



**Exercise
Malabar
2023**
10th to 21st
August



AUGUST MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS-2023

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TAMIL NADU

Thagaisal Thamizhar' award for 2023

1. The Tamil Nadu government - announced that the 'Thagaisal Thamizhar' award for 2023 will be presented to **Dravidar Kazhagam president K Veeramani**.
2. The award includes **prize money of Rs.10 lakh** and a **certificate of appreciation**.
3. 'Thagaisal Thamizhar' award was instituted by the **state government in 2021** to **honour eminent personalities** who contributed to the development of Tamil Nadu and Tamils.
4. The first award was received by senior Communist leader **N Sankaraiah**, while, **R Nallakannu**, another veteran Communist leader, received the award in **2022**.
5. He also serves as the editor of journals like **Unmai, Periyar Pinju, and The Modern Rationalist**.



New GI products for Tamilnadu

1. The **GI registry** is to confer **GI recognition** for **Jaderi Tiruman (Namakatti)** of **Tiruvannamalai** district, **Matti Banana** of **Kanyakumari** district and the **Chedibutta sarees** of **Tirunelveli** district.
2. The GI Hall of fame has nearly **420 products** so far.
3. **Tamil Nadu's tally has reached 58** and topped in the list.

4. **Uttar Pradesh is in second position with 50-plus products**, followed by **Karnataka with 48.**



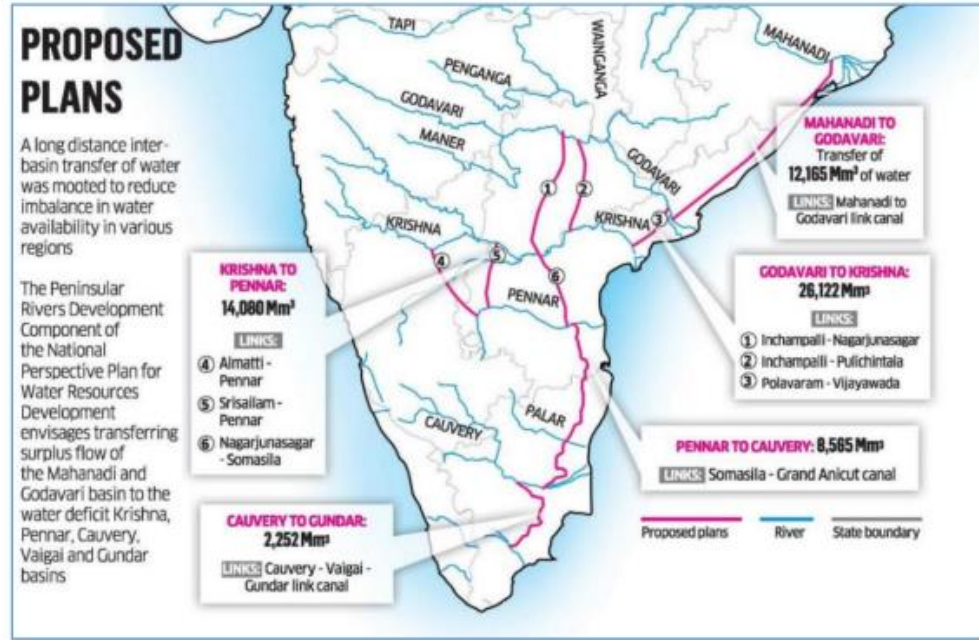
Fresh clause in T.N. welfare scheme

1. The **Tamil Nadu Manual Workers (Construction Workers) Welfare Scheme, 1994**, has introduced a fresh clause.
2. It aimed at **benefiting families of manual and inter-State migrant workers** in case of accidents resulting in death.
3. According to the clause, if a **manual worker dies due to an accident** at their work site, **financial assistance will be provided** to their nominee or legal heirs for transporting the body to their native place.
4. This provision also applies to **inter-State migrant workers**.
5. To qualify for the assistance, the accident must be solely and directly linked to the worker's employment.
6. It should **not involve intentional self-injury**, suicide, intoxication, insanity, or breach of the law.

Godavari-Cauvery link project

1. The Central government has told that the implementation of the link project of the **Godavari-Cauvery rivers “solely depends”** upon the ability of the States concerned to reach a consensus.
2. The term, **“party States,”** covers Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu apart from the Union Territory of Puducherry.
3. The project envisages the transfer of surplus water of the Godavari River from the **Inchampalli dam in Karimnagar district** of Telangana to the **Grand Anicut, near Thanjavur, on the Cauvery.**

4. It has **three components** such as Godavari (Inchampalli)- Krishna (Nagarjuna Sagar); Krishna (Nagarjuna Sagar)-Pennar (Somasila) and Pennar (Somasila) - Cauvery (Grand Anicut).



First woman kavadi (assistant to a mahout)

1. Oscar winning 'Elephant Whisperer' fame V Bellie, a tribal woman - has become the first woman kavadi (assistant to a mahout) in Tamil Nadu.
2. Bellie will be posted at the **Theppakadu elephant camp**, the oldest in the country, located at the **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) in the Nilgiris**.
3. Bellie and her husband K Bomman were taking care of abandoned elephant calves Bommi and Raghu at Theppakadu around two years ago.

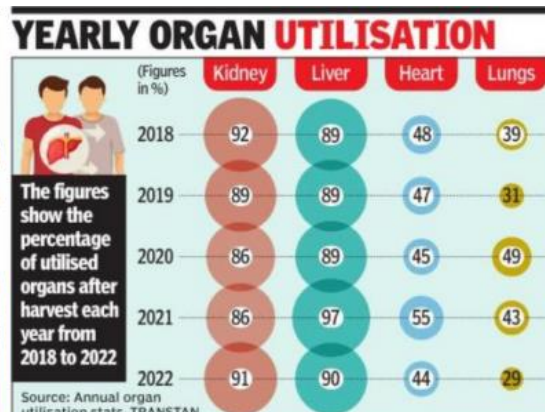


Sub-Categorisation

1. The **Justice G. Rohini-headed Commission** for the sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBC) caste groups submitted its report after 6 years.

State award for organ donations

1. Tamil Nadu - has **won the best-performing state award** for organ donations at the national level.
2. The **National Organ - Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO)** under the Union Health Ministry announces the award every year for best performance in organ donation and transplantation.
3. **Until 2020**, Tamil Nadu received the award for the best State for the excellence in the organ donation program in India for **six consecutive years**.
4. The state has registered **26 medical colleges** as organ retrieval centers and 13 transplant hospitals.
5. In addition to these centres, there are **120 private hospitals** that have been registered with the state.
6. Transplants worth about **Rs.20 lakh** are performed free of cost under the **Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme** in both government and empanelled hospitals
7. The state has also launched an **app Vidyal** for the registration and allocation of the organs.



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‘Smart Classrooms’ in Radha Puram

1. Chief Minister inaugurated 303 Smart Classrooms created at a cost of at ₹6.86 crore in **Radhapuram, Tamilnadu.**
2. Radhapuram Assembly segment has become the **first Legislative constituency in the entire country** to get ‘Smart Classrooms’ in **all government and government aided schools.**
3. The Smart Classrooms, have been created in 297 government and governmentaided primary, high and higher secondary schools and other institutions.



1,556 new farm ponds

An IAS Academy



1. The district administration of **Tirupathur** commenced a **door-to-door awareness campaign** about the Farm Pond scheme.
2. Within a span of **30 days, 1,556 farm ponds** were constructed under this scheme.

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3. It was entirely made through the effort of workers covered under the MGNREGA.
4. Tirupathur has surpassed Tiruvannamalai which set a world record in the same category in 2021 with 1,121 ponds to its credit.

Proportion of own revenue to expenditure

1. The last six years, Tamil Nadu witnessed a declining trend in the proportion of its own revenue to the revenue expenditure.
2. If a State is able to achieve a higher proportion, its reliance on other sources, including borrowings, proportionately goes down.
3. **Revenue deficit** will be lower.
4. Tamil Nadu's figure was lower than those of **Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat.**
5. While the State has fared better than Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Revenue reckoner

Tamil Nadu's performance in own revenue collection



Year	State's own revenue (₹ in crore)	Revenue expenditure (₹ in crore)	Own revenue as % of revenue expenditure
2017-18	1,07,236.17	1,67,873.60	63.88
2018-19	1,20,337.68	1,97,200.60	61.02
2019-20	1,20,350.13	2,10,434.70	57.19
2020-21	1,16,574.80	2,36,402.20	49.31
2021-22	1,33,688.48	2,59,150.97	51.59
2022-23	1,58,337.17	2,84,188.45	55.72

Note: State's own revenue is the sum of State's own tax revenue and non-tax revenue

Proportion of own revenue in revenue expenditure: How other States fare (in %)

Year	Andhra Pradesh	Telangana	Karnataka	Maharashtra	Gujarat	Uttar Pradesh
2017-18	46.39	77.32	67.95	77.98	75.15	48.61
2018-19	49.06	77.3	63.49	76.47	70.78	50.68
2019-20	44.31	68.9	63.15	67.68	68.92	68.44
2020-21	39.83	59.05	59.61	58.02	53.59	44.13
2021-22	45.5	74.78	61.54	62.25	72.92	49.32
2022-23	49.03	70.6	67.37	66.31	76.03	53.51

Source: Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary's reply in Rajya Sabha on August 1, 2023

Ban on hookah bars

1. The State government has issued a gazette notifying the prohibition of hookah bars in the State.

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2. The State Assembly amended the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003, in its application to Tamil Nadu.



Scheme for civil services aspirants

1. The Tamil Nadu government has rolled out a scheme to help civil services aspirants access **better coaching facilities and materials**.
2. Under the scheme, which was announced in the **State Budget 2023-24**.
3. **1,000 civil services aspirants** would be shortlisted every year through a test.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசின் UPSC முதல்நிலை தேர்வுக்கான ஊக்கத்தொகை திட்டம் - 2024

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கல்வித்தகுதி: ஏதேனும் இளநிலையட்டம்
தேர்வு நாள்: செப்டம்பர்-10-2023

பதிவு செய்ய
இங்கே ஸ்கேன் செய்யவும்

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4. Each of them would be provided **₹7,500 a month for 10 months** to prepare for the **preliminary examination**.
5. The **Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC)** would implement the '**Naan Mudhalvan**' scheme in coordination with **Anna Administrative Staff College**.

Foundation stone for Adichanallur museum

1. **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** lays foundation stone for Adichanallur museum.
2. This is the **first onsite archaeological museum** in the country.
3. It will exhibit **3,000-year-old artefacts**.
4. An excavation by the **Archaeological Survey of India**, in Adichanallur in **Toothukudi district**, has unearthed a **number of burial urns, metal and bronze products** and even a gold diadem.
5. Though an excavation in Adichanallur was taken up in **1876 itself**, it has been realized **today after 145 years**.



Tamil manuscripts from Italy

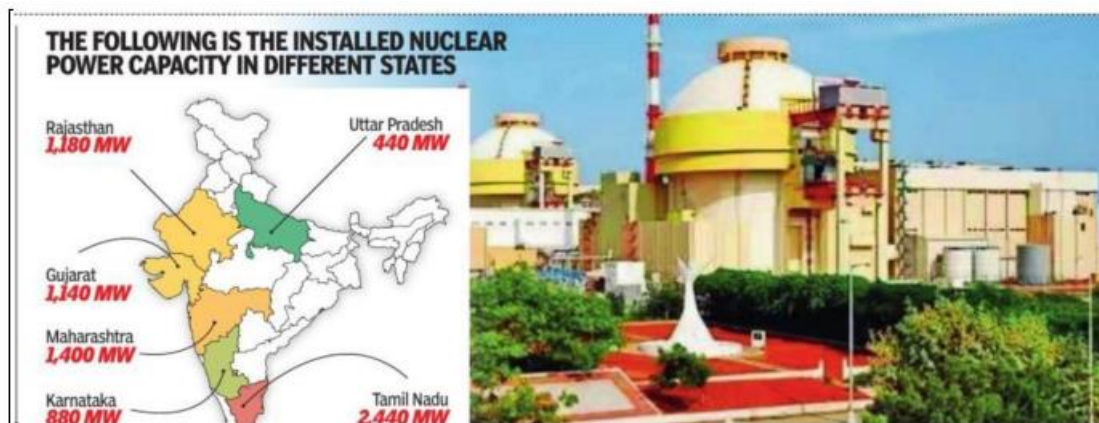
1. **Palm manuscripts** from the **18th Century** titled **Gnanamuyarchi** have been discovered in an **Armenian monastery** in Northern Italy.
2. **Tamil Bharathan**, a doctoral scholar, was allowed access to the manuscripts.

3. It could be a **copy of the first translation of Ignatius' Spiritual Exercise in Tamil.**
4. This translation is most likely by **Michele Bertoldi, known in Tamil as Gnanaprakasasamy.**
5. This is a **prose text** from the early **18th Century** (likely the 1720s).
6. It has been printed several times in the **19th Century** by the **Mission Press in Puducherry.**
7. The library had categorised the manuscripts as **'Indian Papyrus Lamulic Language–XIII Century'**.



Highest installed nuclear power capacity

1. **Tamil Nadu** - has the highest installed nuclear power capacity in the country.



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2. The state has **2,440 MW** of installed nuclear power capacity and accounts for nearly **33%** of the total installed nuclear power capacity in India, which is 7,480 MW, spread over six states .
3. The share of nuclear power in the total electricity generation in the country is about **2.8%** in the year **2022-23**.

Micro MSME Clusters in Tamilnadu – report

MICRO CLUSTERS IN TAMIL NADU WITH PROJECT COST HIGHER THAN ₹4 CR		
	District	Cost (₹crore)
Nellai cookware cluster	Tirunelveli	6.04
Thammampatty wood carving cluster	Salem	4.10
Bhavani Jamakkalam cluster	Erode	6.93
MODERN MULTIPRINTING CLUSTER		
Modern photography cluster	Chengalpet	6.29
Ramanathapuram jewellery cluster	Ramanathapuram	6.7
Turmeric processing cluster	Erode	7.39
Salt cluster	Tuticorin	4.26
Pollachi coir cluster	Coimbatore	8.8
Udumalpet Coir cluster	Tirupur	6.91
Vilachery toys cluster	Madurai	4.02
Offset printing cluster	Madurai	6.5
Women multifood products cluster	Kanyakumari	6.6
Aluminium diecasting cluster	Coimbatore	5.7
Agarbatti cluster	Tirupattur	7.4
Coir cluster	Thanjavur	7.29
Paperboard cluster	Karur	7.03
Salem micro nutrient cluster	Salem	7.13
Food processing cluster	Namakkal	8.2

Source: Government of Tamil Nadu

Bharathiyar Mandapam

1. President Droupadi Murmu unveiled a portrait of nationalist Tamil poet journalist Subramania Bharathi at the **Raj Bhavan, Chennai**.



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2. She also renamed the **Durbar Hall** on the campus as ‘**Bharathiar Mandapam**’.

Amputation Free Tamil Nadu

1. **Dr Sekar Foundation and Kauvery Hospital of Chennai** launched the programme 'Amputation Free Tamil Nadu'.
2. It was launched in observance of **World Vascular Surgery Day** on **August 6**.
3. In India, there are about **350 vascular surgeons** for a **population of 140 crore**.
4. Only about **20 medical colleges in India** have separate vascular surgery departments and **majority of them are in Tamil Nadu**.
5. The most common causes for amputation are **injury and diabetes**.
6. **Eighty five percent of leg amputation** is preceded by a leg ulcer.



Vadakkupattu archaeological site

1. Archaeological Survey of India – has discovered a rare finding in the Vadakkupattu archaeological site, near **Oragadam in Kancheepuram** district.
2. A potsherd with a **Tamil Brahmi script, ‘Mththi’, in three letters**, was found in the excavations conducted in the site.
3. According to ASI, **42 potsherds with Tamil Brahmi scripts** on them had been discovered in Tamil Nadu so far from the various archaeological excavation sites.

4. The ongoing **second phase of the excavation** in Vadakkupattu has been carried out by the ASI from May 19 this year and so far, **six trenches have been dug.**
5. The potsherds with scripts on them had been discovered only in **Kancheepuram and Pattaraiperumpudur** till date.
6. **Tamil Brahmi** was used to write Tamil from the **3rd century BCE to the first century BCE.**



Fragmented terracotta snake figurine and a crystal stone

1. The state archaeological department – has discovered a fragmented terracotta snake figurine and a crystal stone at **Keeladi in Sivaganga district.**
2. These artefacts were found during the **ninth phase of excavation** carried out at Keeladi.



3. The **fragmented snake** head was unearthed from a **depth of 90cm**, while the **crystal stone** was found at a **depth of 175 cm.**
4. The eyes and mouth of the snake are intricately carved.
5. The quartz crystal stone, **polished and glittering**, is **spherical in shape** with the top and base sliced off to create a flat surface, like that of a weighing stone.

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6. This is the first such find since the start of the **Keeladi excavations in 2014.**

MSSRF's research centre

1. The MSSRF's **Fish for All Research and Training Centre at Poompuhar** is one of the seven winning proposals.
2. It is one out of 260 applications to bag the **“Women Connect Challenge” Award for 2023** given by Reliance Foundation and USAID.
3. The Poompuhar Centre is developing a range of information, communication, technologies (ICT) to **reduce the gender digital divide among women.**
4. The Women Connect Challenge is a **global call for solutions** to improve women's participation in everyday life.
5. The **Former WHO chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan** is the head to M S Swaminathan Research Foundation.

The poster is for a panel discussion titled "Session VII Panel Discussion on Enabling Policy Environment for Millets as 'Climate Smart Nutri-Cereals'". It is part of the "International Conference on Mighty Millets 2023" organized by MSSRF. The event is chaired by Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Chairperson of MSSRF. The panelists include Dr. Alessandro Meschinelli (Research Innovations & Partnerships Facilitator, IFAR, Rome), Mr. C. Achalender Reddy (IFS (Retd.) Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority), Dr. Rajeev Ahal (Director, Natural Resource Management & Agroecology, ICRISAT India), Ms Urjaswi Sondhi (Project Officer, United Nations Development Programme), Dr. Sonajharis Minz (Professor, Jansari Lal Nehru University & Former Vice-Chancellor, Sree Karanth Matha University, Dambak), and Prof. Nitya Rao (Professor, Gender & Development, University of East Anglia, UK). The event is scheduled for August 8, 2023, from 3.30 to 5.00 pm. The poster also features logos for MSSRF and Millets 2023, and illustrations of various millet crops.

Global Investors Meet 2024

1. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin - unveiled the **‘logo’** for the State government's ambitious **‘Global Investors Meet 2024’** scheduled to be held on **January 7 and 8 next year in Chennai.**

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2. The theme of the meet is ‘Towards a Resilient Economy, Sustainable Development, and Inclusive Growth’.
3. The Tamil letter ‘tha’, which signifies the Tamil language, people and state, was unveiled as the logo of GIM 2024.
4. Organised by the state industries department, GIM 2024 is **expected to take the country’s second largest economy** closer to achieving its goal of a **\$1 trillion economy by 2030**.



Porpanaikottai Excavations

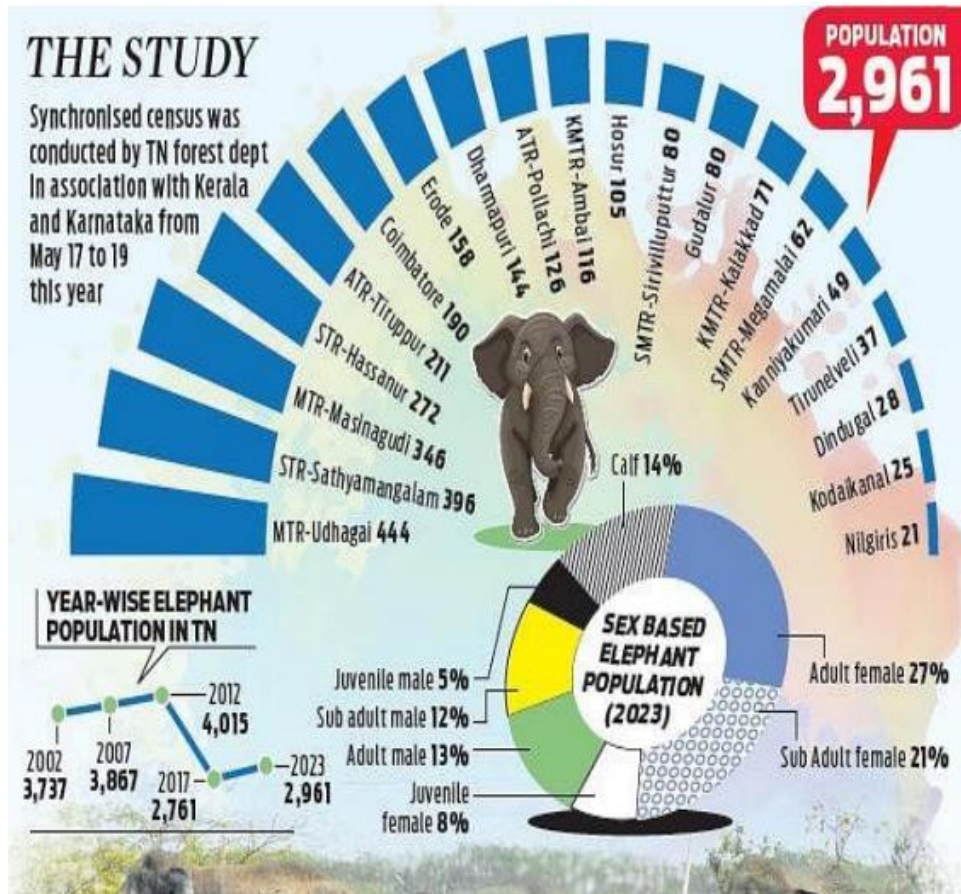
1. **State archaeology department** – has unearthed several brick structures during the **first phase of excavation** being carried out at **Porpanaikottai in Pudukottai district**.
2. Potsherds, comprising glazed ware, blackware, black and red ware, roof tiles, perforated ware and three pieces of rouletted ware, a distinctive type of decorated pottery, have also been found.



3. A **hopscotch made of rouletted ware** is a rare and important find.

4. A Sangam-age fort is believed to have existed here.
5. A **habitation mound**, spread over 1.26 hectares, is believed to have existed within the fort.

Synchronized Elephant Population Estimation 2023 Report



1. Tamil Nadu recorded an increase in the number of elephants in the wild as per the latest synchronised elephant population estimation report.
2. The Tamilnadu state accounts for **2,961 elephants**.
3. It is **up by 200** over the 2017 estimates of 2,761 elephants.
4. According to Elephant Census-2023, Karnataka leads the country in the total number of elephants.

As per Forest Divisions:

- Mudumalai Tiger Reserve
- Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) Masinagudi division
- Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) Hasanur division.

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As per Elephant Reserves:

- Nilgiris Eastern Ghats Elephant Reserve
- Agasthyamalai Elephant Reserve
- Nilambur Silent Valley Coimbatore Elephant Reserve
- Periyar Elephant Reserve.

Chennai City Partnership

1. The **World Bank** is set to provide funding for projects aimed at creating **safe and efficient streets** in Chennai as part of the second phase of the Chennai City Partnership.
2. It is for **promotion of urban mobility** and spatial development with the timeline of **2022-2027**.
3. It will also be **enhancing the city's digital infrastructure** for e-mobility and smart parking solutions.



Model Village Awards For Best Sanitation Practices

1. Chief Minister M K Stalin - honoured **six village panchayats** with model village awards for best sanitation practices in Tamil Nadu.
2. During the event, the CM presented the shield to **three villages**, Kuloor village panchayat in Modakurichi union in Erode district, N Panchampatti in Aathur union in Dindigul district and Nattathi village in Thiruvaikundam union in Tuticorin district, for the year **2021-2022**.
3. For the year **2022-2023**, the CM gave away the shield to **Nayakkanpalayam village** in Pollachi (south) union in Coimbatore,

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Melmaruvathur village in Chithamur union in Chengalpat and **Ariyanendhal village** in Paramakudi union in Ramanathapuram district.



One-member committee of retired high court judge K Chandru

1. Chief Minister has announced a one-member committee of retired high court judge K Chandru to suggest ways to **prevent caste and ethnic divisions among school and college students.**
2. According to the CM, the **prevalence of caste and ethnic sentiments among youth** was unsuitable for the state's future.
3. The Chandru committee would seek the **views of academicians, students, parents, social activists and the media** among others and would then submit a report to the government.



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Golden Rock Railway Workshop in Ponmalai in Tiruchi

1. It has been entrusted with the **task of converting 100 old ICF passenger coaches, into automobile carriers.**
2. It emerged **first among other workshops** in the country to convert the coaches.
3. It was established in **1928.**



Freedom Petrol Filling Station

1. It is located at **Puzhal central prison, Chennai.**
2. It has the **Special Prison** for Women (SPW-Puzhal).
3. It is the nation's **first retail fuel** outlet run by women convicts.
4. The **prisoners** will get **Rs 6,000 each** as monthly salary for this work.
5. Earlier, the same kind was established at Coimbatore in 2019 by Indian Oil.
6. But it was the male prisoners and this time it was female.



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Best performing Greater Chennai Corporation zone

1. The Tamil Nadu government - has awarded **Teynampet** for being the **best performing Greater Chennai Corporation zone among the 15 zones.**
2. It will receive **Rs.30 lakh** as award followed by **Rs.20 lakh** for **Royapuram zone which came second.**
3. The government used various criteria to award the zones such as clean roads, proper waste management, speedy work progress, lack of potholes, jobs generated among other civic and social aspects.

TN CM's Independence Day Awards

Award Name	Recipient
Thakaisal Tamil Award	Dr. K. Veeramani
ABJ. Abdul Kalam Award	Dr. W. B. Vasantha Gandaswamy
Kalpna Chawla Award for Courage and Adventure	Na. Muthamishelvi
Chief Minister's Good Governance Award	Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency Dr E Theranirajan W. Badrinarayanan
Tamil Nadu Government Awards for outstanding service to the differently abled	T. Jayakumar - Best doctor Shanthi Nilayam - Best institution Ratan Vidyaakar - Best social worker M/S Teddy Exports - Best private employer Ramanathapuram central cooperative bank - best district central cooperative bank
Outstanding contribution to social welfare and outstanding service	Village light - welfare of women Best charity D. Stanley Peter - Great social worker
Best Corporations	Tiruchirappalli Tambaram
Best Municipal Corporation	Rameswaram Thirutharapoondi Mannargudi
Best municipalities	Vikravandi, Villupuram Alangudi, Pudukottai Veerakalputur, Salem

Tamil Nadu Elephant Conclave 2023

1. The two-day Tamil Nadu Elephant Conclave concluded in **Coimbatore.**
2. The state announced the creation of a **separate cadre within the TN forest department** for dedicated veterinary service.
3. **42 Elephant corridors** (24 south of Palghat and 18 north of Palghat) have been identified so far.

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4. The Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) announced the launch of ‘**Yaanai Thiruvizha**’ in Tamil Nadu.

Vidiyal Payanam

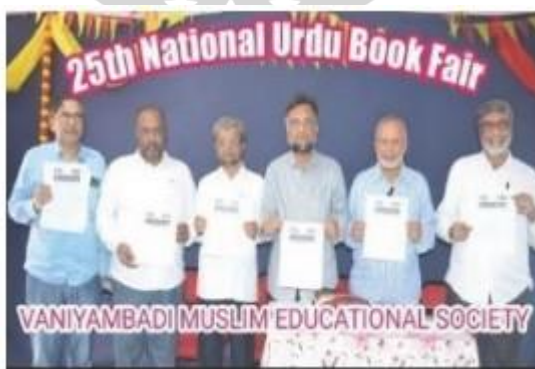
1. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has announced a renaming of the women’s farefree bus travel scheme into ‘Vidiyal Payanam’.

UAV Common Testing Centre

1. **India’s first Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drone) Common Testing Centre** under Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS) will be established in Tamil Nadu.
2. This centre would be established at the **SIPCOT Industrial Park, Vallam Vadagal near Sriperumbudur.**
3. This will be established by the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (**TIDCO**).



Aligarh of the south



1. **Vaniyambadi in Tirupathur** district is known as 'Aligarh of the south'.
2. This is because of its **affinity to the Urdu language** and the many educational institutions thriving here since the 19th Century.

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Southeast Asia's largest desalination plant

1. Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for a new desalination plant to come up at **Perur, Chennai**.
2. It will have a capacity to **treat 400 million liters of sea water** per day.
3. The project having **funding support** from the **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**.

India Centre for Advanced Manufacturing

1. The **Tamil Nadu government** in collaboration with the **World Economic Forum**, hosted a **public-private discussion** for establishing the India Centre for Advanced Manufacturing' in **Chennai**.
2. In the past, Tamil Nadu had **already established three Centers of Excellence**.



First honey bee park

1. **Jawadhu Hills in Tiruvannamalai** is getting ready to have Tamil Nadu's first honey bee park in **Athipattu**.
2. The park aims to **bring back tribals** in the hills to their native work-honey collectors.

Puthirai Vannar Welfare Board

1. Tamil Nadu government has recently **reconstituted** Puthirai Vannar Welfare Board.
2. It consists of **13 ex-officio members and 13 non-official members**.

Tamilians for Tamil Nadu project

1. Tamilians for Tamil Nadu, a project to **enable 1,000 children** from **government schools gain creative problem-solving skills** through specially-curated projects.

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2. The students will **receive scholarships** to access projects in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and humanities.
3. It aims to **nurture skills** to solve real-world issues and will be **guided in Tamil** by professors across the world through the platform.

Green Fellowship Program

1. Chief Minister launched the **Chief Minister's Green Fellowship Programme (CMGFP)**.
2. The programme was "**designed to provide a platform** to passionate **young individuals** who are **committed to environmental conservation**, renewable energy, biodiversity protection, and other aspects of sustainable living".
3. The fellows will also be **introduced to the three missions** of the State - Green Tamil Nadu Mission, Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission, and Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission.

STATES

World Coffee Conference

1. India to host World Coffee Conference in **Bengaluru**.
2. It will present its diverse coffees to buyers from **over 80 countries**.
3. This is the **first time** that the event will be held in Asia.
4. The conference aims to create pathways for innovative opportunities and markets, with a special emphasis on **benefiting coffee farmers** who play a crucial role in the coffee production chain.



Free Movement Regime

1. The **illegal migration of tribal Kuki-Chin peoples** into India from **Myanmar** is one of the key issues in the ongoing ethnic conflict between **Meiteis and Kukis in Manipur**.
2. The FMR in Manipur allows tribes living along the border on either side to travel up to **16 km inside the other country**, without a visa.
3. The **border between India and Myanmar runs for 1,643 km** in the four states of **Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh**.
4. India temporarily suspended the FMR in **September 2022**.



Paddari Tribe

1. The Centre has introduced a bill to include four communities from **Jammu and Kashmir in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) list** - "**Paddari Tribe**", "**Gadda Brahmin**", "**Koli**", and "**Pahari Ethnic Group**".
2. The Paddaris live in the **hilly remote area of Kishtwar district, Jammu and Kashmir**.
3. The **main ST communities** in the Union Territory are **Bakerwals and Gujjars**, who are **dominant** in the districts of Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi, Kupwara, Ganderbal, Anantnag, Kishtwar, and Bandipora.
4. Out of these, the **Bakerwals are mostly nomadic**.
5. The Gujjar-Bakerwal form **the third largest group** in J&K after **Dogras and Kashmiris**.

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6. They were given **ST status in 1991**, along with **two minority groups of Sippis and Gaddis**.
7. This empowered these communities with **10% reservation in educational institutes and government jobs**.

‘Unmesha’ and ‘Utkarsh’ festivals

1. **President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu** inaugurated the 'Unmesha' International Literature Festival and the 'Utkarsh' Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.
2. These festivals, organized by the **Sahitya Akademi** and **Sangeet Natak Akademi**, respectively, have a shared purpose of celebrating inclusivity and cultural diversity in the region.
3. With over 575 authors participating in 102 languages across more than 75 events, **‘Unmesha’** is on the path to becoming the **world’s largest literature festival**.
4. **‘Utkarsh’** serves as a vital platform for **traditional artists** and performers to **showcase their art forms** and preserve the cultural legacy of diverse communities.

GI tags from Rajasthan and U.P

1. Seven products from across India, including four from Rajasthan, were given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.



2. They are
 - Jalesar Dhatu Shilp - Uttar Pradesh
 - Goa Mankurad Mango - Goa
 - Goan Bebinca - Goa

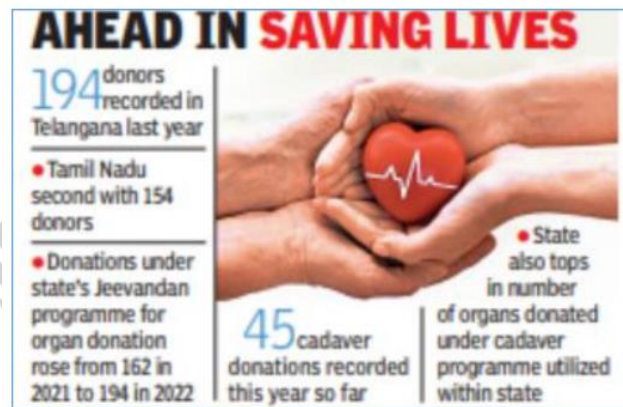
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- Udaipur Koftgari Metal Craft - Rajasthan
- Bikaner Kashidakari Craft – Rajasthan
- Jodhpur Bandhej Craft - Rajasthan
- Bikaner Usta Kala Craft – Rajasthan

Cadaver organ donation

1. **Telangana** has secured the **highest number of deceased organ donors** in the country.
2. **194 people** are having donated organs in 2022.
3. It is followed by **156 donations** by Tamil Nadu, 151 by Karnataka, and 148 by Gujarat.



Resolution against Uniform Civil Code

1. The **Kerala state assembly** - passed unanimously a resolution against Uniform Civil Code (UCC), making it the **first legislature in the country** to pass such a resolution.
2. The resolution said that the **Centre's unilateral and hasty move** to impose UCC goes against the **Constitution's secular character**.
3. The assembly expressed its concern over Centre's move to impose UCC.
4. The resolution said the **Constitution refers to a general civil code only** in its directive principles, whose implementation is not mandatory.
5. The resolution further said that the **nation ensures secularism** via the preamble of the Constitution.
6. The **right to believe in any religion or the right to live** according to any religion is ensured as part of fundamental rights.

7. The court may order to **enforce fundamental rights** but it **can't enforce directive principles** under **Article 44** of the Constitution.
8. Since religious freedom ensured by **Article 25 of the Constitution** comprises the right to follow and observe religious personal laws as well, any move to enact a legislation to **ban spiritual practices** will amount to violation of fundamental rights.
9. While the **right to live according to religious principles** is a fundamental right, such a legislation (UCC), if enacted, would amount to the denial of fundamental rights, said the resolution.

New GI tag products

1. Rajouri's chikri wood craft, Anantnag's Mushqbudji rice received GI tag.



Karnataka's elephant population



1. With an increase of **346 elephants** since the previous census, Karnataka's elephant population has now **reached 6,395**, making it the highest elephant-populated region in the country.
2. According to a report on **Asian Elephant population and demography 2023**, the state of **Karnataka** has witnessed a remarkable increase in elephant population.

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3. The number of elephants in Karnataka has surged from an estimated 6,049 in 2017 to an impressive **6,395**, making it the **highest elephant-populated region** in the country.

Pink Station

1. The New Amravati railway station in **Maharashtra** became the **third 'Pink Station'** within the Central Railway.
2. Central Railway's **New Amravati station** has engraved its place in history as the **first station in Bhusaval Division** and the **third station** within the **Central Railway** to be designated a **"Pink Station"** – a station that is wholly managed by women staff.



Sinh Suchna

1. To celebrate World Lion Day, **Gujarat** introduced a new mobile application called 'Sinh Suchna'.
2. The 'Sinh Suchna' app empowers **individuals to directly report** lion sightings to the forest department.
3. This initiative aims to alleviate the strain on the **Gir National Park in Sasan-Gir**, which has been facing increased tourist numbers.

Maximum Cases Of Cancer

1. **Uttar Pradesh** registers the highest incidence of cancer, reporting a total of **2.10 lakh new cases**.
2. During the **year 2022**, the state documented an astonishing **210,000 new cases**, marking a significant uptick from the **201,000 cases registered in 2020**.

3. The term ‘Keralam’ traces its roots to the fusion of **two Malayalam words – “Kera,” symbolizing coconut, and “Alam” denoting land.**
4. Thus, ‘Keralam’ intricately encase the essence of the **“Land of Coconut Trees”**.
5. It is a pivotal contributor amounting to about **45% of India’s overall coconut harvest.**
6. It is sought to be instituted through the provisions of **Article 3 of the Constitution to change it in the first schedule.**
7. This alteration would encompass the adoption of **‘Keralam’ as the state’s official name** across all languages listed in the **Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.**

Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) treatment facility

1. Goa - will become the **first State in the country to provide In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) treatment facility free of cost.**
2. The government will pay on an average **Rs 5 to Rs 7 lakh for the IVF treatment.**
3. It aims to use **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** funds to procure equipment and strengthen operations of the initiative.
4. Depending on the hospital and the kind of IVF treatment, the cost of IVF in India comes between **Rs 70,000 to Rs 3 lakh per cycle.**
5. The country presently sees between **250,000 to 300,000 IVF treatments each year.**

Fiscal Health report card

1. A report on the fiscal health of the key **17 states** was penned by **Kaushik Das, the chief economist at Deutsche Bank India.**
2. Based on the **FY24 first budget estimates**, the **top three states are Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Telangana.**
3. The **bottom three states are Bengal, Punjab and Kerala.**
4. **Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh** typically in the top quartile during fiscals 2004 to 2016.
5. For the 2004-2016 period, the states that **featured repeatedly** in the bottom quartile are **Bengal, Bihar, UP, and Rajasthan.**

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Koosina Mane' Creches

1. **Karnataka government** announced plans to set up "Koosina mane" across 4,000- gram panchayats for **children of working mothers**.
2. "Koosina mane" translates to **child homes or creches**.
3. It is aimed at **providing healthcare, nutrition, and safety for children** whose mothers are employed under MGNREGA.

Private Corporate Investment

1. **Uttar Pradesh** has topped the list of states **that attracted investment funds** from banks and financial institutions .
2. It is followed by **Gujarat, Odisha, Maharashtra and Karnataka** during 2022-23.



India's First Village Atlas

1. The **Goa Chief minister** released a **biodiversity atlas of Mayem village** in North Goa.
2. This is termed as "**India's first village atlas**".
3. This atlas gives a **socio-cultural history** of Mayem village that **dates back to 12th century**.



World 's Highest Motorable Road

1. The BRO is working on constructing the '**Likaru-Mig La-Fukche**' road in **Ladakh**.
2. The strategic road, '**Likaru-Mig La-Fukche**', will pass through an altitude of about **19,400 feet**, the **highest anywhere** in the world.
3. **Currently**, the world's existing highest motorable road at **Umling La in Ladakh** is at an altitude of **19,024 feet**.



Maharashtra's 1st elephant reserve

1. The Maharashtra government declared **Tillari forest land** as a **conservation reserve for elephants**.
2. Tillari is a forest located in the hilly ranges of **Konkan-Western Ghats corridor**.
3. Maharashtra is home to **62 conservation reserves**, of which **13 are in the Western Ghats**.



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SCHEMES

Vivad se Vishwas 2.0 scheme

1. The Department of Expenditure has launched Vivad se Vishwas 2.0 scheme aiming to settle long-standing contractual disputes.
2. It is also known as **Contractual Disputes scheme**.
3. This initiative was announced during the **Union Budget 2023-24** by the Union Finance Minister.
4. The scheme aims to provide an effective and standardized mechanism for **resolving** contractual disputes, thereby reducing the burden on the legal system and fostering a more **business-friendly environment**.

Vishwakarma Yojana

1. The scheme aims to strengthen and nurture the "**Guru-Shishya Parampara**" or the **family-based practice** of traditional skills by artisans.
2. The government will **promote traditional skills** including **pottery, blacksmithing, construction, tailoring, and boat-building** which have been transferred through the previous generations.



NATIONAL

The Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill 2023

1. The Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2023, was passed by the Lok Sabha.

2. It seeks to **strengthen cooperatives** by making them **transparent** and introduces a system of regular elections.
3. The Bill seeks to reform the **composition of the Board of multi-State co-operative societies** and establishment of ‘Co-operative Election Authority’.
4. The elections laws provisioned in the Bill is at par with those of the Election Commission.



100 Microsites project

1. The National Health Authority (NHA) has launched 100 microsites project under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).
2. These microsites shall be a cluster of small and medium-scale clinics, nursing homes, hospitals with less than 10 beds, laboratories, pharmacies, and other healthcare facilities.
3. They are ABDM-enabled and offer digital health services to patients.



Project Tiger and Elephant Division

1. The **Project Tiger** division has been merged with **Project Elephant** and a new division with the name '**Project Tiger and Elephant Division**' has been created.
2. **Project Tiger** completed **50 years in 2022**.
3. **Project Elephant** completed **30 years in 2022**.
4. Similar proposal was made by the erstwhile **Planning Commission in 2011** to merge **three centrally sponsored schemes** - **Project Tiger**, **Project Elephant**, and **Integrated Development under Wildlife Habitat** into one.



IDWH



Project Tiger



Project Elephant

13th Amendment of Sri Lanka

1. India expects Sri Lanka to implement the Thirteenth Amendment of constitution and ensure a “**life of respect and dignity**” for its Tamil population.
2. The 13th Amendment is a **three-decade old Sri Lankan legislation**.
3. It brought based on the **Indo-Sri Lanka Accord of 1987** — and holding provincial council elections.
4. It pledged the devolution of power to the **nine provinces** which is yet to be fulfilled.

FLASHBACK: 13TH AMENDMENT


Jan. 27, 2023: The President Ranil Wickremesinghe said the 13th Amendment to the Constitution is being implemented accordingly or the Parliament should abolish the 13th amendment.

Jan 16: President said that the Social Justice Commission would be established in order to build a country where everyone can live in harmony, by solving the problems of the people belonging to all sections of the population and that the government expects to fully implement the 13th Amendment to the Constitution.

February 2016: The Chief Minister of Northern Province, C.V. Wigneswaran sought India's direct intervention in the complete implementation of the amendment

July 29, 1987: Indo-Sri Lanka Accord was signed between Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene which stated the devolution of powers to the provinces.

Hence on 14th November 1987 the Sri Lankan Parliament passed the 13th Amendment to the 1978 Constitution of Sri Lanka and the Provincial Councils Act No 42 of 1987 to establish provincial councils



Global tiger recovery programme – a report

The first Global Tiger Recovery Programme (GTRP) was launched in 2010 to bring together all Tiger Range Countries (TRCs) and like-minded organizations for saving the wild tiger. GTRP 2.0 (2023-24) aims to strengthen tiger governance in the next 10 years. The GTRP 2.0 document prepared by Global Tiger Forum and Global Tiger Initiative Council was released at Thimphu, Bhutan, on International Tiger Day

Graphic: Rammurti Nerlay

A 10-YEAR ROAD MAP TO SAVE WILD TIGERS GLOBALLY

CONCERNS


While South Asia and Russia improved their wild tiger status during the period from 2010 to 2022, it is alarming in South East Asia. Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam have lost tigers. The situation is grim in other TRCs

TIGER RANGE COUNTRIES

Bangladesh, **Bhutan**, Cambodia, **China**, India, **Indonesia**, Lao PDR, **Malaysia**, Myanmar, **Nepal**, Russia, **Thailand** and Vietnam

Kazakhstan

Has historical tiger presence; aiming for reintroduction



#SAVINGOURSTRIPES

The 1st tiger reserve in South East Asia started in Malaysia

GOAL | **TIGERS SHOULD REMAIN WILD IN PERPETUITY**

<p>WILDLIFE crime across tiger landscapes is effectively addressed</p>	<p>INSTITUTIONS for tiger governance are strengthened across range states</p>	<p>LANDSCAPE scale approaches with stakeholder involvement for tiger conservation are widely adopted</p>	<p>DEVELOPMENT supporting holistic green growth, social equity, and climate resilience is mainstreamed into tiger conservation</p>
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THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK
It was signed by 188 countries, including all tiger range countries. It provides a blueprint to 2030 for the coordinated global effort to reverse a dangerous and accelerating biodiversity crisis

Global count up by 43% in 7 years

2016 **3,890** | 2023 **5,574**


Tiger Range Country	Estimated tiger numbers	
	April 2016	July 2023
India	2,226	3,682
Russia	433	500
Indonesia	371	393
Nepal	198	355
Thailand	189	161 (148-89)
Malaysia	250	150
Bhutan	103	131
Bangladesh	106	114
China	>7	>60
Myanmar	NA	28
Vietnam	<5	0
Lao PDR	2	0
Cambodia	0	0

ACTIONS NEEDED IN TIGER RANGE COUNTRIES

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Antipoaching steps ➤ Habitat protection ➤ Addressing human-wildlife conflict ➤ Prey augmentation ➤ Tiger monitoring using state-of-the-art protocol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Intelligence-based enforcement, deployment of frontline staff ➤ Preventing forest loss due to commercial needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enhanced sovereign funding support ➤ Climate smart practices ➤ Smart green infrastructure and others
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CHALLENGE

To secure existing wild tiger populations, while expanding their range



TechEquity

1. India launched TechEquity - a **digital inclusion platform** that seeks to **bridge the gender digital divide** on G20 EMPOWER summit in Gandhinagar.
2. The platform will impact **two to three million women** across the globe over the next year.
3. It will **collate best-in-class courses on digital and financial literacy, tech skill development and core skill enhancement.**

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4. The platform - to be funded by India for the **next three years** - will be maintained by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).



Mobile app 'Rajmargyatra'

1. The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has introduced the 'Rajmargyatra' mobile app, to provide **seamless travel experience on Indian National Highways**.
2. This unified app aims to provide **comprehensive information and efficient complaint redressal** for national highway users, making travel safer and more convenient.



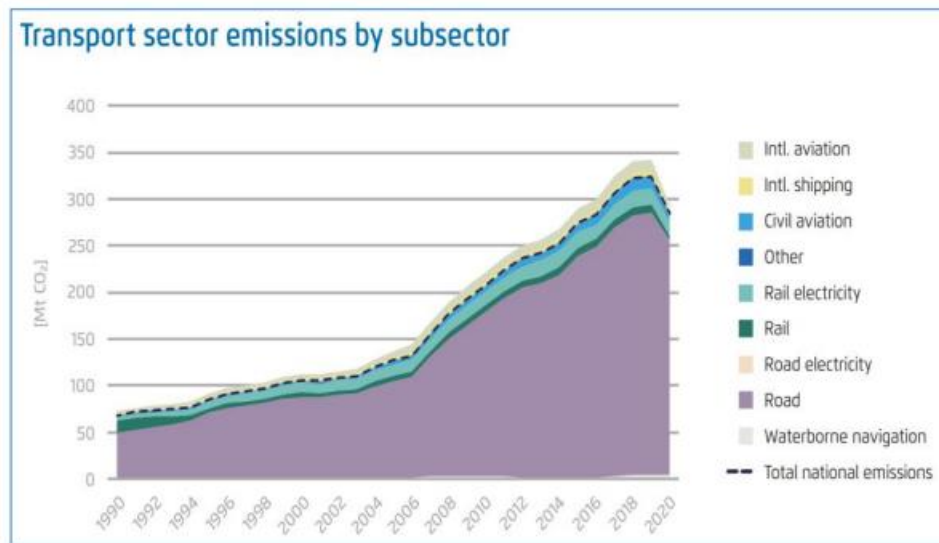
FMR-FIR modality

1. **UIDAI** is engaging **artificial intelligence-based technology** to address fraud in the Aadhaar-enabled Payment System.
2. The technology is called **Finger Minutiae Record–Finger Image Record (FMR-FIR) modality**.
3. The Finger Minutiae Record–Finger Image Record (FMR-FIR) modality is an **Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning technology**.
4. It will **check the liveness of a fingerprint to detect the use of cloned fingerprint** during the authentication process.
5. It is ensuring that **only real fingerprints** are used for verification.



“Towards Decarbonizing Transport 2023” report

1. **NITI Aayog** released the “Towards Decarbonising Transport 2023” report.
2. It aims to **support global discussions on sustainable transport** during India’s G20 presidency.
3. Decarbonising Transport refers to the **process of reducing or eliminating CO2** and other greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector.
4. The **transport sector in India contributes to around 14-15%** of the country’s total greenhouse gas emissions in 2021.
5. Within the transport sector, **road transport contributes to more than 90%** of the total CO2 emissions.



MASI App

1. **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** has developed an application 'MASI'.
2. MASI stands for **Monitoring App for Seamless Inspection**.
3. It aims to **real time monitoring** of the Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and their inspection mechanism across the country.
4. The app is linked to the **monitoring Portal** where the automatic reports are generated.



Study in India (SII) Portal

1. This portal will provide an **integrated one-stop solution** for student registration and visa application process.

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2. It aims to establishing India as a **global hub for education** by welcoming students from diverse backgrounds.
3. It will also **benefit the domestic students** by connecting them more closely to a globalised world and prepare them better for the global workplace.



Age of Consent for voting

1. A **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievance, Law and Justice** has recommended reducing the age for contesting Lok Sabha and **Assembly elections to 18 years.**
2. It is **the minimum age of voting** in India.

Who Is An Adult? Definitions of adulthood by statutes

Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 LAW Age of marriage for men and women is 21 and 18 respectively.	18 Women 21 Men	Child Labour Prohibition Act, 1986 LAW Children below 14 can't work.	14
Indian Penal Code	16 Boys 18 Girls	Right to Education Act, 2009 LAW End of compulsory education is at 14.	14
Indian Evidence Act, 1872 LAW Admissibility of evidence in courts. The age of minor is below 16 under this law.	16		

Anatomy of Age The way the brain develops

1) By 16 Temporal lobe doubles in size.	3. Parietal lobe Sight, smell, sound, touch	2. Frontal lobe Abstract thinking, reasoning, planning
2) By 19-24 Maximum growth in frontal lobe.	4. Occipital lobe Vision processing	1. Temporal lobe Language, memory, emotions
3) Till 16 Parietal lobe stays immature.		
4) By 20 Occipital lobe matures.		

3. India's top sugarcane-growing states rely heavily on groundwater for irrigation, leading to concerns over **groundwater depletion**.



Red sanders export quota

1. The **commerce ministry** notified an annual export quota of **900 tonnes** for artificially propagated **red sanders wood for Tamil Nadu**.
2. It has also **notified a zero-export quota** for wild specimens of red sanders, subject to certain conditions.
3. Red sanders are an **Indian endemic tree species**, with a restricted geographical range in the **Eastern Ghats**.
4. The species is a **native and endemic** to a distinct tract of forests in **Andhra Pradesh**.
5. Red Sanders usually **grow in the rocky, degraded and fallow lands with Red Soil** and **hot and dry climate**.
6. It is a very **slow-growing tree species** that attains maturity in **natural forests after 25-40 years**.
7. The **International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN)** recently categorised the Red Sanders (or Red Sandalwood) again into the **'endangered' category** in its Red List.
8. It is listed under **Schedule IV of The Wildlife Protection Act of 1972**.

9. China remains the largest importer for this, followed by Hong Kong and Singapore.

The potential and the problem



1,000 metric tonnes

The annual market demand for Red Sanders

Rs 50 lakh - 1 cr

The price commanded by a tonne of this timber in international markets

50-80%

The population decline in this species over the last 3 generations



Distribution of Red sanders in India

1,000 sq km

The area of occupancy by Red Sanders that's endemic to the Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh

117

Smuggling cases of Red Sandalwood registered in 2011



60-100 years

For Red Sanders to reach good harvestable width

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana Beneficiaries: Leading States

State	Beneficiary Rank	Beneficiary Count	Fiscal Year	Scheme Impact
Bihar	1st	84,89,231 individuals	2022-23	Exemplary success, underscores scheme triumph, inclusive growth
Uttar Pradesh	2nd	68,08,721 individuals	2022-23	Penetration in populous regions, financial stability, self-sufficiency
Tamil Nadu	3rd	64,06,513 individuals	2022-23	Impact in developed economic landscape, widespread scheme reach

Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis

1. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare made the announcement to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027 during the inauguration of the second phase of the Annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) initiative.

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4. This project has been included in the Government of India's National River Conservation Project (NRCP).



Justice Rohini panel's findings

1. The Justice G. Rohini-led Commission was established in 2017.
2. It was to explore the sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes (OBC) groups.
3. It was appointed by the President under the powers conferred by Article 340 of the Constitution.

Findings

- **The Dominance of Few Caste Groups:** A small number of caste groups among all OBC groups were found to dominate the reservation quotas meant for OBCs.
- **Equitable Redistribution:** The need to ensure a more equitable distribution of benefits among OBC communities was identified, aiming to address the imbalance caused by the dominance of certain groups.
- **Reservation Allocation Formula:** The Commission formulated a formula to allocate reservation shares based on historical underrepresentation, with the objective of providing a larger share to

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historically marginalized groups and reducing the share of dominant groups.

- **Rationalization of Central OBC List:** The Commission suggested corrections and replacements in spellings within the Central OBC list, aiming to rectify errors and inaccuracies in the entries.

	TOTAL	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	OTHERS
Group-A	50,068	6,440 (12.86%)	2,826 (5.64%)	8,455 (16.88%)	11 (0.02%)	32,226 (64.58%)
Group-B	1,25,732	20,954 (16.66%)	8,244 (6.55%)	19,829 (15.77%)	5 (0.04%)	76,700 (61.0%)
Group-C (excluding safai karmacharis)	3,22,503	58,744 (18.22%)	22,296 (6.91%)	72,710 (22.54%)	84 (0.03%)	1,68,639 (52.29%)
Group-D (safai karmacharis)	13,722	4,507 (32.72%)	1,056 (7.66%)	2,774 (20.14%)	0	5,435 (39.46%)
TOTAL	5,12,075	90,675 (17.70%)	34,422 (6.72%)	1,03,768 (20.26%)	100 (0.02%)	2,83,110 (55.28%)

State of Elementary Education in Rural India 2023

1. Recently, the **Ministry of Education** has released this report for the first time in India.
2. The study was focused on children in rural communities between the **age of 6 to 16 years**.
3. It was highlighting the **Prevalence of Smartphone Usage among students**.
4. It was based on a survey conducted by the **Development Intelligence Unit (DIU)**, a collaboration between **NGO Transform Rural India** and **Sambodhi Research and Communications**.

Dropouts of male

1/4th of children

Dropouts of female

35% of children

Major Findings

- **49.3%** have access to smartphones.

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- In contrast, only **34% of students** use smartphones for **study-related downloads**.
- Students in higher classes (**Class VIII and above**) have **greater access to smartphones (58.32%)**.
- **78% of parents** aspire for their children to **attain graduation-level education or above**.

Gold Award

1. Union Home Minister Amit Shah praises the team of **National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS)** of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) for winning the Gold Award.
2. NAFIS won the Gold Award under the **Excellence in Government Process Reengineering for Digital Transformation Category-1** of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).

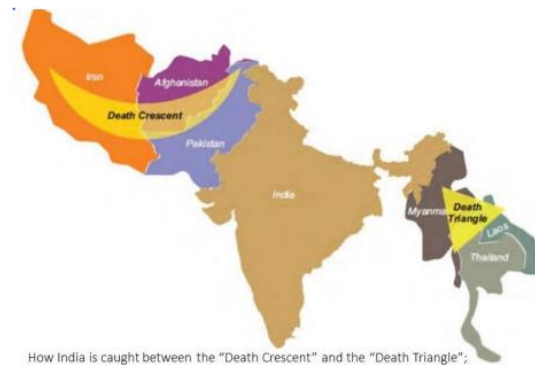
One District One Product

1. In a significant stride towards showcasing the rich heritage of Indian craftsmanship and fostering self-reliance, the One District One Product (ODOP) program has joined hands with the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** to launch the captivating and innovative **‘ODOP Wall’**.
2. This initiative not only celebrates India’s artistic diversity but also amplifies the **voices of rural artisans and women entrepreneurs**, providing them with a platform to showcase their exceptional skills and craftsmanship to the world.



3. For the **first time**, **organised crime** will be **defined** under the penal code.

Top States on Drug Seizure Chart



1. The **Border Security Force (BSF)** has seized the highest amount of **heroin from Punjab and Rajasthan.**
2. Maximum quantity of **'ganja'** confiscated from **Tripura and West Bengal.**

'FloodWatch'

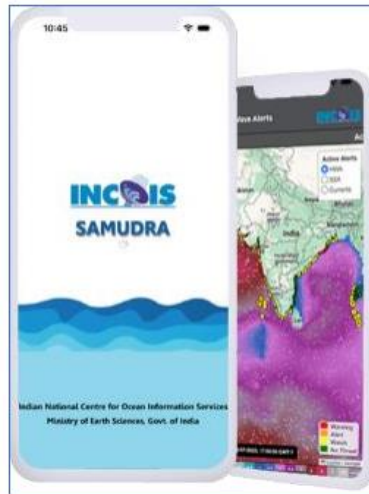
1. The **central water commission (CWC)** launched an App **'FloodWatch'** to disseminate real-time information on the **flood situation in affected areas.**



First World Health Organization Global Summit

1. The first World Health Organization Global Summit on Traditional Medicine was inaugurated at **Gandhinagar, Gujarat.**

'SAMUDRA' mobile app



1. The **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)** has come out with a **new mobile application 'SAMUDRA'**.
2. SAMUDRA stands for **Smart Access to Marine Users for Ocean Data Resources and Advisories**.
3. It is offering **comprehensive information** on all **ocean related services**, **useful for both seafarers and the fishing community**.

3D-Printed Post Office

1. India's **first 3D printed** post office was inaugurated in **Bengaluru**.
2. **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** helped the construction team with the structural design.



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3. He also announced that **August 23**, the day the Chandrayaan-3 lander touched down on the lunar surface, would be celebrated as "**National Space Day**".

Committee for revamp DRDO

1. The **Ministry of Defence** has decided to revamp **India's premier defence research agency** - Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
2. For this, the ministry has set up a **nine-member committee**.
3. This is **headed by K. Vijay Raghavan**, the former principal scientific advisor to the government.
4. The committee's primary task is to **come up with recommendation of restructuring and redefining** the role of the DRDO.

National Award for e-Governance 2023

1. **SVAMITVA Scheme of Ministry of Panchayati Raj** has been conferred with the prestigious **National Award for e-Governance 2023 (Gold)**.
2. This is awarded under '**Application of Emerging Technologies for Providing Citizen Centric Services**' at the 26th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) .
3. SVAMITVA stands for '**Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas**'.
4. National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) was organised on the theme '**Viksit Bharat, Empowering Citizens**'.

Election Commission of India's (ECI) National Icon



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1. Legendary Cricketer and Bharat Ratna Awardee, Sachin Tendulkar - was declared as the Election Commission of India's (ECI) National Icon to create awareness among voters and encourage their participation in the electoral process.
2. The Election Commission has continuously associated itself with renowned Indians from various fields and designates them as its national icons to motivate voters.

'Suyamariyathai '(Self-Respect) Marriages

1. On August 28, the Supreme Court - said lawyers can solemnise 'suyamariyathai ' (self-respect) marriages between **two consenting Hindu adults** and then **issue marriage certificates** under the amended Hindu Marriage Act in Tamil Nadu.
2. It **sets aside** a **recent Madras high court order** which had held that the advocates cannot preside over such marriages in their offices.
3. The Tamil Nadu government, **in 1968**, had amended one of the provisions of the Act to **legalise 'suyamariyathai' marriages**.

INTERNATIONAL

Beijing Faces Historic Flooding

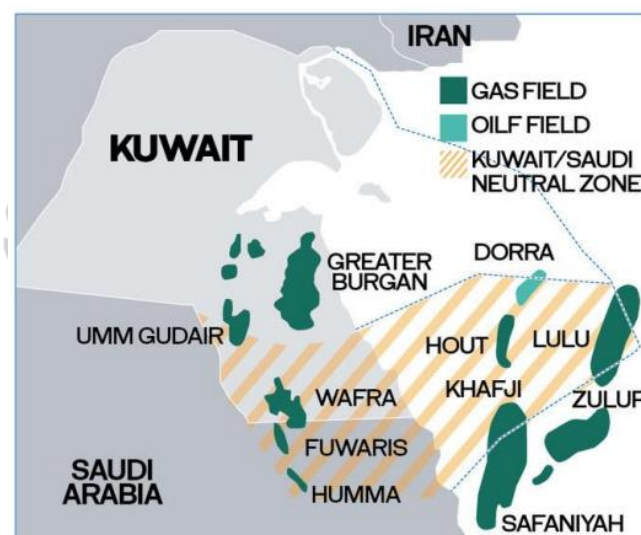


1. In **China's capital, Beijing**, an unprecedented and **historic flood** caused by the **highest rainfall in 140 years** devastates the region.
2. It records a **staggering 744.8 millimeters of rainfall** over the course of five days.

3. Beijing and the surrounding province of **Hebei** faced severe flooding, causing **extensive damage to infrastructure** and posing a significant challenge to rescue operations.

Arash-Dorra Gas Field Dispute

1. An offshore gas field Dorra, in the **Gulf waters** has long been a **bone of contention** among the two countries claiming ownership over it.
2. It is located on the **eastern maritime border of Kuwait**.
3. This Dorra gas field was **discovered in 1967**.
4. **Iran**, which calls the field **Arash**, says the field extends into its waters.
5. The **Kuwaiti and Saudi authorities** declared that, they alone **have full sovereign rights to exploit the wealth in that area"**.



World rice price Index

1. The **FAO All Rice Price Index**, reached an **average of 129.7 points in July this year**.
2. It stands as the **highest level** observed since **September 2011**.
3. **Robust rice** demand is among the **key drivers** behind the increasing rice prices.
4. Countries such as **India, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Pakistan** are prominent rice exporters.
5. Whereas **China, the Philippines, Benin, Senegal, Nigeria, and Malaysia** play a crucial role as rice importers.

6. **US, Thailand, Italy, Spain, and Sri Lanka** are the noteworthy destinations for India's **non-basmati white rice** exports.



Indian Buddhist Culture and Heritage Centre

1. The construction work of the Indian Buddhist Culture and Heritage Centre has begun in **Lumbini, Nepal**.
2. This heritage Centre is expected to be **lotus shaped** which will be built in **zero- net technology**.
3. This will **promote spiritual and religious tourism**.



Hurriquake

1. Hurricane Hilary, a major **tropical cyclone**, hits **Southern California**.
2. The epicentre of the earthquake was in **Ojai**, between **Santa Barbara and Ventura**.
3. The quake occurred along the **Sisar fault**.



Suspension of Niger from African Union

1. The African Union suspended Niger from all of its institutions and activities.
2. Soldiers overthrew **Niger's democratically elected president** almost four weeks ago and quickly entrenched themselves in power.

Indian PM's Greece visit

1. This was the **first visit by an Indian Prime Minister** to Greece in 40 years.
2. Prime Minister was **conferred with the prestigious Grand Cross of the Order of Honour by Greek President.**
3. The last high-level visit to Greece took place in **September 1983 when then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi** travelled to the country.



Anti-tank guided missiles

1. India's indigenous **Nag Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM)** and the variant of **HELINA** (Helicopter-launched NAG) Weapon System called '**Dhruvastra**' are set to be inducted into the Indian armed force.
2. Both the Nag ATGM and Helina (Dhruvastra) missiles are developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
3. And they are manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
4. **Nag is the surface-to-air missile.**
5. **Dhruvastra is the air-to-surface missile.**



Nag ATG

1. NAG, also known as **Prospina**, is a **third generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile** with Fire and Forget top attack capability.
2. Nag ATGM is developed under the **integrated guided missile development programme (IGMDP)**.
3. IGMDP also includes four other **missiles Agni, Akash, Trishul and Prithvi.**
4. The Nag has an **operational range of up to 4 km.**
5. It is armed with a tandem **High- Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT)** warhead.



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Malabar 2023

1. INS Sahyadri and INS Kolkata is participating in Exercise MALABAR 2023 at Sydney, Australia.
2. MALABAR series of maritime exercise commenced in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between Indian Navy and US Navy.



Zayed Talwar

1. **Indian Navy** conducted a bilateral naval maritime partnership exercise with the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** Navy under the bilateral exercise named 'Zayed Talwar'.

Tarang Shakti

1. The **Indian Air Force's** multi-national exercise Tarang Shakti, has been postponed to next year.
2. This would also enable the **inclusion of certain Air Forces** who have evinced an interest in the exercise.

INS Vindhya Giri

1. The Indian President, introduced the **modern stealth frigate** dubbed INS Vindhya Giri.
2. This is the **sixth of the seven vessels** being constructed for the Navy as part of **Project 17 Alpha**.



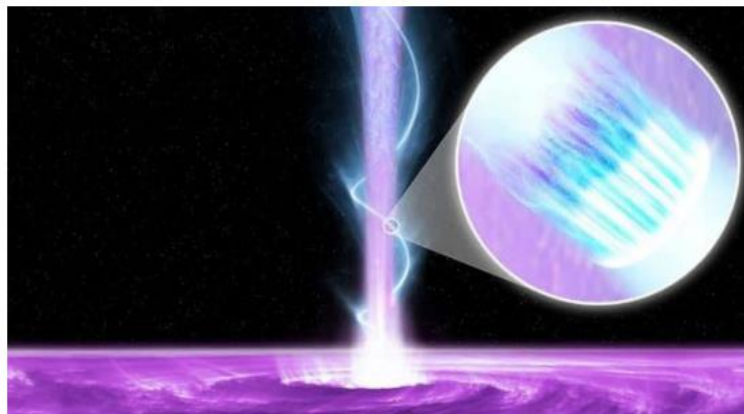
Exercise Bright Star-23

1. For the **first time**, **Indian Air Force (IAF)** contingent is participating in Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23.
2. It is a **biennial multilateral tri-service exercise** scheduled to be held at **Cairo (West) Air Base, Egypt**.
3. It also witnesses the participation of contingents from the **United States of America, Saudi Arabia, Greece, and Qatar**.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

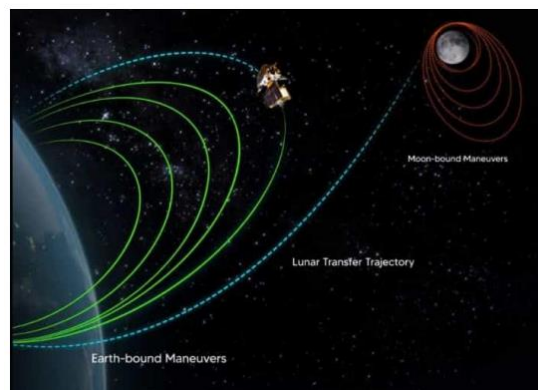
Markarian 421



1. A supermassive black hole, named Markarian 421, is emitting its **high-energy jet toward Earth.**
2. This astral spectacle is **taking place at a safe distance** of approximately **400 million light-years** away.
3. This blazar is located in the **constellation Ursa Major.**
4. Jets like the one beaming out of Markarian 421 can extend millions of light-years in length.
5. They are especially bright because as particles approach the **speed of light.**
6. They give off a **tremendous amount of energy** and behave in weird ways that Einstein predicted.

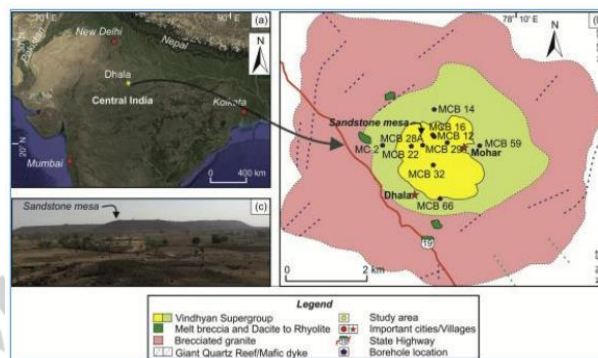
Translunar orbit

1. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has confirmed the successful completion of Chandrayaan-3's orbits around the Earth, and the spacecraft is now on route to the Moon.
2. The **Chandrayaan-3** spacecraft, which marks India's **third** lunar exploration mission, has accomplished a noteworthy achievement by entering the moon's sphere of influence.
3. It will begin to experience the influence of lunar gravity when it reaches a distance of **around 40,000 km from the Moon.**
4. From there, each lunar manoeuvre will reduce the apolune from **4,000 km to 5,000 km.**
5. Then reduced to **1,000 km before the spacecraft enters a 100 km** circular orbit.



Ureilite Meteorite

1. Scientists have discovered that the **Dhala structure** in India was formed by a **rare ureilite meteorite** between **2500 and 1700 million years ago**.
2. This making it the **world's seventh oldest impact structure**.
3. The around **11 km diameter Dhala impact structure** is the largest confirmed impact structure reported so far between **Mediterranean and south-east Asia**.
4. Ureilites are a **unique class of primitive achondrite**, comprising only a tiny fraction of all known meteorites on Earth.



Watermelons in Vostok Station

1. Scientists have achieved the remarkable milestone of cultivating **watermelons in Antarctica**.
2. They cultivated at the **Russian research facility** - Vostok Station situated at the Pole.
3. This location is classified as the **coldest spot-on Earth**.
4. Here the **temperatures plunge to minus 128.6 degrees Fahrenheit** (minus 89.2 degrees Celsius).

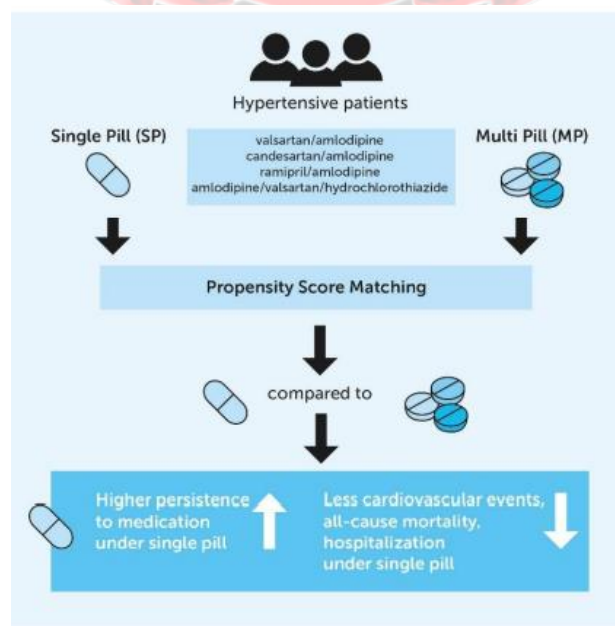


New blood testing technology

1. Researchers have developed a new blood testing technology called **GEMINI**.
2. GEMINI stands for **Genome-wide Mutational Incidence for Non-Invasive** detection of cancer.
3. It combines **genome-wide sequencing of single molecules of DNA** with machine learning.
4. This technology has the potential to allow **earlier detection of lung and other cancers**.
5. Advanced level of GEMINI detected over **90% of lung cancers**, including **stage I and II diseases**.



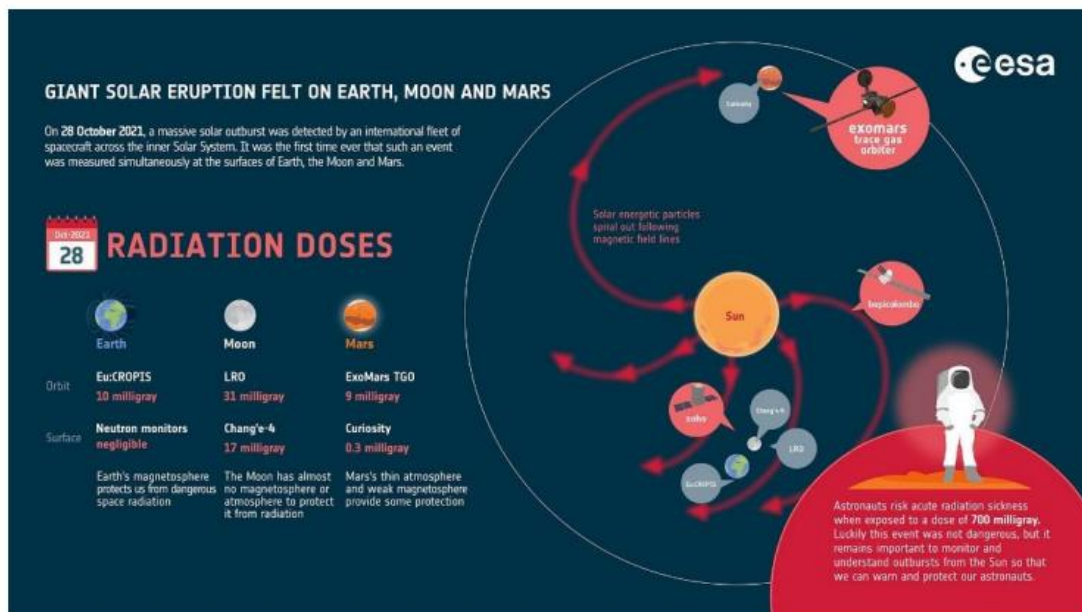
Single-pill strategy



1. **WHO** included **three fixed dose combinations** of cardiovascular medicines or polypills on its revised Model Lists of Essential Medicines (EML) 2023.
2. This will be used in primary and secondary prevention of atherosclerotic cardiovascular diseases.
3. The polypill is an important low-cost public health intervention.
4. It can prevent over millions of cardiovascular events and deaths every year.

Coronal Mass Ejection (CME)

1. A coronal mass ejection (CME) **exploded from the Sun recently**.
2. This time it was **spread so wide** that it was **detected on both Mars and Earth**.
3. This is the **first time that a solar event** was recorded on Earth, on the Moon and on Mars **simultaneously**.
4. The **two planets were on opposite sides** of the Sun, around **250 million kilometres apart**.



5. Yet they still **received the blast of energetic particles**.
6. CMEs are **large expulsions of plasma and magnetic field** from the Sun's corona.

7. CMEs travel outward from the Sun at **speeds ranging from slower than 250 kilometers per second (km/s) to as fast as near 3000 km/s.**
8. The fastest Earth-directed CMEs can **reach our planet** in as little as **15-18 hours.**

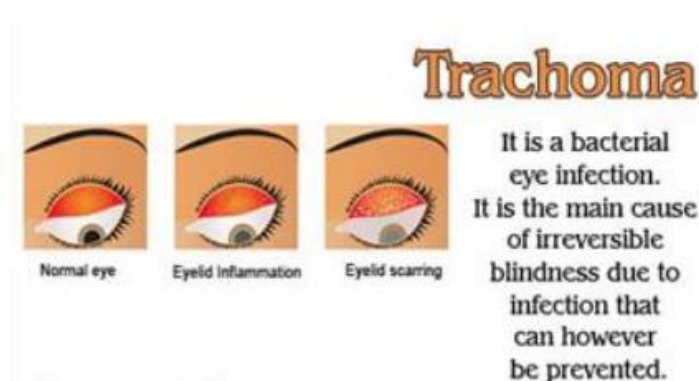
Ring Nebula

1. Astronomers used the **James Webb Space Telescope** to capture this striking new image of **Messier 57**, more popularly known as the Ring Nebula.
2. The nebula in the image is actually the **glowing remains of a sun-like star** and at its centre is the star's hot core, which is called a **white dwarf.**



Eliminating Trachoma

1. **Iraq** has been officially recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the **18th country to successfully eliminate trachoma** as a public health concern.
2. This achievement also marks Iraq as the **fifth nation** within the WHO's **Eastern Mediterranean Region** to accomplish this milestone.



3. Additionally, the WHO has acknowledged **Iraq as the 50th country to eliminate at least one Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD)** on a global scale.
4. Trachoma is a **contagious bacterial eye infection** caused by bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*.

Bhu-Vision (Krishi-RASTAA)

1. It is an **IOT-based Automated Soil Testing** and Advisory Platform.
2. It will play a vital role in completing the **nation's soil health map**.
3. It has been jointly developed by **Indian Council of Agricultural Research - Indian Institute of Rice Research of Hyderabad (ICAR-IIRR)** and **Krishi Tantra**.



African Swine Fever

1. African swine fever (ASF) is a **highly contagious viral pig disease**.
2. ASF has spread to **49 countries** and resulted in around **1.5 million animal losses since 2021**.
3. The 49 countries were located **in five different world regions** of Asia, Africa, Americas, Europe and Oceania.
4. The livestock disease was **first reported in Kenya in 1921**.
5. There is **no treatment** for the disease.
6. It can be **transmitted through direct contact** with infected animals.

Chandrayaan 3 mission

1. The Chandrayaan 3 mission **launched on July 14** onboard **Launch Vehicle Mark III**.
 2. It **took 41 days** to touch down on the moon's surface.
 3. India also became the **first country to land on the moon's south pole**.
 4. It will be used by **ISRO**, over the **next 14 days** to explore the composition of **lunar soil and rocks**.
 5. The south pole is expected to have **ice deposits and minerals**.
- **15 Minutes of Terror**
 1. The critical landing sequence for Chandrayaan-3, commenced at approximately **5:45 pm** and spans **15 minutes**, aptly dubbed "15 minutes of terror".
 2. This manoeuvre involved transitioning the craft from a high-speed horizontal orientation to a gradual vertical descent, facilitating a **gentle touchdown** on the lunar surface.



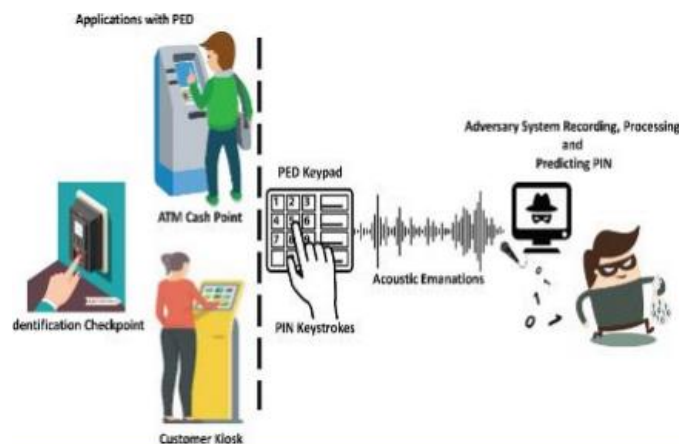
World's first humanoid robot pilot

1. The **South Korean scientists** have unveiled a humanoid robot capable of piloting an aircraft.
2. The **robot - called PIBOT** - uses **AI technology** to memorize flight charts and emergency protocols.
3. **PiBot** can also communicate with **air traffic control (ATC)** and other humans on the flight deck, meaning it can operate via a Captain or First Officer.



Acoustic Side Channel Attack

1. A recent report revealed that Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be used to **decode passwords** by analysing the **sound produced by keystrokes**.
2. This technique uses the **sounds produced by typing on a keyboard** to determine what keys are being pressed.



3. By analysing these **unique sounds**, hackers equipped with the right tools can decode the precise letters and numbers being typed.
4. **Side Channel Attacks** are a method of **hacking a cryptographic algorithm** based on the analysis of auxiliary systems used in the encryption method.

LUPEX Mission

1. **ISRO and Japan's JAXA** are partnering for the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX).
2. It aims to **explore the lunar polar region** for potential sustainable activities and water-ice resources.
3. The mission will involve a **rover developed by JAXA** and a lander developed by ISRO, along with instruments from NASA and ESA.



Soil in the lunar surface

1. The Chandrayaan-3 mission aims at **soft-landing** of the spacecraft on the unexplored southern pole of the Moon.

2. The soil samples at Siddampoondi village in Namakkal district are said to be very similar to the soil in the lunar surface, especially in the South Pole.



3D Eye Scans and Parkinson

1. 3D eye scans could help to identify people at high risk of developing Parkinson's disease up to seven years before they have symptoms.
2. This research explores into the emerging field of 'oculomics' utilizing retinal imaging to identify markers of various neurological disorders.
3. Ocular changes can be an early indicator of the disease, potentially transforming early diagnosis and intervention.

Predicting Markers of Systemic Disease through Ophthalmic Imaging

Smoking	Anemia
Atherosclerosis	RBC
Hematocrit	eGFR
Blood Pressure	Age
Hypertension	Gender
Diabetes	Weight
Creatinine	Height
CKD	BMI

SeamlessM4T

1. **Meta** unveiled their new artificial intelligence tool called as **Seamless M4T**.
2. A **multimodal AI model** capable of **speech recognition and speech-to-text translation** for nearly **100 different languages**.
3. SeamlessM4T is the **first all-in-one multilingual multimodal AI translation and transcription model**.
4. This single model can perform speech-to-text, speech-to-speech, text-to-speech, and text-to-text translations for up to 100 languages depending on the task.

ECONOMY

Upgradation to Maharatna

1. **Oil India Upgraded to Maharatna, ONGC Videsh to Navratna** by Finance Ministry.
2. **Oil India**, previously classified as a Navratna company, has now been granted the esteemed Maharatna status, making it the **13th Maharatna CPSE** (Central Public Sector Enterprises) in the country.
3. **ONGC Videsh** having obtained a status upgrade to a Navratna CPSE, the company becomes the **14th Navratna CPSE** in the country.

RBI Policy Meeting Highlights August 2023

1. The RBI Monetary Policy Committee has kept the key **policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5%**.
2. The MPC last raised this rate from **6.25% to 6.50%** at its meeting in February.
3. It has announced that the **cash reserve ratio (CRR)** remains unchanged at **4.5 %**
4. The Reserve Bank is **planning to artificial intelligence (AI)** in UPI payments.
5. The Near Field Communication (NFC) technology will be deployed in offline payments via in **UPI-Lite**.

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6. The central bank raised payment limit via UPI lite to **Rs 500 from Rs 200.**

Central Govt debt

1. The central government's debt stood at Rs **155.6 lakh crore** or **57.1 per cent of the GDP** at the end of March 2023.
2. The debt of state governments at the end of 2022-23 is estimated to be about **28 per cent of GDP.**
3. Central Government's capital expenditure has increased from **2.15 per cent of GDP** in 2020-21 to **2.7 per cent of GDP** in 2022-23.

(i) Year-wise details of the Central Government debt/total liabilities outstanding from FY 2013-14 to FY 2022-23 are given in the following table:

FY	Central Government's debt/total liabilities*	
	Amount (₹ lakh crore)	% of GDP
2013-14	58.6	52.2%
2014-15	64.1	51.4%
2015-16	71.0	51.5%
2016-17	75.0	48.7%
2017-18	82.9	48.5%
2018-19	92.5	49.0%
2019-20	105.2	52.4%
2020-21	122.1	61.6%
2021-22	138.9	58.7%
2022-23 (RE)	155.8	57.3%

*Includes External Debt valued at current exchange rates as on 31st March of the respective financial year.

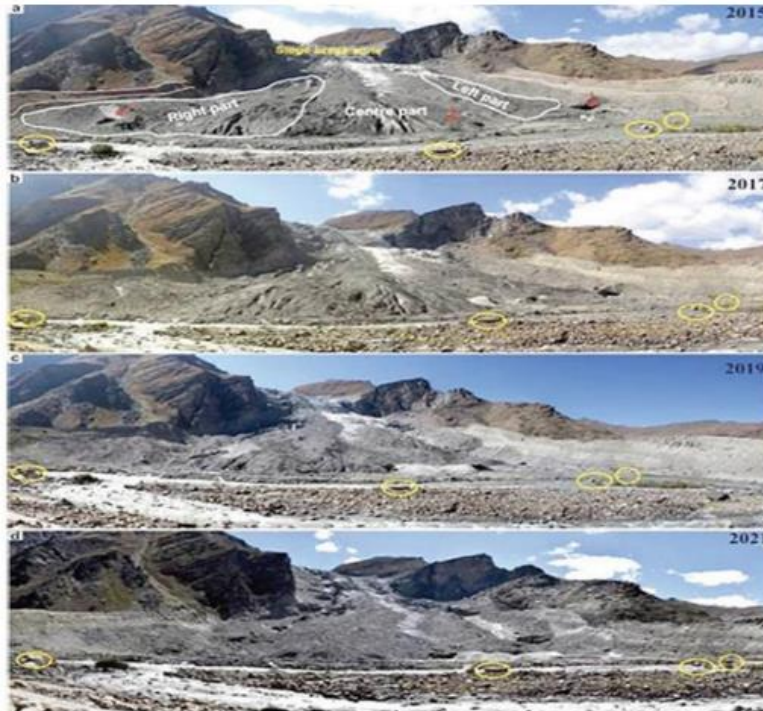
RE: Revised Estimates

ENVIRONMENT

Parkachik Glacier in Ladakh

1. Accelerated **melting of the Himalayan Parkachik Glacier** in Ladakh could **give rise to three glacial lakes.**
2. They may have an **average depth ranging between 34 and 84 metres.**
3. These lakes could be a potential source of **glacial lake outburst floods in the Himalayas.**
4. The **lake area** of each of these lakes could range from **43 to 270 hectares.**

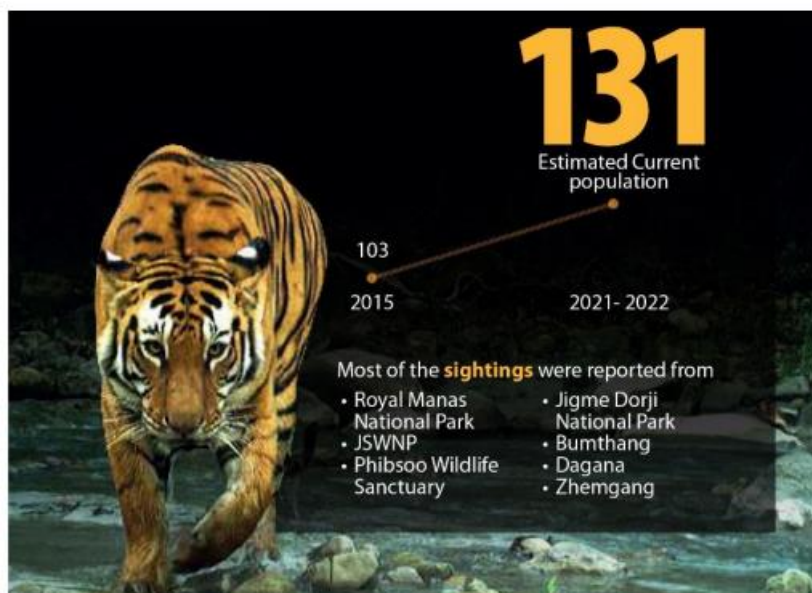
5. The glacier's yearly **melting rate** was **6 times faster** between **1999 and 2021** (22 years) than that calculated from 1971 to 1999 (28 years).
6. The retreat was at an average rate of **around 12 metres per annum**.
7. Parkachik Glacier is one of the **largest glaciers in the Suru River valley**.
8. It is a **part of the Southern Zaskar Ranges**, western Himalaya.



Bhutan's Tiger Population

1. **India and Bhutan** have seen a significant surge in their wild tiger populations.
2. Bhutan's wild tiger population **has increased to 131**, up **27%** since the **first systematic survey in 2015**.
3. India recorded a count of **3,682 tigers**, establishing it as the habitat for **75% of the global wild tiger** population.
4. In **Nepal**, the population of wild tigers has nearly **tripled since 2010 to 355**.
5. Bangladesh has about **114 tigers**, mainly in the **Sundarbans Reserve Forest**, according to the **last census conducted in 2018**.

6. The first all-India tiger census revealed just **1,827 tigers in 1972**, down from an estimated 40,000 in the early twentieth century.



2023 Plastic Overshoot Day Report

1. Nearly **68,642,999 tonnes** of **additional plastic waste** will end up in nature this year.
2. India is among the **12 countries** which are responsible for **52% of the world's mismanaged plastic waste**.
3. The **world's worst offender is Iceland**, with annual consumption of **128.9 kg per person**.
4. **159 million tonnes of plastics** (which can be used only for a short time) to be **produced globally in 2023**.
5. **Three countries with the highest mismanaged waste** — **Mozambique** (99.8 per cent), **Nigeria** (99.44 per cent) and **Kenya** (98.9 per cent).
6. India **ranks fourth** in the MWI, with **98.55%** of generated waste being mismanaged.
7. **India** has a cumulative capacity to process **14.2 million tonnes of plastic waste annually**.



Endangered Himalayan Vulture

1. The **first instance** of captive breeding of Himalayan vulture was recorded in India at the **Assam State Zoo, Guwahati**.
2. The species is categorised as **'Near Threatened'** with an **estimated population of 66,000**.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

9 RECORDED SPECIES:
Oriental white-backed, long-billed, slender-billed, Himalayan, red-headed, Egyptian, bearded, cinereous and the Eurasian Griffon.

(4 CRITICALLY ENDANGERED, 1 ENDANGERED, 3 NEAR THREATENED)

THE CRISIS:
A massive dip in vulture populations came into limelight in the mid-90s, and in 2004 the cause of the crash was established as diclofenac, a veterinary nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug.



WHAT NEXT AFTER 2006 PROJECT:

- Testing of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs on vultures, development of new NSAIDs
- Covering two more species in the breeding programme that earlier focussed on 3 critically endangered species
- Additional conservation breeding centres and four rescue centres planned across India
- Nationwide vulture survey once in four years

3. These Vultures are **native to the high Himalayas**.
4. It is the **second instance in the world**, after France.
5. Vulture population have **experienced drastic declines** in recent years.
6. It was leading to **'Critically Endangered'** status for three resident Gyps vulture species.

Ketoprofen and Aceclofenac

1. The **Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has imposed a ban on the manufacturing, sale, and distribution of ketoprofen and aceclofenac **to protect vultures** in the country.
2. It is prohibited under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**.
3. These are **non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)**.
4. They are frequently employed **to relieve pain and inflammation** in both humans and animals.



CarbonLite Metro Train Travel

1. The **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)** has unveiled a pioneering initiative called CarbonLite Metro Travel.
2. It aims to **educate passengers** about their significant contribution towards **reducing carbon emissions** by choosing metro trains.

5 percent of birds in India – endemic

1. A recent publication titled as, **75 Endemic Birds of India**, was released by the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** on its the 108th foundation day.
2. It points out that about 5% of the birds found in the country are endemic.
3. They are not reported in other parts of the world.

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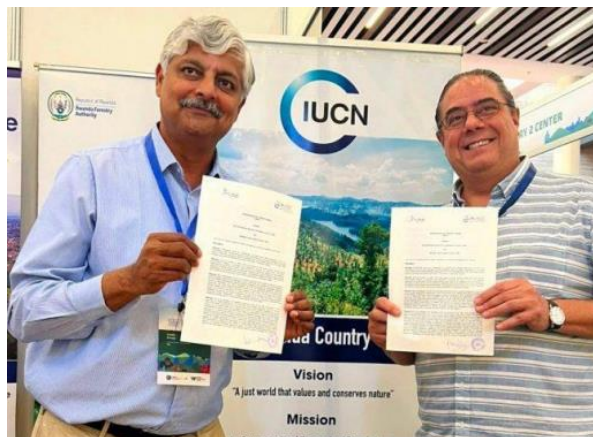
Govt. Job is Not Anymore A Dream!

4. India is home to **1,353 bird species**.
5. It represents approximately **12.4%** of the global bird diversity.
6. Of these, **78 (5%)** are **endemic** to the country.



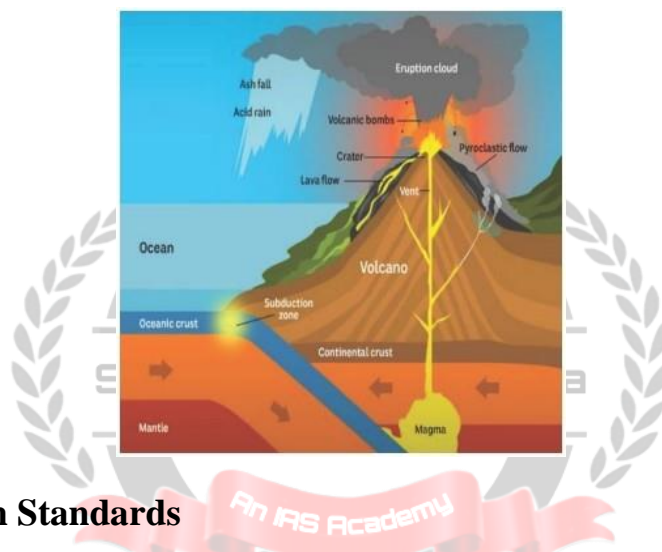
First-ever centre for species survival in South Asia

1. **IUCN Species Survival Commission** has partnered with **Wildlife Trust of India (WTI)** to set up the **first-ever Center for Species Survival** in South Asia.
2. This will be the **10th Centre for Species Survival** in the world and the first of its kind in South Asia.
3. India has **great variety of fauna**, numbering **92,037 species**, of which insects alone include **61,375 species**.
4. It is with a vision to create a just world that **values and conserves nature**.

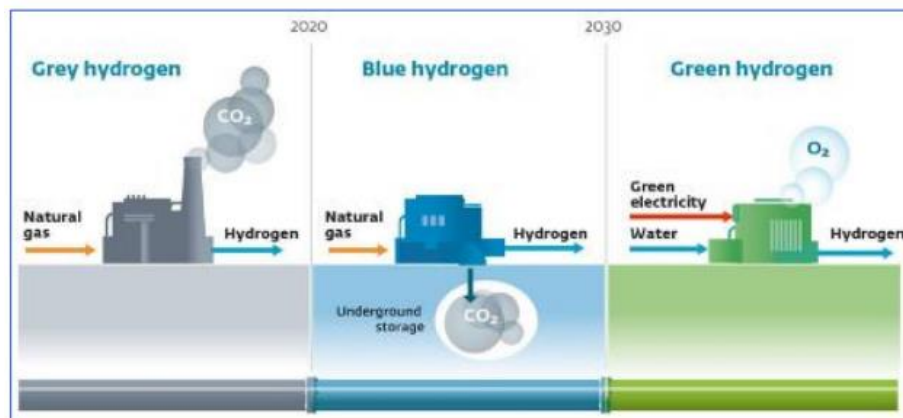


Carbon Dioxide Drives Volcanic Eruption

1. The researchers have claimed that it is not water vapor, rather it is **carbon dioxide (CO₂)** that propels the **eruption of basaltic volcanoes**.
2. They studied the magma at **Pico do Fogo**, one of the **world's most active** ocean island volcanoes.
3. They found **unusual levels of carbon dioxide** that generally originate at a **depth of 12 to 19 miles** below the crust.
4. Higher levels of **ferrous and ferric oxides** have been found in the mantle.



Green Hydrogen Standards



1. The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** notified the green hydrogen standard for India.
2. India became one of the few countries to have a definition for green hydrogen.

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3. The notification specifies that a detailed methodology for measurement , reporting, monitoring, on-site verification and certification of green hydrogen.
4. The government launched **National Green Hydrogen Mission** early this year with an **aim to produce 5 million metric tonne (MMT)** green hydrogen per annum.

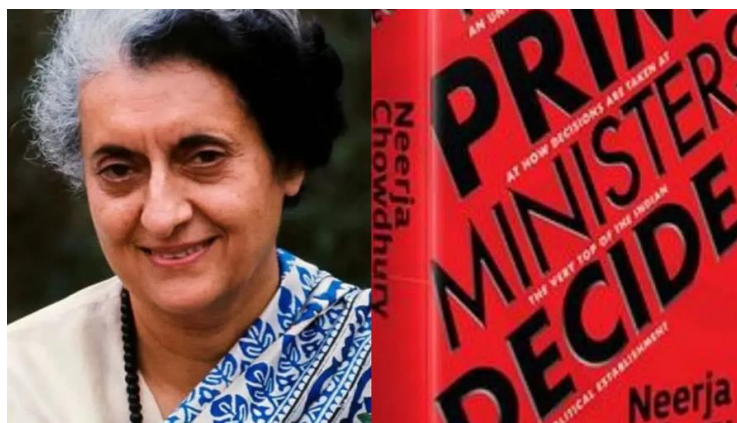
54th Tiger reserve of India

1. The 54th tiger reserve was established in the **Karauli and Dholpur districts of Rajasthan.**
2. This reserve is the **Rajasthan's fifth Tiger reserve.**
3. The existing reserves are **Ranthambore , Sariska, Mukundra Hills, and Ramgarh Vishdhari.**

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Veteran journalist Neerja Chowdhury

1. A new book, titled **How Prime Ministers Decide**, by veteran journalist Neerja Chowdhury recalls the drama that led to Sonia's announcement, prompted by Rahul's "**fear for his mother's life**".
2. A new book also claimed that former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had good relations with several RSS leaders but carefully kept a distance between the organisation and herself.



3. Earlier, in **March 2016**, **Pentala Harikrishna** has overtaken Anand in live rating as India's No.1 chess player for one day.
4. Anand, a **five-time World Champion**, was the highest ranked Indian chess player for 37 years since 1986.
5. The next **higher-ranked Indian in the FIDE rating list** is **Vidit Gujarati**, who is **No 23** in the list at 2723, **Pentala Harikrishna**, **No 27** with a rating of 2711 and **R Praggnanandhaa** with a rating of 2707 and **ranked No 29** on the list.

World Archery Championships 2023

1. The Indian women's compound archery team etched their names in **history by clinching a gold medal** at the World Archery Championships held in **Berlin, Germany**.
2. This victory marked **India's first-ever gold** at the archery world championships in any category.
3. It was India's **first-ever gold at the archery world championships** in any category.



Fastest Indian to take 50 wickets in T20 Internationals

1. Indian Left-arm spinner **Kuldeep Yadav** - became **fastest Indian** to take 50 wickets in T20 Internationals.
2. He achieved the feat during the **third T20I** against the **West Indies in Guyana**.

3. Among ICC Full-Member nations, **Sri Lanka's Ajantha Mendis** holds the record for picking 50 wickets in 26 T20Is.



Third Indian swimmer

1. **India's Shoan Ganguly** - became only the third Indian swimmer to win a medal at the **Commonwealth Youth Games in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.**



FIFA Women's World Cup 2023

1. **Spain beat England** in the final of the FIFA Women's World Cup held at Australia.
2. With this win, Spain became only the second nation to clinch both the men's and the women's World Cups after Germany.

Asian Champions Hockey Trophy 2023

1. The **Indian hockey team defeated Malaysia** to win for the **fourth time** at the Asian Champions Trophy 2023.

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2. With four Asian Champions Trophy titles, India is the most successful team in the history of the tournament.
3. **Pakistan, with three titles, are at the second spot now.**



Chess World Cup final

1. **Magnus Carlsen of Norway** has won the Chess World Cup by defeating India's Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa.
2. **Praggnanandhaa is the runner-up** of the 2023 FIDE World Cup held at **Kazakhstan**.
3. It was **Carlsen's first World Cup triumph**, having won the World Championship five times.



AWARDS AND EVENTS

Lokmanya Tilak National Award

1. The **Prime Minister** was honored with the Lokmanya Tilak National Award **in Pune** for his exceptional contributions to the progress and development of the nation.
2. The prestigious award, instituted by the **Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust** in 1983, aims to honor the lasting legacy of Lokmanya Tilak.
3. Shri Narendra Modi became the **41st** distinguished individual to receive this esteemed recognition.

List of some notable recipients of the Lokmanya Tilak National Award:

Name	Position/Title	Year of Award
Indira Gandhi	Former Prime Minister	–
Atal Bihari Vajpayee	Former Prime Minister	1994
Dr Manmohan Singh	Former Prime Minister	1997
Rahul Bajaj	Chairperson of the Bajaj Group	2000
Pranab Mukherjee	Former President	2009
Sharad Pawar	Founder of Nationalist Congress Party	2016
Cyrus S. Poonawalla	Chairman of Cyrus Poonawalla Group	2021

Swedish rights prize

1. **Exiled Belarusian opposition leader Svetlana Tikhanovskaya** won a rights prize.



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2023 International Young Eco-Hero award

1. 17 teen environmental activists from across the globe to receive the 2023 International Young Eco-Hero Award.
2. Five youths from India have been named among the 17 awardees.
3. They were recognised for their efforts by the US-based non-profit organisation, "Action For Nature".
4. The Indian awardees are
 - Eiha Dixit from Meerut,
 - Manya Harsha from Bengaluru,
 - Nirvaan Somany and Mannat Kaur from New Delhi and
 - Kamav Rastogi from Mumbai.



69th National Film Awards 2023

Category	Winner(s)
Best Feature Film	Rocketry
Best Actor	Allu Arjun, Pushpa
Best Director	Nikhil Mahajan, Godavari
Best Actress	Alia Bhatt (Gangubai Kathiawadi)
Nargis Dutt Award for Best Film on National Integration	The Kashmir Files
Best Supporting Actor	Pankaj Tripathi (Mimi)
Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment	RRR
Best Female Playback Singer	Shreya Ghoshal (Iravin Nizhal)
Best Tamil Film	Kadaisi Vivasayi
Special Mention	Late Shri Nallandi, Kadaisi Vivasayi
Best Educational Film	Sirpigalin Sirpangal

PERONALITIES

Richest Man in India 2023

1. Among the list of **167 billionaires in India**, Mukesh Ambani is the Richest Man in India with the net worth of **\$90.8 B**. He is currently World's **13th richest person**.
2. India has about 167 billionaires which put the country at the **third position in the world after the US and China**.
3. **Mukesh Ambani** is the richest man of India for consecutive **14 years**.

Rank	Name	Global Rank	Net Worth (in US Dollar)	Source of wealth
1.	Mukesh Ambani	13	\$90.8 B	Reliance Industries
2.	Gautam Adani	24	\$54.9 B	Adani Group
3.	Cyrus Poonawalla	53	\$29.1 B	Serum Institute of India
4.	Shiv Nadar	64	\$25.6 B	HCL Technologies
5.	Savitri Jindal & family	82	\$20.3 B	JSW Group
6.	Dilip Shanghvi	96	\$18.2 B	Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.
7.	Lakshmi Mittal	104	\$16.9 B	Arcelor Mittal
8.	Radhakrishan Damani	107	\$16.7 B	DMart, Avenue Supermarkets
9.	Kumar Birla	111	\$15.8 B	Aditya Birla Group
10.	Uday Kotak	127	\$14.2 B	Kotak Mahindra Bank

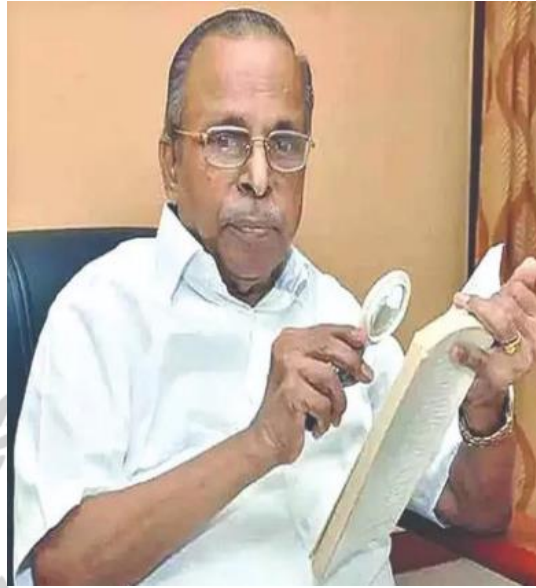
Epigraphist S. Rasu (85)

1. Epigraphist, **archaeologist and Tamil scholar ‘Pulavar’ S Rasu** passed away in Coimbatore.
2. He born **in1938 at Vellode** in Chennimalai union near Erode.
3. Pulavar S. Rasu identified **Kodumanal village** as the one mentioned as **‘Kodumanam’ as inscribed in Padhitrupathu** of Sangam literature.

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4. Following his identification, **excavations began for the first time in 1985.**
5. It brought to light **two cultural periods – megalithic and early historic.**
6. The Tamil Nadu government had in **2012 presented the U.V. Swaminatha Iyer Award** to the poet for his contribution as Tamil scholar.



Chandrayaan-3 Project Director



1. P. Veeramuthuvel worked as the project director for Chandrayaan-3 mission.
2. He is belonging to Tamil Nadu's **Villupuram district.**
3. He had received his doctoral degree from IIT, Madras.

MISCELLANEOUS

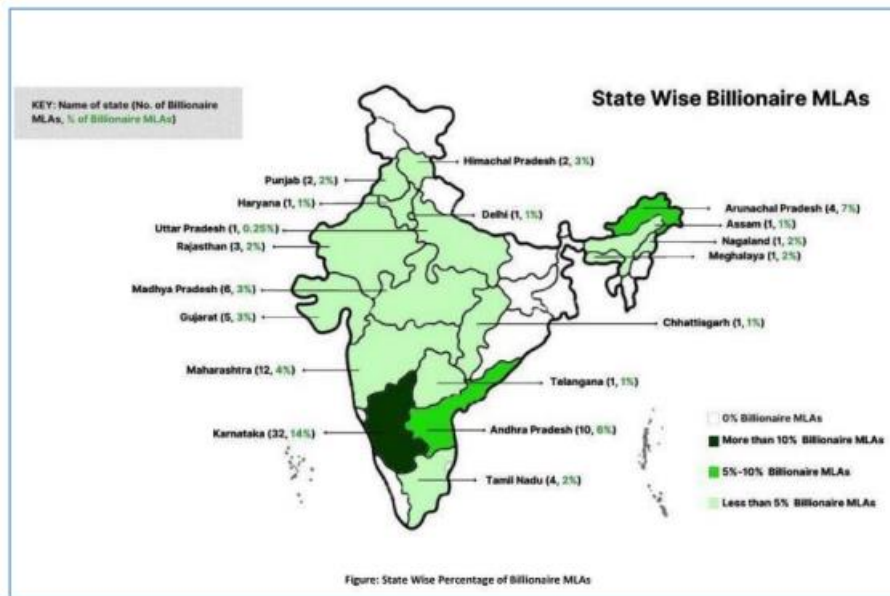
UNESCO heritage danger list

1. **Venice** is one of the **most romantic and beautiful Italian cities**, might soon be under UNESCO's danger list.
2. UNESCO's this recommendation calling on the **Italian government to "ensure the utmost dedication"**.
3. In **November 2019**, Venice was struggling with a **severe flood situation**.
4. In **February 2023**, the city suffered a **major drought situation**.
5. Meanwhile, the city is already battling over tourism.



Most Billionaire MLAs

1. **Karnataka** has the **highest percentage** of billionaire MLAs.
2. It also emerged as the state with the **highest average assets** per MLA (223 MLAs).
3. It is followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh.
4. **Tripura** has the **lowest average assets** per MLA, with 59 MLAs having an average of Rs 1.54 crores.
5. **DK Shivakumar (INC)** from Kanakapura, Karnataka 2023 **topped in the list**.
6. **Nirmal Kumar Dhara (BJP)** from Indus (SC), West Bengal 2021 is **bottom in the list**.



IMPORTANT DAYS

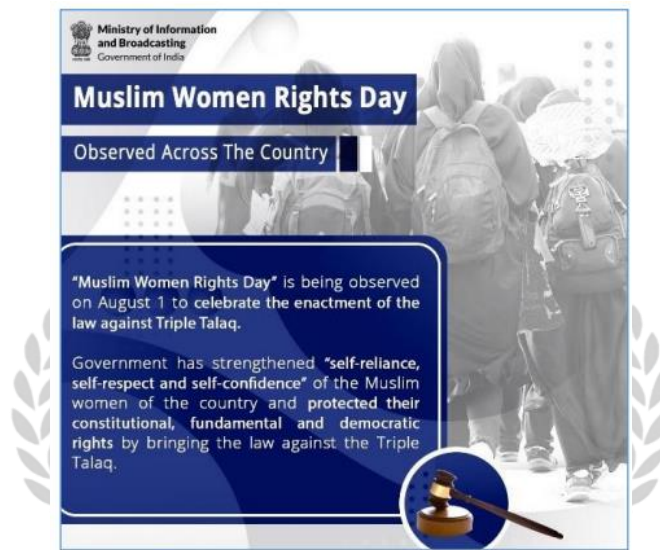
World Wide Web Day 2023 - August 01

1. It is a day dedicated to commemorating the birth of the World Wide Web (www) and recognising its impact on the world.
2. The **first web server**, "http," and the **first web browser**, "WorldWideWeb" (later renamed Nexus), were created by **Berners-Lee and his colleague Robert Cailliau in 1990**.

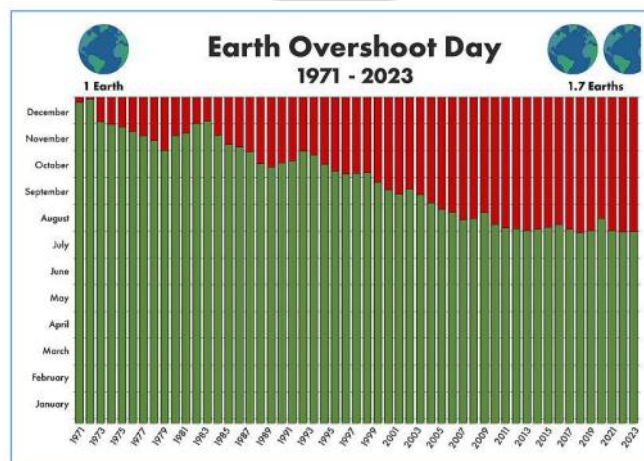


Muslim Women's Rights Day 2023 - August 01

1. The day marks the enactment of the law against Triple Talaq, which came into effect on **August 1, 2019**.
2. It was in **2021** that **Muslim Women Rights Day** was celebrated for the first time.
3. The law against Triple Talaq liberated them from the atrocities committed on them in the terms of the divorce.
4. Triple Talaq is also known as **Talaq-e-Biddat**.



Earth overshoot day 2023 - August 02



1. The date each year at which **humans have consumed more natural resources** than Earth can naturally replenish in one year's time.

2. Every year, the **nonprofit Global Footprint Network** uses U.N. data to calculate the supply and demand for ecological categories.
3. The **first Earth Overshoot Day** was **calculated in 1971** and it was fell on **December 25th**.

Indian Organ Donation Day 2023 - August 03

1. This day commemorates the first successful deceased heart transplant in India in **1994**.
2. The **national organ day** is celebrated on the **27th of November** until 2022.
3. India's organ donation rate **has increased from 0.05 per ten lakh populations to 0.8 per ten lakh populations** in a duration of few years.



National Bone and Joint Day 2023 – August 04

1. The first week of August is observed as National Bone and Joint week **since 2012**.
2. The theme for this year is **‘Each one Train one Save one’**.



2. **Seventy-seven years** have elapsed since then.

National Handloom Day 2023 - August 07

1. August 7 was chosen as the National Handloom Day **to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement.**
2. The theme of this Day in 2023 is "**Handlooms for Sustainable Fashion**".
3. The handloom sector is key to **women empowerment** as **over 70% of handloom weavers** and allied workers are women.



3rd 'Javelin Throw Day' – August 07

1. The Athletics Federation of India, the apex governing body for athletics in the nation, made a decision to mark this day as National Javelin Day.



Nagasaki Day 2023 - August 09

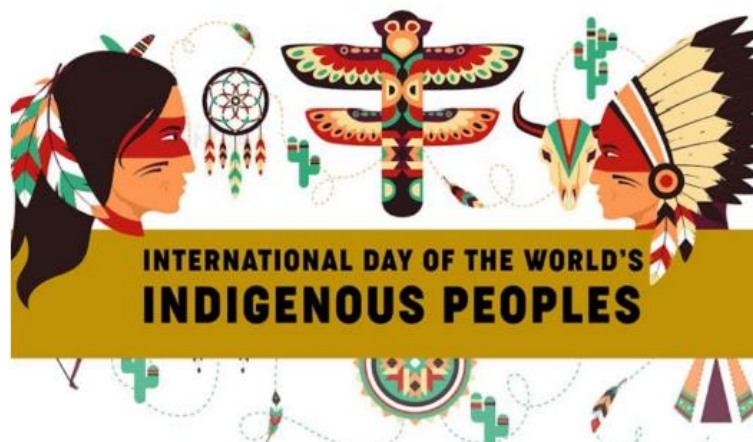
1. The day marks the horror of the **second atomic attack in Japan.**
2. On **9 August 1945**, the **US dropped the second nuclear bomb 'Fat Man'** on the Nagasaki region of Japan.

3. It was just after **three days** after the Hiroshima bombing.
4. **The Plutonium Bomb** was used for the nuclear attack on Nagasaki.



International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples or World Tribal Day 2023 - August 09

1. In **December 1994**, the United Nations General Assembly decided that the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples should be observed on August 9th each year.
2. The UN designated **2019** to be the **International Year of Indigenous Languages**.
3. This year's **theme** for World Tribal Day is **“Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change for Self-determination.”**
4. They make up about **5% of the world's population**, but they account for more than **15% of the world's poorest people**.



World Biofuel Day 2023 - August 10

1. This day honours the research experiments by **Sir Rudolf Diesel** of Germany.
2. His research experiment had predicted that **vegetable oil is going to replace fossil fuels** in the next century to fuel different mechanical engines.
3. The **National Policy of Biofuels in 2018** amendments additionally highlights a target of reaching **20% ethanol-blending and 5% biodiesel-blending by 2030**.
4. The biofuels programme is also in synergy with the Government of India initiatives for **Make in India, Swachh Bharat and enhancing farmers' income**.
5. Important **Biofuel categories** in India are such as Bioethanol, Biodiesel, Advanced biofuels, Second Generation (2G) Ethanol, Drop-in fuels, algae based 3G biofuels, Drop-in fuels and Bio-CNG.



World steelpan day 2023 - August 11

1. On **July 24th**, the **United Nations** prepares to adopt a draft resolution in this regard.
2. It is the **first ever World Steelpan Day** by the UN.
3. It is also known as a **steel drum or simply “pan”**, steel drum or part of steel band.
4. The steelpan is a musical wonder hailing from **Trinidad and Tobago**.

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5. In the context towards the 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals, the steelpan serves as a beacon of cultural diversity and enrichment.



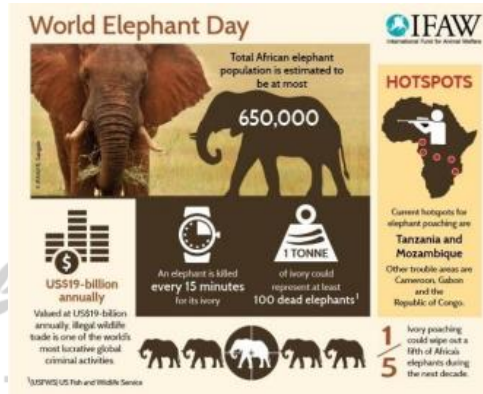
International Youth Day 2023 - August 12

1. The **United Nations General Assembly** set in motion a concerted effort to elevate the global youth community.
2. Its culmination with the endorsement of the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect, and Understanding between Peoples.
3. The **theme for this year** of this day is '**Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World**'.



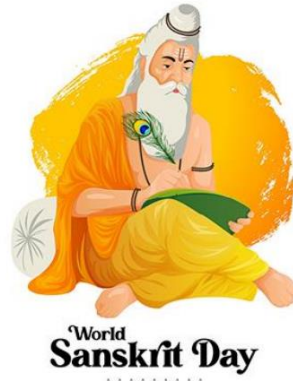
World Elephant Day 2023 - August 12

1. This day serves as a platform to **highlight the challenges** elephants encounter, including habitat loss, poaching for ivory, human-elephant conflicts, and the need for better conservation efforts.
2. The theme for this day is "**Safeguarding Elephant Habitats for a Sustainable Tomorrow**".
3. African elephants are listed as "**Vulnerable**" and Asian elephants as "**Endangered**" on the IUCN Red List of threatened species.



World Sanskrit Day 2023 - August 12

1. It was **first celebrated in 1969** in India.
2. The day also marks the **birth anniversary** of the renowned Sanskrit grammarian and scholar **Pāṇini**.
3. A linguist named Panini wrote a grammar guide, containing eight chapters **Aṣṭādhyāyī**.
4. In **2005**, **Sanskrit** was **declared as classical language** of India after Tamil in 2004.



International Lefthanders Day 2023 - August 13

1. This day aims to raise awareness about the challenges and accomplishments of left-handers.
2. Theme of 2023 is "**Left-Handers in Sports.**"



World Organ Donation Day 2023 - August 13

1. The day aims to raise awareness about **the importance of organ donation and transplantation.**
2. The first organ donor in India is widely recognized as **Lalitha Raghuram.**
3. In 1994, she became the first recorded living organ donor in the country when she donated **a kidney to her husband.**
4. Theme for 2023 is **“Step up to volunteer; we need more organ donors to fill the lacunae”.**

BE A LIFE SAVER

Donate your Organ,
Donate the Gift of Life



Organs that can be donated by living donors

- One kidney
- One lung
- A part of the liver
- A part of the pancreas
- A part of the intestine

Organs that can be donated when donor is deceased

- Kidneys (2)
- Liver
- Lungs (2)
- Heart
- Pancreas
- Intestines
- Hand
- Face

Partition Horrors Remembrance Day in India 2023 - August 14

1. **Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas** is observed on August 14 to remember all those who lost their lives due to partition.
2. The partition caused one of the largest migrations in human history, affecting about **20 million people**.
3. Millions of families had to abandon their ancestral villages/towns/cities and were forced to start anew as refugees.



Independence Day - August 15

1. India celebrates its **77th Independence Day** on August 15, 2023.
2. Theme for this year's Independence Day is "**Nation First, Always First**".



World Photography Day - August 19

1. The theme for this year is "**LANDSCAPES.**"

World Humanitarian Day 2023 - August 19

1. The theme for 2023 is 'No matter what'

Sadbhavna Diwas 2023 - August 20

1. This day dedicated to promoting **national integration and peace** among various communities in honour of Rajiv Gandhi's memory.
2. This year marks the **79th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.**
3. The Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award recognises people who have dedicated their lives **to promoting social harmony.**

Indian Akshay Urja Day 2023 - August 20

1. The day also coincides with the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary.
2. The main goal of celebrating the day is to **create awareness about the green energy generated by using the natural resources.**

World Water Week 2023 - August 20 to 24

1. This is organised by the **Stockholm International Water Institute** every year since 1991.
2. In **1972-73**, the country rolled out the **Accelerated Rural Water Supply Scheme (ARWS).**
3. Theme for this year is - **Seeds of Change: Innovative Solutions for a Water-Wise World.**



