

JULY MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS-2023

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Govt. Job is Not Anymore A Dream!

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TAMIL NADU

Police Drone Unit

- 1. India's first 'Police Drone Unit' was launched in Chennai.
- 2. The Director General of Police (DGP) and Head of Police Force C. Sylendra Babu inaugurated the newly created special unit at **Besant Avenue**, Adyar.
- 3. At present, the drones are operated around Marina and Elliot's beaches.
- 4. In this Drone Police Unit, a **total of nine drones** under **three categories** namely **Quick response surveillance drones**; **heavy lift multirotor Drone and long-range survey wing plane** are available and are equipped with built-in **artificial intelligence** (AI) capabilities.
- 5. These drones can be operated from the **control room up to 5 km.**



Dismissal of Senthil Balaji

- The Tamilnadu government released the decree for Senthil Balaji will continue as Minister Without Portfolio already.
- 2. But Tamil Nadu Governor dismissed the arrested former Electricity Minister V Senthil Balaji from the state cabinet.
- 3. Meanwhile, the order of dismissal of the minister V Senthil Balaji may be kept in abeyance until further communication.

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4. The Governor will be approaching the Attorney General for his opinion on this issue.



Country's top electronics exporter

- 1. **Tamil Nadu emerged** as the country's top electronics exporter in the financial year ended March 2023.
- 2. With this, **Tamil Nadu has surpassed industrial majors** like Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra to emerge on top for the first time after the shutting down of Nokia in 2014.
- 3. **Skilled manpower, port connectivity and good infrastructure** are the major advantage factors of Tamil Nadu.

ELECTRONICS EXPORTS (in \$ billion)					
TN	UP	Maharashtra	Karnataka		
5.3	4.9	2.6	4.5		
1.8	3.8	2.1	3.9	3	
1.6	2.8	1.6	2.3	-4	
	TN 5.3 1.8	TN UP 5.3 4.9 1.8 3.8	TN UP Maharashtra 5.3 4.9 2.6 1.8 3.8 2.1	TN UP Maharashtra Karnataka 5.3 4.9 2.6 4.5 1.8 3.8 2.1 3.9	

State-level commission for sanitary workers

- 1. National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Chairperson M. Venkatesan urged the TN government to establish a State-level commission for sanitary workers in order to redress their grievances.
- 2. State-level commissions were established in 11 States in the country.
- 3. In India, Tamil Nadu recorded the **second highest number of deaths of sanitary workers** while cleaning septic tanks.

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- 4. **Uttar Pradesh tops** in this list.
- 5. **225 lives** lost between 1993 and 2023.



Tamil Nādu soil portal

- 1. Tamilnadu Chief Minister inaugurated a portal to help farmers know the soil health of their land.
- 2. He also released a **coffee table book**, **Netta Netta Panaimarame**, on palmyra trees.
- 3. Farmers could access the portal **to know the soil health status** through a georeferenced survey number.
- 4. Portal Address is http://tnagriculture.in/mannvalam.
- 5. Farmers could also get other details such as **pH**, **organic carbon and** calcareousness.



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Neolithic age celt in Dharmapuri

- 1. Archaeological excavations in **Poothinatham, Dharmapuri district** have yielded a celt belonging to the Neolithic age.
- 2. This is the **second celt discovered** at the site.
- 3. It could have been used for **cutting trees or hunting**.
- 4. The celt, made of **Doloraid**, was also used as a **plough and axe**.
- 5. A celt is a long, thin, **prehistoric stone or bronze tool**.



GST revenue collection

- 1. The Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Goods and Services Tax (GST) zone has contributed 8.12% of all of India's GST revenue.
- 2. It also provided **4.72% of the all-India Central Excise Revenue** in 2022-23.
- 3. The year-on-year national growth in GST revenue collection is 21% during 2022- 23 compared to the previous year.
- 4. Tamil Nadu stands **third in the large State category** after Karnataka and Maharashtra.

First 1000 – Best Healthy Days

1. Tamil Nadu Health Ministry launched the 'First 1000 – Best Healthy Days' programme.

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- 2. It aims at monitoring the **nutrition of pregnant women and newborns** for the first 1,000 days.
- 3. It was inaugurated at the **Primary Health Centre in Thimiri block near Arcot.**
- 4. This scheme is being implemented in all the **23 Community Health Centers and 116 Primary Health Centres of 14 districts** based on the poor maternal and child health indicators in the State.



Dormitories for drivers

- 1. The Tamil Nadu government has made it **mandatory for hotels and lodging houses to provide dormitories for drivers** who accompany the guests.
- 2. The **State Housing and Urban Development Department** has issued an order based on a recommendation made by **former Chief Secretary V Irai Anbu.**
- 3. As per the order, the accommodation is required to be provided either within the premises or within 250 metres from the hotel.
- Accordingly, at least **one bed** should be provided for each car parking space in hotels, along with one separate toilet and bathroom exclusively for **every eight beds attached** to the dormitory.

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Second-best groundwater availability in the country

- 1. In Union Jal Shakti Ministry's annual ranking, Namakkal achieved second place in the conservation and management category for the year 2022.
- 2. It successfully addressed its **water scarcity challenges** and became the **second best district** in India in terms of groundwater availability.



24 reserve forests in 2 years

- 1. Tamil Nadu has added 24 reserve forests covering an area of **3585.3** hectares in the last two years.
- 2. Under the Green Tamil Nadu Mission, the state aims to increase tree and forest cover from 23.69 percent to 33 percent.





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- 3. The State has notified reserve forests in **eight districts** Dindigul, Dharmapuri, Madurai, Namakkal, Nilgiris, Kallakurichi, Sivagangai, and Theni in **2021-2023.**
- 4. They are announced under Section 16 of the Tamil Nadu Forest Act,1882.

SIPCOT BizBuddy Outreach

- 1. A new initiative called 'SIPCOT BizBuddy Outreach' inaugurated recently.
- 2. It aims at improving the industrial ecosystem in Tamil Nadu.
- 3. The first ever outreach event held at the SIPCOT Oragadam Industrial Park.
- 4. The annual outreach events will now be held across all industrial parks of SIPCOT starting this year.



Poomalai Vaniga Valagam

- 1. Chief Minister inaugurated **Poomalai Vaniga Valagam** (PVV) for the **development of women enterprises in 26 districts** under the **Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women** (TNCDW) recently.
- 2. He also launched Nano Enterprise Financing Fund (NEFF) under the Vazhndhu Kattuvom Project (VKP).
- 3. The VKP is operating in 31 districts, across 120 blocks in 3,994 villages.

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4. Mathi Sirugugal Thozhil Mayyam (one-stop business facilitation centres) present in each district would provide all relevant business-related support.



Maaligaimedu Excavation

- 1. The state archaeology department has **unearthed a stone pillar** which is believed to be the remnant of a Chola-era palace at Maaligaimedu.
- 2. The **third phase of archaeological excavations** are currently underway at Maaligaimedu near **Gangaikonda Cholapuram in Ariyalur district.**
- 3. The stone pillar measures **6.4 metres in length** and **72cm in width.**
- 4. It was discovered at the **Utkottai excavation site**, approximately 1 km from Maaligaimedu.
- 5. The state archaeology department uncovered a terracotta seal, a coin mold, and fragments of Chinese pottery at the Maaligaimedu site.
- 6. During the ongoing third phase of excavation, over **400 archaeological** remnants have been discovered, including a partial structure of an ancient brick channel.



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NABL recognition

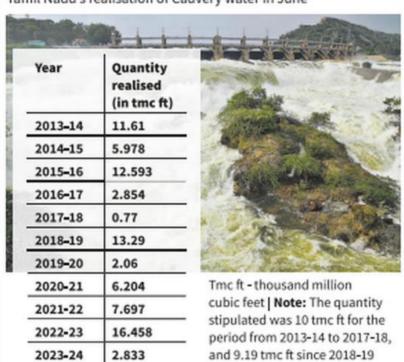
- Anna University received the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) recognition for its state-of-the-art medical equipment calibration laboratory.
- 2. This is the **first time a technical university** has obtained NABL accreditation for a lab.

Poor realization of Cauvery water

- 1. Tamil Nadu is having received less than the **State's share for the month.**
- 2. The stipulated quantity is **9.19 thousand million cubic feet** (tmc ft) for June.
- 3. But the State got a mere 2.833 tmc ft, a shortfall of 6,357 tmc ft.
- 4. The realisation during June 2017- 0.77 tmc ft -was also the lowest for the month in the last 10 years.

Water watch

Tamil Nadu's realisation of Cauvery water in June



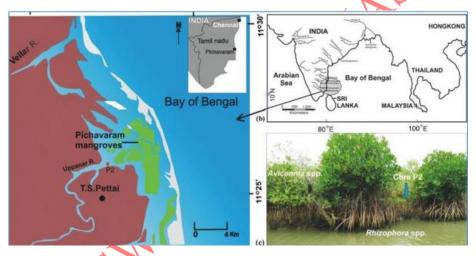
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Mangrove cover restoration in Pichavaram

- 1. The **Tamil Nadu Forest Department** has drawn up a comprehensive plan for the **rehabilitation of coastal habitats** by creating **bio-shields**, **and restoring degraded mangroves** in Cuddalore district.
- 2. The Department will **increase mangrove cover** in the region by **100 hectares** for the year 2023-24.
- 3. The mangrove cover in Tamil Nadu is **44.94 square kilometres** (sq km), out of which **7.73 sq km fall** in Cuddalore.
- 4. About 21% of Pichavaram is occupied by waterbodies, 27% by healthy mangrove vegetation, 38% by mudflats with sparsely grown mangroves.



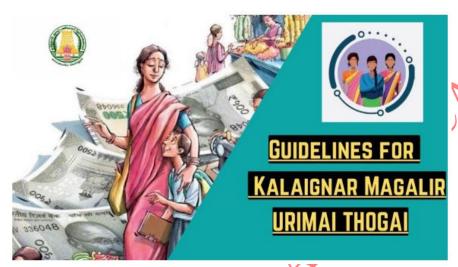
Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam

- 1. Tamil Nadu government has announced the eligibility criteria for the ambitious 'Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam' (Kalaignar women's entitlement scheme).
 - Financial Assistance: Rs 1,000 assistance to women heads of households every month.
 - ➤ <u>Launched</u>: September 15 birth anniversary of DMK founder CN Annadurai.
 - ➤ <u>Age Limit:</u> women heads should be **aged above 21 years.**
 - ➤ Annual family income: less than Rs 2.5 lakh, the family not hold more than five acres of wetland or 10 acres of dryland, and have an annual household electricity consumption below 3,600 units.

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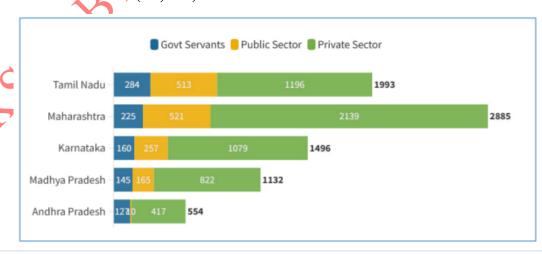
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➤ <u>Beneficiaries</u>: Unmarried, widow and transgender heading the families would be considered women heads. Eligible women have been asked to apply for the scheme at the ration shops where they are registered.



Highest number of suicides of government employees

- 1. The **National Crime Records Bureau** (NCRB) published the report for 2021.
- 2. **Tamil Nadu** recorded the **highest number of suicides** of government employees in the country in these two years.
- 3. Nearly **one in every five suicides of government employees** reported in the country in 2021 was from Tamil Nadu.
- 4. With **18,925 suicides**, the Tamilnadu State is ranked only **next to** Maharashtra (22,207).



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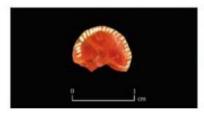
Green garbage hotspots

- 1. The Green Tamil Nadu Mission (GTM) under the Department of Environment has signed a **memorandum of understanding** with Urbaser Sumeet to **green garbage hotspots** in seven GCC zones.
- 2. The GCC zones covered under the agreement are **Teynampet**, **Kodambakkam**, **Adyar**, **Valasaravakkam**, **Alandur**, **Perungudi and Sholinganallur**.
- 3. As per the agreement, GTM will distribute native saplings for free to Urbaser Sumeet for plantations.
- 4. The goal of the initiative is to increase the green cover from 23% to 33% in Tamil Nadu.
- 5. The conservancy workers will clean the garbage hotspots and community members along with Urbaser Sumeet will **plant saplings at a 2.5-metre gap.**
- 6. Native species like **pungan**, **poovarasu**, **neer mathi and naval** were suggested for this initiative.

Porpanaikottai Excavation

- 1. The researchers have discovered several ancient and rare antiques in the excavations being done at **Porpanaikottai in Pudukottai district.**
- 2. Recently, archaeologists discovered a golden nose stud or earring weighing 0. 2g, a bone point and a fragment of carnelian bead at a depth of 175cm from the surface level.
- 3. Carnelian beads were mostly found in **northern states**, while similar beads were discovered in **Kodumanal and Keeladi excavation** sites too.
- 4. More bone point tools if discovered at Porpanaikottai would indicate that it was the site of a weaving industry.







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Biased and unfit

- 1. **Chief minister M K Stalin** wrote a detailed letter to President Droupadi Murmu, urging her to recall **governor R N Ravi** saying he was "biased and unfit" to continue in the post.
- 2. Under **Article 156(1)** of the Constitution, the governor shall hold office during the pleasure of the President.
- 3. In the "strongly-worded" letter, the CM accused Governor R N Rayi of violating the oath of office he took under Article 159 of the Constitution and inciting "communal hatred", while labelling him a "threat to peace in the state".
- 4. Recalling the delay in the governor **giving assent to bills** passed by the assembly, the CM said the governor is **directly interfering with the administration** of the state government and functioning of the state assembly.
- 5. Further, the CM accused Governor Ravi of acting as the "agent of the Union government" and against the policies of the Tamil Nadu government, besides indirectly advocating name change for the state (from Tamil Nadu to Tamizhagam)
- 6. The CM also accused the Governor of being "involved in ideological and political conflict with the democratically elected DMK government" since assuming office in September 2021, citing examples.



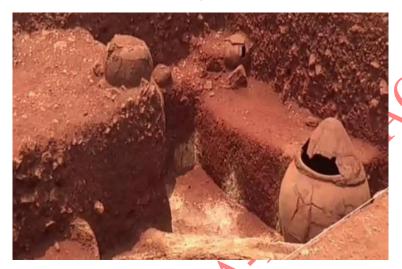
Tamil Nadu iron age period

1. As per new evidences, an iron age civilisation existed in **Tamil Nadu** parallel to the Indus Valley civilization.

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- 2. Recent dating has established that objects excavated from Sivakalai in Tuticorin district are from 2,500 BCE to 3,000 BCE.
- 3. Indus Valley civilisation lasted from 3,300 BCE to 1,300 BCE.
- 4. A previous dating of samples from **Mayiladumparai in Krishnagiri** district showed them to be from **2,172 BCE**.



Arikandam

- 1. Researchers have identified a 1,000-year-old 'Arikandam' near Cholapuram in Sivaganga district.
- 2. 'Arikandam' refers to a **statue installed in the memory of a man** who took his own life through decapitation to redeem a vow made to goddess Kali.





3. 'Arikandam' was the **act of a man making a vow to the deity** to take his own life by chopping off his own head, if he won a war or overcame a disease.

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- 4. If the **body was cut in nine parts** as the man wished, it was called 'Navakandam'.
- 5. According to the researchers, there was mention of 'Arikandam' and 'Navakandam' in the epic 'Silapathikaram'.
- 6. The act was also referred to by other names, including 'Avi pali (sacrifice)', 'Thalai pali', and 'Than pali'.
- 7. The one in Cholapuram measures **two feet in height and one-and-a-half feet in width.**

Siruneeragam Kakkum Seermigu Maruthuva Thittam

- 1. The **health department** launched a state-wide programme, 'Siruneeragam Kakkum Seermigu Maruthuva Thittam' for prevention of **kidney ailments** in the state.
- 2. The scheme aims to carry out several tests for early diagnosis and treatment of kidney diseases.
- 3. The aim of the programme is **to prevent End Stage Renal Disease by screening high-risk individuals**, including patients with diabetes, hypertension and a family history of renal disease.

First flying training organisation

- 1. The **Directorate general of Civil Aviation** (DGCA) gave its nod to **EKVI Air Training Organization Private Limited** that will be based at Salem Airport.
- 2. This will be the first flying training organisation (FTO) in Tamil Nadu.
- 3. India now has **36 DGCA**-approved flying schools.

Sir J.C. Bose Lifetime Achievement Award

1. S. Rajasekaran, from coimbatore, was presented with the sir j.c. Bose lifetime achievement award for his outstanding contributions to research in spinal diseases.

First flying training school

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- 3. It will be based at **Salem Airport.**
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Honorary Doctorate

1. **Freedom fighter Sankaraiah** to get honorary doctorate by Madurai Kamaraj University, Tamil Nadu.



GI Tag for Authoor betel leaves



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- 1. **Geographical Indications Registry** issued the GI Tag for Authoor betel leaves to **Thoothukudi district administration.**
- 2. These betel leaves are nurtured by **Thamirabarani river water.**
- 3. The leaves also find a mention in the 13th-Century book 'The Travels of Marco polo.
- 4. The district is also waiting for the GI tag recognition of Kayathar lemon, Srivaikuntam banana, and Udangudi Karupatti.

Monthly pay for urban local body representatives

1. In a first, the Tamil Nadu government has decided to pay a monthly honorarium for all elected representatives of urban local bodies, including mayors.

Corporation Members	Salary		
Mayors	Rs. 30,000		
Deputy Mayors	Rs. 15,000		
Corporation Councillors	Rs. 10,000		

Municipal Members	Salary			
Chairpersons	Rs. 15,000			
Vice-Chairpersons	Rs. 10,000			
Councillors	Rs. 5,000			

Panchayat Members	Salary		
Chairpersons	Rs. 10,000		
Vice- Chairpersons	Rs. 5,000		

Kalaignar Centenary Library

1. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated the state-of-the-art Kalaignar Centenary Library in Madurai.

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- 2. The six-storey building, with a built-up area of 2.13 lakh square feet, has come up on 2.70 acres.
- 3. It has different sections, including those for children and the differently abled.



Clay doll at Vembakottai

- 1. The **Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology** (TNSDA) recently found a clay doll at the Vembakottai excavation site in **Virudhunagar district.**
- 2. It is a clay doll of a male figure which was painted with black color.
- 3. The headdress and the lip smile are polished.



4. The eyes and their blows are drawn in the shape of a kayal.

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- 5. The **second phase of archaeological excavation** in Vembakottai has led to the discovery of over **800 artefacts.**
- 6. It includes terracotta era lobes, smoking pipe, spindle whorl, copper coin and glass beads.

Pazhayarai temple gopuram

- 1. The dilapidated gopuram of the Somanathar temple at Pazhayarai near Kumbakonam will be renovated by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department.
- 2. The Somanathar temple is situated on the **banks of the Thirumalairajan** river, a tributary of the Cauvery.
- 3. Decades of neglect has earned it the name, 'mottai gopuram'.
- 4. There is adequate evidence for Pazhayarai to be the capital of the Cholas once.
- 5. It existed even in the **5th Century**.
- 6. Pazhayarai lost its importance with the capital shifted to Thanjavur.
- 7. The **National Institute of Technology (NIT), Tiruchi**, has submitted a report after studying the gopuram and the soil around the temple.

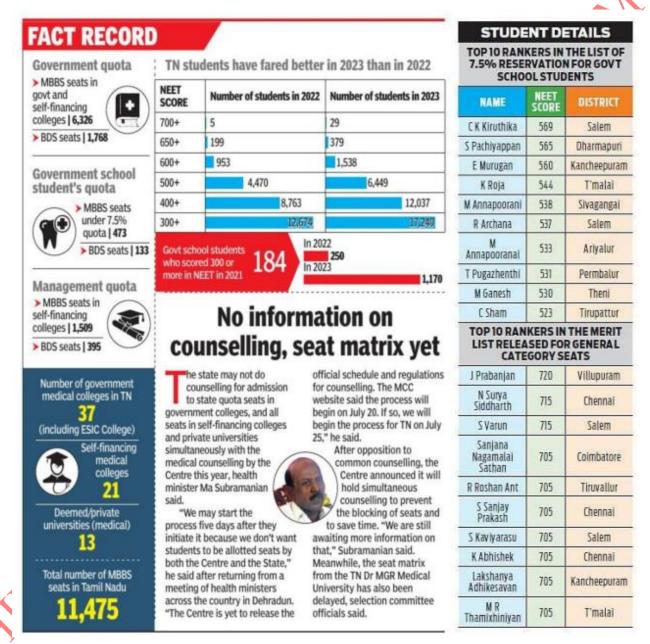


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Government Kalaignar Centenary Super Specialty Hospital

 Health minister Ma Subramanian – released the rank list for MBBS and BDS admissions for 2023-24 at the Government Kalaignar Centenary Super Specialty Hospital at King Institute, Chennai.



Tamil translations of Homer's Greek epics

1. The Tamil translations of **The Iliad and The Odyssey**, **the two Greek epics of Homer**, were released recently.

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2. It was part of the project, launched by Chief Minister, to translate and publish international classics into Tamil.



- 3. The International Institute of Tamil Studies is in charge of the project.
- 4. **Professor Marudanayagam** has rendered **The Iliad into Tamil** in prose form.
- 5. **Pon Chinnathambi Murugesan**, a former government employee at the Secretariat, has translated **The Odyssey into Tamil in verse form**.
- 6. Mr. Murugesan earlier translated Tao of Physics by Fritjof Capra, The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho, Roots by Alex Haley and The Travels of Marco Polo.

Book on importance of mangroves ecosystem

1. A book on the importance of the mangrove ecosystem authored by scientists from the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) was released recently.



2. The pictorial book titled Biodiversity and Importance of Mangrove Ecosystem.

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3. It contains descriptions of mangrove species across India, medicinal uses of mangroves, and several wildlife creatures that thrive in the ecosystem.

Tamil Nadu Day - July 18

- 1. Former Chief Minister C.N. Annadurai, passed a resolution on July 18th 1967, to rename the Madras State as Tamil Nadu.
- 2. The previous AIADMK government had announced that **November 1** would be observed as **Tamil Nadu Day from 2019.**
- 3. The then Madras Presidency, became Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala on November 1, 1956.



Chola-period temple in Budalur

- 1. The **Chola-era Abathsagayeswarar temple** in Budalur, near **Thirukkattupalli in Thanjavur district**, is in bad shape.
- 2. The importance of the temple is explained by inscriptions dating back to Parantaka Chola (907-953 CE).
- 3. There are two more inscriptions and one belongs to the period of Kulothunga III (1178-1218 CE) and another to the period of Pandya king Jatavarma Sundara Pandya (1250-1284).
- 4. The temples would have existed long **before the emergence of Cholas**, who have converted it into a stone structure.

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5. It has been recorded in the **Annual Report of the Indian Epigraphy** published in **1972-73.**



Beneficiaries of pension schemes

SI.No	Scheme	Date of Commencement 01-04-1962	
1	Old Age Pension (OAP) Launched by Government of Tamil Nadu		
2	Destitute Physically Handicapped Pension (PHP) renamed as Destitute Differently Abled Pension scheme (DDAP)	01-11-1974	
3	Destitute Widow Pension scheme (DWP)	01-06-1975	
4	Destitute Agricultural Labourers Pension Scheme (DALP) now implemented under Chief Minister's Uzhavar Padhukappu Thittam	15-03-1981	
5	Destitute / Deserted Wives Pension scheme (DDWP)	03-05-1984	
6	National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS)	15-08-1995	
7	National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) renamed as Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)	19-11-2007	
8	Pension to Unmarried, Poor, Incapacitated Women of age 50 years and above (UWP)	01-07-2008	
9	Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGN-WPS)	01-04-2010	
10	Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGN-DPS)	01-04-2010	

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- 1. Beneficiaries of social security pension schemes implemented by the various departments of the Tamil Nadu government will get ₹1,200 instead of ₹1,000 per month.
- 2. Beneficiaries including old-age people, widows, refugees, members of various unorganised workers welfare board, women who remain unmarried even after the **age of 50**.
- 3. The monthly pension to the differently-abled had already been increased to ₹1,500 from ₹1,000.

Manarkeni app

- 1. Tamil Nadu School Education Department has launched an app called 'Manarkeni'.
- 2. This app will have **videos in English and Tamil based** on concepts from the **Tamil Nadu State Board syllabus** across all classes.
- 3. This have been created by the **State Council for Educational Research** and **Training (SCERT).**
- 4. This initiative aims to encourage students to understand concepts better and promote critical thinking.



Agriculture Sangamam

1. Tamil Nadu's first 'State Agricultural Fair (Agriculture Sangamam)' was held in Trichy.

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Conservation of native plants

1. The **United Kingdom government** signed a memorandum of understanding with Tamil Nadu to set up projects to conserve native plants.

Tide Turners Plastic Challenge

- 1. The state government launched 'Tide Turners Plastic Challenge', aimed at reducing plastic use among school and college students.
- 2. The government has collaborated with the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** for the initiative.
- 3. The programme will be implemented in **three levels—entry**, **leadership** and **championship** through eco clubs in private and government schools.
 - At the **first 'entry' level**, school teachers will be explained issues of pollution of waterbodies and marine ecosystem due to plastic invasion.
 - At the **second level, called leadership level**, schools should reach out to communities and engage them in activities to reduce plastic use.
 - At the **third 'championship' level**, schools should demonstrate a change at the ground level that took place due to the first two levels.
- 4. The initial target for the state is to rope in **one lakh children** for the programme.
- 5. **People in 12-35 age group** can participate in the programme.



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Voluntary industrial green rating mechanism

- 1. The **Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and the environment department** have launched a 'voluntary industrial green rating mechanism' for industries across the state.
- 2. The main **objective** of the initiative is **to accelerate green growth and to help the state move** towards **economically viable** and **socially responsible businesses**.
- 3. It is also aimed at getting incentives for **low carbon products** being exported by the industries.
- 4. Energy security, conservation of water resources, clean air, greenhouse gas monitoring, sustainable waste management, and green initiatives by the industries are the various criteria employed for giving the green rating performance.

Appointment of temple priests

- 1. The Madras High Court refused to stay the operation of a single judge's June 26 verdict.
- 2. Also, any person properly trained to perform pujas and other rituals as per the Agama Sastra could be appointed to the post.



- 3. These directions contrary to the law laid down by the **Supreme Court in Seshammal's case (1972).**
- 4. Karana Agama, as well as the other **27 Saiva Agamas** clearly prescribe that only persons belonging to the denomination of **Adi Saivars/Sivachariyars/Gurukkals** are eligible to become Archakas in temples governed by the **28 Saiva Agamas**.
- 5. This custom was upheld by the Supreme Court in Seshammal's case.

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- 6. Other cases related to this issue
 - Srimad Perarulala Ethiraja Ramanuja Jeeyar Swami versus State of Tamil Nadu (1972).
 - Adi Saiva Sivachariyargal Nala Sangam versus Government of Tamil Nadu (2016).

Tamil Nadu tiger population

- 1. The tiger population in Tamil Nadu has risen from 264 in 2018 to 306 in 2022.
- 2. Among the southern states, **Karnataka has the most tigers at 563** followed by **TN with 306 and Kerala with 213.**
- 3. In the Western Ghats region that is spread across the three southern states, the tiger population in 2022 is at 1,087 against 981 in 2018.
- 4. Compared to 2006, when **76 tigers were recorded in TN**, there has been a fourfold increase, more than the other southern states.
- 5. In Karnataka, the **big cat population** went up from 524 in 2018 to 563 in 2022.



SHILSY

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Thozhi Hostels

- 1. Tamil Nadu's Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment has started eleven hostels for working women in various districts.
- 2. The hostels named 'Thozhi' will be operated under the aegis of the Tamil Nadu Working Women's Hostel Corporation Ltd
- 3. According to the CM, 'thozhi' hostels will find a permanent place in the annals of Tamil Nadu history like 'Dravidar Illam,' the pre independence hostel run by Dravidian idealogue C Natesa Mudaliar for non-Brahmin students.
- 4. The hostels are located in Chennai, Chengalpattu, Salem, Trichy, Tirunelveli, Vellore, Villupuram, Perambalur and Thanjavur.
- 5. These hostels are designed to provide safe and affordable accommodations to women.
- 6. According to government, close to **700 working women** will be accommodated in these hostels.



STATES

National Sickle Cell Anemia Eradication Mission 2047

- 1. Prime Minister launched the National Sickle Cell Anemia Eradication Mission 2047 in the Lalpur village, located in Shahdol district of Madhya Pradesh.
- 2. During his address, the Prime Minister highlighted that half of the world's sickle cell anemia cases occur in India.
- 3. As per a National Health Mission report, **Madhya Pradesh** has the highest burden of sickle cell anaemia.

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4. The mission was announced in the Union Budget 2023 by Finance Minister.

Hemis festival

- 1. The legendary two days Hemis festival was celebrated in **Leh in Ladakh**.
- 2. It's also popularly known as **Hemis Tses-Chu**.
- 3. It is celebrated to commemorate the **birth anniversary of Guru Padma** sambhava.
- 4. Guru Padma sambhava was introduced and flourished Vajrayana Buddhist tradition in the entire Himalayas.
- 5. Guru Padma sambhava is popularly known as the second Buddha.



Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra

1. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar, who took oath as the Deputy chief minister of Maharashtra after joining the **Eknath Shinde-led government.**



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Meira Paibis

- 1. The Meira Paibis is also known as **Imas or Mothers of Manipur.**
- 2. They are Meitei women who come from all sections of society in the Imphal valley, are widely respected, and represent a powerful moral force.
- 3. They are also known as "women torch bearers", because of the flaming torches that they hold aloft while marching in the streets, often at night.
- 4. Its initial **focus of fighting alcoholism and drug abuse** has now expanded to **countering human rights violations** and the development of society at large.



India's first Tele-MANAS chatbot

- 1. India's first Tele-MANAS chatbot, which will start an instant conversation with people in distress, was launched in J&K.
- 2. The initiative will ensure round-the-clock services for health counsellors, clinical psychologists and consultants.
- 3. This year Kashmir saw the highest number of distress calls to the Tele-Manas centre.

India's largest MFI market

1. **Bihar has overtaken Tamil Nadu** to become the state with the highest microlending borrowings in India as of March 2023.

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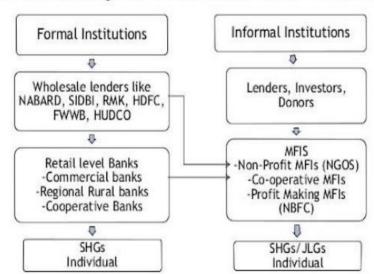
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- 2. As of March 2023, Bihar's microfinance (MFI) borrowings were amounted to **Rs 48,900 crore.**
- 3. Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu's MFI borrowings stood at Rs 46,300 crore.

MICROFINANCE INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA

Microfinance institutions (MFIs) are the organisations or associations of individuals that provide financial services to the poor.

Institutional Arrangement for Microfinance Disbursement in India



Mo Jungle Jami Yojana

- 1. The **Odisha government** recently announced the launch of a new scheme named 'Mo Jungle Jami Yojana'.
- 2. The scheme aims to ensure livelihood and food security for the Scheduled Tribe and forest dwelling population in the state.
- 3. Under the scheme, all unsurveyed, forest and zero area villages will be converted into **revenue villages**.
- 4. The scheme seeks to effectively implement the provisions of The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 (FRA) benefitting more than 0.74 million tribal families and 32,000 villages in the state's 30 district districts.
- 5. If implemented successfully, Odisha would become the first state to be "FRA compliant" implementing all provisions of the Act.

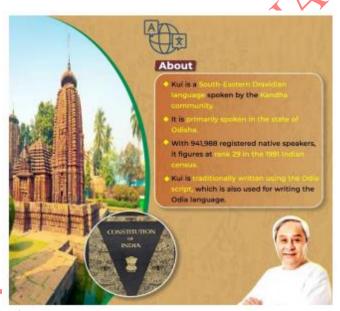
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6. The state is home to 62 different tribes of which 13 are recognised as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG).

Kui language

- 1. The Odisha state cabinet approved a proposal to recommend the inclusion of the Kui language in the **eighth schedule** of the Constitution of India.
- 2. Inclusion of Kui in the eighth schedule will help in the **preservation**, **promotion and propagation of the language and culture.**
- 3. Kui (Kandh, Khondi, Khondo) is a South-Eastern Dravidian language spoken by the Kandha community.
- 4. It is traditionally written using the **Odia script**, which is also used for writing the **Odia language.**



Revival of Namda Art of Kashmir



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- 1. The Namda craft of Kashmir is being successfully revived under a **Skill India's Pilot Project** as part of the **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).**
- 2. The first batch of Namda Art products are exported to the **United Kingdom** (**UK**) initiated recently.

India's first PPP model ATL

- 1. **OPPO India in collaboration with NITI Aayog's** Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has announced the **establishment of an Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) in Kerala.**
- 2. This initiative aims to **create an empowered future-ready workforce** and **nurture entrepreneurship** and technological skills among the youth.

SKOCH Award

1. The Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) has bagged the SKOCH Award under the theme "State of Governance India 2047" in the gold category.

Project Gajah Kotha

- 1. In order to address the **raging human-elephant conflict** (HEC), **Assam** has launched an innovative outreach campaign called 'Gajah Kotha' (The Elephant Story).
- 2. It aims to foster coexistence between local communities and the magnificent elephants.
- 3. It educates them about the **elephants' behaviour**, **ecology**, **and cultural connection to the region** and the importance of their conservation.



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Satellite Network Portal Site

1. **Gujarat signed** a MoU with London-Based Company, **OneWeb Company** and the Department of Science and Technology to set up a **'Satellite Network Portal Site'.**

India's first Cannabis Medicine Project

1. **CSIR-IIIM Jammu** is set to **lead India's first Cannabis Medicine Project**, exploring a diverse array of medicinal uses for cannabis.



2nd-longest serving CM

10	10						
1[3]		Pawan Kumar Chamling (b. 22 Sept 1949)	Sikkim	12 December 1994	27 May 2019	24 years, 166 days	Sikkim Democratic Front
2[4]	9	Naveen Patnaik (b. 16 Oct 1946)	Odisha	5 March 2000	Incumbent	23 years, 140 days	Biju Janata Dal
3(5)		Jyoti Basu (8 Jul 1914 – 17 Jan 2010)	West Bengal	21 June 1977	6 November 2000	23 years, 138 days	Communist Party of India (Marxist)

- Odisha's Naveen Patnaik became the second longest-serving chief minister in the country.
- 2. He took charge on March 5, 2000, and holds the post for 23 years and 138 days.
- 3. He replaced West Bengal's Jyoti Basu.

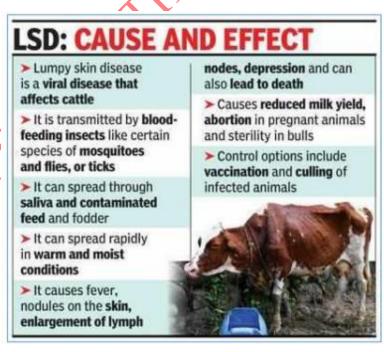
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- 4. **Jyoti Basu** served as the chief minister of West Bengal from June 21, 1977 to November 5, 2000, which was **23 years and 137 days.**
- 5. **Former Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar** Chamling still holds the record of being the **longest-serving Chief Minister** in the country.
- 6. He was the **Chief Minister of the Himalayan state** from December 12 1994 till May 27, 2019 **more than 24 years.**

Lumpy skin disease positive state

- 1. **Nagaland** has been officially declared as a Lumpy Skin Disease (LDS) positive state.
- 2. This is announced in accordance with the "Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009.
- 3. This disease is caused by the Capripox virus also known as the "Neethling."
- 4. Lumpy skin disease is a **poxviral disease** with significant morbidity in **cattle.**
- 5. Although the mortality rate is generally low, economic losses result from loss of condition, decreased milk production, abortions, infertility and damaged hides.



SHILSHA

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World Cities Culture Forum

- 1. Bengaluru, the capital of Karnataka became the first Indian city to be part of the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF), a global network of cities that share research and intelligence.
- 2. Bengaluru became the 41st city to join the forum and the network currently includes 40 cities across six continents.
- 3. The forum includes cities like New York, London, Paris, Tokyo, and Dubai.



Highest deaths due to heatwave



- 1. As many as **120 people died in Kerala** due to heatwave till June-end, the highest in the country.
- 2. Kerala was followed by **Gujarat with 35 deaths**, **Telangana 20**, Maharashtra 14, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh 12 each, West Bengal 11 and Madhya Pradesh 10.

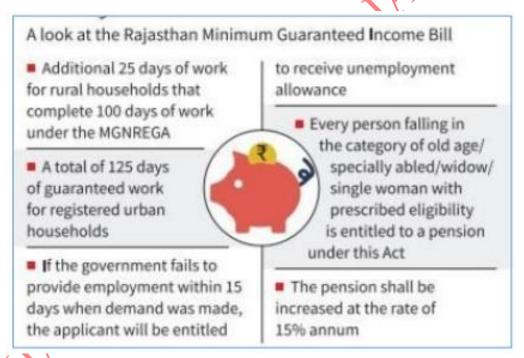
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- 3. States that saw fewer deaths this year till June were Himachal Pradesh (9), Bihar (8), Odisha (7), Andhra Pradesh (4).
- 4. The Capital reported one death.

Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill – Rajasthan

- 1. Rajasthan will be the first state to have such a law.
- 2. It seeks to cover the **entire adult population** of the state with guaranteed wages or pension.
- 3. Under the Bill, all families of the state get guaranteed employment of 125 days every year.
- 4. The aged, disabled, widows, and single women get a minimum pension of Rs 1,000 per month.



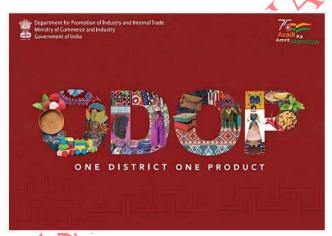
- 5. Importantly, the pension will be increased at the rate of 15% each year.
- 6. The Bill has three broad categories:
 - Right to minimum guaranteed income,
 - Right to guaranteed employment, and
 - Right to guaranteed social security pension.

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- 7. This legislation has a **universal application** unlike the centrally sponsored pension scheme which is extended only for Below Poverty Line families.
- 8. The pension offered by the Centre is also **stuck at ₹200 per** month and has been **stagnant since 2007.**

One District One Product' wall

- 1. **DPIIT and Government of Gujarat** jointly launched 'One District One Product' wall at **Garvi Gujarat Bhawan**, **Delhi** to promote the **indigenous crafts and artisans** of the State.
- 2. It is a joint initiative by the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.



First-ever transgender birth certificate

- 1. Noor Shekhawat became the first transgender person in Rajasthan to be issued a birth certificate with the gender recorded as transgender.
- 2. In her old birth certificate, her gender was marked as male.



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Atal incubation centre in fisheries

1. **India's first fisheries Atal incubation centre** in fisheries is to be set up in the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (Kufos).

Social Security to Gig Workers

- 1. Rajasthan became the first state in the country to pass a law to provide social security to gig workers.
- 2. The Bill gives rights to **platform-based gig workers** to register themselves with the **state government**, have access to **social security schemes** and to **solve any grievances** among other things.



- 3. The workers operating in the state will be automatically registered as soon as they come "onboard" an aggregator platform, irrespective of the duration of their association with the platform.
- 4. The state government will maintain a database of the gig workers and generate a **unique identification** for each one of them, according to the Bill.
- 5. The Bill envisages setting up a welfare board for gig workers, comprising state government officials and two representatives each from among the gig workers and aggregators.
- 6. As per the provisions of the bill, the state government will establish "The Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers Social Security and Welfare Fund" for the benefit of registered gig workers.

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Top rabies deaths

1. Union Health Ministry had launched the National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP) for prevention and control of rabies.

2. Delhi saw the highest number of deaths (48) due to rabies in the country in 2022.

HEALTH MINISTRY'S DATA

STATE/UT	DEATHS	
Delhi	48	
West Bengal	38	
Maharashtra	29	
Karnataka	29	

First-Ever Floating Store

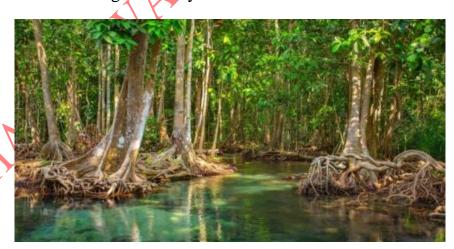
- 1. Amazon India has launched its first floating store on Dal Lake in Srinagar, for a seamless delivery experience to its customers in Kashmir.
- 2. The store is part of company's 'I Have Space' delivery program, which started in 2015.
- 3. The program helps them deliver packages to customers in faraway places using local shops and partners.



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Mangrove Cell

- 1. **West Bengal government** recently announced the setting up of a 'Mangrove Cell' in the State.
- 2. The announcement was made on the occasion of the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem marked annually on July 26.
- 3. The mangrove cell, set up at **Aranya Bhavan in Salt Lake**, will bring government officials, forest personnel, NGOs and academics under a single platform to provide guidance on negotiating the challenges faced in conserving mangroves.
- 4. West Bengal is home to about 40% of mangrove forests in India.
- 5. The **Bengal government's Mission Plantation**, a low-cost natural solution to mitigation of disaster, is now serving as a case study for the central government which has started the **Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI).**
- 6. The theme of this year's International Mangrove Day is 'Raising awareness about Mangrove'.
- 7. The **Tamil Nadu Forest Department** has undertaken **massive plantations of mangroves in the coastal areas** of the state as part of International Mangroves Day.



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SCHEMES

PM-PRANAM and Urea Gold Schemes

- 1. The Centre has approved a new scheme PM-PRANAM to **incentivise states to promote alternative fertilisers** and reduce the use of chemical fertilisers.
- 2. It is including PM-PRANAM, Urea Gold, and the **subsidy for organic manure**, reflect the government's commitment to promoting sustainable agriculture.
- 3. The scheme ensures the availability of fertilizer to farmers at a consistent price of **Rs 242/45 kg bag** (excluding taxes and neem coating charges).



Mission Vatsalya' scheme for rape victims

1. The Central Government announced a special scheme for providing medical and financial assistance to the victims of rape, who are pregnant.

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2. Mission Vatsalya launched in 2021 by the ministry of Women and Child Development which focused on protection and welfare of children.

New Swarnima Scheme

- 1. The Swarnima Scheme is a term loan scheme introduced by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to support women entrepreneurs from backward classes.
- 2. Implemented by the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and carried out by State Channelising Agencies (SCAs).

Objectives of the Scheme:

- 1. **Provide social and financial security** to women entrepreneurs belonging to backward classes.
- 2. Enable women to obtain term loans of up to ₹2,00,000/- at an interest rate of 5% per annum.

ACROSS



"Atmosphere' & Climate Research–Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS) ,,

- Cabinet approves Continuation of the umbrella scheme
 "Atmosphere' & Climate
 Research-Modelling Observing
 Systems & Services (ACROSS)"
- Approval for next finance cycle of five years i.e. 2021-2026
- Would entail an estimated cost of Rs.2,135 crore

Benefits:

- Employment opportunities to many people
- Will provide improved weather, climate, ocean forecast and services

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- 1. The **Indian government** has approved the continuation of the "ACROSS" scheme for weather and climate research.
- 2. The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is implementing the ACROSS scheme through its units, namely India Meteorological Department (IMD), National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).



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NATIONAL

National Maritime Heritage Complex

1. The government's initiative to develop the National Maritime Heritage Complex in **Lothal**, **Gujarat**, is a significant step towards preserving and celebrating India's rich maritime history.

Rannvijay exercise

- 1. The Indian Air Force recently conducted Exercise Ranvijay at UB hills, Karnataka.
- 2. It aimed at **enhancing the skills of fighter pilots** through day and night operations involving combat aircraft like Su-30s.
- 3. The exercise took place in the UB Hills and Central Air Command Area at Karnataka from June 16 to June 23.



NANDI Portal

- I. The Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying inaugurated NANDI (NOC Approval for New Drug and Inoculation System) portal at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
- 2. The portal was developed by the **Department of Animal Husbandry** and **Dairying (DAHD).**

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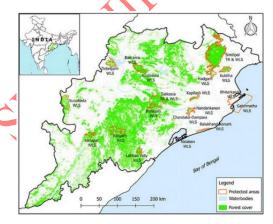
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3. It aims to facilitate the **process of granting No Objection Certificates** (NOC) for veterinary drugs and vaccines in India.



Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary

- 1. The Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Odisha has recorded a highest prey density and a sighted a tiger during the recent survey.
- 2. The Sanctuary is located near the reservoir of Hirakud Dam, built on the Mahanadi River, in the Sambalpur district.



New Geographical Indications – Uttar Pradesh

- 1. The Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai has given tags to seven different products from Uttar Pradesh.
- 2. These products represent the **rich heritage and craftsmanship** of the region.

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3. They are Amroha Dholak, Mahoba Gaura Patthar Hastashlip, Mainpuri Tarkashi, Sambhal Horn Craft, Baghpat Home Furnishings, Barabanki Handloom Product, Kalpi Handmade Paper.

Aadhaar authentication allowed for registration for births and deaths

- 1. The Centre has allowed the **Office of Registrar General of India** to use Aadhaar authentication for **birth and death registrations**.
- 2. The **Ministry of Home Affairs** has issued a notification allowing this.
- 3. The move aims to promote ease of living and better access to services.
- 4. However, till now Aadhaar is **not mandatory for such registration**, and it has been proposed on **'voluntary basis'**.



Road Networks in India



- 1. India now has the **second-largest road network** in the world, after the US.
- 2. In 2013-14, the total length of National Highways was 91,287 km has increased to 1,45,240 km in 2022-23.

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- 3. India has a total length of **4,219 km of expressways.**
- 4. The waiting time at toll plazas has reduced from **734 seconds in 2014** to **47 seconds in 2023**, with a goal of further **reducing it to 30 seconds.**

Dimethyl Ether Fueled Tractor

- 1. Researchers at IIT Kanpur have developed India's first 100% Dimethyl Ether (DME)-fuelled tractor/vehicle.
- 2. It is marking a significant step towards a sustainable alternative fuel-based transport system.
- 3. Dimethyl Ether (DME) is a renewable and clean-burning alternative fuel.
- 4. Under normal atmospheric conditions, DME is a colourless gas.
- 5. It is produced from natural gas, coal, biomass, or renewable sources through a synthesis process.

List of "Critical Minerals for India"

- 1. The Ministry of Mines Expert Committee has identified a set of 30 critical minerals for India.
- 2. These are Antimony, Beryllium, Bismuth, Cobalt, Copper, Gallium, Germanium, Graphite, Hafnium, Indium, Lithium, Molybdenum, Niobium, Nickel, PGE, Phosphorous, Potash, REE, Rhenium, Silicon, Strontium, Tantalum, Tellurium, Tin, Titanium, Tungsten, Vanadium, Zirconium, Selenium and Cadmium.

Critical Mineral	%age	Major import sources
Lithium	100%	Chile, Russia, China, Ireland, Belgium
Cobalt	100%	China, Belgium, Netherlands, US, Japan
Nickel	100%	Sweden, China, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines
Vanadium	100%	Kuwait, Germany, South Africa, Brazil, Thailand
Niobium	100%	Brazil, Australia, Canada, South Africa, Indonesia
Germanium	100%	China, South Africa, Australia, France, US
Rhenium	100%	Russia, UK, Netherlands, South Africa, China
Beryllium	100%	Russia, UK, Netherlands, South Africa, China
Tantalum	100%	Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, Malaysia, US
Strontium	100%	China, US, Russia, Estonia, Slovenia
Zirconium (zircon)	80%	Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, Malaysia, US
Graphite (natural)	60%	China, Madagascar, Mozambique, Vietnam, Tanzania
Manganese	50%	South Africa, Gabon, Australia, Brazil, China
Chromium	2.5%	South Africa, Mozambique, Oman, Switzerland, Turkey
Silicon	<1%	China, Malaysia, Norway, Bhutan, Netherlands

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Digital payments

- 1. The **Ministry Of Panchayati Raj** has issued a directive asking all the panchayats in the country to adopt digital payments for **all development** activities and revenue collection starting from August 15.
- 2. According to the Ministry, almost **98% panchayats have already started using UPI-based payments**, while payments in cheques and eash have almost been stopped.
- 3. Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are making digital payments through PFMSeGram Swaraj interface, and over 90% of PRIs have been audited online.

Panchayat Development Index

- 1. A Report was released by the Union Ministry of State for Panchayati Raj.
- 2. It will provide **rankings for panchayats** at different levels, including district, block, and village, based on their overall scores.
- 3. Panchayats are categorized into **four grades**: D (scores under 40%), C (40-60%), B (60-75%), A (75-90%), and A+ (above 90%).

Time bank

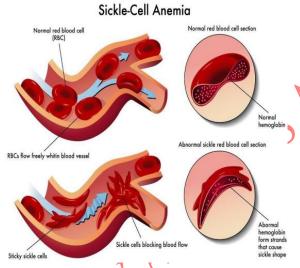
- 1. A social organisation, Nirogi Bharat Foundation has started a 'time bank' in Dehradun for the first time in the country.
- 2. The 'time bank' enables account holders to 'deposit their time' by volunteering to assist elderly people, and in return, receive help when needed.
- 3. The initiative is "based on a concept first adopted in countries like Sweden and Denmark."
- 4. Anyone interested in sharing their time with elderly people in need can become a member of the time bank after police verification.
- 5. They can spend time with the elderly who live alone and are dependent on others for health care and other needs.

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National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission

- 1. The National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission was **launched** recently as announced in the **union budget 2023.**
- 2. It aims to address the **pressing health challenges** posed by sickle cell-disease, particularly **among the tribal population.**



- 3. The mission aims to eliminate sickle cell disease as a public health problem by 2047.
- 4. India has the **second-highest global** prevalence of Sickle Cell Disease.

New Delhi Declaration - SCO



- 1. The **Indian government** coined the New Delhi Declaration and proposed at the SCO Summit, aiming to **fight against terrorism.**
- 2. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member nations adopted the New Delhi Declaration.

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3. The Declaration also proposes four other joint statements on deradicalisation, sustainable lifestyle to tackle climate change, production of millets and digital transformation.

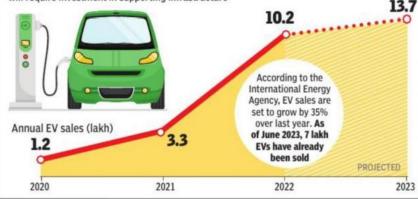
Sales of electric vehicles in India – report

Govt Schemes Sweeten Deal State Of The States Despite these incentives and the growth in EV sales, charging It's not surprising then that automakers, right from the infrastructure has grown slowly. The Covid-19 pandemic slowed it down homegrown Tata Motors and Mahindra to foreign firms further as businesses struggled to generate revenues. Overall, more like Kia and MG, have been expanding their lineup of public charging stations were set up in the first phase of the FAME EVs. Some of these are now available in the affordable scheme than have been sanctioned in the second car segment. Meanwhile, in the electric two-wheeler market, buyers are spoilt for choice. Some of the credit Phase I FAME for this goes to the incentives offered by the ministry No. of operational public EV charging stations of heavy industries to buyers and manufacturers < 5 5-20 20-50 50-100 100-200 through three schemes: 200-300 300-400 400-750 ≥ 750 Delhi FAME: The second phase of the Faster Adoption and Phase II FAME 1.845 No. of sanctioned public Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles in Operational charging stations India (FAME India) scheme has been on since April 2019, and offers EV buyers a subsidy on the purchase price. The incentive is linked to battery capacity and is capped at 20% of the cost of the vehicle for three-wheelers and fourwheelers, and 40% for two-wheelers. There is a subsidy of ₹15,000 per KWh of battery capacity for electric two-wheelers, and ₹10,000 per KWh for three-wheelers and four-wheelers PLI Scheme: The Centre's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the automotive Total sector is aimed at supporting domestic 6,586 manufacturing of vehicles, including EVs ACC Scheme: Since the heart of a modern EV is its battery, the government's PLI Total 100 scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) 2,877 is aimed at establishing 50 GWh of ACC battery manufacturing capacity in the country

Demand Remains Strong

A report by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways shows EV sales grew more than eight times in just two years, from 2020 to 2022. However, this growth is on a low base and sustaining it will require investment in supporting infrastructure

Source: Parliamentary release; Note: Data only considers govt funded charging stations. In the map, data is not available for Ladakh and Mizoram



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First cooperative run Sainik School

1. The Home Minister laid the foundation stone of the country's first cooperative run Sainik School near **Mehsana in Gujarat.**

700 MW nuclear reactor

- 1. India's **first indigenously developed 700 MW nuclear power reactor** has started commercial operations.
- 2. It is located at the **Kakrapar atomic power project (KAPP)-3 in Gujarat.**
- 3. The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) is building two 700 MW pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs) at Kakrapar.
- 4. The government has **sanctioned building of 10 indigenously** developed PHWRs in fleet mode **at four locations.**

State	Location	Project	Capacity (MW)
Karnataka	Kaiga	Kaiga-5&6	2 X 700
Haryana	Gorakhpur	GHAVP-3&4	2 X 700
Madhya Pradesh	Chutka	Chutka-1&2	2 X 700
Rajasthan	Mahi Banswara	Mahi Banswara-1&2	2 X 700
Trajastriari Iviarii Dariswara		Mahi Banswara-3&4	2 X 700

Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services

- 1. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs launched this scheme.
- 2. It aims to **enhance fire safety infrastructure** across the country.
- 3. It **ensures 'zero death' and minimum loss of property** during disasters by strengthening disaster risk reduction system.



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3rd G20 Culture Group (CWG) meeting

- 1. The 3rd G20 Culture Group (CWG) meeting began in **Hampi**, **Karnataka**.
- 2. The meeting is being held under the theme 'Protection and Restitution of Cultural Property'.
- 3. The first two CWG meetings were held at **Khajuraho and Bhubaneswar.**

Bharat 6g alliance

- 1. The **Department of Telecommunications** (DoT) has launched Bharat 6G Alliance.
- 2. It aims to **drive innovation and collaboration** in next-generation wireless technology.
- 3. Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA) is a **collaborative platform** consisting of public and private companies, academia, research institutions, and standards development organizations.



Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023

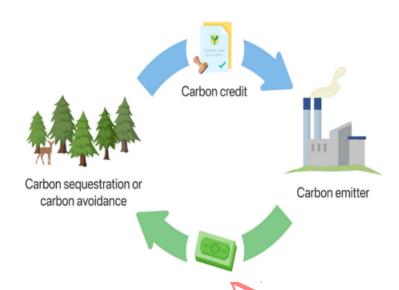
- 1. The 'Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023' was first announced under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- 2. It aims to set up a carbon credit trading market in the country.
- 3. The scheme would entail formation of a "National Steering Committee, a technical committee, an Accredited Carbon Verification Agency and

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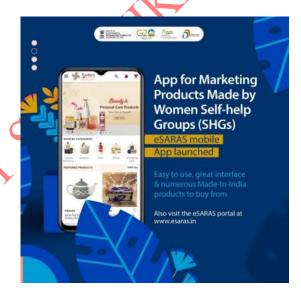
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the **Central Electricity Regulatory Commission** (CERC) as the carbon market regulator.

4. The **Grid Controller of India** will be the registry for the Indian carbon market.



E-Saras App



- 1. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojna- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) has launched the eSARAS mobile app.
- 2. It aims to **provide better marketing support** and **e-commerce opportunities** for products made by women in **self-help groups** (SHGs).

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- 3. This fulfilment centre will be used for **processing, packaging and shipping** of products that customers purchase through the eSARAS portal and eSARAS mobile app.
- 4. It will **handle the logistics** required to bring an online order to a customer's doorstep.

Startup20 Shikhar summit

- 1. The Startup20 Shikhar summit under India's G20 presidency held in Gurugram.
- 2. The Startup20 Engagement Group is hosting the two day Startup20 Shikhar summit.
- 3. During the closing ceremony of Startup20 Summit, India officially handed over the torch to Brazil, as the country has G20 presidency for the next year.



Digital and sustainable trade facilitation rankings

- India's exceptional performance in the UNESCAP survey on digital and sustainable trade facilitation solidifies its position as a global leader in trade facilitation efforts.
- 2. According to the latest global survey conducted by the **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific (UNESCAP)** India has achieved it.

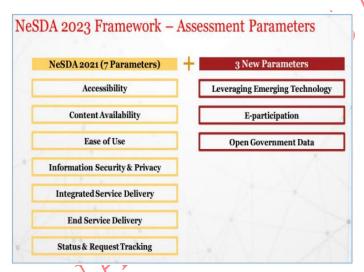
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3. The survey evaluates trade facilitation measures in over **140 economies**, and India has emerged as a leading player, with a score of **93.55% in 2023 compared to 90.32% in 2021.**

NeSDA 2023

- 1. The third edition of the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) was launched recently by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances.
- 2. This study assesses States, Union Territories (UTs), and focus Central Ministries on the effectiveness of e-Governance service delivery.



25 years of strategic partnerships with France

- 1. Prime Minister made a visit to France as the Guest of Honour for the Bastille Day celebrations.
- 2. The visit also marks **25 years of the strategic partnership** between France and India.
- 3. France was the first country to recognise the strategic importance of India after the nuclear tests in 1998.
- 4. France has emerged as a **key trading partner of India** with **annual** trade of \$12.42 billion in 2021-22.
- 5. France is the **11th largest foreign investor** in India with **1.7% of the total foreign direct investment** inflows into India.
- 6. France has become the second largest defence supplier in 2017- 2021.

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- 7. In 2018, leaders of both countries welcomed the "Joint Strategic Vision of India France Cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region".
- 8. The French Scorpene submarines was built in India under technology transfer agreement of 2005.
- 9. The Indian Air Force have received **36 Rafale fighter jets**.
- 10. The **Tata group has also tied up with Airbus** to manufacture **C-295 tactical transport aircraft** in Vadodara, Gujarat.



Nari Adalats



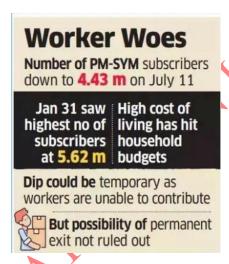
- 1. The introduction of Nari Adalats as **women-only courts** for alternative dispute resolution marks a significant step towards empowering women and addressing gender inequalities in India.
- 2. These courts serve as alternative dispute resolution forums for issues such as domestic violence, property rights, and challenging the patriarchal system.
- 3. By providing a platform for resolution outside of the traditional **judicial system**, the government aims to **empower women and promote gender justice.**

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PM-SYM scheme viability

- 1. The Centre's pension scheme for unorganised workers saw nearly 21% of subscribers leave in less than six months.
- 2. The pension scheme is known as **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan Dhan (PM-SYM).**
- 3. The overall number of subscribers to the scheme decreased to 4.43 million on July 11.
- 4. It is **fall of 1.19 million from an all-time high of 5.62 million** on January 31.



- 5. PM-SYM is a **voluntary contributory pension scheme**. It aims to bring **millions of unorganised workers** into the social security net.
- 6. It serves unorganised sector workers aged 18 to 40 and earning less than Rs 15,000 per month.

Four Runways & An Elevated Cross Taxiway Airport

1. **Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport** (IGIA) achieved a significant milestone as it became India's first airport to have four runways.

Standing Committee on Statistics

1. The government has constituted a new internal oversight mechanism for official data, revamping a **Standing Committee on Economic Statistics** (SCES) set up in late 2019.

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- 2. **Pronab Sen** has been named the chair of the new committee.
- 3. He was the **India's first chief statistician** and the former chairman of the National Statistical Commission (NSC).



Birth Of Cubs

1. The newly notified **Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve** (RVTR) in **Bundi**, **Rajasthan** witnessed the birth of three cubs for the first time, after a year of reallocation of tigress in the park.



IIT at Abu Dhabi

1. A MoU has been signed between the **Ministry of Education and Abu Dhabi Department of Education**, and the **IIT Delhi** to establish 1st campus of **IIT Delhi in Abu Dhabi**.

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Operation Trinetra-II

1. It is jointly carried out by the **Army and the Jammu-Kashmir Police** to **neutralize hiding terrorists** in **Jammu and Kashmir.**

First transnational project

1. The Adani Group commissioned the India's first transnational project at Godda in Jharkhand to supply power to the Bangladesh electricity grid.

New Guidelines for the Designation of Senior Advocates in SC

- 1. The **Supreme Court has published new guidelines** for the designation of senior advocates **practicing mainly in the Apex Court.**
- 2. This guideline replaced the guidelines issued by the top court in 2018, in the aftermath of its 2017 ruling in **Indira Jai Singh v. Union of India.**



- 3. This case seeking modification in the **conferment of 'senior advocate'** designation guidelines rendered in a 2017 SC ruling.
- 4. The new guidelines prescribe the **minimum age as 45 years** to apply for the 'senior advocate' designation.
- 5. This age limit may, however, be relaxed by the Committee, the Chief Justice of India, or a Supreme Court judge if they have recommended an advocate's name.
- 6. However, **no minimum age was prescribed under the 2017 guidelines** or even the current SC ruling.
- 7. The 2017 guidelines say that the **CJI along with "any judge" can recommend an advocate's name** for designation.

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8. But the 2023 guidelines specify that the CJI along with "any Judge of the Supreme Court".

Nari Sashaktikaran Women Motorcycle Rally

1. The Indian Army has launched the Tri-Services 'Nari Sashaktikaran Women Motorcycle Rally' to commemorate 24 years of victory over Pakistan in the Kargil War of 1999.

Digital and sustainable trade facilitation rankings

- 1. United Nation's Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific's (UNESCAP) released a latest global survey on digital and sustainable trade facilitation.
- 2. India's score has jumped to 93.55% in 2023 from 90.32% in 2021.



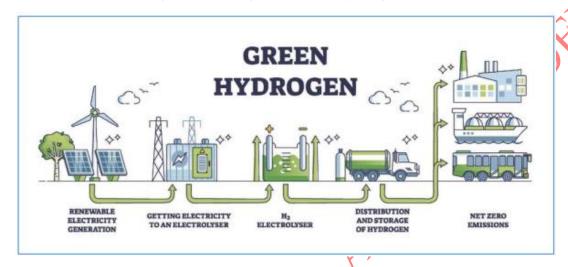
- 3. India achieved 100% in key areas such as transparency, formalities, institutional arrangement and cooperation, and paperless trade.
- 4. Its score in the "Women in Trade Facilitation" component rose from 66.7% in 2021 to an impressive 77.8% in 2023.
- 5. The overall score of **India has been greater** than many developed countries including Canada, France, UK, Germany etc.

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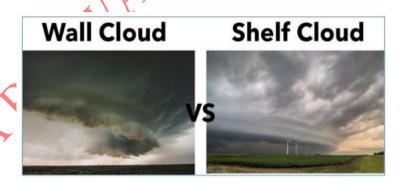
Green Hydrogen Ecosystem

1. The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Sources** has unveiled draft and roadmap to **outline the research and development priorities** for manufacturing and storing of Green Hydrogen.



- 2. It aims to promote efficient, safe and cost-efficient hydrogen storage, paving the way for its widespread adoption as a clean energy source.
- 3. It highlights the **importance of combining hydrogen fuel cells**, advanced batteries and super-capacitors.

Shelf cloud



- Recently, a massive Shelf Cloud formation has been spotted in **Haridwar**, Uttarakhand.
- 2. Shelf clouds also known as Arcus clouds.
- 3. They are often **associated with powerful storm systems**, and many times they are reported as **wall clouds**, **funnel clouds**, **or rotation**.

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4. These clouds are sometimes seen beneath **cumulonimbus clouds**, the dense, **towering vertical cloud** that causes intense rain.

Tankai method

- 1. The **Ministry of Culture and the Indian Navy** collaborated to revive and preserve a **shipbuilding technique that dates back 2,000 years**.
- 2. This ancient technique, is known as the 'Tankai' method or the 'stitched shipbuilding method'.
- 3. It is being revived with the aim of **preserving cultural heritage** for future generations.



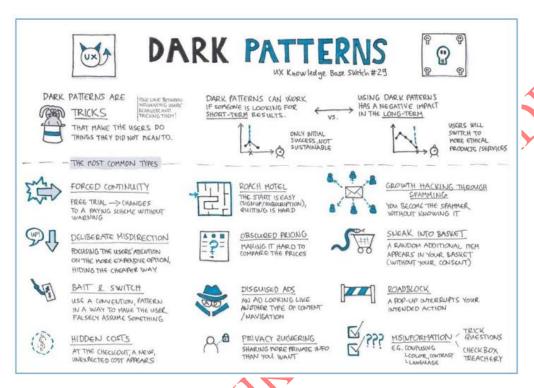
Committee on Dark patterns

- 1. The **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** has asked e-commerce companies to not use dark patterns on their platforms.
- 2. These **unethical strategies** are designed to exploit certain cognitive and behavioural biases to persuade users **into purchasing goods and services** they would typically not pay for.
- 3. Social media companies and tech giants like Facebook, Apple, Amazon, Skype, LinkedIn, Microsoft and Google have used dark patterns.
- 4. Another example of dark patterns is the **unsolicited**, **sponsored messages** one gets from influencers.

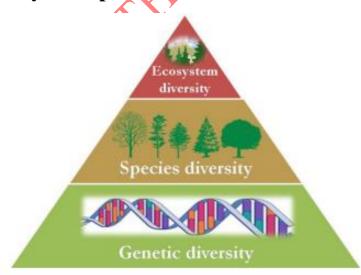
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5. Right now, dark patterns have been noticed as part of misleading advertisements.



Genetic Diversity and Species Traits



- 1. The CSIR-Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CCMB) has found the **relationship between genetic diversity and species traits.**
- 2. The study focused on **centipedes** and found that they have higher genetic diversity compared to other arthropods like spiders and insects.

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- 3. Genetic diversity was found to be higher in the southern hemisphere.
- 4. The historic climatic stability and low seasonality in southern latitudes may contribute to higher genetic diversity.
- 5. Genetic diversity increased with the geographical distance between individuals, indicating limited gene flow between distant sites.

Rule 176 vs Rule 267

- 1. The Monsoon Session of Parliament witnessed disruptions due to disagreements between the government and the Opposition on the format of the discussion regarding the Manipur situation.
- 2. The Opposition sought a discussion under **Rule 267** to express the sense of the House, while the government proposed a discussion under Rule 176.
- 3. While under Rule 176, there is a short discussion, Rule 267 calls for a longer discussion.
- 4. The Rule 176 calls for a short-duration discussion not exceeding two-and-a-half hours.
- 5. Under the **rule 176 and 177**, an urgent matter can be taken up for a short duration discussion immediately, a few hours later or the next day or on a prescribed date and time.

Category	Rule 267	Rule 176
Description	Relates to the suspension of rules	Enables short-duration discussion
Purpose	Used to prioritize a specific discussion by suspending normal proceedings	Used for raising urgent public matters within a time limit of two-and-a-half hours
Procedure	Requires consent of the Chairman for rule suspension	Requires written notice and explanatory note with signatures of at least two other members
Conduct	Temporarily suspends the rule in question	Allows for a time-limited discussion on the matter of urgent public importance
Objective	Gives priority to the specified topic for discussion	Facilitates addressing urgent public matters within a constrained timeframe

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Rajya Sabha panel of Vice – Chairpersons

- 1. The Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar has nominated four women Parliamentarians to the panel of Vice-Chairpersons.
- 2. All women members nominated to the panel are first term Parliamentarians.
- 3. The panel reconstituted before the Monsoon Session contains a **total of** eight names, out of which half are women.
- 4. This is the first time in the history of the Upper House that **equal** representation has been given to women members in the panel of Vice-Chairpersons.



Solar Star-C

1. India is considering expanding its solar STAR-C initiative operated by ISA, to a number of Pacific Island countries.



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IMD Heat Index

- 1. India Meteorological Department (IMD) has launched **Heat Index on experimental basis.**
- 2. Heat Index provides guidance towards additional care to be taken by people to reduce human discomfort.
- 3. The following **colour codes** used for Experimental Heat Index
 - Green: Experimental Heat Index less than 35 deg C
 - Yellow: Experimental Heat Index in the range 36-45 deg
 - Orange: Experimental Heat Index in the range 46-55 deg C
 - Red: Experimental Heat Index greater than 55 deg C



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69th edition of Filmfare Awards

1. **Gujarat** will host the 69th edition of Filmfare Awards in 2024, and a MoU has signed between state government's tourism cooperation and Worldwide Media (WWM) to host the event.

Counselling Process

- 1. The Centre's Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) has decided to allow students to upgrade their choice of colleges up to the third round of the counselling process.
- 2. Since 2018, DGHS' Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) was allowing upgradation of choices only till round two.
- 3. The MCC conducts **four admission rounds** in all, while the third round was open only for students without seats.
- 4. The change in policy, however, comes with a rider if students do not join the seats allotted to them in the second or third round, they will lose their refundable deposit amount.
- 5. The deposit amount is Rs.10,000 for the all-India quota seats and central institutions and Rs.2 lakh for deemed universities.

Special Postal Stamp On Millets



- 1. ITC Limited, one of India's leading multi-business enterprises released a special postal stamp on millets, in collaboration with the Department of Post, Ministry of Communication, in New Delhi.
- 2. The exclusive postal stamp was released as part of ITC's 'Mission Millets' initiative commemorating the International Year of Millets.

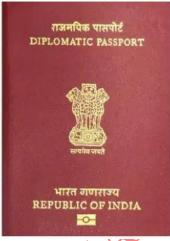
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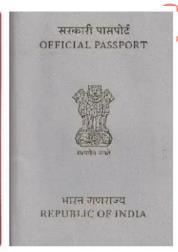
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- 3. The event also witnessed the launch of **ITC's initiative** to **encourage consumers to become millet advocates** through its limited-edition digital collectible stamps.
- 4. **India is the largest producer of millets** in the world.

Right to hold a passport





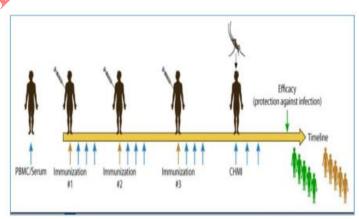


- 1. The **Delhi High Court** has said that every citizen has a **legal right** to hold a passport.
- 2. This right can be taken away only in accordance with law.
- 3. Authorities **cannot refuse to renew** it merely on an apprehension that the earlier passports might have been misused.

Controlled Human Infection Studies

1. The **Indian Council of Medical Research** (**ICMR**) has embarked on introducing Controlled Human Infection Studies (CHIS).





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- 2. The **innovative research model** involves deliberately exposing healthy volunteers to pathogens within a controlled environment.
- 3. CHIS is also known as **Controlled Human Infection Model studies** (CHIMs).
- 4. It involves deliberately infecting healthy volunteers with **specific pathogens** in a regulated manner **to study disease progression**, and **host-pathogen interactions**, and assess the efficacy of novel vaccines.
- 5. This method allows for **faster and more cost-effective** outcomes compared to traditional large-sample clinical trials.

The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill 2019



- 1. The government **withdrew** The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill 2019 from the Lok Sabha.
- 2. This Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha in July 2019.
- 3. Then it was referred to the **Department-related Parliamentary**Standing Committee on Science and Technology.
- 4. The Bill had three primary objectives.
- 5. First, it sought to set up a **DNA profiling board as the regulatory body.**
- 6. The Bill also provided for the **creation of databases- DNA Data Banks** for **storing of DNA information** collected from convicts and accused.

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- 7. This database could be indexed and searched for **matching samples** from crime scenes.
- 8. And third, it sought to **facilitate collection of DNA samples** from the **convicts and accused.**

International Big Cat Alliance

- 1. India has recently launched the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with the aim of conserving seven major big cat species on Earth.
- 2. Inspired by the success of Project Tiger, which has contributed to India being home to 70% of the world's tigers, the IBCA will focus on protecting and conserving key big cat species, including Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah.



International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre



1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the revamped **Pragati Maidan complex in Delhi**, introducing the impressive **International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC)**, also known as **Bharat Mandapam**.

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2. The IECC is set to become the largest conference and exhibition site in India and will be the venue for the upcoming **G-20 Summit** in September.

600 million year old river droplets

- 1. Scientists from the **Indian Institute of Science** (IISc) and **Japan's Niigata University** have made a groundbreaking discovery by finding water droplets in rocks from the **Himalayas**.
- 2. These water droplets are believed to be from an ancient ocean that existed around **600 million** years ago.
- 3. This groundbreaking discovery provides new class to unravel the mysteries surrounding the origin of complex life

the on



Earth.

Manual scavenging free districts

- 1. A total of **530 districts** (out of **766**) across the country had so far reported themselves to be free of manual scavenging.
- 2. **100% of districts** in States like **Bihar**, **Rajasthan**, **Tamil Nadu** and a few others have declared themselves free of manual scavenging.
- 3. In several States and Union Territories, only about 15% to 20% of the districts have reported so.
- 4. For instance, in **Manipur**, just **two of the 16 districts** have reported as being manual-scavenging free.
- 5. Similarly, in **Jammu and Kashmir**, just **30% of the districts have declared themselves free** of the practice with a similar number in Telangana.

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6. In **Odisha and West Bengal** too, over **60% districts** are yet to report their respective status.

S No.	Name of States/UT	No. of Districts	No. of Districts from where Report regarding Manual Scavenging free	No. of Districts report not received
1	A AND N ISLANDS	3	3	0
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	26	11	15
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	26	14	12
4	ASSAM	35	19	16
5	BIHAR	38	38	0
6	CHANDIGARH	1	1	0
7	CHHATTISGARH	33	33	0
8	DELHI	11	8	3
9	GOA	2	2	0
10	GUJARAT	33	25	8
11	HARYANA	22	16	6
12	HIMACHAL PRADESH	12	12	0
13	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	20	6	14
14	JHARKHAND	24	12	12
15	KARNATAKA	31	29	2
16	KERALA	14	12	2
17	LADAKH	2	2	0
18	LAKSHADWEEP	1	1	.0
19	MADHYA PRADESH	52	24	28
20	MAHARASHTRA	36	15	21
21	MANIPUR	16	2	14
22	MEGHALAYA	12	10	2
23	MIZORAM	11	11	0
24	NAGALAND	16	10	6
25	ODISHA	30	11	19
26	PUDUCHERRY	4	2	2
27	PUNJAB	23	16	7
28	RAJASTHAN	33	33	0_
29	SIKKIM	6	6	0
30	TAMIL NADU	38	38	0
31	TELANGANA	33	10	23
32	DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN AND DIU	3	3	0
33	TRIPURA	8	8	0
34	UTTAR PRADESH	75	67	8
35	UTTARAKHAND	13	12	1
36	WEST BENGAL	23	8	15
	TOTAL	766	530	236

Constitution (STs) Order (5th Amendment) Bill

- 1. The Rajya Sabha passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (**Fifth Amendment**) Bill, 2022.
- 2. It aims to include several communities from **Chhattisgarh** in the list of STs.
- The Bill was brought in to add Bhuinya, Bhuiyan and Bhuyan communities as synonyms of Bharia, Bhumia, Bharia.
- 4. It also, add three Devanagari versions of Pando community and Dhanuhar and Dhanuwar communities, to substitute Kond for Kondh in the list.
- 5. It will **add Kisan community** in entry 32 of the legislation.

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6. It includes **Saunra and Saonra communities** in entry 41 and to add **Binjhia community** in new entry 43.

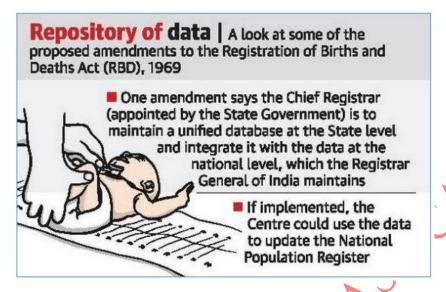


Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023

- 1. The new bill mandates Aadhaar number use for birth certification.
- 2. This development is part of an amendment to the original 1969 Act.
- 3. The proposed legislation would require the Aadhaar numbers of both parents and any informants during birth registration.
- 4. The bill proposes the appointment of Special "Sub-Registrars" to accelerate the registration of deaths and certificate issuance.
- 5. It aims to provide that the Registrar must provide the certificate to such person within seven days.
- 6. It aims to provide for obtaining births and deaths certificates (electronically or otherwise) instead of extracts.

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The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023

- 1. The Rajya Sabha passed the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023.
- 2. It introduces **stringent anti-piracy provisions**, expanding the scope of the law from censorship to also cover copyright.
- 3. The Bill proposes a jail term of up to **three years and a fine up to 5%** of a film's production cost for persons who use any audio-visual recording device to copy a film.
- 4. The Bill seeks to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952.
- 5. The Bill also introduces **three age ratings** for films requiring adult supervision.
- 6. Films currently get a U/A rating.
- 7. It has been split into U/A 7+, U/A 13+ and U/A 16+.

'Meri Mati Mera Desh' campaign

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of "Meri Mati Mera Desh" campaign in run-up to Independence Day to honor the martyred bravehearts of the country.

ÚLLAS mobile application

1. Centre launches ULLAS mobile application to promote basic literacy.

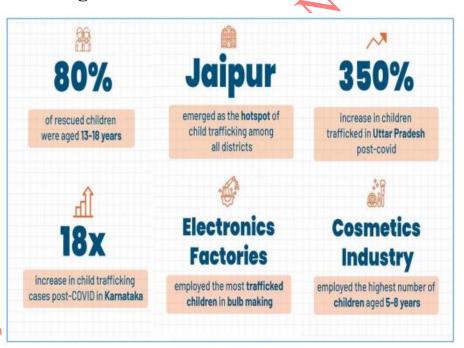
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2. It aims to revolutionize education and literacy in India by creating a comprehensive learning ecosystem that bridges gaps in basic literacy and critical life skills. It coincided with the third anniversary of NEP 2020.



Child Trafficking in India



- 1. The report titled 'Child Trafficking in India: Insights from Situational Data Analysis and the Need for Tech-driven Intervention Strategies' was released recently.
- 2. The new study was conducted by the NGO Games24x7 and the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF).

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- 3. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Andhra Pradesh are the top three states with the highest number of children trafficked between 2016 and 2022.
- 4. Delhi has experienced a **68%** rise in child trafficking cases from pre to post-Covid times.
- 5. The number of reported incidents in the **pre-Covid phase** (2016-2019) was 267.
- 6. But it rose intensely to **1214 in the post-Covid phase** (2021-2022).
- 7. **Karnataka** witnessed an **18-fold increase**, increasing from **6 to 110** reported incidents of child trafficking.
- 8. **Jaipur City** emerged as the **top district in child trafficking**, with four other districts in Delhi appeared in the top slots.
- 9. As many as **13,549 children** under the age of 18 were rescued during this period.

Urea Gold for farmers

- 1. The Urea Gold was launched in **Rajasthan recently.**
- 2. "Urea Gold" is a new variety of urea that is coated with sulphur.
- 3. It is expected to address sulphur deficiencies in the soil.



- This "innovative fertiliser" is more economical and efficient than neem-coated urea.
- 5. It is ensuring improved **nitrogen use efficiency**, **reduced consumption**, and **enhanced crop quality**.
- 6. Urea coated with sulphur helps in **slow release of nitrogen**, therefore increasing its availability and uptake.
- 7. 15 kg of Urea Gold is comparable to 20 kg of conventional urea.

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INTERNATIONAL

Chennai-Vladivostok maritime route

- 1. **India and Russia** are keen to make the Chennai Vladivostok maritime route operational.
- 2. The Vladivostok Chennai route passes through the Sea of Japan, the South China Sea and Malacca Strait.
- 3. The proposed route is expected to take only 12 days, compared to the current route's duration of 32 days.



Summit on New Global Einancial Pact



1. The **French President Emmanuel Macron hosted** the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact (Pact Summit) in **Paris, France.**

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- 2. The Summit was announced at the **27th Conference of Parties** (**COP27**) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- 3. The summit was precipitated as a **follow-up to the Bridgetown Initiative**.
- 4. It is a package of proposals **to get more money flowing** from developed to developing countries **for climate and development.**

Thin plastic bags

- 1. New Zealand will become the **first country to ban the thin plastic bags** that supermarket customers use to collect their fruit and vegetables.
- 2. Each New Zealander sends more than three-quarters of a ton of waste to landfills every year.

Japan redefines Age of Consent

- 1. Japan's Parliament (Diet) raised the age of consent from 13 to 16.
- 2. Japan had the **lowest in the world** as 13.
- 3. The age of consent, below which any sexual activity is considered rape, is different in different countries.
- 4. **India** has set **18** as the age of consent, whereas it is 16 in Britain and 14 in Germany and China.



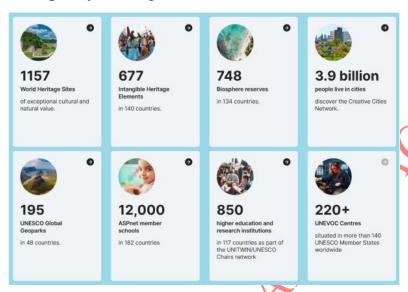
USA returns to UNESCO

1. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) announced that the United States will rejoin it in July.

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- 2. The move to rejoin will face a vote by UNESCO's member states.
- 3. The decision to return was also due to China filling the gap left by the US in UNESCO policy making.



Shanghai Cooperation Organization

1. **Iran's** formal inclusion **as a full member of the SCO** during the Indiahosted virtual summit signifies the organization's continued growth and influence.



NT campus outside India

- 1. India will establish its first Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) campus outside the country in **Zanzibar**, **Tanzania**.
- 2. The IIT campus in Zanzibar will begin offering programs from October 2023.

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Broader Sword

1. India and the United States recently conducted Operation Broader Sword, a joint multi-agency operation aimed at stopping the illegal shipment of drugs through the International Mail System.



Sagar Nidhi' expedition

- 1. The Scientists from **Bangladesh and Mauritius** participating in a **joint ocean expedition** spanning nearly **35 days on India's ocean research vessel** 'Sagar Nidhi'.
- 2. The scientists will collaboratively undertake research on the ocean data to predict and manage changes in the marine environment and variation in ocean parameters.



3. Sagar Nidhi is an **ice-strengthened multidisciplinary vessel** operated by the National Institute of Ocean Technology.

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23rd SCO CHS summit

- 1. The 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) **Council of Heads of State** (CHS) summit held recently.
- 2. For the first time summit has chaired by India.
- 3. The **theme** of the summit this year is "Secure" which stands for 'Security, Economy and Trade, Connectivity, Unity, Respect for Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity, and Environment'.
- 4. **Two new SCO mechanisms** have been created special working groups on traditional **medicine and startups and innovation**.
- 5. **Belarus** will be attaining the **full membership** of the grouping when it meets in **Kazakhstan.**



US-led Artemis Accord

- 1. India signed the three-year-old Artemis Accords, a US-led international partnership on planetary exploration and research.
- 2. The Accords have been signed by 26 countries till now, including Japan, Australia, the UK, France, and Canada.



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- 3. A set of **13 principles**, the Artemis Accords is closely linked to the Artemis Program.
- 4. It aims to **return astronauts to the lunar surface**, build a **space camp** there, and carry out **deep space exploration.**
- 5. It contains a set of principles and guidelines for the civil exploration and use of the Moon, Mars, comets and asteroids.

World's most powerful military

- 1. According **to Global Firepower**, the United States possesses the most powerful military force worldwide.
- 2. The report lists **145 countries** and also compares each nation's year-on-year ranking changes.
- 3. The top **four nations** remain as they were in the **2022 Global Firepower** list.
- 4. **Pakistan has entered the top 10**, securing the seventh spot.



U.S chemical weapons

- 1. The United States has destroyed the last of its declared chemical weapons stockpile.
- 2. Chemical weapons were first used in modern warfare in World War I.
- 3. They were estimated to have killed at least 100,000 people.
- 4. Nearly **800,000 chemical munitions** containing mustard agent were stored since the 1950s.

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- 5. The US faced a **September 30** deadline to eliminate its remaining chemical weapons under the international **Chemical Weapons** Convention.
- 6. This Convention took effect in 1997 and was joined by 193 countries.
- 7. Only **three countries Egypt, North Korea and South Sudan** have not signed the treaty.
- 8. A **fourth, Israel**, has signed **but not ratified** the treaty.



U.S. Senate Committee's Resolution on Arunachal Pradesh

- 1. U.S Congressional Senatorial Committee has passed a resolution recognising Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of India.
- 2. The resolution reaffirms that the United States recognises the McMahon Line as the international boundary between China and the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- 3. It pushes back against Chinese claims that large portions of Arunachal Pradesh are PRC territory.
- 4. The resolution will now go to the Senate floor for a full vote.

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5. China refers to Arunachal Pradesh as Zangnan and Beijing claims Arunachal Pradesh as South Tibet.



Phosphate Discovery

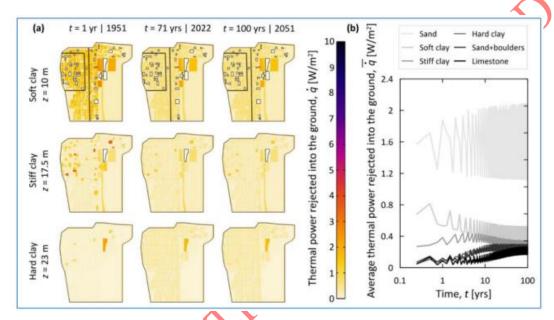
- 1. A huge deposit of a **valuable mineral called phosphate** has been discovered in **Norway**.
- 2. It can be used to power electric cars and solar panels.
- 3. There are up to **70 billion tonnes of phosphorus** in the deposit.
- 4. It is enough to meet demand for the next 50 years.
- 5. Previously, the largest amount of phosphate rock was found in Morocco's western Sahara region, with approximately 50 billion tonnes.
- 6. China (the largest phosphate producer in the world) and Egypt also have significant phosphate reserves.
- 7. The **refining process for phosphorus** extraction can be highly polluting.



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Underground Climate Change

- 1. According to the research done in **North-western University in Illinois** in the US, Underground Climate Change is a **silent hazard** that threatens major cities across the world.
- 2. The **heat from buildings** in underground transportation system diffuses below the surface.



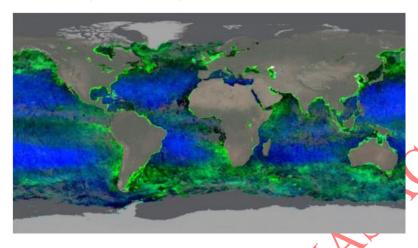
- 3. Over time the **ground warms and then expansions and contractions** caused by this heat creates rocks.
- 4. They also claim that such **rising temperatures** may have contributed to previous building deterioration.

Change in color of world's Ocean

- 1. As per the recent studies, climate change has caused a change in the colour of **56 per cent** of the world's ocean.
- 2. It found that waters in the tropics, particularly the southern Indian Ocean, have turned green.
- 3. Green-coloured water indicates an increase in phytoplankton, microscopic plantlike organisms that are crucial for marine life and carbon dioxide absorption.
- 4. The researchers analysed data from the **Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) aboard the Aqua satellite.**

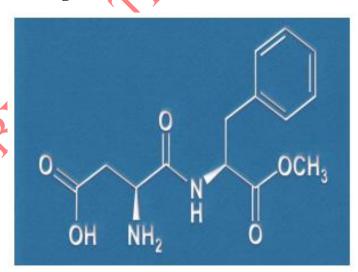
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5. They observed long-term trends and used models to simulate scenarios with and without greenhouse gas emissions.



Aspartame

- 1. The WHO, FAO and International Agency for Research on Cancer declare artificial sweetener aspartame as possibly carcinogenic.
- 2. Aspartame is **an artificial sweetener** used as a **sugar substitute** in a wide range of food and beverage products.
- 3. It is a **low-calorie sweetener**, approximately **200 times sweeter than** sucrose (table sugar).



New methane source

1. Climate change is causing groundwater springs to release methane in the Arctic.

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- 2. The groundwater springs found in Svalbard, an archipelago in the Arctic, could be emitting over 2,000 tonnes of methane.
- 3. This figure equals 10% of the methane emissions from Norway's annual oil and gas energy industry.
- 4. Methane, a greenhouse gas, is **84 times more potent than carbon dioxide** on a 20-year timescale.

World Humanitarian Drive

- 1. World Humanitarian Drive (WHD) is an International NGO with operations in 12 countries.
- 2. It is founded in the **U.K. by British Indian global peace activist**, Abdul Basit Syed.
- 3. WHD is aims to **promoting international education** and trade.
- 4. It has been granted special consultative status by United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- 5. The WHD also promotes key initiatives between India and the UK.

Twitter replaces iconic bird logo

- 1. Elon Musk, owner of Twitter launched the new logo of Twitter 'X' by replacing the iconic bird logo.
- 2. The "X" logo has been in the pipeline for a while with Musk's strong want of an "everything app".



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Switzerland's Plan for carbon neutrality

- 1. Switzerland brought a new climate bill aimed at achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.
- 2. The law seeks to reduce dependence on **imported oil and gas and** promote greener alternatives.
- 3. The fund will used to promote the replacement of gas or oil heating systems with climate-friendly alternatives, as well as aid to push businesses towards green innovation.

Semiconductor pact with India

- 1. Japan has become the second Quad partner after the United States to sign an agreement on semiconductor with India.
- 2. This pact signed for the **joint development of the semiconductor ecosystem** and maintain the resilience of its global supply chain.
- 3. With around **100 semiconductor manufacturing plants**, Japan is among the top five countries to have a semiconductor ecosystem.



European Sky Shield Initiative

- Austria and Switzerland have joined the 'European Sky Shield Initiative' (ESSI) for air defence in response to Russia's attack on Ukraine.
- 2. The European Sky Shield Initiative (ESSI) is a regional grouping of European countries aimed at developing a common air and missile defence system.

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3. It focuses on acquiring air defence equipment and missiles collectively to strengthen NATO's Integrated Air and Missile Defence (IAMD).

Space Industry Debris Mitigation Recommendations

- 1. The World Economic Forum (WEF) and the European Space Agency (ESA) jointly released the Space Industry Debris Mitigation Recommendations.
- 2. It aims to mitigate the space debris problem.
- 3. The spacecraft operators try to **get satellites removed from low-Earth orbit within 5 years** after the end of the mission.



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- 4. Missions that orbit **above an altitude of 375 kilometres** should have an ability to actively manage the orbit.
- 5. The guidelines encourage a **propulsion-based system** but other technologies could be more appropriate depending on the situation.
- 6. It encourages industry players to further study the objects in orbit—the population, evolution, and the interaction between them.
- 7. Russia has the most space debris with over 7000 rocket bodies floating in space.

Russia bans sex change and transgender marriages

- 1. Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a new legislation that deals a significant blow to the **LGBTQ+ community** in the country.
- 2. The act, passed unanimously by both houses of parliament, strictly prohibits individuals from officially or medically changing their gender, further marginalizing Russia's embattled **LGBTQ+ population.**

BRICS Urbanization Forum



- 1. This year, the forum has its first in-person follow-up in the **vibrant** South African city of Durban, South Africa.
- 2. It aims to delve into **key urban developmental issues** and explore how cities globally are enhancing their resilience to meet emerging challenges.
- 3. The last edition of the forum was hosted online **under the presidency of**China in 2022.

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4. The BRICS Urbanisation Forum that was **inaugurated in New Delhi in February 2013.**

Gender change and transgender marriages

- 1. Russia passed a law that outlawing gender-affirming procedures, a crippling blow to Russia's already embattled LGBTQ+ community.
- 2. This law bans any "medical interventions aimed at changing the sex of a person," as well as changing one's gender in official documents and public records.
- 3. The only exception will be medical intervention to treat congenital anomalies.
- 4. It also **annuls marriages** in which one person has "changed gender" and bars transgender people from becoming foster or adoptive parents.



- 5. In 2013, the Kremlin adopted legislation that banned any public endorsement of "non-traditional sexual relations" among minors.
- 6. In 2020, Putin pushed through constitutional reform that outlawed samesex marriage.
- Last year he signed a law banning "propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations" among adults as well.

Global Parliamentary Pact

1. The **second** Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition was **held in Chile.**

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- 2. Parliamentarians **from 64 countries signed** the Global Parliamentary Pact at the summit.
- 3. They all are committing to push for reforms in the agrifood system to make food sustainable and accessible to all.
- 4. They have formed a **new multilateral body** to **address the issues of poverty, hunger, and malnutrition** in the agrifood system.
- 5. The first such summit on hunger and malnutrition was conducted in Spain in 2018.
- 6. In **2021**, there were **46 million more people** who endured hunger than in **2020**.
- 7. Some **2.3 billion people** in the world **did not have access** to adequate food in 2021.



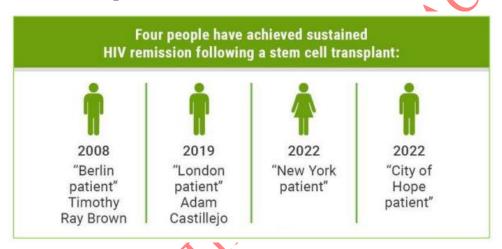
Sixth Person cured from HIV

- 1. A sixth person with HIV, being referred to as the Geneva patient, has likely been cured of HIV after receiving a stem cell transplant for leukaemia.
- 2. The level of virus in his blood remained undetectable **20 months** after his **antiretroviral therapy** was discontinued.
- 3. This patient underwent a **stem cell transplant in 2018** for an aggressive form of leukaemia.
- 4. Twenty months later, his **tests did not find any viral particles**, latent reservoirs of the infection, or elevated immune response against the virus.

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- 5. All the six patients who have achieved HIV remission so far needed the stem cell transplantation for treatment of their cancers.
- 6. In the first five cases, however, the treatment teams specifically looked for **donors with CCR5 delta 32 mutation** that is associated with **lower risk of HIV.**
- 7. HIV lowers immunity in infected individuals by attacking the CD4 immune cells.
- 8. Berlin patient, became the first person to overcome HIV after two stem cell transplants in 2007 and 2008.



Israel's Judicial Reform Bill

- 1. Israel's parliament passed the controversial "reasonable standard bill.
- 2. This is the first major legislation in the government's plan to weaken the judiciary.

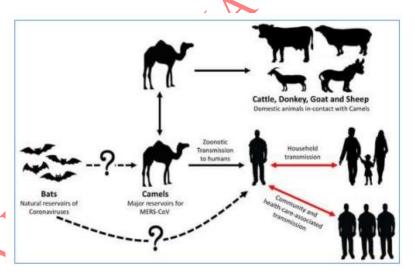


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- 3. This bill strips the Supreme Court of the power to declare government decisions unreasonable.
- 4. It scraps the requirement for ministers to obey the advice of their legal advisers guided by the attorney general.

First case of MERS-CoV in 2023

- 1. World Health Organization (WHO) has identified a case of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) from United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- 2. MERS-CoV is a viral respiratory infection that is caused by a coronavirus called Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV).
- 3. Humans are infected with **direct or indirect contact** with **dromedary camels.**
- 4. They are the **natural host and zoonotic source** of the MERS-CoV infection.



Global Education Monitoring Report 2023

- The UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring Report 2023 was titled 'Technology in Education: A Tool on Whose Terms'.
- 2. It has endorsed **banning smartphones in schools** in situations where "technology integration does not improve learning or if it worsens student well-being".

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- 3. It highlighted that "mere proximity to a mobile device was found to distract students and to have a negative impact on learning in 14 countries.
- 4. Currently, **less than one in four have banned** smartphone use in schools".
- 5. Only 16% of countries explicitly guarantee data privacy in education by law.
- 6. The Global Education Monitoring Report: Established in 2002.



Lowest Extent



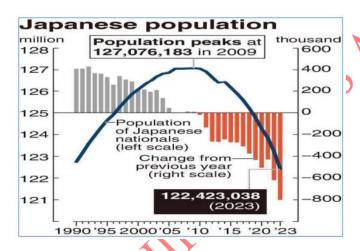
- 1. Antarctica's sea ice has been recorded low level of about 14.2 million sq. km, significantly below the normal extent of 16.7 million sq. km for this time of year.
- 2. Antarctica **lost about 2.6 million sq. km of sea ice** compared to the long-term average of the satellite era.

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Japan's Population Decline

- 1. The population of Japanese nationals **fell by about 800,000 people** to **122.4 million** in 2022 from the previous year.
- 2. This is the loss of 0.65% and witnessing falling for a 14th straight year.
- 3. Japan's total population was 125.41 million, down just over half a million people from a year earlier.
- 4. The country saw a record low of 771,801 births last year.



Resource Efficiency Circular Economy Industry Coalition



- 1. The G20 countries are set to launch the Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Industry Coalition (RECEIC).
- 2. This is an **industry-led initiative** with a global focus on promoting resource efficiency and circular economy practices.

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- 3. The coalition includes **39 founding members** from **11 different nations**.'
- 4. The RECEIC is designed to be a platform for knowledge and best practice exchange, fostering sustainable practices among its participating industries.

DEFENCE

Air exercise 'Tarang Shakti'

- 1. The **Indian Air Force** will hold the **largest multi-national** air exercise 'Tarang Shakti' to **strengthen military co-operation** between the air forces.
- 2. The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to host its first-ever multi-national air exercise called 'Tarang Shakti' in October-November this year.
- 3. With the participation of several nations, including the **United States**, **United Kingdom**, **France**, and **Australia**.



JIMEX 23



1. The **seventh edition of the bilateral** Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 hosted by the Indian Navy, to be conducted at **Visakhapatnam**.

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2. This exercise marks the **11th anniversary of JIMEX** since its inception in 2012 and aims to **enhance the interoperability and cooperation** between the Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) and the Indian Navy.

SALVEX Exercise

- 1. The successful conduct of the seventh edition of SALVEX reflects the commitment of the Indian Navy and the US Navy to deepen their operational cooperation and strengthen bilateral ties.
- 2. The Indian Navy and the US Navy successfully concluded the seventh edition of the Indian Navy US Navy (IN USN) **Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) exercise.** SALVEX, held from June 26 to July 6, 2023, in **Kochi.**

Nomadic Elephant – 2023

- 1. A group of **43 Indian Army personnel** departed for **Mongolia** today to take part in the **15th edition of the joint military exercise** called "NOMADIC ELEPHANT-23."
- 2. The exercise is set to occur in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from July 17th to July 31st, 2023.
- 3. NOMADIC ELEPHANT is an annual training event between **India and Mongolia**, held alternately in both countries.



Operation Southern Readiness 2023

1. **INS Sunayna**, a vessel of the Indian Navy, recently visited Seychelles as part of Operation Southern Readiness 2023, conducted by the **Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)**.

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2. This visit aimed to strengthen **multilateral ties** and enhance **cooperation** through a series of exercises and engagements.



3. The exercise brought together navies from the USA, Italy, UK, Seychelles Defence Forces, Marine Police, and member nations of EUNAVFOR.

Security Bond-2023

- 1. Third edition of **5-day military exercise called "Security Bond-2023"** to take place in **Gulf of Oman**, involving coordinated naval operations by **China, Iran, and Russia.**
- 2. This exercise, spanning five days, aims to safeguard critical maritime routes.
- 3. The Security Bond drills are occurring simultaneously with the final phase of the 18-day International Maritime Exercise 2023 (IMX 2023), which is recognized as the largest maritime exercise in the Middle East region.

Op Southern Readiness 2023

1. **INS Sunayna ship** participated in the multinational **maritime security** exercise known as **Op Southern Readiness 2023 in Seychelles.**

G20 THINQ

1. The **Indian Navy** has launched the **second edition of "G20 THINQ"** with the aim of uniting **young individuals from diverse regions** and geographies, fostering lasting friendships among them.

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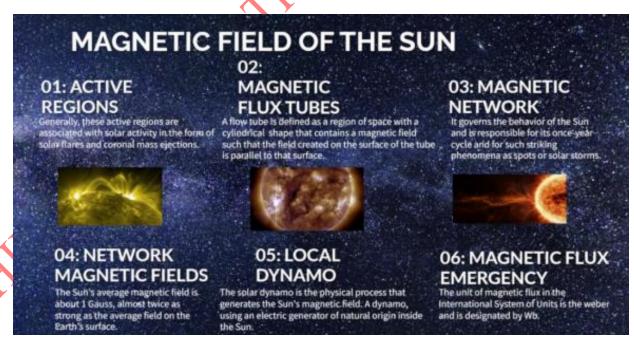
2. The **second** edition of "G20 THINQ" has been launched by the **Indian Navy** and the Navy Welfare and Wellness Association (NWWA), with the support of the G20 Secretariat.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Solar Mean Magnetic Field

- 1. Latest study has given a clearer picture of how the sun's magnetic field influences the **interplanetary magnetic space**.
- 2. SMMF refers to the average strength and direction of the magnetic field on the surface of the Sun.
- 3. The studies suggests that the **primordial magnetic field inside the sun** could be a source of the SMMF.



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India's First NavIC

1. Elena Geo Systems introduces India's First Regional Navigation Satellite System based Device to provide precise directions for various infrastructure projects.



2. The device aims to provide precise directions for various infrastructure projects such as railway, land survey, telecoms, and hydrocarbon exploration.

Brain-Eating Amoeba

- 1. Brain-eating amoeba infection reported in South Korea.
- 2. For the first time ever, a rare potentially fatal brain-eating amoeba has been discovered in South Korea.
- 3. Primary amebic meningoencephalitis (PAM) is a **rare and serious infection** caused by the **amoeba naegleria fowleri**, which is commonly found in warm freshwater and soil.



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Giant 'gravity hole' in Indian Ocean

- 1. Researchers at the **Indian Institute of Science** have revealed the secrets of the **giant gravity hole in the Indian Ocean**.
- 2. It is known as the Indian Ocean Geoid Low (IOGL).
- 3. It covers over **two million square miles** and sits around **600 miles** beneath the Earth's crust.
- 4. The presence of lighter materials in the upper to mid-mantle, were responsible for the gravity low in this region.
- 5. This mantle structure beneath the Indian Ocean was probably produced by the leftovers of a **long-lost Tethys Ocean's seabed**.



Chandrayaan -III



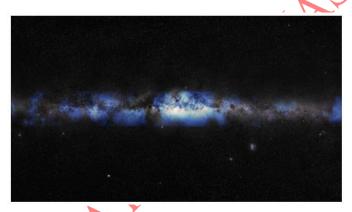
- 1. India launched its ambitious Chandrayaan-3 mission to the Moon.
- 2. The spacecraft launched aboard India's heaviest rocket, Launch vehicle Mark-III a.k.a LVM3 on a journey to the Moon.
- 3. The spacecraft will complete the **3,84,000** kilometers-long journey in nearly **45 days** to attempt a soft-landing on the Moon by end of August.

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First-ever view of the Milky Way

- 1. Data collected by an **observatory in Antarctica** has produced our **first** view of the Milky Way galaxy through the lens of neutrino particles.
- 2. It's the first time we have seen our galaxy "painted" with a particle rather than in different wavelengths of light.
- 3. The Ice Cube Neutrino Observatory uses a gigatonne of the ultratransparent ice under huge pressures to detect a form of energy called Cherenkov radiation.
- 4. Its result in roughly **spherical showers of light** and give the researchers a better level of sensitivity to the **astrophysical neutrinos** from the Milky Way.



Sagar Sampark



- 1. The **indigenously** developed **Differential Global Navigation Satellite System** (DGNSS) was inaugurated recently.
- 2. This state-of-the-art system is named 'Sagar Sampark'.
- 3. It aims to **strengthening digital transformation** of the Indian maritime sector.

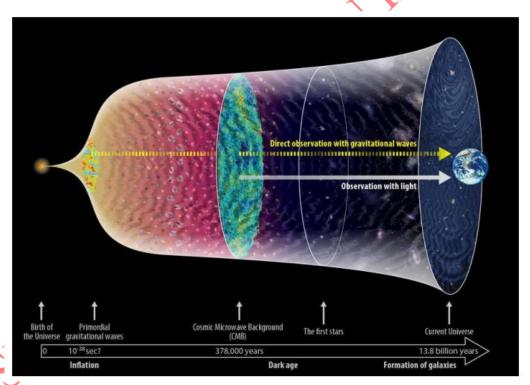
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4. It enhances **navigation safety** by reducing the risk of collisions, groundings, and accidents.

Gravitational wave background

- 1. Scientists have officially made the **first detections of the gravitational** wave background.
- 2. It is a sign that gravitational waves from **slowly merging pairs of supermassive black holes** can be detected from **Earth in a background field of low-frequency energy.**
- 3. Gravitational waves are created by **astronomically dense objects** in our universe, usually in orbit around each other.
- 4. They discovered **first in 2015** by the **Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, or LIGO.**



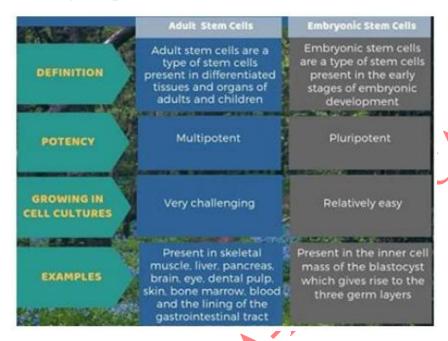
Synthetic Embryos

- 1. Recently, scientists have successfully created advanced **embryo-like structures using human stem cells.**
- 2. These synthetic embryos develop similarly to natural embryos at around **14 days after fertilization**.

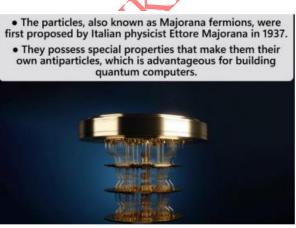
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3. This remarkable advancement has the potential to transform the understanding and practices of **In Vitro Fertilization (IVF).**



Majorana Zero Mode

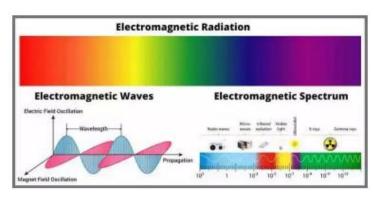


- Microsoft announced a significant innovation in the creation of Majorana Zero Modes.
- 2. All particles have four quantum numbers associated with them.
- 3. No two particles in the same system can have the same four quantum numbers.
- 4. A quantum computer made with qubit as Majorana zero mode and can be encoded with information onto some property of the mode.

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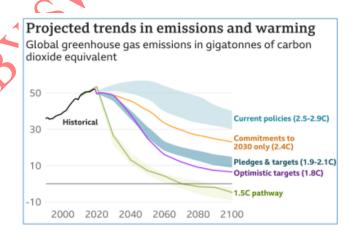
Electromagnetic Field (EMF) Radiation



- 1. Recently, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Delhi LSA, organized a webinar focused on raising awareness about Electromagnetic Field (EMF) radiation.
- 2. The event aimed to address misconceptions surrounding the potential harmful effects of EMF radiation from mobile towers.
- 3. Experts shed light on the nature of EMF emissions, safety measures, and the role of international organizations in setting limits.

1.5 Degree Celsius Temperature Threshold

- 1. The global mean temperature crossed the key **1.5 degrees Celsius limit** at the start of June, 2023.
- 2. This is the first time that the target was **breached in the summer** months.



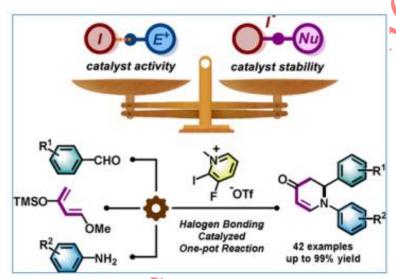
- 3. But it was all **only in the winter and spring months**.
- 4. So far, **the warmest year has been 2016**, when global mean temperatures were over **1.28 degrees Celsius**.

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Short-lived halogens

- 1. It is produced naturally by phytoplankton and algae found in the oceans.
- 2. Its major constituents are chlorine, bromine or iodine and its life span is less than six months.
- 3. According to a recent study, the oceans contribute 8-10% to the cooling of the planet by emitting short-lived halogens.
- 4. They calculated that short-lived halogen from oceans reduces warming by depleting ozone.



American bald eagle

- 1. The American bald eagle was **removed from the endangered species list in 2007**, marking a significant milestone in its conservation.
- 2. Since then, the population of the bird has steadily risen.



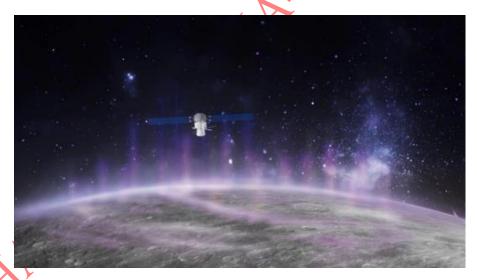
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- 3. A **2021 report** by the US Fish and Wildlife Service said that the number of bald eagles in the wild has **quadrupled since 2009.**
- 4. It is the only sea eagle endemic to North America.
- 5. The average life span of bald eagles is 20 to 30 years .

X-ray Auroras in Mercury

- 1. The **Bepi Colombo spacecraft** made its first close flyby near the burning-hot planet on **October 1, 2021.**
- 2. The spacecraft approached Mercury from the night side of the northern hemisphere and made a close approach in the morning side of the southern hemisphere.
- 3. Using the observations made by the spacecraft, scientists discovered that **electrons from the Sun** raining down on the surface of the planet generates **X-ray auroras on Mercury.**
- 4. Mercury has a **very thin atmosphere**, meaning that a **lot of electrons** from solar wind crash onto the surface.

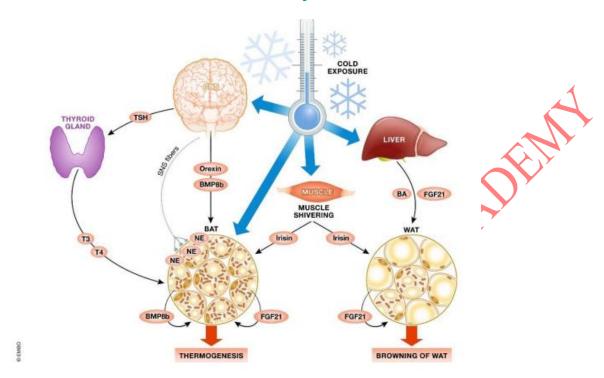


Inter-organ communication

- 1. IIT-M have developed a computational approach called "multicens" to understand inter-organ communication network in humans.
- 2. Multicens will help uncover key molecular mediators of inter-organ communication.

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- 3. They used the genomic information available for various tissues to develop this method.
- 4. Exchange of information between organs and tissues allows organisms to adapt to changes in their environment, assess their energy reserves and maintain overall well-being.

Organic matter on Mars

- 1. NASA's Perseverance rover has discovered evidence of organic compounds in a Martian crater.
- 2. This providing insights into the **potential habitability** of Mars.
- 3. It reveals a more **complex organic geochemical cycle** on Mars than previously thought.
- 4. It is also indicating the **presence of multiple reservoirs** of the potential organic molecules on the planet.
- 5. The findings suggest that Mars has experienced **aqueous processes** and that water may have played a significant role in the existence of organic matter.

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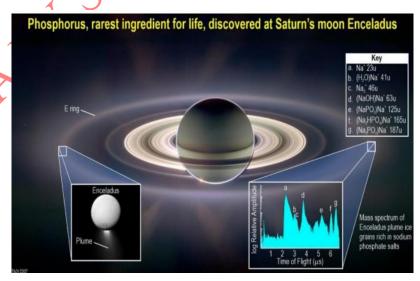
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6. The **research team** used an instrument called the Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman and Luminescence for Organics and Chemicals (**SHERLOC**) to detect the organic compounds.



Phosphorus Discovered on Enceladus

- 1. Researchers have discovered the **presence of phosphorus in icy grains** emanating from **Saturn's moon**.
- 2. The new discovery made **Enceladus sixth largest** among **Saturn's 146** known natural satellites.
- 3. Previous studies had spotted signs of the other **five elements** needed for **life—carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur.**
- 4. The discovery of phosphorus on Enceladus suggests that this moon possesses the necessary building blocks for life.



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- 5. Phosphorus is an integral part of life on Earth.
- 6. It's the **second most abundant mineral** in the human body, behind calcium and it is key to **forming bones, teeth, cell membranes and DNA.**
- 7. NASA's **Cassini space probe**, which has been studying Saturn and its moons for **13 years**, has made a significant discovery.

Carbon-dioxide Auroras



- 1. NASA's satellite spots infrared carbon dioxide aurora from outer space.
- 2. An aurora is a **natural light display** those shimmers in the sky.
- 3. When **charged particles** crash into the **planet's atmosphere**, they interact with **many different atoms and molecules.**
- 4. Carbon dioxide is one of them.
- 5. When carbon dioxide molecules about **90 kilometres above Earth** become **excited during an aurora**, they **emit infrared radiation.**

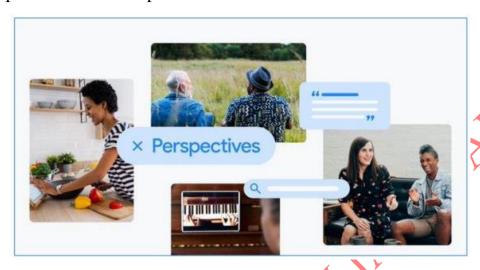
Google's Perspectives' Search

- 1. Google has recently launched a **new search feature called Perspectives**.
- 2. It is aiming to provide users with a **broader range of viewpoints on various topics.**
- 3. It encompasses a wide range of content types, including long- and short-form videos, images, and written posts.

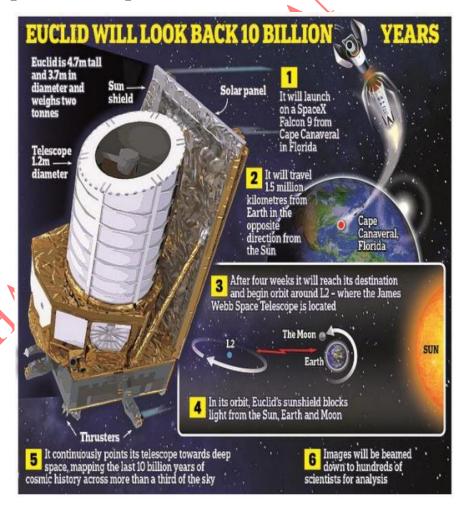
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4. These materials are **sourced from discussion boards**, Q&A sites, and popular social media platforms.



Euclid Space Telescope



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- 1. The **European Space Agency** plans to survey billions of galaxies using the Euclid Space Telescope.
- 2. The new Euclid space telescope was launched on a **SpaceX Falcon 9** rocket.
- 3. Euclid is a visible to **near-infrared space telescope** developed by the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Euclid Consortium.
- 4. This mission aims to better **understand dark energy and dark matter** by accurately measuring the acceleration of the universe.

RoboMapper

- 1. Researchers have successfully created a robot called Robo Mapper.
- 2. It is capable of conducting experiments to develop new semiconductor materials efficiently and sustainably.
- 3. It takes a different approach by **automating the process and miniaturizing the material samples** using modern printing techniques.
- 4. The robot has been found to be **nearly 10 times faster** than previous automated techniques.
- 5. The process also **reduced greenhouse gas emissions** of the characterisation process by 10 times.



PSLV-C56

- 1. **ISRO** successfully launched the PSLV-C56 carrying **Singapore's DS-SAR** satellite and six other satellites.
- 2. The **DS-SAR satellite** is developed under a partnership between DSTA (representing the Government of Singapore) and ST Engineering.

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3. The co-passengers on the missions are VELOX-AM, ARCADE, SCOOB-II, NuLIoN, Galassia-2 and ORB-12 STRIDER.

4. This is the **58th flight of PSLV** and **17th of PSLV** in core alone configuration.



Jupiter 3

1. SpaceX launched Hughes Network Systems' Jupiter 3 satellite.



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SHILS

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- 2. It is designed to **modernize an old-school approach** to space-based internet access.
- 3. The **nine-tone and a bus sized satellite** Jupiter 3, also called **EchoStar XXIV**.
- 4. It is the **largest commercial communications** satellite ever built.

ECONOMY

Greedflation

- 1. Greedflation is currently on the **rise in the United States** and is one of the primary reasons why prices are being driven up in the country.
- 2. Greedflation, in basic terms, is **the inflation and hike in prices not driven by economic flow**, but by corporate greed.
- 3. It has **not taken a headway in India**.
- 4. But foreign companies in the nation continue to jack up the prices to gouge the customer for more profits.

GST rate changes

1. The Union Finance Ministry recently announced a reduction in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) for electronic items on the sixth anniversary of the GST implementation on July 1.

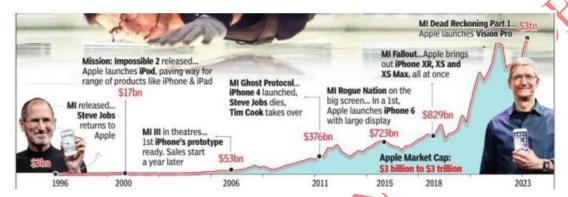
Item	Earlier	Now	
TV upto 27 inches	31.3%	18%	
Refrigerators	31.3%	18%	
Washing machine	31.3%	18%	
Mixers, Juicers, Vacuum cleaners,,	31.3%	18%	
Fans, coolers, geysers	31.3%	18%	
LPG stove	21%	18%	
LEDs	15%	12%	
Sewing Machine	16%	12%	
Static Converter UPS	28%	18%	
Kerosene Pressure Lantern	8%	5%	
Vacuum flasks, and vacuum Vessels	28%	18%	
Mobile Phones	31.3%	12%	

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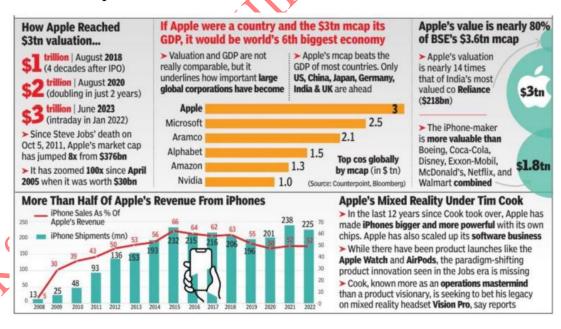
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Market value of \$3 trillion

- 1. Apple Inc created history recently by becoming the **first company in** the world to reach a market value of \$3 trillion.
- 2. Since then, it first reached \$1 trillion in value in mid-2018, and later achieved a \$2 trillion valuation in August 2020.



- 3. **Microsoft Corp** is the only other US stock with a valuation above \$2 trillion.
- 4. Apple and Microsoft Corp led the list of top 20 global companies by market capitalization at the end of June.



Centralized Information Management System

1. RBI has upgraded its **information management framework** with the introduction of the Centralised Information Management System (CIMS).

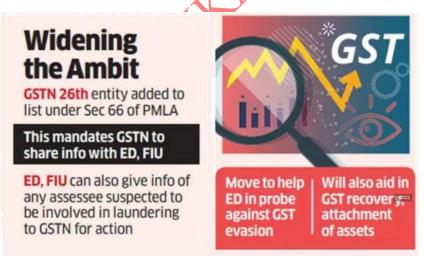
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- 2. It will handle the massive data flow, aggregation, analysis, public dissemination and data governance.
- 3. This system uses **state-of-the-art technology** to manage big data and will serve as a platform.

GSTN under PMLA

- 1. The Indian government amended provisions of the money laundering Act to allow the Enforcement Directorate to share information with GST Network.
- 2. As per **the amendment** to the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), **2002**, GST Network has been **included in the list** of entities with which the Enforcement Directorate will share information.
- 3. The changes have been made for provisions under Section 66 of the PMLA, which provides for disclosure of information.
- 4. This changes comes amid rising cases of GST fraud and fake registrations.



Highlights of the 50th GST Council Meeting

- 1. The 50th Meeting of the GST Council took place in New Delhi.
- 2. It decided to reduce the GST rate on uncooked/unfried snack pellets to 5%.
- 3. The Council has **exempted IGST on medicines and Food for Special Medical Purposes (FSMP)** when imported for personal use.

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- 4. Casinos, horse racing and online gaming will be taxed at a uniform rate of 28%.
- 5. **Food and beverages sold at the cinemas** to get covered under 'restaurant service', liable to **5% GST.**
- 6. Fish soluble paste reduced from 18% to 5%.
- 7. Imitation Zari threads/yarn reduced from 12% to 5%.



Trade in Indian rupee



- 1. **Bangladesh and India** launched a much-anticipated trade transaction in rupees.
- 2. This move is aimed at **reducing dependence on the US dollar** and strengthening regional currency and trade.

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3. This is the **first time Bangladesh has done bilateral trade** with a foreign country in addition to the US dollar.

4. Earlier **India and Malaysia** have agreed to settle trade in the Indian rupees.

UPI with Instant Payment of UAE



1. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the UAE, India and the UAE agreed to facilitate trade settlement in their respective currencies and integrate their fast payment systems.

India's gross domestic growth projection

- 1. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) raised India's gross domestic growth projection for 2023-24.
- 2. The World Economic Outlook (WEO), the IMF has projected a growth rate of 6.1% in 2023, a 0. 2% point upward revision compared with the April projection.
- 3. In April, the IMF had cut India's GDP growth forecast for **2023-24** to **5.9% from 6.1%**, citing heightened global uncertainty.
- 4. The latest update to the WEO retained the GDP growth forecast for 2024-25 at 6.3%.
- 5. The IMF's projection is lower than the Reserve Bank of India's estimate of 6.5%.
- 6. The World Bank estimates growth at 6. 3% and the Asian Development Bank at 6. 4%.

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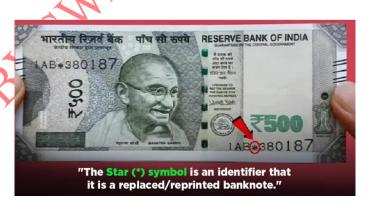
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7. The forecast for China is unchanged at 5. 2% for 2023 and 4. 5% for 2024, while the global growth will slow down from last year's 3. 5% to 3% this year and the next.

GROWTH PRO	JECTION ((%)
	2023	2024
World	3.0	3.0
US	1.8	1.0
Euro area	0.9	1.5
UK	0.4	1.0
China	5.2	4.5
India*	6.1	6.3
Brazil	2.1	1.2
South Africa	0.3	1.7
India retains major ed	fastest gr	
*Data for FY24, FY2	5, Source: IN	4F

Other Legal Banknotes

- 1. Banknotes with a **Star** (*) **symbol identical** to any other legal banknotes.
- 2. The 'Star Series' banknotes are a legitimate category of banknotes used by RBI to replace defectively printed ones.
- 3. The Star symbol is added to identify banknotes used as replacements for defectively printed ones in a packet of **100 serially numbered** banknotes.



SBI Ecowrap report

1. State Bank of India's Economic Research Department's report, SBI Ecowrap, said that India is likely to get the tag of the world's third largest economy by FY28.

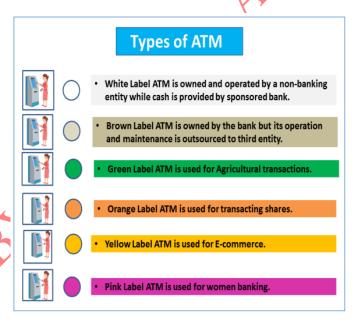
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- 2. India should surpass both Japan and Germany in 2027 at the current rate of growth.
- 3. India is likely to add \$0.75 trillion in every 2 years.
- 4. Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh will break the \$500 billion mark in 2027 (or FY28).



White Label ATMs



- 1. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted permission to non-bank entities to establish, own, and operate White Label ATMs (WLAs) nationwide.
- 2. This move is aimed at enhancing banking services reach, especially in smaller towns and rural areas, and promoting financial inclusion.
- 3. WLAs are ATMs set up, owned and operated by non-banks

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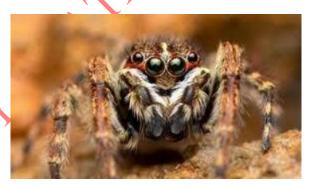
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- 4. Non-bank ATM operators are authorised under the Payment & Settlement Systems Act, 2007 by the RBI.
- 5. They provide banking services to customers using debit/credit/prepaid cards issued by banks.
- 6. WLAs also offer services like account information, cash deposit, bill payment, mini statements, PIN change, and cheque book requests.

ENVIRONMENT

Hasarius Mumbai

- 1. This new species of **Jumping spider** was discovered in the rocks lying near natural, seasonal streams at the **Bombay Natural History Society's** (BNHS) conservation education centre (CEC) in Goregaon East.
- 2. The above-mentioned centre is one of the few oldest and mixed moist deciduous forests in India.
- 3. The place shares its boundaries with the biodiverse landscapes of Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) and Film City in Aarey Milk Colony (AMC) of Mumbai.



Diversity for Restoration (D4R) tool

- 1. Diversity for Restoration (D4R) tool is devised by **Bioversity** International.
- 2. The online tool precisely **aims to help better decision-making** and bring the **best outcome for those plantation programmes**.
- 3. It could improve **socio-ecological perspectives** and help stakeholders in decision.

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- 4. The tool has information about **100 plant functional traits** that have been considered to offer the **best possible solution.**
- 5. The tool informs the user whether the tree species offers **timber**, **fruit**, **manure** or other commercial benefits.
- 6. The tool is already being used in countries such as Malaysia, Ethiopia, Columbia, Peru, Burkina Faso, Cameroon etc.



Animal Discoveries - New Species and New Records 2023

- 1. India added 664 animal species to its faunal database in the year 2022.
- 2. These comprise **467 new species and 197 species** found in India for the first time.
- 3. The country also added 339 new plant taxa 186 taxa that are new to science and 153 taxa as new distributional records from the country in 2022.
- 4. In 2022, the maximum (82) new discoveries were recorded from Kerala.
- 5. Karnataka is followed with 64 new species and 24 new records accounting for 13.2%.
- 6. Tamil Nadu saw 71 new discoveries and 13 new records contributing to 12.6% of all the new discoveries and new records in the country.



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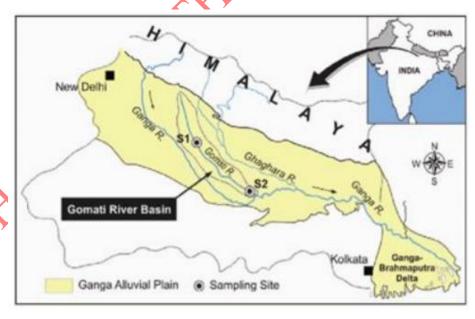
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Gambusia Fish

- 1. The **Andhra Pradesh government** has released approximately **10** million Gambusia fish into the state's water bodies.
- 2. This move aims to combat mosquito-borne diseases like malaria and dengue.
- 3. The fish is also known as mosquitofish.
- 4. It is widely used as a biological agent for controlling mosquito larvae.
- 5. Andhra Pradesh reported approximately 6,391 dengue cases and 2,022 malaria cases in 2022.



Gomti River "non perennial river"



1. **Uttar Pradesh government** declaring the Gomti as a "non-perennial river" in **2020.**

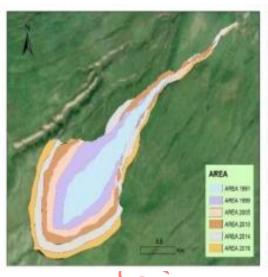
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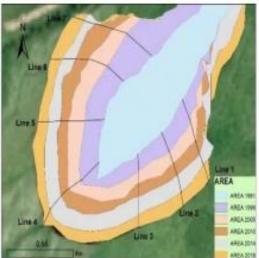
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- 2. Gomti is a **tributary of Ganga River** and an **alluvial river** of the Ganga Plain.
- 3. It **originates near Mainkot**, from **Gomat Taala lake** also known as **Fulhar Jheel in Madhotanda.**
- 4. The declaration of the river as a seasonal one takes away from its importance.

Batagaika Crater

- 1. Russia's Batagaika Crater is located in the far eastern Siberian taiga (that is, boreal forest).
- 2. It's a rapidly growing 1-kilometer (0.6-mile) pit.





- 3. Scientists call it as a mega-slump.
- 4. The expanding crater highlights rapid changes occurring even to Earth's geology, as Earth's climate changes in this century.
- 5. As the active soil slumps, more of the surrounding and underlying frozen soil is exposed and melts.
- 6. It causing the land to slump further and the extent and speed of the permafrost thawing to increase.
- 7. Batagaika Crater is expanding about 10 meters (33 feet) per year.

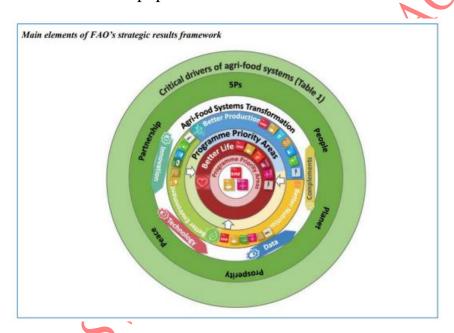
FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031

1. The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) has launched an **Action Plan for Climate Change.**

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- 2. It is designed to support the implementation of its ambitious Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031.
- 3. It envisages **agrifood systems** as **sustainable**, **inclusive**, **resilient and adaptive** to climate change.
- 4. The Action Plan is based on **three pillars:**
 - Advocacy at global and regional levels;
 - Policy support at the country level;
 - The scaling-up of climate action on the ground with local actors and vulnerable population.



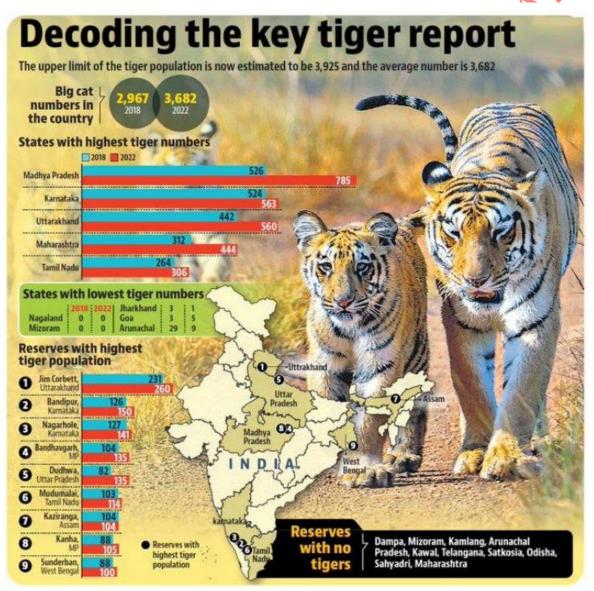
Tiger Population of India in 2023

- 1. India's tiger population increased to 3,682 in 2022, up from 2,967 in 2018.
- 2. India recorded a 23.5% increase in tiger population between 2018 and 2022.
- 3. The country accounting for 75% of the tigers in the world.
- 4. Around **80% of the tigers** (2,885) now reside in eight of the 18 tiger states.
- 5. The reserves with the **maximum number of tigers** were at the **Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand**, which reported 260 animals.

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- 6. It is followed by **Bandipur** (150), and **Nagarhole** (141), both in Karnataka.
- 7. Globally, the number of tigers increased from 3,890 in 2016 to 5,575 in 2023.
- 8. India's tigers are largely concentrated in **53 dedicated tiger reserves** spread across **75,796 square km**, spanning about **2.3% of India's total** land area.





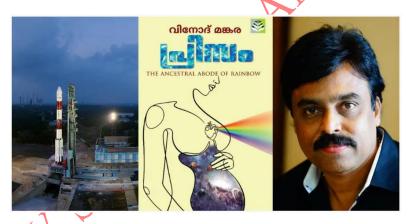
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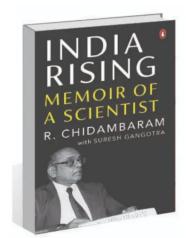
BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Filmmaker-writer Vinod Mankara's book

- 1. National award-winning filmmaker-writer **Vinod Mankara's new book** was released from the rocket launchpad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- 2. The unique launch of 'Prism: The Ancestral Abode of Rainbow', a collection of science articles, was held at the SDSC-SHAR, as preparations were going on full swing there for the country's muchawaited Moon mission Chandrayaan-3.
- 3. **ISRO Chairman S Somanath** released the book by handing it over to Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) Director S Unnikrishnan Nair while the countdown for the historic launch was progressing at the space centre.



R. Chidambaram and Suresh Gangotra's book

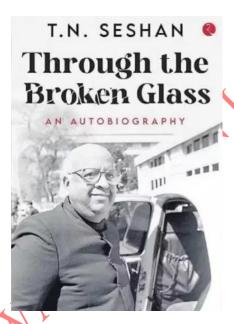


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- 1. A book titled "India Rising Memoir of a Scientist" authored by R. Chidambaram and Suresh Gangotra.
- 2. The book looks at the life of one of India's foremost scientists, **Dr R.** Chidambaram, who served as principal scientific advisor (PSA) to the Government of India and as chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet (SAC-C) from November 2001 to March 2018.

T.N. Seshan's book



- 1. 'Through The Broken Glass: An Autobiography" authored by T.N. Seshan, the former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, who made a significant difference to Indian elections.
- 2. This autobiography also covers his term as the CEC from 1990 to 1995.
- 3. His first posting as a sub-collector in Dindigul and then a collector in Madurai of Tamil Nadu. T.N. Seshan is also the author of An Undocumented Wonder: The Making of the Great Indian Election.

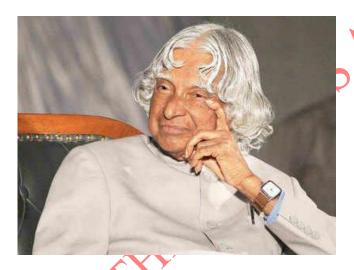
Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Memories Never Die

1. The **book is a tribute to the life and legacy** of the late former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

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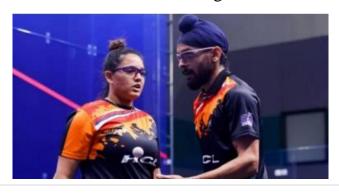
- 2. 'Memories Never Die', is an English translation of the Tamil book 'Ninaivugalukku Maranamillai', written by two persons closest to APJ Abdul Kalam his niece Dr Nazeema Marakayar and the distinguished ISRO scientist Dr YS Rajan.
- 3. The book was authored by scientist Dr YS Rajan, co-authored by Dr APJM Nazeema Marakayar and translated by Sripriya Srinivasan.
- 4. The chief editor of original Tamil book is Padma Shri Dr Sirpi Balasubramaniam.



SPORTS

Asian Mixed Doubles Squash Championships

- 1. India's mixed doubles pair of **Dipika Pallikal and Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu** clinched gold medal in the Asian Mixed Doubles Squash Championships in **Hangzhou**.
- 2. The third-seeded Indian pair defeated **second-seeded Malaysian duo Ivan Yuen and Rachel Arnold** in straight sets to clinch the gold medal.



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Asian Kabaddi Championship 2023

- 1. The Asian Kabaddi Championship 2023 featured six nations: India, Iran, the Republic of Korea, Japan, Chinese Taipei, and Hong Kong.
- 2. The Indian men's kabaddi team won the title by beating Iran in the final.
- 3. It was the **Indian men's kabaddi team's eighth** Asian Kabaddi Championship crown in nine editions.



Caribbean Premier League

1. Young spin bowler Shreyanka Patil has made history by becoming the first Indian cricketer to be signed for the Women's Caribbean Premier League (WCPL).



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AFF Championship 2023 Final

- 1. The **Indian men's football team** emerged victorious in a thrilling penalty shootout **against Kuwait** 5-4 in a thrilling penalty shootout, securing the SAFF Championship 2023 title.
- 2. Ranked 100th in the latest FIFA rankings, India triumphed in their **ninth SAFF Championship out of 14 editions.**
- 3. This victory marked their **second consecutive triumph** after winning the Intercontinental Cup the previous month.



World Archery Youth Championships

1. India's **Priyansh - became the under-21** world champion in compound archery in the ongoing World Archery Youth Championships in **Limerick, Ireland.**



- 2. This is the first time that two individual players won medals at one edition of the World Archery Youth Championships.
- 3. Aditi Swami, another compound archer, was crowned the U18 world champion.

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Canada Open 2023

- 1. Indian Badminton player **Lakshya Sen** defeated China's All England champion Li Shi Feng in straight sets to **clinch the men's singles title at the Canada Open 2023 in Calgary.**
- 2. The victory marks Lakshya's **second BWF World Tour Super 500 title**, having already won the India Open in January 2022.



Youth World Championships

- 1. India's Parth Salunkhe became the first male archer to win a gold in the recurve category at the Youth World Championships.
- 2. With this gold medal, India finished the Championships with their highest-ever tally of 11 medals.
- 3. India finished with six gold, one silver and four bronze medals, which was highest in the standings in terms of total number of medals.



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Provisional suspensions

- 1. Tamil Nadu's Archana Suseendran and Haryana's Anjali Devi have been handed provisional suspensions by the National Anti-Doping Agency (Nada) for failing the drug test.
- 2. Both have been dropped from the country's contingent for the Asian athletics championships, scheduled to begin from July 12 in Bangkok.
- 3. Recently, Archana had defeated Hima Das in the 100m final and clinched a double gold in the 200m in the Indian Grand Prix 2.
- 4. Quartermiler Anjali was expected to lead the country's charge in 4x400m relay at the upcoming Asian Games in Hangzhou.



National Women's chess title

- 1. **PSPB's IM Padmini Rout** beat Maharashtra's 17-year-old defending champion IM Divya Deshmukh to regain the **49**th **National Women's chess title in Ahmedabad.**
- 2. Padmini had won **five National Women's title**, equaling the record held by WIM's Rohini Khadilkar, Bhagyashree Thipsay and Anupama Gokhale.



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Wimbledon 2023 Men's Final

1. Carlos Alcaraz beat four-time defending champion Novak Djokovic of Serbia to win maiden title at The Championships.

2. Alcaraz is just **the third Spanish man** after Manuel Santana (1966) and Rafael Nadal (2008, 2010) to win Wimbledon.



Fastest Badminton Hit

1. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy made history by establishing a Guinness world record for the fastest hit of 565 km/h in badminton by a male player.



ISSF Shotgun World Cup Lonato 2023

1. **Indian shooter Prithviraj Tondaiman** bagged the **bronze medal** in the **men's trap** event at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup Lonato 2023 in **Italy.**

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Asian athletics championships 2023



- 1. India recorded a fine show at the 2023 Asian Athletics Championships over the last five days to finish with 27 medals six gold, 12 silver and 9 bronze.
- 2. Japan finished on top with 37 medals, including 16 gold medals.
- 3. China finished second with 22 medals, including 8 gold medals.
- 4. India was third place, ahead of Sri Lanka at 4th.
- 5. Jyothi Yarraji and Parul Chaudhary won medals in two events.

Satwiksairaj - Guinness World Record

1. India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy broke a decade-old Guinness world record for the fastest shot ever in badminton with an astonishing 565 km/hour smash.

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- 2. The speed greatly exceeded the **previous world record of 493 km/hour** which was achieved by **Malaysian badminton player Tan Boon Heong.**
- 3. The women's record stands of 438 km/hour belongs to Malaysia's Pearly Tan.
- 4. The fastest speed recorded by a Formula 1 car is 397.48 km/hour.

Sport	Fastest speeds
Fastest badminton smash	565 kmph (351.1 mph)
Fastest F1 car speed	397.483 kmph (247.0 mph)
Fastest golf drive	349.38 kmph (217.1 mph)
Fastest tennis serve	263 kmph (163.4 mph)
Fastest ice hockey shot	177.5 kmph (110.3 mph)
Fastest baseball pitch	170.3 kmph (105.8 mph)
Fastest football shot	129 kmph (80.2 mph)
Fastest table tennis smash	116 kmph (72.1 mph)

ISSF World Championship Juniors

1. The pair of Abhinav Shaw and Gautami Bhanot - won the 10m air rifle mixed team gold on day two of the ISSF World Championship Juniors in Changwon, Korea.



- 2. This was India's third gold of the competition.
- 3. This took the country to second position in the medals tally, with a silver and two bronze medals.

Virat Kohli 500 international Match

1. Indian cricketing stalwart Virat Kohli became only the 10th cricketer to make 500 international appearances.

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- 2. Kohli is the **fourth Indian** to join this exclusive list, with the other three.
- 3. Kohli also became the fifth-highest run-scorer in international cricket.
- 4. He became the first player to have scored a half-century in his 500th international game.



2023 Open golf Championship

- 1. Shubhankar Sharma **records best finish** by an Indian in The 2023 Open golf Championship.
- 2. Shubhankar Sharma accomplished a remarkable feat, clinching the bestever result by an Indian golfer at the **Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Merseyside, England.**



Handball Association of India

1. The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has decided to recognise Handball Association of India (HAI) as a National Sports Federation (NSF).

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BCCI umpiring panel



1. The **Indore-based Buley sisters, Nidhi and Ritika Buley**, are among the **four retired female cricketers** who have made their way into the BCCI umpires' panel with a distinction.

Malaysia seamer Syazrul Idrus

- 1. Malaysia seamer Syazrul Idrus became the **first male cricketer** to take **seven wickets** in a T20 International.
- 2. Idrus' astonishing figures of 7 wickets for 8 runs, the best bowling figures in a men's T20I, helped Malaysia record an 8-wicket victory over China.



ISSF Junior World Championship

1. India secured the second position in the third edition of the ISSF Junior World Championship held in South Korea in 2023, from July 16 to 24.

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- 2. India's impressive performance led to a total of **17 medals**, including **six gold**, six silver, and five bronze at the ISSF Junior World Championships 2023.
- 3. Remarkably, **seven** Indian shooters managed to secure more than one medal during the competition.

Top 10 countries with the highest number of medals

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	12	9	7	28
2	India	6	6	5	17
3	Ukraine	5	3	2	10
4	Kazakhstan	4	4	2	10
5	Italy	4	3	4	11
6	USA	4	1	8	13
7	Korea	3	6	8	17
8	France	2	2	1	5
8	Switzerland	2	2	1	5
10	Norway	2	1	3	6

Junior Asian Judo Championships 2023



- Tripura's Asmita Dey wins **gold** at Junior Asian Judo Championships 2023.
- 2. **Asmita Dey from Tripura** clinches the gold medal at the Junior Asian Judo Championships 2023, which took place in **Macau**, **China**.
- 3. Asmita Dey took part in the Junior Asian Judo Championships 2023 in the **48 kg category**, facing competitors from 27 diverse countries, including Korea, Bhutan, Iraq, America, and many more.

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AWARDS AND EVENTS

Al Fozan International Prize

- 1. Five young scientists from **Argentina**, **Cameroon**, **China**, **Egypt and Serbia** have received the prestigious UNESCO-AI Fozan International Prize.
- 2. This is awarded for the **Promotion of Young Scientists in Science**, **Technology**, **Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)**.

Elizabeth Longford Prize 2023

- 1. Historian and writer Ramchandra Guha's book Rebels Against the Raj: Western Fighters for India's Freedom' has won the Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography 2023.
- 2. The books, Gandhi Before India (2013), Gandhi: The Years That Changed the World (2018) and India after Gandhi (2007), are written by him.
- 3. The American Historical Association (AHA) has conferred its **Honorary** Foreign Member prize for the year 2019 on Ramchandra Guha.
- 4. The Government of India honoured him with the Padma Bhushan award in 2009.

PEN Pinter Prize 2023



- 1. British children's writer and performance **poet Michael Rosen** has been awarded the prestigious PEN Pinter Prize 2023.
- 2. The **77-year-old Rosen** served as the sixth British Children's Laureate between 2007 and 2009.

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3. Rosen's first book of children's poems, Mind Your Own Business, came out in 1974.

2023 List of Great Immigrants

1. Ajay Banga, the President of the World Bank, has been recognised on the Carnegie Corporation of New York's annual "Great Immigrants" list.



Elephant Family environmental award



- Prestigious Elephant Family environmental award to Indian conservationists at a ceremony.
- 2. Filmmaker Kartiki Gonsalves, known for the Oscar-winning documentary 'The Elephant Whisperers,' received the Tara Award.
- 3. The **Real Elephant Collective (TREC)**, consisting of **70 Adivasi artists**, was also honoured.

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4. **TREC** was awarded the Mark Shand Award for their meticulous work in creating the CoExistence Herd, a collection of sculptural representations of wild elephants.

Points of Light Award

1. UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak honoured **101 year old Rajindar Singh Dhatt** with a Points of Light award at UK-India Week reception at 10 Downing Street.



The Philippe Chatrier Award

- 1. The **International Tennis Federation** has awarded **Justine Henin of Belgium** its highest honour, the Philippe Chatrier Award.
- 2. Henin won seven Grand Slam singles titles, an Olympic gold medal, and was part of Belgium's team that won the Fed Cup in 2001.
- 3. It recognizes people who have made significant contributions to the sport on and off the court.



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AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year award – 2022-23

 Indian football team midfielder Lallianzuala Chhangte was named the AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year for 2022-23 while Manisha Kalyan won her second consecutive Women's Footballer of the Year award.



Timely payments Awards

1. NLC India Limited has bagged the 'Timely payments (CPSEs)' award for the year 2023 for its contribution in improving the reliability of emarket practices.

Lambani Art



- Women of the **nomadic Lambani community of Hampi in Karnataka** have set a **new Guinness World Record** for producing the **highest number of embroidery patches.**
- 2. Lambani embroidery is a **vibrant and intricate form** of textile embellishment characterised by colourful threads, mirror work, and a rich array of stitch patterns.

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International Biology Olympiad

1. India topped the International Biology Olympiad medal tally for the first time with an all-gold performance at the 34th edition of the competition held in Al Ain, UAE.

2. International Science Olympiads are annual competitions in various areas of the formal sciences, natural sciences, and social sciences.



Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Order of Arts and Letters) award



1. The French government - has selected Indian classical vocalist Padma Shri Aruna Sairam and flutist Shashank Subramanyam for the prestigious Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Order of Arts and Letters) award.

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2. The award is conferred for being instrumental in **connecting France and India through their music.**

UK PM's Points of Light award

1. A seven-year-old girl of Indian origin Moksha Roy has received the British Prime Minister's Points of Light award for her outstanding efforts in helping the environment.



Rising Global Superstar Of Indian Cinema Award

- 1. **Bollywood actor Kartik Aaryan** will be honoured with the Rising Global Superstar of Indian Cinema award at the annual awards Gala night of the 14th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne.
- 2. The award will be presented by the **Governor of Victoria**, recognising Kartik's remarkable achievements and his significant impact on the world of Indian cinema.



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Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour

- 1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is conferred with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour by French President Macron.
- 2. PM Modi is the **first Indian PM** to receive **France's highest civilian & military honour.**
- 3. The Legion of Honour is the **highest French decoration** given to the most deserving citizens in all fields of activity.
- 4. The PM was awarded the **fifth honour- Grand Cross** which has a **red ribbon and the badge** features a **five-armed Maltese asterisk on an oak and laurel wreath.**





UNESCO's Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage award



1. **Mumbai's Byculla Railway Station** received UNESCO's Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage Award on Monday i.e. 24th July, which was declared in November 2022.

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- 2. The 169-year-old Byculla railway station in Mumbai is one of the oldest living railway stations in India.
- 3. The station's history is intrinsically tied to the arrival of the first locomotive in Mumbai in 1852.

Miles Franklin Literary Award 2023



- 1. Ten years ago, **Sri Lankan-origin Australian writer Shankari Chandran** faced difficulty in getting her debut book published.
- 2. The reason: publishers thought her novel wasn't "Australian" enough to be successful in their local market.
- 3. And now, Chandran has been announced as the winner of the 2023 Literary Award for her novel 'Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens'.

PERONALITIES

Former Kerala CM Oommen Chandy



1. Former Chief Minister of Kerala Oommen Chandy has passed away.

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- 2. Chandy served as the state's chief minister from 2011 to 2016, and from 2004 to 2006.
- 3. He was the longest-serving legislator in the Kerala Assembly.
- 4. He had represented the **Puthuppally Assembly constituency** from **1970 successively** until his death.
- 5. He is the only Indian chief minister to achieve award for public service from the United Nations in 2013.
- 6. He also served as **general secretary of the All-India Congress**Committee for Andhra Pradesh from 2018 until his death.

Youngest Person To Cross North Channel

1. **Anshuman Jhingran**, an open sea swimmer, achieved the remarkable feat of becoming the youngest person globally to successfully cross the North Channel.



- 2. His extraordinary accomplishment, completed in just **125 days**, has earned him a coveted spot in the esteemed Guinness World Records.
- 3. The North Channel, situated between the **northeastern coast of Northern Ireland and the southwestern coast of Scotland,** serves as a strait that starts north of the Isle of Man, marking the end of the Irish Sea.

Phangnon Konyak

1. Phangnon Konyak became the **first woman member from Nagaland** to **preside over the Rajya Sabha.**

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2. She is also the **first woman** to be elected to Rajya Sabha from Nagaland (April 2022) and the **second woman from the state to be elected** to either house of the Parliament.

India's 83rd chess Grandmaster

- 1. Aditya Samant from Maharashtra becomes India's 83rd chess Grandmaster.
- 2. To become a GM, a player has to secure three GM norms and cross the live rating of 2,500 Elo points.
- 3. **Telangana's V Prraneeth** had in May become the country's 82nd GM.



Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra's

1. The Supreme Court extended Enforcement Directorate (ED) Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra's tenure till September 15.

APPOINTMENTS

Vice chairperson of Rajya Sabha



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1. In a historic move, **S Phangnon Konyak**, the lone **Nagaland MP in the Upper House**, has been nominated as one of the vice chairpersons of the Rajya Sabha.

The Solicitor-General of India

- 1. **Tushar Mehta** has been reappointed as the Solicitor General of India for three more years.
- 2. Solicitor General is the **second most senior law officer** after Attorney General.
- 3. Mehta has been continuing as Solicitor General since October 2018.



REPORTS AND INDICES

QS World University Rankings 2024

- 1. **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** (MIT) is on top of the rankings for the **12th year in a row**.
- 2. University of Cambridge has managed to retain the second spot.
- 3. University of Oxford has replaced Standford University on the third spot.
- 4. American universities once again dominated the QS rankings, taking half of the places in the top 20.

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5. **IIT Bombay now stands 1**st in the country and 149th globally, up from last year's 172.

Institute/University	QS Rankings 2024	QS Rankings 2023
IIT Bombay	149	172
IIT Delhi	197	174
IISc Bangalore	225	155
IIT Kharagpur	271	270
IIT Kanpur	278	264
IIT Madras	285	250
IIT Guwahati	364	384
IIT Roorkee	369	369
University of Delhi	407	521-530
Anna University	427	551-560
IIT Indore	454	396
University of Madras	526	541-550
IIT BHU	571	651-700

Energy Transition Index

- 1. The **World Economic Forum** has recently released the Energy Transition Index.
- 2. India is at 67th position in this ranking.
- 3. **Sweden** is at the top of this list.
- 4. Top 5 countries include **Denmark**, **Norway**, **Finland and Switzerland**.
- 5. This time a list of 120 countries has been issued.

Rank	Country	ETI score (2014–2023)	2023 ETI score	SP ¹ (*23)	TR ² ('23)
-1	Sweden	0-0	78.5	81.0	74.8
2	Denmark	00	76.1	73.7	79.8
3	Norway	00	73.7	77.3	68.3
4	Finland	0-0	72.8	68.9	78.6
5	Switzerland	0-0	72.4	75.7	67.4
6	Iceland	0-0	70.6	73.9	65.6
7	France	0-0	70.6	73.3	66.5
8	Austria	0-0	69.3	69.2	69.
9	Netherlands	10-0	68.8	65.7	73.
10	Estonia	p-0	68.2	74.2	59.
E L	Germany	00	67.5	64.6	71.
12	United States	10-0	66.3	68.4	63.
13	United Kingdom	0-0	66.2	67.7	64.
14	Brazil	00	65.9	68.9	61.
15	Portugal	p	65.8	66.7	64.
16	Spain	0-0	65.0	65.1	64.
17	China	0 0	64.9	65.0	64.
18	Hungary	0	64.3	68.8	57.
19	Canada		64.2	66.7	60.3
20	Luxembourg	0-0	64.2	61.5	68.5

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UNSG report on impact of armed conflict on children

- 1. The annual report of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Children and Armed Conflict was published.
- 2. The report has dropped India's name from the list in view of measures taken by the Government, specifically in Jammu and Kashmir, to better protect children.
- 3. The report includes trends regarding the **impact of armed conflict on children** and information on violations committed.
- 4. Violations affected 18,890 children (13,469 boys, 4,638 girls, 783 sex unknown) in 24 situations.

Global Peace Index

RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	CHANGE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	CHANGE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	CHANG	GE
1	loeland	1.124	**	29	Poland	1.634	↓ 6	57	Moldova	1.873	1 4	1
2	Denmark	1.31	† 1	30	Bulgaria	1.643	↓ 5	58	Chile	1.874	↓ 5	5
3	Ireland	1.312	↓ 1	31	Romania	1.649	† 4	59	The Gambia	1.888	↓ 8	3
4	 New Zealand 	1.313	† 2	32	Spain	1.649	**	60	Greece	1.89	↓ 6	3
5	Austria	1.316	↓ 1	33	Taiwan	1.649	† 2	61	Bosnia and	1.892	1.4	
6	Singapore	1.332	† 4	34	Italy	1.662	↓ 2	61	Herzegovina	1.892	+ 4	•
7	Portugal	1.333	† 1	35	Kuwait	1.669	† 3	62	Jordan	1.895	† 6	5
8	Slovenia	1.334	↓ 4	36	Lithuania	1.671	↓ 2	63	Zambia	1.898	↓ 4	1
9	Japan	1.336	**	37	United Kingdom	1.693	↓ 1	64	Cyprus	1.904	† 1	L
10	Switzerland	1.339	† 1	38	 North Macedonia 	1.713	↓ 1	65	Serbia	1.921	↓ 7	7
11	Canada	1.35	† 2	39	Costa Rica	1.731	† 2	66	Armenia	1.929	† 3	3
12	Czechia	1.379	↓ 5	40	Albania	1.745	*	67	France	1.939	•	
13	Finland	1.399	† 3	41	Vietnam	1.745	† 4	=68	Panama	1.942	↓ 8	3
14	Croatia	1.45	† 1	42	Botswana	1.762	† 6	=68	Paraguay	1.942	† 12	2
15	Germany	1.456	† 2	43	South Korea	1.763	† 2	=70	 Trinidad and Tobago 	1.946	† 1	
16	Netherlands	1.49	† 5	44	Mongolia	1.765	↓ 5	=70	Kosovo	1.946	† 5	5
17	Bhutan	1.496	↓ 5	45	Montenegro	1.772	† 5	=70	Liberia	1.946	1 8	3
18	Hungary	1.508	↓ 4	46	Laos	1.779	† 3	73	 Cambodia 	1.947	↓ 1	
19	Malaysia	1.513	**	47	Sierra Leone	1.792		74	Malawi	1.97	↓ 4	1
20	Belgium	1.523	† 4	48	Oman	1.794	† 18	75	 United Arab Emirate 	s 1.979	† 3	3
21	Qatar	1.524	† 1	49	Timor-Leste	1.796	† 3	76	Kazakhstan	1.98	† 2	1
22	Australia	1.525	† 4	50	Uruguay	1.798	↓ 5	77	Jamaica	1.986	† 3	3
23	Mauritius	1.546	† 5	51	Ghana	1.799	↓ 8	78	Bolivia	2.001	↓ 1	1
24	Norway	1.55	↓ 6	52	Senegal	1.827	† 4	79	Nepal	2.006	↓ 5	ś
25	Estonia	1.563	† 1	53	Indonesia	1.829	↓ 12	80	China	2.009	† 6	5
26	Slovakia	1.578	↓ 6	54	Argentina	1.837	† 10	81	Tunisia	2.01	† 1	1
27	Latvia	1.582	† 3	55	Madagascar	1.846	**	82	 Equatorial Guinea 	2.013	↓ 19	9
28	Sweden	1.625	† 1	56	Namibia	1.859	† 6	83	 Dominican Republic 	2.019	1 5	5

- 1. The 2023 Global Peace Index (GPI) was released by the **Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP).**
- 2. **79 countries becoming less peaceful** and **84 countries becoming more peaceful.**
- 3. **Iceland** has been declared the **most peaceful country** in the world for the **15th time in succession**.

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- 4. **India** stands at **126 ranks out of 163 countries** in the Global Peace Index.
- 5. **Afghanistan** is the least peaceful country in the world for **the fifth** consecutive year.

India - Childhood Diabetes and Fatalities

- 1. India saw the **highest number** of childhood diabetes cases and deaths in **2019** in the world.
- 2. The study was published in the journal **JAMA Network**.
- 3. The country also has the highest **disability-adjusted life-years (DALY).**
- 4. One DALY represents the loss of the equivalent of one year of full health, according to the World Health Organization.
- 5. The largest increase in cases (52.06 per cent) was recorded in children aged 10 to 14 years.
- 6. The smallest increase (30.52 per cent) in those aged between 1 and 4 years.



Performance Grading Index

- 1. Tamil Nadu is ranked among the bottom 10 in learning outcomes in the latest performance grading index (PGI) 2021-22 released by the Union ministry of education.
- 2. Overall, Tamil Nadu with 590 of 1,000 points featured in level VII along with Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, Delhi and Puducherry.

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3. The State did well in certain categories, scoring

66.2 out of 80 under access,

82.7 of **260** under equity

82.7 of **100** under teacher education

41.2 of 240 in learning outcomes

93.5 in infrastructure domain

HIGHS AND LOWS

I'S SCORE IN PERFORMANCE GRADING INDEX FOR 2021-22 (within the bracket overall score) Learning > In learning outcomes, TN registered its worst Outcomes | 41.2(240) performance as it was ranked among the bottom 66.2 (80) 10 states. In access, equity and teacher education, Access the state performed better Infrastructure and facilities | 93.5 (190) > Overall score 590 out of 1000 and ranked in level 7. In level 6, only Punjab and Chandigarh found a place. In the 229.5(260) Equity first five levels no state has found a place as states have Governance scored less than 700 in the restructured scoring system 77.6 (130) process Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, Delhi and Puducherry Teacher have scored from 581 to 640 and featured in the level 7 Education | 82.7 (100)

Farmers Distress Index

- 1. The Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA) of ICAR worked on a kind of an early warning system called 'farmers distress index'.
- 2. The main aim behind creating such an index is **to minimise the agrarian distress** in the form of crop loss / failure and income shock.
- 3. The index will have values from 0-1.

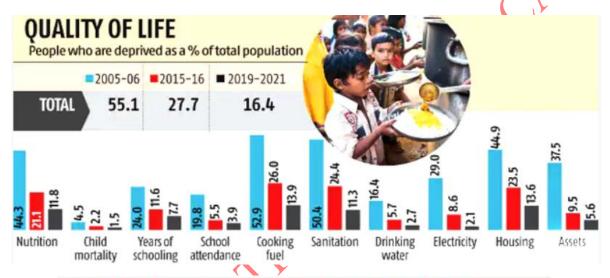
Value	Levels of distress
0 – 0.5	Low
0.5 - 0.7	Moderate
Above 0.7	Severe

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Multidimensional Poverty Index 2023

- 1. The latest update of the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was released by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).**
- 2. A total of **415 million people** moved out of poverty in India within **just 15 years** from 2005/2006 to 2019/2021.
- 3. This number is **declining to about 370 million** in 2015/2016 and 230 million in 2019/2021.



25 NATIONS HALVE GLOBAL MPI VALUES

- India is one of the 25
 nations that have successfully
 halved their global
 Multidimensional Poverty
 Index values within 15 years
- In India, the incidence of poverty fell from 55% (645 million) in 2005/2006 to 16% (230 million) in 2019/2021
- People in India who are multi-dimensionally poor and

- deprived under the nutrition indicator declined from 44% in 2005-06 to 12% in 2019/21
- Those who are poor & deprived of cooking fuel declined from 53% to 14% & those deprived of sanitation dipped from 50% to 11.3%
- ➤ In drinking water, those deprived fell from 16% to 3% & in housing from 44% to 14%

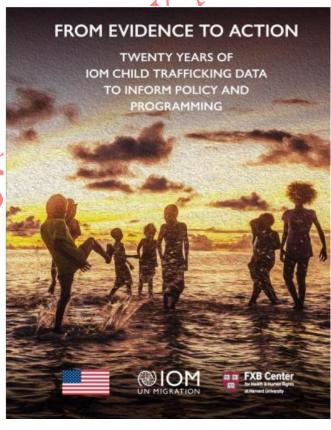


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IOM report Child trafficking

- 1. The report titled "From Evidence to Action: Twenty Years of IOM Child Trafficking Data to Inform Policy and Programming" was recently released.
- 2. It is a first of its kind and is based on analysis of extensive, globally sourced data, using the IOM's Victims of Trafficking Database (VoTD).
- 3. As per the report, half of child trafficking victims are trafficked within their own country.
- 4. Half of the trafficked children, **mostly boys**, are subjected to **forced labor across** various industries like domestic work, begging, and agriculture.
- 5. Sexual exploitation, including through prostitution, pornography, and sexual servitude, is also prominent, affecting 20 per cent of trafficked children, predominantly girls.
- 6. It analysed primary data from more than 69,000 victims of trafficking of 156 nationalities, trafficked in 186 countries.



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Performance Grading Index

Grade	Overall grade Score	States/UTs attaining overall grade	Learning Outcomes	Access	Infra	Equity	Governance Processes	Teacher education & Training
Daksh	941-1000	NIL	NIL	Delhi	NIL	Delhi	NIL	NIL
Utkarsh	881-940	NIL A	NIL NIL	8	NIL	31	NIL 🖸	Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Delhi, Chandigarh
Atti-Uttam	821-880	NIL	NIL	10	NIL	4	Gujarat	10
Uttam	761-820	NIL	NIL	12	Chandigarh	NIL	Kerala	13
Prachesta -1	701-760	NIL	NIL	4	5	NIL	11	5
Prachesta -2	641-700	2 (Chandigarh, Punjab)	Punjab, Chandigarh & Rajasthan	1	10	NIL	15	2
Prachesta -3	581-640	6	4	NIL	14	NIL	7	1
Akanshi-1	521-580	13	1 9	NIL	6	NIL	1 /	NIL
Akanshi-2	461-520	12	10	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Akanshi-3	401-460	3	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

- 1. The **Union Ministry of Education** has released the Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D) combined report for **2020-21 & 2021-22**.
- 2. The report has **10 grades** under which districts are categorized.
- 3. The indicator-wise PGI score shows the areas where a district needs to improve.
- 4. None of the districts were able to achieve the top two grades (Daksh and Utkarsh).
- 5. Only two states/UTs, namely **Punjab and Chandigarh** have attained **Grade Prachesta -2 (score 641-700).**

Global AIDS Update Report 2023

- 1. HIV remains a major global public health issue, having claimed 40.4 million [32.9–51.3 million] lives so far.
- 2. There were an estimated **39.0 million [33.1–45.7 million]** people living with HIV at the end of 2022.
- **3. Two thirds** of whom (25.6 million) are in the **WHO African Region.**

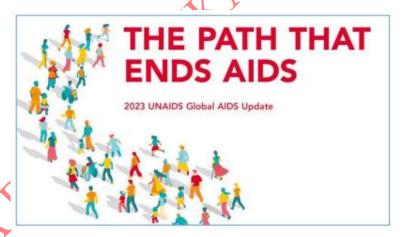
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- 4. In 2022, **6,30,000 [4,80,000–8,80,000] people died from HIV**-related causes.
- 5. **1.3 million [1.0–1.7 million]** people **acquired HIV** during the same period.
- 6. WHO, the Global Fund and UNAIDS all have global HIV strategies that are aligned with the SDG target 3.3 of ending the HIV epidemic by 2030.

95:95:95 strategy

- 95% of all people living with HIV (PLHIV) should have a diagnosis,
- 95% of those should be taking life saving antiretroviral treatment
 (ART) and
- 95% of PLHIV on treatment should achieve a suppressed viral load for the benefit of the person's health and for reducing onward HIV transmission.
- In 2022, these percentages were 86(%) [73–>98%], 89(%) 75–>98%] and 93(%) [79–>98%], respectively.



Export Preparedness Index Report

- 1. NITI Aayog is releasing the third edition of Export Preparedness Index (EPI) for States/UTs of India for the year 2022.
- 2. The report highlights the **need to develop our districts** as **export hubs** in the country.
- 3. It undertakes a **district-level analysis** of merchandise exports in the country.

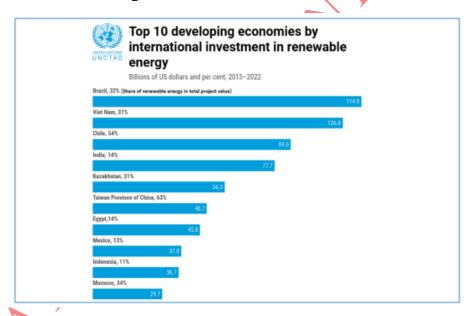
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4. EPI assess the performance of the States and UTs across four pillars – Policy, Business Ecosystem, Export Ecosystem, and Export Performance.

Rank	State	Category
1	Tamil Nadu	Coastal
2	Maharashtra	Coastal
3	Karnataka	Coastal
4	Gujarat	Coastal
5	Haryana	Landlocked

World Investment Report 2023



- 1. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development released a World Investment Report 2023.
- 2. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in developing countries in Asia remained flat at \$662 billion during 2022, as compared to the previous year.
- 3. Overall global FDI declined by 12% to \$1.3 trillion in 2022.
- 4. In Asia, the incoming FDI was highly concentrated in China (and Hong Kong), Singapore, India, and United Arab Emirates (UAE).

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5. Developing countries, including India, which have **attracted FDI in clean energy** to the tune of \$544 billion in 2022.

UN report on Gender parity

- 1. This is released by two UN agencies UN Women and UN Development Programme.
- 2. The bodies collated data from 114 countries and analysed them based on the twin indices of Women's Empowerment Index (WEI) and the Global Gender Parity Index (GGPI).

Globally, only 32.2%
of women hold
senior leadership positions
in 2023, which is
10% lower than the
overall workforce
representation of 41.9%

There has been a decline
in women's representation
in top positions, particularly in
Consumer Services (-0.58% points)
& Healthcare and Care Services
(-0.42% points)

India has reached only 36.7% parity in economic participation and opportunity, with a decreasing trend in the shares of women in senior positions and technical roles

In terms of political
empowerment, India has
achieved a 25.3%
level of parity,
with women representing
15.1% of parliamentarians,
highest for India
since 2006

- 3. On an average, women are empowered to achieve only **60% of their full** potential.
- 4. They also were found to achieve **28% less than men** across key human development dimensions, as measured by the GGPI.
- 5. None of the 114 countries analysed achieved full women's empowerment or complete gender parity.
- 6. The report provides **for the first time**—a more comprehensive picture of progress in women and girl's human development.

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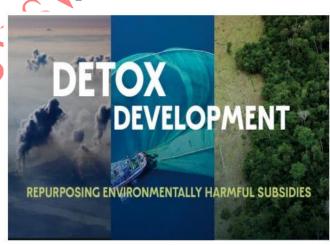
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QS World's Best Cities for Students 2024

- 1. **London retains its top** spot as the world's best student city for the **fifth** consecutive time.
- 2. **Mumbai has ranked 118**, the highest among Indian cities in the latest Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Rankings for Best Student Cities 2024.
- 3. At 132nd position, Delhi has come as the second most affordable student-friendly city followed by Bengaluru at 147, and Chennai at 154.

2024	2023	City
1	1	London
2	7	Tokyo
3	2	Seoul
4	5	Melbourne
5	2	Munich
6	8	Paris
7	9	Sydney
=8	6	Berlin
=8	4	Zurich
10	11	Boston

Detox Development Report



1. A report titled "Detox Development: Repurposing Environmentally Harmful Subsidies" was released by the World Bank.

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- 2. The large amounts of money are wasted on **subsidies for agriculture**, **fishing, and fossil fuels.**
- 3. It could be utilized to tackle **climate change and benefit humanity** and the environment, rather than causing harm.
- 4. The subsidies in the three sectors **exceeded \$7 trillion which amounted to 8%** of the global gross domestic product.
- 5. Explicit subsidies i.e. direct government expenditures in the **three sectors** amounted to \$1.25 trillion.
- 6. It is equal to the size of a big economy like Mexico.
- 7. Countries spent \$577 billion to actively lower the price of polluting fuels such as oil, gas, and coal in 2021.

Henley Passport Index 2023

- 1. According to the Henley Passport Index, Singapore now holds the title of the world's most powerful passport, granting visa-free access to 192 out of 227 global travel destinations.
- 2. Three European countries, namely **Germany**, **Italy**, **and Spain**, **have moved up one rank to share the second position**, with visa-free access to 190 destinations.
- 3. India has improved 5 spots compared to last year and shares **80**th **position** with **Togo and Senegal**.
- 4. Indian passport holders now enjoy visa-free access to 57 countries.

MISCELLANEOUS

Impact of Microplastics and Nano plastics

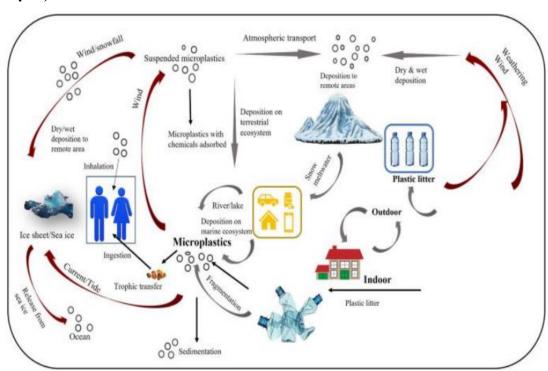
- 1. The **FAO** released a report on Impact of Microplastics and Nano plastics on Human Health.
- 2. Microplastics has led to intestinal inflammation and gut dysbiosis changes in the gut microbiome and microbiota.
- 3. They are known to affect larger soil microorganisms and penetrate the entire food web.

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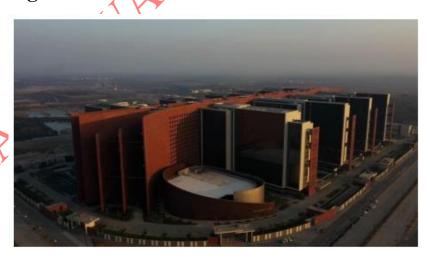
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4. They have eventually deposited in **human lung tissue**, **placenta**, **stool**, **blood and meconium**.

5. Size of Microplastics (0.1 to 5 000 μm) and Nano plastics (0.001 to 0.1 μm).



World's Largest Office



- 1. For 80 years, Pentagon of USA was the world's largest office building.
- 2. Now the title taken by a **Gujarat's Surat diamond trading centre** building.

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- 3. Surat is known as the gem capital of the world where 90% of the world's diamonds are cut.
- 4. The **15-storey building is spread across 35 acres of land** and has nine rectangular structures.

Rock art in Rudragiri hillock

- 1. Rudragiri hillock is located in the village of Orvakallu, Atchampet mandal in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh.
- 2. This site unveils a fascinating combination of prehistoric rock paintings from the Mesolithic period and exquisite artwork from the Kakatiya dynasty.
- 3. These shelters served as living quarters for people during the Mesolithic age around 5000 B.C.
- 4. They bear witness to the **luminous rock paintings** of that era.
- 5. The paintings, adorned with a variety of color derived from white kaolin and different pigments, depict captivating scenes from the epic Ramayana.
- 6. The **third cave houses** the prehistoric rock paintings from the Mesolithic era.



IMPORTANT DAYS

National Doctor's Day 2023

1. Every year on July 1st, India observes National Doctor's Day to pay tribute to the esteemed **Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy**.

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2. In India, the observance of National Doctors' Day serves as a platform to recognize and emphasize the invaluable contributions of doctors to society.



GST Day 2023 - July 01

- 1. Goods and Services Tax (GST) Day aims to honour the successful implementation of the GST regime in the country.
- 2. The Parliament passed the Constitution (**101st Amendment**) Act in August 2016.
- 3. On July 1, 2017, GST was implemented across India.



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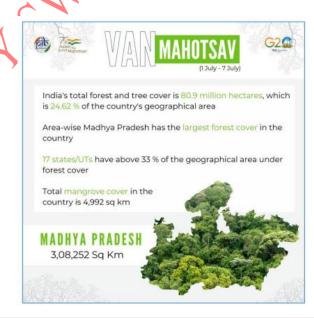
Chartered Accountants Day 2023 - July 01

- 1. This date marks the formation of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).
- 2. The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament.
- 3. The Institute functions under the administrative control of the ministry of corporate affairs.



Van Mahotsav 2023 - July 01

- 1. Van Mahotsav Day is a tree-planting festival that is celebrated in the **first** week of July, from 1–7.
- 2. It is observed to spread awareness about the **importance of forests**, woodlands and trees in our lives.



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- 3. It was started by **KM Munshi**, the then Union Minister for Agriculture and Food **in 1950**.
- 4. The objective behind celebrating Van Mahotsav is to keep local people involved in plantation drives and spread environmental awareness.

International Day of Cooperatives 2023 - July 01

- 1. It is celebrated on the first Saturday of July.
- 2. The theme for 2023 is "Cooperatives for Sustainable Development."
- 3. This day brings individuals, communities, and organisations from all corners of the world together to celebrate the remarkable impact of cooperative enterprises.



National Postal Worker Day 2023 - July 01



1. This day aims to respect their hard work and the extra mile that they go, literally, to ensure that we receive our letters on time.

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- 2. In **1997**, a postal carrier in the Seattle area started **National Postal Worker Day** to respect the efforts of his employees.
- 3. Robert Clive sets up a regular postal system in 1766.
- 4. Post Office Savings Bank was opened in 1882.

World Sports Journalist Day – July 2

- 1. It aims to **promote and acknowledge** the achievements of diverse sports journalists.
- 2. Certain individuals possess a deep passion for both sports and journalism, leading them to pursue professions as "Sports Journalists."



International Plastic Bag Free Day – July 3





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- 1. This day is observed to increase awareness about the detrimental effects of disposable plastic bags on the environment.
- 2. This day acts as a reminder for **individuals**, **communities**, **and businesses globally** to minimize their usage of plastic bags and explore more sustainable alternatives.

World Zoonoses day 2023 - July 06

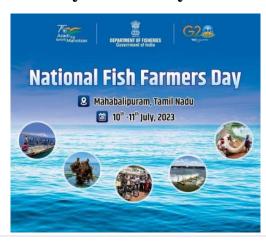
- 1. This day commemorates the first vaccination came to be developed to fight Zoonoses.
- 2. Rabis virus is a Zoonotic disease and is known to spread through species.
- 3. The day was officially recognized and observed on July 6, 2007, honouring the 100th death anniversary of Louis Pasteur.



Every year, on the 7th of July, people across the globe is celebrated the **World** Chocolate Day.

The **Global Forgiveness Day** is observed on July 7 globally.

National Fish Farmers Day 2023 - July 10



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- 1. The day is celebrated to **exhibit solidarity** with fish farmers, fisher folks, and concerned stakeholders across India.
- This day is celebrated to honour and commemorate the contribution of Professor Dr. Hiralal Chaudhury and his colleague Dr. K. H. Alikunhi, in Indian fisheries sector.
- 3. It eventually led to a revolution in **Inland Aquaculture.**

World Population Day 2023 - July 11

- 1. This day aims to **raise awareness about the pressing issues** and challenges associated with global population growth.
- 2. This day was established by the United Nations in 1989.
- 3. The theme 2023 is "Unleashing the power of gender equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world's infinite possibilities".
- 4. India has **1,42.58 crore population**, as per the estimates and projections of global population by the **United Nations**, in April 2023.

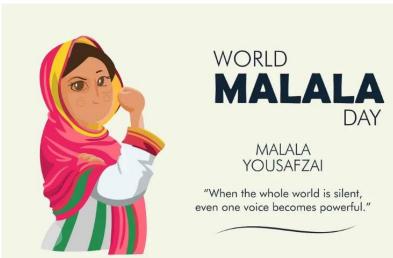


SHILSHA

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Malala Day – July 12

1. International Malala Day is observed on July 12 each year to honor the bravery and activism of Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani advocate for girls' education and the youngest person to receive the Nobel Prize.



2. The theme of fame is prominent in the book "I Am Malala," highlighting how renowned individuals, like heroes and role models, can either contribute to societal progress or distract from it.

World Paper Bag Day – July 12

- 1. This day is celebrated annually to promote the significance of utilizing paper bags instead of plastic.
- 2. This observance serves as a reminder to prioritize environmentally conscious choices in our everyday lives.



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International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms 2023 - July 12

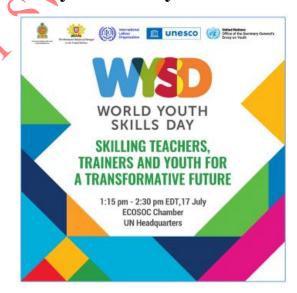
- 1. The move was designed to raise awareness about the threats posed by these squalls and to spur on the international effort to counter them.
- 2. The main sources of these mineral dusts are dry regions in Northern Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, Central Asia and China.



National Day of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

1. India celebrates the National Day of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery every July 15.

World Youth Skills Day 2023 - July 15



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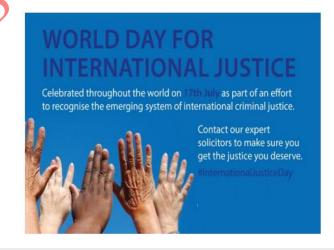
- 1. It aims to spread awareness about technical, and vocational education training, and the development of other skills relevant to both local and global economies.
- 2. The Skill India Mission was also launched on this day in 2015.
- 3. The theme for 2023 is 'Skilling teachers, trainers and youth for a transformative future'.

World Snake Day 2023 - July 16

- 1. This day is aimed at increasing awareness about the different species of snake all around the world.
- 2. The reptile is thought to have come from terrestrial lizards that existed around 174.1 million to 163.5 million years ago.
- 3. India is known as the **snake-bite capital of the world**.



World Day for International Justice 2023 - July 17



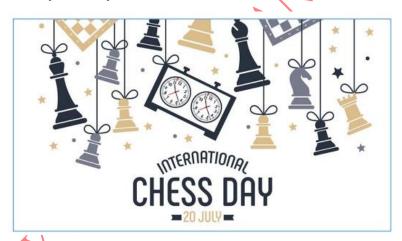
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- 1. It marks the **anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute** on 17 July 1998.
- 2. It is the founding treaty of the **International Criminal Court.**
- 3. This court seeks to protect people from genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.

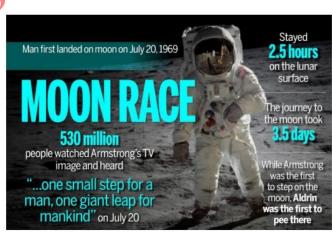
World Chess Day 2023 - July 20

- 1. It aims to raise awareness about the game of chess and appreciate chess players across the world.
- 2. About **70% of the adult population** (US, UK, Germany, Russia, India) has played chess at some point in their lives.
- 3. **605 million** adults play chess regularly.
- 4. The oldest living Grandmaster is **Yuri Averbakh**, who celebrated his 100th birthday in May 2022.



International Moon Day 2023 - July 20





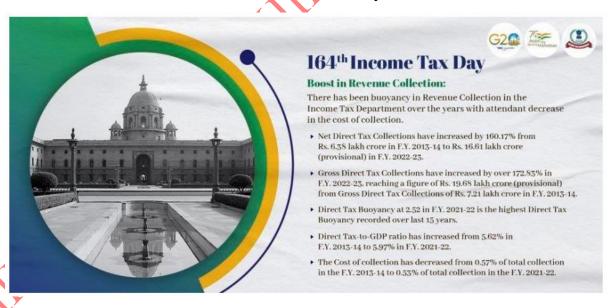
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- 1. This day marks the anniversary of the day when humans first landed on the Moon as part of **Apollo 11 mission.**
- 2. Astronauts **Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin** landed on the Moon in a location that they then named **Tranquillity Base, on July 20, 1969.**
- 3. After the US, Russia, and China, India will become the fourth country to successfully land on the Moon if Chandrayaan 3 mission is a success.

Income Tax Day 2023 - July 24

- 1. This year Income Tax Day or Aaykar Diwas to commemorate **164 years** of this tax in India.
- 2. Sir James Wilson implemented Income Tax in India on July 24, 1860.
- 3. The scheme was introduced to recompense the British regime for losses sustained during the Revolt of 1857.
- 4. The **Income-tax Act of 1922** introduced a distinct nomenclature for the several Income-tax administrations.
- 5. In **2010, the Finance Ministry declared July 24 as Income Tax Day** to commemorate the establishment of this levy.



World Drowning Prevention Day 2023 - July 25

1. It aims to remember lives lost due to drowning and to increase knowledge on safety in and around water.

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2. Globally, the highest drowning rates occur among children aged 1–4 years, followed by children aged 5–9 years.



World Embryologist Day 2023 - July 25

- 1. It aims to recognise the work and the contributions of the embryologists worldwide.
- 2. This day marks the birthdate of first baby that was conceived and successfully birthed through in vitro fertilisations (IVF).



CRPF Day 2023 - July 27

1. This day commemorates the formation of the central force on this day in 1939.

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- 2. CRPF is an integral part of **India's internal security** and one of the oldest Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF).
- 3. The force was renamed as CRPF by an **Act of Parliament** passed on December 28, 1949.
- 4. Until 1965, the CRPF guarded the India-Pakistan border.



World Hepatitis Day 2023 – July 28

- 1. The day aims to promote prevention, testing and treatment, and to show support for those affected by hepatitis.
- 2. This day was established by World Hepatitis Alliance in 2008.
- 3. The theme for 2023 is "One life, one liver."
- 4. According to **WHO**, around **354 million people** live with chronic hepatitis B and C worldwide.



World Nature Conservation Day – July 28

1. The World Nature Conservation Day was annually observed July 28.

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2. The theme for 2023 is "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet".



International Tiger Day 2023 - July 29

- 1. It aims to raise awareness about the endangered tiger species.
- 2. Thirteen tiger range countries collaborated to form Tx2, committed to doubling the tiger population by 2022.



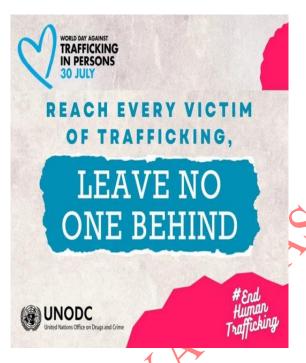
World Day Against Trafficking 2023 - July 30

1. This day is observed to raise awareness about the trends in human trafficking identified by the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime** (**UNODC**).

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2. The theme of 2023 is "Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind".



World Ranger Day 2023 - July 31

- 1. This day is observed in memory of eight rangers who tragically lost their lives while on duty in Virunga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo.
- 2. The term 'ranger' is to refer to any professional involved in the protection and management of national parks and natural areas.
- 3. The theme of 2023 is "30 by 30" aiming to effectively conserve and manage at least 30 percent of the planet's areas by 2030.



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