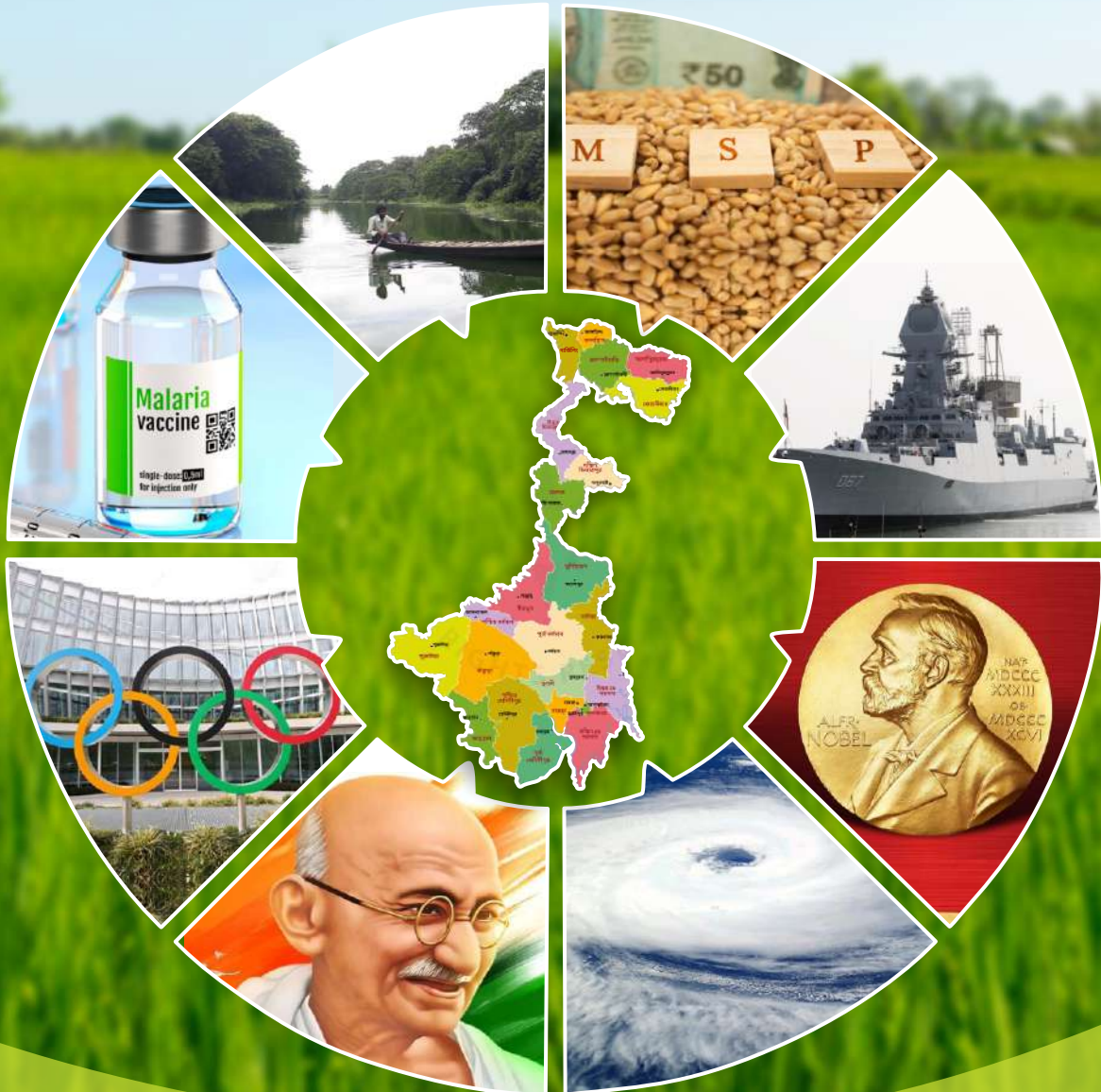


A MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR ASPIRANTS OF WBCS EXAMINATION

WBCS GAZETTE

A House Journal **APTI PLUS**



OCTOBER 2023

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01

WEST BENGAL SPECIAL

Ichamati River

- The Minister of State for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, recently inaugurated **the dredging work at National Waterway 44 (Ichamati River) in West Bengal.**
- The Ichamati River, also spelt Ichhamati, is a **trans-boundary river which flows through India and Bangladesh** and also forms the boundary between the two countries.
- The river is facing the problem of siltation leading to a thin flow of water in the dry season and floods in the rainy season.
- The **Ichamati River is now in three parts:**
 - The longer part flows from the Mathabhanga River, a distributary of the Padma, and after flowing for 208 kilometres joins the Kalindi River near Hasnabad in North 24 Parganas and Debhata in Satkhira District
 - Once the main river west of Dhaka
 - Ichamati of Dinajpur

RIVERS OF GANGA BASIN IN WEST BENGAL

The Mahananda River

- **Ghoom, near Darjeeling town, in the Darjeeling district, is the source of the Mahananda River.**
- At Barsoi in Bihar, the river splits into two sections. One of the two branches, known as Fulahar, goes into Bihar, while the other, known as Mahananda, goes through West Bengal.
- The river Mahananda, which drains into the Ganga from the north-western bank near Godogarighat, just downstream of the point where Ganga departs the West Bengal border, carries the discharge of four tributaries: Nagar, Kalindri, Tangon, and Punarbhabha.



The Jalangi-Bhairab River System

- The river Jalangi begins in Murshidabad district, 165 kilometres downstream of Farakka, on the right bank of the river Padma.
- Except when it rains, when it receives water from Padma, Jalangi is dead for all intents and purposes.
- **The river finally concludes its trip by dropping into the Hooghly River in Nabadwip town in West Bengal's Nadia district.**
- The river Bhairab begins its voyage in Murshidabad's P.S. Lalbag, where it joins the Ganga.
- It is almost completely dry presently, though it receives water from Padma during the rainy season.

The Ichhamati-Churni River System

- The river Mathabhanga originates from the mouth of the Jalangi of Padma
- It is not a significant river at present time because it primarily flows in Bangladesh. **Within the Nadia district, it flows for barely a few kilometres.**
- At this point, the river splits into two streams: the eastern course flows south-east through the districts to meet Bhagirathi under the name Churni and the western route flows under the name Ichhamati.

- Ichhamati receives a small supply from Padma and thrives on tidal flow washout.

The Bhagirathi-Hooghly River System

- In terms of water resources, the Ganga Brahmaputra Meghna river system is one of the world's major river systems.
- **The Ganga, which originates in India's Himalayas, drains a large region. It splits into two channels near its deltaic head at Farakka, the Bhagirathi-Hooghly and the Padma.**
- The Bhagirathi-Hooghly flows through West Bengal before emptying into the Bay of Bengal, while the Padma enters Bangladesh and joins the Brahmaputra at Goalundo.
- **The Bhagirathi River separates the Murshidabad district into two sections. The Bagmari-Pagla, the Mayurakshi, and the Ajoy are three right bank tributaries.**
- It receives the Jalangi from the left slightly upstream of Nabadwip town. The Bhagirathi becomes the Hooghly after it merges with the Jalangi.
- The Bhagirathi-Hooghly is the state's principal river and the main drainage artery for the state's southern regions, draining nearly the whole region.
- The Ganga's main flow was down the Bhagirathi-Hooghly before the 12th century. As a result, the main flow was shifted eastward along the current route of Padma. Due to runoff releases from a number of eastern and western tributaries, the flow of the Bhagirathi increases downstream.
- It also serves as a dividing line between the districts of 24 Parganas and Hooghly.

The Mayurakshi-Babla River System

- The River Mayurakshi is a native of the Santhal Parganas highlands.
- It is the district of Birbhum's principal river. The Mayurakshi's lower sections are home to several spill channels, including the Manikornika, Kana Mor, Gambhira, and others.
- All of these rivers flow through the Murshidabad district's bottom pocket called Hijal Beel.
- The river Babla begins its voyage from the Beel and eventually drains into the Bhagirathi.
- The level depression caused by the river Bhagirathi has a significant impact on the drainage and flood magnitude in the Hijal Beel.

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WBCS

PRELIMS

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2023





16 TEST

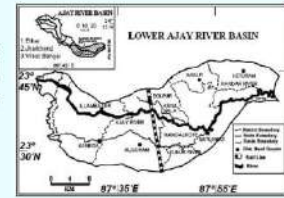
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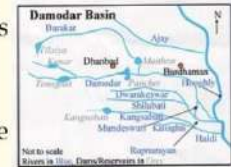
The Ajoy River

- The river Ajoy originates from the hills near Deoghar in Jharkhand. Hinghlow, Kunoor, Pathro, and Jayanti are the river's major tributaries. It is indicated by several researchers that the flow of the river has been tremendously guided and influenced by a fault line.



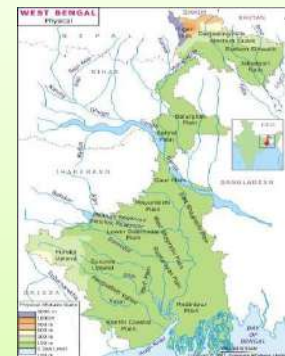
The Damodar River

- The river Damodar originates in Jharkhand's Palamau hills and splits into two channels around Beguahana.
- The major flow of water passes through the Mundeswari channel and into Rupnarayan.
- The Amta channel, on the other hand, carries flow during high floods and empties into the river Hooghly.



The Darakeswar-Silabati and Rupnarayan River System

- Darakeswar emanates from the highlands of Purulia district of West Bengal
- The Ganddheswari River, which originates in the Bankura district, meets with the Darakeswar River after passing a meagre flow of a few kilometres.
- Rupnarayan was formed when Bankura town, which receives water from streams like Arkasha and Berai, entered the Hooghly district and met Silabati to form Rupnarayan. The river Silabati also originated in the Purulia district.
- After receiving the main flow of Damodar through Mundeswari and a branch of Kangsabati, it empties into the Hooghly.
- Throughout its whole length, the river is tidal.



Global Teacher Prize 2023

- Deep Narayan Nayak, a teacher from West Bengal, has been named one of the top 10 finalists for the Global Teacher Prize 2023, a prestigious award recognizing exceptional teachers from around the world.
- It is an annual award organized by the UK-based Varkey Foundation in partnership with UNESCO and Dubai Cares, a UAE-based philanthropic organization.
- To be eligible for the Global Teacher Prize, teachers must be actively teaching children in compulsory schooling or between the ages of five and eighteen. They should also dedicate at least 10 hours per week to teaching and commit to remaining in the teaching profession for the next five years.
- The prize is open to teachers from all types of schools and, depending on local laws, from any country in the world.

- The prize is worth USD 1 million and aims to recognize and celebrate outstanding teachers who have made a significant contribution to the field of education.

Deep Narayan Nayak

- He is a teacher from the Tilka Manjhi Adivasi Free Primary School in Jamuria, Asansol, West Bengal, India, and earned the title of "Teacher of the Streets" for his exceptional educational efforts during the COVID-19 lockdown.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, he transformed outdoor spaces, converting mud walls into blackboards and roads into classrooms, to address the digital divide and offer education to marginalized children in remote, poverty-stricken communities.
- He also worked to improve literacy rates among adult learners, provided counselling to students and their parents, and addressed learning disabilities.
- His focus extended beyond the classroom to empower both children and communities.



02

NATIONAL

Veer Gatha Project 3.0

- The Veer Gatha Project 3.0 is a nationwide initiative **launched by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE) in India.**
- Veer Gatha Project launched in 2021, engaged 13.6 million school students nationwide, encouraging creativity through poems, paintings, essays, and videos, focusing on the courageous deeds of Gallantry Awardees.
- Among participants, 100 national-level winners, known as the super 100, were felicitated in New Delhi, each receiving a Rs. 10,000 cash prize, with additional district and State/UT level winners recognized for their outstanding contributions.
- The initiative **aims to instil values of courage and selflessness, raise awareness about Gallantry Awardees' bravery, foster patriotism, and recognise exceptional student efforts in tribute to Armed Forces personnel.**



“

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Bru Refugees

- Bru refugees, who have been **permanently settled in Tripura**, will not participate in the Mizoram Assembly election for the first time.
- The Bru, an ethnic group in northeastern India, have faced displacement and persecution for decades due to ethnic conflicts, land disputes, and religious violence.
- **In 1997, over 40,000 Bru fled Mizoram to Tripura after attacks by Mizo militants.** The Tripura government has been reluctant to accept them due to lack of resources.
- In January 2020, an agreement was signed between the Central government, the governments of Tripura and Mizoram, and Bru refugee representatives. The agreement aimed to permanently settle the Bru refugees.



Ethics Committee

- Lok Sabha Speaker refers complaint against TMC MP **Mahua Moitra** to ethics Committee.
- The Ethics Committee was **first constituted in the Rajya Sabha in 1997 and in the Lok Sabha in 2000. It was made a permanent committee in the Lok Sabha in 2015.**
- The **Ethics Committee in the Lok Sabha consists of 15 members.** The Speaker appoints members of the committee for one year.
- The **Ethics Committee in the Rajya Sabha consists of 10 members**, including its Chairman, who is nominated by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- The primary role of the Ethics Committee is to oversee and maintain the moral and ethical conduct of members of Parliament. It examines cases of misconduct referred to it.
- After examining a complaint, the committee makes recommendations to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha or the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. Based on these recommendations, the Speaker or the Chairman may take appropriate actions, which can include issuing warnings, admonishments, or recommending the expulsion of the member from the respective house.

Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR)

- It is a unique identification system introduced **by the Union Education Ministry.** It is often referred to as 'One Nation, One ID' and is part of the Education Ecosystem Registry, also known as EduLocker.
- **It aims to assign a 12-digit unique identification number to every student in India**, starting from pre-primary education up to higher education levels.
- The system is designed to link this unique APAAR ID with the student's Aadhaar number, ensuring accurate identification and reducing the chances of duplication.
- It intends to create a comprehensive, centralized database that tracks a student's academic progress throughout their educational journey, providing a unified record system from early education to higher studies.



Global Innovation Index 2023

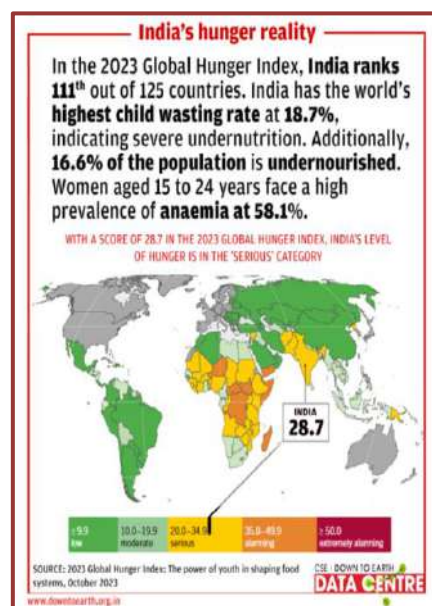
- **India ranked 40th out of 132 economies** in the Global Innovation Index 2023 rankings.
- It is published by the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)** in collaboration with Cornell University, INSEAD, and other institutions.
- The GII serves as a crucial benchmarking tool for policymakers, business leaders, and stakeholders to assess a country's progress in innovation.
- Switzerland ranked 1st, followed by Sweden (2nd) and the United States (3rd).
- China ranked 12th globally and remained the only middle-income economy in the top 30, securing the 3rd position in the Southeast Asia and Oceania region.

World Economic Outlook (WEO) report

- World Economic Outlook (WEO) report revised **India's economic growth forecast for the fiscal year 2023-24 upwards from 6.1% to 6.3%**.
- **IMF predicts India's retail inflation to rise to 5.5% in 2023-24**, aligning with RBI's 5.4% projection; domestic resilience is attributed to strong demand amid global economic contrasts.
- IMF expects 3% global GDP growth in 2023, and inflation to rise to 5.8% in 2024; tight monetary policies impact growth, with lingering uncertainties due to uneven recovery, supply disruptions, and lowered investments.
- The **World Economic Outlook (WEO) is a biannual report published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF)** that assesses the global economic outlook and provides forecasts for key economic indicators, such as GDP growth, inflation, and unemployment.

Global Hunger Index 2023

- **India ranked 111th out of 125 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2023.** India's score of 28.7 indicates a serious level of hunger in the country.
- In the Global Hunger Index 2022, India ranked 107 out of 121 countries.
- It is an annual report published by European NGOs Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe. The report aims to measure and track hunger globally, regionally, and by country.
- It was first created in 2006 and was initially a collaboration between the US-based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the German organization Welthungerhilfe.
- The GHI employs a multidimensional approach, incorporating **four key indicators to calculate a numerical score on a 100-point scale:**
 - **Undernourishment:** This indicator reflects the share of the population with insufficient caloric intake.
 - **Child Stunting:** It represents the share of children under the age of five who have low height for their age, indicating chronic undernutrition.



- **Child Wasting:** This indicator signifies the share of children under the age of five who have low weight for their height, indicating acute undernutrition.
- **Child Mortality:** It reflects the share of children who die before their fifth birthday, influenced by factors such as inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environments.
- The GHI score provides a comprehensive overview of a country's hunger situation. The scores are categorized into different levels of severity, ranging from low to extremely alarming. **A score of 0 indicates the absence of hunger, while a higher score signifies a more severe hunger situation.**
- Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Chile, China, and Croatia are among the top performers in the index.
- Chad, Niger, Lesotho, Congo, Yemen, Madagascar, and the Central African Republic are ranked at the bottom of the index.

Project Mariana

- The **central banks of Singapore, France, and Switzerland, in partnership with the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), conducted Project Mariana**, a joint experiment to test cross-border trading and settlement of wholesale central bank digital currencies (wCBDCs).
- The project utilized new decentralized finance technology concepts on a public blockchain to facilitate the trading and settlement of hypothetical euro, Singapore dollar, and Swiss franc wholesale CBDCs between simulated financial institutions.
- The potential for wCBDCs to make cross-border payments faster and cheaper holds promise for enhancing financial inclusivity. Businesses and individuals, especially in regions with limited access to traditional banking services, could benefit significantly from these advancements.
- **The Project is purely experimental.** The participating central banks emphasized that the project does not indicate any intention to issue wCBDCs or endorse specific technological solutions or decentralized finance (DeFi) concepts.

India-Japan Fund

- The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) and the **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) are collaborating to create a \$600 million India-Japan Fund.**
- The primary objective of the India-Japan Fund is to invest in projects that promote environmental sustainability and reduce carbon emissions. This focus aligns with global efforts to combat climate change and encourages the development of renewable energy, energy efficiency, clean technology, and other green initiatives.
- The Government of India will contribute 49% of the total corpus for the India-Japan Fund, and JBIC will provide the remaining 51% of the target corpus.
- NIIF Limited (NIIFL) will be responsible for managing the India-Japan Fund.



About the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)

- NIIF proposed in the 2015-16 Union Budget and formally launched in December 2016, the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) is India's first sovereign wealth fund aimed at financing infrastructure projects.
- NIIF collaborates with the Government of India, with **GoI holding a 49% stake in each fund, while the remaining 51% is owned by global and domestic institutional investors.**
- Attracting global interest, NIIF secured a \$1 billion commitment from the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) for the Master Fund, showcasing international investment.
- NIIF plays a vital role in funding projects spanning economic and social infrastructure, contributing to the nation's overall development.

International Criminal Court (ICC)

- Armenia's Parliament voted to join the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- **ICC was established in 2002 under the Rome Statute** to address war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity.
- It is located in The Hague, Netherlands, and has jurisdiction over these serious crimes committed after July 1, 2002, as well as the crime of aggression since July 17, 2018.
- The ICC operates independently of the United Nations, although it has a cooperative relationship with the UN.
- It is the first permanent international criminal court established to prosecute individuals for the most serious offences of international concern.



Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

- **S. Jaishankar (Minister of External Affairs)** led the Indian delegation at the **23rd Council of Ministers meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in Colombo**, where India assumed the Vice-Chair role for 2023-25.
- Sri Lanka currently holds the Chair of IORA, succeeding Bangladesh and will serve from 2023-2025, while India is set to take over the chairmanship for 2025-27.
- The **Indian Ocean Rim Association, established in 1997**, aims to promote regional economic cooperation, evolving into a key regional group with 23 member states.
 - IORA's membership includes countries such as Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and others.
- India is a founding member of IORA, which has its Secretariat based in Mauritius and is led by a fixed-term Secretary-General.
- The Vice-Chair role for 2023-25 positions India to play a crucial role in shaping the agenda and initiatives of IORA in the coming years.



04

ECONOMICS

Viksit Bharat @ 2047

- The **NITI Aayog is finalizing a vision document titled 'Viksit Bharat @ 2047'**, aiming to transform India into a \$30 trillion economy by 2047.
- Vikshit Bharat @2047 is a strategic plan to transform India into a developed and prosperous nation by the year 2047 when it will celebrate its 100th year of independence.
- The **plan is also called Vision India @2047** and it covers various aspects such as economy, education, health, environment, governance, culture and security.
- The document outlines key objectives such as economic transformation, human development, infrastructure revolution, environmental sustainability, social welfare, global leadership, and strategic

focus areas such as innovation, technology, education, healthcare, agricultural modernization, manufacturing, trade, infrastructure, and connectivity.

- It also proposes public-private partnerships, policy reforms, skill development, environmental conservation, and digital transformation.
- The document is expected to be released by December.

GI Tag to Arunachal Yak churpi

- The **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** was awarded to **Arunachal Yak churpi**.
- Arunachal Yak churpi is a **traditional cheese made from the milk of yaks**, which are a breed of cattle adapted to high-altitude regions. These yaks are primarily found in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The cheese is prepared through a natural fermentation process, resulting in a unique flavour profile characterized by a slightly sour and salty taste. It has been a staple in the diet of the local tribal communities of Arunachal Pradesh for generations.
- Arunachal Yak churpi is **highly valued for its nutritional content**, particularly its protein content. Its nutritional richness makes it an essential dietary component for those living in these high-altitude regions.

Navratna status

- Indian Railways' Public Sector Enterprises (PSUs), **RITES Ltd and IRCON International Limited, have been granted "Navratna" status by the Ministry of Finance.**
- RITES Ltd is a prominent Indian consultancy and engineering firm specializing in diverse sectors such as transportation, railways, highways, airports, metros, ports, and energy management.
- IRCON is an infrastructure company with expertise in railways, highways, and substation engineering, engaged in diverse projects encompassing locomotives, roads, airports, metros, and more.
- Navratna Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) enjoy significant autonomy, including the **ability to invest up to Rs 1,000 crore or 15% of their net worth in a single project**, form international alliances, set HR policies, and marketing strategies, and receive preferential treatment in foreign exchange allocation and government contracts.

Navratna PSUs in India

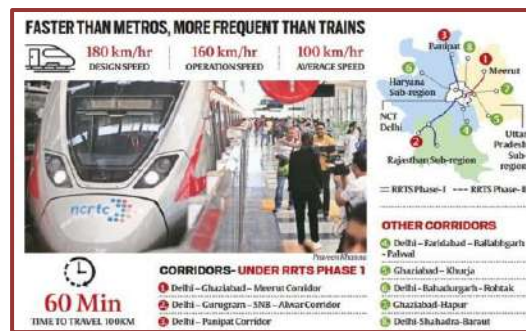


Global Maritime India Summit

- The Prime Minister of India inaugurated the third edition of the **Global Maritime India Summit 2023 in Mumbai via video conferencing.**
- The 'Amrit Kaal Vision 2047' unveiled by the Prime Minister at the Summit focuses on the development and sustainability of the Indian maritime blue economy through strategic initiatives, including port facility enhancements, sustainable practices, and international collaboration.
- The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone for projects worth over ₹23,000 crore that align with the growth of India's maritime blue economy.

Regional Rapid Transit System

- The Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) project was **inaugurated by the Prime Minister in the National Capital Region (NCR).**
- It is India's first regional mass transit system, designed for high-speed commuter trains, reducing travel time, promoting balanced urban development, and modelled after global transit systems.
- **RRTS operates at 180 km/h, aims for inter-state connectivity,** and an 82-km Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor by 2025, significantly improving urban mobility.
- RRTS enhances transport hubs, facilitating seamless transfers between different modes, and transforming the commuting experience in the region.



Minimum Support Price (MSP)

- **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by the Prime Minister has approved the decision to increase the minimum support price (MSP) for all mandated rabi crops.**
- MSP in India was initiated during the 1960s as part of the Green Revolution strategy. It was designed to ensure food security by providing farmers with a guaranteed minimum price for their crops. It acted as a safety net, protecting farmers from market fluctuations and preventing distress sales.
- The Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) assesses factors like input costs, production costs, market demand, and supply conditions for different crops. Based on this assessment, it recommends MSP to the government.
- The final decision on MSP is made by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), considering these recommendations and broader economic factors.
- Once approved, **MSP rates are announced before the sowing season.**
- Government agencies set up procurement centres in agricultural regions, where farmers can sell their produce at MSP, ensuring a stable income.

Rabi Crops	Kharif Crops
Rabi crops are sown at the end of monsoon or the beginning of winter. They are also known as winter crops. Flowering requires a long day length.	Kharif crops are sown at the beginning of the rainy season and are also known as monsoon crops. Flowering requires a short day length.
These crops need a warm climate for seed germination and cold climate for growth.	These crops require a lot of water and hot weather to grow. They depend on rainfall.
Unseasonal rainfall can damage Rabi crops.	Kharif crops depend on rainfall patterns.
The harvesting months are March and April.	These crops are harvested in September and October
Examples: Mustard, wheat, cumin, coriander etc.	Examples: Rice, bajra, groundnut.

Lakshpati Didi Initiative

- The Lakshpati Didi Initiative was introduced under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) by the Indian government.
- It aims to empower rural women by providing diverse skills training, enabling them to earn a minimum annual income of Rs 1 lakh per household through micro-enterprises.
- The program targets two crore women in self-help groups, offering training in areas like plumbing, LED bulb making, drone operation, tailoring, and weaving, ensuring tangible economic benefits and promoting self-sufficiency.
- Implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development, the initiative adopts a comprehensive approach, involving various government departments, to maximize impact, emphasizing convergence efforts for rural economic transformation.



05

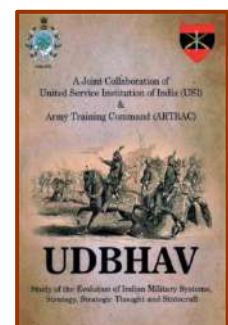
DEFENSE AND SECURITY

Exercise Sampriti

- India and Bangladesh commenced the 11th edition of joint military exercise, SAMPRITI, on 03rd October 2023 in Umroi, Meghalaya.
- It aims to deepen defence cooperation, cultural understanding, and mutual benefits between India and Bangladesh.
- The exercise centres on Sub-Conventional Operations as per the UN mandate and includes a Command Post Exercise, Field Training Exercise, and Validation Exercise.

Project Udbhav

- Project Udbhav, led by the Indian Army and United Service Institution, aims to rediscover ancient Indian texts on statecraft, warcraft, diplomacy, and grand strategy, emphasizing Indic heritage in strategic wisdom.
- The initiative aims to bridge the gap between India's historical narratives and modern national security, focusing on self-reliance and the modernization of security forces.
- It involves studying ancient texts dating from the 4th century BCE to the 8th century CE, with a focus on works by Kautilya, Kamandaka, and the Kural.
- The project seeks to develop an indigenous strategic vocabulary rooted in India's cultural heritage, allowing for the application of ancient knowledge in contemporary military scenarios.



Vshorad Missile System

- India is procuring 30 units of indigenous VSHORAD missile systems, transitioning from prototypes to full-scale production for enhanced air defence capabilities.
- Developed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad, in collaboration with other DRDO labs and Indian Industry Partners.

- The Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPAD) features cutting-edge technologies, including a miniaturized Reaction Control System (RCS) and integrated avionics, with a maximum range of 8 kilometres and the ability to engage targets at altitudes of 4.5 kilometres.
- Indian Army to utilize VSHORAD missile systems to protect ground forces and critical assets from short-range aerial threats, including helicopters and low-flying aircraft.

Burevestnik Missile

- **Russian intercontinental-range nuclear-powered cruise missile** designed to evade missile defences with claimed unlimited range, posing a challenge for interception.
- **Created in response to the US "Star Wars" program**, aiming to bypass ballistic missile defences and enhance Russia's nuclear strike capability.
- The exact design is undisclosed, but experts propose a ramjet or turbojet engine, with dimensions similar to the Kh-101 missile but vastly extended operational range.
- Burevestnik's potential to change the strategic power balance draws international attention, raising concerns about its implications for global security.

Territorial Army

- The Indian Army is considering converting logistics and transport units into the Territorial Army (TA) to optimize manpower and reduce financial burden.
- It was constituted by the Territorial Army Act of 1948 in the Dominion of India as a successor to the Indian Defence Force (1917–1920) and the Indian Territorial Force (1920–1948).
- **It is a volunteer reserve component of the Indian Army**, comprising civilians who serve in infantry battalions and units while maintaining their civilian professions.
- TA recruits Indian citizens, including civilians and ex-servicemen, based on specified age and educational qualifications, allowing ex-servicemen to bring their prior military experience to the force.
- **TA personnel undergo specialized training for diverse roles**, enabling them to perform internal security, disaster relief, and support functions for the regular Army during war, national emergencies, or government mandates, showcasing their versatile capabilities.

Exercise CHAKRAVAT

- **It is an annual joint humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) exercise hosted by the Indian Navy, emphasizing multi-agency collaboration.**
- It involves the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Paramilitary Forces, disaster response organizations, NGOs, academic institutions, and international organizations for a comprehensive disaster response strategy.
- The exercise includes participation from friendly foreign countries and agencies like the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), etc, focusing on collective and coordinated responses to regional humanitarian crises.



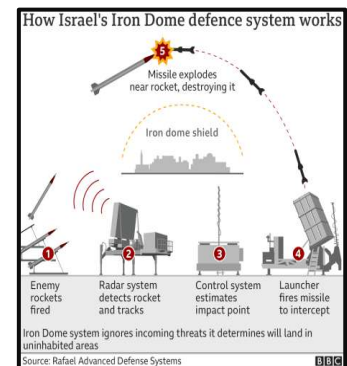
Operation Ajay

- Operation Ajay was initiated to ensure the safe and efficient return of Indian citizens who were in Israel and wished to come back to India during the Israel-Hamas war.
- A 24-hour control room was set up to manage the operation. This control room monitors the situation in Israel, coordinating with relevant authorities, and providing assistance and support to Indian nationals wanting to return home.
- The operation's efforts were crucial in ensuring the well-being and safe return of Indian nationals caught in the conflict.



Iron Dome System

- Developed by Israel, it intercepts and destroys short-range rockets and artillery shells, protecting populated areas from threats launched up to 70 kilometres away, primarily from Gaza and Lebanon.
- Equipped with radar detecting incoming projectiles, a control centre assesses threats and launches Tamir interceptor missiles from mobile platforms, ensuring a rapid, selective, and cost-effective response.
- Highly mobile, it conserves interceptors by selectively targeting threats, boasting a high success rate, and involving significant funding and collaboration with the United States.
- Operational since 2011, it has safeguarded Israeli civilians during conflicts, minimizing casualties, providing security, and serving as a global model for modern missile defence technology.



Yard 12706 (IMPHAL)

- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) delivered the **third Project 15B class stealth destroyer, Yard 12706 (IMPHAL), to the Indian Navy**, a significant achievement in indigenous shipbuilding.
- IMPHAL, constructed with indigenous steel, measures 164 meters, excels in maritime warfare tasks, and is armed with advanced missiles and anti-submarine capabilities, featuring automation, indigenous content of 72%, and accommodation for women officers and sailors.
- Capable of anti-submarine warfare, surface combat, air defence, and extended missions, it has a COGAG propulsion plant for speeds over 30 knots.
- IMPHAL is the first naval warship with accommodations for women officers and sailors, reflecting steps towards greater inclusivity in the Indian Navy.



Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

- Avian influenza (HPAI) has been found in **Bird Island, Antarctica** raising concerns for local wildlife. The virus may have reached the Antarctic region from South America.
- It primarily affects birds and can be highly pathogenic, causing high mortality in wild bird populations. It can be transmitted through direct contact with infected birds' bodily fluids, or indirectly through contaminated feed, water, equipment, and clothing.
- Human-to-human transmission is a significant concern, as it could potentially lead to a widespread outbreak.
- Symptoms include a sudden increase in deaths in poultry, decreased egg production, coughing, sneezing, lack of energy and appetite, fever, and severe respiratory illnesses.
- Prevention and cure strategies include vaccination, good hygiene hygiene, and maintaining immunity.

Pink Bollworm

- The severe problem faced by cotton farmers in Rajasthan and neighbouring regions due to the infestation of **the Pink Bollworm (PBW) poses a significant threat to the cotton industry and the livelihoods of farmers.**
- Pink Bollworm (*Pectinophora gossypiella*) is a devastating cotton pest, causing substantial economic losses globally due to its destructive feeding habits on cotton bolls.
- Despite their short two-week lifespan, female Pink Bollworm moths lay over 200 eggs directly on cotton bolls, leading to widespread infestations and reduced yield and quality of cotton crops.
- Control methods, including integrated pest management, genetically modified Bt cotton varieties, and cultural/biological measures, are crucial to safeguarding cotton production and the livelihoods of cotton farmers worldwide.

R21/Matrix-M vaccine

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has approved a second **anti-malaria vaccine for children, known as the R21/Matrix-M vaccine.**
- **R21/Matrix-M vaccine, developed by the University of Oxford** in the United Kingdom, is seen as a significant milestone in the fight against malaria.
- The approval of the R21 vaccine is expected to help address the demand-and-supply gap for malaria vaccines. This means that more children can potentially benefit from malaria vaccination.

World Health Organization (WHO)

- **The WHO, a UN specialized agency, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland,** was established in 1948.
- Mandated to promote global health and safety, it sets standards, offers technical assistance, conducts research, and publishes the World Health Report on various health issues.
- Key achievements include smallpox eradication, near-eradication of polio, and Ebola vaccine development, focusing on HIV/AIDS, Ebola, COVID-19, malaria, tuberculosis, non-communicable diseases, nutrition, and substance abuse.
- **Governed by the World Health Assembly (WHA) with 194 member states,** it elects the director-general, sets priorities, approves budgets, and coordinates responses to health emergencies.

- Funded primarily by member states' contributions, both assessed and voluntary, as well as private donors, with an approved budget of over \$6.2 billion for 2022-2023.
- Operates six regional offices and 150 field offices globally, serving as a forum for scientific and policy discussions related to health and advocating for universal health care coverage.
- **The current director-general is Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of Ethiopia**, leading efforts in global health, disease prevention, and public health emergency responses.



Exercise Harimau Shakti

- **The exercise involves the Indian and Malaysian armies, taking place in Umroi Cantonment, India**, the previous edition was held in Pulai, Kluang, Malaysia, in November 2022.
- The objective is to enhance the military capabilities of both armies for conducting Multi-Domain Operations in sub-conventional scenarios.
- The exercise includes the establishment of a Joint Command Post, the creation of an integrated surveillance grid and a Joint Surveillance Centre.
- It aims to strengthen defence cooperation between the Indian and Malaysian armies, fostering closer bilateral relations between the two nations.

Operation Chakra II

- This is an **initiative launched by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** to combat transnational organized cyber-enabled financial crimes.
- The objective is to **tackle and address fraudulent activities** that occur online, causing financial harm to victims.
- The CBI has established partnerships with technology giants Microsoft and Amazon to leverage their expertise and resources in combating cyber-enabled financial crimes.
- The CBI is collaborating with both national and international law enforcement agencies to combat and dismantle the infrastructure of illegal call centres involved in these crimes.



07

SPORTS

International Olympic Committee

- The 141st International Olympic Committee (IOC) Session was **inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India on October 14, 2023, at the Jio World Centre in Mumbai**.
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) was established in 1894, and the IOC's headquarters is located in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- They are responsible for organizing and managing the summer and Winter Olympic Games. It selects the host cities through a competitive



bidding process and ensures the successful execution of the Games.

- They collaborate with various international sports federations to ensure the smooth functioning of the sports included in the Olympic program. It establishes rules and regulations for Olympic sports in coordination with these federations.

37th National Games

- The **Prime Minister inaugurated the 37th National Games at Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Margao, Goa.** The Games are scheduled from 26th October to 9th November.
- Over 10,000 athletes from across India are participating in the 37th National Games, competing in over 43 sports disciplines at 28 venues.
- The 37th National Games are the **first to be held in Goa**
- The National Games were first held in 1924, and they have been held regularly since then, with the exception of a few years during World War II and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The National Games are governed by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), and the event is funded by the central government and the state government of the host state.



08

GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

Cyclone Tej

- Cyclone Tej was a **tropical cyclone that formed in the Arabian Sea** in October 2023. It was the first cyclone to make landfall in Yemen since Cyclone Luban in 2018.
- Cyclone Tej intensified into a severe cyclonic storm on October 22 and made landfall in Al Mahrah Governorate of Yemen on October 23, bringing significant rainfall and flooding across the eastern half of the country and western parts of Oman.
- The **impact of Cyclone Tej highlights the vulnerability of Yemen and Oman** to natural disasters. Both countries are located in a region that is prone to cyclones, and they are also facing the challenges of climate change.

Cyclone

- A cyclone is a large air mass that **rotates around a strong centre of low atmospheric pressure.** Cyclones can cause heavy rain, strong winds, and sometimes thunderstorms.
- Cyclones are formed when warm, moist air rises over the ocean and creates a low-pressure area below. The surrounding high-pressure air moves in to fill the gap, and then gets heated and rises as well. This cycle continues and forms clouds and storms.
- The direction of rotation of a cyclone depends on the hemisphere: **it is counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.**
- Cyclones are also known by different names in different regions, such as hurricanes, typhoons, or tropical cyclones.



Cyclone Hamoon

- Cyclone Hamoon intensified over the Bay of Bengal, becoming the fourth storm of the 2023 North Indian Ocean cyclone season.
- Originating on October 21, 2023, from a low-pressure area, it was named 'Hamoon' by Iran, referring to inland desert lakes.
- 'Midhili' is the next cyclone in line, named by the Maldives, as cyclone names are proposed alphabetically and used in rotation.

09

APPOINTMENTS

Piyush Goyal

- The Centre extended the tenure of senior bureaucrat **Piyush Goyal as the chief executive officer of the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)**.
- NATGRID is an integrated intelligence database in India, established after the 2008 Mumbai attacks, aiming to enhance information sharing among security agencies to prevent terrorism.
- NATGRID collects data from various government sources, including tax records, bank transactions, and police reports, raising concerns about privacy violations and potential misuse while proponents argue it is crucial for national security.

Dr. Mohamed Muizzu

- Dr. Mohamed Muizzu, representing the Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) PNC coalition, **emerged victorious in the Maldives Presidential elections**.
- Scheduled to be sworn in on November 17, 2023, Dr. Muizzu defeated incumbent President Ibrahim Mohammed Solih.
- Dr. Muizzu secured over 53% of the votes, surpassing the 50% threshold required for victory.
- President Solih, who had been in office from 2018 to 2023, was defeated in the election.



Saraswati Samman

- Tamil writer Sivasankari was honoured with the 'Saraswati Samman' in 2022 for her book of memoirs titled "Surya Vamsam."
- "Surya Vamsam" is a two-volume work of memoirs that not only traces the journey of an innocent child becoming a renowned author but also captures the societal transformations over the course of seven decades, as stated in the award citation.
- Saraswati Samman is an annual award for outstanding prose or poetry literary works in any of the 22 languages of India listed in Schedule VIII of the Constitution of India. It is named after the Hindu goddess of knowledge, Saraswati.
- It was instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation in 1991. The award carries a cash prize of ₹15 lakh, a citation, and a plaque.



Nobel Prize in Economics 2023

- Claudia Goldin (USA) the winner of the 2023 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, has made significant contributions to understanding the status of women in the workforce and the persistence of the gender pay gap.
- Her work sheds light on the complex factors contributing to the gender pay gap, including historical, societal, and economic influences.
- Her research underscores the importance of addressing not only workplace policies but also societal norms and expectations to achieve greater gender equality in the labour market.
- The Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences was established in 1968. It is not one of the original Nobel Prizes mentioned in Alfred Nobel's will but is awarded alongside the Nobel Prizes in other categories.




Nobel Prize in Physics for 2023

- The Nobel Prize in Physics for 2023 has been awarded to Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz, and Anne L'Huillier for their pioneering work in the field of attosecond physics.
- Attosecond physics is the study of physical processes that occur on the attosecond timescale, which is one quintillionth of a second. This is the timescale on which electrons move around atoms and molecules.
- Agostini, Krausz, and L'Huillier have developed new methods for generating and measuring attosecond pulses of light. These pulses of light can be used to study the ultrafast dynamics of electrons in matter.
- Their work has revolutionized our understanding of how electrons



behave and has led to new applications in fields such as materials science, chemistry, and biology.



Specific contributions to attosecond physics

- **Agostini discovered a new type of ionization process that occurs when atoms are exposed to intense laser pulses.** This process is known as above-threshold ionization, and it is used to generate attosecond pulses of light.
- **Krausz developed new techniques for generating ultrashort laser pulses.** These pulses are essential for creating attosecond pulses of light.
- **L'Huillier discovered a new way to generate attosecond pulses of light by using high-harmonic generation.** This process is now used in many attosecond physics experiments.

Nobel Prize for Peace

- **Narges Mohammadi, an Iranian human rights lawyer and activist, was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 2023.**
- She was recognized for her courageous work in defending the rights of prisoners of conscience in Iran, despite facing imprisonment and torture herself.
- Mohammadi is a founding member of the Centre for Human Rights Defenders in Iran, an organization that provides legal aid and support to human rights defenders in the country.
- She has also been a vocal critic of the Iranian government's human rights record and has been imprisoned on several occasions for her work.

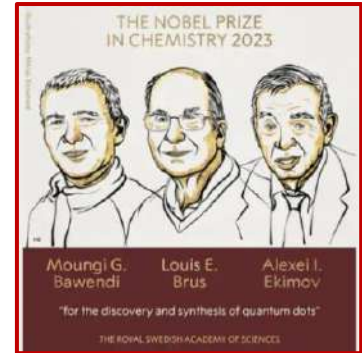


Nobel Prize in Medicine

- **Dr. Katalin Karikó and Dr. Drew Weissman were awarded the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their discoveries concerning nucleoside base modifications that enabled the development of effective mRNA vaccines against COVID-19.**
- Nucleoside base modifications are chemical changes to the RNA bases that make up mRNA. Karikó and Weissman discovered that certain nucleoside base modifications could be used to make mRNA vaccines more effective and less likely to cause side effects.
- Karikó and Weissman's discoveries about nucleoside base modifications were essential to the development of the COVID-19 vaccines that have saved millions of lives around the world.

Nobel Prize in Chemistry

- Alexei Ekimov, Louis Brus, and Mounqi Bawendi were awarded the 2023 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their work on quantum dots.
- They have developed new methods for synthesizing and characterizing quantum dots, and they have explored a wide range of potential applications for quantum dots.
- Their work has had a major impact on the development of quantum dot technology. Quantum dots are now used in a variety of commercial products, including LED screens, solar cells, and biomedical imaging probes. They are also being explored as a potential candidate for qubits in quantum computers.



Specific contributions

- Ekimov was one of the first scientists to observe the quantum confinement effect in semiconductor crystals. This effect is what gives quantum dots their unique properties.
- Brus developed new methods for synthesizing and characterizing quantum dots. He also explored a wide range of potential applications for quantum dots, including in solar cells and biomedical imaging.
- Bawendi developed new methods for synthesizing high-quality quantum dots. He also explored the use of quantum dots in light-emitting diodes and solar cells.



Nobel Prize for Literature

- Jon Fosse, a Norwegian author, was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2023 for his innovative plays and prose that give voice to the unsayable.
- He is known for his experimental and minimalist style, which often explores themes of alienation, loss, and silence. Fosse's work has been translated into over 40 languages and has been performed on stages all over the world.
- Fosse was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature "for his condensed, stripped-down language and stagecraft, which give expression to the essential existential questions of our time."



Spinoza Prize

- Prof. Dr Joyeeta Gupta, a Dutch environmental scientist and professor of Environment and Development in the Global South at the University of Amsterdam has won the Spinoza Prize.
- The award is in recognition of her significant contributions to the field of climate change.
- The Spinoza Prize, awarded by the Dutch Research Council, is worth 1.5 million euros.
- Prof. Dr Joyeeta Gupta intends to allocate the prize money towards scientific research and activities related to knowledge utilization in the field of climate change.



Gandhi Jayanti 2023

- Gandhi Jayanti is a national festival that celebrates the birth anniversary of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, also known as the Father of the Nation.
- He was a visionary leader, a social reformer, and a champion of non-violence who led India's struggle for independence from British colonial rule.
- His life and teachings have inspired millions of people across the world to follow the path of truth, peace, and justice.



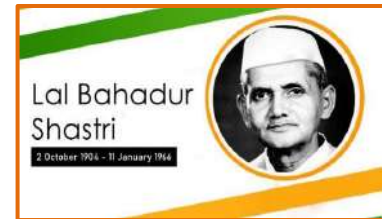
Mahatma Gandhi

- He experimented with truth and nonviolence in his personal and public life and called his autobiography *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*.
- He is honoured by the United Nations as the International Day of Non-Violence on October 2.
- **1869:** He was born on October 2 in Porbandar, Gujarat. His full name was Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.
- **1883:** He married Kasturba Gandhi at the age of 13. They had four sons: Harilal, Manilal, Ramdas and Devdas.
- **1891:** He completed his law degree from London and returned to India to practice law.
- **1893:** He moved to South Africa to represent an Indian merchant in a lawsuit. He faced racial discrimination and injustice there and became an activist for the rights of Indians in South Africa.
- **1906:** He took a vow of celibacy and adopted a simple lifestyle of wearing a short dhoti woven with hand-spun yarn. He also started using the honorific Mahatma, meaning 'great-souled'.
- **1915:** He returned to India and joined the Indian National Congress, a political party that fought for India's freedom from British rule. He soon became its leader and popularised the concept of swaraj or self-rule.
- **1919:** He launched his first nationwide campaign of non-cooperation against the British government's repressive Rowlatt Act, which allowed detention without trial. He also urged Indians to boycott British goods, institutions and titles.
- **1921:** He started the Khadi Movement, which encouraged Indians to spin their cloth and wear khadi as a symbol of national pride and self-reliance.
- **1930:** He led the famous Salt March, a 400 km (250 mi) walk from Ahmedabad to Dandi, where he broke the British salt law by making salt from seawater. The march attracted thousands of followers and sparked civil disobedience across India.
- **1931:** He attended the Second Round Table Conference in London as the sole representative of the Indian National Congress. He met King George V and other British leaders but failed to reach an agreement on India's independence.
- **1942:** He launched the Quit India Movement, a mass campaign that demanded an end to British rule in India. He gave the slogan 'Do or Die' and inspired millions of Indians to join the struggle for freedom. He was arrested along with other leaders and spent two years in prison.
- **1948:** He was assassinated on January 30 by Nathuram Godse, an extremist who opposed his efforts to promote communal harmony between Hindus and Muslims after the partition of India and Pakistan.



Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti

- Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti is a national observance that commemorates the birth anniversary of India's second Prime Minister, Lal Bahadur Shastri on 2nd October.
- He was born on October 2, 1904, and shared his birthday with Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation.
- Shastri was known for his simplicity, honesty and leadership during the 1965 Indo-Pak war.
- **He coined the slogan "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan"** (Hail the soldier, hail the farmer) to inspire the nation.
- He died on January 11, 1966, in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, after signing a peace agreement with Pakistan. His death remains a mystery till date.
- He was **known as a Man of Peace** for his efforts to promote harmony and cooperation among nations.
- He received the highest civilian honour of **Bharat Ratna in 1966** for his contributions to the country's freedom and development.



World Nature Day 2023

- **World Nature Day 2023, observed on October 3**, celebrates and raises awareness about the importance of preserving and protecting our planet's diverse ecosystems.
- It was established on October 3, 2010, by the World Nature Organization, and serves as a global platform for raising awareness about environmental challenges, primarily driven by climate change.
- The initiative's core objectives include combating climate change ignorance, promoting sustainable behaviours, and fostering a collective effort to save the planet by encouraging responsible environmental stewardship.

World Animal Welfare Day

- **World Animal Welfare Day, celebrated annually on October 4th**, aims to improve global animal welfare standards.
- The **2023 theme is 'Great or small, love them all,'** emphasizing the importance of raising the status of animals for better welfare.
- Heinrich Zimmerman, a German cynologist, established World Animal Day on March 24, 1931, organizing the first event in Berlin at the Sports Palace.



World Teachers Day

- **World Teachers Day or International Teachers Day is celebrated on the 5th October** of every year.
- The **2023 theme, "The teachers we need for the education we want: The global imperative to reverse the teacher shortage,"** highlights the importance of addressing the global shortage of teachers.



World Smile Day

- **World Smile Day, celebrated on the first Friday of October, fell on October 6, 2023**, with the theme **"Radiate Joy."**
- The iconic smiley face, created in 1963 by commercial artist Harvey Ball in Massachusetts, features a yellow circle with black eyes and a simple curved line representing a genuine smile.



- World Smile Day encourages people to radiate joy and happiness, promoting positivity and the power of a simple smile.

World Cotton Day

- World Cotton Day is observed on October 7** each year, with the **2023 theme "Making cotton fair and sustainable for all, from farm to fashion."**
- The initiative for World Cotton Day was introduced by Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, and Mali to the World Trade Organization in 2019.
- The inaugural World Cotton Day took place on October 7, 2019, hosted by the World Trade Organization, focusing on promoting fairness and sustainability in the cotton industry from farm to fashion.



Indian Air Force Day

- Indian Air Force Day is celebrated annually on October 8th in India**, marking the establishment of the Indian Air Force on the same date in 1932
- The first flight of the Indian Air Force took place on April 1, 1933, adding historical significance to the celebration of Indian Air Force Day.
- Commemorating its founding and contributions, the Indian Air Force observes October 8th each year as a day to honour its history and achievements.



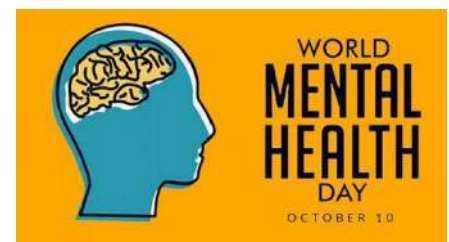
World Post Day

- Celebrated annually on October 9th**, World Post Day was declared by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) Congress in Tokyo in 1969, with the **2023 theme being "Together for Trust: Collaborating for a safe and connected future."**
- The choice of October 9th for World Post Day is tied to the initiation of the Universal Postal Union on this day in 1874 in Switzerland.
- World Post Day emphasizes collaboration for a secure and connected future, reflecting the importance of trust and cooperation in postal services worldwide.



World Mental Health Day

- World Mental Health Day 2023, observed on October 10th**, focuses on the universal human right to mental health, promoting awareness and action for mental health issues.
- Initiated by the World Federation for Mental Health in 1992, the day aims to reduce stigma, educate about mental health conditions, and encourage early intervention.
- It prompts governments and organizations to allocate resources for mental health programs, improving access to care for those in need.
- World Mental Health Day 2023's **theme is "Mental health is a universal human right,"** emphasizing equal access to mental health care for all.



International Girl Child Day

- International Girl Child Day, observed on October 11**, is a day dedicated to raising awareness about gender inequality and advocating for the rights and empowerment of girls.



- The **theme for International Day of the Girl 2023** is "Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being."
- International Day of the Girl has its roots in the 1995 World Conference on Women in Beijing, during which countries unanimously adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
- In 2011, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted Resolution 66/170, officially designating October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child.

National Girl Child Day

- **National Girl Child Day is celebrated in India every year on January 24th.**
- It was initiated in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Government of India to spread public awareness about the challenges and discrimination faced by girls in Indian society.
- The day aims to promote awareness about the importance of girl child education, health, and nutrition.



International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR)

- The **International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR)** is observed on **October 13** every year to raise awareness about the importance of disaster risk reduction and to promote a global culture of prevention.
- The **2023 theme, "Fighting inequality for a resilient future,"** highlights the importance of addressing social disparities to build resilient communities.
- The Day was established in 1989 following a call by the United Nations General Assembly.
- This day aims to promote a global culture of risk awareness and disaster reduction. It celebrates the efforts of people and communities worldwide in reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of managing risks effectively.



World Standards Day

- The **World Standards Day** is being celebrated globally on **October 14th** by organizations such as the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- The chosen **theme for 2023** is "Shared Vision for a Better World: Incorporating Sustainable Development Goal (SDG3) for Good Health and Well-Being".
- The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) was officially founded in 1947, and the first World Standards Day was celebrated in 1970, recognizing the importance of global standards and their impact on various industries and societies worldwide.



World Sight Day

- **World Sight Day observed on October 12, 2023, focuses on the theme "LOVE YOUR EYES AT WORK."**
- Lions Clubs International initiated the first World Sight Day in 1998, later integrated into VISION 2020, a global initiative coordinated by the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) in collaboration with WHO.



World Food Day

- **World Food Day, celebrated on October 16th every year, is a global event that aims to raise awareness about hunger, food security, and agricultural issues around the world.**
- The day was established in 1979 by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and has since been observed in more than 150 countries.
- **The theme for World Food Day 2023, "Water is life, water is food. Leave no one behind," underscores the critical role of water in sustaining life on Earth.**



International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

- **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, observed on October 17, 2023, has the theme "Decent Work and Social Protection: Putting Dignity in Practice for All."**
- The first commemoration occurred in 1987 at the Trocadéro in Paris, and the United Nations General Assembly officially designated October 17 as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on December 22, 1992.
- Established in memory of Joseph Wresinski, the day aims to raise awareness and promote action to eradicate poverty globally, emphasizing the importance of decent work and social protection.



United Nations (UN) Day

- **United Nations Day is observed every year on October 24th** to mark the anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations in 1945. This year marks the 78th anniversary of the United Nations.
- **The theme for United Nations Day 2023, "The Frontlines of Climate Action,"** underscores the global focus on addressing climate change and aims to rally world leaders in advance of climate conferences and initiatives.
- On October 24, 1945, the United Nations was officially established. 2 years later, the United Nations General Assembly in 1947 announced the Charter of the United Nations.
- In 1971, the organization adopted United Nations Resolution 2782 and declared that the United Nations Day ought to be an international observance.



World Polio Day

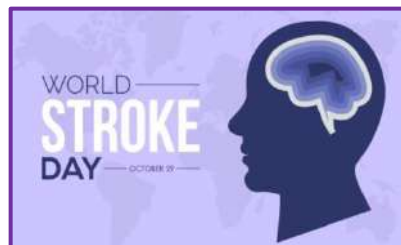
- **World Polio Day, celebrated every year on October 24, is an important occasion to raise awareness about the significance of polio vaccination in protecting children from this debilitating and highly infectious disease.**



- In 2002, the World Health Organization (WHO) European Region's polio-free declaration was a significant milestone, prompting the annual observance of World Polio Day on October 24 to celebrate progress and promote global awareness of the ongoing fight against polio.
- The **theme for World Polio Day 2023, "A healthier future for mothers and children,"** underscores the dual commitment to both eradicating polio in children and ensuring the overall health and well-being of mothers and children, highlighting the interconnectedness of their health.

World Stroke Day

- **World Stroke Day, observed annually on October 29th,** is a global initiative led by the World Stroke Organization (WSO) and supported by stroke organizations worldwide.
- **The World Stroke Day 2023 theme is 'Greater than Stroke';** it emphasizes preventing strokes by managing modifiable risk factors, recognizing symptoms quickly, and initiating early treatment.
- Strokes, also known as brain attacks, are neurological emergencies characterized by sudden brain tissue damage due to either the blockage or rupture of a blood vessel. Strokes are the 2nd most common cause of death and disability worldwide after heart disease.



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National Unity Day

- **National Unity Day, observed on October 31, 2023**, commemorates the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India's first home minister, who played a pivotal role in integrating princely states into the Union of India.
- **Initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014**, this day, also known as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, honours Patel's contributions to unifying the nation after gaining independence from British rule.
- October 31 serves as a tribute to Sardar Patel's legacy and his efforts in fostering unity among diverse regions to establish a cohesive and united India.
- **The Statue of Unity, an 182-meter-tall statue near the Sardar Sarovar Dam, is the world's tallest statue.**

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, was a key leader in the Indian National Congress and played a pivotal role in the freedom struggle.
- Born on October 31, 1875, in Nadiad, Gujarat, he became a successful lawyer after studying law in England.
- Patel entered politics in 1917, joining Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent movement against British rule.
- Led Kheda Satyagraha in 1918, addressing oppressive taxation, and organized relief during plague and famine.
- **Became President of Ahmedabad Municipal Board in 1924**, enhancing the city's sanitation and water supply.
- **Led the Bardoli Satyagraha in 1928, earning the title "Sardar" for his leadership.**
- Elected as the President of the Indian National Congress in 1931, advocating for fundamental rights and economic policies.
- Supported Gandhi's decisions in the Civil Disobedience Movement and Quit India Movement.
- Played a crucial role in negotiations with the British Cabinet Mission in 1946 for the transfer of power.
- Opposed partition on religious grounds but accepted it as a pragmatic solution to prevent civil war.
- **Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, Minorities, and Tribal Areas in the Constituent Assembly.**
- Notable for his key role in integrating over 560 princely states into the Indian Union after independence. Used diplomacy, persuasion, and threats to convince reluctant rulers to accede to India.
- He was also the first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of India and is widely regarded as one of the founding fathers of the Republic of India.
- Established the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) as a professional and impartial civil service.
- Sardar Patel died on December 15, 1950, at the age of 75, and his death was mourned by millions.
- **Widely regarded as a founding father of modern India, his birthday on October 31 is celebrated as National Unity Day.**
- **Honoured with the Bharat Ratna in 1991**, and several memorials including the Sardar Sarovar Dam and Statue of Unity.



12

IMPORTANT GK FACTS IN NEWS

- Venus, the third brightest object in Earth's sky, has a thick carbon dioxide atmosphere and a strong greenhouse effect. Its atmosphere is mostly carbon dioxide and nitrogen, possibly due to plate tectonics.
- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** This indicator measures the proportion of the working-age population (usually defined as ages 15 to 64) that is either employed or actively seeking employment. It is calculated as the percentage of the total labour force (employed + unemployed) in the population.
- **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** WPR represents the percentage of employed persons in the total population. It calculates the proportion of the population that is currently employed.
- **Unemployment Rate (UR):** UR indicates the percentage of persons who are unemployed and actively seeking employment among the total labour force. It highlights the proportion of the workforce that is jobless and seeking employment opportunities.
- White goods refer to large home appliances that are typically white in colour, although they can be found in various colours nowadays. It includes essential household appliances like refrigerators, washing machines, dishwashers, ovens, and stoves.
- Angel Tax is a term used to refer to the tax on capital raised by unlisted companies in India, often targeting investments made by angel investors and start-ups.
- **Angel investors are affluent individuals who provide capital to start-ups** or small businesses in exchange for equity ownership, mentorship, and support, helping entrepreneurs fund their ventures and accelerate growth.
- The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), founded in 1875, is Asia's first and India's largest securities market, operating electronically and featuring a wide range of securities. It's headquartered in Mumbai, India's major financial hub, and its performance is tracked by the Sensex index.
- The LASE (Liberal Arts, Social Sciences, and Engineering) program at IIT Bombay, launched in 2021, offers multidisciplinary undergraduate education with course flexibility but faces challenges due to low student interest and misconceptions about liberal arts education.
- **Pangolins, unique mammals known for their tough keratin scales**, are nocturnal, solitary creatures with a diet of ants and termites, and they curl into a spiky ball when threatened, using their scales as armour.
- Senescent cells are **cells that cease dividing and accumulate in tissues, often associated with ageing, disease, and physiological challenges.**
- Critical minerals are raw materials that are essential for the production of clean energy technologies such as solar panels, wind turbines, batteries and electric vehicles.
- National Service Scheme (NSS) is a **Central Sector Scheme** launched in 1969 with the aim of developing the personality and character of student youth through voluntary community service. NSS is inspired by the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, and its **motto is "Not me but You."**
- AUKUS is a trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific region between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- The **Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme was launched in 2020** to provide working capital loans to street vendors, aiding their business recovery with no collateral, low-interest rates, and a positive impact on livelihoods and the informal sector economy.
- The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) is a 1967 Indian law that aims to

prevent unlawful activities by individuals and associations.

- **Manas National Park and Tiger Reserve is a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in the state of Assam, India.** It is one of the most biodiverse regions in the world and is home to a variety of wildlife, including the endangered Indian one-horned rhinoceros, tiger, and elephant.
- Coral reefs are diverse underwater ecosystems built by colonies of tiny organisms called coral polyps, providing habitat for numerous marine species and protecting coastlines from erosion. They are vital to marine biodiversity and are often referred to as the "rainforests of the sea."
- **Lhonak Lake is a high-altitude glacial lake located in North Sikkim, India,** near the border with China.
- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) is a comprehensive bankruptcy law that was enacted in India in 2016. The IBC has been credited with streamlining the insolvency resolution process and making it more efficient and effective.
- The Chenab Bridge is a steel arch bridge located in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. It is the highest railway bridge in the world, with a main arch height of 359 meters (1,178 ft).
- Bojjannakonda, also known as Bojjannakonda and Lingalakonda, is an ancient Buddhist site located in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.
- **Sarakka Central Tribal University (SCTU) is a central university located in Sarakka, Telangana, India.**
- The Kolleru Bird Sanctuary is a wetland and bird sanctuary located in the state of Andhra Pradesh, India. It is centred around Kolleru Lake, which is the main water body within the sanctuary.
- The Hakki Pikki is a semi-nomadic tribe traditionally engaged in bird catching and hunting, living in Karnataka.
- The Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) Scheme is an initiative by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to boost digital payments in India.
- The **smallest flowering plant on Earth is Wolffia biloba, also known as the watermeal.** It is native to tropical and subtropical regions around the world. Watermeal plants are tiny, measuring just a few millimetres in diameter. They float on the surface of water and have no roots.
- Open Market Operations (OMOs) conducted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) involve the buying and selling of government securities in the open market to regulate the money supply and liquidity in the economy.
- **Mundra Port, located in the Kutch district of Gujarat,** is the country's first private port and the largest container port. It is managed by the Adani Group.
- The Veer Gatha Project 3.0 is an initiative aimed at spreading awareness about the courageous deeds of Gallantry Awardees and sharing their life stories with school students.
- **Article 244 of the Indian Constitution deals with the administration of scheduled areas and tribal areas.** It states that the provisions of the Fifth Schedule shall apply to the administration and control of the scheduled areas and scheduled tribes in any State other than the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) is a **mega global alliance launched by India in April 2023** during the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger.
- Hemochromatosis, often referred to as "bronze diabetes," is a rare genetic disorder characterized by excessive accumulation of iron in the body.
- The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) is an Act of the Parliament of India that regulates the mining sector in India.
- P20, or Parliament-20, is a **gathering of Parliamentary Speakers and presiding officers from the Parliaments of G20 countries, as well as invitee nations.**
- **White phosphorus, also known as yellow phosphorus, is a chemical substance that appears yellowish or colourless and has an odour resembling garlic.** It is a waxy solid

that quickly becomes yellow when exposed to light. It ignites instantly upon contact with oxygen, making it highly flammable and

- pyrophoric (self-igniting) upon contact with air.
- The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) is a leading international agricultural research institute that conducts research for development in the drylands of Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.
- Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a **joint venture of public sector undertakings (PSU) under the Ministry of Power**, plans to establish an e-commerce portal dedicated to showcasing electric appliances with the highest efficiency ratings.
- Kowar Lake, also known as Gokhur Lake, is the largest freshwater oxbow lake in Asia, located in Bihar.
- Hepatitis C is a **viral infection that primarily affects the liver**. It is a leading cause of liver disease, including cirrhosis (scarring of the liver) and liver cancer.
- Pallikaranai Wetland is a freshwater wetland located in Chennai, TamilNadu.
- Lymphatic filariasis (LF) is a mosquito-borne disease caused by filarial parasites, leading to debilitating symptoms such as limb and scrotal swelling, potentially resulting in elephantiasis.
- A supernova is a colossal explosion of a star that has reached the end of its life cycle. Supernovae are some of the most energetic events in the universe, and they can be billions of times brighter than the sun.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) is a statutory body in India that deals with the expeditious disposal of cases related to environmental protection and other natural resources. It was set up under the National Green Tribunal Act in 2010.
- The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) is a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). It was established in 1987 to provide financial support for renewable energy projects in India.
- The International Solar Alliance (ISA), will for the first time compile and release a 'Global Solar Stock-Take Report.'
- **Polio, caused by the poliovirus, is a contagious and potentially life-threatening disease**. It primarily spreads from person to person and can lead to paralysis or weakness in the arms or legs.

- Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhuyday Yojana (PM-AJAY) is implemented to reduce poverty among Scheduled Caste (SC) communities by generating additional employment opportunities through skill development, income-generating schemes, and various initiatives.
- BRICS PAY is a **Digital Payments Platform** that is being **jointly developed by the member countries of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) economic bloc**.
- The Bhoonidhi Data Hub operated by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) stands out as a gamechanger due to its comprehensive approach, offering open access to a diverse range of Earth observation satellites.
- The Phalgu or Falgu, a river that flows past Gaya, India in the Indian state of Bihar, is a sacred river for Hindus and Buddhists.
- Lunar eclipses, occurring about three times a year, involve the Moon passing into Earth's shadow during a full moon when the Moon's orbital plane aligns closely with the Earth's, with a total lunar eclipse happening approximately every 2.5 years on average.

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BOOSTER DOSE

- Indian Navy approved 12 autonomous weaponized boat swarms (Mata Matangi) by Sagar Defence Engineering, enhancing surveillance at Pangong Lake and coastal regions with advanced cameras, radar, guns, UAVs, and remote control for 48-hour operation.
- Pheromone-based mating disruption technology has been effective in reducing pink bollworm populations and has shown a 90% reduction in crop losses while improving yields.
- The United Nations University-Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) publishes an annual science-based report called the UN Interconnected Disaster Risks Report.
- The report by Earth Insight highlights the threats to tropical forest basins from fossil fuel, mining, and industrial expansion, posing a systemic ecosystem breakdown, and threatening climate stability, biodiversity, and indigenous communities' livelihoods.
- **World Polio Day observed annually on October 24**, raises awareness about the importance of polio vaccination and underscores global efforts to eradicate the disease.
- According to a new study, Venus, often known as Earth's sister planet, may have experienced tectonic activity between 4.5 billion and 3.5 billion years ago.
- The Divya Kala Mela is an annual event organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan).
- The central banks of Singapore, France, and Switzerland, in partnership with the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), conducted Project Mariana, a joint experiment to test cross-border trading and settlement of wholesale central bank digital currencies (wCBDCs).
- The **Aadi Mahotsav, the National Tribal Festival inaugurated by the Union Tribal Affairs Minister** on 25th October 2023, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- The National Turmeric Board was established with a focus on increasing awareness and consumption of turmeric, developing international markets, promoting research and development, and enhancing value-added turmeric products in line with global health trends.
- The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) and the Japan Bank for

International Cooperation (JBIC) are collaborating to create a \$600 million India-Japan Fund.

- The discovery of unusually high levels of helium-3 (^3He) in 62-million-year-old lava rocks on Baffin Island has the potential to reshape our understanding of the Earth's deep interior.
- The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) is a quarterly survey **conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)**. It provides estimates of key employment and unemployment indicators at the all-India and state levels, both in rural and urban areas.
- **The Geographical Indication (GI) tag was awarded to Arunachal Yak churpi.**
- Kerala is establishing its first public sector caravan park at Bekal Fort, focusing on cinema. Bekal Fort was built in 1650 AD.
- **Veer Gatha Project 3.0, a joint initiative by the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education in India**, aims to inspire patriotism among youth by showcasing the bravery and sacrifice of Gallantry Awardees.
- **The 2023 Nobel Prize in Economics was awarded to Claudia Goldin for her work on the economics of gender.**
- The **National Statistical Office (NSO) released the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Report 2022-2023** based on the survey conducted from July 2022 to June 2023.
- The Matsya Sampada Jagrukta Abhiyan (MSJA) workshop was inaugurated on October 23, 2023, at the National Institute of Fisheries Post Harvest Technology and Training (NIFPHATT) in Kochi, Kerala.
- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its World Economic Outlook (WEO) report** revised India's economic growth forecast for the fiscal year 2023-24 upwards from 6.1% to 6.3%.
- The Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry has launched a new initiative to issue automatic 'Status Holder' certificates under the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023, aligning with the Digital India vision.
- **The Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Goan cashews signifies their unique quality and origin, providing a boost to the cashew industry in Goa.**
- The National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) has launched the 2nd Edition of the National Cyber Security Exercise 'Bharat NCX 2023.'
- The National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) in India is conducting a one-week capacity-building program for senior officers of the Information Commission of Maldives (ICOM).
- The Union Minister of Textiles presided over a curtain-raiser event for Bharat Tex 2024, the world's largest textile event, highlighting India's commitment to the global textile industry.
- Indian Railways' Public Sector Enterprises (PSUs), RITES Ltd and IRCON International Limited, have been granted "Navratna" status by the Ministry of Finance.
- **The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has introduced guidelines for Bima Vahak, a women-centric insurance distribution channel.**
- The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry attended the 7th Edition of Future Investment Initiative (FII) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from October 24th to 25th, 2023.
- **World Smile Day is celebrated on the first Friday of October every year.**
- International Day of Rural Women 2023 is observed on the 15th of October 2023.
- **Hattee community in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) list of Himachal Pradesh.**
- The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) has issued a warning to airport operators in India regarding the imposition of unapproved tariffs on passengers at major airports.
- The European Union Tax Observatory released its Global Tax Evasion Report 2024 on October 23, 2023.
- **Punjab's ban on the cultivation of the PUSA-44 paddy variety** is motivated by concerns regarding water consumption, environmental impact, and stubble burning.
- The Chanakya Defence Dialogue is a significant initiative by the Indian Army

aimed at fostering discussions and collaborations on important security matters.

- The 3rd Battalion of the Naga Regiment (3 Naga) got the President's Colour Award.
- Tamil writer Sivasankari was honoured with the 'Saraswati Samman' in 2022 for her book of memoirs titled "Surya Vamsam."
- The prestigious Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award will be bestowed upon the renowned Hollywood actor and producer Michael Douglas at the 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI).
- **India refused to back the UN General Assembly's call for a Humanitarian truce in Gaza.**
- **The 2023 BRICS Games opening ceremony was held in Durban, South Africa.**
- The Mid Planning Conference (MPC) for MILAN 24, a multilateral naval exercise scheduled to be hosted by the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) in February 2024, was conducted via video conference.
- **The Jericho Missile System, developed by Israel,** potentially carries nuclear warheads, raising regional security concerns, especially with Iran, and serving Israel's unconfirmed nuclear deterrence strategy.
- The 16th Agricultural Science Congress (ASC) held in Kochi, Kerala, featured discussions led by prominent figures in the agricultural sector, including Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- The Prime Minister of India inaugurated the third edition of the Global Maritime India Summit 2023 in Mumbai via video conferencing.
- **India's rank on the Global Pension Index 2023 declines to 45th position out of 47 countries.**
- JioMart Appoints Mahendra Singh Dhoni as Brand Ambassador.
- The Indian Navy Ship (INS) SUMEDHA has made a port call to Nigeria to improve existing bilateral relations as well as security in the Gulf of Guinea.
- Former Jharkhand Chief Minister, Shri Raghubar Das, has been appointed as the 26th Governor of Odisha.
- The Ethics Committee was **first constituted in the Rajya Sabha in 1997 and in the Lok Sabha in 2000.**
- Nepal and India have agreed to lower the projected Saptakoshi High Dam's height due to concerns in Nepal about the probable inundation of a huge swath of land upstream of the dam.
- After nearly four decades, a **passenger ferry service has been reinstated to reconnect India and Sri Lanka.**
- **Israel tested its new laser-based 'Iron Beam' missile defence system.**
- Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) is an autonomous body established by the Union Cabinet, with the goal of fostering youth development and youth-led development in the country.
- The Indian government plans to modernize its agricultural crop survey system by adopting a Digital Crop Survey system in July 2024. This move aims to overcome the limitations of the current manual system, which is prone to delays and errors.
- **K.N. Shanth Kumar Elected as the new Chairman of Press Trust of India.**
- **Actor Rajkumar Rao has been appointed as a National Icon by the Election Commission of India (ECI).**
- The Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) project was inaugurated by the Prime Minister in the National Capital Region (NCR).
- The Indian government has issued show-cause notices amounting to ₹1 lakh crore to multiple online gaming companies for alleged tax evasion.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by the Prime Minister has approved the decision to increase the minimum support price (MSP) for all mandated rabi crops.
- The Vizhinjam International Seaport Project in India, led by Adani Ports and SEZ Private Limited, focuses on boosting maritime trade and connectivity, with active support from the Kerala government, which allocated 500 acres of land for its construction.

- The Indian Air Force is strengthening its arsenal with the European-made Meteor missile, known for its versatility, long-range capabilities, and advanced features. It offers a substantial no-escape zone for precise target engagement, with a combat range of 200 kilometres and speeds exceeding Mach 4.
- The Indian government has approved a ₹22,303 crore subsidy for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers, ensuring affordable prices and supporting farmers during the Rabi season from October 2023 to March 2024, shielding them from rising international prices.
- A recent discovery of a long-lost tectonic plate, the 'Pontus plate,' which disappeared approximately 20 million years ago, was made by scientists studying ancient rocks in Borneo.
- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has introduced a new regulatory framework known as the "Leniency Plus" regime, which is part of the Competition (Amendment) Act 2023.
- The Indian government has decided to route 12 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of non-basmati white rice to 11 countries through the National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL).
- Special Campaign 3.0, starting from October 2, 2023 (Mahatma Gandhi's Birth Anniversary), will focus on field/outstation offices responsible for service delivery or having a public interface, in addition to ministries/departments and their attached/subordinate offices.
- PUMA India roped in Mohammed Shami as brand ambassador.
- A new fish species, "Badis limaakumi," was discovered in Nagaland, known for its remarkable colour-changing abilities, adding to the biodiversity of the region.
- Asian Games Gold medalist and reigning Olympic, and World Champion in men's javelin, Neeraj Chopra was named Laureus Ambassador, pledging his support to Laureus Sport for Good.
- Ramaswamy N has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re).
- The Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Cooperation between India and Japan on the **Japan-India Semiconductor Supply Chain Partnership**.
- The United Nations Conference in Bonn adopted the Global Framework on Chemicals, establishing concrete targets and guidelines for managing chemicals, to reduce environmental risks associated with chemicals and waste worldwide.
- The state government of Gujarat has banned the plantation of Conocarpus trees, an exotic mangrove species, in both forest and non-forest areas due to their adverse impacts on the environment and human health.
- The **Sela Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh**, nearing completion, is set to become the world's longest bi-lane tunnel above 13,000 feet, ensuring all-weather connectivity to the strategically significant district of Tawang.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to place orders for 156 'Made-in-India' Prachand attack helicopters from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- **BCCI appointed Amol Muzumdar as the new head coach of the Indian women's cricket team.**
- The President of India Droupadi Murmu has appointed Indra Sena Reddy Nallu as the 20th Governor of Tripura.
- The Uttar Pradesh government has launched the 'Mission Mahila Sarathi' initiative under the state's Mission Shakti Abhiyan and flagged 51 buses that will be operated exclusively by women as drivers and conductors.
- The first International Energy Agency (IEA) Critical Minerals and Clean Energy Summit was held on 28 September 2023 in Paris, France.
- The Centre extended the tenure of senior bureaucrat Piyush Goyal as the chief executive officer of the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID).
- The Union government's decision to ask senior officers, including those from the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), to act as Rath

Prabharis or special officers to promote the achievements of the government.

- The Indian Navy is planning to enhance its maritime surveillance and anti-submarine warfare capabilities by equipping the MQ-9B Sea Guardian medium-altitude long-endurance (MALE) drones with sonobuoys.
- Armenia's Parliament voted to join the International Criminal Court (ICC), a move that strained its relationship with Russia.
- **In the Union Budget for 2023-24, the government aimed to limit the fiscal deficit to 5.9% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).**
- The National Service Scheme Awards for the year 2021-2022 were conferred by the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- According to the latest caste survey conducted by the Bihar government, the State has a diverse social composition with more than 63% of its population belonging to the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs).
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has approved a second anti-malaria vaccine for children, known as the R21/Matrix-M vaccine.
- The 11th edition of the annual joint military exercise, SAMPRITI, commenced on October 3, 2023, in Umroi, Meghalaya.
- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi performed darshan and pooja at Sanwariya Seth Temple in Chittorgarh, Rajasthan.
- The Nobel Prize in Physics for 2023 has been awarded to **Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz, and Anne L'Huillier for their pioneering work in the field of attosecond physics.**
- **Dr. Karikó and Dr. Weissman were awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine** for their "discoveries concerning nucleoside base modifications that enabled the development of effective mRNA vaccines against COVID-19".
- To protect and restore Coral reef ecosystems, the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) announced a plan to raise \$12 billion from public and private sources.
- **Butterfly survey at Ralamandal Wildlife Sanctuary in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.**
- The Union Minister of State for Home Affairs participated in the two-day UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime Ministerial Conference in Palermo, Italy, on September 28-29.
- **Basohli Pashmina, a revered textile art form from the picturesque region of Jammu and Kashmir, has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.**
- Archaeologists have made a remarkable discovery at the Cova Dones site on the eastern Iberian Coast in Spain, unearthing more than 100 Paleolithic cave paintings and engravings that date back over 24,000 years.
- Alexei Ekimov, Louis Brus, and Moungi Bawendi were awarded the 2023 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their work on quantum dots.
- The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) has partnered with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) to establish a \$600 million India-Japan Fund.
- Maharashtra's Cultural Affairs Minister signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Victoria and Albert Museum in London to **bring back Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's legendary wagh nakh to the state.**
- Jon Fosse, a Norwegian author, was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2023 **for his innovative plays and prose that give voice to the unsayable.**
- The Minister of State for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, recently inaugurated the dredging work at National Waterway 44 (Ichamati River) in West Bengal.
- Freedom House, a Washington DC-based non-profit organization, has released a new report titled 'Freedom on the Net 2023: The Repressive Power of Artificial Intelligence,' which highlights a concerning trend of declining global Internet freedom for the 13th consecutive year.
- World Standards Day is celebrated on October 14 each year to raise awareness of the importance of standardization to the global economy, safety, health, and environment.

- The Dakar Declaration issued by the ministers from the least developed countries (LDCs) outlines their expectations and priorities for the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- Narges Mohammadi, an Iranian activist, was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 2023.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is proposing Card-on-File Tokenization (CoFT) to simplify the process for cardholders, allowing them to easily create and link tokens to their accounts while using e-commerce applications, enhancing overall convenience.
- India has been elected president of the **Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD)** General Conference (GC) for the third successive term.
- A new dragonfly species named Red-rumped Hawklet (*Epithemis wayanadensis*) has been discovered in Wayanad, located in the Western Ghats.
- India's National Framework for Climate Services, led by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), aims to establish a comprehensive platform for climate information users.
- Scientists have discovered a massive **long-necked dinosaur "titan" in Spain**. It has been named *Garumbatitan morellensis*.
- The 141st International Olympic Committee (IOC) Session is set to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India on October 14, 2023, at the Jio World Centre in Mumbai.
- **Mont Blanc, the highest mountain in Western Europe**, has experienced a reduction in its height over the last two years.
- World Mental Health Day is observed annually on October 10th. The theme for the year 2023 is 'Mental health is a universal human right.'
- Udangudi 'Panangkarupatti' (palm jaggery or gur) has been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag, recognizing its unique characteristics associated with the specific region of Udangudi in Tamil Nadu.
- The **Digital India Act 2023 (DIA) announcement by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY)** reflects India's proactive stance in establishing a modern legal framework for its rapidly expanding digital landscape.
- International Girl Child Day, observed on October 11, is a day dedicated to raising awareness about gender inequality and advocating for the rights and empowerment of girls.
- India has launched Operation Ajay to facilitate the return of citizens from Israel amid a full-blown war with the Hamas group in Gaza. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Gunji village in Adi Kailash, Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand. This region has been the subject of a border dispute between India and Nepal.
- Diverse Epigenetic Epidemiology Partnership (DEEP) collaborates with global research groups to study Non-Communicable Diseases genetics in diverse populations worldwide.
- The Lakhpati Didi Initiative is a significant effort launched by the Indian government under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) is observed on October 13 every year to raise awareness about the importance of disaster risk reduction and to promote a global culture of prevention.
- **The 9th G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20) held in New Delhi** on October 13, 2023, marked a significant event where leaders from various countries gathered to discuss global priorities and initiatives.
- Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 5.0, launched by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, is a crucial initiative aimed at enhancing routine immunization coverage across India.
- **India ranked 111th out of 125 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2023**. India's score of 28.7 indicates a serious level of hunger in the country.
- **Mahsa Amini has been awarded the EU's Sakharov human rights prize**.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) announced that Egypt has made

- "unprecedented progress" in its efforts to eliminate hepatitis C, becoming the first country to achieve "gold tier" status on the path to eliminating the disease.
- The referendum in Australia to decide whether the country's Constitution should be amended to recognize the indigenous peoples of Australia referred to as the "First Peoples," by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. World Food Day, established in 1979 by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, is celebrated annually on October 16 in more than 150 countries to raise awareness about global poverty and hunger issues.
- The **Jaderi namakatti was given the GI tag**, it is a traditional product made in the small village of Jaderi, located in the Cheyyar taluk of the Tiruvannamalai district in **Tamil Nadu**, India.
- The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways announced the approval of seven bridge projects under the Setu Bandhan Scheme in Arunachal Pradesh for the fiscal year 2023-24.
- The Lao People's Democratic Republic has successfully eliminated lymphatic filariasis
- The Dark Patterns Buster Hackathon (DPBH) 2023, launched by the Department of Consumer Affairs in collaboration with IIT (BHU), aimed to inspire the creation of
- **Vimarsh 2023, a National Hackathon on 5G technology use for police**, took place in New Delhi. During the event, a teaser and the official website for the Hackathon Vimarsh 2023 were launched.
- The 43rd edition of PRAGATI, chaired by the Prime Minister, involved a review of eight projects that are crucial for various states in India.
- The 7th Edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2023, inaugurated by the Prime Minister in New Delhi, centred around the theme 'Global Digital Innovation'.
- Deep Narayan Nayak, a teacher from West Bengal, has been named one of the top 10 finalists for the Global Teacher Prize 2023, a (LF) as confirmed by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- **The recent diphtheria outbreak in Guinea, as reported by the World Health Organization (WHO).**
- The Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR), also known as One Nation, One Student ID, is a pioneering initiative undertaken by the Union Ministry of Education.
- Operation Chakra-II was launched by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to combat transnational organized cyber-enabled financial crimes.
- **October 24 is designated as United Nations (UN) Day.**
- The LUPEX Mission (Chandrayaan-4), collaboration between India and Japan, is focused on the crucial objective of searching for water in the lunar South Pole, potentially providing a valuable resource for future human lunar missions and deep space exploration.
- The European Union (EU) and India conducted their **first joint naval exercise in the Gulf of Guinea.**
- The 37th National Games will take place from 26 October to 9 November 2023 in Goa. innovative applications and software capable of detecting dark patterns on e-commerce platforms, fostering a more ethical online shopping experience.
- prestigious award recognizing exceptional teachers from around the world.
- **A Golden passport is a program offered by some countries, allowing foreigners, including Indian businesspeople, to acquire citizenship through substantial investments, enhancing global mobility and business opportunities.**
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the inclusion of the Jamrani Dam Multipurpose Project of Uttarakhand under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana-Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (PMKSY-AIBP).

- 77th Infantry Day was observed on October
- Battalion of the Sikh Regiment at Srinagar airfield on October 27, 1947.
- The SARAS Mela inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for Rural Development aimed at encouraging Self-Help Group (SHG)
- **Mizoram, India's second least populated state has the highest cancer incidence rate in the country**, highlighting a significant health challenge in the region despite its small population.
- **World Stroke Day, observed annually on October 29th**, is a global initiative led by the World Stroke Organization (WSO) and supported by stroke organizations worldwide.
- The **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission** is a joint endeavour between NASA (the United States' space agency) and ISRO (the Indian Space Research Organisation).
- NASA's upcoming mission to Saturn's moon Titan, named Dragonfly, is set to be the most ambitious alien world exploration to date.
- Canberra could become the first place in Australia to give people a legal right to a healthy environment.

the Aspirational Block Program (ABP) to enhance governance at the block level.

- bus emitting only water, showcasing an eco-friendly transportation solution in the National Capital Region (NCR). IOC will
- produce 75 kg of green hydrogen through electrolysis, utilizing renewable energy sources for sustainable mobility.
- World Cerebral Palsy Day, observed on October 6 each year, has the 2023 theme
- **World Animal Welfare Day is annually celebrated on 4th October** to raise awareness to improve the welfare standards of animals all over the world.
- World Teachers Day or International Teachers Day is celebrated on the 5th October of every year.
- The 'Ayushman Bhav' campaign, inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday, has garnered over 50,000 pledges for organ

27 to honour the courageous landing of the 1st women, often referred to as Lakhpati Didis, under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) in India.

- Reliance Jio announced that it successfully demonstrated India's first satellite-based gigabit internet service, which can potentially be used to provide high-speed internet services to inaccessible areas in the country.
- Eight former personnel of the Indian Navy, who were **detailed in Doha in 2022**, have been sentenced to death by a Qatari court.
- The Department of Consumer Affairs hosted a Round Table Conference to advance the creation of an Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) platform for streamlined cross-border e-commerce dispute resolution in the digital age.
- The **Union Minister of Commerce and Industry attended the Group of Seven (G7) Trade Ministers' Meeting in Osaka, Japan**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates 'Sankalp Saptah,' a week-long program for Aspirational Blocks, starting from September 30, 2023, aimed at effective implementation of
- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) introduces India's inaugural green hydrogen-powered

"Together Stronger," emphasizing the collective effort and support needed to enhance the lives of individuals with cerebral palsy.

donation, aiming to provide extensive healthcare coverage across villages and towns in India.

- Union Minister Narayan Rane inaugurates Mumbai's 'Khadi Mahotsav,' applauding Khadi and village industries' growth, featuring 'Vocal for Local' exhibitions and offering 20-25% discounts till October 31, 2023.
- **National Zoological Park inaugurates the 69th Wildlife Week with the theme "Partnerships for wildlife conservation,"**

fostering inclusive participation and awareness about wildlife and biodiversity from October 2 to October 8, 2023.

- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates a 50-bed Ayurvedic Hospital in Majuli, Assam, enhancing the Ayush healthcare system with specialized services.
- The Union government initiates India's first-ever tender for offshore wind projects along the Tamil Nadu coast.
- **Ajay Kumar Sood, the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, inaugurates 'Bharat NCX 2023' and emphasizes the significance of Digital Public Infrastructure protection.**
- President Smt Droupadi Murmu inaugurates an International Research Conference on 'From Research to Impact: Towards Just and Resilient Agri-Food Systems,' hosted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, approves the Memorandum of Understanding between India and Papua New Guinea for cooperation in sharing successful Digital Solutions implemented at the Population Scale for Digital Transformation.
- The National Security Council Secretariat organizes the 2nd Edition of the National Cyber Security Exercise 'Bharat NCX 2023' in collaboration with Rashtriya Raksha University, aiming to train senior management and technical personnel of Government/Critical Sector organizations.
- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the Samau Shaheed Memorial and Library in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, immortalizing the saga of 12 heroes who sacrificed their lives during the freedom struggle in 1857.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved a 4% increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) for Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) for pensioners, to offset the impact of rising prices.
- **The Indian government plans to sell up to a 7% stake in Housing and Urban Development Corp. (HUDCO.NS), a state-run housing finance company, aiming to raise approximately 11 billion rupees (\$132.20 million), with the government currently holding 81.81% ownership.**
- **Dhordo village in Gujarat's Kutch district received recognition as the Best Tourism Village by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).**
- The Union Ministry of Education aims to implement 'One Nation, One Student ID' through the creation of a unique identification number called Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) for students from pre-primary to higher education, serving as an Education Ecosystem Registry or 'EduLocker' in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- India's contribution to global economic growth is projected to increase by 200 basis points to 18% in the next five years, with India and China jointly expected to account for half of the world's growth in 2023 and 2024, as outlined in the IMF's Regional Economic Outlook for Asia and Pacific.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah is set to inaugurate India's first liquid nano DAP fertiliser plant in Gujarat, established by IFFCO at Kalol in Gandhinagar, aiming to benefit farmers and reduce DAP imports.
- Central Vigilance Commission observed the Vigilance Awareness Week 2023 from 30th October to 5th November 2023 with the following theme: "Say no to corruption; commit to the Nation".
- **The India Ageing Report 2023 was released by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS).**
- **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar addressed the 78th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).**
- The European Union (EU) has given its approval for the world's first green bond standards.
- **Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan announced Tanzania's decision to join the**

International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), led by India.

- **Dubai Ranks as the World's Fastest-Recovering Services Hub in 2023.**
- The Sri Lankan Cabinet has approved free tourist visas for visitors from India and 6 other countries.
- **India and the United Kingdom (UK) held their first 2+2 dialogue of senior officials.**
- The United Kingdom is set to become the headquarters of the world's first artificial intelligence (AI) Safety Institute, as announced by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.
- **India's first solar roof cycling track was inaugurated in Hyderabad** on October 2, 2023.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a 72-foot statue of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya in New Delhi on the occasion of his 107th birth anniversary.
- Bengaluru is set to host the World Coffee Conference for the first time.
- Football for Schools (F4S) is an ambitious program run by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) in collaboration with UNESCO.
- Arvind Kejriwal, the Chief Minister of Delhi, has approved the introduction of electric bike taxis in the city.
- **Udaipur, known as the 'City of Lakes,' is poised to become India's first Wetland City,** recognizing its abundant and diverse wetland ecosystems, and showcasing a commitment to environmental conservation.
- Geographical Indication (GI) tag for the famous 'Udangudi Panangkarupatti' (palm jaggery/ gur), a product widely associated with the Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu.
- Madhya Pradesh Government Announces 35% Reservation for Women in Government Jobs.
- Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Approves the Guaranteed Pension System Bill.
- **Kerala's first 3D-printed building, named Amaze-28,** was inaugurated at the Kerala State Nirmithi Kendra (Kesnik) campus in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Punjab Government Launches 'Hope Initiative' to Achieve a Drug-Free State.
- The World Bank has decided to maintain India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth projection at 6.3% for the fiscal year 2023-24.
- RBI imposes Rs 5.39 crore penalty on Paytm Payments Bank.
- Fibe, (formerly known as EarlySalary), India's leading Fintech and Axis Bank, one of the largest private sector banks in India, partnered to launch India's first-ever numberless credit card for tech-savvy Gen Zs.
- RBI Establishes Rs 100 Daily Compensation for Customers if Credit Institutions Fail to Resolve Complaints Within 30 Days.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of USD 175 million to enhance road connectivity and climate resilience in Madhya Pradesh, India.
- Sudha Murty Makes History As the First Female Recipient of Global Indian Award.
- Tanzania President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan was conferred with an Honorary Doctorate by JNU.
- **Prof. Dr Joyeeta Gupta received the Spinoza Prize in the field of climate change.**
- **Sachin Tendulkar has been appointed as the global ambassador of the 2023 Cricket World Cup by the International Cricket Council (ICC).**
- Vivek Agnihotri, the director of the critically acclaimed film The Kashmir Files, launched his latest book, The Book of Life: My Dance with Buddha for Success, on October 12, 2023, in Lucknow, India.
- Dr. Mohamed Muizzu, representing the Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) PNC coalition, secured victory in the Maldives Presidential elections.
- Avinash Sable becomes the first Indian man to win the Asian Games 3000m steeplechase gold.
- The Indian women's 4x400m relay team featuring Vithya Ramraj, Aishwarya Mishra, Prachi and Subha Venkatesan won the silver medal at the 19th Asian Games.
- India's medal tally at the Asian Games stands at 61 with 13 gold, 24 silver, and 24 bronze medals.

- World Athletics has nominated Neeraj Chopra for the Men's Athlete of the Year award 2023.
- **The International Olympic Committee has announced the inclusion of Twenty-20 cricket and four other sports as part of the Olympic Games in Los Angeles 2028.**
- Former England captain Alastair Cook, his country's record Test runs scorer, has announced his retirement from professional cricket.
- **"One Among You" is the English translation of MK Stalin's autobiography, "Ungalil Oruvan," covering his life from 1953 to 1976.**
- ISRO Chairman S. Somnath wrote his autobiography, titled "Nilavu Kudicha Simhanga," translated as 'Lions that Drank the Moonlight,' in Malayalam.
- **Hardeep Singh Puri launched the book titled "The Reverse Swing: Colonialism to Cooperation.**
- **Former India captain Bishan Singh Bedi, who was known for being part of a famous spin quartet, has passed away at the age of 77.**
- **India's rank in the Global Remote Work Index is 64 out of 108.** GRWI evaluates countries based on four fundamental principles-Cyber safety, economic safety, social safety, and digital and physical infrastructure.
- **Lionel Messi won the Ballon d'Or for the 8th time.**
- 7th edition of India- Kazakhstan joint military exercise- KAZIND 2023.
- The Calixcoca vaccine is developed by Brazil to control the addiction to cocaine.
- A women officer from the medical branch of the Indian Air Force Sadhna S Nair attained the rank of Air Marshal.
- Karthikeyan Murali is associated with chess who recently defeated Magnus Carlsen.
- Mukhymantri Gram Gari Yojana to be launched in Jharkhand to benefit the rural population.
- Caste Census conducted in Bihar.
- **Andhra Pradesh to launch backward classes caste census.**
- **The first caste census was conducted in 1931 in India.**
- Former Nobel laureate poet Louise Gluck passed away. She won the Nobel Prize in literature in 2020.
- Assam launched an upgraded version of its poverty alleviation scheme called Orunodoi 2.0.

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CURRENT ISSUES FOR REPORT

India's Global Hunger Index 2023 Ranking Sparks Controversy Amidst Stagnation in Global Progress

- **Kolkata 15th October:** The recently released 2023 Global Hunger Index (GHI) has unveiled a concerning reality: global efforts against hunger, once advancing up to 2015, now face a standstill. India ranked 111th out of 125 countries and received a score of 28.7, indicating a serious level of hunger. Notably, India bears the world's highest child-wasting rate at 18.7%, reflecting acute undernutrition. However, the government, labelling the ranking as "erroneous and having malafide intent," disputes the GHI's methodology. The Women and Child Development Ministry criticizes the GHI for relying on child health indicators, emphasizing their inconsistency with national data. Globally, the GHI underscores rising undernourishment since 2017, reaching approximately 735 million, exacerbated by climate change, conflicts, economic shocks, the global pandemic, and the Russia-Ukraine war, slowing or reversing progress in many nations.

India Launches Operation Ajay to Evacuate Nationals from Israel Amidst Escalating Conflict

- Kolkata 20th October:** In response to the Israel-Hamas war, India initiated Operation Ajay, aiming to bring back the approximately 18,000 Indian nationals in Israel. Foreign Minister S Jaishankar assured full commitment to their safety, setting up a 24-hour control room. Special charter flights and arrangements are underway. Prime Minister Modi, expressing solidarity with Israel, condemned Hamas' rocket attacks as terrorist strikes. India, closely monitoring the conflict's toll, has not called for an end to violence, in contrast to the UAE's stance. The situation's impact on India's regional ties and initiatives like I2U2 and IMEC remains uncertain.

52nd GST Council Meeting

- Kolkata 25th October:** The 52nd GST Council meeting, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, made crucial recommendations. Changes in GST rates included revised rates for millet flour, clarification on imitation zari thread, and conditional IGST exemption for foreign-going vessels. Notably, Extra Neutral Alcohol used for alcoholic beverages will be kept outside the GST ambit. To enhance liquidity, GST on molasses was reduced from 28% to 5%. The Council also recommended creating a separate tariff code for rectifying the spirit of industrial use. Facilitation measures include an amnesty scheme for appeal filing, clarification on the taxability of personal guarantee, and automatic restoration of provisionally attached property after a year.

India Launches National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS)

- Kolkata 31st October:** India has initiated its first national-level framework, NFCS, to provide climate services and information, led by the India Meteorological Department. Based on the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), NFCS aims to create a seamless platform for climate information users in key sectors like agriculture, energy, health, disaster management, and water. NFCS aligns with GFCS components like observations, research, modelling, prediction, and user interface. It addresses gaps in weather data availability, strengthening observational networks, and integrating weather and climate services to enhance climate predictions. The framework supports climate adaptation in various sectors by tailoring data to user needs.

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PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1. What is India's ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2023?

- A. 20th
- B. 40th
- C. 60th
- D. 80th

Answer: B

Explanation:

India ranked 40th in the Global Innovation Index 2023 among 132 economies, showcasing its global innovation standing. The index is published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in collaboration with Cornell University, INSEAD, and other institutions, with Switzerland securing the top position.

Q2. Who has been appointed as the global ambassador of the 2023 Cricket World Cup by the International Cricket Council (ICC)?

- a) Virat Kohli
- b) Sachin Tendulkar
- c) Ricky Ponting
- d) Brian Lara

Answer: B

Explanation:

Sachin Tendulkar has been appointed as the global ambassador of the 2023 Cricket World Cup by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Q3. Who is the author of the book "The Book of Life: My Dance with Buddha for Success"?

- a) Amish Tripathi
- b) Vivek Agnihotri
- c) Chetan Bhagat
- d) Sudha Murthy

Answer: B

Explanation:

Vivek Agnihotri, known for directing "The Kashmir Files," has authored "The Book of Life: My Dance with Buddha for Success," a self-help guide amalgamating his personal

experiences and Buddhist philosophy to illuminate the path to success and happiness. The book reflects Agnihotri's multidimensional insights, bridging his cinematic achievements with spiritual wisdom for personal development.

Q4. Why Narges Mohammadi was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace 2023?

- A) For her work as a human rights lawyer and activist
- B) For her courage in standing up to the Iranian government
- C) For her commitment to promoting peace and human rights
- D) All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation:

Narges Mohammadi, a prominent human rights lawyer and activist in Iran, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2023 for her courageous advocacy, particularly in defending prisoners of conscience and addressing women's, children's, and minority rights. Her relentless efforts have shed light on human rights abuses in Iran, pressuring the government to improve its record and leading to the release of some prisoners of conscience. This Nobel recognition symbolizes her bravery, serves as a beacon of hope for human rights defenders, and urges the international community to take a stand for human rights in Iran.

Q5. Which central banks were involved in Project Mariana, an experiment to test cross-border trading and settlement of wholesale central bank digital currencies (wCBDCs)?

- A. Singapore, France, and Germany
- B. Singapore, France, and Switzerland
- C. United States, Japan, and China
- D. United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia

Answer: B

Explanation:

The central banks of Singapore, France, and Switzerland, in partnership with the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), conducted Project Mariana to experiment with cross-border

trading and settlement of wholesale central bank digital currencies (wCBDCs). The project incorporated decentralized finance technology on a public blockchain, aiming to explore efficient international trading and settlement methods.

Q6. In which city was the Samau Shaheed Memorial and Library inaugurated?

- a. Mumbai
- b. Gandhinagar
- c. Jaipur
- d. Kolkata

Answer: B

Explanation:

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the Samau Shaheed Memorial and Library in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, immortalizing the saga of 12 heroes who sacrificed their lives during the freedom struggle in 1857.

Q7. What is the theme for the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2023?

- a) Resilient Communities
- b) Sustainable Development
- c) Fighting inequality for a resilient future
- d) Global Unity Against Disasters

Answer: C

Explanation:

The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) on October 13 annually fosters a global commitment to reducing disaster risks and acknowledges progress aligned with the Sendai Framework. The 2023 theme, "Fighting inequality for a resilient future," underscores the link between inequality and disaster risk. It emphasizes how marginalized communities, with limited resources, bear a disproportionate impact, creating a cycle that traps them in poverty and hinders resilience to future disasters.

Q8. The leader of the Bardoli Satyagraha was:

- A) Jawaharlal Nehru
- B) Sardar Patel
- C) Rajendra Prasad
- D) C. Rajagopalachari

Answer: B

Explanation:

The Bardoli Satyagraha, a successful civil disobedience movement in India during the period of the British Raj, was led by Vallabhbhai Patel, who is often referred to as Sardar Patel. The movement took place in Bardoli, a region in the state of Gujarat, between 1928 and 1929. Sardar Patel played a crucial role in organizing and leading the farmers of Bardoli against the unjust tax imposed by the British colonial authorities.

Q9. Which day is globally observed as World Food Day?

- a) October 1
- b) October 16
- c) November 10
- d) December 5

Answer: C

Explanation:

World Food Day is observed on October 16 every year, and the theme for 2023 is "Water is Life, Water is Food. Leave No One Behind." This theme highlights the critical role of water in food production and the importance of ensuring that everyone has access to safe and nutritious food.

Q10. What is the primary objective of Project Udbhav initiated by the Indian Army?

- A) Rediscovering ancient Indian texts on various subjects
- B) Exploring modern military technologies
- C) Studying international relations and foreign cultures
- D) Rediscovering ancient Indian texts on statecraft, warcraft, diplomacy, and grand strategy

Answer: D

Explanation:

Project Udbhav, a collaboration between the Indian Army and the United Service Institution of India, rediscovers ancient Indian texts on statecraft, warcraft, and diplomacy, emphasizing Indic strategic wisdom. It includes a Military Heritage Festival to educate future leaders on national security, India's strategic culture, and the concept of Atmanirbhar Bharat. This initiative explores diverse historical narratives and indigenous military systems, studying texts from the 4th century BCE to the 8th century CE, with a focus on works by Kautilya and others, integrating ancient wisdom into modern military pedagogy for a deeper understanding of global dynamics.

Q11. What evidence suggests that the Harappans had a developed system of trade and commerce?

- A) Discovery of ancient coins
- B) Presence of well-developed ports
- C) Texts describing trade agreements
- D) Agricultural tools and pottery

Answer: B

Explanation:

Archaeological excavations have revealed well-planned ports in Harappan cities like Lothal, indicating the presence of a sophisticated maritime trade network. These ports served as hubs for trade and commerce with other civilizations.

Q12. When is United Nations Day celebrated annually?

- A) November 10
- B) October 24
- C) December 5
- D) September 21

Answer: B

Explanation:

United Nations Day is celebrated annually on October 24, and the theme for 2023 is "The Frontlines of Climate Action." This theme highlights the critical role of frontline communities in addressing climate change. Frontline communities are those that are most impacted by climate change, often due to their geographic location, economic status, or social marginalization.

Q13. Who was recently elected as the Chairman of the Press Trust of India (PTI) Board?

- A) Raghuram Rajan
- B) K.N. Shanth Kumar
- C) Nita Ambani
- D) Arundhati Bhattacharya

Answer: B

Explanation:

K.N. Shanth Kumar, a seasoned media professional associated with The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd since 1983, has been elected as the Chairman of the Press Trust of India's Board of Directors for a one-year term

Q14. The Simon Commission, appointed in 1927, was boycotted by Indians because:

- A) It did not include any Indian members
- B) It recommended the continuation of British rule
- C) It favoured the demand for complete independence
- D) It focused on economic reforms

Answer: A

Explanation:

The Simon Commission, officially known as the Indian Statutory Commission, was appointed in 1927 by the British government to review and report on the constitutional structure of British India. The fact that it did not include any Indian members led to strong opposition and boycotts in India. Indians saw this as a disregard for their right to participate in decisions affecting their own country. The boycott of the Simon Commission was a significant event in the Indian independence movement.

Q15. Which of the following measurements is not a unit of distance?

- A) Ammeter
- B) Cubit
- C) Parsec
- D) Angstrom

Answer: A

Explanation:

An ammeter is an instrument used to measure electric current and is not a unit of distance.

Cubit is an ancient unit of length, typically the length of a forearm, used in various civilizations.

Parsec is a unit of astronomical distance, approximately equal to 3.26 light-years.

Angstrom is a unit of length equal to one ten-billionth of a meter, commonly used to express atomic dimensions.

Q16. Which state or Union Territory (UT) government has recently implemented a 15-point 'Winter Action Plan' to address air pollution during the upcoming winter season?

- A) Delhi
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Punjab
- D) Haryana

Answer: A

Explanation:

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has implemented a 15-point 'Winter Action Plan' to address air pollution, focusing on measures to enhance air quality. Steps in Punjab include diversifying crops and converting stubble into energy. Delhi aims to introduce 800 electric buses and boasts the highest green cover in India, with a 23% growth in the number of trees.

Q17. Who has been appointed as the new Director General (DG) of the Border Roads Organization (BRO)?

- A) Abhishek Singhvi
- B) Aryama Sundaram
- C) Raghu Srinivasan
- D) Laxman Narasimhan

Answer: C

Explanation:

Lieutenant General Raghu Srinivasan has become the 28th Director General of the Border Roads Organization (BRO), succeeding Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy and Indian Military Academy, Srinivasan, commissioned in 1987, previously served as the Commandant of the College of Military Engineering, Pune.

Q18. Which country developed the Iron Dome to protect against missile attacks?

- A) Turkey
- B) Israel
- C) United States
- D) Russia

Answer: B

Explanation:

The Iron Dome system was developed by Israel, not Turkey. It is an Israeli missile defence system designed to intercept and destroy short-range rockets and artillery shells. The system is designed to intercept and destroy incoming threats, including rockets and artillery shells, within a range of 4 to 70 kilometres (approximately 2.5 to 43 miles).

The system is equipped with a radar unit that detects and tracks incoming rockets and artillery shells. This radar system provides crucial data about the speed, trajectory, and impact point of the incoming projectiles, enabling the system to respond effectively.

Q19. Where is the Indo-Bangla joint exercise SAMPRITI-XI taking place?

- A) New Delhi, India
- B) Dhaka, Bangladesh
- C) Umroi, Meghalaya, India
- D) Chittagong, Bangladesh

Answer: C

Explanation:

The joint military exercise "SAMPRITI-XI" has commenced in Umroi, Meghalaya, involving India and Bangladesh. The two-week exercise focuses on sharing tactical drills and promoting best practices for sub-conventional operations. SAMPRITI-XI aims to strengthen defence cooperation, deepen bilateral relations, and enhance cultural understanding between the two nations.

Q20. Pure water freezes at what temperature?

- A) 47 F
- B) 32 F
- C) 0 F
- D) 19 F

Answer: B

Explanation:

Pure water freezes at 32 degrees Fahrenheit (0 degrees Celsius). When water reaches this temperature under normal atmospheric pressure, it transitions from a liquid state to a solid state, forming ice. So, the correct answer is [B] 32 F.

Q21. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named _____ as the 'Global Ambassador' for the Cricket World Cup 2023.

- A) Rahul Dravid
- B) Chetan Sharma
- C) Sachin Tendulkar
- D) Mahendra Singh Dhoni

Answer: C

Explanation:

Sachin Tendulkar has been named the 'Global Ambassador' for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023, set to unveil the trophy before the inaugural match between England and New Zealand. The tournament, featuring ICC ambassadors like Vivian Richards,

AB de Villiers, Eoin Morgan, and others, begins on October 5, with 48 matches across 10 venues and the final scheduled for November 19 at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

Q22. World Teachers' Day is observed annually on which day?

- A) 6 October
- B) 7 October
- C) 3 October
- D) 5 October

Answer: D

Explanation:

World Teachers' Day is observed on October 5 annually to raise awareness about the crucial role of teachers in global societal development. The theme for 2023 is "The Teachers We Need for the Education We Want: The Global Imperative to Reverse the Teacher Shortage." Established in 1994 by UNESCO, World Teachers' Day emphasizes the importance of educators worldwide.

Q23. Jon Fosse has been awarded the 2023 Nobel Prize in Literature for his innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable. He is from which country?

- A) Norway
- B) Sweden
- C) USA
- D) Scotland

Answer: A

Explanation:

Norwegian author Jon Fosse has been awarded the 2023 Nobel Prize in Literature for his innovative plays and prose that articulate the unsayable. The Nobel Prize, presented by the Swedish Academy, carries a monetary award of SEK 11.0 million for 2023. Fosse, born in 1959, is renowned for his versatile literary contributions, including novels, plays, poems, and children's books, with his work translated into over fifty languages.

Q24. Who has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2023?

- A) Reza Alijani
- B) David Attenborough
- C) Narges Mohammadi
- D) Volodymyr Zelensky

Answer: C

Explanation:

Narges Mohammadi has been awarded the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize for her courageous efforts against the oppression of women in Iran, advocating for human rights and freedom. Despite facing arrest 13 times, five convictions, and a total of 31 years in prison with 154 lashes, Mohammadi continues her fight.

Q25. Zinc Oxide is ____.

- A) Acidic
- B) Basic
- C) Neutral
- D) Amphoteric

Answer: D

Explanation:

Zinc oxide (ZnO) is classified as an amphoteric compound, which means it can exhibit both acidic and basic properties depending on the conditions. In different chemical reactions, zinc oxide can behave as an acid or a base.

Q26. Who has received the Spinoza Prize, the highest distinction in Dutch science for her work in the field of climate change in the Netherlands?

- (a) Anshika Singh
- (b) Vumlunmang Vualnam
- (c) Vasudha Gupta
- (d) Joyeeta Gupta

Answer: D

Explanation:

Dr. Joyeeta Gupta, an Indian-origin professor, has been awarded the prestigious Spinoza Prize in the Netherlands for her significant contributions to climate change research. The Dutch Research Council prize, worth 1.5 million euros, was presented by Minister Robert Dijkgraaf in The Hague. Gupta, a Dutch environmental scientist at the University of Amsterdam, plans to utilize the award for scientific research and knowledge-related activities.

Q27. What is Black Ice?

- A) Frozen water with a black colour
- B) Ice that forms only at night
- C) Thin and nearly invisible ice on road surfaces

D) Ice used in hockey rinks

Answer: C

Explanation:

Black ice refers to a thin layer of ice on roadways that is nearly transparent and takes on the colour of the underlying road surface, often appearing black. It is difficult for drivers to see, making it highly dangerous, especially when temperatures are near freezing.

Q28. Consider the following statements in the context of the “Yak churpi”:

1. It is a traditional cheese made from the milk of yaks, which are a breed of cattle adapted to high-altitude regions.
2. It has been a staple in the diet of the local tribal communities of Uttarakhand for generations.
3. It recently received the GI tag.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Answer: B

Explanation:

Arunachal Yak churpi, a traditional cheese made from yak milk in Arunachal Pradesh, has been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. This recognition highlights its unique connection to the geographical, cultural, and traditional aspects of the region. Prepared through natural fermentation, it boasts a distinct flavour profile, slightly sour and salty, and has been a dietary staple for local tribal communities for generations. The GI tag aims to protect its uniqueness by preventing the imitation of products from other regions. Rich in protein, this cheese is essential for the nutrition of those living in high-altitude areas. Beyond its nutritional value, churpi holds profound cultural significance, woven into the daily lives and traditions of the people of Arunachal Pradesh.

Q29. What is the primary focus of Exercise CHAKRAVAT?

- A) Military Combat Training
- B) Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)
- C) Cybersecurity Exercises

D) Maritime Border Security

Answer: B

Explanation:

CHAKRAVAT is an annual joint HADR exercise hosted by the Indian Navy, emphasizing multi-agency collaboration, involving the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and various organizations. It promotes collective responses to regional humanitarian crises, involving friendly foreign countries and agencies like National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), etc.

Q30. If an egg with shell is placed in a microwave oven, which of the following would most likely happen?

- [A] The egg will not get warmed
- [B] The egg will get cooked slowly similar to a boiled egg
- [C] The eggshell will explode
- [D] The eggshell becomes yellow

Answer: C

Explanation:

If an egg with its shell is placed in a microwave oven without proper preparation, it can potentially explode. This is because the moisture inside the egg can turn into steam, creating pressure within the shell. Since the eggshell is not permeable to air, this pressure can build up and cause the egg to burst. So, the most likely to happen in this scenario is: [C] The eggshell will explode

Q31. What is the main principle behind a refrigerator?

- a) Boyle's law
- b) Pascal's principle
- c) Second law of thermodynamics
- d) Archimedes' principle

Answer: C

Explanation:

The main principle behind a refrigerator is the second law of thermodynamics, which states that heat naturally flows from an area of higher temperature to an area of lower temperature. A refrigerator operates by using a refrigeration cycle to transfer heat from the inside of the refrigerator (which is kept cool) to the outside environment (which is warmer). This process

maintains a lower temperature inside the refrigerator, allowing it to keep the contents cool.

Q32. Which British scholar compiled the first comprehensive dictionary of the Bengali language in the 19th century?

- a) William Jones
- b) James Prinsep
- c) Nathaniel Halhed
- d) William Carey

Answer: D

Explanation:

William Carey authored the first comprehensive Bengali dictionary, "A Grammar of the Bengal Language," in 1801. This pioneering work, based on extensive research and collaboration with native speakers, contained over 15,000 entries and covered various aspects of the language, such as grammar and vocabulary. Carey's dictionary significantly enhanced the understanding of Bengali among Europeans and scholars, establishing a foundation for the language's study and research. His contribution remains invaluable in the field of Bengali linguistics.

Q33. What was the symbol of the Swadeshi Movement?

- a) Charkha (Spinning wheel)
- b) Tricolor flag
- c) Lotus flower
- d) Bharat Mata

Answer: A

Explanation:

The charkha, a traditional spinning wheel, was a central symbol of the Swadeshi Movement, a movement of non-violent resistance against British rule in India in the early 20th century. The movement advocated for economic self-sufficiency and the use of locally-made goods. The charkha was seen as a symbol of India's traditional handicrafts and its ability to produce its goods. Mahatma Gandhi, a key figure in the Indian independence movement, popularized the use of the charkha and encouraged Indians to spin their cloth, which became known as khadi.

The tricolour flag, lotus flower, and Dandi march were all important symbols of the Indian independence movement, but they were not specific to the Swadeshi Movement.

Q34. Why do we see a variety of colours in a soap bubble?

- a) Dispersion of light
- b) Reflection of light
- c) Absorption of light
- d) Refraction of light

Answer: A

Explanation:

When light passes through a soap bubble, it is both reflected and refracted. The different colours seen in a soap bubble are a result of the dispersion of light, which occurs because different colours of light are refracted by different amounts. This separation of colours is caused by the difference in wavelengths of light. As a result, the thin film of soap and water acts like a prism, splitting the light into its various colours and creating the beautiful, iridescent effect observed in soap bubbles.

Q35. What is the altitude of a geostationary satellite above the Earth's surface?

- A) Approximately 100 kilometres
- B) Approximately 36,000 kilometres
- C) Approximately 500 kilometers
- D) Approximately 2,000 kilometers

Answer: B

Explanation:

Geostationary satellites are artificial satellites positioned in orbit around the Earth at an altitude of approximately 36,000 kilometres. They travel at the same rotational speed as the Earth, allowing them to stay fixed relative to a specific point on the Earth's equator. This unique characteristic enables geostationary satellites to provide continuous and stable communication, weather monitoring, and broadcasting services to specific regions on the Earth's surface. Due to their fixed position, they are commonly used for telecommunications, weather forecasting, and television broadcasting, providing consistent coverage to stationary ground-based receivers.

Q36. Why does hot water freeze faster than cold water under certain conditions?

- a) Hot water has fewer impurities
- b) Hot water has more dissolved gases
- c) Hot water molecules move faster
- d) Hot water has a lower freezing point

Answer: C

Explanation:

The phenomenon where hot water freezes faster than cold water under certain conditions is known as the Mpemba effect. The exact reasons behind the Mpemba effect are still debated, but one of the leading explanations is that hot water molecules move faster and have a higher chance of coming into contact with a cold surface, facilitating the freezing process.

When water is heated, its molecules gain energy and move faster. As a result, hot water can lose heat more quickly than cold water, which means it can cool down to the freezing point faster. This increased molecular movement can lead to faster cooling and, under specific conditions, cause hot water to freeze faster than cold water.

Q37. Why does a ball bounce back when thrown on the ground?

- a) Due to gravity
- b) Due to magnetic force
- c) Due to elastic collision
- d) Due to air resistance

Answer: C

Explanation:

When a ball is thrown on the ground and bounces back, it is due to the concept of elastic collision. When the ball hits the ground, it experiences a force exerted by the surface. This force causes the ball to deform slightly, storing potential energy in the process. When the ball reaches its maximum deformation and the potential energy is at its maximum, it starts to bounce back. During this process, the kinetic energy is transformed back into the ball's motion, causing it to rebound in the opposite direction. This type of collision, where kinetic energy is conserved, is called an elastic collision. Air resistance and gravity also play roles in the motion of the ball, but the elastic collision is the primary reason why the ball bounces back after hitting the ground.

Q38. What was the focus of Claudia Goldin's work that led to her being awarded the 2023 Nobel Prize in Economics?

- A. Economic development in developing countries
- B. Economics of Gender
- C. Environmental economics
- D. Behavioral economics

Answer: B

Explanation:

Claudia Goldin was awarded the 2023 Nobel Prize in Economics for her significant contributions to the field of the economics of gender, focusing on understanding and analyzing economic disparities between genders.

Q39. Why was Operation Ajay in the news recently?

- A) To rescue stranded tourists in a natural disaster
- B) To combat piracy in international waters
- C) To evacuate Indian citizens from conflict-stricken regions
- D) To distribute humanitarian aid during a global pandemic

Answer: C

Explanation:

Operation Ajay was launched to facilitate the secure return of Indian citizens from Israel during the Israel-Hamas war. A 24-hour control room was established to oversee the operation, coordinating with relevant authorities and assisting Indian nationals wishing to return home. This initiative played a vital role in ensuring the well-being and safe repatriation of Indian citizens caught in the conflict, demonstrating the Indian government's commitment to their citizens' safety during challenging times.

Q40. Which component of a digital camera is responsible for focusing light onto the image sensor?

- A) Shutter
- B) Lens
- C) Flash
- D) Viewfinder

Answer: B

Explanation:

The correct answer is the lens (option B). The lens of a digital camera is responsible for focusing light onto the image sensor. When you adjust the focus on your camera, you are changing the position of the lens elements, which alters how light is focused onto the sensor. By adjusting the lens, the camera can capture sharp and clear images of the scene being photographed. The shutter (option A) controls the duration of light exposure onto the sensor, the flash (option C) provides

additional light in low-light conditions, and the viewfinder (option D) is used for framing and composing the shot but is not responsible for focusing light onto the image sensor.

Q41. What is the primary application of Iodine-131?

- A) Medical treatment
- B) Nuclear power generation
- C) Radiocarbon dating
- D) Environmental monitoring

Answer: A

Explanation:

Iodine-131 is primarily used in medical treatments, particularly for thyroid disorders and thyroid cancer. It is a radioactive isotope that emits beta and gamma radiation. Due to its affinity for the thyroid gland, Iodine-131 is selectively taken up by thyroid tissue, making it useful in targeted radiation therapy for hyperthyroidism and thyroid cancer.

Q42. Why does a spoon in a cup of hot tea feel hot at the handle even if it is not directly in contact with the tea?

- a) Conduction
- b) Convection
- c) Radiation
- d) Insulation

Answer: A

Explanation:

The reason a spoon in a cup of hot tea feels hot at the handle even if it is not directly in contact with the tea is due to conduction. Conduction is the transfer of heat through direct contact between particles of matter. When the hot tea comes into contact with the part of the spoon inside the tea, the heat is conducted through the metal of the spoon. The entire spoon, including the handle, eventually becomes hot due to the transfer of heat through conduction, making the handle feel hot when touched.

Q43. Where is the International Criminal Court (ICC) located?

- A) New York, USA
- B) Geneva, Switzerland
- C) The Hague, Netherlands
- D) London, England

Answer: C

Explanation:

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is located in The Hague, Netherlands. The ICC is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal established to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression. It was established by the Rome Statute, which was adopted on July 17, 1998, and entered into force on July 1, 2002.

Q44. Why a coin does keep on a rotating turntable move outward?

- a) Centripetal force
- b) Centrifugal force
- c) Gravity
- d) Friction

Answer: B

Explanation:

When a coin is placed on a rotating turntable, it moves outward due to the centrifugal force. Centrifugal force is the apparent outward force experienced by an object in a rotating frame of reference. As the turntable rotates, the coin tends to move in a straight line due to its inertia. However, because the coin is on a rotating surface, it is forced to move outward, away from the centre of rotation. This outward force is commonly referred to as centrifugal force, although it is a result of inertia in a rotating frame of reference.

Q45. Which of the following factors does not affect the speed of sound in a medium?

- A) Temperature of the medium
- B) Density of the medium
- C) Pressure of the medium
- D) Wavelength of the sound wave

Answer: D

Explanation:

Among the options provided, the factor that does not directly affect the speed of sound in a medium is D) Wavelength of the sound wave. The speed of sound in a medium is primarily determined by its mechanical properties, specifically its elasticity and inertia, which are reflected in the medium's bulk modulus (a measure of its compressibility) and density, respectively.

Q46. What determines an object's buoyancy in a fluid?

- a) Volume of the object
- b) Mass of the object
- c) Density of the object compared to the density of the fluid
- d) Shape of the object

Answer: C

Explanation:

An object's buoyancy in a fluid is determined by the relationship between the object's density and the density of the fluid it is placed in. If the object is less dense than the fluid, it will float; if it is denser, it will sink. This principle is known as Archimedes' principle. The volume, mass, and shape of the object are important factors, but it is the density comparison between the object and the fluid that ultimately determines whether the object will float or sink in the fluid.

Q47. Why does a balloon stick to a wall after rubbing it against hair?

- a) Due to gravity
- b) Due to magnetic force
- c) Due to electrostatic force
- d) Due to air pressure

Answer: C

Explanation:

When you rub a balloon against your hair, the balloon becomes negatively charged due to the transfer of electrons from your hair to the balloon. The wall and other surrounding objects have a neutral or slightly positive charge. The negatively charged balloon and the positively charged wall are attracted to each other due to the electrostatic force, causing the balloon to stick to the wall. This phenomenon is a result of static electricity and the electrostatic force between charged objects.

Q48. What does the term "Radar" stand for?

- A) Radio and Detection Range
- B) Radio Detection and Ranging
- C) Rapid Data Analysis and Reporting
- D) Remote Detection and Response

Answer: B

Explanation:

The term "Radar" stands for Radio Detection and Ranging. Radar is a technology that uses radio waves to detect and locate

objects, and determine their distance, speed, and direction. It operates by sending out radio waves, which bounce off objects and return to the radar system, allowing for the detection and tracking of various targets, including aircraft, ships, weather patterns, and more.

Q49. "Operation Chakra II" is frequently seen In the News, what is the main objective of Operation Chakra II?

- A) To combat transnational drug trafficking
- B) To address cyber-enabled financial crimes
- C) To promote environmental conservation
- D) To investigate political corruption

Answer: B

Explanation:

Operation Chakra II, led by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), aims to combat transnational organized cyber-enabled financial crimes. The initiative focuses on addressing online fraudulent activities causing financial harm to victims. In partnership with technology giants Microsoft and Amazon, the CBI utilizes their expertise to combat these crimes effectively. Additionally, the CBI collaborates with both national and international law enforcement agencies to dismantle illegal call centre infrastructures involved in these activities, enhancing efforts to curb cyber-enabled financial crimes.

Q50. Which among the following is studied under "fulminology"?

- [A] Sudden changes in the atmosphere
- [B] Lightning
- [C] Cloudbursts
- [D] Volcanic Eruptions

Answer: B

Explanation:

Fulminology is the scientific study of lightning and related atmospheric phenomena. Therefore, the correct answer is: [B] Lightning
Fulminology specifically focuses on understanding lightning, its various types, the processes involved, and its effects on the atmosphere and the Earth's surface. Researchers in this field study physics, behavior, and patterns of lightning strikes, as well as techniques for lightning detection and safety measures to mitigate their impact on human activities and the environment.

Q51. Which of the following is an example of static electricity?

- a) Lightning
- b) Electric current in wires
- c) Rubbing a balloon against hair
- d) Battery discharge

Answer: C

Explanation:

Rubbing a balloon against hair creates static electricity. When certain materials are rubbed together, electrons can be transferred from one material to another, creating an imbalance of electric charge. In this case, when the balloon is rubbed against hair, electrons are transferred, resulting in static electricity.

Q52. What happens to the electrical potential difference in a circuit when the resistance increases?

- A) Potential difference decreases
- B) Potential difference remains the same
- C) Potential difference increases
- D) Potential difference becomes negative

Answer:

Explanation:

When the resistance in a circuit increases, the potential difference (voltage) across the circuit decreases. This is described by Ohm's law, which states that the current flowing through a conductor between two points is directly proportional to the voltage across the two points and inversely proportional to the resistance between them.

Ohm's law is expressed as $V=I \times R$

Where:

V = Potential difference (voltage)

I = Current

R = Resistance

If resistance (R) increases while the voltage (V) remains constant, according to Ohm's law, the current (I) in the circuit will decrease.

Q53. What is the rank of India in the Global Hunger Index 2023?

- (a) 105th
- (b) 107th
- (c) 109th
- (d) 111th

Answer: D

Explanation:

India is ranked 111th out of 125 countries in the Global Hunger Index-2023, reporting the highest child-wasting rate at 18.7%. With a score of 28.7, India's hunger level is deemed serious. Neighbouring countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka have fared better, while South Asia and Africa South of the Sahara have the world's highest hunger levels, each with a GHI score of 27, indicating serious hunger.

Q54. The Jog Falls, one of the highest waterfalls in India, is located on which river?

- A. Godavari
- B. Yamuna
- C. Sharavathi
- D. Tungabhadra

Answer: C

Explanation:

Jog Falls, one of India's highest waterfalls, is situated in Karnataka and is formed by the Sharavathi River. With a spectacular drop of about 829 feet, it is renowned for its scenic beauty and attracts visitors to the lush surroundings in the Western Ghats.

Q55. The largest brackish water lake in India, famous for its migratory bird population, is:

- A. Chilika Lake
- B. Dal Lake
- C. Vembanad
- D. Wular Lake

Answer: A

Explanation:

Chilika Lake in Odisha, India, is the largest brackish water lake, separated from the Bay of Bengal by a sandbar. Renowned for its biodiversity, it serves as a vital wintering ground for migratory birds, making it a significant Ramsar site and a popular destination for bird watchers.

Q56. The Sayyid brothers, who wielded significant influence during the decline of the Mughal Empire, were:

- A. Military generals

- B. Sufi saints
- C. Governors of Bengal
- D. Court poets

Answer: A

Explanation:

The Sayyid brothers, Sayyid Abdullah Khan and Sayyid Hussain Ali Khan were military commanders and influential nobles during the later years of the Mughal Empire under Emperor Farrukhsiyar. They played a crucial role in the politics of the time, holding considerable power and influence.

Q57. The architecture of the Buland Darwaza, a grand entrance to Fatehpur Sikri, reflects the victory of Akbar over which region?

- A. Bengal
- B. Deccan
- C. Gujarat
- D. Rajasthan

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Buland Darwaza was built by the Mughal Emperor Akbar to commemorate his victory over Gujarat in 1573. It is an imposing gateway and a fine example of Mughal architecture, located at Fatehpur Sikri near Agra, India.

Q58. The famous diamond "Koh-i-Noor" was originally mined from which region in India?

- A. Golconda
- B. Bijapur
- C. Mysore
- D. Jaipur

Answer: A

Explanation:

The Koh-i-Noor diamond has a long and storied history, and it is believed to have been mined in the Golconda mines, which were renowned for producing some of the world's most famous diamonds. Golconda, located in the present-day Indian state of Telangana, was historically a major diamond-producing region.

The Koh-i-Noor has passed through the hands of various rulers and has a rich and sometimes controversial history, eventually ending up in the British Crown Jewels.

Q59. The Battle of Talikota in 1565 was fought between:

- A. Babur and Ibrahim Lodi
- B. Akbar and Hemu
- C. Vijayanagara and Deccan Sultanates
- D. Sher Shah Suri and Humayun

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Battle of Talikota in 1565 was fought between the Vijayanagara Empire and a coalition of Deccan Sultanates. The Vijayanagara forces, led by King Rama Raya, suffered a decisive defeat, leading to the downfall of the Vijayanagara Empire. This battle marked a significant turning point in South Indian history, resulting in the end of Vijayanagara's dominance and the rise of the Deccan Sultanates. The victory led to the sack and destruction of Vijayanagara's capital, Hampi.

Q60. Which state has inaugurated the first building made with 3D printing technology named Amaze-28?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Odisha
- (d) Kerala

Answer: D

Explanation:

Kerala inaugurated its first 3D-printed building, Amaze-28, a 380 sq ft one-room summer house at the Kerala State Nirmithi Kendra campus in Thiruvananthapuram. Completed in just 28 days, the project is a demonstration by Kerala State Nirmithi Kerndra, with support from Chennai-based start-up Tvasta, founded by IIT-Madras alumni. 3D printing technology involves data processing, material processing, and robotic printing layer by layer.



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