❖ 84 per cent of the respondents not aware of evacuation routes, shelter homes or that they should have a package of emergency supplies.
- ❖ Only 11 per cent of respondents being aware of a disaster management plan in their local area.
- ❖ The world projected to face some 560 disasters every year by 2030.



Report on Urban Transportation

- ❖ The report titled 'The Fast, the Slow and the Congested: Urban Transportation in Rich and Poor Countries' was released recently.
- ❖ It took into account the average travel speed for motor vehicles across cities.
- ❖ Flint (US) came up with the highest average speed throughout the day.
- ❖ Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh, had the slowest average travel speed.
- ❖ Bogota (Colombia) was found to be the most congested city.
- ❖ The report highlights that nine out of the ten cities with the slowest uncongested travel speeds are situated in Bangladesh, India, and Nigeria.
- ❖ Bhiwandi from Maharashtra secured the 5th position in the list of the World's 20 slowest cities based on the speed index.
- ❖ Kolkata closely followed at the 6th position, with Arrah in Bihar at the 7th spot.

- ❖ In traffic congestion metrics, Bengaluru held the 8th spot, Mumbai ranked 13th and Delhi 20th.



Global Pension Index 2023

System	Overall Grade	Total	Adequacy	Sustainability	Integrity
Netherlands	A	85.0	85.6	82.4	87.7
Iceland	A	83.5	85.5	83.8	80.0
Denmark	A	81.3	82.5	82.5	77.8
Israel	A	80.8	77.0	82.7	84.4
Australia	B+	77.3	70.7	78.4	86.1
Finland	B+	76.6	77.4	65.6	90.9
Singapore	B+	76.3	79.8	71.6	77.0
Norway	B	74.4	79.4	59.1	87.8
Sweden	B	74.0	72.1	75.6	75.0
UK	B	73.0	77.3	62.7	80.6
Switzerland	B	72.0	69.6	70.6	77.9
Canada	B	70.2	71.1	64.5	76.7

- ❖ Netherlands' retirement income system has once again secured the first position.
- ❖ Iceland and Denmark have claimed the second and third positions in the ranking, respectively.
- ❖ Argentina had the lowest index value.
- ❖ India had an overall index value of 45.9 from 44.5 in 2022, ranking 45 out of the 47.
- ❖ The index is derived from the weighted averages of the sub-indices of adequacy, sustainability, and integrity.

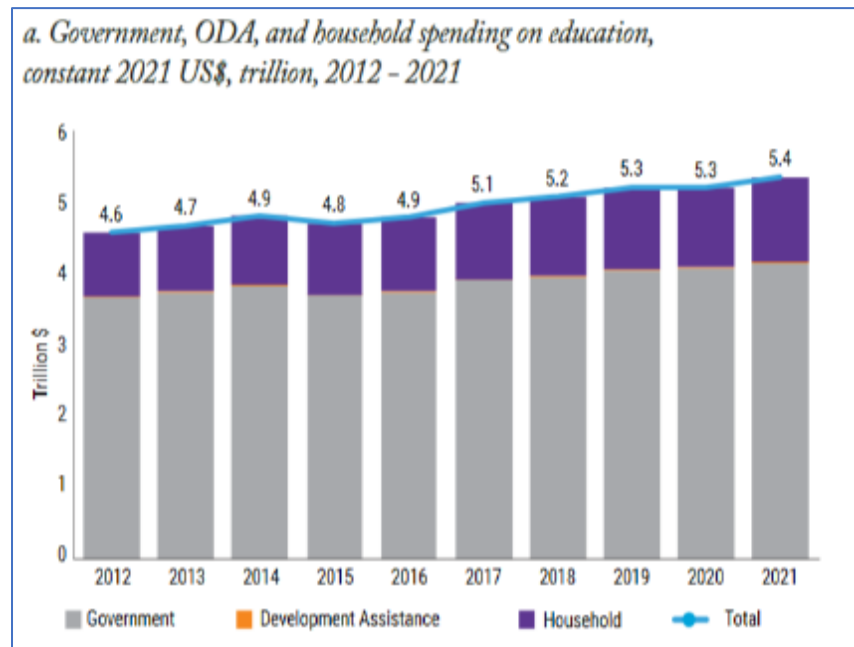
The High Cost of Cheap Water



- ❖ The report, titled The High Cost of Cheap Water, was released by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
- ❖ Global water crisis threatens \$58 trillion in economic value, food security and sustainability.
- ❖ The world has lost a third of its remaining wetlands since 1970.
- ❖ Freshwater wildlife populations have, on average, dropped by 83 per cent.
- ❖ The amount - \$58 trillion — is the first ever annual estimate of economic value of water and freshwater ecosystems.
- ❖ It is equivalent to 60 per cent of global gross domestic product.
- ❖ Agriculture currently accounts for over 70% of freshwater usage globally.

EFW 2023 Annual report

- ❖ The Education Finance Watch (EFW) 2023 updates analyses on trends and patterns of education spending for the past ten years, up to 2021.
- ❖ It analyses changes in the school-age population and projects its fiscal implications for the upcoming ten years for selected countries.
- ❖ At the beginning of the pandemic, total global education spending stagnated, but it increased again in 2021.
- ❖ The Government resources remain the main education funding source in all country income groups.
- ❖ The Household spending is largely concentrated in primary and secondary education.



“Children Displaced in a Changing Climate” Report



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



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

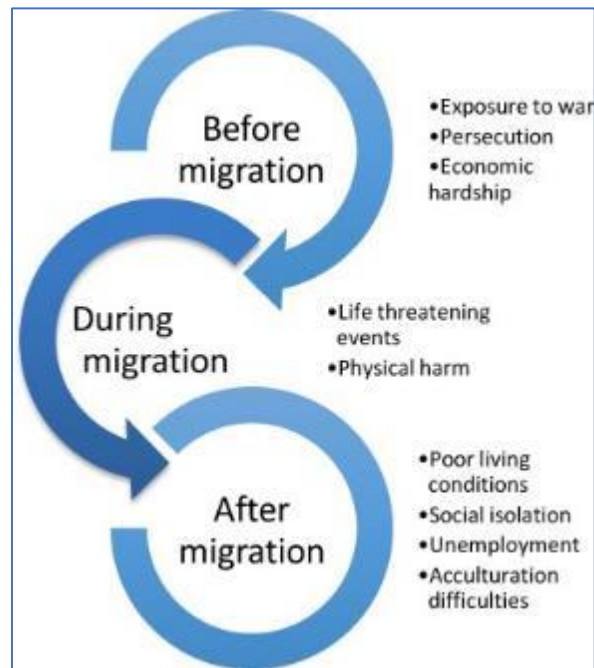
Breakthrough Agenda Report 2023

- ❖ The Breakthrough Agenda Report 2023 is an annual collaboration between the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and the United Nations Climate Change High-Level Champions.
- ❖ Renewable energy constituted nearly half of global power generation in 2022.
- ❖ But it emphasized that this pace must triple by 2030 to maintain a 1.5°C target.
- ❖ The power sector accounts for around 13 Gt CO₂e, or 23% of total emissions.
- ❖ This has risen by around 10% since 2010.
- ❖ These need to fall by over 50% by 2030.
- ❖ The average levelized cost of electricity has fallen by 86% for solar PV and 60% for wind since 2010.
- ❖ By 2030, 11 TW of renewable generating capacity is required, up from less than 4 TW today.
- ❖ Agriculture emissions continue to increase to 7.3 GtCO₂ in 2022.
- ❖ They need to fall to 5.7 GtCO₂ to get on track for net zero.

Mental Health of Refugees and Migrants

- ❖ A report titled 'Mental Health of Refugees and Migrants: Risk and Protective Factors and Access to Care' was brought out by WHO.
- ❖ The year 2021 had 258 million international migrants.
- ❖ By the end of 2021, the total number of forcibly displaced people was 89.3 million, of whom 53.2 million were internally displaced people, 27.1 million were refugees and 4.6 million were asylum seekers.

- ❖ One in five people (22.1 per cent) in conflict-affected areas may experience depression, anxiety, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), bipolar disorder, or schizophrenia.
- ❖ Behavioural disorders may be more common among younger refugee and migrant children significantly more severe in younger (6-14 years) compared with older (15-17 years) age groups.

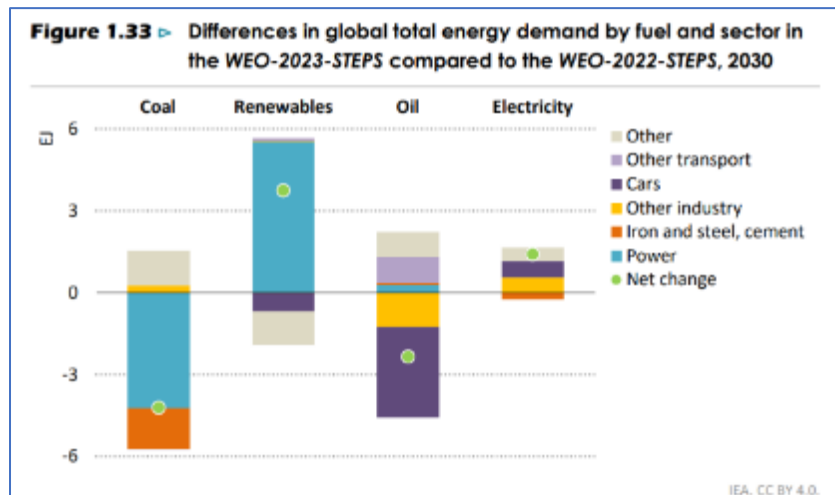


Mercy Corps Report

- ❖ The report is focused on Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Jordan, Iraq and occupied Palestinian Territories (West Bank and Gaza) as well as North African states Tunisia and Egypt.
- ❖ Many countries in the Middle East and North Africa are grappling with severe food crises.
- ❖ This is primarily due to their inability to afford essential food items and their exposure to the adverse effects of conflicts and trade disruptions in the Black Sea.
- ❖ The situation is further aggravated by dwindling levels of humanitarian funding.
- ❖ Russia's invasion of Ukraine had significant repercussions on grain exports.
- ❖ The report points out that India also banned rice exports in July 2023 to safeguard domestic supply.
- ❖ The combined impact of these shocks could trigger unprecedented food inflation in the MENA region.



World Energy Outlook 2023



- ❖ The International Energy Agency (IEA) released its World Energy Outlook 2023 report.
- ❖ Global coal consumption is projected to decline by 13.5% by 2030, but natural gas and oil consumption are both projected to rise.
- ❖ Even though global energy demand is set to grow by 7% to 2030 under the Stated Policies Scenario, demand will shift towards renewables and nuclear.
- ❖ However, fossil fuels will still account for over 70% of supply (down from ~82% in 2022).
- ❖ Electricity emerges as the "fuel" of the future, with its share of final consumption rising from 20% in 2020 to 28% in 2030.

STATES

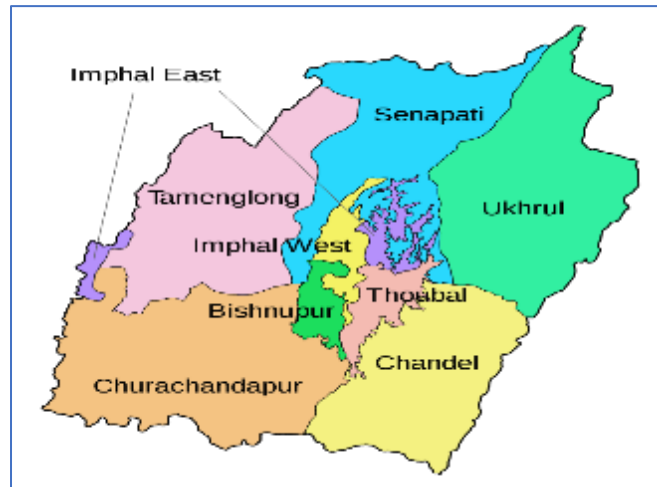
First woman speaker of Odisha

- ❖ Pramila Malik from Biju Janata Dal party became the first woman Speaker of the Odisha state Assembly.
- ❖ She was elected unopposed.
- ❖ She has been a six-time MLA from the Binjharpur assembly seat in Jajpur district of Odisha.
- ❖ Earlier she held the post of Minister of Revenue and Disaster Management.



Extension of AFSPA

- ❖ The Manipur government extended the imposition of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in the whole State for another six months.
- ❖ But the exception given to the jurisdiction of 19 police stations in seven districts of the Imphal Valley.
- ❖ The “disturbed area” status under the Act will remain applicable in all the hill districts, which are dominated by tribal communities.
- ❖ The State government is now considering a “one district, one force” deployment of security forces, for better operations.
- ❖ Since 1981, AFSPA has been applicable in Manipur, a former Union Territory which attained Statehood in 1972.
- ❖ AFSPA also existed in the Naga-dominated areas of the erstwhile UT of Manipur since 1958.



“Sponge City” concept in Bengaluru



- ❖ In this model, rainwater gets soaked in many ways as Rooftop gardens, roads that let water permeate down, ponds, filtration pools, wetlands and public spaces that allow the water to seep underground.
- ❖ The tanks were constructed in big vacant plots such as Bengaluru’s civic amenity sites.
- ❖ Each tank had two tiers of 8-metre depth.
- ❖ Flood waters would flow into the tanks to be pumped out later when required.
- ❖ Chennai has taken the lead among Indian cities in adopting the sponge city model.

e - Cabinet System in Tripura

- ❖ Tripura launched an e-cabinet system at Agartala.
- ❖ It aims to promote digital infrastructure development and digitisation of government services and information.

- ❖ Tripura has thus become the fourth state and second in the Northeast.
- ❖ Already Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh have introduced an e-cabinet system.
- ❖ All future cabinet meetings in the state will be paperless.
- ❖ It is reducing the carbon footprint and environmental degradation in the process.



Pipe Composting

- ❖ Assam is actively promoting pipe composting among its rural communities during the ongoing Swachhata Hi Seva campaign.
- ❖ Pipe composting technology is a method of converting organic waste into compost using PVC pipes 8 - 10 inches in diameter and 1.25 metres in length.
- ❖ The pipes are placed vertically keeping them 25-30 cm inside the ground.
- ❖ Only degradable waste can be disposed of into the pipes including leftover food, fruit and vegetable peels, flowers, dung, agricultural waste, etc.
- ❖ Once in two weeks a little cow dung and dry leaves are mixed with water and poured inside to accelerate the growth of the worms.
- ❖ This should remain closed so that rainwater does not enter the pipes.
- ❖ Compost manure can be removed by lifting the pipe after 2 months.

AFSPA in Assam

- ❖ The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act or the AFSPA has been extended in four districts of the Assam for six more months.
- ❖ Only four districts in Assam -Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Sivasagar and Charaideo will have AFSPA.

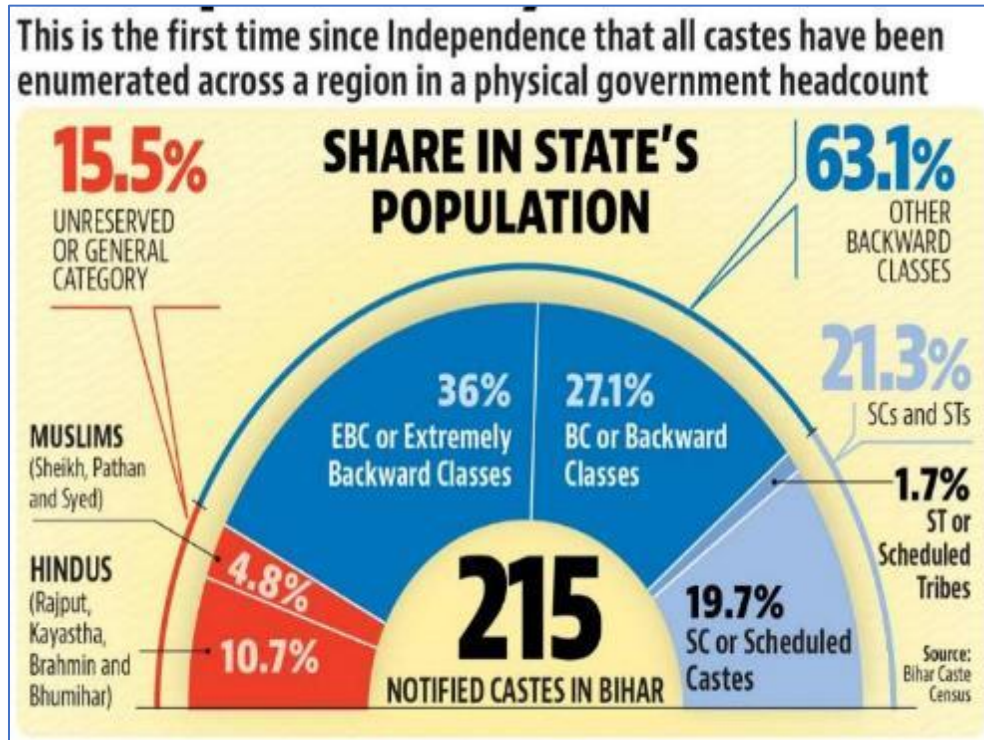
- ❖ The AFSPA has been withdrawn from Jorhat, Golaghat, Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao with effect from October 1.
- ❖ The AFSPA empowers security forces to conduct operations and arrest anyone without any prior warrant.
- ❖ It is also giving immunity from arrest and prosecution to the forces if they shoot someone dead.



Bihar's Caste Survey

- ❖ The caste survey undertaken by the Bihar Government, results of which were made public recently.
- ❖ It is the first time since independence that a state has conducted a caste census.
- ❖ Bihar showed that the state's total population stood at a little over 13.07 crore.
- ❖ Extremely Backward Classes (36 per cent) were the largest social segment
- ❖ Other Backward Classes came in second at 27.13 per cent.
- ❖ The OBC group were the largest in terms of the population, accounting for 14.27 per cent.
- ❖ The Scheduled Castes are accounted for 19.65 per cent
- ❖ Nearly 22 lakh (1.68 per cent) people is belonging to the Scheduled Tribes.
- ❖ "Unreserved" category, which denotes the proverbial "upper castes" comprise 15.52 per cent of the total population.
- ❖ Hindus, with the majority community comprising 81.99 per cent of the total population, followed by Muslims 17.70%

- ❖ These results may open the door to challenging the 50% ceiling on reservations in jobs and educational institutions currently in place.



Installed wind power capacity

WHAT THE POLICY OFFERS

BENEFITS TO MANUFACTURERS, DISCOMS

- No capacity restrictions for new projects
- Special incentives for offshore wind projects
- Projects connected to Inter State Transmission System (ISTS) can export power
- Small scale wind projects can be installed by consumers on rooftops
- Manufacturers and developers can install wind turbine generator prototypes
- No cap on repowering capacity
- Existing or under-construction standalone wind/

solar plants can be converted into hybrid projects

- Floating and canal-based solar projects
- Cross-subsidy surcharge, additional surcharge not applicable to captive power projects under Electricity Rules 2005
- Discoms can procure power from RE projects selected through competitive bidding process

BENEFITS TO CONSUMER

- RE power settlement against consumer consumption will be carried out based on billing cycle
- Consumers can avail of 100% green power supply on request
- Option of net metering or gross metering available for rooftop projects
- Small-scale wind projects can be installed by consumers on rooftops
- Energy banking facility shall be allowed upon payment of applicable banking charges
- No banking charges shall be applicable on solar power consumed by residential consumers

- ❖ Gujarat has surpassed Tamil Nadu to become the top State in terms of installed wind power capacity.
- ❖ They are ahead by a few 100 megawatts than Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu had a unique advantage when compared to other States with wind power as it was available round the clock for three to four months.
- ❖ During the recent wind energy season, 40% of the power requirement was met through wind energy.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu will also soon bring out a repowering policy for replacing ageing wind turbines.

Pashmina Craft GI Tag

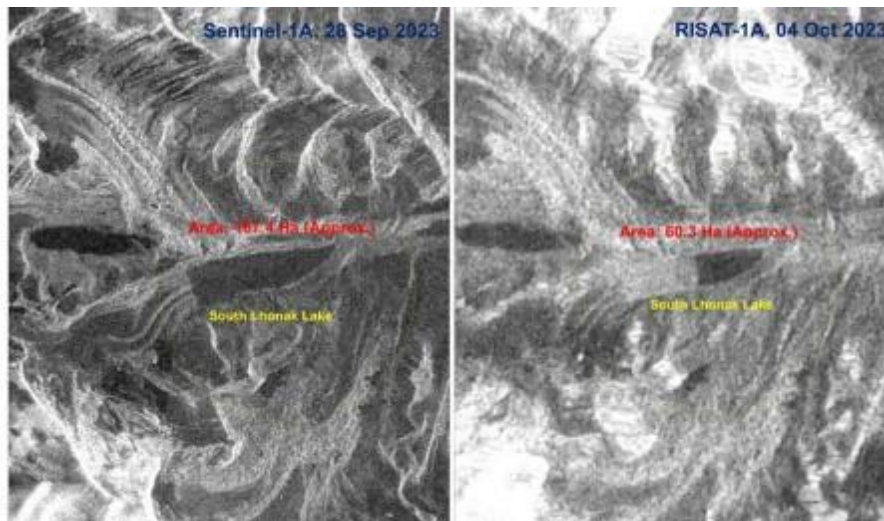


- ❖ Basohli Pashmina, a more than 100-year-old traditional craft from Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, has got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ Earlier this year, the famed Basohli painting and Chikri wood from Rajouri district of Jammu division received the GI tag.
- ❖ Basohli Pashmina, a hand-spun product known for extreme softness, fineness and light-weight,
- ❖ It has insulating properties and extended life.
- ❖ Pashmina products include shawls for both men and women, mufflers, blankets and basket.

South Lhonak Lake

- ❖ Lhonak Lake, a glacial lake situated in the state's northwest at 17,000 ft — burst due to incessant rains, leading to the release of water in downstream areas.
- ❖ It is one of the worst such disasters in the region in over 50 years.

- ❖ This caused the rise of water levels in Teesta River that flooded at least four districts, including Mangan, Gangtok, Pakyong and Namchi.
- ❖ Glacial lakes, like the South Lhonak Lake, are large bodies of water that sit in front of, on top of, or beneath a melting glacier.
- ❖ As they grow larger, they become more dangerous because glacial lakes are mostly dammed by unstable ice or sediment composed of loose rock and debris.
- ❖ In case the boundary around them breaks, huge amounts of water rush down the side of the mountains, which could cause flooding in the downstream areas.
- ❖ This is called glacial lake outburst floods or GLOF.
- ❖ GLOF can be triggered by several reasons, including earthquakes, extremely heavy rains and ice avalanches.



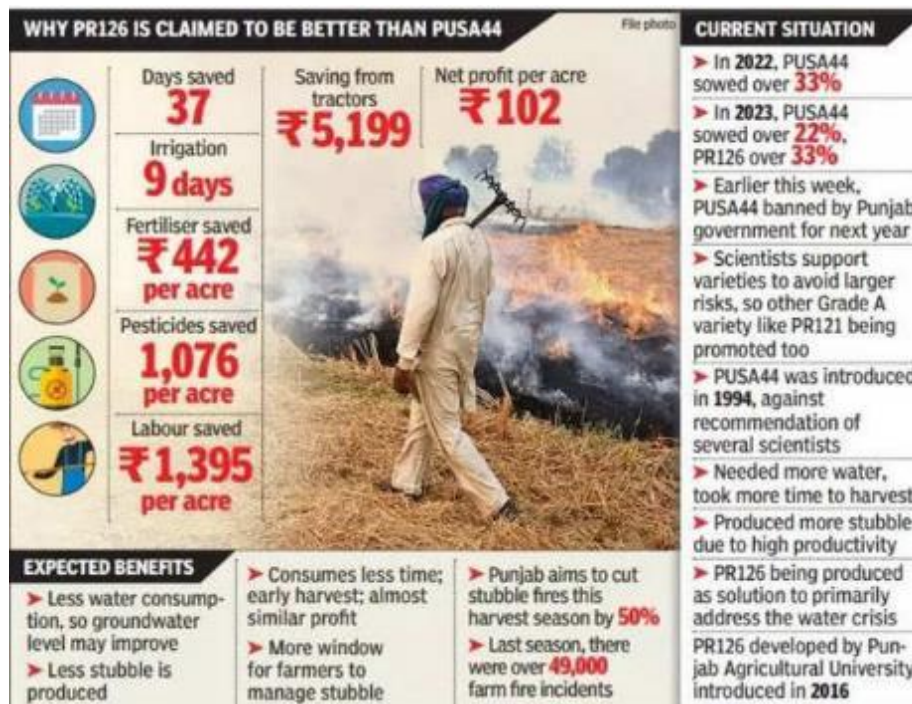
Rajasthan's Valley Queen Heritage Train



- ❖ Rajasthan's first heritage train from Jodhpur was inaugurated recently.
- ❖ The train, known as the Valley Queen Heritage Train.
- ❖ It will run between Marwar Junction and Khamlighat in Pali district.

- ❖ The new train service aims to provide travellers a unique experience and a glimpse into the rich heritage and history of Rajasthan's railways.
- ❖ UNESCO accorded World Heritage Sites to namely four railway lines-
 - Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (1999),
 - Nilgiri Mountain Railway (2005),
 - Kalka Shimla Railway (2008) and
 - Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai (2004).
- ❖ Matheran Light Railway and Kangra Valley Railway are the other two in the tentative list.

Ban on PUSA-44 Paddy Variety



- ❖ Punjab state will ban the cultivation of the PUSA-44 paddy variety from next year onwards.
- ❖ PUSA-44 was developed in 1993 by the Delhi-based Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- ❖ By the end of 2010s, it had gained widespread popularity among farmers across the Punjab.
- ❖ It is covering approximately 70 to 80% of the area under paddy cultivation.
- ❖ However, the Agriculture Department began discouraging farmers due to declining groundwater levels.

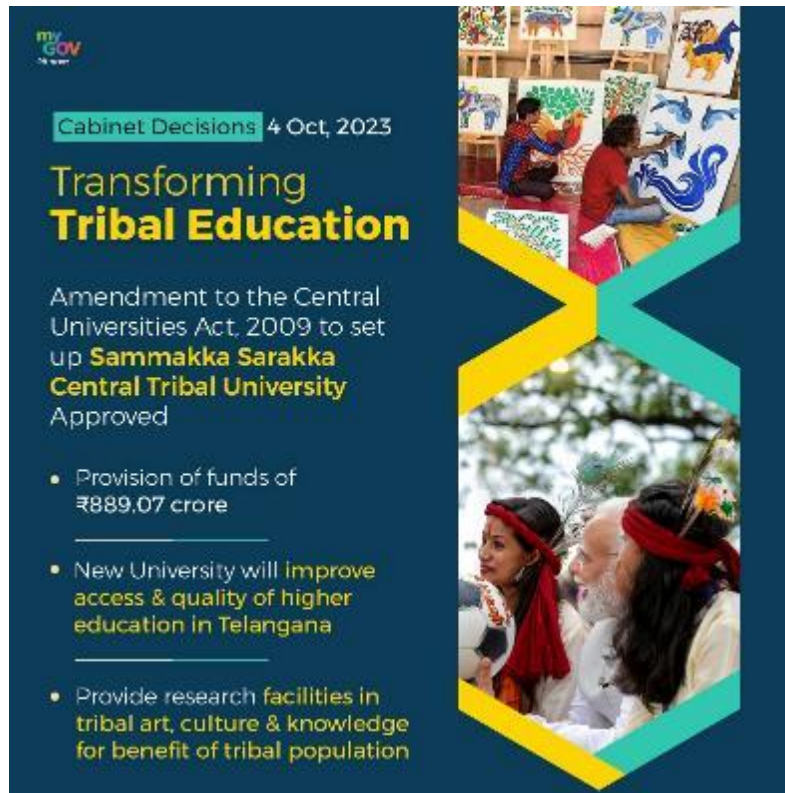
- ❖ Farmers claim that PUSA-44 yields nearly 85 to 100 mann (34 to 40 quintals) per acre, while other varieties' yield average is 28 to 30 quintals per acre.
- ❖ PUSA-44 is a long-duration variety, taking around 160 days to mature.
- ❖ This is around 35 to 40 days more than other varieties.
- ❖ It is also requiring 5-6 extra cycles of irrigation.
- ❖ This variety also generates approximately 2% more stubble than shorter-duration paddy varieties.
- ❖ So, it contributing significantly to the problem of stubble burning in Punjab.

GI Tag - Yak Churpi



- ❖ Three indigenous products from Arunachal Pradesh have been granted the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ They are Yak Churpi, Khamti rice and Tangsa textile.
- ❖ Churpi is prepared from the milk of Arunachali yak.
- ❖ It is a unique breed found in West Kameng and Tawang districts of the state.
- ❖ It is reared by tribal yak pastoralists known as Brokpas.
- ❖ They migrate along with their yaks to higher reaches (at an altitude of 10,000 ft and higher) during summers and descend to mid-altitude mountainous regions in winters.
- ❖ Yaks cannot survive in lower altitude during summer.
- ❖ And thus, they need to be taken beyond 13,000 ft.
- ❖ The Khaw Tai is a chewy sticky rice variety of Namsai region.
- ❖ It is cultivated by traditional Khampti tribal farmers.
- ❖ Textile products of the Tangsa tribe of Changlang district are famous for their exotic designs and colours.

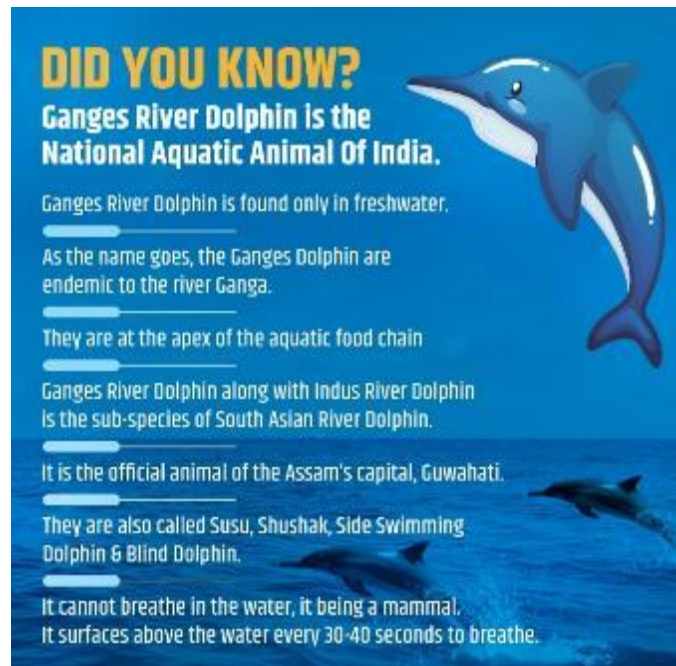
Central Tribal University – Telangana



- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the setting up of Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University in Telangana's Mulugu District.
- ❖ The Central Tribal University in Telangana is being named in honour of the tribal goddesses Sammakka and Sarakka.
- ❖ The Sammakka Sarakka Jathara is one of the most famous tribal festivals in the world.
- ❖ Around 1.5 crore devotees from various tribal and non-tribal communities participate in this festival, including those from Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Jharkhand.
- ❖ It is often referred to as the Kumbh Mela of the tribals.

UP State aquatic animal

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has declared the Gangetic Dolphin as the state aquatic animal.
- ❖ These dolphins are found in rivers like Ganga, Yamuna, Chambal, Ghaghra, Rapti, and Gerua.
- ❖ The estimated population of Gangetic dolphins in Uttar Pradesh is estimated at around 2000.



GI Tag for various products

- ❖ The Goa cashew (kernel) has successfully secured the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir's Basohli Pashmina & Udhampur Kalari get Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.
- ❖ Kalari, a popular Dogra cuisine, finds its origin in Udhampur district's Ramnagar.
- ❖ Made from milk, it is the most relished street food snack among ethnic Dogras.
- ❖ The renowned Rasabali sweet from Kendrapara, Odisha received geographical indication (GI).
- ❖ It has an its origin to the 262-year-old Sree Baladevjew temple in Kendrapara.



Caravan Park in Kerala



- ❖ The Kerala Tourism Development Corporation (KTDC) will develop the caravan park and camp shelter at Bekal Fort in Kasaragod.
- ❖ The caravan park at Bekal will be the first park in the public sector in the State.
- ❖ The coastal village and its magnificent 17th century fort are one of the major attractions for the tourists in north Kerala.

Largest pumped storage project



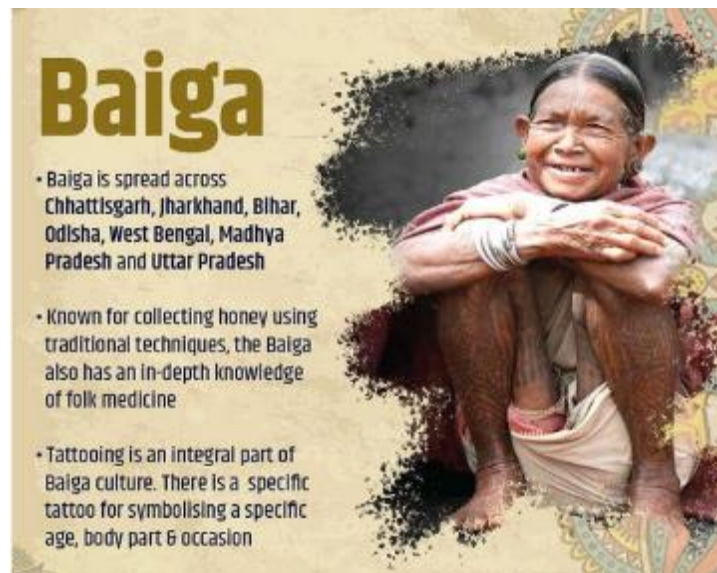
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh opened India's largest pumped storage project recently.
- ❖ The project is being developed by Greenko Group, India's largest energy storage company.
- ❖ The project is located in the Khemla block, Neemuch district.
- ❖ It has a capacity of 1440 megawatt (MW), with storage for 7.5 hours.
- ❖ Now it being expanded to 1920 MW with storage of 6 hours to provide a storage of nearly 11 Giga watt hours (GWh) daily.

Kerala's first 3D-printed building



- ❖ Kerala's first building Named Amaze-28, built using 3D printing technology has been inaugurated.
- ❖ Designed as a demonstration project, Amaze-28 is a model that was completed in just 28 days.
- ❖ In 3D printing basically, there are 3 processing.
- ❖ First is data processing, second is material processing and 3rd is robotic printing.

Baiga Tribal Group - Habitat rights



- ❖ The Baiga Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) became the second to get habitat rights in Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ A total of 19 Baiga villages with a population of 6,483 people (2,085 families) have been given the habitat rights.

- ❖ Habitat rights recognition provides the community concerned rights over their customary territory of habitation, socio-cultural practices, economic and livelihood means, intellectual knowledge of biodiversity and ecology, traditional knowledge of use of natural resources, as well as protection and conservation of their natural and cultural heritage.
- ❖ Habitat rights safeguard and promote the traditional livelihood and ecological knowledge passed down through generations.
- ❖ Habitat rights are given to PVTGs under section 3(1) (e) of the Forest Rights Act 2006.
- ❖ Earlier the Kamar Tribal Group get habitat rights in the state.

Manchirevula Forest Mesolithic rock art



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

India's First Wetland City

- ❖ The Rajasthan government is making efforts to make Udaipur, as the country's first wetland city.
- ❖ Only a few cities worldwide have received this recognition.
- ❖ This city is surrounded by five major lakes, Pichola, Fateh Sagar, Rang Sagar, Swaroop Sagar, and Doodh Talai.
- ❖ Udaipur is already included in the restoration project of the National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) of the central government.


- ❖ Presently, there are 42 wetland cities situated across 17 nations around the world.
- ❖ China has the highest number at 13 such cities.

ADVANTAGE, THE CITY OF LAKES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Udaipur is surrounded by five lakes such as Fateh Sagar, Lake Pichola, Swaroop Sagar, Rang Sagar and Doodh Talai which also conserve many fish species > Ramsar Conference of the Parties in 2015 (COP12) passed the establishment of a wetland city accreditation system globally > The 1st batch of wetland cities from China, France and Sri Lanka, among others, were notified in 2018 	 <p style="text-align: center;">File pic of Pichola lake in Udaipur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The 2nd batch of cities from Japan, Morocco, Iraq, Spain and others were declared in 2022

Saragarhi Memorial – Ferozpur

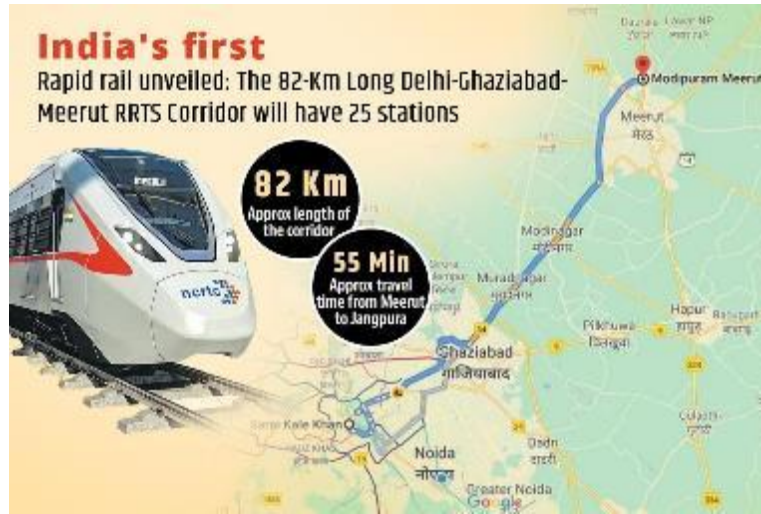
- ❖ The Punjab Chief minister laid the foundation stone of a Saragarhi memorial in Ferozpur.
- ❖ The battle of Saragarhi was held About 126 years ago, on 12 September 1897.
- ❖ 21 brave soldiers of the 36th Sikh Regiment of the British-Indian Army gave their martyrdom while fighting against about 10 thousand Afghani tribesmen.
- ❖ The 36th Sikh Regiment is now known as the 4th Sikh Regiment of the Indian Army.

BATTLE OF SARAGARHI -12 SEP 1897



Saragarhi Memorial Gurudwara Was Constructed To Commemorate Supreme Sacrifice Of 21 Sikh Soldiers Of 36 Sikh Regt Who Died Fighting Afghanistan More Than 10000 Pathans While Defending The Saragarhi Post Of Fort Lockhart In The North West Frontier Province On 12 Sep 1897. The Then 36 Sikh Regt (NOW 4 SIKH Regt) Was Raised At Jalandhar Under Command Of Colonel Cooke And Was Entrusted The Area From Kohat To Fort Lockhart. The Saragarhi Out Post Was Manned By Hav Ishar Singh With 20 Other Sikh Sepoys. The Battle Continued For Seven Hours. Re-enforcement Was Not Possible Due To Peculiar Location Of Saragarhi Post. Each Soldier Fought Valiantly And Died One By One After Giving A Grim Fight And Killing Hundreds Of Pathans. Each One Of These 21 Soldiers Was Awarded The Indian Order Of Merit For Their Valour. The Memorial Was Constructed In The Form Of Saragarhi Gurudwara In Which The Stone From Fort Lockhart Has Been Used. The Gurudwara Was Constructed At An Estimated Cost Of Rs 27118/- And Was Declared Open On 18 Jan 1904, By The Then Liout Governor Of Punjab, Sir Charles Montgomery. The Bravery Of 21 Sikh Soldiers Was Glorified And Published By Pioneer Group Of Papers, Allahabad And This Gathered Momentum Throughout The Country And Even In Britain. The News Papers Demanded Construction Of A Memorial For The Indian War Heroes So That The Sacrifice Would Not Only Be Pride For Sikh Army But For All Indians As A Result It Was Decided That Three Memorials Be Constructed One Each At Waziristan, Amritsar And Ferozepur. *Indian Heroes Fund* Was Established And Volunteer Subscription Given Not Only By The Indian Public But Even By Her Majesty The Queen Of England And British Public. These Fallen Soldiers Are Paid Homage On 12 Sep Every Year Saragarhi Day Since 1904.

India's First Regional Train Service



- ❖ India's first regional train service RapidX was inaugurated recently.
- ❖ The priority section of Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System opened between Duhai and Sahibabad, covering 17-kilometres.
- ❖ It has been named as NaMo Bharat.
- ❖ The total length of Delhi-Meerut corridor is 82 kilometres which will be covered in an hour.
- ❖ The RapidX train will look similar to metro trains, but according to a document shared by the NCRTC, the RRTS is completely different from Metro rail.
- ❖ The RRTS trains are designed to run at a speed of 180km/h, which makes it the quickest urban transit system in India.

Kasaragod district – Kerala



- ❖ Kasaragod district has become the first district in India to officially designate its own tree, flower, bird and species.
- ❖ The decision is a testament to the region's rich biodiversity and natural heritage.
- ❖ The official tree of the district is 'Kanjiram' (Strychnos nux-vomica Linn).
- ❖ The district bird is the White Bellied Sea Hawk, which is native to the region.
- ❖ Kasaragod has also chosen the Cantor's Giant Softshell Turtle, locally known as 'Bheemanama', as the district species.
- ❖ The district flower is 'Periya Polathali' or Crinum malabarica.

Coral Reef Fossils in Ladakh



- ❖ Geologist has unearthed coral reef fossils at 18,000 feet above sea level at Burtse in the Eastern Ladakh Himalayas.
- ❖ The unearthed fossils include structures of coral colonies, and give a glimpse into Burtse area's geological past which comprised of an ancient underwater world.
- ❖ The findings are indicative of a biodiversity that once existed in the said region.
- ❖ Coral reef, an underwater ecosystem comprising of colonies of corals, held together by a building of calcium carbonate.

Maharaj Gunj

- ❖ Srinagar Smart City Limited and the Kashmir chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) have joined hands to conserve vernacular elements of Kashmiri architecture.
- ❖ The Maharaj Gunj market area has a rich mix of vernacular and colonial architecture.
- ❖ This initiative sheds new light on the rare architectural elements introduced in Kashmir during the reign of Dogra Hindu kings from 1846 to 1947.

- ❖ Maharaj Gunj market is situated in the heart of Shehar-e-Khaas, Srinagar's old city.
- ❖ It was initially established by Maharaja Ranbir Singh to boost trade and commerce in Kashmir.
- ❖ In the pre-1947 era, it transcended regional boundaries, attracting traders from Amritsar, Lahore, Karachi, Rawalpindi, and even parts of Central Asia.



Star Party 2023

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



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

M.S. Swaminathan

- ❖ Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan, popularly known as M.S. Swaminathan passed away recently.
- ❖ He is the legendary agricultural scientist and a key architect of the country's 'Green Revolution.'
- ❖ In 1954, Dr. Swaminathan joined the Central Rice Research Institute (CRRI), Cuttack and later, IARI.
- ❖ In July 1966, he became IARI Director, the post he held till 1972.
- ❖ He worked as Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture (1979-80), Acting Deputy Chairman and later Member (Science and Agriculture), Planning Commission (1980-82) and Director General, International Rice Research Institute, the Philippines (1982-88).
- ❖ In 2004, Swaminathan was appointed as chair of the National Commission on Farmers, a commission setup to look into farmer distress amid alarming suicide cases.
- ❖ He was awarded the first World Food Prize in 1987.
- ❖ Swaminathan has been conferred with the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and the Padma Vibhushan.
- ❖ He is also the recipient of the H K Firodia award, the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award and the Indira Gandhi Prize.
- ❖ Apart from several international awards including the Ramon Magsaysay Award (1971) and the Albert Einstein World Science Award (1986).

2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize

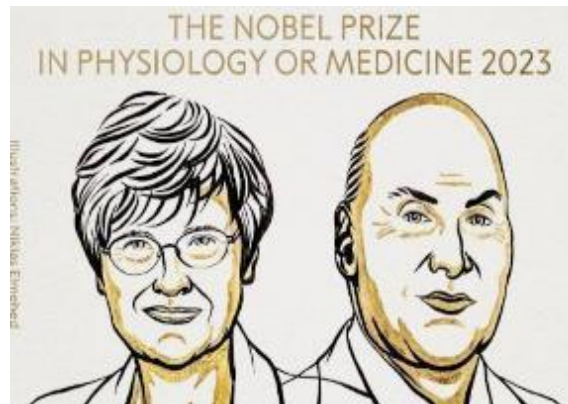


- ❖ Ruixiang Zhang, Assistant Professor, University of California, Berkeley, USA will be awarded with the 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize.

- ❖ The age limit for the prize has been set at 32 influenced by Ramanujan's achievements in his brief life of 32 years.
- ❖ This is awarded by the SASTRA University, Kumbakonam.

Nobel Prize 2023 In Medicine or Physiology

- ❖ The 2023 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine has been awarded to Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman.
- ❖ This is for their research that enabled the development of mRNA vaccines against COVID-19.
- ❖ Their “discoveries concerning nucleoside base modifications enabled the very development of effective mRNA vaccines against COVID-19”.
- ❖ The first vaccines to use the mRNA technology were those made by Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna against COVID-19.
- ❖ mRNA stands for messenger RNA, is a form of nucleic acid which carries genetic information.
- ❖ Like other vaccines, the mRNA vaccine also attempts to activate the immune system to produce antibodies that help counter an infection from a live virus.
- ❖ mRNA vaccines only introduce a piece of the genetic material that corresponds to a viral protein.
- ❖ Therefore, the mRNA vaccine does not expose individuals to the virus itself.



Tata Literature lifetime achievement award

- ❖ Tamil writer Ambai has been selected for the Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award.
- ❖ This award recognises and salutes sustained and outstanding contribution to writing and literature in India.

- ❖ Past recipients include Anita Desai, Mark Tully, Amitav Gosh, Ruskin Bond and Girish Karnad.
- ❖ She won the Sahitya Akademi award for her short story collection Sivappu Kazhutthudan Oru Patchaiparavai in 2021.
- ❖ Her first short story collection Sirakukal Muriyum was published in 1976.



Global Indian Award

- ❖ Sudha Murty was honoured with the prestigious Global Indian Award by the Canada India Foundation.
- ❖ With this, she became the first woman to get Global Indian Award.
- ❖ This award is given each year to a prominent Indian who has made a major mark in his or her chosen field.
- ❖ Her husband, Narayana Murty also got this award in 2014.

Nobel Prize in Physics 2023

- ❖ The 2023 Nobel Prize in Physics has been awarded to Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz, and Anne L'Huillier.
- ❖ This was awarded for experimental methods that generate attosecond pulses of light for the study of electro dynamics in matter.
- ❖ Their research has given humanity new tools for exploring the world of electrons inside atoms and molecules.
- ❖ They have demonstrated a way to create extremely short pulses of light that can be used to measure the rapid processes in which electrons move or change energy.

- ❖ Their experiments granted the Laureates to observe extremely brief events that transpire in a few tenths of attoseconds—a quintillionth (10^{-18}) of a second.
- ❖ An attosecond is so short that there are as many in one second as there have been seconds since the birth of the universe.
- ❖ These brief pulses of light can be used to provide images of what occurs inside atoms and molecules.



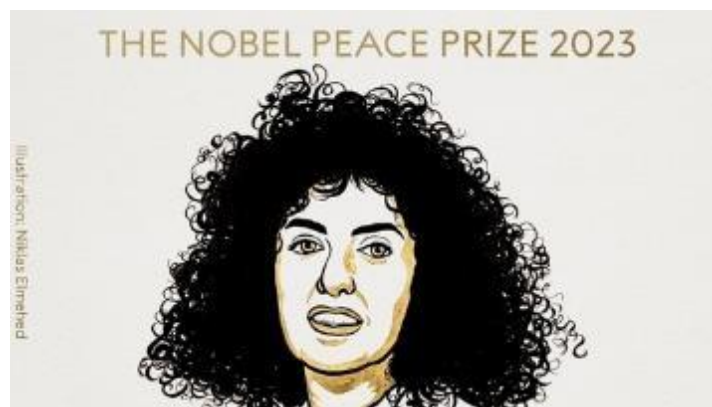
Nobel prize in chemistry 2023

- ❖ The 2023 Nobel Prize in chemistry was awarded to Mounqi G. Bawendi, Louis E. Brus and Alexei I. Ekimov.
- ❖ They were awarded for the discovery and synthesis of quantum dots.
- ❖ In the early 1980s, Dr. Ekimov succeeded in creating size-dependent quantum effects in coloured glass.
- ❖ In 1983, Dr. Brus and his colleagues went a step ahead and prepared similar crystals in a liquid solution, rather than in a glass.
- ❖ Finally, in 1993, Dr. Bawendi and his coworkers developed a technique to make these peculiar crystals— i.e., the quantum dots—of well-defined sizes and with high optical quality.
- ❖ These nanoparticles have wide-ranging applications across fields like electronics, advanced surgery, and quantum computing.
- ❖ Quantum dots are particles that are a few nanometres wide.
- ❖ They exhibit unique optical properties due to their small physical size.
- ❖ Their structure and atomic composition are the same as bulk materials, but the properties of the latter don't depend on their size.
- ❖ Quantum dots are also used in photovoltaic cells to improve the absorption and efficiency in converting solar light into electricity.



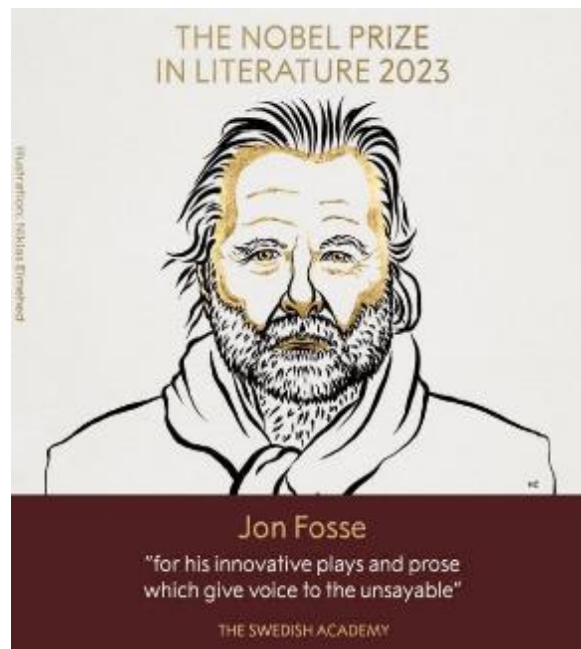
The Nobel Peace Prize 2023

- ❖ The Nobel Peace Prize 2023 has been awarded to Iranian activist Narges Mohammadi.
- ❖ This is awarded for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all.
- ❖ Ms. Mohammadi is currently lodged in a prison in Iran.
- ❖ She advocates against death penalty in a country that reports most state executions.
- ❖ Altogether, the regime has arrested her 13 times, convicted her five times, and sentenced her to a total of 31 years in prison and 154 lashes.
- ❖ She was arrested for the first time in 2011 for her efforts to assist incarcerated activists and their families.
- ❖ Two years later, after her release on bail, Ms Mohammadi immersed herself in a campaign against use of the death penalty.
- ❖ This led to her re-arrest in 2015.



Nobel Prize in Literature 2023

- ❖ The Nobel prize for Literature has been awarded to Norwegian author Jon Fosse.
- ❖ Fosse has been awarded the Nobel Prize “for his innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable”.
- ❖ He has often been referred to as the ‘New Henrik Ibsen’ after the iconic Norwegian playwright.
- ❖ He is celebrated for his writing style, often referred to as "Fosse minimalism."
- ❖ His style is characterized by simple, minimal, and searing dialogue, drawings.
- ❖ Notable works by Fosse include "A New Name: Septology VI-VII," "I Am the Wind," "Melancholy," "Boathouse," and "The Dead Dogs."



Nobel Prize in Economics – 2023

- ❖ The Nobel Prize in Economics for 2023 was awarded to Claudia Goldin, a Harvard University professor.
- ❖ This is awarded for “having advanced our understanding of women’s labour market outcomes and pay gaps”.
- ❖ Her work has shed light on the participation of women in the labour market over the past 200 years.
- ❖ Goldin’s work found that by the beginning of the 20th century, only around 20 per cent of women were gainfully employed.
- ❖ But, the share of married women was only five per cent.

- ❖ Goldin noted that legislation known as “marriage bars” often prevented married women from continuing their employment as teachers or office workers.
- ❖ Goldin's research covers a wide range of topics, including the female labor force, the gender gap in earnings, income inequality, technological change, education, and immigration.
- ❖ Goldin follows two other women — Elinor Ostrom in 2009 and Esther Duflo in 2019 — in being awarded the prize in economic sciences.
- ❖ A Nobel Prize in Economics was not part of Alfred Nobel’s 1895 will that established the other prizes.
- ❖ The economic sciences award was added by Sweden’s central bank in 1968 only.



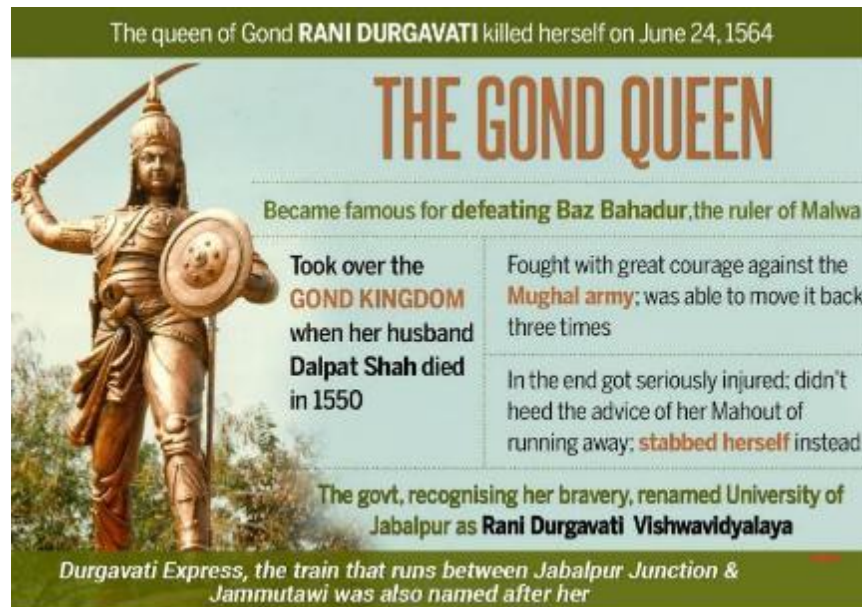
India’s 1st deaf Lawyer

SILENT HEARING

- > Advocate-on-record Sanchita Ain makes unusual request to a CJI-led bench — deaf advocate Sarah Sunny be permitted to **virtually argue a case** concerning rights of PwDs **with help of sign language interpreter**
- > **CJI agrees** & Sarah and interpreter Saurav Roychowdhury log in
- > When the case is called out, duo do a rapid tango of **silent sign language converted to arguments**

- ❖ Sarah Sunny made history after she became India's first deaf lawyer to argue in the country's Supreme Court.
- ❖ The court also appointed its own interpreter for Ms Sunny, the first in the court's history.
- ❖ Earlier, the Delhi High Court set a precedent when it allowed deaf lawyer Saudamini Pethe to appear in a case.

500th birth anniversary of Rani Durgavati



- ❖ The 500th birth anniversary of Rani Durgavati was celebrated by the Centre at the national level on October 05.
- ❖ The Foundation stone was laid for her grand memorial to be built in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ A postage stamp and a silver coin were released in her memory.
- ❖ She was the ruling queen of Gondwana in the mid-16th century.
- ❖ Rani Durgavati administered the kingdom after Her Husband, Dalpat Shah's death in 1548.
- ❖ She constructed reservoirs such as the Ranital, Cherital, and Adhartal.

Saraswati Samman 2022

- ❖ Tamil writer Sivasankari presented with the 'Saraswati Samman' 2022 for her book of memoirs Surya Vamsam.
- ❖ The award is instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation.



- ❖ She has authored 36 novels, 48 novelettes, 150 short stories, five travelogues, seven collection of essays and three biographies.
- ❖ The Saraswati Samman is one of the most prestigious awards given annually.
- ❖ This is awarded to an outstanding literary work of an Indian citizen published during the last 10 years in any of the languages included in Schedule VIII of the Indian Constitution.
- ❖ So far 32 awards have been presented.

Former CEC- MS Gill

- ❖ Former chief election commissioner Manohar Singh Gill passed away recently.
- ❖ He retired as the Chief Election Commissioner of India, a position he held from 1996 to 2001.
- ❖ It was during his tenure as CEC that the Election Commission introduced Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).
- ❖ After his retirement, he joined the Indian National Congress and represented Punjab in the Rajya Sabha from 2004 to 2016, marking two successful terms as MP.
- ❖ He is perhaps the first former CEC to have joined politics.
- ❖ During this period, he held portfolios of Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports and Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- ❖ Gill was awarded the Padma Vibhushan for his contribution as the chief election commissioner and the 'Nishan-e-Khalsa' on the 300th anniversary of the Khalsa Panth.

Cambrian Patrol Military Exercise

- ❖ The Indian Army showcased its exceptional military prowess on the international stage by securing a gold medal at the event.
- ❖ The event was organised and run by the 160th (Welsh) Brigade, based in Brecon, the British Army's headquarters in Wales.
- ❖ Ex Cambrian Patrol has been held annually since 1959 and is respected by military partners around the world.
- ❖ It is referred to as NATO's toughest patrolling test.
- ❖ In 2021 also, the Indian Army secured a gold medal at the same event held in the UK.



India Smart Cities Conclave 2023

- ❖ India Smart Cities Conclave 2023 was organised in Indore.
- ❖ Indore bagged the prestigious honour of 'Best Smart City'.
- ❖ Gujarat's Surat came second while Agra in Uttar Pradesh secured the third position among the smart cities of India.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh was also adjudged Best State in the country.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu came second.
- ❖ Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh together bagged the third position.
- ❖ The Coimbatore Corporation got three first prizes – for financial operations, for model roads and for lake restoration.
- ❖ The Thanjavur Corporation got the third prize for projects on cultural development and upkeep of the town's history.
- ❖ The Tuticorin Corporation got the third prize for digitisation of schools.

Bishan Singh Bedi

- ❖ Bishan Singh Bedi, former Indian cricket captain and legendary spinner has passed away recently.
- ❖ He played 67 Tests between in a 12-year-career spanning between 1967 and 1979.
- ❖ Bedi also went on to captain India in 22 Tests and played India's first-ever ODI against East Africa in 1975.
- ❖ In the year 1976, Bedi was appointed captain of the Indian team.
- ❖ He was awarded Padma Shri in 1970.

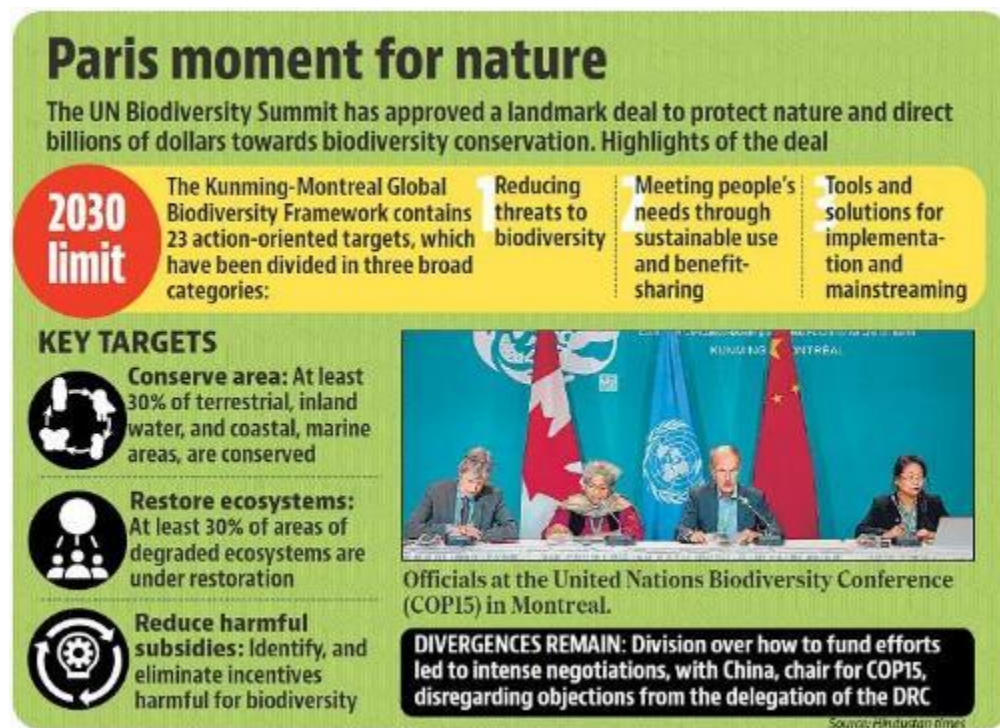
World Coffee Conference 2023



- ❖ The World Coffee Conference & Expo 2023 was held for the first time in Asia at Bengaluru.
- ❖ The 5th edition of the event was organized by the International Coffee Organization (ICO) in collaboration with the Coffee Board of India.
- ❖ Coffee Swami, the official mascot of the 5th WCC, seamlessly connects Indian tradition with contemporary appeal.

SBSTTA 25 and COP-15

- ❖ Twenty-fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 25) and the Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15) was held in Nairobi, Kenya.
- ❖ The 25th meeting is the first time the group has met since the Framework was adopted in December 2022.
- ❖ Some 670 participants from 135 countries are in Nairobi for the meeting.



Paris moment for nature

The UN Biodiversity Summit has approved a landmark deal to protect nature and direct billions of dollars towards biodiversity conservation. Highlights of the deal

2030 limit The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework contains 23 action-oriented targets, which have been divided in three broad categories:

- Reducing threats to biodiversity
- Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing
- Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming

KEY TARGETS

- Conserve area:** At least 30% of terrestrial, inland water, and coastal, marine areas, are conserved
- Restore ecosystems:** At least 30% of areas of degraded ecosystems are under restoration
- Reduce harmful subsidies:** Identify, and eliminate incentives harmful for biodiversity

Officials at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in Montreal.

DIVERGENCES REMAIN: Division over how to fund efforts led to intense negotiations, with China, chair for COP15, disregarding objections from the delegation of the DRC

Source: Hindustan Times

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan Birth anniversary

- ❖ Sir Syed Ahmed Khan is known for propagating modern education among Muslims and advocating several reforms for the community.
- ❖ He established Scientific Society at Ghazipur in 1864.

- ❖ He also started publishing Tahzib-ul-Akhlaq in 1870 to instil the modern consciousness among the Muslims.
- ❖ In 1875 he laid the foundation of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) as Madrasatul-Uloom with seven students.
- ❖ On January 8, 1877, the foundation of Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental (MAO) College was laid.
- ❖ In 1920, this college got the status of Aligarh Muslim University.

Syed Ahmad Khan, Anglo-Indian philosopher, was born on Oct 17, 1817

Founder of AMU

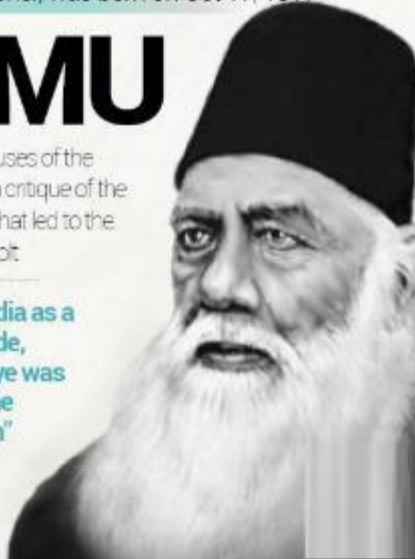
Was conferred the title of Javad-ud-Daulah in 1842 by Bahadur Shah Zafar-II

Penned the Causes of the Indian Mutiny, a critique of the British policies that led to the causing the revolt


Formed the Muslim League, which later on metamorphosed into the All-India Muslim League

Visualised India as a "beautiful bride, whose one eye was Hindu and, the other, Muslim"


But his views changed after the Hindi-Urdu controversies and his reformist policies became more Muslim-focused



20th anniversary of UNTOC



UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



UNTOC AT 20

Commemorating the 20th anniversary of the adoption
by the General Assembly of the
**UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST
TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME**

- ❖ Two-day conference was hosted to mark the 20th anniversary of United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crimes (UNTOC) at Palermo in Italy.
- ❖ UNTOC is a 2000 United Nations-sponsored multilateral treaty against transnational organized crime.
- ❖ The convention was adopted by a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on 15 November 2000.
- ❖ India joined on 12 December 2002.
- ❖ The Convention came into force on 29 September 2003.

Global Teacher Prize 2023



- ❖ Deep Narayan Nayak, a school teacher from West Bengal's Asansol, has been selected as one of the top 10 finalists for the Global Teacher Prize 2023.
- ❖ The Global Teacher Prize recognizes exceptional educators with a \$1 million award for their outstanding contributions to the field.
- ❖ Mr Nayak transformed mud walls into blackboards and roads into classrooms, providing education to those who might otherwise have been left behind.
- ❖ He also made efforts to educate parents, particularly mothers and grandmothers, with the goal of breaking the cycle of illiteracy.

SPORTS

Asian Games 2023 women's cricket

- ❖ Indian women team beat Sri Lanka women in the final to win the gold medal.
- ❖ This is India's second gold medal of Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China.
- ❖ Medal winners
 - India - Gold
 - Sri Lanka - Silver
 - Bangladesh - Bronze

Indian Grand Prix 2023

- ❖ Italian rider Marco Bezzecchi, emerged as winner in the inaugural Indian Grand Prix for the 2023 MotoGP season.
- ❖ Jorge Martin finished in the second position.
- ❖ Yamaha's Fabio Quartararo claimed the third-place spot.

Asian Games 2023

- ❖ Indian trio of Manu Bhaker, Esha Singh and Rhythm Sangwan won gold medal in the women's 25m pistol team event at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.
- ❖ The Esha Singh-led women's 10m air pistol trio bagged a silver medal.
- ❖ India have won a total of 58 shooting medals, including nine gold, at the continental meet.

Sprinter Vithya Ramraj national record



- ❖ Sprinter Vithya Ramraj equalled PT Usha's 400m hurdles national record.
- ❖ She won the 400m hurdles bronze at the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.
- ❖ Her time of 55.42 seconds placed her among the top five athletes.
- ❖ The mark of 55.42s was what Usha had set at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

Asian Games 2023

Competition Medal Count						
All Sports ▾		All Medallists ▾		Search		
Rank	Team/NOC	🥇	🥈	🥉	Total	Rank by Total
1	 People's Republic of China	187	104	63	354	1
2	 Japan	47	57	65	169	3
3	 Republic of Korea	36	50	85	171	2
4	 India	25	35	40	100	4
5	 Uzbekistan	20	18	26	64	6
6	 Chinese Taipei	17	17	25	59	7
7	 Democratic People's Republic of Korea	11	18	10	39	11

- ❖ India has reached the unprecedented milestone of 100 medals at the ongoing 19th Asian Games is a momentous achievement.
- ❖ India have so far won 25 gold medals, 35 silver medals and 40 bronze medals.
- ❖ The 100th mark was reached after the women's kabaddi team beat Chinese Taipei in a nail-biting final in the last time to clinch gold.
- ❖ Athletics (best-ever haul of 29 medals) and shooting (22) have been the biggest contributors to India's sweetest century.
- ❖ This is also only the second time India have won more than 100 medals in any of the three major Games - The Olympics, Commonwealth Games and Asian Games.
- ❖ They had won 101 medals in the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi.



















3000 Sixes in ODI Cricket

Team Name	Number Of Sixes Hit In ODIs
India	3007+
West Indies	2953+
Pakistan	2566+
Australia	2476+
New Zealand	2387+
England	2032+
South Africa	1947
Sri Lanka	1779+

- ❖ Team India went past 3000 ODI sixes in the second ODI against Australia in Indore.
- ❖ Thus, India became the first team to hit 3000 ODI sixes.
- ❖ West Indies closely follows second on the list with 2953 sixes while Pakistan sit third with 2566 sixes.

Achievements in 19th Asian Games

- ❖ India finished fourth in the overall medals tally at the Asian Games 2023.
- ❖ This is the country's best-ever medal haul at the quadrennial event in the last 60 years.
- ❖ With 107 medals, India's medal tally comprised of 28 gold, 38 silver and 41 bronze.
- ❖ India became the only fourth country after China, Japan and the Republic of Korea to win 100 or more medals in a single edition of the Asian Games.
- ❖ The fourth-place finish was also India's best-ever rank since the 1962 Jakarta edition when India finished third.
- ❖ The men's doubles pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy claimed India's maiden gold medal in badminton.
- ❖ The men's and women's Indian cricket teams also won their first gold medals in the Asian Games on their tournament debuts.

Rank	Team/NOC				Total	Rank by Total
1	 People's Republic of China	196	108	70	374	1
2	 Japan	49	63	58	180	3
3	 Republic of Korea	39	57	89	185	2
4	 India	28	38	41	107	4
5	 Uzbekistan	21	18	30	69	6
6	 Chinese Taipei	18	19	28	65	7
7	 Islamic Republic of Iran	13	20	19	52	10
8	 Thailand	12	14	31	57	8
9	 Democratic People's Republic of Korea	11	18	10	39	11
10	 Bahrain	11	3	5	19	16
11	 Kazakhstan	10	20	45	75	5
12	 Hong Kong, China	8	16	29	53	9
13	 Indonesia	7	11	18	36	12

Los Angeles 2028 Olympics

- ❖ Cricket is set to be included in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic programme.
- ❖ Five sports have been proposed by the @LA28 Organising Committee for inclusion at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles in five years' time.
 - Baseball-softball
 - Cricket
 - Flag football
 - Lacrosse
 - Squash
- ❖ Cricket has been played in the Olympics only once before, in Paris in 1900, when England and France battled for the gold medal.

Marathon World Record

- ❖ Kenya's Kelvin Kiptum set a world record to win Sunday's Chicago Marathon men's title.
- ❖ He completed the race by an unofficial time of two hours and 35 seconds.
- ❖ He shattered the old-world record of 2:01:09 set by Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge to win the 2022 Berlin Marathon.
- ❖ The old Chicago Marathon record of 2:03:45 was set by Kenyan Dennis Kimetto in 2013.
- ❖ Dutch runner Sifan Hassan won the Chicago Marathon women's title in an unofficial time of two hours, 13 minutes and 44 seconds.
- ❖ This is the second-fastest women's time in marathon history after Ethiopian Tigist Assefa.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of the Older Persons 2023 - October 01

- ❖ Purpose of the occasion is to raise awareness of the value of senior persons in our society and to show our appreciation for their contributions.
- ❖ The observance serves as a reminder of the need for policies and actions that support the well-being, dignity and rights of older persons.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is “Fulfilling the Promises of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for Older Persons: Across Generations”.

International Coffee Day 2023 - October 01

- ❖ The day also serves as a reminder to respect and honour the coffee farmers who dedicate their days and nights to growing the best coffee beans.
- ❖ This day aims to highlight economic, social & cultural significance of coffee along with raising awareness about sustainable coffee practices.
- ❖ This year’s theme is “promoting the right to a safe and healthy working environment in the coffee supply chain”.

World Vegetarian Day 2023 - October 01

- ❖ It aims to spread awareness around benefits of vegetarianism and how it plays an important role in shrinking environment footprint.
- ❖ This day was established by North American Vegetarian Society in 1977 and endorsed by the International Vegetarian Union in 1978.
- ❖ Around 22% of the global population is vegetarian and in India with 38% of the total population following meat-less diet.

International Music Day 2023 - October 01

- ❖ The day promotes peace and harmony among various world cultures.
- ❖ It was first celebrated on the same day in 1975.
- ❖ In 1949, UNESCO established an advisory body, the International Music Council, to advise it on music.
- ❖ World Music Day falls on June 21.



International Day of Non-Violence 2023 - October 02

- ❖ In 2007, the United Nations General Assembly designated this day to honour Gandhi's principles.
- ❖ The day is an occasion to "disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness".
- ❖ It reaffirms "the universal relevance of the principle of non-violence" and the desire "to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence".
- ❖ Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was born on October 2, 1869, in Porbandar, Gujarat.
- ❖ In 1930, Gandhi was named the Person of the Year by Time Magazine.

World Farm Animals Day 2023 - October 02

- ❖ It was as created with the intention to prevent the abuse and mistreatment of farm animals.
- ❖ This observance was established in 1983 as part of the International Farm Animal Rights Movement campaign.
- ❖ It serves as a platform to raise awareness about the prolonged suffering and harsh conditions that farm animals endure, including their brutal slaughter.

World Habitat Day 2023 - October 02

- ❖ Every year, World Habitat Day is celebrated on the first Monday of the month of October.
- ❖ This day celebrated to raise awareness of the importance of having a habitat or a home of our own and discuss important aspects of them
- ❖ In 1986, the first World Habitat Day was celebrated in Nairobi, Kenya.
- ❖ The theme of that year's World Habitat Day was – Shelter is my right.

World Space Week 2023 - October 4/10

- ❖ This week is celebrated to highlight the contributions of space science and technology.
- ❖ On October 4, 1957, when Sputnik 1, the first man-made Earth satellite was launched.
- ❖ On the other day, on October 10, 1967, a treaty was signed to guarantee the peaceful utilisation of outer space, involving the moon and other celestial bodies.

- ❖ It is also known as the "Magna Carta of Space".
- ❖ The theme of World Space Week 2023 is "Space and Entrepreneurship".



World Nature Day 2023 - October 03

- ❖ This day was established by the World Nature Organization (WNO).
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the challenges our environment faces, particularly due to climate change.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is 'Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet'.

World Animal Welfare Day 2023 - October 04

- ❖ This day aims to celebrate animal rights and welfare around the world.
- ❖ This day unites the animal welfare movement, mobilising into a global force to make the world better for all animals.
- ❖ The theme of 2023 is "Big or small, we love them all".

World Teachers' Day 2023 - October 05

- ❖ This day aims to recognise and celebrate educators including teachers, researchers and professors' work.
- ❖ This marks the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 ILO and UNESCO recommendation concerning the status of teachers.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is "The teachers we need for the education we want: The global imperative to reverse the teacher shortage".
- ❖ This Day has been celebrated since 1994.

National Wildlife Week 2023 - October 02/08

- ❖ This week-long observation aimed at raising awareness about the importance of wildlife conservation in India.
- ❖ The Indian Board of Wildlife first conceptualized the idea in 1952.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is “Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation.”
- ❖ It evolved into a week-long celebration in 1957.

Breast cancer awareness month 2023 – October 1/31

- ❖ The annual international health campaign aims to increase awareness of the disease and to raise funds for research into its cause, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure.
- ❖ The pink ribbon is an international symbol of breast cancer awareness.
- ❖ In 1985, it was founded by the American Cancer Society and the Imperial Chemical Industries Pharmaceuticals.
- ❖ Breast Cancer is a type of cancer that arises in the epithelium (lining cells) of the ducts or lobules in the glandular tissues of the breast.

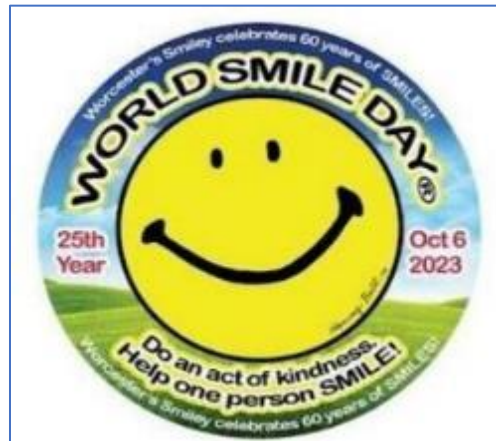


World Architecture Day 2023 - October 02

- ❖ This annual event was hosted by the International Union of Architects (IUA).
- ❖ World Architecture Day has taken place on the first Monday of October since 1985.
- ❖ It happens in parallel with the United Nations’ (UN) World Habitat Day.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is “Safe Spaces for All: Accessible Design Leads the Way.”

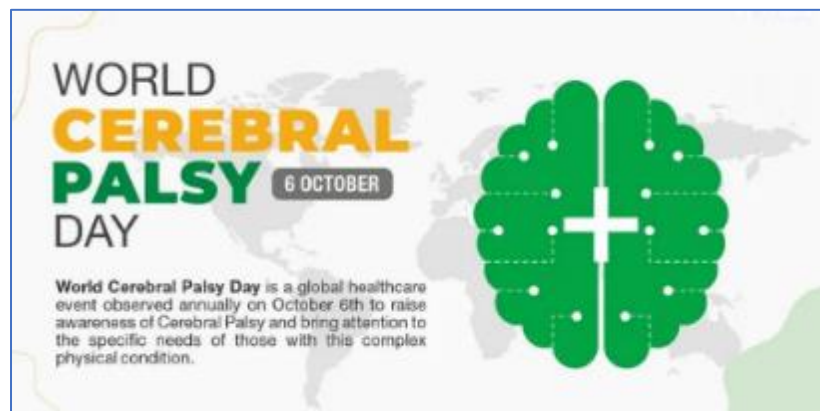
World Smile Day 2023 - October 06

- ❖ Harvey Ball, a commercial artist from Worcester, Massachusetts created the smiley face in 1963.
- ❖ The image went on to become the most recognizable symbol of good will and good cheer on the planet.
- ❖ The first World Smile Day celebration was held in Worcester, MA in 1999.



World Cerebral Palsy Day 2023 - October 06

- ❖ In 2012, the Cerebral Palsy Alliance announced World Cerebral Palsy Day.
- ❖ It aims to raising awareness about the disorder and finding ways to ensure that people with cerebral palsy have equal rights, access and opportunities like the rest of the world.
- ❖ Children and adults affected by cerebral palsy often face challenges that hinder their full participation in society.
- ❖ There are no prevention methods to prevent Cerebral Palsy.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is “Together Stronger.”



World Cotton Day 2023 - October 07

- ❖ Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali – four main cotton producers in sub-Saharan Africa proposed this day in 2012.
- ❖ It was established by the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2019.
- ❖ It aims to recognize the importance of cotton as a global commodity and to promote awareness about the challenges faced by cotton farmers and the cotton industry worldwide.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is 'Making cotton fair and sustainable for all: from farm to fashion'.



Indian Air Force Day 2023 - October 08

- ❖ This annual event is celebrated to commemorate the establishment of the Indian Air Force (IAF) in 1932.
- ❖ The theme of this year is 'IAF - Airpower Beyond Boundaries'.
- ❖ The IAF evolved from the Royal Indian Air Force, which was established on 8 October 1932.
- ❖ The IAF was established in 1950 and is still active today.
- ❖ The IAF fought four conflicts with Pakistan in 1947-1948, 1965, 1971 (Bangladesh War) and 1999 (Kargil War).
- ❖ In 1961, it supported the accession of Goa to the Indian Union.

- ❖ In 1962, the IAF provided critical air support to the Indian Armed Forces in their battle against the Chinese Army.
- ❖ In 1984, the IAF helped capture the Siachen Glacier.
- ❖ In 1988, the IAF prevented the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) from overthrowing the government in the Maldives.

World Post Day 2023 - October 09

- ❖ This day is celebrated in remembrance of the foundation of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1874 in Bern, Switzerland.
- ❖ It was first declared as the World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan, in 1969.
- ❖ In India, the day acknowledges the beginning of National Postal week, celebrated from October 9 to October 15.
- ❖ Theme for 2023 is "Together for Trust: Collaborating for a safe and connected future."

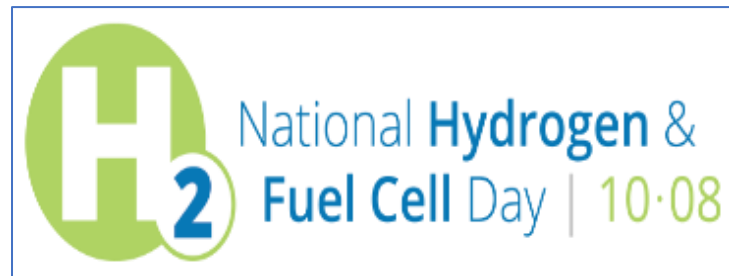


Indian Foreign Service Day 2023 - October 09

- ❖ The Indian government had established the Indian Foreign Service on 9th October 1946.
- ❖ This day honours the critical institution for India's diplomatic, consular, and commercial representation worldwide.
- ❖ During the British rule, the Foreign Department was created to manage interactions with Foreign European Powers.
- ❖ IFS officers are career diplomats tasked with representing India's interests both domestically and abroad.



World Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day 2023 - October 08

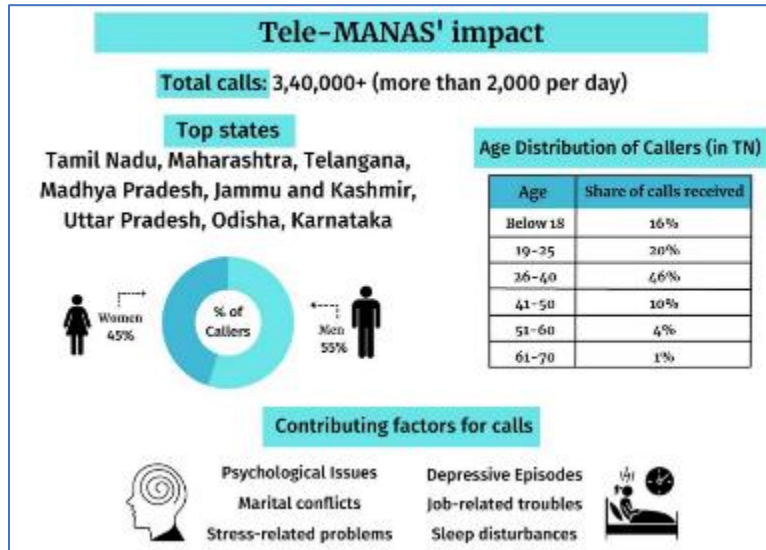


- ❖ This global initiative is aimed at promoting awareness and understanding of hydrogen as a clean and sustainable energy source.
- ❖ October 8th written in mm/dd format (10/08) refers to the atomic weight of hydrogen (1.008).
- ❖ Therefore, this date was chosen to observe the Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day.
- ❖ This day serves as a platform to acknowledge the potential of hydrogen and fuel cells in addressing the pressing global challenges.

World Mental Health Day 2023 - October 10

- ❖ This day is devoted to promoting mental well-being across the world.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is 'Mental health is a universal human right'.
- ❖ According to the World Health Organization, half of all mental health issues begin before the age of 14.
- ❖ Estimates show that 70-92% of Indians do not receive medication or treatment for different mental conditions.

- ❖ India launched Tele-MANAS, or the National Tele-Mental Health Programme to get advice, counselling and referral to psychologists and psychiatrists.
- ❖ Tele-MANAS has received over 3,40,000 calls (as of October 8) from 51 cells spread across 32 States and Union Territories.



National Post Day 2023 - October 10



- ❖ The National Post Day is celebrated to mark the role played by the Indian postal department in over 150 years.
- ❖ Postal service was introduced in India by the British.
- ❖ It was founded in 1854 by Lord Dalhousie.
- ❖ India has 23 postal circles and 9 postal zones including Army Post Office.

- ❖ Post offices in Indian follow a 6-digit PIN Code system, which was introduced in India in 1972.
- ❖ The Postal Department celebrated 'National Postal Week' from October 9 to 13.
- ❖ The theme of the Postal week was 'Together for Trust'.

World Dyslexia Day 2023 - October 08

- ❖ This day is observed every year to shed light on dyslexia, a learning difference that affects millions of individuals worldwide.
- ❖ The Dyslexia awareness week is celebrated annually from 2nd to 8th October.
- ❖ Persons with Dyslexia might struggle with reading, writing, vocabulary, and tasks that require hand-eye coordination.
- ❖ This day aims to promote inclusivity, access to education, and the implementation of effective strategies to support individuals with dyslexia in their learning endeavours.
- ❖ The theme for this year is 'Uniquely You'.



World Day Against the Death Penalty 2023 - October 10

- ❖ This day serves as a global platform to raise awareness about the practice of capital punishment.
- ❖ It also advocates for its worldwide abolition, and champion human rights and justice.
- ❖ 112 countries have abolished the death penalty for all crimes.
- ❖ The 5 countries that executed the most in the world in 2022 are, in order: China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and USA.

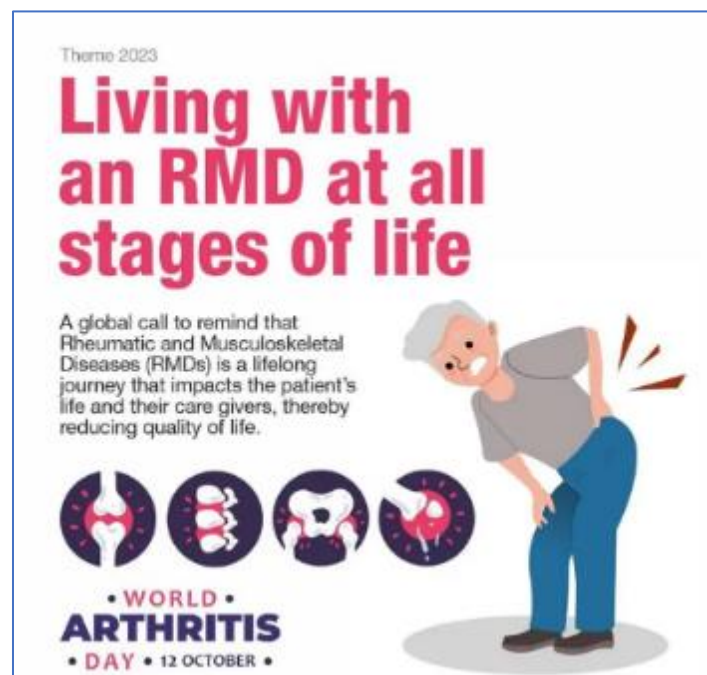
- ❖ 28,282 individuals are known to be under a sentence of death around the world at the end of 2022, of which less than 5% are women.



International Day of the Girl Child 2023 - October 11

- ❖ It was first celebrated in 2012 as a way to raise awareness about gender inequality and to advocate for girls' rights and empowerment.
- ❖ This day aims to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is "Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being"

World Arthritis Day 2023 - October 12



- ❖ This day aims to create awareness about arthritis, its impact on one's life and educating people about the symptoms, preventive measures.
- ❖ Arthritis refers to joint pain or joint disease, the inflammation or swelling of one or more joints.
- ❖ While there are more than 100 such conditions, two common ones are osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.
- ❖ The theme of 2023 is "Living with an RMD at all stages of life".
- ❖ This day was established by Arthritis and Rheumatism International (ARI).
- ❖ The first event was observed on 12 October 1996.

World Sight Day 2023 - October 12

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



UN International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction 2023 - October 13

- ❖ The day is dedicated to create awareness about disasters, their impact on living beings, and preventive measures.

- ❖ In 1989 the United Nations General Assembly established the day to promote a culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction across the globe.
- ❖ The theme of 2023 is "Fighting inequality for a resilient future."
- ❖ In 2015, the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan.

World Egg Day 2023 - October 13

- ❖ World Egg Day is celebrated on the second Friday of October each year.
- ❖ In 1996 the World Egg Day was established by the International Egg Commission.
- ❖ This day serve as an annual opportunity to promote the significance of eggs in human nutrition, food security and overall well-being.
- ❖ Theme for 2023 is 'Eggs for a healthy future'

World Standard Day 2023 - October 14

- ❖ The primary aim of this day is to educate consumers, policymakers, and businesses on the importance of standardization.
- ❖ This day was inaugurated on October 14, 1946.
- ❖ It serves as an opportunity to raise awareness among nations and their citizens.
- ❖ It also encourages them towards a better quality of life.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is "Shared Vision for a Better World: Incorporating Sustainable Development Goal for Good Health and Well-Being."



World Migratory Bird Day 2023 - October 14

- ❖ The World Migratory Bird Day 2023 is a global day which is observed twice a year.

- ❖ The day is observed on the second Saturday of May and October in different countries.
- ❖ This day is observed in the United States and Canada in May while in other countries it is observed in October.
- ❖ The theme of this year is “Water: Sustaining Bird Life”.

International Day of Rural Women 2023 - October 15

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

World White Cane Day 2023 - October 15

- ❖ This day is observed to recognise the importance of blind people, and their active participation in society and to celebrate independence.
- ❖ In 1964, then-US President Lyndon B Johnson celebrated this Day for the first time.
- ❖ For the unversed, the white cane is an important mobility tool that was mainly invented for blind people and has been in use for centuries now.

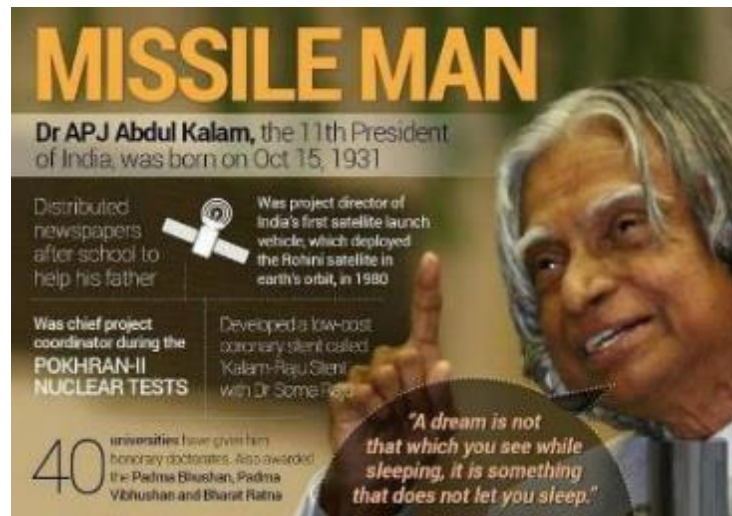


Global Handwashing Day 2023 - October 15

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

World Student Day 2023 - October 15

- ❖ It is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of the former President of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.
- ❖ This day honours the notable contributions of former President Kalam in the field of education.
- ❖ He is a great teacher, an eminent scientist and a great statesman, served as the 11th Indian President from 2002 to 2007.
- ❖ After completing his tenure as the 11th President of India, Dr Kalam went back to teaching.



World Food Day 2023 - October 16

- ❖ This day is aimed marks the establishment of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in 1945.
- ❖ The day serves to remind humanity about the challenges of food shortage and malnutrition faced by millions around the world.
- ❖ The day focuses on the requirement for feasible farming practices, equitable food distribution, and availability of nutritious food for all.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is 'Water is Life, Water is Food. Leave No One Behind.'

World Anesthesia Day 2023 - October 16



- ❖ The day strives to raise awareness about the importance of anaesthesia in medical treatments.
- ❖ Anaesthesia was first used on October 16, 1846.
- ❖ The first successful demonstration of ether anaesthesia was performed by William Thomas Green Morton in Boston, USA.
- ❖ The discovery of anaesthesia helps patients undergo surgical treatments without any pain.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is 'Anaesthesia and Cancer Care.'

International Poverty Eradication Day 2023 - October 17

- ❖ This day aims to promote understanding and dialogue between people living in poverty and the wider society.
- ❖ The first observation of the day can be traced back to 17 October 1987.
- ❖ Theme for 2023 is 'Decent Work and Social Protection: Putting dignity in practice for all'

World Statistics Day 2023 - October 20

- ❖ The day is dedicated to create awareness about the significant role of advanced, reliable, and good quality statistics in the development of global nations.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly established this day on 20th October 2015.
- ❖ This day highlights the huge achievements of national statistical systems, and to foster the importance of statistics in various aspects of society.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is "Connecting the world with data we can trust."

World Osteoporosis Day 2023 - October 20



- ❖ This day aims to promote awareness regarding the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of osteoporosis.
- ❖ Osteoporosis is a bone disorder characterized by abrupt structural alterations in the bones.
- ❖ Thus, it is resulting in a reduction in bone mass and bone mineral density.
- ❖ "Step Up for Bone Health-Build Better Bones" is the theme of 2023.

Police Martyrs' Day 2023 - October 21

- ❖ The day marks the sacrifice of 10 CRPF men who lost their lives to a Chinese attack in 1959.
- ❖ The attack happened near Ladakh's Hot Springs area.
- ❖ Hot Spring in Aksai Chin in Ladakh is situated between 15,000 and 16,000 ft above the sea level on the Indo-Tibet border.
- ❖ The day honouring the spirits of police people and their family members.
- ❖ It is celebrated to pay respect to all those who sacrificed their lives.

International Chef's Day 2023 - October 20

- ❖ This day encourages people to understand the importance of a chef in their lives and that cooking is an essential skill.
- ❖ Dr Bill Gallagher, a former president of the World Association of Chefs Societies (Worldchefs), founded this Day in 2004.
- ❖ This year's theme is 'Growing Great Chefs'.



International Stuttering Awareness Day 2023 - October 22



- ❖ Stuttering is a disruption in speech pattern involving dysfluencies in a person's speech.
- ❖ The International Stuttering Association (ISA) officially launched in 1998.
- ❖ The theme for this year is "One Size Does NOT Fit All".

Mole Day 2023 - October 23

- ❖ It is celebrated every year on 23 October from 6:02 a.m. to 6:02 p.m.
- ❖ It commemorates chemistry's measuring unit called "Avogadro's Number" (6.02×10^{23}).
- ❖ In general, one mole of any substance contains Avogadro's Number of molecules or atoms of that substance.
- ❖ This relationship was first discovered by Amedeo Avogadro (1776-1858).

602,214,076,000,000,000,000,000
The number of atoms, molecules or ions in one mole of a substance

Atoms, molecules and ions are very small and impossible for chemists to count. Using the mole makes it easier to talk about amounts of substances involved in reactions, by relating the mass of a substance to its atomic or molecular mass.

Amount of substance = mass (g) ÷ mass of 1 mole (g mol⁻¹)

 H ₂ O 18.0 g	 Fe 55.9 g	 O ₂ 32.0 g	 NaCl 58.4 g	 Au 197 g	 He 4.00 g
Water	Iron	Oxygen	Table salt	Gold	Helium

One mole contains a different mass for different substances
This makes sense if you think about it. Different substances will have atoms, molecules or ions which have different masses. Gold atoms have a greater mass than iron atoms, so the mass contained in one mole of gold atoms is greater.

Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders Prevention Day 2023 - October 21

- ❖ The day is dedicated to raising awareness about the critical role of iodine in our health.
- ❖ Iodine, an essential mineral required for thyroid hormone production, plays a vital part in our bodily functions.
- ❖ Iodine deficiency manifests through symptoms such as thyroid enlargement (Goitre), fatigue, weight gain due to slowed metabolism, constipation, puffiness on the face, muscle weakness, dry skin, etc.

World
IODINE DEFICIENCY
Day **October 21**



World Iodine Deficiency Day is observed worldwide on the 21st of October annually to raise awareness about the importance of iodine consumption and its effect on health. This day is also known as World Iodine Deficiency Disorder Day.

Global Media and Information Literacy Week - October 24/31

- ❖ This day raises awareness of the importance of media and information literacy (MIL) in today's digital world.
- ❖ The first Global Media and Information Literacy Week was held in 2011 in Fez, Morocco.
- ❖ Theme of this year is "Media and Information Literacy in Digital Spaces: A Collective Global Agenda"



Disarmament Week 2023 - October 24/30

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness of the importance of disarmament and to promote the elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.
- ❖ This is an opportunity to educate the public about the dangers of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and to advocate for their elimination.
- ❖ This observation week was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1978, during its 10th special session on disarmament.

International Day of Diplomats 2023 - October 24

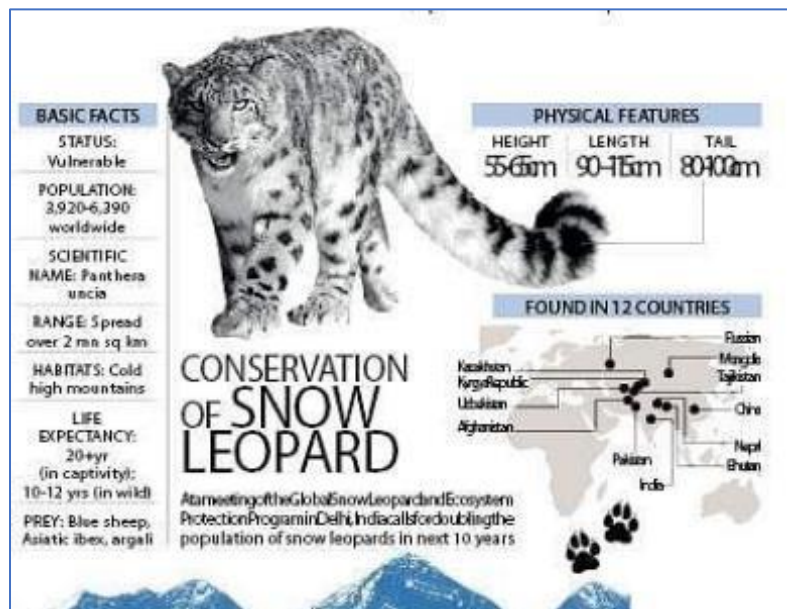
- ❖ The day aims to commemorate the contributions made by diplomats in shaping the world since ancient times and in making our planet a better place.
- ❖ It also aims to bridge the gap in perception and reality of diplomats' lives among the general public.
- ❖ The first International Day of Diplomats was celebrated in Brasília on 24 October 2017.

United Nations Day 2023 - October 24



- ❖ The day marks the anniversary of the day when the UN Charter entered into force in 1945.
- ❖ On October 24, 1945, the United Nations was officially established.
- ❖ This year's United Nations Day Concert is on the theme of "The Frontlines of Climate Action".

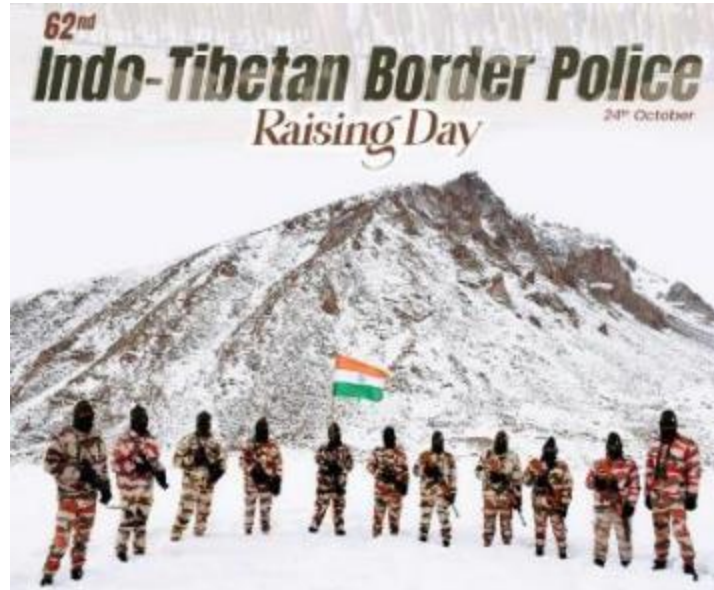
World Snow Leopard Day 2023 - October 23



- ❖ This day aims to celebrate snow leopards and spread awareness about the species.
- ❖ The acceptance of the Bishkek Declaration on the conservation of snow leopards was signed by 12 countries on October 23, 2013.

- ❖ India, Nepal, Bhutan, China, Mongolia, Russia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan were among the 12 countries.

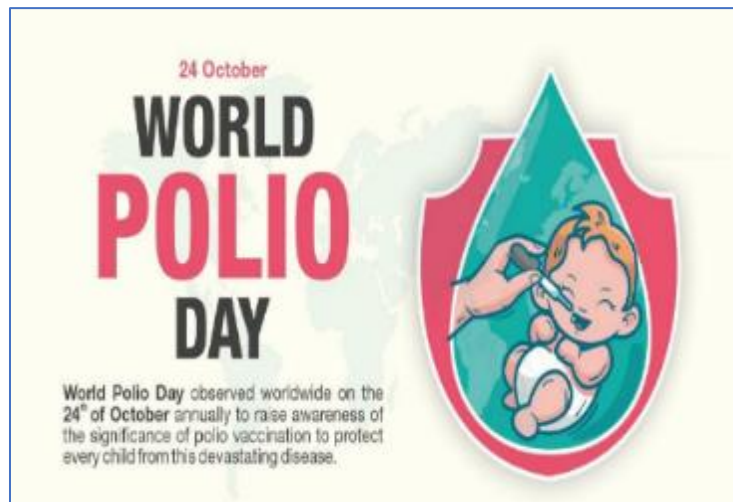
ITBP Raising Day 2023 - October 24



- ❖ The 62nd Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Raising Day was observed this year.
- ❖ This Day helps commemorate the valour and sacrifice of these policemen.
- ❖ The ITBP was created in 1962 for reorganising the border intelligence and security set up along the Indo-Tibetan border.
- ❖ The ITBP is now deployed to patrol the Indo-China border from Karakoram Pass in Ladakh to Diphu La in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ They are covering a distance of 3,488 km of the India-China border.

World Polio Day 2023 - October 24

- ❖ This day aims to create awareness around the importance of polio vaccination to protect children.
- ❖ Oral polio vaccine is highly effective in protection from polio.
- ❖ In 1988, Rotary International and the WHO established the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI).
- ❖ India completes 12 polio-free years and the last polio case in India was detected in 2011.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is “A healthier future for mothers and children.”



World Development Information Day 2023 - October 24

- ❖ This day direct people's attention toward developmental problems and the need to strengthen international cooperation to solve them.
- ❖ The UN General Assembly in 1972 established this day.
- ❖ The main aim of this day is to propagate information and mobilise public opinion in order to draw their attention and create awareness of the problems surrounding development, promoting efforts in the field of international cooperation for growth and development.

World Trauma Day 2023 - October 17

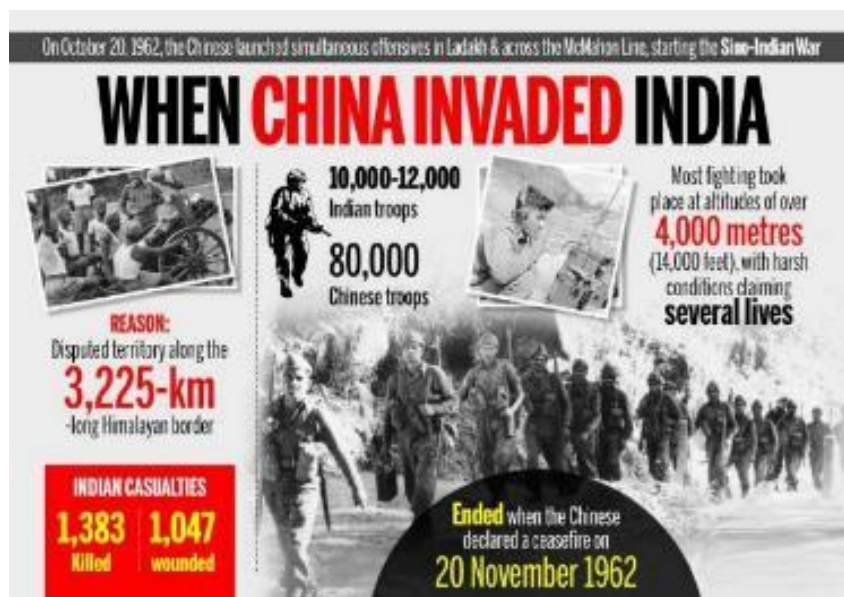


- ❖ It aims to raise voices to support trauma victims and educate them to adhere to preventive measures in their life to avoid any traumatic incidents.
- ❖ The first annual World Trauma Day was established in 2011 in New Delhi, India.

- ❖ More than 50 lakh people die each year as a direct result of injury.
- ❖ This equates to one death every six seconds and 9 percent of all deaths worldwide.
- ❖ Annually, it is estimated that 10 lakh people in India will die due to injuries, and another 2 crores will be admitted to hospitals.

National Solidarity Day 2023 - October 20

- ❖ This day is observed to honour the soldiers who fought during the Sino-Indian War of 1962.
- ❖ On October 20, 1962, China launched a devastating attack on India.
- ❖ A second Chinese offensive commenced on November 16, 1962.
- ❖ The conflict finally came to a halt on November 20/21, 1962.
- ❖ In 1966, a committee elected by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi established this Day to honour soldiers and their families who sacrificed in conflicts.



International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2023 - October 22/29

- ❖ This observation takes place every year during the third week of October.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about health effects of lead exposure and highlight the efforts of countries and partners to prevent lead exposure, particularly in children.
- ❖ The focus of this year's campaign will be "End Childhood Lead Poisoning."



World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2023 - October 27

- ❖ The Day provides an occasion to raise general awareness of the need to take urgent measures and to acknowledge the importance of audiovisual documents.
- ❖ Audiovisual represent a priceless heritage which is an affirmation of our collective memory and a valuable source of knowledge.
- ❖ The 33rd session of UNESCO's General Conference in 2005 proclaimed this day.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is "Your Window to the World".

World Stroke Day 2023 - October 29

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

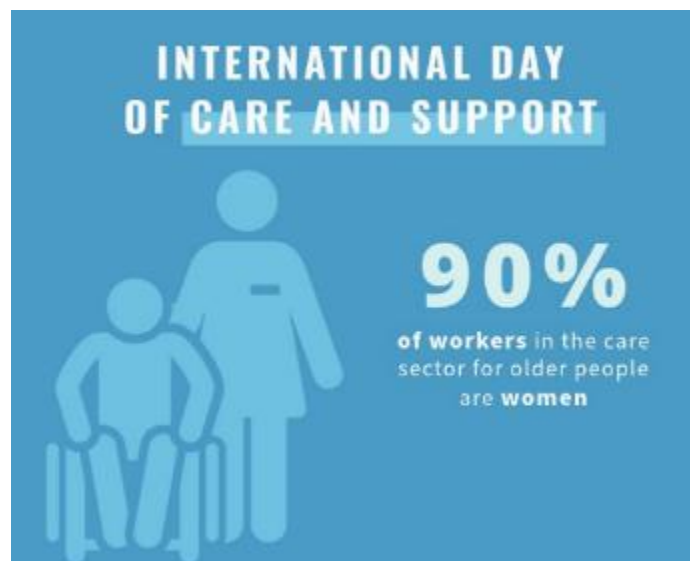
World Stroke Day

A **stroke** is a **brain attack** caused when **blood** is **blocked** from getting around the brain, or when a blood vessel in the brain **bursts**.



International Day of Care and Support 2023 - October 29

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



World Thrift Day 2023 - October 30

- ❖ This day is observed on the 31st of October.
- ❖ But in India, it is observed on 30th October.
- ❖ This occasion is celebrated to promote the habit of thrifting and better management of money and wealth.
- ❖ The first World Thrift Day was organized in 1924 in Milan, Italy.
- ❖ The occasion also saw the inception of the World Savings and Retail Banking Institute.
- ❖ Theme for 2023 is "Conquer your Tomorrow" through savings!

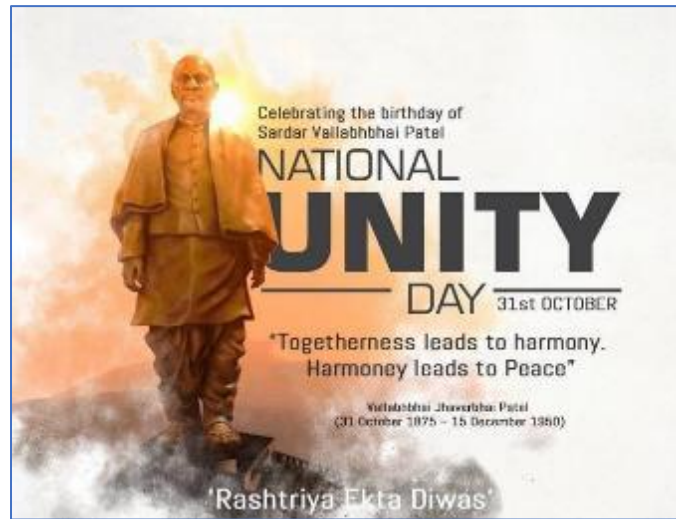


International Dwarfism Awareness Day 2023 - October 25

- ❖ The day spreads awareness for achondroplasia, a bone growth disorder that causes dwarfism.
- ❖ Achondroplasia means “without cartilage formation.”
- ❖ It occurs in one in every 15,000 to one in 40,000 live births.
- ❖ Those who have this condition are called dwarfs, which is why this condition is also called dwarfism.

Rastriya Ekta Diwas 2023 - October 31

- ❖ Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel’s birthday is now celebrated as Rashtriya Ekta Divas or National Unity Day.
- ❖ It aims to honour his monumental achievement of integrating more than 550 princely states into the Union of India.
- ❖ He is popularly known as the Bismack of India and “Iron Man of India”.
- ❖ The celebration of Ekta Diwas was announced in 2014.



Halloween Day 2023 - October 31

- ❖ This festival is celebrated in Europe and it marks the difference between summer and winter.
- ❖ It is thought to have originated from the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain.
- ❖ Samhain was a celebration of the end of the harvest season and the beginning of the winter.

World Cities Day 2023 - October 31



- ❖ The day serves as an opportunity to promote the international community's interest in global urbanization.
- ❖ It enhances cooperation among countries in addressing challenges of urbanization and contribute to sustainable urban development around the world.
- ❖ Theme for 2023 is "Financing sustainable urban future for all"



MISCELLANEOUS

105th Anniversary of Battle of Haifa

- ❖ The Battle of Haifa was fought during First World War as a part of the Sinai and Palestine campaign against the Ottoman Empire.
- ❖ The Indian Army commemorates September 23 as 'Haifa Day' every year to pay its respect to three Indian Cavalry, Mysore, Hyderabad and Jodhpur Lancers who were mainly involved in the war.
- ❖ The troops tasked with capturing the vital ports were the soldiers of the 15th (Imperial Service) Cavalry Brigade, which mostly comprised Indian soldiers.
- ❖ Dalpat Singh Shekhawat was immortalised as the "Hero of Haifa".
- ❖ This battle's resulted in the following events:
 - Partition of the Ottoman Empire,
 - Leading to the eventual creation of the Republic of Turkey in 1923, and the subsequent creation of the Kingdom of Iraq in 1932,
 - The Lebanese Republic in 1943,
 - The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic in 1946, and
 - The State of Israel in 1948.

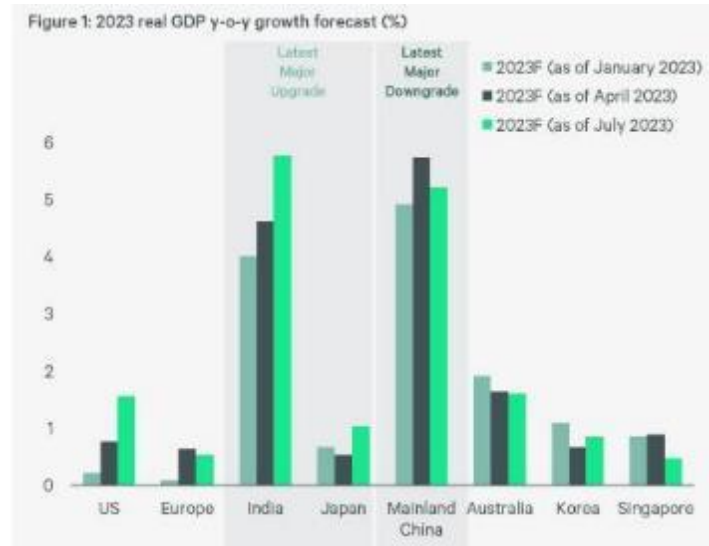
Toto Shabda Sangraha Dictionary

- ❖ Toto is a Sino-Tibetan language spoken by the tribal Toto people and is written in the Bengali script.
- ❖ A language spoken by barely 1,600 people living in parts of West Bengal bordering Bhutan is to get a dictionary
- ❖ The dictionary is a step in the direction of preserving the language, alive so far only orally, by putting its vocabulary in print.
- ❖ The Toto script is still in a nascent stage and members of the tribe are more familiar with the Bengali script.

Mid-Year Real estate Outlook 2023

- ❖ The CBRE-CII report, titled 'Indian Real Estate: Taking Giant Strides – 2023 Mid-Year Outlook' was released recently.
- ❖ There has been a 36 per cent surge in green-certified office spaces across the top six cities in India since 2019.

- ❖ This is accounting for about 342 million square feet.
- ❖ Bangalore, Delhi-NCR, and Mumbai emerged as the frontrunners in the green office space initiative.



“Wagh Nakh” to Maharashtra



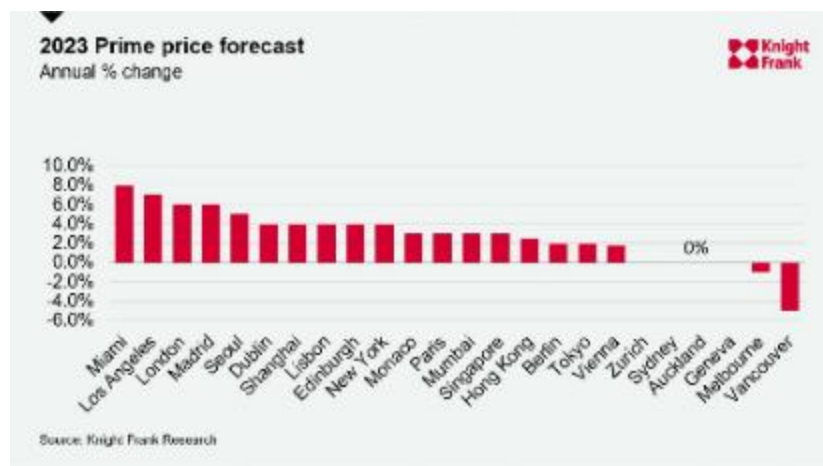
- ❖ The Victoria and Albert (V and A) Museum has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Maharashtra government.
- ❖ As per the MoU, India will be able to showcase the famous 17th-century 'Tiger Claws' for 3 years in a Mumbai Museum.
- ❖ The weapon is of great significance as it is believed to have once been wielded by Maratha leader, Chhatrapati Shivaji.
- ❖ These 'Tiger Claws,' are also known as wagh nakh.
- ❖ They are shrouded in folklore and are said to have played a pivotal role in a dramatic military encounter that unfolded.
- ❖ In 1659, Chhatrapati Shivaji, concealed these metal claws in his hand and is reputed to have used against Afzal Khan, the commander of Bijapur army.

Human Settlements in Flood-Prone Zones



- ❖ As per the World Bank report, Human settlement in the world’s riskiest flood zones increased 122 per cent since 1985.
- ❖ The world’s overall built-up regions grew 85 per cent from 1985 to 2015.
- ❖ Richer countries like the United States and parts of Europe are seeing more growth in safer areas than flood-prone ones.
- ❖ China and Vietnam both saw their settlement extent more than tripling in the past 30 years.
- ❖ Most countries, especially in East Asia, saw more settlements in regular flood zones and ultra-high flood zones than in dry areas
- ❖ Libya, which suffered from devastating flooding last month, had an 83 per cent increase in settlement extent in the worst flood zones
- ❖ Pakistan, also affected by catastrophic flooding both last year and this year, had an 89 per cent increase

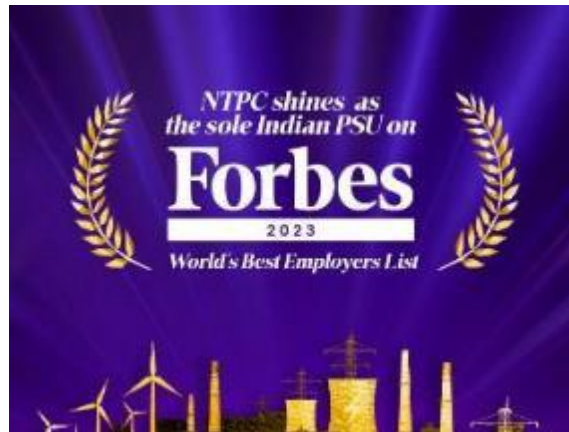
Global Prime Residential Index 2023



- ❖ The London-based property consultant Knight Frank released the Global Prime Residential Index.
- ❖ It has ranked Mumbai in the 19th position, Bengaluru in the 22nd position, and New Delhi in the 25th position.
- ❖ The Turkish capital Ankara leads the Index with the highest growth rate of 105.9 percent, followed by Istanbul at 85.1 percent.

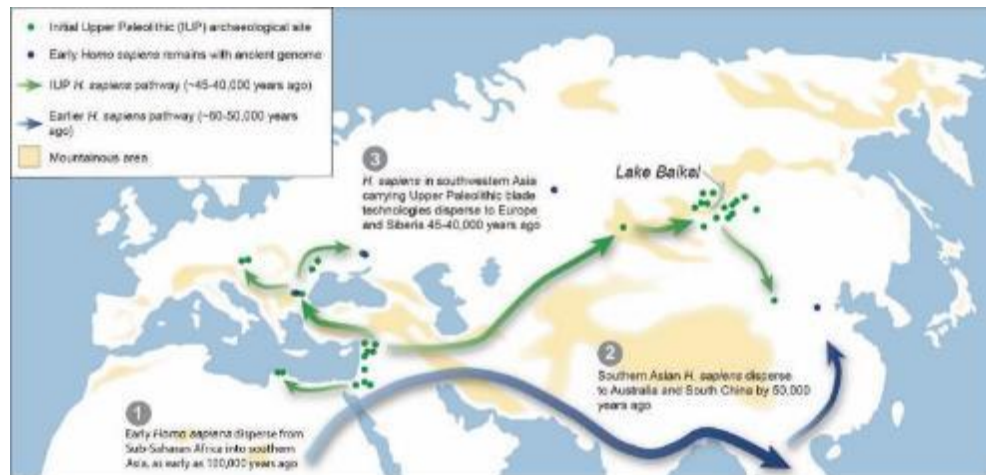
World's Best Employers 2023 – NTPC

- ❖ NTPC Limited, energy company in India, has received an award for being one of the World's Best Employers 2023.
- ❖ NTPC is ranked 261st out of the top 700 companies in the world.
- ❖ It's the only Indian government-owned company on this list.



Ancient Pollen Analysis

- ❖ Pollen grains analysis helps understand how the first humans migrated from Africa across Europe and Asia.
- ❖ The pollen data showed that warming temperatures supported forests that expanded into Siberia and facilitated early human migration there.
- ❖ They compared Pleistocene vegetation communities around Lake Baikal in Siberia, Russia, to the oldest archaeological traces of Homo sapiens in the region.
- ❖ Pleistocene period is considered two million to 11 thousand years ago and as the time of human evolution.
- ❖ The study focuses on a migration event that occurred approximately 45,000-50,000 years ago.



Revival of Mushk Budji

- ❖ Mushk Budji is likely to get a major boost in its yield with the Jammu and Kashmir authorities.
- ❖ They are planning to expand its cultivation area to 5,000 hectares in the next three years.
- ❖ It is the indigenous aromatic rice variety from Kashmir.
- ❖ Mushk Budji rice was granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag recently.



Conventional Notions of Little Ice Age Climate

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

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

